

# REEF, BEEF & CARNARVON GORGE

Wind your way from coastal vistas to sandstone cliffs and take in spectacular scenery, nature and history along this route. This itinerary starts from Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast then delves deep into Central Queensland's iconic interior of Carnarvon Gorge which can only be described as a subtropical oasis hidden in the rugged Central Highlands ranges.

Distance:  
461km One Way

Suitable for:  
2WD & Caravans

Duration:  
5 Days +

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Reef Experiences
- Aboriginal History
- Breathtaking Views
- Outback Towns
- Bushwalking
- Stunning Beaches
- Sandstone Wilderness



## DAY 1 & 2

### Capricorn Coast, Yeppoon & Southern Great Barrier Reef

Start on the Capricorn Coast and stay in the seaside village of Yeppoon, or on a pristine Southern Great Barrier Reef island paradise – or indulge yourself and a couple of nights at both.

The Southern Great Barrier Reef is just a hop, skip and a splash from Yeppoon. Take a day trip or stay overnight at Great Keppel Island or Pumpkin Island - only 20 min ferry transfer from Yeppoon. These watery wonderland brims with corals, turtles and a myriad of rainbow coloured marine life. Snorkel atop sparkling waters or watch sea creatures pass beneath your feet while in a glass bottom boat.

Whilst in Yeppoon don't miss the iconic Yeppoon Lagoon. Take a sparkling, infinity edge pool, add views of the Keppel Islands and you've arrived at the Yeppoon Lagoon. This free aquatic playground has swimming spots for everyone. Kids can paddle in the shade of the water play fountains, big kids can go deep diving, or lap swimming, or even just relaxing and enjoying the views.



## DAY 3

### Yeppoon > Rockhampton (40km)

After soaking up some coastal calm, head to the Beef Capital of Australia, Rockhampton. Sample some local cuisine, explore the historic streetscape on the banks of the mighty Fitzroy River, and enjoy city vistas and mountain views.

Explore Rockhampton from above. On the award-winning Nurim Circuit Elevated Skywalk at Mount Archer National Park your eyes will open wide to views spanning across the region from its peak 604 metres above ground.

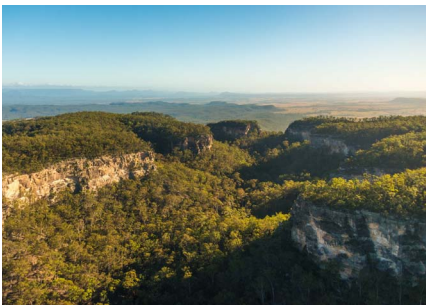
If time permits then be sure to jump aboard a sunset cruise of the mighty Fitzroy River. Tours are great for spotting local wildlife and learning more about the history of Rockhampton.



## DAY 4 & 5

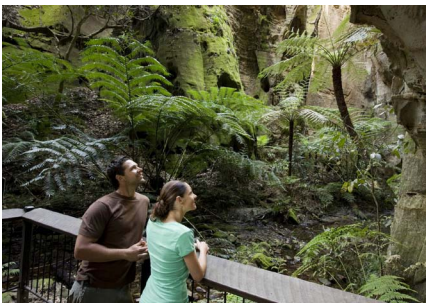
### Rockhampton > Mount Morgan (40km)

Travel via **Mount Morgan** and take a living history lesson through a former gold rush town. To experience a 'real' pioneering adventure visit the Mount Morgan Historical Museum or Mount Morgan Railway Museum which offer a rare glimpse back in time. Also, not to be missed is the panoramic view of the township and mines from the Arthur Timms Lookout.



### Mount Morgan > Carnarvon Gorge (369km)

Back on the road and continue west through Banana and Moura, on to the Outback town of Rolleston - the gateway to Carnarvon Gorge and Sandstone Wilderness. Carnarvon is famous for its deep sandstone gorge, spectacular cliffs, moss gardens and a variety of fauna and flora. The ancient Aboriginal rock paintings, including the most extensive examples of stencilling in Queensland, are at least 19,000 years old. Ensure you leave yourself ample time to enjoy this special part of Australia. Deluxe cabins and camping facilities are available. We recommend staying 3 nights to really explore Carnarvon Gorge.



### More Time? Carnarvon Gorge > Sapphire Gemfields (294km)

Venture 3.5 hours north of Carnarvon Gorge, along the Great Inland Way to the Sapphire Gemfields. Try your luck at uncovering precious gemstones. Let a local guide you through a walk-in underground gemstone mine from days gone by, try a digging tour or buy a bucket of sapphire 'wash' and learn how to sieve the slurry and recognise your sapphire in the rough.

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