

Tours and Information

Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Entry to the Conservation Park is free, as are walks of the dramatic landscape at Lark Quarry outside the Trackways building. There are toilets, and a limited number of picnic shelters available. Remember it is a conservation park, so normal National Park restrictions apply.

The Dinosaur Trackways is only accessible by a paid 55 minute guided tour available at 10:00am, 12:00noon and 2:00pm all year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. You can pay at the Trackways (cash only) or at the Winton Visitor Information Centre.

Carisbrooke Station

Entry to Carisbrooke Station, accommodation and tours are by arrangement only. The tours include the award-winning Keyline irrigation system, aboriginal rock art sites and spectacular scenery.

Carisbrooke have overnight farm stay packages in a range of accommodation, including camping, caravans, shearer's quarters, the shearing shed, cottage and cabin. We suggest you book ahead on (07) 4657 0084, or at the Winton Visitor Information Centre on 1300 665 115.

Tours

Day tours of Carisbrooke Station (three departures per week, April to October) including a visit to the Dinosaur Stampede can be booked through: Waltzing Matilda Centre Phone (07) 4657 1466 / Wookatook Gift and Gem Shop Phone (07) 4657 1296

Matilda Country Tourist Park. Phone: (07) 4657 1607. Daily half day tours departing Winton at 8am (minimum numbers apply) Bookings essential.

Outback Aussie Tours, departing Longreach. Phone (07) 4658 3000.

Information sources:

[1] Lark Quarry: Wade, Mary, and Molnar, R. October 2000, Queensland Museum Geology 4 "Winton Dinosaur Trackways" Information leaflet. www.qmuseum.qld.gov.au

(2) Australian Age of Dinosaurs www.australianageofdinosaurs.com

[2] Lyndon B. Johnson and "The Swoose": Cadin, M., and Hymoff, E. 1964. The Mission. J.B Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, USA.

experience WINTON

Take time to experience WINTON and Matilda Country; a rich combination of outback life, landscape and legend. Stay a couple of days and enjoy our country hospitality. Why not take a bus tour, or follow one of our self-guided day trips? Discover the intriguing story behind the song "Waltzing Matilda", experience the diverse landscape and bird life at Bladensburg National Park and the rich Aboriginal rock art at Carisbrooke Station. Try opal hunting, or re-live the age of dinosaurs at Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways.

Things to see and do on "The Dinosaur Drive"

Step back 95 million years to a moment captured in time at the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument. See the fossilised remains of over 3000 dinosaur footprints and discover their fascinating story by paid guided entry to the state-of-the-art Trackways shelter. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a walk through the scenic surrounding landscape. Visit spectacular Carisbrooke Station with its dramatic scenery and beautiful rock art. Experience life on an outback station with an overnight farm stay and discover the station's natural and cultural heritage with their full day guided tour.

General Information

The Dinosaur Drive is a loop drive of 242km, and we suggest you allow a full day. Bring a picnic lunch and plenty of water to have at the Dinosaur Stampede. If you also want to visit Carisbrooke Station we suggest you arrange overnight accommodation at Carisbrooke and make it a two day trip. Check that the sites are open and confirm road conditions at the Winton Visitor Information Centre in Elderslie Street before setting out. The drive takes you on large stretches of unsealed roads, which are impassable and dangerous in the wet.

Key contact details

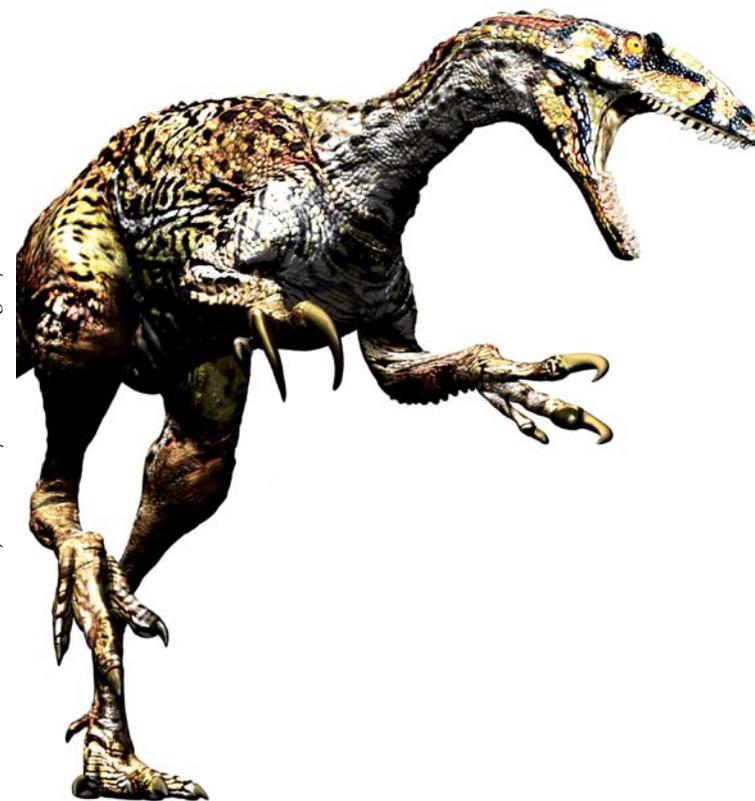
Winton Visitor Information Centre:
Toll free: 1300 665 115 Facsimile: (07) 4657 1886
Website: www.matildacentre.com.au
www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

Queensland Parks and Wildlife: www.epa.qld.gov.au
Longreach District office: Phone (07) 4650 1990
Queensland Museum. www.qmuseum.qld.gov.au
Carisbrooke Station: Phone: (07) 4657 0084
Email: carisbrooke@reachnet.com

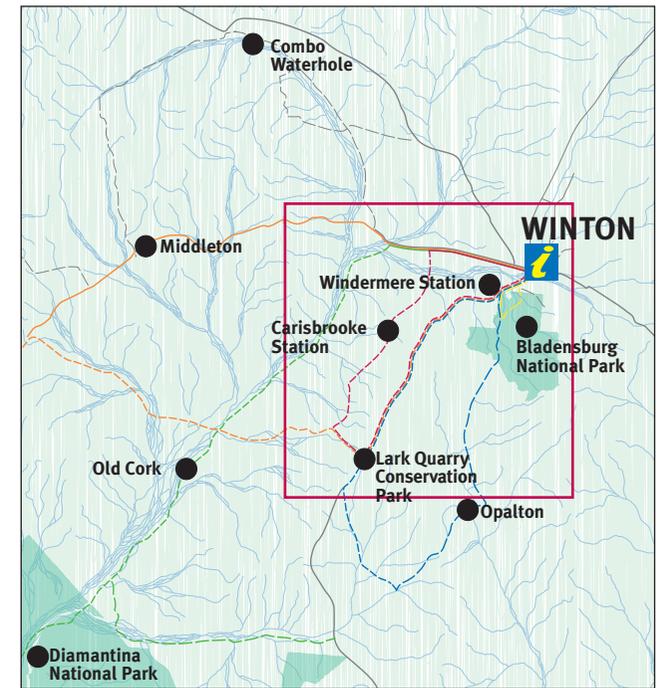
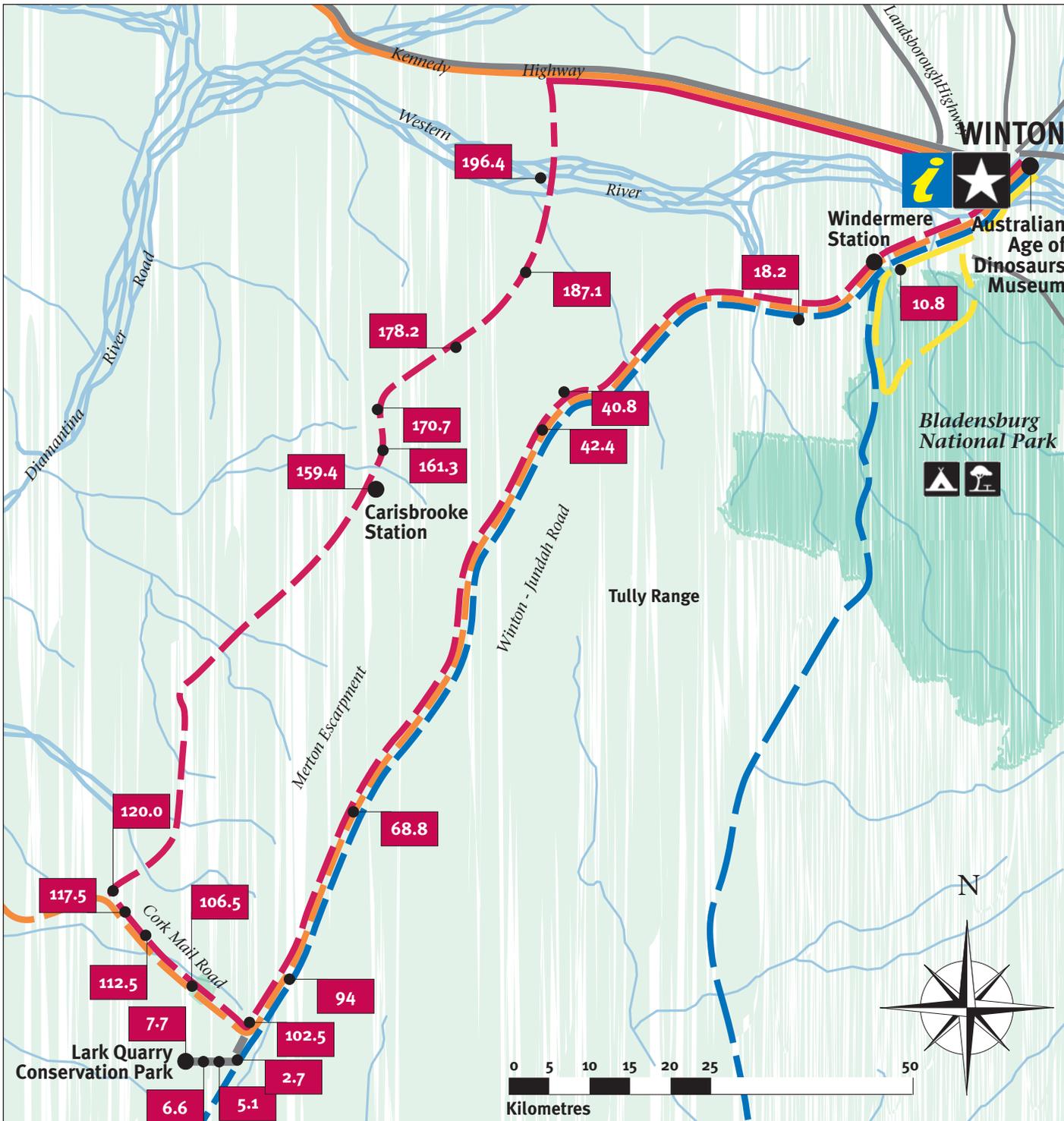
experience
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The Dinosaur Drive

Dinosaur Stampede National Monument and Lark Quarry Conservation Park
One day drive



Cover: Australovenator Banjo. Courtesy Australian Age of Dinosaurs.



Legend

- Sealed Road
- Gravelled Road
- Dirt Track
- Rivers
- National Park
- All Facilities
- Fuel
- Accommodation
- Food
- Camp Sites
- Rest Area
- Fossicking

Drive Routes

- Route of the River Gums
- The Dinosaur Drive
- Try Your Luck
- Pioneer's Trail

All of the walks and drives are clockwise return loops starting from the Winton Visitor Information Centre. Points of interest are listed as kilometres, so set your trip meter to zero as you arrive at the town grid on the Winton/Jundah Road.

Dinosaur Stampede National Monument and Lark Quarry Conservation Park

At the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument, thousands of dinosaur tracks embedded in the shale and sandstone mark the site of the world's only known dinosaur stampede. In a remarkable piece of scientific detective work, scientists from the Queensland Museum have pieced together a dramatic tale of hunter and hunted from the footprint evidence left behind.

During the Mid-Cretaceous period (about 95 million years ago), Western Queensland looked quite different. Rainfall was more than a metre per year, and conifers and ferns were abundant in a flat landscape of creeks and rivers meandering to an inland sea.

A group of perhaps several hundred dinosaurs, consisting of Coelurosaurs (about the size of a chicken) and herbivorous Ornithopods (about the size of an emu), were grazing at the side of a creek.

The tracks of a much larger carnosaur (carnivorous dinosaur) can be seen heading towards the smaller dinosaurs. The large dinosaur caused a panicked stampede as the footprints of the smaller dinosaurs scramble away from the carnosaur and back over its trackway. The smaller dinosaurs moved as a

group, with the Coelurosaurs moving at about 9 to 15 km/ph and the larger Ornithopods moving at up to 30 km/ph. The footprints of the carnosaur have recently been shown to match *Australovenator wintonensis*, a large megaraptor species with huge clawed hands. The skeletal remains of the only known *A. wintonensis* specimen (called "Banjo") were found nearby and are on display at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, located 23km south-east of Winton.

The tracks lay undisturbed and pristine for 95 million years until the early 1960's when Glen Seymour, manager of a nearby grazing station, spotted something unusual. The first footprints were excavated in 1971 by Queensland Museum and the find was named Seymour Quarry in his honour. Queensland Museum officers and volunteers returned in 1976 – 1977 to excavate the current site 30 metres to the west of the earlier dig. It was named Lark Quarry after Malcolm Lark, first of the volunteers, who removed more rock than anyone else.

Learn more about the unique Dinosaur Stampede National Monument site with an interpretive guided tour of the Trackways, (refer to back cover for tour details) in the multi-million dollar state-of-the-art building, designed to protect the Trackways from deterioration.

Open: Year round, every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Entry to the Trackways is by paid guided tour only. Tour times are 10am, 12noon and 2pm.

Carisbrooke Station

Carisbrooke Station is a working sheep and cattle station, set among the spectacular mesa country of the Cory Range and Williams Valley, with extensive areas of natural vegetation and wildlife. The station uses an award winning Keyline flood-flow irrigation system, has an opal mine, aboriginal bora grounds and some beautiful aboriginal rock art sites. Carisbrooke was the site of the forced landing in 1942 of the B- 17 Flying fortress "The Swoose" carrying Lyndon B Johnston.

Access, tours and accommodation at the Station are by arrangement only and bookings are essential. Refer to tours and information on the back of the brochure for booking details and further information.

Lyndon B Johnson and "The Swoose"

Soon after Pearl Harbour, when American President Roosevelt and the American people were getting conflicting reports about the war in the Pacific, it was the then Lieutenant Commander Lyndon B Johnson who was sent to the President's personal representative to report on the true state of affairs. Their mission took them through New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Eight hours into the trip from Darwin to Melbourne, with an intended refuelling stop in Cloncurry, the B-17 bomber Johnson

was travelling in became lost. Running low on fuel, and with the light failing, the captain decided to land at Carisbrooke Station, "While the going was still good". Lyndon and the other crew spent the night at the North Gregory Hotel in Winton, the plane was refuelled in the morning and they continued to Melbourne.^[2]

- **0.okm**
- **Winton Visitor Information Centre**

Set your trip odometre to zero at the town grid on the Jundah Road. Enjoy your journey.

- **10.8km / 231.15km**
- **22.4500 South 142.9792 East**
- **Surprise Creek**

Surprise Creek is one of the many tributary creeks for the Western River that subsequently drains to the Diamantina River and eventually Lake Eyre. Because the landscape here is so flat, the creeks and streams tend to be broken into many braided channels. Their presence in the landscape is easy to see, due to the trees along the creek lines. The diversity of vegetation and presence of water, however intermittent, make these creeks havens for wildlife and birdlife, particularly after rain.

- **18.2km / 223.75km**
- **22.4829 South 142.9175 East**
- **Gravel Pits**

The roadside council gravel pits often hold water in good seasons, and these pits are good for swimming after rain. The water becomes clear due to the presence of Gypsum in the soil bringing clay and silts out of suspension.

- **40.8km / 201.15km**
- **22.5434 South 142.7335 East**
- **Jump-up**

The term "Jump-up" is used to describe the often steep escarpment roads leading to the top of the hard top-rock country in the Winton area. This one takes you to the flat Mesa top of the Tully Range.

- **42.4km / 199.55km**
- **22.5553 South 142.7275 East**
- **Lookout and Picnic Table**

Good pull over area with views back to Winton.

- **68.8km / 173.15km**
- **22.7458 South 142.6058 East**
- **Narrow Leaf Wattle Forrest**

The Narrow Leafed Wattle grows to about 4m tall, and has smooth grey or brown stems. It is typically found in eucalypt



Dinosaur Stampede

woodlands on red sandy soils including those in the Mt Isa area and the desert uplands country in the east of the region. It has no significance as fodder.

- **94.0km / 147.95km**
- 22.9415 South 142.5006 East
- **Ironstone Ridge**

Ironstone is a small reddish-black pebble that covers the ground like carpet. It is high in iron oxide. The pebbles absorb the sun's heat raising the surface temperature such that few plants can survive germination. Late afternoon and early morning sun reflecting from the pebbles on ridges creates an image of silver. The origin of the stone is a mystery but may be volcanic originating in the Whitsundays.

- **102.5km / 139.45km**
- 23.0046 South 142.4637 East
- **Jundah/Cork Road Intersection**

Continue straight ahead for the loop drive to Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways and Conservation Park. The 15km loop drive returns to this 103km point for the journey to Winton via the Cork Mail road.

- **2.7km**
- 23.0273 South 142.4538 East
- **Dinosaur Stampede National Monument turn off**

Turn right for the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument and Lark Quarry Conservation Park.

- **5.1km**
- 23.0280 South 142.4314 East
- **LG Airstrip**

The origin of commercial aviation in Australia can be traced back to 1919, and rough landing strips like this are typical of the time. Qantas was formed in Winton in 1920. Aviation was embraced in the remote regions of the continent because aircraft overcame the distance problem and the problem of impassable muddy tracks after rain.

- **6.6km**
- 23.0240 South 142.4183 East
- **Lark Quarry Conservation Park**

Lark Quarry Conservation Park covers 1375 ha and was established to protect the Dinosaur Trackways and its surrounding landscape. Nestled near the edge of the Tully Range, the park occupies an attractive rolling landscape adjacent the Merton escarpment. The top of the range is dominated by lancewood (*Acacia shirleyi*), while stunted eucalypts

including Normanton Box (*Eucalyptus normantonensis*) can be found in the sandy low points and watercourses between the low hills. Beautiful Spinifex tussocks (*Triodia species*) dot the shallow hills and to the west lie extensive Mitchell Grass plains.^[1]

- **7.7km**
- 23.0164 South 142.4126 East
- **Dinosaur Stampede National Monument Building Car Park**

While excavating the Trackways has given us a wonderful insight into prehistoric Queensland, it has also exposed the Trackways to the elements. Given the significance of the site, not only to Queensland but to our world heritage, the Queensland Government committed \$2.5 million to the construction of this state-of-the-art shelter.

Rain, high day-time temperatures, cool night temperatures and other factors have all led to deterioration of the fossil footprints. Management of temperature extremes, protection from rain and dust were prime considerations for protecting and managing the site. The building instead uses rammed earth walls with special aluminium insulation and a range of other passive devices to keep the temperature in the building at approximately 25 degrees year round.

The entry building at the car park provides an overview of the site and has toilets. The bridge up to the main building has an interpretive timeline, taking you from today, back to 95 million years. Wander up the bridge, and see the tour guide when you reach the main building to begin your tour.

- **Turn off to Jundah-Cork Road**

Turn left here for the Cork Mail road and the return journey to Winton.

- **106.5km / 135.45km**
- 22.9856 South 142.4319 East
- **Jump-up and Picnic Stop with Views of Williams Valley**

"Jump-up" is a term used to describe the often steep escarpment road leading to the top of the hard top-rock country in the Winton area. Picnic tables here offer excellent views of the escarpment and Williams Valley. Parking is adjacent to the look-out.

- **112.5km / 129.45km**
- 22.9545 South 142.3837 East
- **Turkey Nests**

Earth water tanks common in this region are called turkey nests because they sit up in the landscape, where they can gravity feed stock troughs.

- **117.5km / 124.45km**
- 22.9305 South 142.3450 East
- **Black Soil Mitchell Grass Downs**

Common on the heavy clay, black soil plains around Winton is the native Mitchell Grass. This is one of the main pasture grasses for beef production in central Queensland.

- **120.0km / 121.95km**
- 22.9202 South 142.3227 East
- **Cork Mail Road Intersection**

Turn right to Winton via Carisbrooke Station.

- **159.4km / 82.55km**
- 22.6520 South 142.5068 East
- **Carisbrooke Station**

Carisbrooke Station hosts, Charles and Penny Phillott and family invite you to be their guests and take time to discover the colourful heritage of this working sheep and cattle station. Bookings are essential. Refer to Tours and information for more details.

- **161.3km / 80.65km**
- 22.6386 South 142.5171 East
- **The Three Sisters**

The Three Sisters' hill formation and Merton Escarpment.

- **170.7km / 71.25km**
- 22.5640 South 142.5436 East
- **Suvla Station**

Single poles beside the road here near Suvla Station carried the 'party line' wire, a legendary means of communication from the early 1900s to the 1980s when it was superseded by the Digital Microwave Broadband system

- **178.2km / 63.75km**
- 22.5176 South 142.5920 East
- **Jarvisfield Station**

Jarvisfield Station homestead below Mount Capo Goleburra with Mt Boorooma behind.

- **187.1km / 54.85km**
- 22.4725 South 142.6560 East
- **Sheep Grazing Pasture**

Typical sheep grazing pastures. Look for wedge-tailed eagles during lambing season.

- **196.4km / 45.55km**
- 22.3926 South 142.6766 East
- **Western River Channels**

The Western River flows in to the Diamantina River, then forms part of the Lake Eyre Basin Catchment.

- **241.95km**
- **Winton**

Return to Winton.