

Rockhampton
Southern Great Barrier Reef
Queensland Where great begins



These delightful drives are a departure from the Beef Capital badge and showcase the heritage, history, and natural beauty that surrounds Rockhampton.

ITINERARY 1 - Capricorn Coast Tourist Drive

Distance:
98km Return Loop

Suitable for:
All vehicles

Duration:
1-2 Full Day Trips

HIGHLIGHTS

- Queensland's Oldest Croc Farm
- Breathtaking Views
- Bushwalking
- History Streetscapes
- Beautiful Beaches

The Beef City of Rockhampton is booming; a modern throwback to the heydays of Queensland's colonial past, offering all your cosmopolitan conveniences in a contemporary riverside setting.

Rockhampton is the heart of the Fitzroy Basin, Australia's second largest river system, and bordered by the brooding Berserker Ranges, ultimately delivering the best of both worlds for outdoor and adventure buffs.



Rockhampton > Yeppoon (45 minutes)

The gateway to the Capricorn Coast, Yeppoon is a magical beachside community, well known for its delicious seafood. Take time to explore the coastline and the safe swimming beaches.

More Time?

Venture 30 minutes drive north of Yeppoon and immerse yourself in the **Byfield Rainforest**. Enjoy world class Pottery galleries, Rainforest Retreats and Canoe Adventures.

Don't miss a sailing charter or day cruise to the **Keppel Bay of Islands** and visit the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Accommodation options are available on Great Keppel Island and Pumpkin Island.



[Yeppoon > Emu Park \(15 minutes\)](#)

Along the Scenic Highway lie 13 of Queensland's most beautiful beaches. Take the coastal walk at Kemp Beach for magnificent views across the sparkling ocean to the Keppel Islands. Emu Park is also home to the Singing Ship, a soaring white sculpture on the headland, designed as a monument to Captain Cook.

[Emu Park > Koorana Crocodile Farm \(15 minutes\)](#)

As you make your way back to Rockhampton from Emu Park, be sure to visit the Koorana Crocodile Farm. The excitement of seeing a crocodile feeding is something you won't match anywhere. From February to Easter you may also see baby crocs hatch! A perfect spot for lunch - croc burgers are the house speciality! Evening dining and spotlight tours are also available for groups.

ITINERARY 2 - Rockhampton's Geo History

Distance:
187km return

Date:
All year around

Duration:
1 - 2 Full Day Trips

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fossicking
- Historic Gold Mine
- Lookouts
- Caving
- Fossils
- Scenic Drive

Uncover the history of Australia from the Jurassic era to the present day. Explore ancient limestone caverns, visit Mount Morgan; home to one of the world's richest gold mines, discover Thundereggs and more.



[Rockhampton > Capricorn Caves \(25 minutes\)](#)

From Rockhampton take a short 20 minute drive North to the friendly township of 'The Caves' home to some of the most spectacular and geologically significant caves in Queensland. Discovered by the Olsen family in 1882, the Australian Award Winning Capricorn Caves is the State's oldest tourist attraction. A wide range of guided experiences have been developed with something for all ages, abilities and interests.

[Capricorn Caves > Mount Morgan \(60 minutes\)](#)

Any tale tracing Rockhampton's fortunes must make mention of the legacy left behind by Mount Morgan Gold Mine, which at its peak, was once believed to be the single richest gold mine in the world.



[Mount Morgan > Mount Hay Gemstone Park \(20 minutes from either Mount Morgan or Rockhampton\)](#)

Find a great memento a little further along the highway at Mount Hay Gemstone Park. A result of volcanic activity millions of years ago, Mt Hay is home to the famous "Thunder-Egg". A hands-on fossicking experience will give you the chance to not only find these unique stones but also have them cut and polished to take with you as your own souvenir.

ITINERARY 3 - Rockhampton City Highlights

Distance:
40km return

Suitable:
For all vehicles

Duration :
1-2 Full Day Trips

HIGHLIGHTS

- Historic Streetscape
- Walking Trails
- Magnificent Views
- Native Wildlife
- Lookouts
- Local History

There are plenty of places to keep yourself occupied whilst visiting Rockhampton. The newly redeveloped Riverbank Precinct, the beautiful Botanic Gardens and Zoo or enjoy outstanding views of Rockhampton from the new Nurim Circuit Elevated Boardwalk!



Rockhampton Riverfront Precinct (CBD)

Riverside Park sits on the banks of the Fitzroy River in historic Quay Street and is a lovely place to stretch the legs. Let the kids ride their bikes or have a leisurely BBQ. Quay Street is the longest heritage listed street in Australia and is home to many of Queensland's best maintained and finest heritage buildings. Make sure you don't leave before you treat yourself to a coffee or homemade treat - there are some excellent cafes and dining options throughout this precinct.



Riverfront Precinct > Rockhampton Heritage Village (15 minutes)

Be prepared to step back in time at the Rockhampton Heritage Village, which is located just south from the Capricorn Caves along the Bruce Highway. This museum tells the tale of the Rockhampton district between 1850 and 1950. View vintage vehicles, a hall of clocks, timber cutters camp, a blacksmith shop, homesteads and cottages, vintage machinery and a range of friendly farm animals.



Rockhampton Heritage Village > Mount Archer National Park (15 minutes)

Enjoy the beautiful drive to Mt Archer National Park. Stretch your legs on one of the bushwalks or pack a picnic and enjoy the views. Impressive, wide open views spanning across the region can be seen at the award winning Nurim Circuit Elevated Boardwalk. The circuit extends 25 metres outwards, 7.5 metres high and incorporates interpretive signage of the local Darumbal culture.



Mount Archer National Park > Archer Park Rail Museum (15 minutes)

Archer Park Rail Museum contains many exhibitions associated with railways and the Rockhampton Council Tramways from 1899. Rollingstock, including the Purrey Steam Tram, and rail memorabilia. A revolutionary digital soundscape system of sound effects and commentary enhances the experience as you wind your way through the authentic exhibitions. Visit on a Sunday and treat yourself to a ride on the world's only operating Purrey Steam Tram. Climb aboard restored carriages, change the signals, and use the antique phones.

Archer Park Rail Museum > Rockhampton Zoo & Botanic Gardens (10 minutes)

Rockhampton Botanic Gardens are amongst the oldest public gardens in Queensland. Entry to the gardens and zoo is FREE. It is home to over 50 species of native animals from across Australia and exotic animals from around the world! Its the perfect place for families to see animals in their natural surroundings. The Gardens Tearooms is the café nestled under the 150 year old Banyan Figs.