

# Queensland's Southern Downs & Granite Belt Information for Media



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Leave behind the hustle and bustle of the city, and discover the natural wonders, country hospitality award-winning wines and fresh produce of Queensland's Southern Downs and Granit Belt Region.

About two hours drive from Brisbane, this unique region provides a great escape for those keen to head for the hills. The Southern Downs Region encompasses the areas of Stanthorpe and Warwick.



Queensland's Southern Downs and Granite Belt is an ideal short break retreat. With transport connections throughout Australia to Brisbane and the Gold Coast, Queensland's Southern Downs and Granit Belt region is very easily accessible.

When visiting you can expect plenty of activities to entertain, here the locals celebrate just about everything. You can pick your own fruit when in season or visit the many Farmers' Markets. Accommodation varies from luxury bed and breakfast, self-contained cottages, homestays and motels to budget accommodation with backpacker accommodation, pubstays, motels and caravan parks. Plus, with over 50 wineries and cellar doors, it is without doubt Queensland's premier wine region.

## WARWICK & SURROUNDS

Situated near the Great Dividing Range, Warwick spreads along each side of the Condamine River; the city of Warwick is known for its roses, which bloom abundantly around October. The Warwick Rodeo attracts riders from all around the country to compete every October in their share of \$150,000 in prize money. Warwick itself contains a collection of the states most preserved and magnificent sandstone buildings, which set it aside from any other town in Queensland.

Within the Warwick area are the towns of Allora, Killarney, Yangan, Leyburn and Dalveen. Take one of the many tourist drives to discover these towns and the other villages and experience the striking rural landscapes.

## **Main Range National Park**

Main Range National Park is accessed from Cunningham Highway, north-east of Warwick. The park forms part of the Central Eastern Australian Rainforest Reserves World Heritage Area. The park has tracks for long distance bushwalkers and is comprised of rainforest slopes, open forest escarpments and high peaks.

## **Goomburra – Main Range National Park**

Goomburra, below the western foothills of the Great Dividing Range, is a suitable and peaceful spot for picnics, walks or swims in the rock pools of Dalrymple Creek. Facilities include picnic tables, barbeques, toilets, lookouts, drinking water and accessibility for the disabled.

## **Queen Mary Falls – Main Range National Park**

Queen Mary Falls is fed from a spring creek, which winds its way down the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The centrepiece for this World Heritage Listed National Park is a spectacular drop over 40 metres of sheer granite rock. Over 78 hectares of park with toilet and BBQ facilities; camping is not permitted however a caravan park is opposite the picnic grounds.

## **Heritage & Historic Building Trail**

Warwick features a collection of the State's most preserved and magnificent sandstone buildings, which sets it aside from most other towns in Queensland. Of particular interest is Glengallan Homestead, which is a significant attraction of the Queensland Heritage Trail Network.

## **Pringle Cottage Museum**

Pringle Cottage is a sandstone cottage built c 1870 featuring furniture and household items representing over 130 years of family life in the district.

## **Legend of Jackie Howe**

As you drive into Warwick, keep an eye open for the Jackie Howe Memorial. The plaque here tells the story of this world champion blade shearer, who was born near Warwick on Canning Downs station in 1861. The son of a circus acrobat, Howe set a record by shearing 321 sheep

by hand in 7 hours and 40 minutes at Alice Downs near Blackall in 1892. His habit of ripping the sleeves off his singlet have rise to that forerunner of the modern athletic singlet, the 'Jackie Howe'. A sandstone carving, of Jackie at work stands outside the Warwick Information Centre. Huge blade shears greet visitors entering Warwick form the North.

### **Warwick Art Gallery**

Exhibits various pieces throughout the year, in an ever-changing and professional display from local and award-winning artists.

### **Leslie Dam**

Leslie Dam is situated 13 kilometres west of Warwick and is a popular retreat for activities such as swimming, boating, camping and fishing. The dam is well stocked with fingerlings. There are picnic and barbeque facilities located below the dam wall. Camping is available for a small fee with toilet and shower facilities.

### **Fossicking**

Panning for Gold at Thanos Creek, 40 km west of Warwick. A fossicking licence must be held. These can be obtained from the Warwick Visitor Information Centre.

## **STANTHORPE AND THE GRANITE BELT**

Queensland's premier wine region...the unique quality of local wines can be attributed to an altitude of up to 924 metres. Situated on the Granite Belt, the area is unique for its wide seasonal variation. The frosty winter days and mild summers combined with the vineyards' remarkable soil is ideal for producing grapes with fully developed flavour and excellent wine making qualities. Stanthorpe supports a wide variety of horticultural industries producing apples, pears, fresh cheese, stone fruits, vegetables, grapes, berries and olives. The popularity of the region's wines attracts discriminating palates to the area year-round and the growth of gourmet restaurants and luxurious cottage accommodation makes the vineyards an ideal short break.

### **The Wineries**

The Granite Belt is Queensland's premier wine region and with more than 50 wineries, many of which produce award-winning wines, and cellar doors in the region you may be tempted to par-

take in some wine tasting. Board the bus or drive yourself and take a tour of the wineries. Find out how wine is made, sample and buy from the cellar door.

## **Fresh Produce**

The Granite Belt is the source of much of South East Queensland's rich, quality produce. Fresh fruit and vegetables are available from farmers markets and fruit shops but some of the best can be purchased from roadside stalls throughout the region.

Autumn: apples, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, capsicum, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, eggplant, figs, grapes, leeks, legumes, lettuce, mushrooms, nashi, olives, parsley, pears, peas, persimmons, pumpkin, raspberries, rockmelon, silverbeet, shallots, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, zucchini

Winter: apples, asparagus, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese vegetables, leeks, legumes, mushrooms, pears, potatoes, pumpkin, turnips

Spring: asparagus, eggplant, herbs, lavender, mushrooms, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, silverbeet, spinach, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, zucchini

Summer: apples, apricots, asparagus, boysenberries, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, celery, cherries, cucumber, eggplant, figs, grapes, lavender, legumes, lettuce, mushrooms, nashi, nectarines, parsley, peaches, pears, peas, plums, potatoes, pumpkin, raspberries, rockmelon, silverbeet, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini

## **Lavender Farms**

The Southern Downs region is home to a number of Lavender Farms which offer visitors a range of treats to delight their senses. Not only do they offer lavender plants for sale but also a range of body care products and oils. Others also offer tours through their lavender fields, tasty treats and accommodation.

## **Markets**

The Stanthorpe and Granite Belt region is home to a number of Craft and Farmer's Markets where quality handmade crafts and fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables are available for purchase. On three out of four weekends in the month visitors can make a trip to the local markets:

### Border Railway Markets:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, held at the Wallangarra Railway Station from 8.00am to 12.30pm. Quality local craft and produce market held on the Station platform. A second hand market is also conducted in front of the station.

### Stanthorpe Market in the Mountains & Granite Belt Farmers Market:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, held at the Stanthorpe Civic Centre from 8.00am to 12.noon. Stanthorpe's make it, bake it, sew it or grow it craft market.

### **Girraween National Park**

Girraween National Park is renowned for its spectacular granite boulders, unique steep sided granite cliffs and a magnificent display of native flowers in spring. There is 17km of walking tracks most of which begin near the vicinity of the park's information centre.

### **Sundown National Park**

Covering 16,000 ha of high country, the park features ridges and peaks rising to more than 1000m, offering dramatic views.

### **Bald Rock National Park**

This national park is located on the border of Queensland and New South Wales. An impressive feature in the park is Bald Rock. This magnificent dome is 750m long and 500m wide, rising 200m above surrounding bushland and is Australia's largest exposed granite rock second to Ayers Rock (Uluru).

### **Boonoo Boonoo National Park**

Boonoo Boonoo National Park offers a great variety of scenic, natural and historic attractions for visitors. Boonoo Boonoo River is one of the parks most spectacular features winding its way through granite country to plunge 210 metres over sheer rock into a rainforest gorge.

## **Stanthorpe Historical Museum**

Stanthorpe Historical Museum houses a number of historic buildings and a collection of items from the pioneering era, all brought together to preserve the memory of Stanthorpe's colourful past.

## **Art Gallery**

Exhibits various pieces throughout the year in an ever changing and professional display from local and award-winning artists.

## **Storm King Dam**

Stanthorpe's water source located a few minutes south east of town, an enjoyable spot for barbeques, picnics and water activities.

## **Quart Port Creek**

There are scenic picnic and BBQ facilities on the banks of the creek as it meanders through the town's parklands. To the east the walking path gives way to a track through natural bushland and over granite boulders.

# How to get to the Southern Downs & Granite Belt Region

**Bus:** Crisps Coaches: Daily services – Tenterfield to Brisbane, Moree to Brisbane,  
Warwick to Toowoomba, Warwick to Brisbane

Greyhound Coaches: Daily services – Brisbane to Sydney via the New England Highway,  
Stop overs at Warwick and Stanthorpe

## **Air:** Warwick

Owner: Southern Downs Regional Council (07) 4661 0300

Surface: Unsealed – gravel

Lighting: PAL Frequency 119.6

Fuel: Nil

## Stanthorpe

Owner: Southern Downs Regional Council (07) 4681 5544

Surface: Sealed 1700m x 30 metres, sealed taxiway, terminal (unmanned).

No landing charges 7.5 kilometres to town. Free phone.

Lighting: PAL Frequency 120.05 MHz

Fuel: Nil

(Sunshine Aviation offer charters from Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast –  
[www.sunshineaviation.com.au](http://www.sunshineaviation.com.au))

## **Car Hire:**

*Budget Rent A Car* 132727

Central reservations for bookings from Airport 1300 362 842

*Thrifty car rental* 1300 300 907

One way agent in Stanthorpe

Central reservations for bookings from Airport 3000 8600

**Independent:**

Brisbane – Warwick	160km
Brisbane – Stanthorpe	220km
Gold Coast – Warwick	186km
Gold Coast – Stanthorpe	246km
Lismore – Warwick	275km
Lismore – Stanthorpe	221km
Tenterfield – Stanthorpe	56km
Toowoomba – Warwick	84km

**All enquiries should be directed to:**

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