



Capricorn Coast

Includes »

Rockhampton	200
Yeppoon	205
Great Keppel Island	208
Gladstone	211
Southern Reef Islands	213
Agnes Water & Town of 1770	215
Eurimbula & Deepwater National Parks	218
Capricorn Hinterland	218
Emerald	219
Gemfields	220
Carnarvon National Park	222

Why Go?

The stunning powdery white beaches and aqua-blue waters of the tropical islands and coral cays of the Capricorn Coast superbly fit the picture-postcard image. The peaceful islands of the southern Great Barrier Reef – Heron and Lady Elliot in particular – offer some of the best snorkelling and diving in Queensland, while remote beaches and windswept national parks can be found along the entire Capricorn coastline.

Inland from the coast is cattle and coal country, with steakhouses aplenty and vast coal deposits that fuel the region's booming economy. In amongst it all are gemfields filled with precious zircons, amethysts, rubies and sapphires.

Rising above the inland plains, the weathered plateaus of the Great Dividing Range form spectacular sandstone escarpments, especially around the Carnarvon and Blackdown Tableland National Parks, where ancient Aboriginal rock art, deep gorges and waterfalls abound.

Best Places to Eat

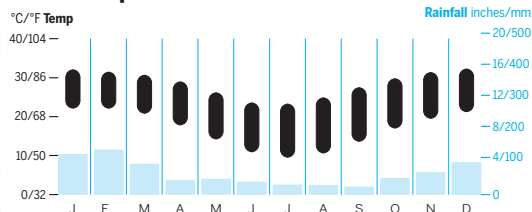
- » Shio Kaze (p206)
- » Ferns Hideaway (p208)
- » Tree Bar (p217)
- » Saigon Saigon By the River (p202)

Best Places to Stay

- » Svendsen's Beach (p209)
- » Waterpark Farm (p208)
- » Surfside Motel (p206)
- » Criterion Hotel (p201)
- » Agnes Water Beach Caravan (p216)

When to Go

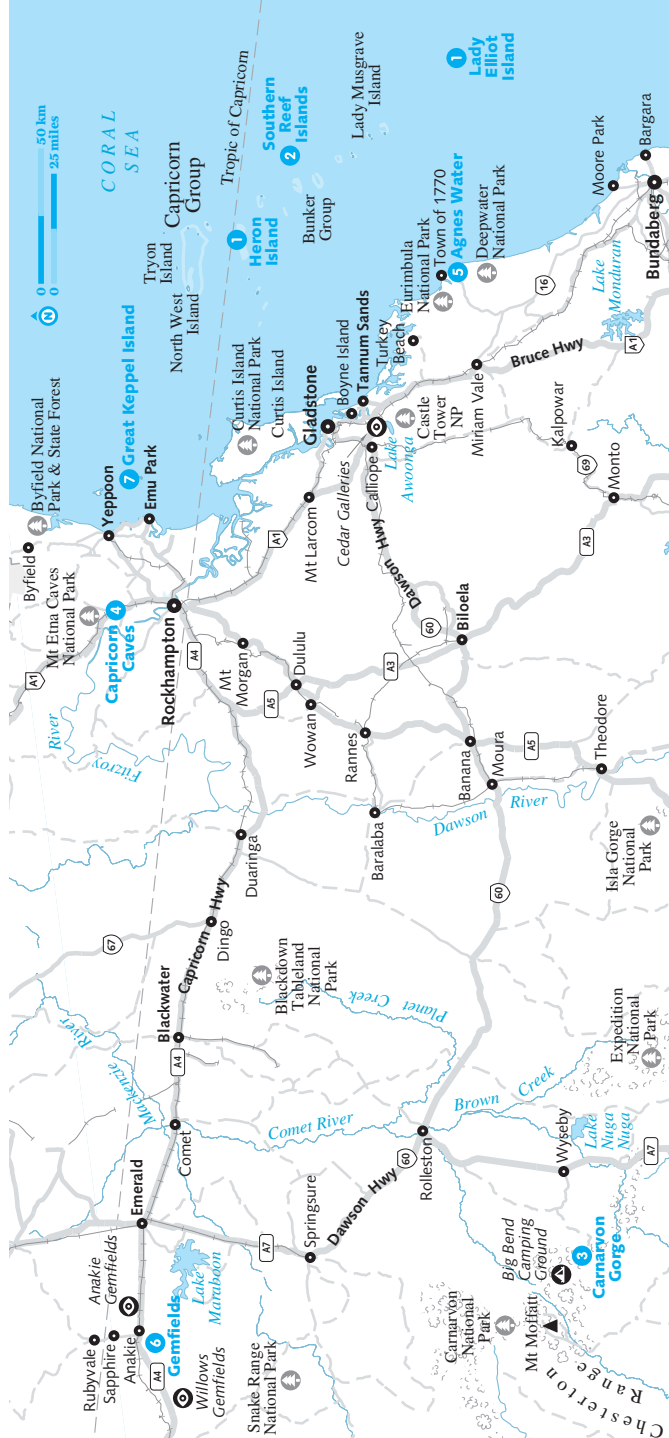
Rockhampton



March–May
Carnarvon Gorge is full after the wet season and wildlife abounds.

September–November
The waters are warming and the weather is still relatively mild.

December–February
Temperatures soar and stingers are the scourge of beach swimmers.



Capricorn Coast Highlights

- 1 Diving the spectacular underwater coral gardens of **Heron Island** (p214) and **Lady Elliot Island** (p214)
- 2 Playing castaway on the deserted islands and coral sandstone canyon of **Carnarvon Gorge** (p222)
- 3 Discovering ancient Aboriginal rock art and hiking through the twisting cays of the **Southern Reef Islands** (p213)
- 4 Spelunking through tight tunnels and cathedral caverns in the **Capricorn Caves** (p203)
- 5 Surfing and chilling at Queensland's most northerly surf beach, **Agnes Water** (p215)
- 6 Fossicking for sapphires at Sapphire and rubies at **Great Keppel Island** (p208)
- 7 Beachcombing and sun worshipping on laid-back **Rubyvale** in the **Gemfields** (p220)