

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

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 Vinegar Hill
- Drive D** Hampton to Withcott via Murphys Creek
- 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:

Crows Nest Shire Touring Map
Bird Trails of the Crows Nest Shire
Five Short Drives of the Crows Nest Shire
Nurseries and Gardens of the Crows Nest Shire

Notes

Comments and suggestions welcome to:



HAMPTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
8623 New England Highway, Hampton, Qld 4352
Phone 07 4697 9066 or FREECALL 1800 009 066
email info@crowsnestshire.qld.gov.au

Send for your free copy of the Crows Nest Shire Official Touring Map.

Discover ... Four Wheel Drives In Crows Nest Shire

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

DRIVE A

Hampton to Gatton-Esk Rd
via Seventeen Mile Road,
Helidon Hills State Forest
and Springdale.

Return travel time – approx 2 hours.
Distance to Gatton-Esk Road – 47 km.

The reconnaissance for this drive was undertaken in a Nissan Xtrail soft four wheel drive in early 2005.



Trip Meter	Navigators Notes	Things of interest to observe
0	Zero your trip metre at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre. Leave car park and turn right (east) onto Hampton-Esk Rd.	You are 608 m above sea level (1998ft). 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. Tallowwood, Blue Gum, Cedar, Blackbutt. Now mixed farming including horticulture
13.6	Turn right at Ravensbourne National Park turnoff.	Forest walks. Red Cedars (colourful in Spring), Sydney Blue Gums, Blackbutt. Many varieties of rainforest birds.
14.2	Picnic area.	Toilets.
14.4	Turn left onto Walsh Rd.	Alternative: Keep straight on to Beutel's Lookout, and then re-turn 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, barbeques & shelter shed. Old homestead site. Excellent 20 minute rainforest walk. Link: E5 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail pamphlet). 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 800mtrs.	
18.9	Shire Boundary (Crows Nest—Gatton.)	
25.7	Turn left into Wallers Rd (not signposted).	Large turn off on red dirt. (The road to the right continues to Helidon.) Open woodland gives way to grazing farmland. Red-roofed homestead in the distance.
26.3	Road forks. Take left fork along fence line.	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 "woe-boys". Great views north and south. Open woodland. State Forest to the right of the road.
27.9	A road joins from the right. Do not take but keep straight on.	
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. Just over the creek is a road to the left but keep straight on.	Usually dry with a firm base. If water is running, check depth and speed before proceeding. Spectacular bird sounds; you may see Kingfishers, Wattlebills, Noisy Miners, Cuckoos, Pied Currawongs, Kookaburras, and Fairy-wrens. Open woodland. Lantana understorey.
37.4	Road from the right. Keep straight on.	The road continues lose height although it climbs over several small spurs as it follows the creek down.
41.9	Road from the right. Keep straight on.	Extensive open woodland.
42.8	Narrow cattle grid with "SEE YA" on it.	Occasional rocky surface.
43.1	Turn left at T junction. On right are large gates capable of closing the road.	
44.9	Springdale settled area. Millers Rd.	Large turf farms and irrigation.
46.7	Millers Rd junction with Gatton-Esk Rd. Turn right to Gatton, left to Esk.	On your left is the "Lucerne Factory" where Lucerne is pelletised for export.
	END	