

Outback Experience

HISTORIC

CHILLAGOE GUESTHOUSE

Chillagoe Post Office 1906 - 1991



**This is the original Post Office Building which operated until February 1991
It was one of the busiest Post Offices in Queensland during the Mining boom**

EXPLORE LIMESTONE CAVES



Fairy Grotto in Chillagoe Donna Cave

Chillagoe - Early Days

A vast contrast to the Tropical Coast

Chillagoe - a historic Mining Town, rich in history.



On the 3rd September 1873 at Georgetown, North Queensland, a hand written notice was nailed to the bark wall of the Mining Warden's office

"J V Mulligan reports the discovery of payable gold on the Palmer River. Those interested may inspect at this office the 102 ounces he has brought back. "

The rush was on, and the pastoralists followed. The development of Far North Queensland had begun. Men from countries around the world toiled in an incredibly hot, hostile environment. Their mode of transport was basic. When work became scarce, or it was time to move on, they walked. Irvinebank to Chillagoe, Chillagoe to the Hodgkinson gold fields, or over the wild ranges to Mt Molloy.

Dad pushed a wheelbarrow in which were stacked all their belongings. A few pieces of iron, which would be used as shelter; maybe some hessian, a spade, a lantern, a few kitchen things and very little else. Mum and the children straggled behind, Mum, usually with a babe in arms. (Quote from old-timer Mr. Peel)

It is as a tribute to these pioneers, who trudged the dusty tracks, that this route has been named *The Wheelbarrow Way*. With little more than determination, they carved out a future and opened up the vast uncharted territory, just back o' Cairnsthe *Cairns Outback*.

Chillagoe, one hundred years ago hosted 13 hotels, two newspapers, a hospital and the population was over 10,000 people.

Today the history is evident throughout the town with numerous historic buildings and landmarks.

At Mungana the old township ruins stand tribute to the then hardworking men and women who came in search of prosperity from mining.



Chillagoe - Far North Queensland

A vast contrast to the Tropical Coast

Chillagoe - a historic Mining Town, rich in history.



Chillagoe is situated westward from Cairns and is just over 2 hour drive from Cairns. There is a lot to see along the way so the journey may take up to 3 hours.

The easiest route is from Smithfield, drive up the Kuranda Range, onwards to Mareeba then take the Wheelbarrow Way Tourist drive to Chillagoe via Dimbulah and Almaden.

When you arrive in town you will instantly notice the tall chimney at the ruins of the old smelter which is iconic to Chillagoe. Entry is free and there is a Viewing Platform and car park on a high vantage point with informative plaques.

A great photo shoot opportunity.

Much fascinating information is revealed on how the pioneers toiled it in those days.



Today there are many historic surviving points of interest to be explored at your own leisure.

See the Railway Station, Bank Vault, Court House, Police Museum, Post Office & Post Office Hotel.

There is so much to see and do that to fully experience, go back in time and immerse yourself in the history of Chillagoe a two nights stay is recommended.

Chillagoe - Things to do

A vast contrast to the Tropical Coast

Chillagoe - a historic Mining Town, rich in history.

Visit Chillagoe Limestone Caves



Most popular activity is a visit to the three Limestone Caves which are Ranger Guided by Queensland Parks experienced and informative guides.

Each being uniquely different, if you see one you will most likely want to see the other two. Over 14,000 people visit the caves each year. Tours operate everyday except Christmas day. Tickets can be purchased on arrival at the Information Centre located on Queen Street. Phone (07) 4094 7111 for more information.

Explore Mungana Ruins & Self Guided Caves

Mungana Archways are 16.5Kms westward. Heading off the highway, you will come across Aboriginal Paintings at 1.1Kms then a little further on are the self guided caves.

As you enter sloping a little downward, you will feel a sudden change in temperature, quite refreshing. Further in there is a squeeze hole which is worth going through as there is a splendid auditorium beyond and is perfect for a picnic.



Visit Walsh River Crossing



Grab your fishing rod, a picnic lunch and your swimming attire then head out of town on an adventure!..

Drive toward Normanton, at 6.4Kms you cross a disused railway line, at 16Kms you pass the Mungana Old Township turnoff, at 24Kms you will pass the Blackwood Station turnoff, at 30.5Kms you cross Rookwood Creek.

Continue straight on and at 32Kms you arrive at the Walsh River Crossing.

Chillagoe - Things to do

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Cool off at the Bogey Hole



A pleasant way to cool off after a day of exploring. This spot is popular with the local children and visitors all year round. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the shady paperbark trees at the waters edge.

A picnic table is provided for your convenience.

An easy walk from the centre of town.

Swim at the Historic Weir

The Weir is also popular for cooling off .

Situated below the smelter site, it was purpose built to ensure adequate uninterrupted supply of water for the smelter operations and township.

There a remnants of the steam driven pump stand on the other side of the Weir.



Relax at Chillagoe Guesthouse



At the end of the day relax on the verandah of the “Historic Chillagoe Post Office” now the Chillagoe Guesthouse.

Soak up the aura of the outback or simply cross the road and join the locals for a cold beer or a glass of wine and a yarn at the Historic Post Office Hotel.

CHILLAGOE GUESTHOUSE

Historic Post Office Built 1906

www.chillagoeguesthouse.com.au



Chillagoe Post Office built in 1906, ceased trading in 1991.

Today it retains its character and Grandeur located in the centre of town and provides accommodation surrounded by history.

Walking distance to shops, hotels, places of interest and the Visitor Info Centre.

Complimentary breakfast at check in and Free WIFI with an in house computer.

Our Premium Accommodation in a Self Contained Unit of 1 or 2 Bedrooms is recommended for a relaxing two night stay.

Standard Accommodation is in motel style rooms with shared facilities, we have one room with an en-suite.

All rooms have Queen beds, quiet split system air conditioning and room fridges.



The building comprises two separate Lounge rooms and Kitchens separated by a soundproof wall.

A veranda provides external access to individual rooms.

Outside breakfast tables, laundry and BBQ are provided.

Laundry facilities, off street parking and WIFI are complimentary.

Reservations: (07) 4222 1600
Manager Direct: 0408 515 267

CHILLAGOE GUESTHOUSE

Historic Post Office Built 1906



Our two kitchens are fully equipped which enable you to create home cooked meals.

Large modern fridge, microwave and oven.

The rear kitchen has a dishwasher.

The dining areas are spacious with plenty of seating inside or outdoors.

Ideal for business travellers or family weekend getaways.

A full house accommodates up to 13 people.



Chillagoe weather can be extremely hot at certain times of the year.

The verandas on the East and West sides of the building ensure that there are plenty of shaded areas throughout the day.

Relax, read a book and enjoy a cool evening breeze.

Please visit our website for more information
Enquiries can be made via website or call the manager direct on
0408 515 267 or Reception on (07) 4222 1600

www.chillagoeguesthouse.com.au
enquiry@chillagoeguesthouse.com.au

Chillagoe - Queensland Australia



Chillagoe

