

Long Excursion, Monday 5th to Wednesday 14th August 2019

Diamantina National Park

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/diamantina/>

Following 3 floods and other good rainfalls this year, the flora and fauna at Diamantina National Park are flourishing. Whilst a number of QNC members have made private or work-related trips to this national park, this excursion will be the first QNC visit to Diamantina NP.

Diamantina NP is in a remote location. It will take two long days driving from Brisbane to either Winton (1,358km and 14 hrs 40 minutes from Brisbane GPO), or Windorah (1,203km and 13 hours 25 minutes from Brisbane GPO). If you like to travel at a more leisurely pace, then allow longer time to get to either of these towns. It is then a 4-hour drive south from Winton (306km), or a 4-hour drive north from Windorah (350km), to the National Park.

For road conditions and safety reasons we will travel into the park as two groups, leaving from Winton or Windorah as people choose. We will meet up beforehand in either of these towns at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday 4th August. We will then depart these towns at 9am on Monday 5th August. Additional information will be made available to, and requested from, those who are registering for this excursion.

Seeing that you have travelled so far, you could allow extra travel time to visit some iconic dinosaur places. Via Winton you could visit the Age of dinosaurs <http://www.australianageofdinosaurs.com/>, Lark Quarry <http://www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au/>. Bladensburg NP <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/bladensburg/>, (30 minutes from Winton) is also looking good and currently has many budgies and different birds, and is worth visiting before the Diamantina NP excursion. Via Windorah you could visit Eromanga natural history (dinosaur) museum <http://www.enhm.com.au/>.

Here are some points of interest about this camp.

1. Other groups, such as Birds Queensland, have visited the park on previous occasions, and the Rangers welcome these visits.
2. The Rangers have indicated they have a number of survey sites across the park, and they would appreciate QNC assistance with doing surveys at these sites.
3. Drinking and washing water is available at the national park. Bring suitable containers to fill for drinking water. You will need to be self-sufficient with your accommodation (camper trailer, tent, van, swag, etc), food, cooking arrangements (gas only), and shower.
4. We will be camping at Gum Holes campsite, where there is plenty of water for canoeing for those who take along their canoe. Diamantina Lakes is the BoM weather site. It could be cold at night, possibly as low as 4C or 5C in the mornings.
5. The Rangers have offered to make available 3 rooms in the Rangers Quarters (2 single beds per room), near the Rangers Station for members who are not able to camp. Further details of this are yet to be obtained. This location is 21km from Gum Holes.
6. Given the isolation of the park, arrangements will be made for fuel (diesel and unleaded) to be delivered to the park for purchasing by QNC members.
7. We will take along the QNC marquee to keep books and other items during the camp.
8. Those joining the excursion will be asked to collect and bring suitable dead timber, collected outside the national park, so we can have a fire to keep us warm for our after-dinner get-togethers.
9. Costs will be the standard National Park camping fees per person per night, and the standard QNC camping fees.

Additional information, including a detailed registration form and packing checklists for remote travel, will be made available to those registering for this long excursion.

To register your interest in participating in this long excursion, please email excursion@qnc.org.au

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