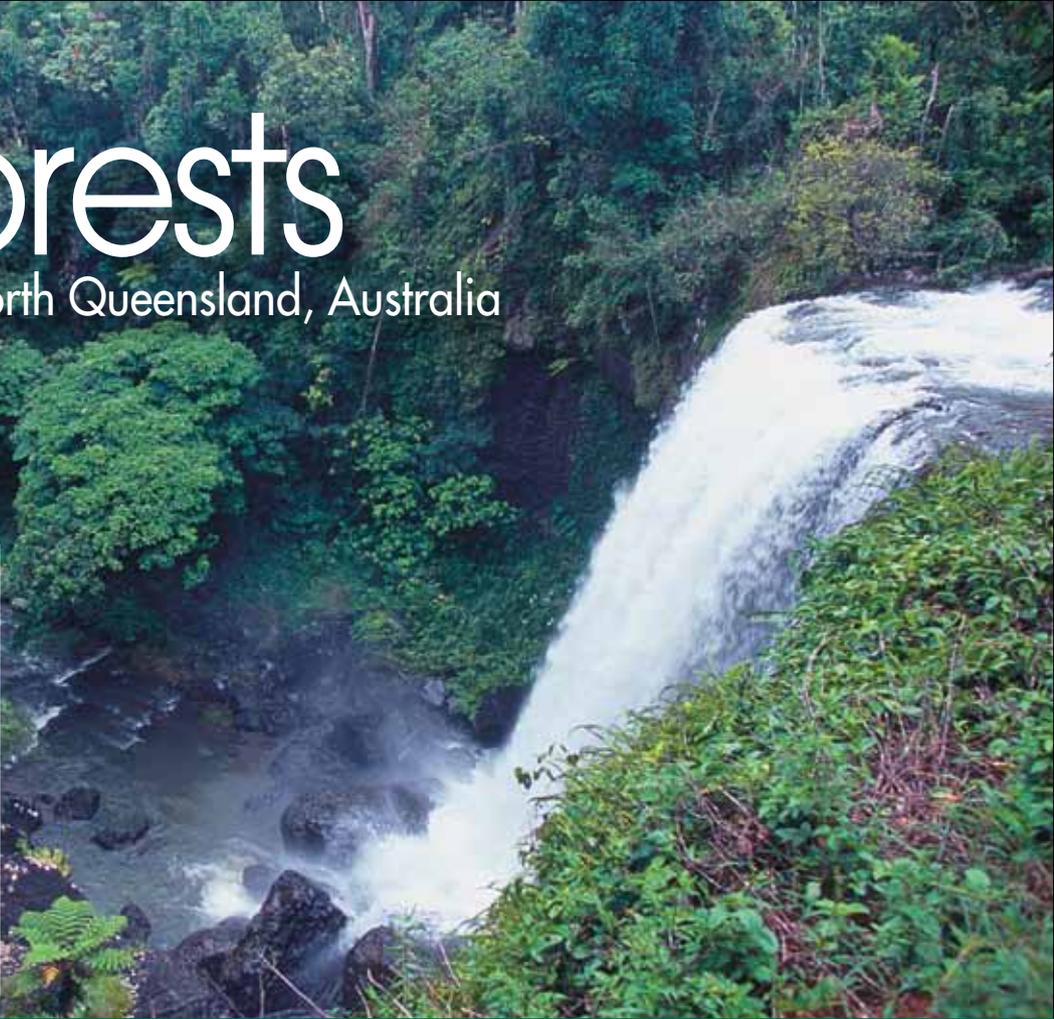


Rainforests

Cairns and Tropical North Queensland, Australia



Zillie Falls part of the spectacular waterfall circuit on the Atherton Tablelands.

There are many facts about our fascinating rainforest...

Rainforest

Our rainforests are the oldest surviving in the world with a history stretching back over 140 million years.

The rainforests are a last refuge for unique plants and animals. Research has shown that full regeneration of a forest can take 800 years.

■ There are about 3000 identifiable plant species.

■ Our rainforests have the highest concentration of primitive flowering plants in the world.

■ Many animals living in the rainforest are not found anywhere else in the world.



Blue Ulysses

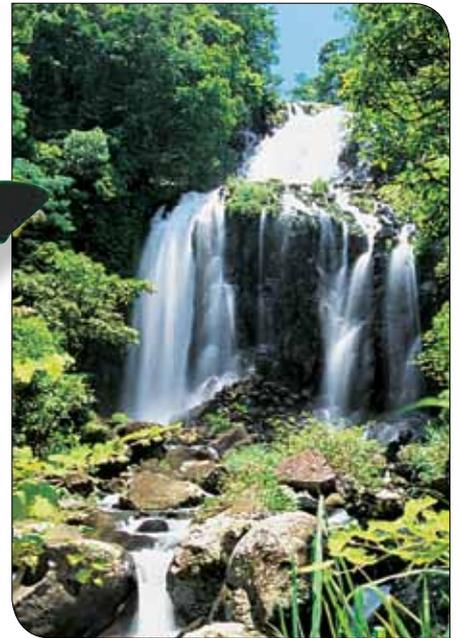
■ There are 65 rivers running a total of 730km throughout our rainforests.

■ Our rainforest has many varieties of beautiful butterflies.

■ The most famous being the electric Blue Ulysses.

■ There are many poisonous plants in the rainforest.

■ It is extremely foolish to sample wild food unless you are completely certain of what you are eating. Look but don't taste.



■ Birds are important pollinators in our rainforests. More than 70 different honeyeater and lorikeet species are nectar-feeders and over 1000 plant species are bird pollinated.

■ Other pollinators of rainforests include ants, beetles, bees, butterflies, cockroaches, moths and wasps as well as bats, possums and rats.



The Cassowary -

■ The Cassowary plays a major part in dispersing rainforest seeds. They can grow up to 2m high and weigh up to 85kg. The bird is shy and solitary, only forming pairs in breeding season. The female lays the eggs, but the male incubates, guards and raises them alone.

■ They have a diet of fruit that has fallen from trees, fungi, snails, flowers and small animals. To defend itself by kicking. It's kick is powerful enough to rip open a human stomach.

■ The Cassowary was declared an endangered species in 1999.



Lumholtz tree kangaroo -

■ Agile treeclimbers, they grip a trunk or vertical branch with their strong clawed forepaws and walk, or runs, forwards or backwards along horizontal branches.

■ Their long tails are used as a counterbalance. here are many facts about our fascinating rainforest...



Wildlife in rainforests.

Many unique habitats live in our rainforests, with 78% of wildlife being nocturnal. Some of the unique animals.



There are numerous operators who offer rainforest and wildlife day tours .
For further information go to the tours and activities section and follow the links .

www.cairnsmagazine.com.au

