

***Queensland* – Permits and permissions**

***Queensland* – Permits and permissions required to access indigenous and other lands, including national parks**

General:

There are no major Land Councils or other such organizations in Queensland where permits to transit or visit aboriginal areas might be generally obtainable. However, if you want some general information regarding aboriginal lands and any general requirements, particularly the liquor laws, contact the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on (07) 3224 2111. The telephone number for the Cairns Regional Office which has responsibility for the Cape York Region is (07) 4039 8177. There is also a specific Government telephone number you can call in Qld to check on the liquor laws on the whole of Cape York; it is 1300 789 000 and a website for the same purpose can be found at www.alcoholimits.qld.gov.au

Camping near Communities:

From my experience it is simply a matter of contacting the particular community and ascertaining their requirements. Camping fees generally apply at most communities where camping is available. The fees seem to range from about \$5 per vehicle per night up to about \$30 per night. Others charge an entry permit of about \$30 per week. There may also be a small per night camping fee on top of that. Again, the Exploroz website can be very helpful, and the Hema Maps of the area also contain contact details for the various communities. For areas on the west coast north of Weipa, contact the Weipa Caravan Park on (07) 4069 7871.

Cape York:

The only permit currently required to access the tip of Cape York is one from the Injinoo people. This is however included in the cost of the ferry across the Jardine River. A small information booklet is also normally provided. Currently, (January, 2009), the ferry trip will cost \$88 for your vehicle and an additional \$11 for a trailer. The ferry charges include your return trip, so make sure you keep your ticket. Be warned that the old vehicle crossing is now too deep to cross. The Jardine Ferry shop can be contacted on (07) 4069 1369. Camping at the very nice camping ground adjacent to the ferry and shop on the south bank of the Jardine is available at \$5 per person per night as at January, 2009. Some contact details for camping at the Tip include: Loyalty Beach (07) 4069 3372; Seisia Camping Ground (07) 4069 3243 and Punsand Bay (07) 4069 1722.

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The Cape York Peninsula Development Association maintains a reasonably good website which does have a lot of excellent (if slightly outdated) information available for tourists. The website can be found at www.cypda.com.au

If you want to access Elim Beach which is located within the Hope Vale Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) Lands, contact the Hope Vale Community Council on (07) 4060 9133

Entry and Camping Permits:

As far as I can ascertain, there are no annual or other permits (with the exception of those listed below) generally available from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, which is a Division of the Qld Environment Protection Agency. The Parks and Wildlife Service offer a Customer Service Centre which can be contacted on 13 13 04. You will find them very, very helpful. They can usually answer most of your queries and can make camping bookings for you at all National Parks and State Forests in Queensland, which are now virtually mandatory. The Environment Protection Agency itself can be contacted on telephone (07) 3227 8186 or 1300 130 372. Fax is (07) 3227 8749 and email is csc@epa.qld.gov.au. Their website is at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

The website is a great source of information, with lots of extremely helpful information. The website should be your first point of inquiry for any plans you may have for visiting and/or camping in any Queensland National Park or State Forest.

Camp site bookings in all National Parks and State Forests (which are now virtually mandatory), can also be made on-line. Camping charges are levied for all Qld National Parks and State Forests. Generally, the charge (as at January, 2009) is \$4.85 per person per night. A family rate is available at \$19.40 per night for 2 adults and up to 5 children under 18. Children under 5 years old are free. If you are visiting any of the more popular National Parks or State Forests, particularly during any busy season or school holidays, it is generally “first in, best dressed”, so it is highly advisable to book well ahead, otherwise you may not get a camp site. It is a real pain I know, but you will need to know the exact dates of your visit to do so. Self registration processes still apply in some of the more remote National Parks and State Forests where staff may not be on-site. You can ascertain from the website where self-registration may be in place by virtue of the fact that the particular Park will not be listed as one of those where on-line or telephone camp site bookings can be made.

Camping fees can also be paid over-the-counter at a large number of Qld National Parks offices. Again, see the website for a listing of where these are located.

A system of pre-paid Camping Credits is also in operation which could be very useful if you want to visit a number of Parks and don't wish to carry sums of money with you or use a cheque or credit card to pay for self registration permits. This process also obviates

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the need to provide personal details on the application forms. Call the Customer Service Centre on 13 13 04 for further details and to purchase pre-paid Camping Credits.

Please note that no matter whether you book over the phone, on-line or over-the-counter, generally, (although not always when you book over-the-counter), you will simply be given a “Booking Number” which you will be required to write on a tag which are available at most camping areas or in prominent positions on tracks leading in to National Parks or State Forests. The “Booking Number” is to be written on the tag and the tag is to be attached to your tent or other camping structure. If you book over-the-counter at the nearest National Park Office to your intended destination, you may well find that you are actually given the appropriate tag for display.

Fraser and Moreton Islands:

Vehicle Entry Permits, which as at January, 2009 cost \$37.10 and are valid for a one month period, (annual permits are also available), are required for Fraser Island and Moreton Island. They can be purchased from most Qld National Parks Office or on-line or by phone (see above). If you book by phone or on-line, you will be given a reference number and you will still need to call in to a National Parks office to actually pick up your Permit.

For Moreton Island, Vehicle Entry Permits can also be purchased from the barge operators, which is probably the simplest method. For Fraser Island there are National Parks Offices located at 46 Quay Street, Bundaberg, (telephone (07) 4131 1600); at Cnr. Lennox and Alice Streets, Maryborough, (telephone (07) 4121 18000; on Rainbow Beach Road, Rainbow Beach, (telephone (07) 5486 3160); and at Tewantin in Moorindil Street (telephone (07) 5449 7792). The Offices however are only open during normal business hours Monday to Friday. Don't forget to ask for your “Fraser Pack”.

The standard camping fees of \$4.85 per person per night or \$19.40 per family per night apply and of course ferry charges also apply. Camp sites can be booked on-line or by phone or at most National Parks Office. The normal method (see above) of picking up your tag and putting your camping fee “Booking Number” on it and displaying the tag at your camp site applies.

Bribie Island:

On Bribie Island, the standard camping fees and processes (see above) also apply but the Vehicle Entry Permit which is \$35.50 is only valid for a one week period. (Annual permits are also available). Vehicle Entry Permits can be obtained on-line or by phone (see above) which would again require you to call in to a National Parks office to pick up your permit. Vehicle Entry Permits are also obtainable from the Bongaree Caravan Park

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office on Bribie Island which is probably the easiest method. The previous self registration process for camping fees no longer applies.

Other more remote National Parks:

For the more remote and lesser visited national parks you will either need to call in to the appropriate Ranger Station to book your camp site and pay your camping fees, or in many of them, for example, Cape Melville, Bathurst Bay, Lakefield, Mungkan Kandju and Alice & Mitchell Rivers, self registration requirements apply, which includes the camping fee of \$4.85 per night per person. Again, check the website for those Parks and Reserves where self registration processes apply. If the Park you intend to visit is not listed on the web site as one of those where on-line or telephone bookings can be made, then it would be reasonable to assume that self registration applies. It would though be worth checking with the Customer Service Centre on 13 13 04.

Donohue Highway (which becomes the Plenty Highway in the NT)

Travelers using the Donohue Highway to cross from Boulia in Qld to Alice Springs need to be aware that Tobermorey Homestead no longer provides either fuel or camping. Fuel and camping is still available at Jervois Homestead which is 220 kilometres west of Tobermorey. (Tobermorey is located just inside the NT, right on the NT/Qld border).

Savannah Way:

If you are traveling the Savannah Way from Burketown to Borroloola ensure you carry sufficient fuel for your journey as both the Wollgorang and Hells Gate Roadhouses are now closed. The only fuel available on that trip is at Doomadgee. Hours of fuel availability at Doomadgee may also be unreliable.

Road Conditions:

Go to the RACQ website at www.racq.com.au/ then click on “Trip Planning” and then “Road Conditions”.

Can I get a Concession?:

Don't forget, if you are dealing with a National Park Service or any Government Agency, and you have a Seniors Card or a Pension Card of some description; always ask whether a Seniors Discount is available. In most cases the answer is, yes!

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With your assistance we might also endeavour to maintain this information in an updated form. So if you wish to amend, or add to any of the information contained in this article, please contact the undersigned on (02) 9523 9266 or email john.greig@bigpond.com

John Greig

Researched and compiled by John Greig – Toyota Land Cruiser Club of Australia – Sydney

Please also be sure to read the first part of this site titled “Heading Outback – Do I Need a Permit? – Can I drive that track?” in conjunction with the information above.