

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

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

- Drive A** Hampton to Gatton-Esk Rd
- Drive B** Hampton, Coppermine Rd, Ravensbourne National Park
- 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

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 C

**Hampton to Gatton via
Vinegar Hill**

Return travel time – approx 1 1/4 hours.
Distance Hampton to Gatton – 44 km one way.

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 (1998 ft). 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 the 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 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 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 sign-posted.)	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 distance.
26.3	Road forks. Take right fork along Wallers Rd.	Gradual, winding descent along black basaltic soil track. Large Monitor lizards may be seen hereabouts. Beautiful woodland—eucalypts, casuarinas, fine brush box specimens in gully on right. Lantana understorey. A number of bird species may be seen here. Extensive views to south and west.
27.0	Continue descent.	Travelling through kangaroo grass and grass tree understorey.
28.6	Ignore numerous logging roads to left and right.	Sandy road surface with occasional clay patches. Single lane for most of this drive so keep it slow!
32.4	Road becomes stony.	You are following a ridge top with good forestry views either side.
32.7	Stony surface finishes.	Selective logging of forest, numerous old stumps visible.
33.3	Ignore minor road on right.	
34.6	Very steep descent. Engage lowest gear and 4 wheel drive mode.	Beautiful views over the Lockyer Valley, though not for the driver!
35.5	Steep descent finishes.	
37.5	Turn right at the T junction where Wallers Rd joins bitumen road.	This now becomes Forestry Rd but it's not signed. Open grazing.
39.8	Turn right into Smithfield Rd through double underpass.	Warrego Highway is over the top of you.
42.0	Turn sharp left <u>before</u> the railway. Do not cross the line.	You are now on the famed Lockyer Valley black soils, reputed to be one of the eight most agriculturally productive areas in the world. Many farms have access to underground water just 20 metres below the surface. Lately, supplies have dwindled.
43.8	Cross Davey's Bridge with care and immediately turn right into Gatton township.	Gatton is a thriving agricultural service centre, with an annual Potato Festival (October) and a Heavy Horse Event (May), as well as University of Queensland, Gatton Campus nearby.
	END	