



Carnarvon Station Reserve, QLD COVID-19 ~ Message to Campers

Some important things for you to note in addition to the guidelines set out in the Camping Information document.

Bush Heritage continues to implement all COVID-19 government directives to ensure the ongoing health, safety and welfare of our workers and visitors.

While COVID-19 is a serious situation, with the necessary precautions and by exercising consideration for others, we will manage this challenging time while continuing our important conservation work and providing where possible, the opportunity for people to visit safely.

Please remember

- To keep abreast of the State/Territory COVID-19 regulations [click here](#).
- **Don't visit** if you are unwell or develop cold or flu like [symptoms](#) prior to your visit.
- If you become unwell with, or develop Coronavirus like [symptoms](#) (such as coughing, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, loss of smell). It is important you
 - [prevent the spread](#) to others
 - depart the reserve as soon as practical, do not continue exploring the property
 - contact reserve staff as soon as possible as it's important we know of your situation and you are safe.
- If your symptoms are serious such as difficulty in breathing
 - **seek urgent medical help**, call **000** or activate your emergency device and contact reserve staff – who can provide earliest assistance and help coordinate evacuation.

Thanks for your cooperation and help during this unusual time.



Carnarvon Station Reserve. Photo: Katrina Blake



Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld Camping Information

Quick facts

Acquired: 2001 **Area:** 59,000 ha **Traditional owners:** Bidjara
Location: Central Highlands region, Qld, 212km north east of Augathella.
Temperature (average min/max): Winter 1° to 26 °C. Summer 15° to 37°C. **Annual rainfall:** 700mm

Camp site: Open 1 June to 30 September. Minimum two night stay - **Bookings are essential** as sites are limited and need to fit around other activities and management requirements. Please do not plan to arrive on a Sunday. Complete the on-line registration form or for questions email visits@bushheritage.org.au or call Katrina Blake 03 8610 9124

Essential: Vehicle 4WD with high clearance (no SUV/AWD vehicles). **Emergency communication equipment:** Satellite phone or EPIRB or SPOT or HF radio.

Camping fees



While there's no camping fee, we ask instead people make a tax-deductible donation to help us undertake our work and maintain the visitor opportunities on this reserve. [Donations](#) can be made anytime online or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device (mobile reception required). Forms are also available at the reserve.

Location

Carnarvon Station Reserve is in south east central Queensland, to the South and west of Carnarvon National Park. It's about 870km south west of Rockhampton and about 940km north west of Brisbane.

Visitors can only access the reserve via Mt Tabor Rd from Augathella (203km) or Morven (230km). On leaving either of these towns allow 4 hours to reach the reserve. More detailed travel instructions will be provided on booking confirmation.

Carnarvon Station homestead co-ordinates

LAT: 24°48'31.80"S. LONG: 147°45'13.62"E



Enjoying the reserve

You need a minimum stay of 2 nights, but we highly recommend staying at least 3 to 4 nights in order to enjoy the reserve. The self-guided driving routes will enable you to explore the many unique features of this property.

There's also plenty of exploring you can do on foot, though we request you stick to tracks. **Detailed tour notes and maps will be provided on arrival.**

We ask all visitors to follow the guidelines provided and any instructions from Bush Heritage workers. Any visit

Preparation

Carnarvon Station Reserve is very remote with minimal services close by. Roads into and around the property are unsealed and vary from black soils to sand and rocky surfaces. After rains the reserve can be cut off until tracks are dry enough to travel on.

It is essential visitors are experienced at travelling in very remote locations and come well stocked with food, water, fuel, camping and safety equipment and personal medical supplies.



Emergency Communication

Bush Heritage requires that all camping parties must carry at least one form of emergency communication equipment – either a satellite phone, SPOT device, EPIRB or HF radio (UHF is not reliable). There is no mobile phone reception anywhere on the property or in the immediate surrounding area.

In addition to the required equipment above, a UHF radio is optional but can be a useful form of communication on site and especially between vehicles. Due to the terrain, it has limited reception and is not monitored 24hrs so therefore cannot be relied upon as a form of emergency communication equipment. The reserve's **UHF radio channel is 3 duplex.**

Visitor Safety

Visitors are responsible for their own safety and need to be prepared for remote travel in natural settings. You should have in place an emergency response plan. This means nominating a responsible person (usually family or friend) who will know of your travel and communication plan and expected date of safe return from the reserve. They will activate an emergency response should you fail to return ie contact police or the reserve.

Medical and emergency services are **not** close at hand so think carefully about your actions and your safety.

We recommend all visitors have a current ambulance membership. Evacuation or search and rescue costs are not the responsibility of Bush Heritage Australia.

Vehicles

You'll need a robust off road 4WD to access and travel around this property due to the rugged terrain and ever changing road conditions. Good clearance is essential and your vehicle must be in excellent working condition. SUV and AWD vehicles are not suitable as they do not have the low range capabilities, the clearance or the robustness. **All vehicles must carry a spare tyre (ideally two or a puncture repair kit), as well as basic recovery gear.**

Small off-road trailers are okay to reach the campground. Caravans and motor homes are not suitable.

Rain and tracks

Black soils are a predominant feature of the reserve and surrounding country, so following even small amounts of rain they become very slippery and incredibly sticky. Attempting to drive in these conditions will destroy the tracks. If it rains during your stay it means you will be delayed while you wait for tracks to dry out.

If you are travelling into the reserve from Morven and Augathella and the road is wet and boggy please don't try to push through as you will destroy the surface and make it difficult for our neighbours and other road users. If you are on the reserve when it rains return to the campground and wait it out. Ensure you bring extra supplies for this reason, including prescription medications.

As a guide, if black mud is picking up on your tyres it's too wet to drive on. In terms of rainfall to estimated drying times it's approximately 1-5mm: half a day, 5-10mm: one day, 10-20mm: two days. This will alter depending on conditions such as wind and temperature.



Track maintenance is extremely expensive and time consuming so please assist us to minimise impacts by engaging 4WD at all times, drive over the whole road surface to prevent wheel track ruts and staying off wet roads.

Fuel

Fuel is NOT available at the reserve so ensure you fill up at Morven or Augathella and carry enough supplies for your vehicle, length of stay and intended travel on site.

As a guide, if you completed the six self-guided tours, you would cover around 200km without any extra travel or detours and not including travel to and from the reserve.

Remember fuel consumption can increase when travelling on unsealed roads and engaging 4WD.

Vehicle Hygiene

One of the key threats to Carnarvon is the introduction and spread of invasive weed species, particularly Parthenium and Buffel grass, which are widely established in the region. Vehicles and dirty equipment can contribute to spreading seeds so please ensure they are clean before reaching the reserve. Once on site we have wash down facilities for a final clean.

- To the best of your ability please ensure your vehicle is clean from mud and seeds before entering Carnarvon Station. Most major regional centres and cities have commercial car wash facilities and in many rural areas wash down bays are available. The closest to Carnarvon Station is at Charleville (corner of Carrejong St and Coolibah St) and another on the Northern approach to Morven (Killarney road)
- Once on Carnarvon Station, all vehicles must undertake a further thorough wash down giving particular attention to the undercarriage, wheels, guards, radiator and other sites where mud and seeds can lodge.

In Queensland it is an offence to knowingly drive a vehicle contaminated with a declared weed or carry uncovered contaminated material on a road. The Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have information on their website

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/58178/cleandown-procedures.pdf



Carnarvon Station Reserve. Photo: Amelia Caddy

Travelling around

Specific tour routes for visitors have been defined and we ask you don't stray onto other tracks or fire brakes, that are for management use only. It's important for your safety and our workers and for managing impacts on the reserve. The tour map, directional notes and track signage will help guide you.

- Bush Heritage requires safety belts to be worn by all occupants of a vehicle when travelling around the reserve.
- Drive only on the designated tour routes and keep to existing tracks. Take care when parking or turning around to help minimise impacts. A detailed map and tour notes will be provided once on site.
- Engage and remain in 4WD while on the reserve as this helps with track conditions.
- Travel to the conditions and avoid driving following rain—road maintenance is costly. Drive at appropriate speeds—we request 10km around the homestead and campground and 40km on tracks if conditions allow it.
- Remember wildlife has right of way and tend to be active at dawn and dusk but be prepared at all times.

Other requirements

No pets, animals or firearms to be brought onto the reserve. No fires other than at the designated campground fireplace. No use of drones permitted.

Please follow directions from Bush Heritage staff.

Reserve staff

A full-time reserve manager and field officer live on Carnarvon Station with their families. Throughout the year, we have many additional workers including ecologist, volunteers, researchers and contractors living on site. You may or may not see reserve staff during your stay, although they will make attempts to catch up with you. While staff are happy to provide you with information and assistance, they are unable to guide you around the property. We ask all visitors to be mindful of staff's time and privacy. The reserve is not only their workplace but also their home.

Campground facilities

Carnarvon Station campground is a simple bush camp located about 15km from the homestead.

Fires

Don't rely on campfires for cooking – ensure you bring a fuel stove with you. A small campfire is permitted in the shared fireplace when conditions allow.

Do not light fires if conditions are unfavourable or if a total fire ban has been declared. **Fires must be fully extinguished if left unattended for any length of time.**



View of camp and shelter Photo: Katrina Blake

Firewood may be collected from off the ground. Please don't damage living plants or collect hollow wood as it provides important shelter for animals. **The use of chainsaws are not permitted.**

Water

You'll need to bring all your drinking water in with you. There are a couple of rainwater tanks at the camp but supplies and quality can't be relied on, so it should only be used for washing.

At the Big Shed (which you pass on your way to the campground) you can access plenty of bore water (not suitable for drinking) but will need to bring a container to cart back to the campground.

Water is a precious resource and we ask all visitors to use it wisely and avoid contaminating water bodies.

Washing and cooking

There are no kitchen facilities although there's a small shelter with fireplace and table and a shed for your use. You'll need to bring all your own cooking and washing gear, including wash-up tubs and stove etc.

Shopping

All visitors must be self-sufficient when visiting the Reserve. Roma and Charleville are larger regional centres and are good options for getting supplies. Augathella and Morven are small towns with limited services.

Toilet

There's a pit toilet at the camp but you'll need your own toilet paper, soap or handwash

Power

There's no power and we ask that generators are not used if other campers are on site.

Rubbish

There's no rubbish service to this property so please take your waste with you.