Diamantina National Park

Vast open plains seem to stretch from horizon to horizon in the Channel Country of far southwest Queensland, broken only by the occasional coolibah-lined channels of meandering rivers and creeks.

Diamantina – formerly a pastoral holding – was dedicated as national park in 1992 and conserves over 500,000ha of diverse Channel Country.

The park sweeps across highly weathered sandstone ridges in the east, down to the floodplains of the Diamantina River and its tributaries, then across Mitchell grass plains to dunefields reminiscent of deserts further west.

Weather
Cooler months from April to September are the best times to visit this semi-arid area. During this time, temperatures range from a frosty minimum of 0°C to a daytime maximum of 25°C.

Summer is very hot, with thunderstorm activity and temperatures ranging from 20°C-50°C. The average annual rainfall is about 250mm, most of which falls in summer. Over the year, more water evaporates from this hot landscape than falls as rain.

Plants
The floodplains, braided channels and waterholes of the Diamantina River and its tributaries are lined with coolibah, river red gum, lignum, blueblood and grasses. Beyond the river flats are vast gibber plains of deep, cracking clay soils, supporting grasslands dominated by Mitchell grass.

In the south-west, sandhill canegrown communities flourish, while stark limestone ranges dominate the centre of the park. These ranges support shrubland and grassland communities rare in the region.

A rare native fuchsia Eremophila tetragona is found on the park, and trees at the boundary of their range include lancewood Acacia shirleyi, mountain yaruyah Eucalyptus theozetiana, Normanton box Eucalyptus normantoniensis, red mallee Eucalyptus socialis and myall Acacia pendula.

Animals
The park contains a high diversity of animals for arid Queensland, including a number of rare and threatened species. The kowari, plains wanderer, freckled duck, peregrine falcon and two rare skinks can be found in Diamantina National Park.

Large permanent waterholes in the park attract diverse wildlife, including many waterbirds. Look for the yellow chat, Hall’s babbler, black falcon and oriental plover.

The native long-haired rat is noted for periodic population explosions in the Channel Country, following exceptionally good rains or floods. In response, predators of the rat such as the inland taipan (fierce snake), letter-winged kite and eastern grass owl also increase in numbers.

Cultural heritage
The park contains several sites of cultural significance and is particularly rich in Aboriginal habitation sites.

Remnants of European history include the remains of the Mayne Hotel, which closed in the late 1940s, and stone hut ruins, near Warracoota Waterhole. The 22 registered graves recorded in the park date from 1884-1944.

Heritage sites and artefacts are protected. Please leave all as you find them.

Access
Diamantina can be reached by heading south from Winton or Boura or north from Windorah and Bedourie. Visitors should consult the relevant Sunmap or RACQ map for details.

All access roads are unssealed and suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles only. Roads quickly become impassable in wet conditions or when the rivers flood. Wheel ruts can be deep, so a vehicle with high clearance will offer the best ride. Contact the Ranger to check if roads are accessible and to work out the best route for your visit.
Access to the park is through working pastoral properties. Take care to avoid stock on unfenced roads and leave gates as you find them.

Please call at the park office on arrival to obtain a map and directions to camping sites and places of interest.

**Things to do**

Experience the arid zone by taking scenic drives, camping, fishing and observing wildlife.

The Ranger can direct you on a tourist drive of around 85km, which passes a number of semi-permanent waterholes and places of interest. Bring extra fuel if you plan to undertake this drive.

Explore the 'Diamantina Gates' where the many channels of the Diamantina River funnel through two gaps in the low limestone hills, before spreading out again into braided channels further south. The western gap is known as Hunters Gorge and contains Mundawearra Waterhole – the deepest waterhole on the park. Wangari Waterhole is on the eastern side of the gap.

Camping is permitted at Hunters Gorge and Gum Hole. Pit toilets are provided at these sites. Contact the Ranger for details. All campers require permits. Fees apply.

Seasonal lakes and waterholes are ideal for birdwatching. Please walk rather than drive near the waterholes – you will see more birds and fragile areas will be protected.

**Caring for Diamantina**

Help care for Diamantina’s outstanding natural and cultural values by following these commonsense rules:

- Leave everything as you find it. Plants, animals, rocks, ruins and artefacts on the park are protected.
- Firearms and other weapons must be dismantled and packed out of sight. They cannot be used in national parks.
- Leave your pets at home. Pets frighten wildlife, annoy other visitors and can become lost.
- Use fuel stoves to reduce the need for firewood. Wood provides homes for wildlife and nutrients for the soil. Ensure your fire is out before you leave.
- Remove your rubbish from the park and leave campsites clean and tidy.
- Do not contaminate waterholes with detergents, soap, shampoos or human waste.
- Bury toilet waste 15cm deep and 150m from any water.

National parks are protected areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Penalties apply for breaches of the Act.

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**Planning your trip**

**Warning!** This park is remote. This area has natural hazards. Careful trip preparation is essential. Visitors need to be self-sufficient in food, water, fuel, vehicle spares and medical supplies.

Bring at least 7L of water per person per day for cooking and drinking. All visitors should bring extra supplies of food, water and fuel in case they become stranded on the park. Cater for an extra four or five days in the event of rains.

Before setting out, inform a responsible person of your itinerary. It is very easy to get lost. If your vehicle breaks down, stay with it! A vehicle is much easier to find than a person.

Depending on the distance, you may be able to contact the Ranger on UHF radio channel 29.

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**For more information**

The Ranger  
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**Legend**

- Park boundary
- Gazetted road
- Visitor road access
- Ranger headquarters
- Campground
- Cattle or brumby yards
- Point of interest
- Wuruma Waterhole
- Lake Condoga
- Warraconda Waterhole
- Plains Bore Circuit
- Rangers Headquarters
- Wintin
- Wulkana
- Windorah
- Kunzea Gorge
- GOOME RIVER
- GOOME RIVER
- Wulkana
- Bluesbridge
- Adalong
- suburbs
- towns
- roads