

Archer River Roadhouse

A caravan park and campground behind the roadhouse provides lush, shady camp sites and all the usual facilities, including minor vehicle and tyre repairs. Located 66km N of Coen on the crystal clear Archer River, this is the last stop for services before the Cape York turn off 48km to the N. Dogs welcomed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D7). Ph (07) 4060 3266.



Chuulangun

An Aboriginal Corporation managed campground located on the Wenlock River and accessed via the Portland Roads Rd, 21km off the Peninsula Developmental Rd. The Cuscus (a nocturnal native possum), crocodiles and Palm Cockatoos can be seen on the Wenlock River. Dogs accepted but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D7). Web site: www.kaanjungaachi.com.au



Weipa

Located at the end of the Peninsula Developmental Rd 185km NW of Archer River, Weipa is a mining town and exists to service the Rio Tinto bauxite mine and loading facility. The fishing is some of the best in Qld. A large caravan park and campground located on the foreshore of Albatross Bay at Newbold Drive caters for tourists. Dogs welcomed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref B6). Ph (07) 4069 7871 or web www.campweipa.com



Cullen Point

A bush campground with limited space and facilities, but a great base for fishing the waters of western Cape York. Cullen Point is 9km N of Mapoon, which is around 90km N of Weipa. Dogs allowed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref B4). Contact the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council for information and permits on (07) 4090 9124.



Moreton Telegraph Station

A caravan park and campground at the site of the former telegraph station near the Wenlock River, 72km N of the Peninsula Developmental Rd. Camp sites are spacious and shady. Dogs welcomed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D5). Ph (07) 4060 3360 or visit www.moretonstation.com.au



The entrance to the campground at Moreton Telegraph Station on Telegraph Road. Photo by Julie Buttriss.



Bramwell Station

This operating cattle property is the most northerly station in Australia and caters for travellers with a caravan park and campground. Turn off Telegraph Rd 27km N of Moreton, then 10km NE to the station. Dogs accepted but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D5). Ph (07) 4060 3300.



Bramwell Junction

A bush campground and roadhouse located at the junction of the Old Telegraph Track and Bamaga (Bypass) Rd to the E, 42km N of Moreton. This is the last fuel available before Bamaga, whether you are travelling straight up the track or via the eastern bypass road. Dogs welcomed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D5). Open 7am - 7pm each day, ph (07) 4060 3230.



Old Telegraph Track

Numerous bush camping areas with no facilities exist along the 120km of high clearance 4WD only Old Telegraph Track between Bramwell Junction and the Jardine River Crossing. Most are merely cleared areas near river and creek crossings. Dogs OK providing they are under control around other campers and do not enter the Jardine River National Park which borders Old Telegraph Track on the E side, N of Eliot Falls.



Crossing Palm Creek on the Old Telegraph Track. Photo by Julie Buttriss.

Call in to the Qld Parks and Wildlife ranger office at Heathlands for information on camp sites and track conditions, 12km NE of the Telegraph Track, turn off 3km N of Dulhunty River. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref D7 - C3).



Seisia Holiday Park

A campground and van park located in the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) indigenous community of Seisia, 5.5km NW of Bamaga, on Koraba Rd on the N side of town near the beach. Dogs are welcome to camp in the fenced-off Palm Grove section of the park. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref Q12). Ph (07) 4069 3243 or web www.seisiaholidaypark.com



Loyalty Beach

A campground and fishing lodge located 7km N of Bamaga with 500m of beachfront camp sites, laundry, clean amenities and well stocked kiosk. Guided fishing safaris, boat hire, 4WD tours and scenic flights. Dogs welcomed providing they remain under supervision. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref Q12). Ph (07) 4069 3372 or web www.loyaltybeach.com



Punsand Bay

A bush resort style campground with cabins and on-site tents, powered and unpowered sites along 10km of beachfront located at Lot 11, Punsand Bay, 29km N of Bamaga. Great fishing, sunrises and sunsets. 7 day kiosk, pool, licensed restaurant and ferry service to Thursday Island. Dogs welcomed but must remain on a leash in the campground. RACQ Cape York Peninsula map (ref R11). Ph (07) 4069 1722 or web www.punsand.com.au



Access to the Cape York Region

While air and sea access is possible all year round, the distinctly different wet and dry seasons dictate vehicle access to this area. The Peninsula Developmental Road from Lakeland to Weipa is a mostly unsealed main connecting road of 560km, which may be trafficable by conventional vehicles during the dry season (generally May to October), but 4WD is considered a better option at all times.

Access north of this road, along the former Overland Telegraph route and Bamaga Rd through Moreton, Bamaga and on to the tip, definitely requires a high clearance 4WD as there are many water crossings, and should only be attempted during the dry season. From the turn off, it is around 335km to the tip via the telegraph route, or a further 35km if using the newer bypass road to the east from Bramwell Junction.

There are several roadside rest areas maintained by Main Roads Qld, but none of these are approved for overnight stops. A selection of camping areas that allow dogs are described below in order of location from Cooktown to Cape York via Mulligan Hwy, then north along the Peninsula Developmental Rd, Bamaga Rd and Telegraph Track.

Alcohol Restrictions

Tourists need to be aware of laws covering the amount and type of alcoholic drinks that can be taken on to Aboriginal Lands. All communities on Cape York Peninsula are subject to these laws including the NPA Lands around Bamaga which you must pass through if heading to the tip.

Penalties for breaking these laws are severe so all travellers are advised to check conditions and plan carefully prior to a trip to the Cape York region. Call the alcohol limits information line on 1300 789 000 or visit www.atsip.qld.gov.au/everybodys-business/travellers-alcohol-restrictions/

Further information: Contact the Cooktown Visitor Information Centre, cnr Hope and Walker Sts, ph 1800 174 895. The Weipa Information Centre can book town and mine tours on (07) 4069 7871.

Map ref: Qld p155 B2. For more detail, see the Cape York map on the next page or the RACQ map of Townsville - Cairns and Cape York Peninsula (references indicated for each entry). Hema Maps also produce a detailed map of Cape York available as both a folded paper and digital version.

There are several detailed guide books available on Cape York and it is recommended travellers refer to at least a couple before heading off. The definitive title is 'Cape York - An Adventurer's Guide' by Ron and Viv Moon, now in its 12th edition and available from Westprint Maps at www.westprint.com.au or specialist map stores in all states.

Paper and digital topographic maps are also available from Natmap at scales of 1:100,000 and 1:250,000 which may also prove useful to some travellers.

