Bunya Mountains National Park was declared in 1908 and is Queensland’s second oldest national park.

For generations, people have gathered at the Bunya Mountains (Booburrgan Ngmmun) — where rainforest-clad peaks rising 500m above the plains shelter the world’s largest stand of ancient bunya pines.

Traditional Custodians from south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales gathered together for celebrations coinciding with heavy crops of bunya nuts. Today visitors picnic, camp, walk or relax in the cool climate of this isolated section of the Great Dividing Range.

Wildlife refuge in the mountains
With peaks reaching 1135m, moist gullies and a variety of vegetation types, the Bunya Mountains has sheltered and geographically isolated habitats in which a diversity of plants and animals thrive — including over 30 rare and threatened species.

Bunya pines Araucaria bidwillii tower over tall moist rainforest along the range crest, while hoop pines Araucaria cunninghamii dominate dry rainforest on lower slopes. Natural grassland “balds” containing rare grass species are scattered across the mountains. The national park also protects open eucalypt forests, woodlands, brigalow scrubs and the largest protected areas of vine thickets dominated by bottle trees in Australia.

Brilliantly coloured king parrots and crimson rosellas are sure to be seen on your visit, as are red-necked wallabies feeding in grassy areas. Look carefully and you might also see satin bowerbirds, green catbirds and the huge tadpoles of great barred-frogs.

Of the many animals that become active at night, the Bunya Mountains ringtail possum is the only one you will not see anywhere else in the world.

Places to picnic and camp
The park has three visitor areas — Dandabah, Westcott and Burton’s Well. All have toilets and picnic tables.

Dandabah has coin-operated barbecues and hot water showers. Close to the park is a kiosk, craft shops and accommodation.

Westcott does not have showers and Burton’s Well has only bush ‘boil your own water’ showers.

Fuel and gas stoves are preferred at Westcott and Burton’s Well, although fireplaces and firewood are provided at both sites. Please use wood sparingly and make sure your fire is out before you leave it.

Camping permits are required and fees apply. Campsite bookings can be made online at www.smartservice.qld.gov.au or by phoning 13 13 04. Book well ahead for school and public holidays.

Accommodation alternatives
Privately run cabins, guesthouses and houses are available for rent outside the national park. For bookings contact RACQ Accommodation Bookings direct on (07) 3361 2802 or consult the local telephone directory or tourist guides.
Staying safe and comfortable

Cool mountain air
Bring warm clothing, even in summer. The Bunya Mountains have a cool climate and an annual rainfall of about 1000mm. Heavy fog and mists occur at any time of year. Winter mornings can be frosty. On the hottest summer days the maximum temperature is usually only 25 to 27°C.

Avoid leaves that sting
Avoid stinging nettles and giant stinging trees and leaves — even if they appear to be dead.

Bunya cone drop zone
Avoid lingering under bunya pines between December and March. At that time the pineapple-shaped cones weighing up to 10kg fall from the tops of towering trees.

Tick alert!
Ticks are active all year round. Ticks bury into the skin, causing irritation and potentially illness or paralysis. Reduce exposure to ticks by wearing insect repellent. Avoid contact with grass, leaves, undergrowth and wildlife.

Check yourself and children carefully for ticks. If you find a tick, use fine tweezers to carefully lever it out. Expect some redness and swelling but if you have a more severe reaction, seek medical advice promptly.

Take care with water
Boil or treat water for drinking or bring your own. Sensitive waterways are not suitable for swimming.

Let wildlife be wild!
Never feed birds, wallabies or other wildlife. It can lead to their illness, disease and even death, or to aggressive behaviour that affects the enjoyment of another visitor’s experience.

Getting there
The Bunya Mountains are approximately 3 hours from Brisbane.

All three roads to the Bunya Mountains are steep and winding; caravans and trailers are not recommended. Roads from Kingaroy and Dalby are sealed. The road from Maidenwell is wider and less winding than the others, but is unsealed for 6km. Fuel is not available at the Bunya Mountains.

For further information
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