



Landscape Journey

Plants need certain soil nutrients, temperature ranges and rainfall levels to survive and grow. Because Australia has such a wide range of environmental conditions, there is a wide range of plant types. If you drive long distances, you can find very different-looking environments from deserts to rainforests.

Far North Queensland has nutrient-rich soil and high rainfall, while central Australia has lower-nutrient sandy soils and low rainfall. Plants have evolved over many millions of years to cope with these different conditions.

Different plant species in turn create different ecosystems or bioregions. Environment Australia has identified 85 different bioregions in Australia.

Examples of average rainfall and average temperature ranges for the points on the Earth Quest exhibit *Landscape Journey* are listed below:

- Alpine areas -3 to 18°C, 900 millimetres rainfall
- Rainforest areas 15 to 30°C, 600 to 3200 millimetres rainfall
- Desert areas 15 to 30°C, 200 millimetres rainfall
- Coastal 12 to 24°C, 400 millimetres rainfall.
- Wetland areas 18 to 36°C, 600 to 1200 millimetres rainfall

More Information

Environment Australia

Australia's Biogeographical Regions

<http://www.ea.gov.au/parks/nrs/ibra/index.html>

Map of Australia's Biogeographical Regions (needs Adobe Acrobat)

<http://www.ea.gov.au/parks/nrs/ibra/pubs/ib5-cont-col-a4.pdf>

Regional Descriptions

<http://www.ea.gov.au/parks/nrs/ibra/version5-1/summary-report/summary-report3.html#34>

Bureau of Meteorology Climate Averages <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/>