Central West Queensland
National Parks
Welcome to Central West Queensland national parks

Be adventurous!

Savour
sunlit plains extended, wildflowers blossoming after rain and the freedom of sleeping out under a blanket of never-ending stars.

Follow
the footsteps of superbly adapted arid-zone creatures and long-departed dinosaurs. Traverse ancient Aboriginal trading routes and the tracks of hardy explorers and resilient stockmen.

Relax
under a shady gum tree on the banks of a river. Boil a billy, throw in a line and watch for wildlife taking refuge from the dry.

Capture
the essence of the real Australia—harsh but fragile, vivid yet subtle, as dangerous as it is beautiful. Pen a poem, paint a sunset, capture it on camera or simply spin a yarn!

Journey
off the beaten track over dusty roads or desert dunes into Queensland’s dry, but far from lifeless, heart.

Revel
in the romance and stories of this wide brown land and its people. Catch a glimpse of hardships overcome to survive vast distances and unpredictable cycles of boom and bust!

“Welcome to some of the most isolated national parks in Queensland. Climb 30m high sand dunes, explore rocky gorges, spot endangered wildlife, travel to the one of the world’s most famous dinosaur trackways. Remember to be self-sufficient—supplies and help can often be hundreds of kilometres away.

Gary Jorgensen, Senior Ranger
On behalf of rangers living and working in the west.

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Choose your escape

Head west into the sunset, where distance travelled is measured in days or the number of ’roos, emus or flocks of wild budgies seen. Savour wide blue skies contrasting against rich red earth and wildflowers blossoming in a kaleidoscope of colours amid spindly spinifex after rain. Like the dust that seeps into your boots, the vividness and spirit of this timeless land will be forever etched in your memory.

Embrace vast horizons yet to be explored! Be sure to include a visit to some of Queensland’s largest national parks in your itinerary.

Suggested itineraries

Dinosaurs and drovers

Radiate out from your overnight base at Winton or Bladensburg National Park, venturing north-west along the highway across the Mitchell grass plains to legendary Combo Waterhole, or south on rough unsealed roads into the eroded sandstone ranges of Bladensburg and Lark Quarry. Take a series of day trips, visiting other local heritage sites in and around Winton using self guided drive brochures available from the visitor information centre. 4WD vehicles are not essential, but are recommended. (Minimum 600km if you visit all parks mentioned.)

Cooper catchment

Drive direct or make a week-long loop (minimum 500km) starting from Blackall, Windorah or Longreach along minor byways and unsealed roads to Idalia, Welford or Lochern national parks. Discover waterholes of the Thomson or Barcoo rivers at Lochem and Welford, and on leisurely walks and nature drives at towns of Jundah, Stonehenge, Longreach and Isisford. Relax beside Cooper Creek at Windorah. Stop for scenic views near Yara, and between Jundah and Stonehenge where you can also see Aboriginal wells. Step back in time at local museums and heritage sites (Windorah, Jundah, Isisford, Emlet) and learn about the Outback’s pastoral history at major heritage tourism attractions at Blackall, Barcaldine and Longreach.

Dusty Diamantina

Touch the upper reaches of this mighty river system near its source when you visit Combo Waterhole (just off the highway near Kyuna) or seasonal feeder creeks at Bladensburg National Park, venturing north-west along the highway across the Mitchell grass plains to legendary Combo Waterhole, or south on rough unsealed roads into the eroded sandstone ranges of Bladensburg and Lark Quarry. Take a series of day trips, visiting other local heritage sites in and around Winton using self guided drive brochures available from the visitor information centre. 4WD vehicles are not essential, but are recommended. (Minimum 600km if you visit all parks mentioned.)

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Experience the Outback

In Central West Queensland you’ll visit some of the hottest and driest places in Australia. You’ll get dust in your eyes, flies in your face, perhaps grit between your teeth—or even be stuck in some mud! Wear a grin as wide as the landscape and capture memories lasting a lifetime.

Best time to go
The cooler months (April to September) are the best time to visit Central West Queensland to avoid extreme summer daytime temperatures of over 45°C and the risk of rainfall events and flooding. Rain can fall at any time of the year. Many outback roads are unsealed and impassable after even a small amount of rain. Flooding can occur suddenly—even weeks after rain in catchments upstream. No park has all weather access. Munga-Thirri National Park (Simpson Desert) is closed from 1 December to 15 March.

Stop along the way
Remote national parks might be your destination, but don’t just drive past local towns. Stop in for fuel and food, see local sights, have a meal at the pub or stay the night. Even most small towns have the basics and you’ll receive warm, country hospitality and helpful advice.

Add local flavour
Add one of the region’s fun-loving events or tourist attractions to your journey. Whether at races for horses, camels or yabbies; a showcase of livestock or rural prowess; an annual festival or a world-famous museum— the Outback spirit is alive and well and waiting for you to join in. Meet local characters, try a new skill, spin a yarn and savour the experience. Find out more at outbackqueensland.com.au

Guide yourself or go with a local
Plan your own epic tour from an outback town into the mulga scrub, down a river or into the desert. Seek nature, find solitude or let history fill you with wonder. If you prefer someone else to do the planning, driving or to supply the equipment, you can join tours with experienced guides—for just a day or overnight. Visit outbackqueensland.com.au

Best parks to...
Walk on marked tracks—Idalia, Welford, Lark Quarry and Combo Waterhole.
Camp by a waterhole—Diamantina, Welford, Lochern and Bladensburg.
Throw in a line, or take a quiet paddle on a waterhole—Welford, Lochern, Bladensburg and Diamantina.
Take a scenic drive—Idalia, Welford, Lochern, Bladensburg and Diamantina.
Mountain bike on bush roads—Idalia, Diamantina, Welford and Lochern.
Relive the past—Idalia, Welford, Lochern, Bladensburg, Combo Waterhole and Diamantina.
Discover dinosaurs—Lark Quarry.
Capture the magic of the last rays of sunset from a cliff overlooking mulga at Idalia and Welford, across open plains at Diamantina or Bladensburg, or from the top of a desert sand dune at Welford, Diamantina or Munga-Thirri.
Snap a picture-perfect scene where dinosaurs walked (Lark Quarry), under a coolabah tree (Combo Waterhole), or overlooking the mighty Diamantina Gates (Diamantina).

Encounter wildlife!
Tick kangaroos and wallabies off your list at Idalia, Welford, and Bladensburg.
Watch birds flock to watering holes at Diamantina, Welford, Idalia, Combo Waterhole and Forest Den.

Many parks have Mitchell grasslands. Walk through them at Lochern, Forest Den, Diamantina and Combo Waterhole or look over them from a higher vantage point at Bladensburg.

Waterbirds and honeyeaters stay within reach at the tree-lined river channels and waterholes of Diamantina, Lochern and Welford national parks.

Channel country dominates at Diamantina National Park which has extensive wetlands of national significance.

Nestled amid Lark Quarry’s spinifex-clad jump-ups, you’ll find footprints left by dinosaurs 100 million years ago.

Welford National Park’s spinifex-clad sand dunes hint of the Simpson Desert in Munga-Thirri, while its open mulga on red soil contrasts with the dense mulga of Idalia’s rocky ranges.
Discover a land of boom and bust

There’s much more happening in the Outback than evident at first glance. Be thrilled by discovering superbly camouflaged wildlife, a perfectly adapted plant, an anomaly in the landscape or relics of times long gone.

Life in the dry
Humans, plants and animals all depend on unpredictable flood cycles of the world’s most variable watercourses—Cooper Creek and Diamantina River.

Aboriginal people thrived on the secret bounty of these arid and semi-arid lands, trading along rivers and finding food in unlikely places. Artefacts, stories and connections remain and Aboriginal traditions and heritage are still alive today.

Explorers, miners and pastoralists sought their fortunes. Many died, some barely survived, but others adapted to establish the towns, pastoral holdings and the parks and reserves of today.

Arid environments
Mitchell grass downs
Natural grasslands, named for the dominant native Mitchell grass, support the region’s grazing industry. Unlike trees, grasses can anchor in dark clay soils that expand when moist and crack deeply when dry.

Mulga lands
Growing in almost pure stands, or interspersed with grasslands and eucalypt-acacia woodlands, mulga trees dominate slightly moister, higher country in the east of the region. Each mulga tree (pictured below) directs rain to its deep tap root, allowing survival in a dry climate.

Channel country
Mighty inland rivers disperse across gently sloping land into braided channels, creating waterholes, wetlands and floodplains tens of kilometres wide. Coolabah woodlands, sand plains and vast dunefields are adapted to infrequent rains that fall in short but massive deluges that flood watercourses then evaporate in the parching heat.

Memorable mammals
In the heat of the day mammals rest in a shady spot, or hide in soil cracks and crevices or down a burrow. Keep watch in the late afternoon or at night.

Brilliant birds
Be surprised by the variety and numbers of birds in the dry inland. Admire soaring birds of prey and colourful parrots, babbler in the mulga and honeyeaters along creeklines. Waterbirds seek refuge at waterholes or breed opportunistically after floods.

Fantastic fish, turtles and frogs
Where there is water there is life. More than a dozen fish are found in the region. Many, like the Cooper Creek catfish (at Lochern) and the unique Lake Eyre basin yellow-belly are not found anywhere outside these catchments.

Resilient reptiles
Encounter reptiles when it is warm or see tracks where they have been. Arid lands are home to a diverse range of superbly adapted lizards, dragons, skinks, geckos and snakes.

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Landslapes worn by time
Craggy escarpments and deep gullies tell of a land alternately shaped by, then starved of, water. Sea floors and lakebeds of 65–140 million years ago form the base of the landscape, encasing fossils from shellfish to dinosaurs, now exposed by the passage of time.

What wildlife where?
Go birdwatching
Spot birds along creeks and waterholes at Idalia, Forest Den, Comba Waterhole, Welford, and at Surprise Creek and in the spinifex grasslands at Bladensburg. Hunters Gorge and Lake Constance at Diamantina, Boomerang Waterhole at Welford and Broadwater Lagoon at Lochern are great for watching waterbirds.

Spot lizards and snakes
See yellow-spotted monitors at Bladensburg, Idalia, Lochern and Diamantina. Ring-tailed dragons are found by day at Lark Quarry and spiny-tailed geckos hunt at night at Bladensburg. Gilbert’s dragons live in woodlands and river margins, waving their legs in turn to cool their feet.

Discover mammals
Both red and grey kangaroos graze open plains while common wallabies prefer the slopes of ranges. Black-striped wallabies inhabit thicker vegetation, and at Idalia, swamp wallabies live along creek beds. Spot echidnas and possums at Idalia, Lochern, Bladensburg and Welford; gliders and insect-eating bats can be seen at Idalia and Forest Den. Of the ground-dwelling mammals, stripe-faced dunnarts and fat-tailed dunnarts are widespread; unlike the endangered bilbies and kowaris seen rarely at Diamantina. In scrubby sand country you might spy a tiny kultarr bounding gracefully in search of cockroaches and other bugs.

Watch wildlife, don’t hit it!
Vehicles share the road with wildlife. Minimise your chance of collision by travelling at or below the speed limit, and avoid driving at dusk or dawn.
Idalia National Park

**Must dos**
- Tick six species of kangaroos and wallabies off your ‘must see’ list.
- Gaze from craggy escarpments over mulga-covered ridges to distant plains beyond. Tree lines mark waterways that stretch from rocks to river channels.
- Imagine stories behind the rusty iron and splintered bush timber of old stockyards, huts and pastoral-era relics at Old Idalia.
- Camp hidden in thick mulga scrub near Monks Tank and awaken to the morning chorus of outback birds.

**Getting there**
Head west from Blackall along the Isisford Road for 44km, then turn left onto Blackall-Emmet Road. After 25km turn left again at the Benlidi siding and follow the signposted road for another 44km to the Idalia National Park information shelter. A 4WD is needed.

**Places to camp**
- Monks Tank
- Stake stockyards
- Rainbow Gorge walk
- Old Idalia
- Wave Rock walk
- Bullock Gorge walk
- Emmett Pocket lookout

**Things to do**

**Wildlife spotting**
Spot yellow-footed rock-wallabies at Emmett Pocket lookout and Bullock Gorge. Discover red and grey kangaroos, in open areas, but on slopes and in the forest keep a lookout for wallaroos, swamp wallabies and black-striped wallabies typical of inland areas.

Watch at night for kultarrs (tiny mammals) searching for cockroaches and bugs. See Hall’s babbler, colourful Australian ring-necks, crested belsbirds and plum-headed finches. Keep an eye out at the camping area for white-plumed honeyeaters and eastern yellow robins at the far western limit of their known habitat.

Emerge from thick mulga scrub to lofty escarpments and rocky gorges where elusive yellow-footed rock-wallabies hide and views surprise. Be captivated by colourful sunsets over distant plains and explore heritage sites for an insight into the hardships faced by those living here in years gone by.

**Driving and mountain biking**
Most driving tracks are suitable for keen mountain bikers experienced in arid and remote terrain. It’s 37km from the park entrance to Emmett Pocket lookout, with several side branches and walks along the way.

**Places to go**
- Old Idalia
- Wave Rock
- Bullock Gorge
- Rainbow Gorge
- Emmett Pocket lookout

**Did you know?**
Yellow-footed rock-wallabies Petrogale xanthopus celeris are well-camouflaged in the safety of the rocky outcrops, leaving only to drink and graze at the base of cliffs. They are vulnerable to extinction and threatened by foxes and competitors such as goats and sheep. Please do not disturb them by climbing down among the rocks.

**Take care near cliff edges. Supervise children closely.**
Welford National Park

**Must dos**
- Enjoy the ebb and flow of life on the Barcoo River. Camp, take it easy, paddle or throw in a line.
- Capture a sunset and the desert dunes, animal tracks in shifting wind-blown sands.

**Getting there**
Welford is 260km south-west of Longreach and 50km south of Jundah. You enter the park via unsealed Jundah-Quilpie Road.

From Blackall (257km) drive south-west to Yarakka then continue on the Yarakka-Retreat Road, or from Quilpie (270km) and Windorah (110km) take the Diamantina Development Road, connecting with the Jundah-Quilpie Road and entering the park from the south.

4WDs are recommended. Roads are impassable in wet weather. The nearest fuel and supplies are at Jundah (50km) and Windorah (110km).

**Things to do**

- **Wildlife spotting**
  See emus on grassy plains and Major Mitchell’s cockatoos, red-winged parrots and mulga parrots in mulga woodlands and along the river. Look for brushtail possums in eucalypt trees at night. Aboriginal wells, stone hearths and other cultural sites are scattered across the 124,000ha park. Welford’s pisé (rammed earth) homestead built in 1882 is one of only a few still occupied in Queensland— but is not open to the public.

- **Driving and mountain biking**
  Follow a bush track exploring dunes, rocky outcrops, plains, channels and billabongs. Early morning or late afternoon is best for wildlife. Travel slowly and be careful of other road users and wildlife.

- **Fishing and canoeing**
  Although its banks are steep and slippery, Little Boomerang Waterhole is a great spot for fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

**Did you know?**
Cattle find mulga Acacia aneura tasty but ignore gidgea Acacia cambagei trees. Welford National Park and others are now destocked of cattle and protect such mulga woodlands.

**Places to go**
- **Desert Drive**
  22km one way (allow at least 3hr). North-west of Little Boomerang Waterhole is thirsty country of colourful sand plains and dunes. Visit a life-sustaining waterhole. Climb soft sand to the dune and capture desert colours on camera. Take care not to disturb fragile plants. See a bore drilled to bring oil from 1,800m below ground and where a windmill once pumped precious water to troughs for stock.

- **River Drive**
  12.3km one way (allow 1.5hr). Travel along the banks of the river where river red gums line steep-banked channels. Usually dry with the occasional billabong, debris high in trees is a reminder that swirling floodwaters can sweep downstream. Take it easy, paddle or throw in a line.

- **Mulga Drive**
  71km return (allow 4hr). Venture east past the stockyards, (stopping for glimpses of the old rammed earth homestead) then onto scenic waterholes. Climb soft sand to the dune and capture desert colours.

- **Trafalgar Waterhole**
  16km east of Jundah-Quilpie Road. A breeze punctures and assists work in shifting wind-blown sands.

**Places to camp**
- Little Boomerang Waterhole
  10km west of Jundah-Quilpie Road. 4WD recommended. Relaxing, quiet camp under shady river red gums and tea-trees on the banks of the Barcoo River.

Enjoy almost every outback experience in one amazing park. Birdwatch, fish or camp at a billabong; see spinifex on red desert sand dunes; delve into the past at historical sites and 4WD into rugged rocky scarps where secretive yellow-footed rock-wallabies hide.

At Welford’s southern boundary, the Barcoo River cuts a green and brown swathe west from rugged, rocky mulga-clad ranges towards Mitchell grass plains and some of the most easterly red sand dunes in Australia. Seek contrasting landscapes, varied wildlife and the shade and tranquility of majestic river red gums and coolabahs along river channels that bring life-giving water to thirsty country.

Aboriginal wells, stone hearths and other cultural sites are scattered across the 124,000ha park. Welford’s pisé (rammed earth) homestead built in 1882 is one of only a few still occupied in Queensland— but is not open to the public.

**Our little-known sand dune is Welford’s most photographed feature and is magic to visit at sunset.**

Ranger Shane

**Did you know?**
Cattle find mulga Acacia aneura tasty but ignore gidgea Acacia cambagei trees. Welford National Park and others are now destocked of cattle and protect such mulga woodlands.

**Places to go**
- **Desert Drive**
  22km one way (allow at least 3hr). North-west of Little Boomerang Waterhole is thirsty country of colourful sand plains and dunes. Visit a life-sustaining waterhole. Climb soft sand to the dune and capture desert colours on camera. Take care not to disturb fragile plants. See a bore drilled to bring oil from 1,800m below ground and where a windmill once pumped precious water to troughs for stock.

- **River Drive**
  12.3km one way (allow 1.5hr). Travel along the banks of the river where river red gums line steep-banked channels. Usually dry with the occasional billabong, debris high in trees is a reminder that swirling floodwaters can sweep downstream. Take it easy, paddle or throw in a line.

- **Mulga Drive**
  71km return (allow 4hr). Venture east past the stockyards, (stopping for glimpses of the old rammed earth homestead) then onto scenic waterholes. Climb soft sand to the dune and capture desert colours.

- **Trafalgar Waterhole**
  16km east of Jundah-Quilpie Road. 4WD recommended. Perfect picnic spot beneath coolabah trees.

- **Sawyers Creek viewpoint**
  1.2km return walk (allow 30min). Enjoy panoramic views of exposed rocky outcrops, slopes and spidery networks of channel country below.

Watch for mulga parrots and at dusk for yellow-footed rock-wallabies.

**Getting there**
Welford is 260km south-west of Longreach and 50km south of Jundah. You enter the park via unsealed Jundah-Quilpie Road.

From Blackall (257km) drive south-west to Yarakka then continue on the Yarakka-Retreat Road, or from Quilpie (270km) and Windorah (110km) take the Diamantina Development Road, connecting with the Jundah-Quilpie Road and entering the park from the south.

4WDs are recommended. Roads are impassable in wet weather. The nearest fuel and supplies are at Jundah (50km) and Windorah (110km).
Lochern National Park

Must dos
• Admire Australian bustards strutting across rolling Mitchell grass plains.
• See flood marks on tree trunks where floodwaters of the Thomson River have reached.
• Take Lochern habitat drive and contemplate how wildlife and people adapt to cycles of wet and dry.
• Relax at Broadwater Lagoon, keeping an eye out for Emmott’s short-necked turtles, pelicans, spoonbills, black swans, sandpipers and stints.

Getting there
Turn off the Longreach-Jundah Road at the Lochern signpost 100km south of Longreach or 45km north of Stonehenge, and take the unsealed road for 46km to the Thomson River and the park boundary. The road from Winton (330km) via Lark Quarry can be very rough and takes 4–5 hours to drive. Watch for vehicles.

Places to camp
Broadwater Waterhole
Camp by a permanent waterhole in the shade of coolabah trees. Accessible by conventional vehicle (in dry weather only). There are no facilities.

Things to do
Fishing and canoeing
Throw a line in at any waterhole. Canoe or kayak at Broadwater Waterhole.

Walking and mountain biking
Wander around the river and waterholes, or along the habitat drive. The park has no walking tracks but it is quiet with gentle terrain. Watch for vehicles.

Lochern habitat drive
40km return (2–4hr). 4WD only. Drive through the woodlands past gidges swamps and gaze across open plains. Visit Robertssons Dam. See where gidgea logs were stacked in 1910 to form yards, and an old netting fence constructed to protect sheep from dingoes. Walk 100m to the edge of shallow Bluebush Lagoon to spy waterbirds. Wander around the old homestead complex on the flood-prone banks of the Thomson River.

Travel to the heart of ‘boom and bust’ country where devastating droughts are followed by flooding rains that nourish the plains and transform parched channels into wetlands teeming with life.

With a 20km frontage to the Thomson River, 24,300ha Lochern National Park’s many lagoons and waterholes provide refuge for birds and other wildlife. Wander through gidgea or mulga woodlands and drive across rolling Mitchell grass plains trying to distinguish between the four different species of Mitchell grass—hoop, curl, barley and bull. See pastoral-era relics including winged dams (known locally as tanks).

Forest Den National Park

Must dos
• Spy squatter pigeons hiding in the grass and blue-winged kookaburras nesting by waterholes.
• Spot sugar gliders and brushtail possums in river-side trees at night.

Getting there
Forest Den is 100km north of Aramac, via Torrens Creek Road. Turn east at the ‘Corinda’ signpost and travel 5km before heading 4.5km north to Four Mile Waterhole camping area.

Although accessible in a conventional vehicle in dry weather, a 4WD vehicle is recommended as small amounts of rain can make roads impassable. Fuel and supplies are available at Aramac (100km).

Established to conserve black gidgea woodlands at their western limit, this 5,890ha park has a diverse range of plants and fascinating wildlife. Reid River box, ironwood, beefwood, bauninia and other woodland trees occur on the sandy ‘patchy plains’ in the park’s western sections.

Although used as grazing land for more than 100 years, little remains of this era apart from a few pastoral relics—fences, gateways and a derelict round timber bridge over Torrens Creek.

Places to camp
Four Mile Waterhole
Camp in solitude near the banks of Torrens Creek under the shade of coolabah trees and river red gums. There are no facilities.

Things to do
Wildlife spotting
Watch birds and other animals coming to drink from waterholes at dawn and dusk. See whistling kites, white ibis, spoonbills and egrets. Rufous-throated honeyeaters nest by stonehenge. Look at night for Beccari’s freetail bats skimming over water.

Immerse yourself in a bird-watcher’s paradise where creek channels lined with magnificent river red gums meander across grassy plains and intermittent waterholes provide refuge for humans and wildlife alike.

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There are no facilities.
Bladensburg National Park

Must do
- Picnic or camp at a waterhole not far from an outback town.
- Ponder life, and death, on a dry weather camp, in homestead in the Route of the River Gum, the Conventional vehicles can access Shed Hole camping area (12km). Scrammy Drive, or right to Bough Bladensburg homestead (5km) and junction 7km further on, turn left to the Route of the River Gum. At the Jundah, turning left after 8km along Getting there
  - Picnic or camp at a waterhole not far from an outback town.
  - Scrammy Drive (40km return (2–4 hr).

Leaves open plains behind to refresh at unexpected waterholes, delve into the park’s rich history and venture up impressive flat-topped plateaus to Scrammy Gorge and views over vast expanses of grasslands.

Things to do
Scenic driving
Route of the River Gum
Pick up a self-guided drive brochure at Winton’s visitor information centre, set
Your trip meter to 0km and head off to discover 15 places of interest including waterholes along mostly-dry Surprise Creek.
Scrammy Drive 40km return (2–4 hr).
At Scrammy Lookout at the edge of an impressive flat-topped mesa you see amazing views over the grassy plains and river flats—especially at sunset. Only accessible to high-clearance vehicles in dry weather. 4WD recommended.

Did you know?
Scrammy Jack was a boundary rider who lived alone in a simple, remote hut. After his hand was crushed by a wagon wheel he gained the name ‘scrammy’—an old English term meaning ‘left-handed’.

Wildlife spotting
Mitchell grass plains are a great spot to see red kangaroos. They also are ideal habitat for the largest known population of endangered Julia Creek dunnarts, as well as planigales (native marsupial mice) that sleep by day in the cracks of heavy black soil but are active at night.
Bladensburg is home to a wonderful diversity of birds, including emus, Australian bustards, Hall’s babbleris, spotted bowers and singing bushlarks. Discover painted firetails and rufous-crowned emu-wrens flitting among the spinifex, and painted honeyeaters or black honeyeaters in trees along creek lines.

Places to camp
Bough Shed Hole
See wallaroos and red kangaroos from your camp beside Surprise Creek, 12km south of the park boundary along the Route of the River Gum tourist drive. 4WD recommended, but accessible to high clearance 2WD vehicles in dry weather.

Places to go
Bladensburg homestead
Imagine outback station life on a visit to the restored homestead (now an information centre and ranger office) and nearby staff quarters, meat house and store.
Engine Hole
Picnic or swim at a horseshoe-shaped waterhole lined with stunning, white river red gums.
Skull Hole
Sense the significance of a dry-country waterhole filled by a waterfall in the wet season. This is believed to be the site of a tragic and violent massacre of Aboriginal people in the late 1800s.
Racetrack remnants
While stakes one furlong (200m) apart mark the Old Bladensburg racetrack, where race carnivals were once held to raise funds for returning WWII servicemen.
Grave of baby Delia Dalrymple
Imagine the hardships of a time before antibiotics, when babies sometimes died of simple infections.
Scrammy Gorge
Water coursing through cracks and crevices of the hard-topped plateau undermines the softer sandstone layer beneath, until eventually large blocks tumble into the gorge. Admire the gnarled ‘Octopus tree’ (a ghost gum), rock fogs and lancewood clinging to life in rugged conditions. Stay well back, cliffs edges are unstable.

Scrammy Waterhole
This rock-bottomed waterhole is 2m deep and rarely dries up.

Getting there
From Winton head south towards Jundah, turning left after 8km along the Route of the River Gum. At the junction 7km further on, turn left to Bladensburg homestead (5km) and Scrammy Drive, or right to Bough Shed Hole camping area (2.2km). Conventional vehicles can access the Route of the River Gum, the camping area and homestead in dry weather.
Combo Waterhole Conservation Park

Must dos
• Picnic in the shade of a coolabah tree, pondering tales of the past.
• Birdwatch along the river—a recommended clearance 2WD or 4WD vehicle is 8km to the picnic area. A high clearance 4WD vehicle is required. 132km north-west of Winton. Turn off the Landsborough Highway (13km south of Kynuna).

Getting there
Turn off the Landsborough Highway 132km north-west of Winton (3.5km south of Kynuna) and drive 8km to the picnic area. A high clearance 2WD or 4WD vehicle is recommended.

Rivers provide both life-force and connections across the dry inland. Explore a series of waterholes surrounded by vast Mitchell grass plains. The Koa people were the first to follow the Diamantina River, pioneering paths of trade and travel along its braided channels. Explorers followed, settlers then brought sheep and cattle and established a stock route. Cobb and Co. teams trotted close behind and it is believed that there was a changing station at Combo Waterhole. See historic stone-pitched overshots (crossings) along the coach route traversing the Diamantina River’s braided channels.

Did the jolly swagman camp by Combo Waterhole? It’s easy to imagine this infamous spot might have inspired Waltzing Matilda. Feel history come alive at coolabah-lined waterholes near a station visited by renowned Australian poet A.B. ‘Banjo’ Paterson.

Things to do
• Picnic at a small day-use area near the carpark, or near the waterhole.

Picnic
A small day-use area near the carpark affords a view of the distant waterholes. Coolabah shade is a bonus as is a蜜蜂 and other wildlife.

Wildlife spotting
Birdwatching is particularly good here. Admire the sounds of rainbow bee-eaters and sacred kingfishers, and the low-flying flock of spotted harriers. Listen for the far-carrying call of a tiny weebill and glimpse long-legged Australian pratincoles in open country where they feed and nest.

Places to stay
Stay overnight in Kynuna nearby. Camping is not permitted.

Combo Waterhole walk
2.9km return (1.5hr).
Grade: easy.
Discover the story of Waltzing Matilda on a self-guided walk to Combo Waterhole.

The track floods after rain—never attempt to cross the flooded creek.

Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Must dos
• Step back into the age of dinosaurs on a guided tour of the dinosaur trackways. 1. 1. 1.
• Stroll through spinifex and climb broken escarpments to gaze east over Mitchell grass plains and west to the channel country in the distance.
• Spy ring-tailed dragons, lizards or snakes basking on sun-baked rocks.

Getting there
Stop in Winton for directions, fuel and the latest road conditions. Access to Lark Quarry’s dinosaur trackways and the orientation centre is free. Entry to the park, its walking tracks and the western escarpment then re-joins the Spinifex circuit.

It’s not just the trackways that amaze. Take a walk to enjoy spectacular views and wildlife of the rugged spinifex-clad landscape. Be sure to carry drinking water. Ranger Sue.

Places to go
1. Spinifex circuit
500m return (30min).
Grade: easy-moderate.
Walk from the trackways building to a lookout for amazing views both east and west. The track is steep in places and care must be taken at the lookout’s edges.

3. Jump Up loop
3.5km (1.5hr).
Grade: difficult.
Experienced, well-prepared walkers will enjoy this unformed cross-country track. It skirts several gullies, climbs along the western escarpment then re-joins the Spinifex circuit.

Wildlife spotting
Spot spinifex pigeons, painted firetails, crimson chats, singing honeyeaters and little woodswallows. Watch for wallaroos snoozing under cliffs, look for lizards and see snakes (including death adders) in sunny spots.

Spinifex circuit
500m return (30min).
Grade: easy-moderate.
Walk from the trackways building to a lookout for amazing views both east and west. The track is steep in places and care must be taken at the lookout’s edges.

Camping is not permitted.

Things to do
1. Jump Up loop

2. Spinifex circuit

3. Picnic near the waterhole.

4. Light refreshments and guided tours are available in the wheelchair-accessible building.

Photo: © John Augustyn
© Alistair Hartley
© Jodie Kurpershoek
Photo: © John Augustyn
Dinosaur trackways.
Welcome to Maiawali Country

Maiawali people have lived on this land for thousands of years, with dreaming stories being shared by Maiawali Elders for many generations. We cherish our connection to country and ask that you also respect and care for our traditional land.

Diamantina National Park

Must dos

- Visit Janets Leap for a bird’s-eye view of Diamantina Gates where converging channels of the Diamantina River push through a narrow gap in the Goyder and Hamilton ranges.
- Relax, canoe or birdwatch at beautiful seasonal lakes or permanent waterholes.
- Follow the Warracoota Circuit Drive to explore pastoral relics and learn about the landscapes of the channel country.
- Get your camera snapping to capture desert colours, amazing wildflowers, diverse wildlife and stunning sunsets across the plains.

Getting there

Head south from Winton (306km) or north from Windorah (350km) or east from Boulia (183km), or south-east from Bourke (275km) and follow the signs. Fill up before leaving town and take extra fuel. The drive is slow and dusty, and a 4WD vehicle is needed because roads are unsealed for 200–300km and wheel ruts can be deep. Even small amounts of rain make roads impassable.

Visit in the cooler months between April and September.

Stretch your gaze across vast, treeless plains, over sand dunes and along river channels towards eroded low ranges on the horizon. Camp in the shade of a coolabah tree, dreaming at night under endless starry skies of the Maiawali and Karuwali people and travellers along the mighty Diamantina River long ago.

Captured in song and spoken about with reverence, Diamantina is the subject of folklore and a spectacularly variable landscape offering a unique near-desert experience. At 500,700ha Diamantina is one of Queensland’s largest national parks. Aboriginal people understood this landscape—using the Diamantina River as a trading route and finding food in its grasslands, sand dunes and sandstone ranges. Then came explorers ahead of pastoralists, stockmen and drovers grazing livestock in good seasons on the highly-nutritious Mitchell grass of Diamantina’s prized prime fattening country. Experience its infinite beauty, replenishing waters and shimmering mirages for yourself.

Things to do

- Wildlife spotting
  Birdwatch at waterholes and wetlands. See flocks of waterbirds and screeching bands of budgerigars, corellas and galahs wheeling in unison. Look for resident and migratory birds breeding at Lake Constance and Hunters Gorge. Out on the plains enjoy spotting bushharks, chats, emus and bustards, ground-dwelling Australian pratincoles and birds of prey.
  Get caught up in a population boom of native long-haired rats in channel country after good rains or floods. In response, the rat’s predators, such as inland taipans, kites, falcons and barn owls also increase dramatically in numbers.
- Fishing and canoeing
  Throw a line into the river at Hunters Gorge, or paddle peacefully on permanent waterholes and seasonal lakes.
- Discover cultural heritage
  Immerse yourself in heritage at the visitor information room at the park ranger base, Mayne Hotel ruins at the park’s northern boundary, ruwis at Warracoota Waterhole and at several grave sites. Diamantina National Park is particularly rich in remains of Aboriginal life including camp sites and cultural sites.
- Wildlife spotting
  Look out over river channels that constrict together to pass through a narrow gap in the ranges. See Mount Mary (an island in the middle) and Moses Cone—impressive landmarks named after Maiawali tracker Budgeree (Moses) and his sister Mahibi (Mary-Anne).

Places to go

Janets Leap

Although shade trees are few and it can be windy here, the scenery and sunsets are stunning. Camp in an open area beside Mundewerra Waterhole, 14km from the ranger base via Springvale Road.

Gum Hole (Nandibargoola)

Relax in the shade of coolabah and bauhinia trees at separate sites along Whistling Duck Creek 22km from the ranger base.

Note: Hunters Gorge provides higher ground, but both camping areas are subject to flooding in wet weather.

Places to camp

Hunters Gorge

Take a scenic drive

Take 90km Warracoota Circuit Drive to marvel at permanent lakes, parallel sand dunes, claypans that appear as shimmering lakes in the heat and vast plains clothed in gibbers or grass.

Walk or ride to be closer to nature

Ride a mountain bike along the park’s roads and vehicle tracks to experience the wild—and often windy—nature of Diamantina, but be sure to have emergency contact’s organised and carry water. Watch for vehicles.

Janets Leap

Look out over river channels that constrict together to pass through a narrow gap in the ranges. See Mount Mary (an island in the middle) and Moses Cone—impressive landmarks named after Maiawali tracker Budgeree (Moses) and his sister Mahibi (Mary-Anne).

Plan well ahead

Isolation, hot weather, unexpected rain and the potential for vehicle breakdowns require you to carry extra fuel, communication equipment, vehicle spares and sufficient food, water and medical supplies to last an extra two weeks. Pack for hot and cold conditions and ALWAYS carry drinking water.
Warracoota Circuit Drive
Diamantina National Park

90km return (allow 4–5hr).

Set your trip meter to 0km near Gum Hole. Ensure you have enough fuel and drinking water, keep to the track and leave all sites as you find them.

1 These steel yards (0km) built in the 1980s by previous owners are still used by drovers moving stock along the Springvale Road stock route.

2 Admir sand dunes (1.5km) formed parallel to prevailing winds during the last 30,000 years.

3 Claypans (7.5km) appear as shimmering lakes in the heat. Lake Constance further on is one of the largest on the park.

4 Gibber plains (15.5km) are covered by small stones (gibbers) polished smooth by windblown sand. Maiawalia and Karuwali people used them for chipping flakes to make stone tools.

5 Grasslands (19km) of Flinders grass and four species of Mitchell grass grow across vast plains. See wildflowers here after early spring rain.

6 Brongo yards (21.5km) were designed to withstand restless cattle that were branded, tagged, castrated or dehorned here.

7 Lake Constance (24km)

See waterbirds at this semi-permanent wetland of national significance, as well as budgerigars, corellas and honeyeaters in the surrounding coolabah trees.

8 Flinders grass (29.5km) is common in low-lying areas where floods occur.

9 Floodout (33km) areas on heavy clay soils between sand dunes become swampy in wet years. Bluebush, spindly-looking lignum and sesbania swampy grow here.

10 Return to main track

A series of parallel sand dunes (69km) reach up from the lower country along the floodplain and up onto higher plains.

11 Mitchell grass plateau (72km)

Named after explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell, Mitchell grasses are invaluable to the cattle and sheep industry of western Queensland. National parks are some of the few places you can see ungrazed Mitchell grass.

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Named after explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell, Mitchell grasses are invaluable to the cattle and sheep industry of western Queensland. National parks are some of the few places you can see ungrazed Mitchell grass.

13 Turn right at Springvale Road (74.2km)

Return onto side-track at sign (82km)

14 Gum Hole Yards (84km)

An old shed and discarded items are all that remain of a makeshift camp resulted in conflict over competing use. Leave artefacts as you find them.

15 Warracoota Ruins (47km)

Several stone-walled structures atop a ridge (pictured above) are thought to have been built by early pioneers. Access is via an easy 400m return walk.

16 Warracoota Waterhole (44km)

Linger at an especially deep, long and narrow waterhole that has never been known to run dry. A special place for the Maiawalai and Kurawali, its importance to stockmen as a base camp resulted in conflict over competing use. Leave artefacts as you find them.

17 Stock camp (85km)

An old shed and discarded items are all that remain of a makeshift camp where stockmen ate and slept after a hard day mustering and yarding livestock.

Return to Springvale Road

Did you know?

The Diamantina River provided a natural route for Aboriginal trade—a network of tracks running north–south that became their commerce road. Maiawali and Karuwali people traded boomerangs, shields, pitjara (a plant with stimulant properties), and later government blankets, in exchange for yellow ochre, rocks for tools, flat-tipped single-piece spears, white shells and shirts.

Return to main track

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13 Mitchell grass plateau (72km)

Named after explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell, Mitchell grasses are invaluable to the cattle and sheep industry of western Queensland. National parks are some of the few places you can see ungrazed Mitchell grass.

14 Gum Hole Yards (84km) were made entirely of post and rails from durable gidyea and coolabah timber by skilled Aboriginal people and pastoralists working side-by-side.

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An old shed and discarded items are all that remain of a makeshift camp where stockmen ate and slept after a hard day mustering and yarding livestock.

Return to Springvale Road

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Boom or bust, water or dust

As isolated as it is dusty, at times you can be cut off at Diamantina by overflowing claypans or flood waters spilling out from multiple river channels. Fed by rainfall in the north and draining towards Lake Eyre in South Australia, multiple river channels stretch several kilometres across an impressive coolabah and lignum-lined river that defies the desert landscape with brilliant green. After an influx of water, herbs and grasses burst forth across vast plains, followed by a boom in populations of insects and small mammals, and in turn more reptiles and birds of prey.

Did you know?

The Elizabeth Springs goby and aquatic snails living here can tolerate water that is 17 times saltier than seawater and at temperatures reaching 41.5°C.

Elizabeth Springs Conservation Park

Craig Davis © Tourism and Events Qld

Venture north-west of Diamantina to a small (101ha) park protecting endangered mound spring habitats. The endangered Elizabeth Springs goby fish and companion aquatic snails live exclusively in this small, restricted and very fragile ecosystem.

Explore Elizabeth Springs from a signed 700m walk off Springvale Road (100km south-east of Boulia). You cannot drive into the park.

Camping is not permitted.

Did you know?

The Elizabeth Springs goby and aquatic snails living here can tolerate water that is 17 times saltier than seawater and at temperatures reaching 41.5°C.

Take extreme care not to walk on the sensitive mounds or adjacent wetlands. The mounds can be very dangerous as bogs are not visible under the thin, dry crust.

Map not to scale
Munga-Thirri National Park

Must dos
- Stop on the way to the park and snap a photo atop Big Red to mark the start of your desert adventure.
- Feel the excitement of climbing over sand dunes. Count them as you go.
- Track a thorny devil, perentie or spinifex hopping mouse by footprints across red sand.
- Leave the tent packed. Simply roll out your swag beneath brilliantly clear, starry skies.
- Spot a white-winged fairy-wren or Eyrean grasswren flitting between clumps of sandhill canegrass.

Getting there
From Birdsville take the graded road 35km west to Big Red sand dune at the edge of the Simpson Desert. From here on you must have a high-clearance 4WD. The remaining 130km to Poeppel Corner traverses loose-sand dunes and is impassable when wet.

If continuing beyond Queensland and into South Australia, you will need to purchase a Desert Parks Pass. Visit environment.sa.gov.au or phone (09) 8648 5328 for details.

Munga-Thirri National Park is closed from 1 December to 15 March due to extreme summer temperatures. Wet weather may cause temporary closures at other times.

Savour contrasting colours and the isolation of the ultimate 4WD adventure traversing the bare, windswept crests of iconic Simpson Desert’s huge red sand dunes. After rain the desert is a vivid riot of wildflowers.

This is the ancestral home of Wangkangurru and Yarliyandi people. Parallel, wind-blown sand dunes, each up to 30m high and about 1km apart, extend up to 200km in a north-west to south-south-east direction. At 1 million hectares this is Queensland’s largest national park.

The Simpson Desert is Australia’s driest place, but is far from lifeless. Be captivated by a vegetated ‘green desert’ where animal tracks disappear into canegrow securing sandy slopes, or under the spinifex on dunes.

Marvel at the large salt lakes where animal tracks disappear into canegrow securing sandy slopes, or under the spinifex on dunes. Shrublands of acacias, hakeas and grevilleas grow on the sandplains and gbelie ironstone flats that alternate with claypans and salt pans between dunes. Smell the pungent aroma of Georgina gidyea after rain.

Places to go

**Poeppel Corner**
Marvell at the large salt lakes where Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory meet. Charles Sturt was the first European to enter the desert (in 1844) but it was South Australian surveyor Augustus Poeppel who, in 1880, conducted the first official survey of the South Australian/Queensland border and located the Northern Territory intersec.

Places to camp

Bush camp within 100m of the QAA line. There are no campgrounds or facilities.

**Places to go**

**Warning**

Only well-equipped visitors experienced in desert and remote area travel should enter the Simpson Desert. Travel with another vehicle and be self-sufficient in food, water and fuel, vehicle spare parts, recovery equipment, medical supplies and communications. UHF or HF radio and satellite phones are essential.

Personal locator beacons (PLBs) are recommended. Munga-Thirri is very remote and help can be days away. Stay with your vehicle—no matter what! You must be well-prepared to cope with hot days and freezing nights in Australia’s driest place.

**Wildlife spotting**

Delight in discovering plants and animals adapted to this harsh and unpredictable place. More than 180 species of bird live here. Watercourses have a richer array of birds than the dunefields, and you might even see waterbirds or catch glimpses of colourful parrots and chats.

Spy lizards hiding from predators in spiky, rounded clumps of spinifex and watch birds of prey soaring overhead scanning the ground for a tasty meal.

Mammals hide to escape the heat of the day. Spinifex hopping mice and sandy inland mice might be seen but you’d be lucky to catch sight of a tiny mulgara.

**Did you know?**

You can add to your desert adventure by discovering sights around Birdsville and towns along the way. See ancient waddy trees north of Birdsville or explore Pelican lagoon. Visit diamantina.qld.gov.au or stop in at the Birdsville Visitor Information Centre in Birdsville for more information.

**Sand driving tips**

- Engage locking hubs and 4WD. Only tow a camper trailer if experienced with sand dune driving.
- Approach dune crests with caution. Cross dunes carefully—shifting sand creates steep drops, depressions and humps.
- Attach a high-visibility flag to your vehicle with the top of the flag a minimum 3.5m from the ground. The flag should at least 300mm x 290mm in size and made of fluorescent materials, red-orange or lime-yellow in colour.
- Always assume there is an oncoming vehicle. Monitor UHF channel 10 and call occasionally to alert other travellers. There is a call point marker every 5km along the QAA line between Big Red and Poeppel Corner.
- If you choose to reduce tyre pressure to improve traction in soft sand, check manufacturer’s recommendations, consider weight and load, reduce speed, avoid sudden turns and drive to suit conditions. Reinflate tyres immediately to manufacturer’s recommendations once conditions improve.
- Cross dunes when the sand is cool. Early morning and late afternoon is best for easier access.

- Stop driving if visibility is poor. Gusty winds create dust storms with little warning. Wait in your vehicle until conditions improve.
- Keep to the marked track and avoid hazards. Saltpans may look solid but beneath their thin, leamy crust is soft, black, sticky mud.
- Carry extra fuel, a second spare tyre and spare tubes. Driving in soft sand increases fuel consumption and punctures are highly likely.

**Did you know?**

My Wangkangurru ancestors lived here, tracking, hunting and finding bush tucker in good seasons and falling back to mikiris (wells) in dry times. I love the isolation, the silence balanced with the sounds of nature’s creatures. Take your time and truly appreciate all that the desert has to offer.

Ranger Don

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(Left): Aperenye (Australia’s largest monitor) (Right): Ranger Don Rowlands.

© John Augusteyn

“Admire the windswept crests of shifting dunes.”

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© John Augusteyn
Challenge yourself to be self-sufficient and out of phone contact. But take all sensible precautions to stay safe and come prepared ‘just in case’. The Outback is not an environment to take for granted.

Be prepared

- Pack for hot and cold conditions... and flies! Outback Queensland can be very hot during the day and very cold (to below freezing) overnight. Bring fly veils, insect repellent and insect-proof camping gear.
- Expect rough, slow, dusty and/or boggy roads, far from help should something go wrong. Access to most parks (or areas within parks) is suitable only for 4WD vehicles.
- Choose your destination carefully. Are you, your vehicle and equipment up to it? Ensure someone in your group has remote travel experience and sound mechanical knowledge of your vehicle.
- Fuel up regularly. Fuel stops are few and far between and national park bases are not service stations.
- Plan for emergencies. Pack extra supplies and leave an itinerary (including travel routes and/or check-in points) with a friend or relative.
- Avoid rushing. Relax! Slow down, take your time to appreciate the landscape and its wildlife, and to allow for delays.

Packing checklist

- Adequate water, food and emergency supplies. Carry at least 7L of water per person per day (for drinking, cooking and limited washing) plus an extra emergency supply.
- Portable stove and/or cook, weed-free firewood.
- Complete first-aid kit. Include sun and insect protection and medications.
- Detailed road map showing travel routes and distances. A GPS may be useful.
- Communication equipment and list of emergency contacts.
- Extra fuel, vehicle spares and repair equipment. Frequent low gear and 4WD travel will use fuel more quickly. Use maps to calculate fuel requirements and plan refuelling stops. Bring vehicle repair tools, recovery equipment and spares; include two spare tyres, an air compressor for inflating tyres, oil and engine coolant. Be familiar with equipment.
- Reliable camping gear in good working order.
- Sturdy rubbish bags and sealable, animal-proof containers.

Communication

Mobile phone coverage is generally not available, although some networks may have service in major towns. Carry a satellite phone or UHF radio. These can be used to contact RACQ, The Royal Flying Doctor Service, local rangers or police should the need arise. A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is also advisable.

The free Emergency+ smartphone app has GPS functionality that can provide critical location details to emergency services. Consider downloading before you leave home at emergencyapp.tripletzero.gov.au

Camping in parks

To camp in national parks you need to book your camp sites and purchase camping permits before you arrive. Not all parks allow camping so visit qld.gov.au/Camping to check arrangements. To book your camping permit:
- Book online at qld.gov.au/Camping using a payment card or camping credit
- Visit an over-the-counter permit booking office accepting cash, eftpos and payment cards. Visit qld.gov.au/CampingBookingOffices for details

Fishing

Fishing is permitted at Welford, Lochern, Bladensburg and Diamantina national parks. Fishing regulations (including size and bag limits) apply; for details visit fisheries.qld.gov.au

Nevert use frogs or other live bait. Invasive fish species may escape and establish a pest population.

Drive safely

- Drive according to local conditions, watch out for animals and avoid risks at washouts and flooded crossings. Move off the road for trucks.
- Keep to designated roads to help prevent erosion and the confusion of multiple tracks. Plants are slow to regrow in the arid zone.
- Be considerate of other road users and local land holders. Leave gates as you find them and never drive on private property without permission. Some maps show roads that are private and not open to the public. Many locations marked on maps are station houses not towns—don’t expect fuel, supplies or public telephones.
- Never drive on rain affected roads. Even if you make it through, the road surface will be damaged and dangerous for other road users.
- Travel with another vehicle and make sure someone reliable knows your itinerary.
- If you break down, ALWAYS stay with your vehicle until help arrives.

Be responsible

- Avoid disturbing animals and plants, cultural artefacts and historic sites.
- Leave your pets at home.
- Don’t feed wildlife or leave food or scraps around camp sites or day-use areas.
- Pack your rubbish in sealed containers for dumping at off park waste disposal sites. Never bury rubbish as animals will dig it up.
- Avoid the spread of weeds by checking clothing and equipment regularly for seeds.
- Use vehicle wash-down facilities in local towns to help prevent the spread of weeds in vehicle tyres.
- Don’t use firearms, chainsaws or unregistered quad bikes or motor cycles.
- Camp only in the sites provided. Please set up camp away from animal nests and/or burrows.
- Use a portable stove, or your own clean, weed-free firewood. Collecting firewood in national parks is not permitted. Use fire rings where provided.
- Never tie ropes to trees or drape things over vegetation. Arid-zone plants are slow to recover.
- Never place rubbish or contents of chemical toilet tanks into pit toilets.
- Minimise your use of soaps and detergents and wash at least 50m away from waterbodies.
- Where toilets are not provided, bury human waste and toilet paper at least 15cm deep and 100m away from camp sites, tracks and watercourses.
- Keep noise to a minimum.

Look after yourself

- Always carry drinking water, whether driving or walking. Boil, filter or treat water from any stream, river or waterhole.
- Wear protective clothing. Put on a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and sturdy footwear (not thongs).
- Watch your step and stay away from escarpment edges. They might be unstable.
- Never jump or dive into water. It may be shallow or hide submerged objects.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and on the lookout for animals that could scratch, sting or bite.

Pre-departure checks

- Book camping permits (see details previous page).
- Check current park conditions. Visit qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts for the latest information on access, closures and conditions.
- Check weather forecasts. Contact the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au and listen to updates on the local ABC radio station.
- Check road conditions at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or at local council offices (see back page).

© Karen Smith

Outback roads are long and dusty.
Further information

- qld.gov.au/NationalParks
- qld.gov.au/Camping
- qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts
  (access, closures and conditions)
- qldnationalparks
- @QldParks; #QldParks

This brochure is also available online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures

Useful contacts

Local information on roads, waste disposal sites and local services:

- Barcaldine Region phone (07) 4651 1778 barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au
- Barcoo Shire phone (07) 4658 6900 barcoo.qld.gov.au
- Blackall-Tambo Region phone (07) 4621 6600 btrc.qld.gov.au
- Diamantina Shire phone 1300 794 257 thediamantina.com.au
- Longreach Region phone (07) 4658 4150 longreachtourism.com.au
- Winton Shire phone 1300 665 115 experiencewinton.com.au

Emergencies:

Call Triple Zero (000) from a digital or satellite mobile phone. If hearing impaired, call 106. Mobile phone coverage is extremely limited.

You can also try to make contact via these most commonly used UHF radio channels and scan for people using other channels while you are driving.

- Bladensburg – UHF Channel 1 (duplex)
- Diamantina – UHF Channel 2 (duplex)
- Idalia – UHF Channel 24 or Channel 6 (duplex)
- Lochern – UHF Channel 2 (simplex)
- Munga-Thirri – UHF Channel 10
- Welford – UHF Channel 29 or Channel 3 (duplex)

Road conditions:

Visit the Department of Transport and Main Roads at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Tourist information:

outbackqueensland.com.au
or phone 1800 247 966.

Dump points:

Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia cmca.net.au

Scan to check park alerts

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Environment and Science.
BP1572 April 2019.
Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.
Photos: Diamantina River, Diamantina National Park © Karen Smith (front cover);
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