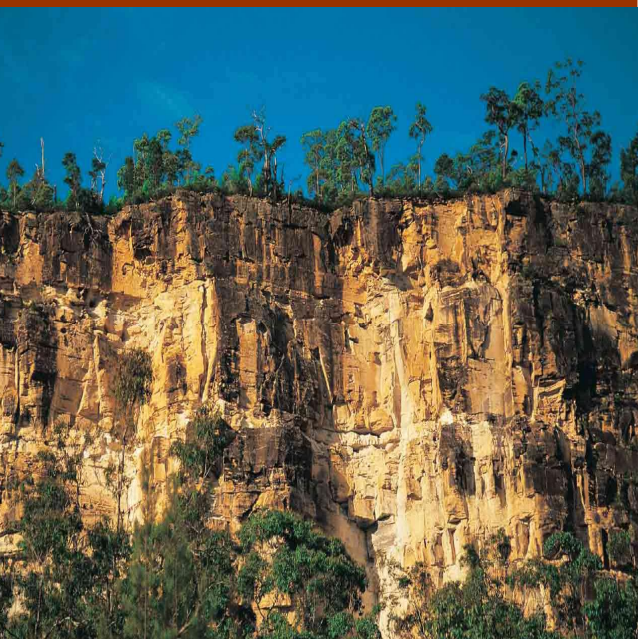


Self drive tours Capricorn Queensland

Rockhampton to Emerald

Real Country Towns Tour



Rockhampton

Head south to the large roundabout with the Bull and turn right onto the Capricorn Highway, heading west.

Duaringa

1 hour drive from Rockhampton
The oldest settlement of the area, Duaringa was once a base camp for railway workers. Some buildings here date back to the 1880s, including part of the Duaringa Hotel which has a mural painted by the local Aboriginal community. Enjoy the serenity of 'Uran Dwangie' - Place of the Swamp Gums - an ancient Aboriginal campsite.

Dingo

20 minute drive from Duaringa
The small town of Dingo is famous for the World Dingo Trap Throwing Contest, held each year in July. The bronze statue of a dingo is a great rest stop.

Blackwater

40 minute drive from Dingo
The heart of coal production in Central Queensland, Blackwater is also Sister City to Fujisawa in Japan. Take time out to visit the beautiful Japanese Gardens here.

Bedford Weir

25 minutes North of Blackwater
The Bedford Weir is a man-made impoundment on the Mackenzie River. The area is suitable for overnight stays, with water, toilets and showers available free of charge. The area is popular boating, skiing and fishing destination.

Comet

15 minute drive from Blackwater
Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt left his mark here - one of his 'dig-trees'. It was Leichhardt's custom to bury food and instructions at certain points along his uncharted route. He would then carve the word DIG into a tree, with a downward arrow, so those who followed would know where to find supplies. Digging today is not recommended, as these supplies were retrieved many years ago.

Emerald

25 minute drive from Comet
With shady tree-lined streets, 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 of Emerald is Lake Maraboon, three times the size of Sydney Harbour and a great place for water sports and fishing. Well worth a visit.

