

# living with wildlife

## Crocodiles

Estuarine and freshwater crocodiles are an important part of north and central Queensland's wetlands, freshwater and marine areas. They are often the largest predator in these areas and help to maintain the overall health and balance of these ecosystems.

Estuarine crocodiles live mainly in tidal reaches of rivers, as well as in freshwater lagoons, swamps and waterways up to hundreds of kilometres from the sea. They can even occur along some beaches and around offshore islands. Estuarine crocodiles can be active at any time.

### Crocwise in croc country

Crocodiles are potentially dangerous. Never take unnecessary risks in crocodile habitat. You are responsible for your own safety, so please follow these guidelines and be crocwise in croc country.

- Obey crocodile signs—they are there for your own protection.
- Never swim in water where crocodiles may live, even if there is no warning sign present.
- When fishing, always stand a few metres back from the water's edge and never stand on logs or branches overhanging the water.
- Never clean fish or discard fish scraps near the water's edge or at boat ramps.
- Stay well back from any crocodile slide marks. Crocodiles may still be close and may approach people and boats.
- Never dangle your arms or legs over the side of a boat. If you fall out of a boat, get out of the water as quickly as possible.
- Never provoke, harass or interfere with crocodiles—even small ones.
- Never feed crocodiles—it is illegal and dangerous.
- Camp at least 2 m above the high water mark and at least 50 m from the water's edge. Avoid places where native animals and domestic stock drink.
- Never leave food scraps at your campsite. Always check that previous campers have left no food scraps.
- Never prepare food, wash dishes or pursue any other activities near the water's edge or adjacent sloping banks.
- Be more aware of crocodiles during the breeding season—September to April.

#### Further information

Visit the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website  
[www.ehp.qld.gov.au](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au)

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