

# | Capricorn Queensland's *Real* BACKPACKING



**Too amazing too miss!**

If you're looking for a holiday full of amazing adventures, real down-to-earth locals, and unspoilt natural beauty, you won't want to miss the Capricorn region. You can explore bustling Rockhampton, get caught-up in the thrill of live rodeo action, fossick for sapphires, uncover rainforests in Byfield, visit ancient aboriginal sites in Carnarvon Gorge, dive the Great Barrier Reef off the Keppel islands or just stretch out on one of the many pristine sandy beaches that dot the coastline and islands of the Capricorn Coast.

## **BEEF CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA**

See why Rockhampton is the Beef Capital of Australia and visit the Gracemere Sale Yards. It is the largest stud selling venue in the Southern Hemisphere. Experience the dust and drama as the cattle are paraded right before you, and be enthralled by the animated calls of the auctioneer.

## **DREAMTIME ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE**

Experience local Aboriginal history at the Dreamtime Cultural Centre. Unravel ancient Aboriginal mysteries and the stories of Central Queensland's ancestors. Take home a souvenir from the artefacts shop.

[www.dreamtimecentre.com.au](http://www.dreamtimecentre.com.au)

## **VISIT THE TROPIC OF CAPRICORN SPIRE**

"The Spire" monument signifies that Rockhampton straddles the Tropic of Capricorn and provides a great photo opportunity for a certificate of your visit.

[www.capricorntourism.com.au](http://www.capricorntourism.com.au)

## **BOOM NETTING**

Experience the thrill of being dragged through the water on Keppel Bay Marina's famous boom net cruise. "It's like a spa in the ocean" ... jump in.

[www.keppelbaymarina.com.au](http://www.keppelbaymarina.com.au)

## **ROCKY CLIMBING CENTRE**

The Rocky Climbing Centre in Rockhampton has over twenty climbs to choose from, ranging from basic climbs for first-timers to intense overhangs for experts. It is a safely monitored activity, you can be five or ten metres up with safety equipment and ropes in place at all times. If you're looking to push your own limits, or would just be happy getting to the top, then try Rocky Climbing Centre and experience the fun and safe way of both challenging and enjoying yourself.

[www.rockyclimbing.com.au](http://www.rockyclimbing.com.au)

## **CARNARVON GORGE 'ART GALLERY' & 'AMPHITHEATRE'**

Carnarvon Gorge is a walker's paradise, with some of the best walking tracks in Australia. See how millions of years have formed this magnificent gorge and ancient Aboriginal sites with engravings and hand stencil paintings.

<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/park/index.cgi?parkid=49>



### **BOTANICAL GARDENS & ZOO**

The magnificent 130 year old Rockhampton Botanical Gardens are not to be missed. Stroll through tropical foliage of palms and ferns. Visit memorial gardens. Feed the animals in the zoo, and then enjoy refreshments under the shady trees.

<http://rockhampton.qld.gov.au/searchresultdetail.asp?ITEM=9171>

### **MINERS HERITAGE WALK-IN MINE**

At Miners Heritage you can explore the world of sapphires, gem-cutting and fossicking. A 30-minute tour of the mine allows visitors to observe the manufacturing process. The mine is located one and a half kilometres from Rubyvale, west of Emerald and is Australia's largest walk-in tourist mine. Miners Heritage also has a jewellery showroom and gem-cutting exhibition.

### **KOORANA CROCODILE FARM**

Drop into the Koorana Crocodile Farm where these massive prehistoric creatures will keep you on your toes during feeding times and provide an experience to remember. As a working farm, you'll also get the chance to sample crocodile meat in the café restaurant or purchase products made from the quality crocodile skin.

[www.koorana.com.au](http://www.koorana.com.au)

### **ROCKPOOL WATERPARK**

Jump into Rockpool Water Park and cool off at the pools and waterslides. Or get lost in Pirate Putt Putt Golf. The Pirates of the Caribbean theme will take players on an adventure through medieval towns, inside caves and under giant sea creatures.

[www.rockpoolwaterpark.com.au](http://www.rockpoolwaterpark.com.au)

### **MT ARCHER**

See Rockhampton from new heights at the top of Mt Archer. Enjoy city views and cooling breezes as you throw a couple of local steaks on the barbecue. Walk off your lunch with a short hike through the environmental park.

<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/park/index.cgi?parkid=72>

### **GREAT WESTERN HOTEL & RODEO**

Pay a visit to Lee Kernaghan's Great Western Hotel and experience a taste of the real Australia. Have a cold beer with a local and see the indoor rodeo arena – maybe catch some bucking bull action and enjoy some real country music and hospitality.

[www.greatwesternhotel.com.au](http://www.greatwesternhotel.com.au)

### **BYFIELD NATIONAL PARK & ECO TOURS**

Discover the “green” side of the Capricorn Coast. A short 20 minute drive north of the coast is Byfield State Forest. Soak up the cool seclusion of a rainforest village, stay overnight in a log cabin. Hire a canoe and paddle along the freshwater creek or enjoy a silent motorised eco-tour where the rainforest spills to the waters edge. Discover pottery galleries. Take home a wonderful local souvenir and try your own hand at the potters wheel.

[www.waterparkecotours.com](http://www.waterparkecotours.com)

[www.cqnet.com.au/nobcreekpottery](http://www.cqnet.com.au/nobcreekpottery)

[www.fernshideaway.com.au](http://www.fernshideaway.com.au)

### **SKYDIVE CAPRICORN COAST**

Tandem jumps from 8,000, 10,000 or 12,000 feet with full training courses for your first jump and beyond. On your first jump you will freefall (with your instructor) for 50 seconds before YOU pull the main ripcord to open the parachute. You then fly the parachute for 5 minutes before coming in to land where the sand meets the sea. It is easy; it takes less than 2 hours of your time and is a truly life changing experience.

[www.skydivecapricorncoast.au.com](http://www.skydivecapricorncoast.au.com)



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## Getting here and getting around

### BY ROAD

The Capricorn region is located about halfway between Cairns and Brisbane, along the Bruce Highway in the east, and the Matilda highway to the west, making a driving holiday 'loop' an ideal experience.

[www.driveqld.com.au](http://www.driveqld.com.au)

### BY TRAIN

Queensland Rail operate several services to the Capricorn region and beyond. Tiltrain, Overlander, Sunlander services provide travel experiences themselves and all link through Rockhampton.

[www.qr.com.au](http://www.qr.com.au)

### BY COACH

Greyhound Coaches operate regular scheduled services through Capricorn and several regional centres, stopping at the main transit terminal in Rockhampton. Local coach operators provide transfers to all areas of the region on arrival.

[www.greyhound.com.au](http://www.greyhound.com.au)

[www.rotheryscoaches.com](http://www.rotheryscoaches.com)

[www.youngsbusservice.com.au](http://www.youngsbusservice.com.au)

[www.emeraldcoaches.com.au](http://www.emeraldcoaches.com.au)

### BY AIR

Rockhampton is very well serviced with multiple daily services between Sydney & Brisbane, as well various regional ports such as Emerald, Mackay, Cairns.

[www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au)

[www.jetstar.com.au](http://www.jetstar.com.au)

[www.virginblue.com.au](http://www.virginblue.com.au)

## Looking for work during your backpacking holiday?

### HOW DO I FIND WORK

The first step is to register with one of the employment agencies that specialise in casual work across the region and neighbouring areas. They can record your details and match you up with opportunities along your route.

[www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO BEFOREHAND

Carry a copy of your up-to-date CV with you and have some references available for contact and verification. Apply for a Tax File Number from the Australian Taxation Office to ensure you are paying the correct level of tax, this will prevent additional tax surcharges as well as making a bank account easier to open for your pay.

[www.ato.gov.au/individuals](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals)

### WORK REGULATIONS

If you are visiting Australia on a tourist visa, you CANNOT WORK and breaking this regulation can risk being deported. Generally, international visitors can work on a Working Holiday Maker visa granted prior to your entry into Australia

### WHAT WORK IS AVAILABLE IN CAPRICORN

Work availability varies throughout the year, especially with agricultural picking etc, and includes 'picking' for avocados, grapes & cotton as well as 'packing' for the various meat processing businesses and even some farm-hand work on the beef stations across the region.



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### Great value accommodation

#### **RIVERVIEW LODGE**

Beautiful gardens surround The Riverview Lodge across from the Fitzroy River where you can fish for barramundi. Enjoy the birds and wildlife, parrots, kookaburras & possums that come to visit the gardens through the day and at night. Situated close to restaurants hotels clubs shopping centres air bus and train terminals the Heritage walking trail the Art Gallery and the entertainment centre 'The Pilbeam Theatre'.

#### **YHA ROCKHAMPTON**

Rockhampton YHA is located only a short walk from the Rockhampton Transit Centre and close to supermarkets and restaurants. The hostel offers multi-share and twin/double rooms and twin/double cabins with ensuites. Guest facilities include kitchen, dining and TV room, laundry, internet kiosk and tour booking service at reception.

#### **TAKKARAKKA BUSH RESORT**

Adjoining Carnarvon Gorge National Park and providing cabins, powered camping sites and modern camp kitchen facilities makes this a great place to spend a few days exploring Carnarvon.  
[www.takarokka.com.au](http://www.takarokka.com.au)

#### **BEDFORD GARDENS CARAVAN PARK**

Powered sites, air-conditioned holiday units and camping ideally located in Rubyvale, right on the Sapphire Gemfields and close to fossicking parks, hotel and facilities.

#### **ASCOT HOTEL & BACKPACKERS**

Experience Rocky's hospitality for yourself. The Ascot offers you full lounge, dining & kitchen facilities as well as internet cafe, laundry, free tea and coffee, quiet nights in, noisy nights out, fishing nights, tripping days, tours and onward accommodation bookings and of course a pub and restaurant right down stairs.

[www.ascototel.com.au](http://www.ascototel.com.au)

#### **YHA GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND**

Known as 'the quiet alternative', the village atmosphere is what you would expect on an island. Low key, down-to-earth and friendly, where you can experience the natural beauty and slow, lazy days of island life. Nestled in palm and gum trees less than a minute's walk to two beautiful white sand beaches. It is a great place to relax and get away from the fast pace of travelling.

#### **KEPPEL HAVEN – GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND**

Family and budget accommodation including self contained houses, cabins, bunkhouses and safari tents. Café, BBQ, camp kitchens and water sports activities also available on Great Keppel.

#### **EMU'S BEACH HOUSE**

Looking to sit back and take it easy for a while? Emu's Beach House is perfect for you. Situated in the casual stress-free coastal town of Emu Park, Emu's is the perfect place to sit back, take it easy and forget the commotion of those large towns and overcrowded cities you have been visiting.



CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

**Capricorn Tourism**

Take a real holiday

For Bookings and more information

Tel: (07) 4927 2055

Fax: (07) 4922 2605

Email: [info@capricorntourism.com.au](mailto:info@capricorntourism.com.au)

[www.capricorntourism.com.au](http://www.capricorntourism.com.au)

