

BEFORE YOU FOSSICK

THINGS TO DO

The legal five minutes, then the bush-day basics. Fossicking is the one hobby where the paperwork check is real.

1 THE LEGAL FIVE MINUTES

- ☐ Licence or Miner's Right current for **YOUR** state
QLD, VIC and WA need one
- ☐ The specific site confirmed OPEN to fossicking
a licence never grants access on its own - the ground decides
- ☐ Private land? Landowner permission sorted
NT: pastoral land needs 7+ days' written notice
- ☐ Not on someone's mining claim or lease
claims are marked - jumping them is illegal
- ☐ The site's own conditions read
digging limits, bank rules, closures

2 CONDITIONS

- ☐ Weather and fire danger checked, morning of
for the SITE'S district, not your suburb
- ☐ Some areas close on total fire ban days
- ☐ The road in suits your car
gemfield tracks are dry-weather 2WD at best
- ☐ Summer plan: dig at dawn, shade by late morning
fossicking ground is shadeless and the work is bent-over

3 SAFETY

- ☐ First aid kit packed, snake bandages in it
creek beds and rock piles are prime snake country
- ☐ Old workings briefing done - kids especially
shafts hide under grass and rotten caps
- ☐ Worn paths only, never inside, never at night
- ☐ Stay off dig faces and mullock heap edges
dig down and open, never inward
- ☐ Someone at home knows site and return time
assume no phone reception

4 ON SITE - THE FOSSICKER'S CODE

- ☐ Hand tools only
powered gear legally makes it mining
- ☐ Fill your holes; leave it as you found it
- ☐ Creek banks stay intact - no undermining
- ☐ Artefacts and relics stay where they lie
report, don't pocket - protected in every state

THE RULE THAT NEVER CHANGES

Hold the right licence, AND confirm the ground is open. Two steps, every trip.

Licensing and access rules are set by each state and territory. Check your state mines department before every trip.