

Accessible Holiday Destination Guide

Capricorn Coast Region



Set on the Tropic of Capricorn, the Capricorn Coast region includes Great Keppel Island, Yeppoon and Rockhampton, offering a laidback holiday destination offering a diversity of experiences. From the Southern Great Barrier Reef to rainforest and hinterland experiences, this coastline is speckled with small townships boasting quirky street art, classy boutiques, fantastic fishing and fresh local produce.

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GETTING THERE

By Air

There is one airport in the Capricorn Coast region: Rockhampton Airport. QantasLink and Virgin Australia fly direct to Rockhampton from Brisbane. Bonza Airlines fly direct to Rockhampton from Melbourne, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Townsville and Cairns.

There are also connecting flights from other major cities in Australia. There are a number of private transfer companies to connect from Rockhampton Airport to Yeppoon and the Capricorn Coast.

Accessibility: Rockhampton airports features the following:

Accessible parking: There are a number of designated accessible parking bays located close to the terminal building.

Wheelchairs: Wheelchairs are available for free on request.

Lifts: There are lifts available to transport passengers between the different levels of the terminal building.



Queensland
Government

Accessible toilets: There are accessible toilets located throughout the terminal building.

Assistance dogs: Assistance dogs are welcome in the terminal building.

Hearing loop system: A hearing loop system is available in the check-in area and the departure lounge.

Special assistance: Passengers with disabilities can request special assistance from airport staff. This assistance can include help with check-in, boarding, and disembarking.

By Car

The Capricorn Coast region is approximately 630 kilometres north of Brisbane. The Bruce Highway connects Brisbane to Rockhampton.

By Train

Queensland Rail operates the Spirit of Queensland and Tilt Train services between Brisbane and Rockhampton. The Spirit of Queensland has meals and entertainment included, while the Tilt Train is a faster service with less amenities.

By Bus

Greyhound Australia operates bus services between Brisbane and Rockhampton. There are also a number of smaller bus companies that operate services to the Capricorn Coast region from other parts of Queensland.

PLACES TO GO

Rockhampton

Rockhampton is the largest city in the Capricorn Coast region and is often referred to as the “Beef Capital of Australia” due to its strong ties to the cattle and beef industry. Cattle icons are dotted throughout the town. Rockhampton is known for its charming historic architecture, vibrant arts and culture scene, and its proximity to the Fitzroy River. The Fitzroy River runs through the city, and there are recreational areas and walking paths along its banks offering outdoor activities and beautiful views.

Riverside

Riverside is on the banks of the Fitzroy River and is home to a variety of attractions. The Riverside Promenade is a popular spot for walking and cycling, offering stunning views of the Fitzroy River and the historic buildings of Quay Street. The most significant buildings include the Criterion Hotel, Rockhampton Club, Old Post Office, Customs House, and the Town Hall.



Quay Street is level throughout with wide footpaths with no curbs. Disabled parking spots are available in Quay Street, opposite the Criterion Hotel in Bus Lane, and at Dr Ray Wilson Place.

The Riverside Gardens is an extensive park with a variety of observation platforms, meeting spaces, and a children’s playground. The children’s playground has ramped access from both Quay Street and from the promenade. The surface is rubberised.

The Boathouse Restaurant is a popular restaurant with stunning views of the Fitzroy River. It has level entry from Quay Street and has accessible toilet facilities.

The promenade is at a lower level to Quay Street. Throughout its length is a series of ramps linking the upper and lower levels. Adjacent to the Boathouse is an observation deck affording great views over the River. It is covered providing both sun and rain protection. An elevator links the upper and lower levels at Rod Laver Park.

Rockhampton Museum of Art

The Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA) is on Quay Street. RMOA is housed in a purpose-built building on the banks of the Fitzroy River. RMOA has a collection of over 5000 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs and decorative arts. RMOA presents a changing exhibition program that features both local and international artists. The museum also offers a variety of educational programs and events for people of all ages.



Rockhampton Museum of Art

The museum has a wide level entry from Quay Street with self opening double doors. It is spread over three levels all serviced by an elevator. All signage is raised and in Braille. Accessible toilets are located on all levels and a hearing loop is provided at the reception desk. The museum is an open plan design with expansive circulation space. Seating is provided in all galleries. An observation deck is located on level three with level access and wide self opening doors. The deck gives a great view over the Fitzroy River.

East Street

East Street is in the central business district of Rockhampton and is home to a number of shops, restaurants and cafés.

Despite its historic nature, East Street is accessible throughout with wide, level footpaths and level access in most of the shops and cafés along its length. Street crossings have tactile markings and audible traffic lights. Street side alfresco dining is provided with accessible dining modules.

Dr Ray Wilson Place

Dr Ray Wilson Place is a park on the banks of the Fitzroy River just north of Riverside Park featuring a playground, a barbecue area, a riverside walking track, and a war memorial.

It has a small barbecue area with accessible picnic tables. The riverside walking track is a relatively flat concrete path suitable for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. The adjacent large car park has several designated accessible parking spaces.

Kershaw Gardens

Kershaw Gardens is a 50 hectare area of parkland. The gardens are divided into three precincts: the Northern Precinct, Central Precinct and Southern Precinct. The Northern Precinct features a waterfall, a walking trail, the wetlands, and a free campground. The Central Precinct is home to a playground, a water play area, and a picnic area. The Southern Precinct is home to a rainforest garden, Vietnam Veterans Hill and an off leash dog area. The gardens are flat throughout the northern



Kershaw Gardens



Kershaw Gardens



Kershaw Gardens

and central precincts with wide paths. The majority are asphalt or hardpacked gravel. The waterfall has a large viewing platform with horizontal wire railings making the falls viewable by people of all heights including children and permanent wheelchair users. The central precinct features designated disabled parking, accessible toilets and a zero depth water play park. The playground features both adventure and accessible elements. The surface is rubberised throughout. Of particular note are the wheelchair turntable, horizontal basket swing, two safety swings, and an all abilities safety chair for the zipline. The associated picnic area features accessible tables with an open end design and wheelchair accessible drinking fountains.



Rockhampton Zoo

Rockhampton Zoo

Rockhampton Zoo is in the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and is home to over 100 animals from Australia and around the world. Rockhampton Zoo is accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

The zoo is wheelchair accessible and has a number of facilities for people with disabilities, including accessible pathways throughout the zoo are made from wide concrete or even paved sections, seating is provided at regular intervals, accessible toilets, accessible parking, accessible animal viewing areas with low glass fronted enclosure sections, accessible picnic areas with tables having overhanging end design, and accessible café. The zoo also offers a number of programs and events specifically for people with disabilities, such as Zoo Access Day, Zoo Buddy Program, and Zoo School Holiday Programs.

Registered service animals are permitted, but are not permitted near the chimpanzee enclosure, dingo enclosure, or into the kangaroo paddock due to the distress and safety risks it can cause to these animals.

Mount Archer National Park

The Rockhampton Tree Top Canopy Walk (Nurim Circuit) is a 500 metre boardwalk that extends 25 metres off the side of Mount Archer. It offers stunning views of the city and the surrounding countryside.

The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible and has interpretive signage about the local Aboriginal culture. Designated disabled parking is provided at the front of the car park adjacent to the main trail. Accessible toilets are available next to the car park. The first part of the circuit is concrete with raised borders to aid people with low vision. They provide both a tapping aid and a colour contrast to the main path. The treetop section is wooden boardwalk and the railings are vertical steel rails allowing viewing by people of all heights including permanent wheelchair users. Seating is provided at regular intervals. The gradients are gentle throughout the walk.



Mount Archer National Park



Mount Archer National Park

Visitor Information Centre

Located at the Visitor Information Centre is the Capricorn Spire a 72 metre obelisk on the southern side of the city. It is the official marker of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Designated accessible parking is available in front of the centre. The information centre has ramped access from the car park. The spire is adjacent to the car park on level access allowing people of all abilities to view the spire and the information boards. An accessible toilet is located at the centre.

Cattle Icons of Rockhampton

Rockhampton is known as the Beef Capital of Australia, and there are a number of cattle icons in the city that celebrate this heritage.

- The Brahman Bull was erected in 2000 at the roundabout on the southern entrance to the city.
- The Santa Gertrudis Bull, in Frank Ford Park was erected in 1985.
- The Droughtmaster Bull, at the entrance to the airport was erected in 1994.
- The Braford Bull, located on the Bruce Highway was erected in 1978.
- The Romagnola Bull, located in O'Shannesy Park, was erected in 1997 to commemorate the Italian Beef Cattle World Congress.

- The Brahman Bull, located in the median strip near the Red Hill Homemaker Centre was erected in 1978 and represents the breed most suitable to this climate.

All of the “big” icons are viewable from the road, either by car or from the footpath. The exception is the one on the roundabout on the southern side of the city that can only be viewed from a vehicle.



Dreamtime Cultural Centre

The Dreamtime Cultural Centre is an Indigenous cultural arts and education centre, 6 kilometres from the city centre, featuring a number of attractions, including a recreated sandstone cave, museum of Indigenous artefacts, theatre that hosts cultural performances and a café and gift shop.

There is a large car park in front of the centre with no designated disabled parking bays. There is a curb cut directly in front of the main building and entrance. The information centre and gift shop is well laid out. The main outdoor area has colour coded pathways through the precinct. All pathways are wide and either concrete or level pavers. From the convention centre on to the boomerang throwing area, the paths become hard packed gravel. Slopes are gentle throughout the centre. An accessible toilet is available in the Nola James Building.

Stockland Shopping Centre

Stockland Shopping Centre has over 190 stores, including supermarkets, department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. It is a popular shopping destination for locals and tourists and home to events and activities such as fashion shows, concerts, and festivals.

It has a number of key accessibility features:

- Mobility equipment for hire
- Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program
- Adult Change Facilities featuring a full size change bench, tracked lifting hoist and peninsula toilet
- Bindi Maps with bluetooth wayfinding for people who are blind or have low vision

Mount Morgan

Mount Morgan is 32 kilometres south-west of Rockhampton and was founded after the discovery of gold. It was once the richest gold mine in the world.

Stopford Way Lookout

Stopford Way Lookout is a scenic lookout on the Burnett Highway between Rockhampton and Mount Morgan. It offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, including the Mount Morgan Range, the Dee River, and the Fitzroy River.

There is designated disabled parking and the lookout has level access from the car park. There is a sheltered wheelchair accessible picnic table at the lookout.

Mount Morgan Railway Museum

The museum is housed in a former railway workshop restored to its original condition and features exhibits on the history of the railway, the locomotives and rolling stock that operated on it, and the people who worked on it.

There is designated disabled parking in front of the station building with ramped access from the car park into the building. The main doorway is wide both from the front of the building and onto the platform. At the end of the platform is a small theatre with ramped access from the platform. There are static displays of historic locomotives and rolling stock at the station platform. They have limited accessibility due to the stepped entry and very narrow aisle configuration of the carriages. The external viewing platforms have steps only. There are two accessible toilets available off the platform at the end of the building. They are large and offer both left and right hand transfers.

Arthur Timms Lookout

Arthur Timms Lookout offers panoramic views of the old Mount Morgan mine site, the town centre and down to the Fitzroy River. The lookout can be accessed by car with the views available directly from the car park. The surface of the car park is compacted road base. There are no toilets or picnic facilities at the lookout.

Historic Town Centre

The historic town centre of Mount Morgan is a well-preserved example of a 19th century mining town. There are heritage-listed buildings in the town centre, including the former Mount Morgan Town Hall, Mount Morgan Post Office, and Mount Morgan School of Arts. Also located in the town is the Running the Cutter statue. It is a bronze statue that commemorates an old mining custom of buying beer and drinking it in billy cans (also known as cutters) outside the hotel. The statue depicts a young boy running with a billy can of beer to the hotel.

Ramps allow access to the majority of shops and cafés on the main street. Designated disabled parallel parking is available in the main street along with curb cuts and ramped access through the median garden beds. There is an accessible public toilet on the main street.

Mount Hay Gemstone Tourist Park

Mount Hay Gemstone Tourist Park is a popular destination for fossicking for thunder eggs and volcanic birthstones that form when gas bubbles in molten lava solidify on cooling. The park is 36 kilometres west of Rockhampton on the Capricorn Highway and offers fossicking activities, as well as a gift shop, café, and campground. Admission to the park is free, but there are fees for fossicking and camping. Enclosed footwear is required.

It is a unique opportunity for people with a disability to fossick. The main building has level entry from the car park. The surface of the car park is compact road base. The gift shop/cutting building has an easy access wide interior space. The fossicking area is adjacent to the main building and is level. The surface is relatively smooth and can be accessed by wheelchair or mobility device users. As the surface is level and smooth it is also suitable for people with low vision. There are no accessible toilets on site.

Emu Park

Emu Park is a coastal town located on the Capricorn Coast, about 20 kilometres south of Yeppoon and 60 kilometres north of Rockhampton. The town was named after the emus that were once abundant in the area. Emu Park is a popular destination, with a number of beaches, parks, and attractions.



The Centenary of ANZAC Memorial Walk



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The ANZAC Walk is a 1.2 kilometre long boardwalk that winds its way through the bushland and along the waterfront. It is lined with interpretive panels that tell the story of the ANZACs and their contribution to Australia's history. The walk culminates at a viewing platform at the Singing Ship, where there are panoramic views of Keppel Bay.

Designated disabled parking is available adjacent to ANZAC Court with a concrete path leading to the "Gatehouse" memorial pavilion. A wide level concrete pathway leads to the pavilion which is well laid out and contains numerous displays and historic information. The information boards are both large print and pictorial making the information accessible to a wide audience. The pavilion has an observation deck with stunning views over Keppel Bay. The walk to the Singing Ship is a combination of boardwalk and concrete pathways with raised edges on both sides. It slopes gently upwards over its entire length. There is seating at regular intervals. The walk can be accessed from Kele Park and the Singing Ship.



The Singing Ship

The Singing Ship

The Singing Ship is a 12 metre monument located at Churchill's Lookout on Constitution Hill notable for using wind to create a unique whistling sound, making it "sing".

Access to the Singing Ship is from Kele Park. There is one designated disabled parking space available. A concrete level path leads past the commemorative plaques and on to the Singing Ship. The Singing Ship has a circular concrete pathway around it that provides access from all sides. The path joins the ANZAC walk and upper observation deck.



Rotunda at Ladies Beach

Rotunda at Ladies Beach

This is a small shelter on the headland overlooking the beach.

There are seating benches inside the rotunda. There is also a large stone table in the middle of the rotunda. Access is from a concrete path from behind ANZAC Court.

Kerr Park

Kerr Park is a large park along the foreshore of Keppel Bay and offers stunning views of the ocean. The park has a number of facilities, including a playground, a skate park, a tennis court, a basketball court, and a rotunda. There is also a large grassy area.



Kerr Park

The park can be accessed from the car park next to ANZAC Court or from the main beach car park. Designated disabled parking is available. There are two pavilions containing picnic tables and sitting benches, however, the picnic tables are not of an access design and have solid ends. There is an accessible barbecue with a roll-under provision for wheelchair users. The small playground contains a wheelchair accessible roundabout and cognitive play panels. The surface is rubberised.



Main Beach

Main Beach

Main Beach at Emu Park is a popular swimming and surfing beach. It is a long, sandy beach with calm waters, making it a great place for families with young children. A fun aspect of Main Beach are the five brightly coloured sculptures of emus located on a flat grassed area between the Kerr Park pavilions and Main Beach.

It has a number of accessible facilities, including 24/7 accessible beach matting that goes all the way to the hard sand, a Sandcruiser beach wheelchair available for rent, an accessible bathroom, shower, and change room and accessible parking, located at the lifesaving club.

Boat Ramp

Outside of the patrolled season wheelchair access to the hard sand is available by using the concrete boat ramp at the end of Fishermans Beach. Parking is available at the top of the ramp. There is also a breakwater that provides fishing opportunities. The breakwater surface is concrete and only 1.5 metres wide. There is a railing on one side only.



Emu Park Historical Museum

The museum is housed in a former railway station and has a collection of artefacts and exhibits that tell the story of Emu Park. It also has a research library and a number of educational programs.

Street parking is available in front of the museum. There are no designated disabled parking bays. A concrete path and ramp lead into the main building. The main building is well laid out with wide corridors and display rooms. The museum consists of a number of buildings and outdoor displays. They are all accessible with the exception of the rail carriage which has stepped entry and narrow doors and corridors. Concrete paths lead between all buildings. There are no accessible toilet facilities at the museum.

Yeppoon

Yeppoon is the principal coastal town on the Capricorn Coast. It is located on Keppel Bay, about 38 kilometres northeast of Rockhampton. Yeppoon is renowned for its beaches, tropical climate, and the islands out on the bay. The beaches and shallow coves provide for a highly accessible destination. Offshore, there are 27 islands including Great Keppel Island which is 20 kilometres from Yeppoon.

Wreck Point Scenic Lookout

Wreck Point Scenic Lookout is located on the Capricorn Coast, about 5 kilometres south of Yeppoon town centre. The lookout offers panoramic views of Keppel Bay, including the Keppel Islands, Great Keppel Island, and the Capricorn Coast.

The lookout is accessed directly from a parallel parking area with level access onto the lookout. The lookout is level with see-through railings that allow people of all heights to take in the view across Keppel Bay. There is a lower walk that is not wheelchair accessible. It is a grade two walk with 68 steps required to be negotiated.

The details of the steps and grade are located on a sign at the lookout which is extremely valuable information for people of limited fitness.



Yeppoon Esplanade

The Esplanade stretches for about 2 kilometres from the lifesaving club at the northern end to the sailing club and the Yeppoon Lagoon. The walking path is wide, level and smooth concrete. It is lower than the road with periodic ramped access to street level. Just past the Keppel Kraken water park is the last ramped access back to street level with construction underway at the new sailing club facility. The last ramp is well signed. Seating is provided along the pathway.

Yeppoon Lifesaving Club

The surf lifesaving club patrol the beaches during the summer months.

There is ramped access to the beach. It is a steep ramp primarily intended for lifesaving equipment. There is also stepped access with colour coded steps to assist those visitors with low vision. There is no lift access to the upstairs dining room, Poppies. Parking is available adjacent to the lifesaving club.



Yeppoon Foreshore Amphitheatre

Amphitheatre

The Yeppoon Foreshore Amphitheatre is a large open-air amphitheatre that is a popular venue for events, including concerts, festivals, and community gatherings. It has hosted festivals such as the Yeppoon Festival and the Capricorn Coast Music Festival and used for community gatherings.

The upper level is a concrete surface that is level with the street and the Main Beach car park. Designated disabled parking is available in the Main Beach car park. A central concrete pathway leads down to the stage which is built out over the beach at Esplanade level. The central pathway has steps. A ramp on the southern side of the amphitheatre provides access to all levels. Other than the top level all tiers are grassed. The stage has a ramp on the southern side making it accessible to performers.

Spirit Stone

The Spirit Stone is a public art sculpture on the Yeppoon foreshore. It is made of Stanwell sandstone and is designed to represent the six states of Australia. The stone is carved with symbols of each state, including the Southern Cross, the kangaroo, and the emu.

The sculpture is a popular tourist destination. The stone is located on a level concrete platform with direct access from the street. It is at the head of the ramp to the lower esplanade and the beach.

Yeppoon Main Beach

Yeppoon Main Beach is a popular spot for swimming, sunbathing, and surfing with a number of amenities, including a playground, a barbecue area, and a public toilet block.

There is a wheelchair accessible ramp on the Yeppoon Esplanade that is at the southern end of the beach, near the Spirit Stone. The ramp is made of concrete and is about 100 metres long. It has a gentle slope and is wide enough for wheelchairs and other mobility devices. The ramp is in two sections linking street level to the Esplanade and then the Esplanade to the beach. The ramp ends with a concrete pad that gives

direct access to the hard sand on the beach. The ramp is also equipped with handrails for safety. There is also a beach wheelchair available for use at the top of the ramp. The beach wheelchair is a large, three-wheeled vehicle that can accommodate people of all sizes. It is equipped with a motor and a handbrake, making it easy to manoeuvre on the sand.

Keppel Kraken

The Keppel Kraken is a water play feature located on the Yeppoon Foreshore. The Keppel Kraken features a host of interactive elements including water cannons, jets and a unique umbrella bucket the only one of its kind in Queensland.

All of the water park is zero depth making it ideal for people of all abilities. The dry play elements have a rubberised surface, again, making it easy for wheelchair users to access the elements. The picnic tables near the road and on the observation deck are of an accessible design with overhanging ends. A unisex accessible toilet facility is located within the play area. There are timber decks and picnic tables.



James Street

James Street

James Street is the main street in Yeppoon, running at right angles to the beach and esplanade, and is home to a variety of businesses, including retail shops, restaurants and cafés.

Designated disabled parking is available in James Street in the median, either side of the pedestrian crossing and in the Town Centre multi-level car park. In the Normanby Street section, the northern side of the road is higher than the southern side. A ramp in the median strip allows for the change of level crossing the road. From the roundabout to the Bat Plaza the road is level on both sides. The footpaths are wide and level providing access to most shops. There is an accessible toilet available in Beaman Park and at the Bay Plaza shopping centre.



Bay Plaza Shopping Mall

Bay Plaza Shopping Mall

The Bay Plaza Shopping Centre is at the top end of James Street. It is a single-level shopping mall anchored by a Coles supermarket and a seven-screen cinema complex. Other tenants include a variety of fashion, homewares, and specialty stores.

The Bay Plaza Shopping Centre is accessible across one flat level and is wheelchair friendly. There are designated accessible parking spaces available near the entrance to the mall close to the James Street entrance to the car park. The toilets in the mall are all accessible, with wheelchair-accessible stalls and grab rails. There is a designated accessible seating area in the food court.

The cinema complex is also accessible, with wheelchair-accessible seating in all theatres and accessible toilets adjacent to the ticket office.

Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre

Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre is the major shopping centre in Yeppoon. It is a two-level shopping centre anchored by a Woolworths supermarket and a Big W department store. Other tenants include a variety of fashion, homewares, and specialty stores.

The centre has a number of accessibility features, including:

- Ramps and elevators and escalators throughout the centre, making it accessible for people with mobility impairments
- Designated accessible parking spaces available near the entrance to the centre and in the lower level car park near the lifts and escalator
- The toilets in the centre are all accessible, with wheelchair-accessible stalls and grab rails. There is a designated accessible seating area in the food court

The centre also has a number of parent and child facilities, including a parents room and a baby change room.



Yeppoon Lagoon

Yeppoon Lagoon

The Yeppoon Lagoon is a 2500 square metre resort-style lagoon pool on the beachfront. It has two pools, a main pool with a swim-up infinity edge that overlooks the ocean and the Keppel Islands and a shallow children's play area with jets of water and deep shade. The lagoon is patrolled by lifeguards 7 days a week.

The Yeppoon Lagoon has two aquatic wheelchairs available for use for children and adults at the Lagoon. These are available from the lifeguards. There is ramped access into the main pool and zero depth entry into the children's water play pool. There is a dedicated accessible changing room with a shower and fold down bench. The lagoon has a number of ramps and pathways that make it accessible for people with limited mobility, including ramped access to the Esplanade. There are also a number of shaded areas. Designated disabled parking is available in front of the main entrance.

There is also a café called The Rocks Yeppoon right next to the lagoon. The café offers a variety of food and drinks, including coffee, smoothies, and light meals. It is located on the main pool concourse with easy access to the ordering window.

Appleton Park

Appleton Park is a small park located adjacent to the lagoon on Anzac Parade, just a short walk from the beach and the Esplanade. The park, includes a fenced children's playground with a variety of play equipment, including a climbing structure, a slide, and a sandpit, skate park with a variety of ramps and obstacles, barbecue area with picnic tables, public toilet block, large shade shed and a number of trees and shrubs, providing a cool and shady environment.

The park has a number of great accessibility features. The playground has a rubberised surface and several cognitive play panels, a wheelchair accessible raised sandpit, a wheelchair accessible boat with a steering wheel, and a wheelchair liberty swing. The skate park has level access to the top of the bowls and ramped access from the lower levels making it suitable for the growing sport of chair skating. There is a double



wheelchair access picnic table in the shade shed as well as special roll-under wheelchair accessible barbecues. There are accessible drinking fountains and an accessible toilet at the top of the park. Concrete pathways run throughout the park.

The Capricorn Coast Pineapple Rail Trail

The Capricorn Coast Pineapple Rail Trail is a 4.5 kilometre disused railway line that has been converted into a shared-use path for walking, cycling, and horse riding.

The trail is flat and easy to walk or cycle, and it offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The trail starts at the Yeppoon Botanic Gardens and ends at the Capricorn Coast Golf Club. The surface of the trail is asphalt with concrete bridges.

Keppel Bay Marina

Keppel Bay Marina is a picturesque coastal marina 8 kilometres south of Yeppoon. It is the service port for cruises and ferries to the stunning Keppel Bay Islands and a range of various water-based activities. The marina is located at Rosslyn Bay, approximately 40 minutes drive from Rockhampton and around 7 minutes from Yeppoon.

Designated disabled parking is available immediately in front of the main entrance. An accessible toilet is available at the left hand end of the building on the outside wall. Entry from the car park into the building is level with double self opening doors. The marina pontoons are accessed through the building and from a boardwalk. All pontoons in the marina are floating and the angle of the access ramps will vary with the tide.

The Waterline Restaurant

The Waterline Restaurant is a waterfront restaurant at Keppel Bay Marina that offers seafood dishes, as well as steaks, pasta, and pizzas. The dining room is a large and airy outdoor deck, that offers stunning views of the marina.

The restaurant is accessed through the main terminal building. The counter is on the left hand side as you enter and a wide doorway leads to the covered outdoor area. The floor is polished concrete with wide aisles between the tables. The tables and chairs are all movable to cater for all access options. There is a high degree of contrast between the tables and floors to aid navigation for people with low vision.



Funtastic Cruises

Funtastic Cruises offers day cruises to the Keppel Islands, including Great Keppel Island, North Keppel Island, and Pumpkin Island. They also offer sunset cruises. The day cruises depart from Keppel Bay Marina in the morning and return in the afternoon with activities such as swimming, snorkelling, diving, and fishing. The sunset cruises depart from Keppel Bay Marina in the late afternoon depending on the time of the year and last about 1.5 hours.

Funtastic has two sailing catamarans in service. One has an enclosed cabin with a solid foredeck and Grace II which has an open cockpit design and trampoline style foredeck. Both vessels require passengers to negotiate four steps to board the vessels. Entry to the water on both vessels is via a stern ladder. For passengers with limited mobility or with low vision Grace II is more easily navigated with a clear open design and easy access to the foredeck. There is no ramped access to either vessel for permanent wheelchair users. Once on board, Grace II could accommodate a passenger in a manual wheelchair. Sailing is an adventure activity and sailing vessels will move around with the seas. Keppel Bay is a shallow stretch of water that can produce a short sharp chop which may limit the suitability to passengers with limited balance or trunk control.



Freedom Fast Cats

Keppel Konnections

Keppel Konnections is a ferry operator that runs services to Great Keppel Island from Rosslyn Bay Harbour. They offer day trips, overnight stays, and multi-day packages in conjunction with the Great Keppel Hideaway Resort. The Keppel Konnections ferry departs from Rosslyn Bay Harbour four times a day, taking about 30 minutes to reach Great Keppel Island.

The ferry has level access from the dock from Keppel Bay Marina. At Great Keppel Island disembarkation is via a ramp on the foredeck. The negotiation of four steps is required from the main cabin onto the foredeck and then the ramp onto the beach. There is no jetty at Great Keppel Island which means the boat moves around while loading/unloading. Depending on the tide there may be up to 300mm of water at the bottom of the loading ramp. People with limited mobility, who are unsteady on their feet or have limited balance would find getting off the boat difficult. The loading area is hard sand. To get to the hideaway resort 300 metres of soft sand has to be negotiated. A buggy is available for those guests unable to walk across the sand, however, there is no provision for permanent wheelchair users.

Keppel Explorer

Keppel Explorer is a boat tour company that offers day trips to the Keppel Islands from Keppel Bay Marina.

The Keppel Islands are a group of 28 islands located off the coast of Yeppoon. They are known for their beautiful beaches, clear waters, and lush rainforests. The Keppel Explorer tour departs from Keppel Bay Marina in the morning and returns in the afternoon. It stops at a number of islands, including Great Keppel Island, North Keppel Island, and Pumpkin Island. Activities offered include swimming, snorkelling, diving, fishing, and exploring the islands. You can also enjoy a barbecue lunch on board the boat.

The Keppel Explorer is a fast rib. It has two rows of seating down the centre line of the boat. The seats are a saddle type with a grab handle. They are individual seats with no side support and no provision to have

someone sitting next to a passenger to offer support. The boat is not suitable for anyone without trunk support and a strong hand grip. Boarding the boat requires sliding over the inflatable side. There is room on both the jetty and the boat to assist a passenger with limited mobility. Entry to and from the water for the water activities requires the use of a set of stairs on the side of the vessel. There is no accessible toilet on board the Keppel Explorer.

Freedom Fast Cats

Freedom Fast Cats offers fast catamaran day cruises to Great Keppel Island from Keppel Bay Marina. They operate from Pier One on the opposite side of the marina from the main terminal building.

The Freedom Fast Cats cruise departs from Keppel Bay Marina in the morning and returns in the afternoon. It takes approximately 35 minutes to reach Great Keppel Island. On the cruise, you can go swimming, snorkelling, diving, fishing, and exploring the island. You can also enjoy a barbecue lunch on board the catamaran.

All of the Freedom Fast Cat vessels require the use of stairs at the rear of the vessel from the dock to the main deck at the Keppel Bay Marina. At Great Keppel Island passengers need to negotiate a ramp onto the beach from the foredeck. The ramp is steep, moves around with the movement of the boat and on certain tides ends in up to 300mm of water. Access to the foredeck is from the main cabin via a set of steps. Passengers are met by buggies for transport to their accommodation if required. Freedom Fast Cats also operates a glass bottom boat on Great Keppel Island. The glass bottom boat is either boarded from the larger boat offshore via stairs or from the beach via a ramp in the front. The inside of the boat is narrow and is not suitable for wheelchairs or other forms of mobility devices.

Let's Get Crabby

A collection of soldier crab sculptures can be found mid-way along the walking path on Lammermoor Beach. Titled "Let's Get Crabby", the eye-catching sculptures won Bronze in the Best Landmark Sculpture category at the 2022 Australian Street Art Awards.

There is parking just to the north of the sculptures with access to the concrete path that runs along the esplanade. The sculpture is easily visible from the path.

The Lammermoor Native Gardens

The Lammermoor Native Gardens are located in Lammermoor, 5 minutes drive south of Yeppoon. The gardens are home to a variety of native animals, including birds, reptiles, and insects. There are also a number of educational displays about the plants and animals of the region.

There is a small car park off the Old Scenic Highway. The gardens are on flat land. The paths through the gardens are natural earth, but are compact and smooth.

Lioness Park

Opposite the native gardens on the beach side of the Scenic Highway is Lioness Park. It has designated disabled parking, accessible barbecues and a dedicated accessible picnic table and shelter.

Causeway Park

Causeway Park is on the shores of Causeway Lake. It is a great spot for fishing and birdwatching. It has a playground, barbecues and picnic tables.

Midway along the car park, there is a ramp that provides access to an asphalt path along the water's edge which is a great spot to fish the lake. The bridge over the inlet is another accessible fishing spot. On the Keppel Bay side of the road is another car park that provides sand access to the inlet for fishing or beach combing. There is a short section of soft sand to negotiate before reaching the hard sand.

Byfield

Byfield is a national park, conservation park, and state forest located in the Capricorn Coast region of Queensland, about 25 minutes north of Yeppoon and 1 hour north of Rockhampton. Byfield is a diverse and beautiful landscape, with a mix of sand dunes, mountains, creeks, rainforests, pine plantations, wetlands, and eucalypt woodlands. The park is home to a variety of native wildlife, including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, dingoes, snakes, and birds.



Byfield General Store

The Byfield General Store is a small grocery store located in the Byfield National Park. It is a popular spot for campers and hikers to stock up on supplies. The store sells a variety of groceries, snacks, drinks, and camping supplies. The Byfield General Store is also a great place to get information about the park. The staff can help you plan your activities and provide you with maps and directions.

There is no designated disabled parking, however, there are many wide single car spots between the trees to allow for wide access needs. The surface of the car park is gravel which is hard packed and fine. There is ramped access to the general store and to the side outdoor café area. The main door is wide with a small ramp over the door jam. One of the picnic tables has a longer end to allow access for wheelchair users. The toilet does have a hand rail, but the cubicle is narrow with no space beside the toilet.

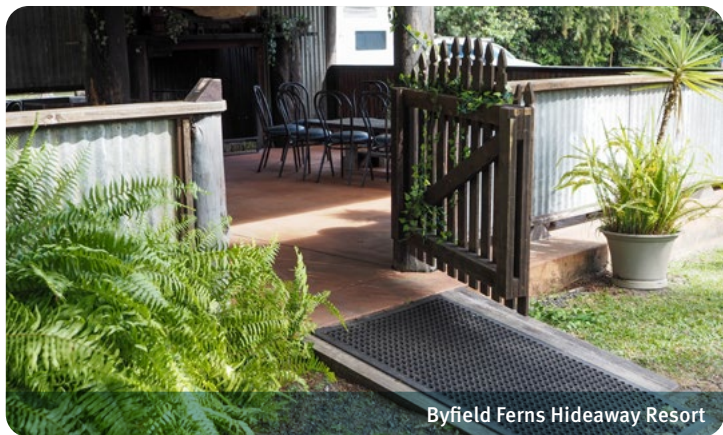


Water Park Creek Recreation Area

Water Park Creek Recreation Area is in the Byfield State Forest. It is about 42 kilometres from Yeppoon and 1 hour north of Rockhampton. The recreation area has 10 campsites, each with a picnic table, fire pit, and non-potable water tap. There are also toilets and a dump point available. The campsites are set among pine trees and natural bushland. It is important to note that

swimming is not permitted in Water Park Creek due to the presence of crocodiles. The recreation area is open from May to September. Camping fees are charged per person per night.

There is an accessible toilet in the camp ground area that services both the overnight campers and the day use area. The Bowenia Rainforest Circuit is a short 1.2 kilometre walk that starts from the day use car park. It is a 30 minute easy walk but does contain steps. It is suitable for slow walkers who can manage steps in small groups. For those unable to manage the steps on the walk there is a small car park on the other side of the causeway that affords great views of the stream.

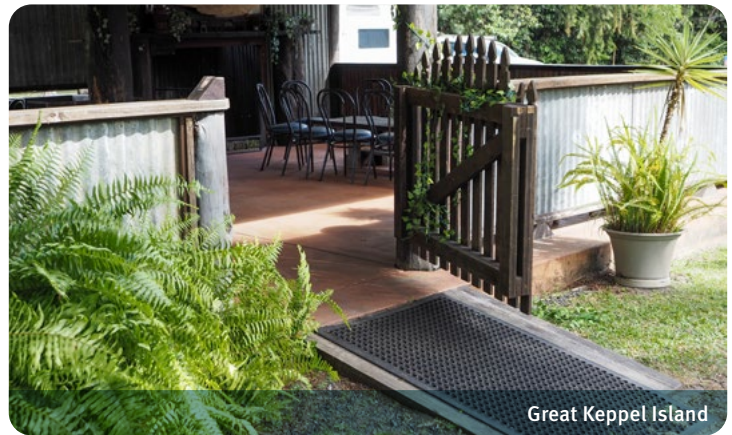


Ferns Hideaway Resort

Ferns Hideaway Resort in Byfield National Parkland has four log cabins, each with a queen bed, a double bed, and a bathroom. There is also a camping ground with 20 unpowered sites. The cabins are set in a rainforest setting and have a private verandah with a barbecue. The resort also has a swimming pool, a spa, a tennis court, and a canoeing lake. The resort also has a restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The restaurant has a variety of menu options, including both Australian and international cuisine.

There are no cabins specifically for wheelchair users. The main reception and dining room has ramped access at the entrance and to the upper dining level. All furniture is moveable allowing for a range of configurations to suit visitors needs. There are concrete paths from the car park to the main building and to the outdoor dining/camp kitchen. The camp kitchen also has a ramp and movable seating.

The toilets and showers have hand rails and a portable shower chair is available. Both the toilet and shower cubicles are small and narrow which may not be suitable for permanent wheelchair users. The camp ground is a large, flat, grassed area providing good access. The resort is set in a very quiet area and surrounded by bushland.



Great Keppel Island

Great Keppel Island is the largest island in the Keppel Island group, off the coast of Yeppoon and known for its white sand beaches, clear waters, and lush vegetation. It is a popular destination for swimming, snorkelling, diving, fishing, and camping.

Getting there

There are two ferry operators, Keppel Konnections and Freedom Fast Cats, that run services to Great Keppel Island from Rosslyn Bay Harbour, about 18 kilometres from Yeppoon. The ferry ride takes about 30 minutes. Great Keppel is a difficult destination for people with limited mobility or permanent wheelchair users:

- The beach arrival and boarding ramps are difficult with either of the two ferry operators
- Most of the tracks and trails on the Island are soft sand or require soft sand transitions
- The Island has no public accessible infrastructure. The only public toilet on Fishermans Beach is raised requiring the use of stairs
- While there is ample opportunity for water activities there is not a beach wheelchair or beach matting available on the island
- The island is quiet and does offer a very peaceful environment and would be well suited to families with children on the autism spectrum looking for a quiet getaway





Great Keppel Island

Great Keppel Island Hideaway Resort

Great Keppel Hideaway Resort is a budget resort located on Long Beach, Great Keppel Island. It offers a variety of accommodation options, including cabins, studios, and apartments.

There is a restaurant on site that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Getting to the resort requires the use of either of the two ferry services as noted above, involves a beach landing and the walk across the soft sand up to the resort or the use of the courtesy buggy. Once at the resort there are paved walkways to the accommodation from the main complex which includes reception, the restaurant and bar area. None of the accommodation is wheelchair accessible. The accommodation is well spread out and offers a large degree of seclusion. It is particularly well suited to families or other groups looking for a tranquil environment. The beaches around the resort, especially Putney and Leekes, provide an uncrowded environment. For people looking for a private escape, some of the accommodation is self catering. It should be noted that there are no shops on the island so provisions must be brought in at the time of arrival. Off the paved pathways of the resort, the tracks are largely soft sand, especially to the beaches. A paved roadway leads along the foreshore as far as the disused airstrip. The bar, restaurant and reception can be reached without the use of stairs by entering in front of the building and following the veranda. In front of the main building is a large grassed area which is hard packed. It serves as a function area for weddings and concerts. The outdoor bar is located in the same area. There are no accessible toilets at the Hideaway Resort.

Seaway Trail

Seaway Trail is a looped walking trail starting at Great Keppel Island Hideaway and consists of 15 beautifully designed and built signs with facts and information about the reef, turtles and diversity of marine life. An activity booklet makes the walk fun and interactive for families and children. Each sign contains a QR code and link with more information on the subject and reef generally. The path is a mixture of paved pathways and boardwalks.



Keppel Dive and Snorkel

Keppel Dive and Snorkel

Keppel Dive and Snorkel is on Great Keppel Island and offer a variety of dive and snorkel tours for people with a range of diving experience.

- **Discover Scuba Diving:** A great introduction to scuba diving for beginners. Learn the basics of scuba diving and have the opportunity to explore the underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef.
- **Scuba Diving Training:** A full range of courses are offered including PADI certification, advanced open water, and rescue diving.
- **Snorkelling:** This is a great way to see the underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef without having to be a certified diver. All tours are guided by an experienced instructor giving guests the opportunity to see a variety of fish, coral, and other marine life.
- **Pinnacles Dive:** This is a challenging dive for experienced divers, exploring the underwater pinnacles, which are home to a variety of marine life.
- **Wreck Diving:** This is a great way to see a piece of history exploring the wreck of the SS Maheno.

Keppel Dive and Snorkel also offers a variety of other activities including the hire of scuba gear, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. All activities require guests to be able to walk across the soft sand beaches and board a boat or kayak at the water's edge. There is no beach wheelchair available.

Tropical Vibes

Tropical Vibes is on Long Beach, Great Keppel Island offering souvenirs, gifts, and beachwear. They also have a café that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It is accessed from the paved walkway along Long Beach. The forecourt is paved and there is level entry into the store.

Seating is available outdoors and there is an undercover seating area with moveable furniture.

Great Keppel Island Pizza

Island Pizza is on Long Beach and is a popular spot for both locals and tourists. They offer a wide variety of pizzas, as well as salads, pasta dishes, and calzones. It is located on the paved walkway. Entry is over a wooden bridge level with the paving. The outdoor dining area has two tables that are wheelchair accessible.

Koorana Crocodile Farm

Koorana Crocodile Farm located in Coorooman is the largest crocodile farm in Australia and home to over 3,000 crocodiles. Koorana Crocodile Farm offers a variety of tours and activities, including:

- Crocodile feeding: Visitors can watch as the crocodiles are fed by the farm staff
- Crocodile handling: Visitors can have the opportunity to touch and hold a crocodile, under the supervision of a qualified handler
- Night tour: Visitors can take a night tour of the farm and see the crocodiles at night

In addition to the activities, there is an on site café and a gift shop specialising in Crocodile products.

Parking is available near the main building. It is a gravel car park and driveway leading to the main building. Entry to the building is level. The café is well laid out with movable tables and chairs and wide aisles between the table and to the servery. Ramps lead to the lower level and the observation area in front of the building. Tours are run in both the morning and afternoon and take different routes. The tour routes are mostly on hard packed gravel between the ponds and afford excellent viewing either through a wire fence or windows in a corrugated tin fence. The viewing windows are suitable for people of all heights and seated wheelchair users. There are some patches of shallow soft sand. There is no accessible toilet available at the park, however, one toilet is on a raised platform with a seat height of 450mm. The door is wide but there are no grab rails and no space beside the toilet.

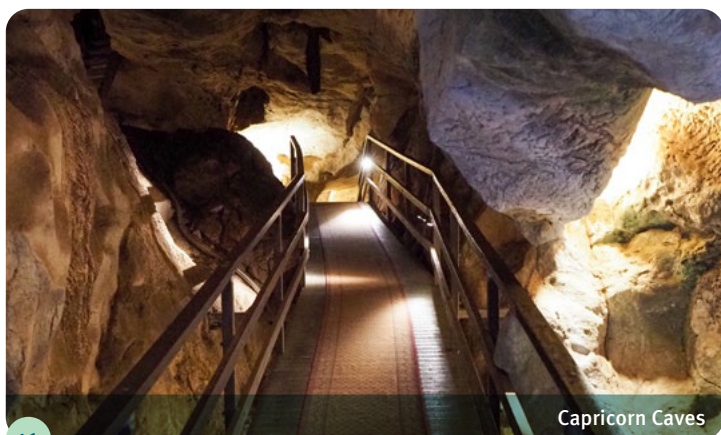
Capricorn Caves

The Capricorn Caves are a system of limestone caves 23 kilometres north of Rockhampton. They are home to a variety of cave formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstones. The caves are also home to a number of bats. There are a number of tours available at the Capricorn Caves varying from 45 minutes to 2 hours. In addition to the caves, there is a café and a variety of accommodation for overnight stays. The accommodation ranges from cabins, to a lodge to accommodate large groups and powered and unpowered caravan sites.

Designated disabled parking is available directly in front of the main reception building and café. There is level entry to the building. An accessible toilet is located in the main building. The caves are a natural structure. Entry to the caves is step free via a series of ramps up and into the main cave. The gradient of the ramps is 1:8 in places. Caution is required for wheelchair or mobility aid users or people unsteady on their feet. Once inside the caves, the floors are relatively level. Most of the major dips and ridges have been filled with fine hard packed gravel, however, the floor is still uneven. There are also areas of low overhanging rock edges or protrusions from the walls of the caves. Caution would need to be exercised by visitors with low vision, especially considering the low levels of light within the caves. Tours are tailored to suit the needs of particular visitors.



Cooberie Wildlife Park



Capricorn Caves



Cooberie Wildlife Park

Cooberrie Park

Cooberrie Park is a wildlife sanctuary located in Woodbury, a 20 minute drive from Yeppoon. It is home to a variety of Australian animals, including kangaroos, koalas, crocodiles, and snakes.

Designated disabled parking is available in the upper level car park in front of the main entry building. A concrete path leads down into the ticket office/gift shop. It is the main service centre for both the wildlife and dinosaur parks that are separate attractions. There is no combined ticket. Entry into the wildlife park is through a double gated airlock. The gates are light and easy to open with plenty of space between the gates for large wheelchairs and prams and pushers. An accessible toilet is available to the left of entry beyond the snake house. It is a large room with side and rear grab bars and a backrest. The snake house has floor to ceiling glass displays. All of the main displays have wire mesh to ground level affording good viewing to people of all heights. There are animals running free throughout the park giving many up close and personal experiences. It may be daunting to some people on the autism spectrum. The park is built on undulating ground with most of the paths through the park being natural clay. There are slopes to contend with throughout the park as well as rutted ground.

Gradients are gentle throughout. Each display has a large information board and all dinosaurs are close to the walkway.



In the same complex is the Capricorn Dinosaur Park. It is home to 35 life-sized dinosaurs, a 1 kilometre wheelchair and stroller friendly dinosaur walk, an educational dinosaur fossil dig, and a 18 hole mini golf course. The dinosaurs at Capricorn Dinosaur Park are all positioned in their natural habitats and are accompanied by information boards that explain their features and history.

The entry to the park is out of the gift shop building. Immediately inside the park is a picnic area and an accessible toilet. The path leads on down into the main trail. The trail is a combination of concrete paths, boardwalk bridges and fine hard packed gravel pathways. All paths through the park are wide and smooth.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

2-Day Rockhampton and Yeppoon Escape

- **Day 1: Rockhampton**

Morning: Arrive in Rockhampton and check into your accommodation.

Afternoon: Explore the Capricorn Caves for a unique underground experience. Take a guided tour and marvel at the stunning limestone formations.

Evening: Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Rockhampton.

- **Day 2: Yeppoon**

Morning: Drive to Yeppoon (about 30 minutes) and check in to your Yeppoon accommodation.

Afternoon: Spend your afternoon relaxing on Yeppoon's main beach, taking in the beautiful sea views and exploring local cafés.

Evening: Dine at a Yeppoon waterfront restaurant to savor fresh seafood and enjoy the sea breeze.

4-Day Capricorn Coast Discovery

- **Day 1: Rockhampton**

Morning: Arrive in Rockhampton and check in to your accommodation.

Afternoon: Visit the Capricorn Caves for an exciting underground tour. Explore unique cave formations.

Evening: Enjoy a relaxing dinner in Rockhampton.

- **Day 2: Rockhampton**

Morning: Discover Rockhampton's rich history by visiting historical sites such as the Dreamtime Cultural Centre and the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens.

Afternoon: Explore Koorana Crocodile Farm and have the chance to touch and hold a crocodile.

Evening: Dine at a local restaurant in Rockhampton.

- **Day 3: Yeppoon**

Morning: Drive to Yeppoon (about 30 minutes) and check in to your Yeppoon accommodation.

Afternoon: Enjoy a leisurely afternoon on Yeppoon's beach or visit nearby attractions like the Lammermoor Native Gardens.

Evening: Relish a seafood dinner in Yeppoon.

- **Day 4: Yeppoon and Surroundings**

Morning: Explore Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary. Get up close to kangaroos, koalas, and more.

Afternoon: Visit the serene Byfield National Park,

experience the diverse landscape, and enjoy nature walks.

Evening: Conclude your stay with a farewell dinner in Yeppoon.

7-Day Extended Coastal Adventure

- **Days 1-3: Rockhampton**

Spend your first three days in Rockhampton.

Explore its history, the Capricorn Caves, and enjoy local dining.

- **Days 4-7: Yeppoon**

Drive to Yeppoon and spend the remaining days there. Experience the beautiful beaches, local wildlife, nature reserves, and coastal dining.

USEFUL LINKS

Visit Capricorn www.visitcapricorn.com.au

Rockhampton Regional Council www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/Home

Livingstone Regional Council www.livingstone.qld.gov.au

Rockhampton Airport www.rockhamptonairport.com.au/Home

Explore Rockhampton Rockhampton Zoo www.rockhamptonzoo.com.au/Home

Kershaw Gardens www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/FacilitiesRecreation/Parks-Open-Spaces/Kershaw-Gardens

Mount Archer National Park parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/mount-archer/about

Dreamtime Cultural Centre www.dreamtimecentre.com.au

Mount Morgan www.mountmorgan.org.au/Home

Mount Hay Gemstone Tourist Park www.aradon.com.au/mt-hay-gemstone-tourist-park/

Yeppoon Capricorn Coast yeppooncapricorncoast.com.au

Emu Park www.emuparkonline.com.au

Keppel Bay Marina keppelbaymarina.com.au

Funtastic Cruises www.funtasticcruises.com

Keppell Konnections www.keppellkonnections.com.au

Freedom Fast Cats freedomfastcats.com

Byfield National Park parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/byfield

Ferns Hideaway Resort www.fernshideawayresort.com

Great Keppell Island Hideaway Resort
greatkeppellislandhideaway.com.au

Koorana Crocodile Farm www.koorana.com.au

Capricorn caves capricorncaves.com.au

Cooberrie park www.cooberriepark.com.au

Capricorn Dinosaur Park capricorndinosaurpark.com.au



Accessible Holiday Destination Guides have been developed by TravAbility for the Queensland Government's Department of Tourism and Sport.

