

Self drive tours Capricorn Queensland

Emerald to Sapphire Gemfields

Real Treasures Tour



Emerald

Emerald is the hub of the Central Highlands and the gateway to the Sapphire Gemfields. It offers great shopping, restaurants and excellent accommodation. The restored railway station is noted for its beautiful cast iron lace portico. Other local sights include the Botanic Gardens, Art Gallery, Town Hall's fossilised tree and the huge reproduction of Van Gogh's Sunflowers.

Lake Maraboon

Just to the south is Lake Maraboon, three times the size of Sydney Harbour and a great place for water sports and fishing.

Capella

(50 minutes north from Emerald)
It was at Capella on an army recruiting drive in World War 1 that an Emu was shot for fresh meat. The feathers of the Emu were placed in the slouch hat, thereby beginning a proud Australian tradition. Capella's Pioneer Village includes the Peak Downs Homestead, built in 1870, the Gordon Downs Store and the Woolshed Museum. It's worth spending extra time in Capella to enjoy the self-drive tours around 'The Peaks', a series of spectacular ranges that give this area its name.

Sapphire Gemfields

68kms from Capella

One hour drive from Capella are the "Sapphire Gemfields" and the townships of Rubyvale, The Willows, Anakie and Sapphire. (20 km of this journey is good, standard unsealed road). The moonscape scenery and bush architecture is something quite unique and you'll meet up with many characters of different nationalities that have made their home on the Gemfields.

Rubyvale

10 drive from Sapphire

At Rubyvale and Sapphire, you're in the midst of the largest sapphire fields in the Southern Hemisphere, so don't miss the chance to go fossicking for your own gems.

If you would rather not dig yourself, you can opt for a walk-in underground sapphire mine tour or a fossicking park to learn to recognise sapphires. If you wind up empty handed, be tempted by a little shopping at one of the many gem galleries.

Anakie & The Willows

15 minute drive from Rubyvale
The Gemfields come alive at Anakie during the annual Gemfest, held every August. The Village hall is transformed into an Alladin's cave, full of glittering jewels.

