



Capricorn Coast & the Southern Reef Islands

Includes ➔

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Rockhampton	360
Yeppoon	362
Great Keppel Island	363
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ferns Hideaway Restaurant (p365)
- ➔ Getaway Garden Café (p358)
- ➔ Ginger Mule (p361)
- ➔ Great Western Hotel (p361)
- ➔ Megalomania (p363)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Svendsen's Beach (p364)
- ➔ LaLaLand Retreat (p358)
- ➔ Coral Inn Yeppoon (p363)
- ➔ Lady Elliot Island Resort (p359)
- ➔ Myella Farm Stay (p361)

Why Go?

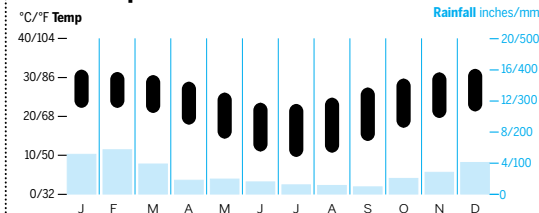
The stretch of coastline that straddles the tropic of Capricorn is one of the quietest and most lovely lengths of the east coast. While local families flock to the main beaches during school holidays, the scene is uncrowded for most of the year, and even in high season you needn't travel far to find a deserted beach.

The stunning powdery white sand and turquoise waters of the Capricorn Coast fit the holiday-brochure image perfectly. The pristine islands of the southern Great Barrier Reef offer some of the best snorkelling and diving in Queensland, and opportunities for wildlife spotting – from turtle hatchlings to passing whales – are plentiful. Unspoiled beaches and windswept national parks can be found along the entire coastline.

Inland, you'll find bustling Rockhampton – Capricornia's economic hub and the capital of cattle country, with the steakhouses, rodeos and gigantic hats to prove it.

When to Go

Rockhampton



Feb The Agnes Blues & Roots Festival rocks the Discovery Coast.

May–Sep Warm winter temperatures are ideal for swimming and sunning.

Dec Nature puts on a stunning light show during the summer solstice at Capricorn Caves.

Capricorn Coast & the Southern Reef Islands Highlights

- 1 Diving the spectacular underwater coral gardens of **Heron Island** (p360) and **Lady Elliot Island** (p359).
- 2 Claiming a tropical beach for the day on **Great Keppel Island** (p363).
- 3 Hiking to find Aboriginal rock art in **Carnarvon Gorge** (p366).
- 4 Tucking into a huge steak in Australia's beef capital, **Rockhampton** (p360).
- 5 Crawling through black holes and tight tunnels in the **Capricorn Caves** (p362).
- 6 Digging and sifting in the hope of finding a fortune-changing sapphire in the **gem fields** (p365).
- 7 Surfing and chilling at Queensland's most northerly surf beach, **Agnes Water** (p357).

