



## Summer tours

Tours run in the summer months only, starting in December and finishing in late January.

The tour departs The Caves township at 5.45pm on Friday and Saturday evenings.

## Costs

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Adults                                   | \$13.15 |
| Children (5–15)                          | \$6.35  |
| Pensioners                               | \$8.55  |
| Family (2 adults and 2 or more children) | \$39.55 |

## Group size

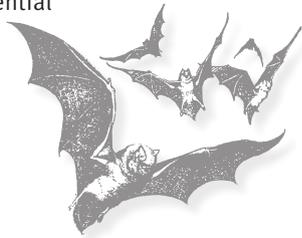
Please book early as tours are limited to 10 people. Minimum booking numbers apply.

## Meeting time and place

Please meet at The Caves township (refer to map) at 5:30pm for a 5:45pm departure. You will follow your tour guide, in your own vehicle, to Mount Etna carpark.

## What to bring

- one good torch per person is essential
- one litre of drinking water
- sturdy walking shoes (no thongs)
- wear shorts or long pants
- insect repellent
- any personal medication.



## Level of difficulty

Tours are in the evening under torchlight. The track is steep with many steps and becomes slippery when wet. The walk may be strenuous for unfit people. Children under 15 are welcome but must be under adult supervision. The tour is not recommended for children under 5. The track is not suitable for pushchairs.

**Length of track:** 2.4km return

**Length of tour:** 3hr approximately

## About the tour

Your guide will take you up Mount Etna through remnant dry rainforest to the top of a disused limestone mine. The track then descends limestone karst to Bat Cleft.

### Take care when walking and at the cave entrance.

The track is steep and can be slippery when wet.

Throughout the tour, your guide will provide a fascinating insight into the turbulent history for the fight to save Mount Etna and the bats.

Once you arrive at the Bat Cleft, you will witness the flight of thousands of little bent-wing bats from their cave in search of food.

## Bookings and further information

Please make your booking (or cancellation) at least 24 hours before your tour. You will be notified if your tour is cancelled due to wet weather, bushfires or insufficient tour bookings.

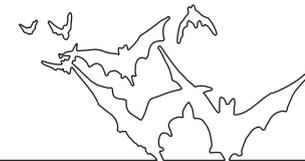
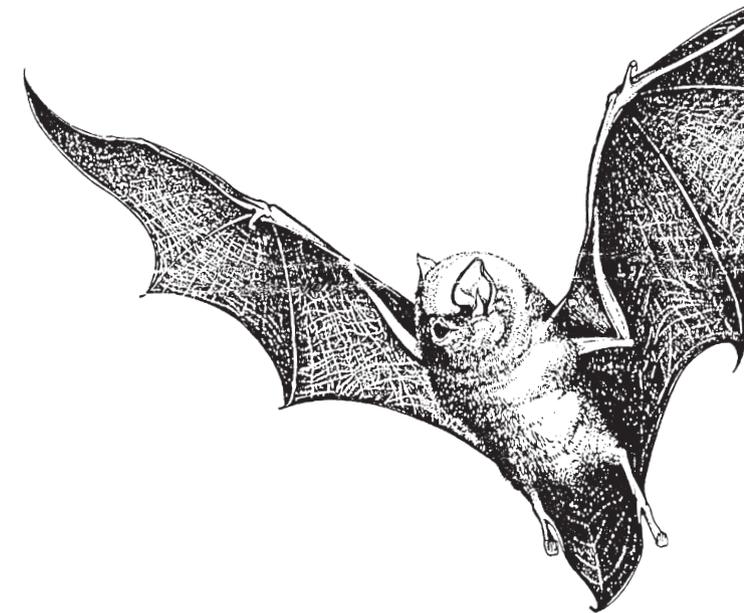
Payment is preferred via EFTPOS at your meeting place in The Caves township. If you plan to pay with cash, please bring the correct change (tour guides do not carry cash).

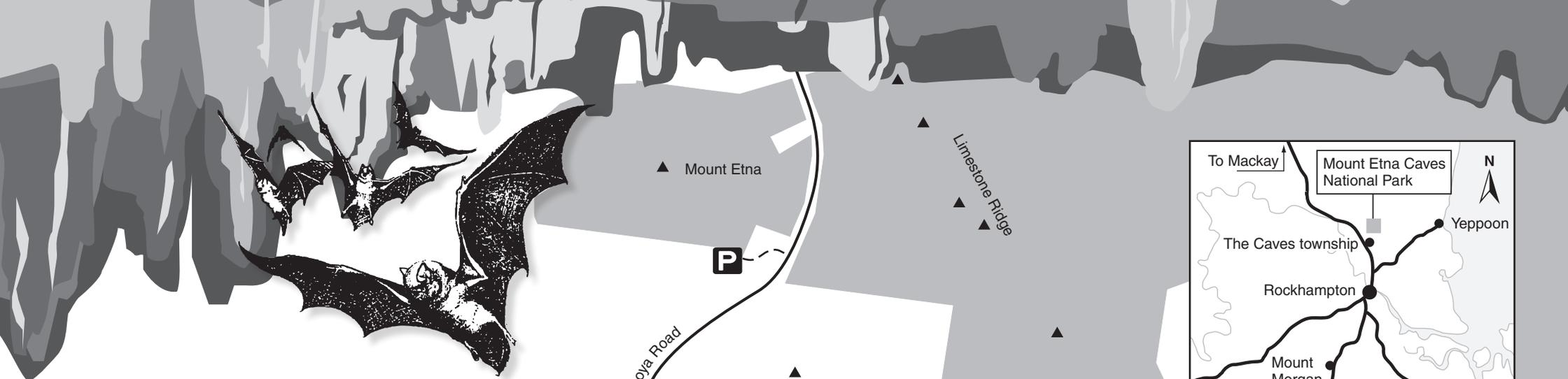
### Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Phone: (07) 4936 0570 (9am–4pm), or  
0429 630 923 (after hours, text message preferred)



Scan to  
book a tour





## Experience the thrill of thousands of tiny bats flashing past you at dusk.

Little bent-wing bats rush out from their roost in Bat Cleft to feed, providing a spectacular natural show.

Bat Cleft, a cave in Mount Etna Caves National Park, is one of only seven recorded little bent-wing bat *Miniopterus australis* maternity sites and accommodates 80 per cent of the known Australian population.

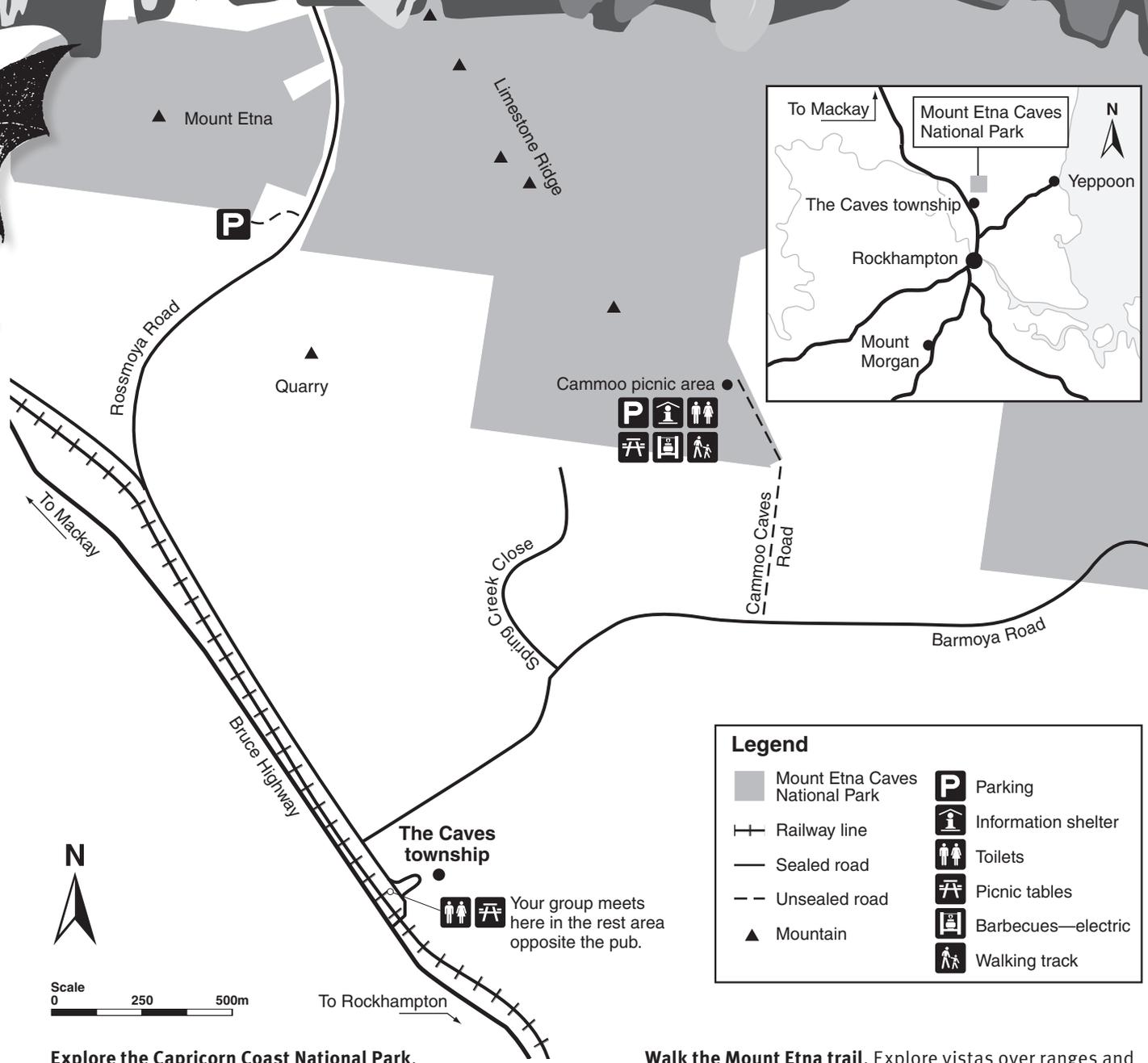
Only mature females and their offspring inhabit Bat Cleft cave. At night the females leave as a group to feed on insects. They can consume the equivalent of 50 per cent of their body weight each night.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's guided tour takes you through remnant dry rainforest and limestone formations, and provides insight into the significance of the emergence flights and the Mount Etna area.

### Take extra time to explore the region

Allow yourself plenty of time to stop by the information shelter and take a short walk. The Cammoo picnic area is a great place for a picnic or barbecue. An electric barbecue, picnic tables and toilets are provided.

In the region, explore our other natural attractions. Magnificent views from the top of Mount Archer National Park take in the city, ranges, river and coast.



### Explore the Capricorn Coast National Park.

Walk to Double Head to see inside an old volcano vent and enjoy ocean views over the Keppel Islands, or take the walking track up Bluff Point to Turtle lookout.

### Walk the Mount Etna trail.

Explore vistas over ranges and plains. The final boardwalk section from Bench 9 to Bat Cleft is only accessible by guided tour during the summer months to protect the bats during their breeding season.

**Legend**

|  |                                |  |                     |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Mount Etna Caves National Park |  | Parking             |
|  | Railway line                   |  | Information shelter |
|  | Sealed road                    |  | Toilets             |
|  | Unsealed road                  |  | Picnic tables       |
|  | Mountain                       |  | Barbecues—electric  |
|  |                                |  | Walking track       |

Your group meets here in the rest area opposite the pub.