

Where can I fossick?

The Queensland Government has set aside areas where landholder's permission to fossick is not required. They are found in:

- » The Central Queensland Gemfields,
- » The Central Gold District,
- » South-eastern Queensland,
- » Northern Queensland; and
- » The Western Opal Fields.

For information about these fossicking areas and fossicking outside of these areas, please scan the code below.

In Queensland, fossicking is not permitted in national parks or state forests.



Need help?

For more information about fossicking in Queensland, visit www.qld.gov.au and search for 'fossicking'.

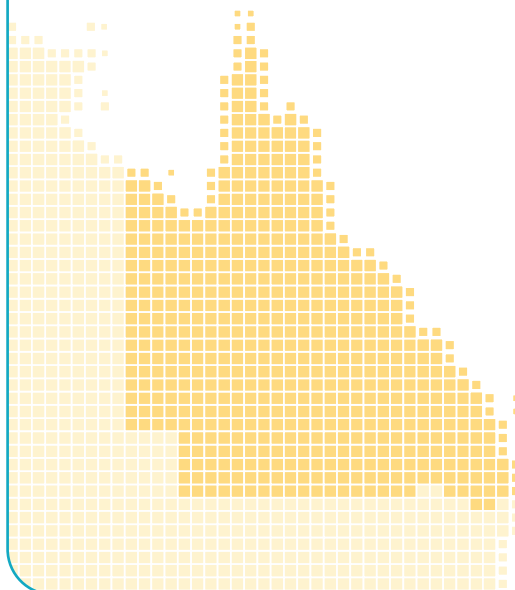
To purchase a fossicking licence, scan the QR code below:



Fossicking
licences

GeoResGlobe

For online, interactive maps of fossicking areas on your tablet or computer, visit georesglobe.information.qld.gov.au



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES,
MANUFACTURING, AND REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Fossicking in Queensland



Queensland
Government

What is Fossicking?

Fossicking is a recreational activity which involves searching for and collecting precious gemstones, ornamental stones, alluvial gold, and some fossils using hand tools.

Obtaining a fossicking licence

To fossick in Queensland, you need a current fossicking licence.

Licences are available for individuals, families, clubs, educational organisations, and tour operators. A licence is not required if a fee is charged for entry onto mining tenures, such as in 'tourist mines'.

Licences can be bought online.

Camping is allowed on some fossicking areas. A fossicking camping permit is required if you are staying overnight.



Know the rules

Each fossicking area will have specific rules which need to be followed, however some basic rules are:

- » Follow the principles of safe fossicking
- » Have your fossicking licence ready to present to a departmental officer at any time
- » Keep your vehicle on established roads and tracks
- » Don't interfere with stock, wildlife, plants, cultural heritage sites or infrastructure
- » Don't dig below 2 metres on land or below 0.5 metres in a water course
- » Don't dig tunnels or create overhangs
- » Remove and dispose of all rubbish when leaving the site
- » Refill all excavations when leaving.

Staying safe while fossicking

- » Carry plenty of drinking water and a first aid kit
- » Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions
- » Avoid working during the hottest part of the day or for long periods in the hot sun
- » Take care when digging around large boulders which may roll
- » Don't enter old mines and exercise care around old mine shafts
- » Remember there is safety in numbers.

Fossicking equipment

You must only fossick with hand tools.

Power operated equipment or machinery, such as drills, powered river sluices, jack hammers, dredges of any kind and dry blowers are not permitted.

The use of explosives is prohibited.

Hand tools include:

