

REDLANDS COAST KOALA WATCH

How to spot a koala

Physical signs

Sometimes the easiest way to spot a koala, is to look down, instead of up.

- **Scat:** look around the base of trees for signs of scat (poop)
- **Claw marks:** look at the trunks of trees for claw marks.

These are both signs a tree is regularly used by a koala and it may be part of the koala's home range.



Koala scat is usually about 2cm long and less than 1cm wide

Weather

The time of day and the season will give you a clue of where to look. Koalas will sit high up on a sparse branch if they are looking for some warmth and sunshine.

You can use your own experience as a guide - If you're feeling hot or cold while outdoors, chances are, they are too.

- **When it's cold:** on a cold winter's morning, a koala may be sunning itself high up on a bare branch.
- **When it's warm:** in the middle of a hot summer's day, a koala may be seeking shade in a dense tree.



Spot the koala – koalas are great at hiding and may often look like a bump in the tree

Use your nose

If a male koala is nearby, you may also smell a distinctive musky scent if he has been scent marking recently.

Listen up

If you live in a koala's home range, you may also hear them at night during breeding season. Male koalas make a bellowing noise when they are looking for a mate that is quite loud, females will make a return bellow that is lower in pitch.

They are also quite noisy when mating. If you hear one during the night, check out your neighbouring trees in the morning.



Koala in fork of tree

Other tips

- Try looking for a fork in the branches, as koalas like to find a nice supportive seat for a nap.
- Look out for lumps: koalas may appear as just a bump on the tree if they are tucked in tight.
- Look at things from a different angle: circle the tree, as koalas may be completely hidden from one angle.
- Keep in mind that koalas will use a range of trees, not just eucalyptus, and they sleep for up to 20 hours a day. See our information sheet 'What types of trees do koalas use?' for tips on what types of trees to look in.

