

- 234.5km / 241.2km
- 22.78 South 141.40 East
- **Emu Apple Trees**

The dense rounded canopy of the Emu Apple Tree (*Owenia acidula*) is shady and ornamental. The fruit is sour but stock eat the nutritious leaves.

- 258km / 217.7km
- 22.6210 South 141.2164 East
- **Lillyvale Hills**

The Cawnpore Hills are visible in the distance ahead.

- 260km / 215.7km
- 22.6123 South 141.2019 East
- **Kennedy Developmental Road (Winton-Boulia)/ Cawnpore Hills detour**

This section of the Kennedy Developmental Road is part of the Outback Way, linking Winton and Boulia with Laverton in Western Australia, via Alice Springs. Turn left for a 10km return trip detour to the Cawnpore Hills scenic lookout. Turn right to visit Middleton and return to Winton.

- 261.5km / 214.2km
- 22.6037 South 141.2150 East
- **Rest area**

Alternate rest area, but without views.

- 280km / 195.7km
- 22.4903 South 141.3394 East
- **Lawson Hills**

Lawson Hills on the right.

- 304km / 171.7km
- 22.3695 South 141.5282 East
- **Middleton airstrip**

Middleton airstrip. The Flying Doctor from Mt Isa used to conduct regular clinics in Middleton.

- 306km / 169km
- 22.3527 South 141.5496 East
- **Middleton**

Middleton Hotel offers drinks, meals, accommodation (camping, caravan and rooms) and fuel (diesel and unleaded petrol). Phone: (07) 4657 3980.

Middleton was named after the first white man in the district. He was a member of the 1862 the expedition led by John McKinlay. The town started life as a coach staging post and now consists of the Middleton Hotel, which has been restored.

The first recorded sighting of the Min Min Lights took place close to a small graveyard near Min Min Creek, 84km west of

Middleton on the Kennedy Developmental Road. Some locals believe that the lights originated in the graveyard and have some supernatural connection.

- 387.5km / 88.2km
- 22.2132 South 142.2300 East
- **Castle Hill Station and Poddy Creek rest area**

Castle Hill can be seen to the left. The property has one of the hottest artesian bore in Australia with the water coming out of the ground at 99°C.

- 406.3km / 69.4km
- 22.2312 South 142.4026 East
- **Diamantina River**

The head of the Diamantina River extends a further 80km north of this point.

- 420.2km / 55.5km
- 22.2869 South 142.5185 East
- **Conn Hole**

Eight kilometre track to a pretty picnic spot. The first settler at Winton had originally intended to establish his trading post at Conn Waterhole.

- 444.2km / 31.4km
- 22.3220 South 142.7450 East
- **Springvale Historical Railway Site**

In 1910, plans for the construction of a transcontinental railway from Bourke to Camooweal were revived and a connecting spur from Winton via Elderslie was approved in 1913. Rusting railway lines, an old bridge and telegraph poles dating from 1914, testify to an initial stage built from Winton to Elderslie. The line was never completed.

- 474.2km / 1.5km
- 22.3863 South 143.0262 East
- **Pelican Waterhole**

Winton was first known as Pelican Waterhole, and this is the site of the first camp, settled by pioneer Robert Allen. The incidence of flooding brought about the relocation of the town to its present position.

Key contact details

Winton Visitor Information Centre:
Toll Free: 1300 665 115 Facsimile: (07) 4657 1886
Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au
Website: www.experiencewinton.com.au

The Ranger, Diamantina Management Unit
Phone: (07) 4657 1192

Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service: www.derm.qld.gov.au

Longreach District Office:
Phone: (07) 4560 1990 Facsimile: (07) 4658 1778

experience
WINTON

Pioneer's Trail and Diamantina River Road

Old Cork Station and Middleton 1 day drive



Front Cover Photos: Courtesy Winton Shire Council

Old Cork Homestead

Old Cork Homestead is a vintage sandstone homestead - one of the original properties in Western Queensland. The property was first settled in the 1870's and became the local mail distribution point before the establishment of Winton. The mail came by packhorse from Aramac.

The administration centre for the property was moved at the turn of the century, as the old homestead was often cut off for up to two weeks by floods. The families of farm workers lived at the homestead up until 1980, when it was abandoned. The cook would often obtain a feed of yellow belly or black bream from the nearby waterhole.

In recent times a plan was formulated to move the home into Winton as a tourist attraction but, upon reflection, it was decided that it would lose much of its significance if it was removed. Little is known about the history of Old Cork, as station books and records often disappeared when the property changed hands.

- **0.0km**
- **Visitor Information Centre**

Set your trip odometer to zero at the town grid on the Winton-Jundah Road. Enjoy your journey

- **25.3km / 450.4km**
- *22.4906 South 142.8537 East*
- **Scrubby Station**

On the right is Scrubby Station, and visible are a windmill, shearing shed and stockyard dam. The dam is covered with *Mimosa farnesiana*, introduced in the early stages of European settlement. The pods and leaves are relatively palatable for stock and it grows well on the Mitchell grass downs soils, but can become a weed, particularly where water is more abundant.

- **39km / 436.7km**
- *22.5295 South 142.7409 East*
- **Cotswold Hills Station**

On the right is Cotswold Hills Station, named after the hills in England. This is the start of the mesa country and the next 70km of road runs along the top of the Tully Range.

- **48.5km / 427.2km**
- *22.5787 South 142.6824 East*
- **Bush technology**

The digital microwave telecommunications tower represents a great leap forward from the analogue party lines that were in use as recently as the mid 1980s. All phones shared the same open line and each person's ring was different, so you knew when to answer the phone. Anyone else picking up their

phone could listen to the call. Now only the bank manager knows how much you owe on your overdraft

Information sources: Old Cork Station: Winton District Historical Society

- **52.5km / 423.2km**
- *22.6107 South 142.6652 East*
- **Mitchell grass paddock in Mulga forest**

Mitchell Grass (*Astrebula sp*) is a common and extremely important group of grasses found primarily on heavy textured clay soils of the northern Australian pastoral country. It is the mainstay of beef production from central western Queensland through to the Barkley Tableland. Unlike spinifex, Mitchell grass is a perennial tussock grass, as are most of the other agriculturally important grasses. The surrounding Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) forest is the habitat of grey kangaroos and wallaroos. The Mulga is considered to be the most important fodder tree in Australia, not because it is the most nutritious, but because it is so widespread and palatable.

- **62km / 413.17km**
- *22.6853 South 142.6209 East*
- **Ghost Gums**

This is the southern most extent of the beautiful white trunked Ghost Gum (*Eucalyptus papuana*).

- **68km / 407.7km**
- *22.7384 South 142.6070 East*
- **Bloodwood Trees**

The tall tree with red-orange bark is a Western Bloodwood, (*Eucalyptus terminalis*), which grows mostly on sandy soils

- **102.5km / 373.2km**
- *23.0046 South 142.4637 East*
- **Jundah - Cork Road turn off**

Turn right to follow the Pioneer's trail to Old Cork Station.

- **106.5km / 369.2km**
- *22.9855 South 142.4318 East*
- **Jump-up and Picnic stop and 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 afford excellent views of the escarpment and Williams Valley. Parking is adjacent to look-out.

- **110.5km / 365.2km**
- *22.9667 South 142.3994 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.

- **120km / 355.7km**
- *22.9203 South 142.3229 East*
- **Cork Station Homestead Windmill (not Old Cork)**

Artesian water has been critical for the development of grazing in Outback Queensland. In many places artesian water has sufficient pressure to rise to the surface without pumping, but where there is insufficient pressure, windmills pump water to the surface. This disused 36ft Comet windmill is the largest type made.

- **142.5km / 333.2km**
- *22.9202 South 142.1152 East*
- **Mesa Formations**

The hard crust tops to the Mesa formations were once the bottom of a vast inland sea over 100 million years ago.

- **165km / 310.7km**
- *22.9208 South 141.9131 East*
- **Red Sandhill and vegetation**

The first of thousands of sandhills that ripple across Australia to Broome. The tree growth is unique in appearance and diversity – the eucalypt atop the sand dune is large and ancient. The tree growth at the base of the dune is healthy - all flourishing in arid conditions without human intervention.

- **167.2km / 308.5km**
- *22.9272 South 141.8758 East*
- **Old Cork Station turn off**

Old Cork Station Homestead is one of the original homesteads of Western Queensland. Refer to text under Key attractions for more information.

- **169km / 306.7km**
- *22.9247 South 141.8723 East*
- **Cork Waterhole on the Diamantina River**

Visit Cork Waterhole, a popular fishing and camping area. It has prolific bird life and majestic tree growth. It is part of the channels that make up the Diamantina River, one of the larger inland rivers draining into Lake Eyre Basin.

- **201.5km / 274.2km**
- *22.8670 South 141.6340 East*
- **Dog-proof fence**

This dog-proof fence was built to protect sheep properties from dingoes, and was once the longest continuous structure on earth. Sections of the fence are now no longer maintained, having been replaced by aerial baiting of dingoes.

Diamantina National Park

A pastoral holding since 1875, Diamantina Lakes Station was purchased by the Queensland Government and dedicated as a national park in 1992. This 507,000 hectare park conserves the vast open plains and sandstone ranges of the Channel Country in far south-west Queensland and is rich in natural and cultural history.

The Park is part of the Kirrenderri country and the National Park preserves some of the culture and heritage of the traditional people, the Maiawali.

Hunters Gorge is located 10km off the turnoff from Diamantina National Park Headquarters. The site offers bush camping.

Gumhole campground is 11km past the turn-off to Hunters Gorge and offers private sites shaded by Coolibah and Bauhinia trees on Gum Creek.



- 0.0km / 104.5km
- 22.3056 South 142.5568 East
- Start Diamantina River Road

Turn left onto the Diamantina River Road to Old Cork Station and Diamantina National Park.

- 4km / 100.5km
- 22.3274 South 142.5325 East
- Abandoned Collingwood Town

The surveyor Frank Scarr originally made provision for a town called Collingwood, to be situated here at the confluence of the Western River and Wokingham Creek. In the 1870s, Collingwood was used as a mail exchange and a number of stores were open for business. There was a woolscur nearby, but the town was eventually abandoned as it was too prone to flooding.

- 8.3km / 96.2km
- 22.3387 South 142.4930 East
- View to Mt Booka Booka

Mt Booka Booka is visible in the distance to the west.

- 37.2km / 67.3km
- 22.5218 South 142.3475 East
- Gidyea Plain

A local expression to describe country covered in small pebbles is gidyea stones. It seems that gidyea trees grow well in the harder pebbly country, hence the expression.

- 48.2km / 56.2km
- 22.6030 South 142.2974 East
- Macalreas Gap

The origin of the name of this landmark is as yet unknown. Macalreas could have been a member or friend of one of the exploration parties to pass through the area. It is also a possibility that it was named during surveys of the area: Frank Scarr produced the first survey of the area in 1875 and George Jopp surveyed the district in 1879/80.

- 53.5km / 51km
- 22.6358 South 142.2651 East
- Cattleyards

Symbolic of the cattle grazing industry, the cattleyards are an important asset for stock management. These yards are used for activities such as: a holding pen prior to trucking or after delivery of stock, for drafting cattle, for branding stock, and for health maintenance. The steel yards have replaced the timber yards of a bygone era.

- 56.3km / 48.2km
- 22.6535 South 142.2454 East
- Alvin Banning Grave

Hillside grave of Alvin Banning, a pioneer pastoralist of Winton.

- 67.1km / 37.3km
- 22.7095 South 142.1702 East
- Rain Gauge / Open Downs Mitchell Grass

The annual rainfall of channel country is quite variable in both its intensity and timing. The rain gauge in the enclosure provides an ongoing record of rainfall. The post and rails prevent damage by stock. Common on the heavy clay, black soil plains around Winton is the native Mitchell grass. This perennial tussock grass is one of the main pasture grasses for beef production in central western Queensland.

- 104.5km / 0km
- 22.9205 South 141.9054 East
- Intersection Diamantina River Road / Old Cork Mail Road

- 105.9km
- 22.9225 South 141.8924 East
- Cork Mail Road Intersection – Diamantina River Road – Pioneer Trail

Bear right and cross the Cluff Family Bridge – joining the Pioneer Trail or bear left and head south towards the heart of Diamantina country.

- 109.3km
- 22.9535 South 141.8714 East
- Claypans

A common landscape feature of the flat channel country are claypans. The surfaces of claypans are usually hard and smooth. When it rains, water runs off the claypans as freely as it does an iron roof, quickly filling nearby waterholes. In early days, drovers driving cattle would follow the storms to claypans knowing there would be water for stock.

- 156.4km
- 23.2881 South 141.6354 East
- Kangaroo Mountains

The ranges visible in the distance are the Kangaroo Mountains.

- 179.4km
- 23.4201 South 141.5045 East
- Mt Windsor Station Mail Box

Arguably one of Winton's largest mail boxes. Mail to Mt Windsor arrives once a week.

- 198.7km
- 23.5403 South 141.3736 East
- Mayne Hotel ruin

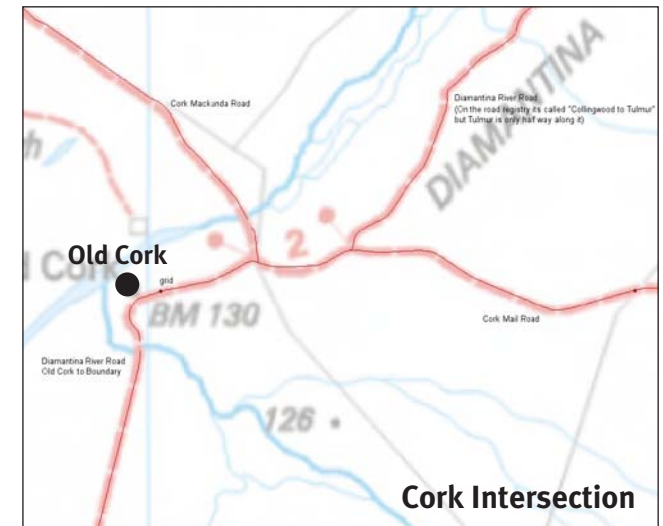
Ruins of Mayne Hotel at the foot of Mayne's Peak. Cellar ruins and cemetery.

- 230km
- 23.6948 South 141.1493 East
- Janet's Leap lookout turn off

Named after Janet Holmes A'Court, a bush track leads to a lookout where the Goyder Range to the West, and the Hamilton Range to the East, squeeze the Diamantina River to form the Diamantina Gates. Seven kilometre round trip.

- 237.9km
- 23.7638 South 141.1419 East
- Park Headquarters Information Centre

Take a visit to the Park Headquarters. Learn about the traditional people and what life was like before European settlement. Discover what happened after settlement. Camp, fish and bird watch, or follow the signs for the 175km Warracoota self-guided scenic drive.



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
- 9 Pillars of Cobb & Co

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.