



Capricorn Coast & the Southern Reef Islands

Includes →

Agnes Water & Town of 1770.....	179
Eurimbula & Deepwater National Parks.....	182
Gladstone.....	182
Southern Reef Islands.....	184
Rockhampton.....	186
Yeppoon.....	189
Great Keppel Island.....	191

Best Places to Eat

- Ferns Hideaway (p191)
- Tree Bar (p181)
- Ginger Mule (p187)
- Saigon Saigon (p188)
- Megalomania (p190)

Best Places to Stay

- Svendsen's Beach (p192)
- LaLaLand Retreat (p181)
- Surfside Motel (p190)
- Criterion (p187)
- Workmans Beach Camping Area (p180)

Why Go?

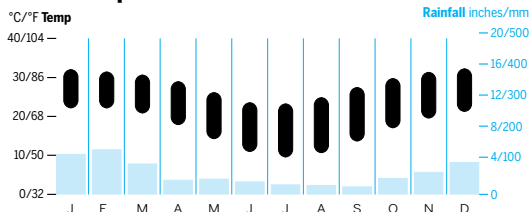
The stretch of coastline that straddles the tropic of Capricorn is one of the quietest and most lovely lengths of the East Coast. While local families flock to the main beaches during school holidays, the scene is uncrowded for most of the year, and even in high season you needn't travel far to find 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 the opportunities for wildlife spotting – from turtle hatchlings to passing whales – are plentiful. Unspoilt 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 all the steakhouses, rodeos and gigantic hats to prove it.

When to Go

Rockhampton



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

Dec Nature puts on a stunning lightshow during summer solstice at Capricorn Caves.

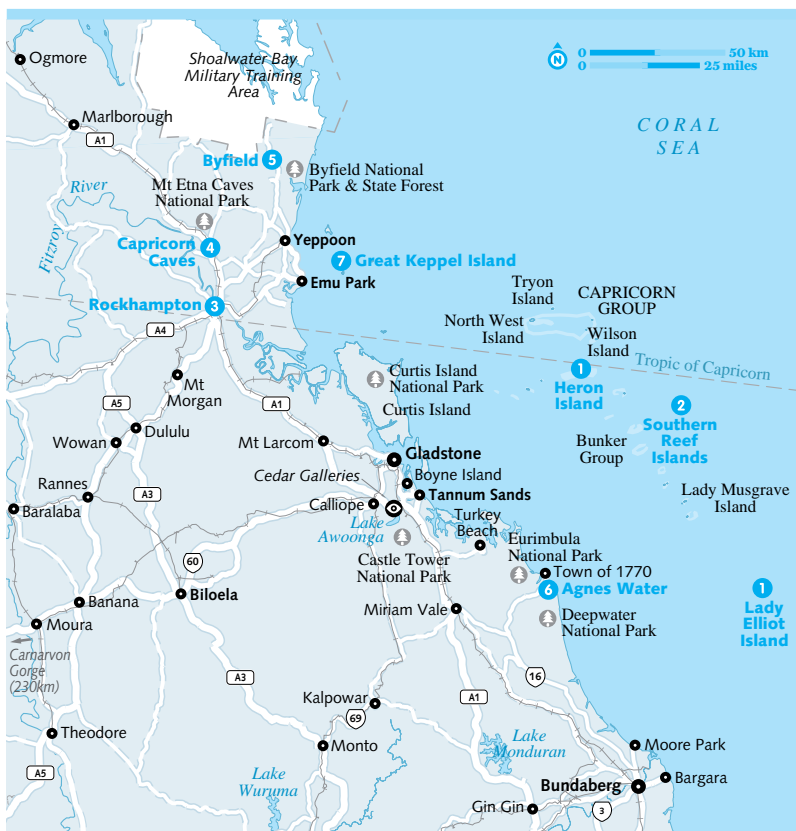
Nov–Feb Temperatures soar and dangerous stingers are out.

AGNES WATER & TOWN OF 1770

POP 1815

Surrounded by national parks and the Pacific Ocean, the twin coastal towns of Agnes Water and Town of 1770 are among Queensland's most appealing – and least hectic – seaside destinations. The tiny settlement of Agnes Water has the East Coast's most northerly

surf beach, while the even tinier Town of 1770 (little more than a marina!) marks Captain Cook's first landing in the state; the hamlet is known as 'The Birthplace of Queensland'. The 'Discovery Coast' is popular for surfing, boating, and fishing away from the crowds. To get here, turn east off the Bruce Hwy at Miriam Vale, 70km south of Gladstone. It's another 57km to Agnes Water and a further 6km to the Town of 1770.



Capricorn Coast & Southern Reef Islands Highlights

- 1 Diving the spectacular underwater coral gardens of **Heron Island** (p185) and **Lady Elliot Island** (p184).
- 2 Playing castaway on the coral cays of the **Southern Reef Islands** (p184).
- 3 Tucking into a huge steak in Australia's beef capital, **Rockhampton** (p186).
- 4 Crawling through black holes and tight tunnels in the **Capricorn Caves** (p187).
- 5 Hiking through lush rainforest at **Byfield** (p191).
- 6 Surfing and chilling at Queensland's most northerly surf beach, **Agnes Water** (p179).
- 7 Claiming a tropical beach for the day on **Great Keppel Island** (p191).