



2 Day Gold-Seeker 4WD Self-Drive Extension

This 2-day extension to the existing itinerary options allows a more in depth exploration of the Maytown Goldfields. Not only are there many rusty relics of the gold rush days, but plenty of 'specks' or nuggets to be found. This extension will add two days on to your existing itinerary to fully allow you the opportunity to get out there into the goldfields and start fossicking!

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1 Cairns to Cooktown. Pick up this itinerary from Chillagoe

Retrace your steps to Almaden and on through to Dimbulah. Head north, through Mt Mulligan Station and over the Hodgkinson and Mitchell Rivers to the Peninsular Development Road near Bob's Lookout. After a stop to soak in the scenery, you continue north to the turn-off to Maytown to the left. Take the track to Maytown and explore the old ruins and machinery remains of Australia's richest alluvial goldfield.

Your overnight bush camp is near German Bar (No facilities) (273km 5 hours driving, 1 & 1/2 hours walking)

Day 2 Mayfield

A full day is available to explore the ruins and old workings. Mayfield to Laura

Spend the morning exploring the Old Gold mining ruins and workings. The Chinese Alluvial Workings, the ruins of the charcoal burners and old mines such as Louisa, Comet and Ida. Ensure you pick up extra information- see references.

Overnight bush camp is near German Bar. (No facilities)

Day 3 Maytown to Cairns or Laura

If you are heading further north up the Cape or to Cooktown, you will go north when you reach the Peninsular Development Road. Turn right to return to Cairns. The track back to the Peninsular Development Road takes you past other alluvial gold areas and the Sam Elliot Lookout, with great views over the Palmer Valley. Turning north, you journey up to the Palmer River Roadhouse, with its mining museum and on to the irrigated farms of Lakeland, quite an oasis in the dry landscape. After a stop for Rock, take a walk to the wonderful galleries of Quinkan Aboriginal Art. Your overnight caravan park up the road must have one of the largest Caravan Park swimming pools in Australia!

Overnight camping Ang-gnarra Caravan Park, Laura. (Full facilities) (193km 4 hours driving, 2 hours walking)

NB. The 'extra day' is gained as you would have been travelling from Chillagoe to Laura or Cooktown anyway.

Recommended References

The above itineraries are not intended as the sole guide to the details of your route

Road Conditions

It is important to seek up to date advice on road conditions as things can change rapidly.

Map

HEMA Maps – Cape York.

Guide Book

Cape York- An Adventurers Guide by Ron and Viv Moon

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Background Reading

The Explorers by Tim Flannery

Cape York- By the Australian Geographic Society.

River of Gold; S'pose I Die' by H Holthouse

Web Sites

Four Wheel Drive Hire Service www.4wdhire.com.au

Moon Guidebooks www.guidebooks.com.au

HEMA Maps for an idea of the range of maps and information on suppliers

www.hemamaps.com.au

Outback tracks information www.mynrma.com.au/travel/go/outback_tracks/index.shtml

QLD National Parks www.epa.qld.gov.au/environment/park/discover