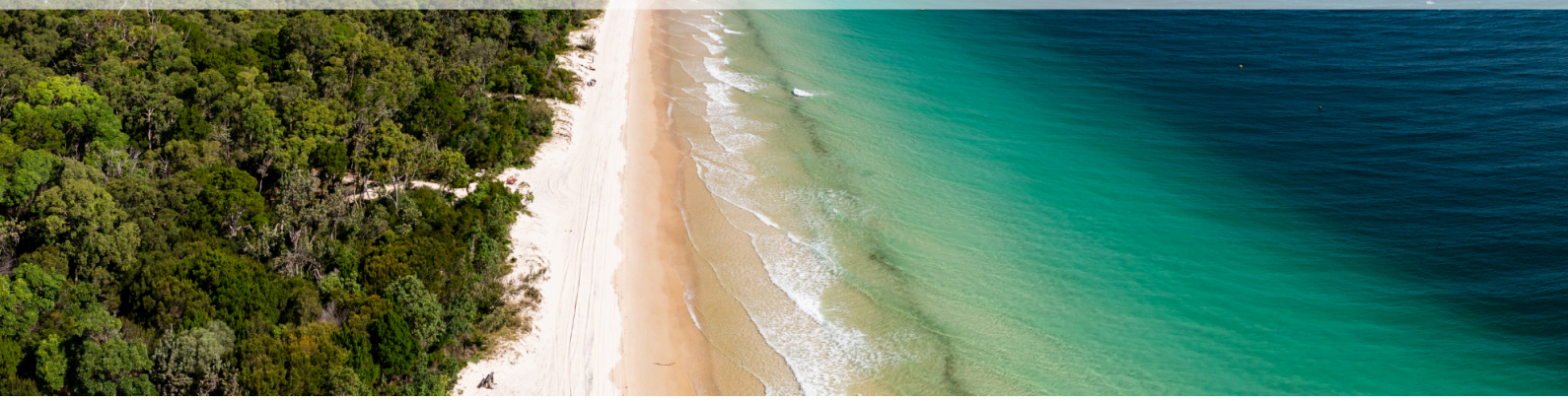
Mulgumpin Yatra 2026

Mulgumpin (Moreton Island), QLD

Friday 21st - Saturday 29th August 2026

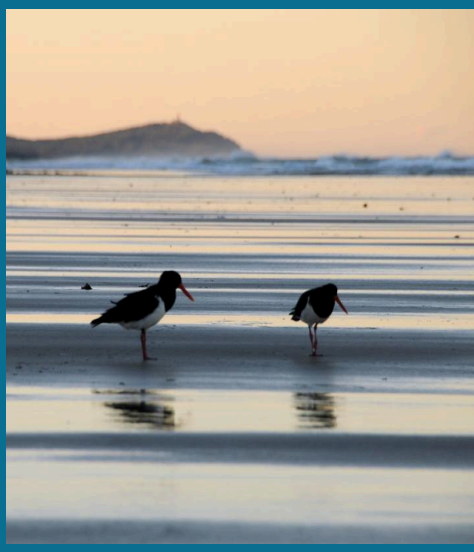


'Yatra' is the Sanskrit word for pilgrimage. A yatra is a unique journey which offers an opportunity to explore dharma teachings whilst hiking in some of the most pristine natural landscapes in Australia. Together we will cultivate a supportive environment to investigate our relationship to self, others and our natural environment in order to deepen our sense of interconnection.

As well as the walking periods, the yatra provides a combination of silent periods for yoga, meditation, and reflective walking (wandering), as well as time for facilitated exercises, talks, group circles, and artistic expression. The variety of practices draw on traditional dharma teachings and meditation practices from the Buddhist and Yoga traditions, as well as science, deep ecology, and tribal traditions.

Our Journey

Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) features coastal heath, rocky headlands, crystal clear lagoons, wildflowers, tall sand dunes, a historic lighthouse and miles of sandy beaches. The Gheebulum Kunungai National Park is jointly managed by the island's traditional owners and Qld National Parks. Gheebulum Kunungai means 'lightnings' playground' to the Quandamooka people, whose relationship with the island dates back thousands of years with a connection to land, sea and country still strong today. The sheltered bay waters are home to marine animals including turtles and dugongs. A host of migratory and resident shorebirds feed and roost on the beaches.



Our pilgrimage will lead us around the spectacular northern end of the island. The daily walking distance varies from 10km to 18km. There will also be some stationary days where we can rest the body and focus on internal explorations at camp. Some walking sections will lead through soft sand and bushy terrain requiring a good level of fitness.

The yatra will be based on the spirit of simplicity in that we let go of the usual luxuries of life. We will be accommodated each night in our personal tents. An accompanying support team will provide hearty vegetarian meals, transport our luggage and take care of logistics. At times help will be required with food preparation, clean-up, and setting up/packing down our camp.

Facilitation

The yatra will be conducted under the shelter of Buddhist ethics which create a safe, caring and conscious environment for spiritual practice. On retreat, ethical conduct invites us to restrain from harmful speech and actions, sexual expression and intoxicants; and invites us to cultivate mindfulness, non violence, generosity, kindness and renunciation.

The majority of our retreat program will be supported by noble silence. The meditation instructions are primarily grounded in the Insight Meditation method. The yoga and movement exercises are suitable for all levels and are designed to nourish our physical condition and assist our mindfulness practice.

Emma Pittaway has been practicing Buddhist meditation since 1999. Inspired by the Buddha and his followers, who lived and meditated in the forest, she draws on the natural world to support her practice, and teaches an open 'natural awareness' approach based on the teachings of Sayadaw U Tejaniya. She is a regular teacher at the Kuan Yin Meditation Centre in Lismore and leads retreats with Patrick Kearney, her primary teacher and mentor. www.wilddharma.net

Ronny Hickel has studied, practised and taught in various traditions of yoga, and buddhist dharma for the last 30 years. He is a yoga and tai-chi instructor, a qualified outdoor recreation guide and has trained in Hakomi Psychotherapy. Originally from Austria, Ronny moved to Australia in 2000 after living in India and South East Asia for numerous years. His approach is shaped by his love and passion for the wilderness, Buddhist dharma, nature reconnection, deep ecology and the rich indigenous traditions of the world. He resides between the Northern Rivers & Tasmania where he works in human development and outdoor recreation, facilitating the dharma, nature connection and men's work.

What to bring

The yatra is an all-weather event. Mulgumpin experiences comfortable winter temperatures. While many winter days are usually warm and sunny, there is a likelihood of blustery winds or rain coming in from the Pacific, and colder temperatures at night. Be prepared for varied coastal weather.

- ☐ tent (not pop-ups or swags)
- ☐ warm sleeping bag (-5 degrees comfort rating)
- ☐ camping mat (e.g. thermarest)
- ☐ sun hat, beanie, gloves
- ☐ rain/wind coat
- ☐ clothing for hot, cold and wet weather
- ☐ hiking shoes - walked in, not causing blisters!
- ☐ daypack for walking
- ☐ water bottles, 2L minimum (3L recommended)
- ☐ cup, bowl, plate, cutlery
- ☐ lunch box
- ☐ meditation stool/cushion, blanket/shawl
- ☐ sun screen, insect repellent, blister plasters
- ☐ torch and spare batteries
- ☐ toiletries, towel, swimwear
- ☐ any personal medication or supplements if required.

Pack lightly and tightly – The entire luggage and equipment must be transported in our support vehicles. Please keep your main luggage confined to one or two bags maximum.

We encourage a completely phone/tech free event – Let family and friends know that you're on retreat so that you can embrace this precious time. Also note, due to the remote nature of the yatra we cannot provide for the charging of any electronic devices during the yatra.

Arrival

The Yatra will start on Friday 21st August at 'The Wrecks' ferry landing on Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) at 2pm.

The MICAT ferry leaves from 14 Howard Smith Drive, 'Port of Brisbane' at 2pm and takes approximately 90 minutes to 'The Wrecks' on Mulgumpin. Arrive early, with time for check-in and boarding.

IMPORTANT: The ferry trip to the island is **not included** in the base fee and all participants are responsible to arrange their own return transport to 'the Wrecks' on Moreton Island. Once you have received a place on the yatra, make your ferry booking here. The return ticket costs $80 for a walk-on passenger. Bookings are essential.

Street parking and secure (paid) car parking is available at the 'Port of Brisbane' ferry pier.

If you wish to offer or request a car ride to the Port, a car-pooling form will be circulated to participants to facilitate this.

If arriving by plane to Brisbane Domestic Airport please do so before 12pm to allow travel time to the port.

Once gathered at 'The Wrecks' we will have a brief orientation before walking to our first camp to set up and settle in. We aim for dinner to be served around 6pm followed by a yatra introduction.

Departure

The Yatra will end on Saturday 29th August at the 'The Wrecks' ferry landing on Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) at 2pm.

The barge will leave from 'The Wrecks' back to the 'Port of Brisbane' at 3pm.

For those flying from Brisbane Airport please arrange your flights from 7pm onwards.

Please do not make any travel arrangements before receiving email confirmation.

Cost: $925 base fee plus Dana

The **BASE FEE** covers the running costs of the yatra including all meals and catering, support vehicle hire, camping fees, administration costs and logistics.

The base fee does not include any payment for the facilitators and organisers.

DANA means generosity and forms a substantial aspect of providing this yatra. Following an old Buddhist tradition the facilitators & organisers of this yatra do not charge a fixed fee for their contributions, but offer their services as a gift. At the end of the yatra there will be an opportunity to offer dana in the form of a monetary gift in return. Dana supports the livelihood of yatra facilitators & organisers, keeps the dharma accessible and affordable, and cultivates a spirit of generosity.

How to apply

1. **Application**
   Read this Information Document thoroughly. Submit the online APPLICATION FORM. Be aware that the number of applications is limited.

2. **Approval**
   We will contact you within 7 days if your application has been successful or if you have been placed on a waiting list.
   - *Please do not make any payments or travel arrangements unless you have received this confirmation of your place on the yatra.*
   - Please check your junk/spam mail if you haven't heard from us.

3. **Payment**
   If your application has been accepted you will have 3 days to secure your place by making your payment. You will receive a confirmation email to finalise your booking once funds have arrived.

   Please contact us if you wish to arrange an alternative payment plan. Limited sponsorships are available for those experiencing financial difficulty.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations before 27th July will receive a refund minus a $100 administration fee. Unfortunately we are not able to offer refunds for cancellations received after this date. If you need to cancel, ensure you inform us in time so your place can be offered to someone else.

For more details please contact Will

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yatra.org.au