



Picnic grounds at Beutel's Lookout

If you enjoyed this four wheel drive why not pick up one of the other drives in this series.

- Drive B Hampton, Coppermine Rd, Ravensbourne National Park
- Drive C Hampton to Gatton via 17 Mile Rd
- Drive D Hampton to Withcott via Murphys Ck
- Drive E Hampton to Blackbutt via Crows Nest, Anduramba, & Nukinenda Station
- Drive F Hampton, Crows Nest Falls, North of Cressbrook Dam, Maria Creek, Jones Gully, Hampton
- Drive G Hampton, Plainby, Upper Pinelands, Djuan, Crows Nest, Hampton

Also available:

Discover the High Country Touring Guide, Bird Trails of the Crows Nest Region, Nurseries Trails, The Three Lakes, Parks & Recreation Areas

Basic Bush Rules

- > Consider weather and likely road conditions
- > Respect private land
- > Animals have right of way
- > Leave gates as you find them
- > Reduce speed and dust near homesteads
- > All drives are undertaken at your own risk
- > Road safety begins and ends with you please slow down

Notes

The drive is on public roads, mostly gravel or formed earth, some are in poor condition. Beware of stock on unfenced roads. GPS directions may be unreliable. Mobile phones may be out of range.

This drive was driven and assessed in September 2015 in a Kia Sorento.

The drive can not be completed if the National Park gate is locked at 27 km.

Discover... FOUR WHEEL DRIVES



Soft four wheel driving for the family in and around the Crows Nest Region.

DRIVE A

Hampton to Gatton-Esk Rd
via Lockyer National Park

Travel time one way – 1½ - 2 hours.

Distance to Gatton-Esk Road – 47 km.

Toowoomba & Darling Downs
Lots to love...

For feedback or more information please contact:

HAMPTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

8623 New England Highway, Hampton Q 4352

Phone 07 4697 9066 or **FREECALL** 1800 009 066

Email hamptoninfo@tr.qld.gov.au

www.crowsnest.info or www.tr.qld.gov.au



Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre.

0 Leave car park and turn right (east) on to the Esk-Hampton Rd. This is a sealed road. You are 715 m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowood, Blue Gum, Cedar, Blackbutt. Now mixed farming including horticulture.

13.6 Turn right at Ravensbourne National Park turnoff. This is a sealed road.

Forest walks. Red Cedars (colourful in Spring), Sydney Blue Gums, Blackbutt. Many varieties of rainforest birds.

14.2 Picnic area with toilets.

14.4 Turn left on to Walsh Rd. Ignore Wellers Rd on the left,

Gravel begins here for the remainder of the trip.

Alternative: Keep straight on to Beutel's Lookout, and then return to this turnoff. At the lookout you will find stunning views of the Lockyer Valley, Wivenhoe Dam and the Scenic Rim and an excellent rest spot. Toilets, barbecues & shelter shed. Old homestead site. Excellent 20 minute rainforest walk. Link: E5 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail brochure). Look out for wildlife e.g. Lace Monitors (goannas), Spangled Drongos (birds!)

16.1 Keep straight on past Whipbird Drive on the left.

Red soils of the basalt surface change to grey forest soils on sandstone base. Numerous small logging tracks and log loading clearings. Sandy surface with clay patches, single lane. Keep to the main track.

16.6 Steep descent starts. Approximately 800m.

18.9 Shire Boundary (Toowoomba Region—Gatton.)

25.7 Turn left into Logans Rd, just after passing an organic farm on your left. This road is signed NO THRU RD, but it is a thru road if the National Park gate is open. DRY WEATHER RD ONLY from this point.

From this turnoff the woodland changes to open grazing land. Green-roofed homestead in the distance.

26.3 Road forks and narrows. Take left fork along fence line. Deeply rutted.

Alternative: Take the right fork; see Drive C, Vinegar Hill - Gatton for details of this drive. Road goes along a dark soil ridge top. Numerous "whoa-boys". Great views north and south. Open woodland.

27.9 Ignore road on the right. Go through National Park gate.

30.5 Start of steep, rough descent.

No notes here, all eyes on the road, and the drop-off!! Engage lowest gear and 4-wheel drive. Proceed cautiously.

31.7 SHARP HAIRPIN BEND.

You are nearly down!

32.1 Creek crossing, usually dry with a firm base. Continue for another approx. 10 kms, ignoring all tracks on the right.

If water is running, check depth and speed before proceeding. Excellent bird sounds; you may see Kingfishers, Wattlebirds, Noisy Miners, Cuckoos, Pied Currawongs, Kookaburras, Fairy-wrens, Scrubwrens, Eastern Yellow Robins and Rufous Whistlers. The road from here continues to lose height but climbs over several small spurs as it follows the creek down. There are several rocky patches requiring care at slow speed.

42.8 Narrow cattle grid and a gate which may be locked (as it is the other end of the National Park). Occasional rocky surface.

43.1 Entrance to prison. TURN RIGHT. Sealed road.

46.7 Junction with Gatton-Esk Rd. Turn right to Esk (33kms) or left to Gatton (15kms).

On your left is the "lucerne factory" where lucerne is pelletised for export. There are large turf farms and irrigated pastures along the road on the right, while the left hand side is rural prison property.

END