

CAPRICORN COAST

Suggested birding spots for visitors with limited time would be Bluff Point section of Capricorn Coast National Park and Kinka Wetlands.

Keppel Sands Conservation Park (-23.336, 150.776), Keppel Sands Boat Ramp and Headland (-23.323, 150.790) and Pumpkin Ck (-23.336, 150.795) are good locations for bush, mangrove, sea- and shorebirds.

Zilzie area including Cocconut Point Section of Capricorn NP (-23.283, 150.815) for bush and beach scrub birds; Zilzie Pt (-23.279, 150.821) for shorebirds; Zilzie wetlands (-23.297, 150.790) and Cooroman Ck boat ramp (-23.299, 150.770) for sea- and shorebirds.

Emu Park including Fisherman's Beach (-23.253, 150.824) for sea- and shorebirds, Bell Park (-23.256, 150.827) for beach scrub and bush birds and the Bicentennial Wetlands (-23.253, 150.823).

South Kinka Beach (-23.224, 150.797) for shorebirds and Kinka Wetlands (-23.238, 150.798) for water-, shore- and bush birds.

Causeway Lake on both the northern (-23.196, 150.786) and southern side (-23.204, 150.783) for water-, bush and mangrove birds.

Bluff point section (-23.179, 150.793) of the Capricorn Coast NP. *This is a good place for bush and seabirds. There are picnic facilities, amenities and a 2.7km walk over the headland.*

Double Head NP (-23.163, 150.792), Keppel Bay Marina (-23.163, 150.787) and Rosslyn Bay Harbour entrance (23.160, 150.790).

Lammermoor Native Gardens (-23.156, 150.766) for bush and beach scrub birds.

Yeppoon including Ross Ck (-23.137, 150.750) and Figtree Ck (-23.136, 150.751). *Both creeks are lined with mangroves with a walking track between the two.*

Yeppoon Rail Trail (-23.128, 150.740). *This well-formed walking track is 4 km and is good for bush birds.*

Farnborough Beach and Barwell's Ck (-23.106, 150.751). *Good for sea- and shorebirds and raptors.*

CAPRICORN COAST OUTLYING AREAS

All distances and directions from Yeppoon CB.

Kelly's Landing Rd (4WD recommended) (-23.023, 150.701) is 10km N and has bush and wetland birds.

Corbet's Landing Boat Ramp (-22.886, 150.719) is 35km N and has bush and mangrove birds.

Byfield State Forest and National Park have several locations with walking tracks, picnic facilities and amenities. Upper Stony Ck Visitor Area, (-22.892, 150.620), Red Rock Camping Area, (-22.873, 150.685) Waterpark Ck Picnic Area (-22.836, 150.670). *All locations have good species of bush and rainforest birds.*

Sandy Point (-22.962, 150.776) section of Byfield NP is 20km N, good for migratory shorebirds from Sept to Apr. *Best birding is at high tide. Use the road rather than the beach and have a high clearance vehicle.*

Big Dune Surfing Reserve (-23.010, 150.773) is 15km N and adjacent to Sandy Point. *Good for beach, scrub and shorebirds. A 4WD is recommended.*

Great Keppel Island has many walking tracks and is accessible by ferry from Rosslyn Bay Harbour.

North Keppel Island also has many walking tracks but is accessible only by private vessels.



birdlife

CAPRICORNIA

BIRD WATCHING LOCATIONS

*in the Rockhampton and
Capricorn Coast regions*



Capricorn Yellow Chat (A Briggs)

There is a wide diversity of habitats in the Rockhampton region from wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, to botanic gardens and urban parks with over 190 species recorded.

The Capricorn Coast also has a wide diversity of habitats including beaches, dry rainforest, open forest, mangroves, wetlands and beach scrubs. Over 200 bird species have been recorded.

Sites have latitude and longitude coordinates in brackets for use with Google Maps. Directions to these sites can be then obtained within the Google Maps app.

Suggested birding spots for visitors with limited time are Murray and Yeppen Lagoons adjacent to the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Mt Archer N.P.

ROCKHAMPTON CITY WETLANDS

Murray Lagoon (-23.399, 150.489) has abundant waterbirds and is accessed through the Botanic Gardens. There are extensive areas of parkland adjacent to the lagoon as well as a viewing platform.

Yeppen Lagoon (-23.409, 150.497) can be entered at the eastern end of Blackall St or from a footpath from the Botanic Gardens.

Lakes Ck Rd Waste Management Facility (-23.373, 150.532) has an elevated viewing platform. Turn right just before the Facility's entrance.

ROCKHAMPTON CITY SOUTHSIDE PARKS

These parks are on the banks or adjacent to the Fitzroy River. A circuit walk with the northside parks can be done using the Alexandra Railway Bridge.

Little-cum-Ingham and Toonoonba Parks (-23.385, 150.520) are good for seabirds as well as egrets, herons and cormorants.

Victoria Park (-23.367, 150.505) overlooks rocks in the river that are exposed at low tide as well as some woodlands around the playing fields.

Ski Park (-23.362, 150.495) is on the Fitzroy River just upstream from the barrage. It is freshwater with a fairly constant water level throughout the year.

ROCKHAMPTON CITY PARKS NORTHSIDE

Kershaw Gardens (-23.362, 150.515) is a 50ha native gardens created from an old landfill site. It has picnic facilities, amenities and walking tracks through a variety of woodland, wetland and riparian habitats.

Queens Park (-23.368, 150.510) on the Fitzroy River has large eucalypts with grassy areas adjacent.

Norbridge Park (-23.380, 150.521), also on the Fitzroy River has woodlands adjacent to the playing fields where bush and grass birds can be seen as well as seabirds, egrets, herons and cormorants along the river frontage.

WALK ALONG FRENCHMAN'S CK

From Honour St, Frenchville (-23.350, 150.540) it is possible to walk to Lakes Ck Rd (-23.372, 150.540) along Frenchman's Ck passing through a number of parks with Duthies Park (-23.355, 150.545) accessible from Thozet Rd.

MT ARCHER NATIONAL PARK AND FRAZER PARK

Frazer Park (-23.337, 150.576) is adjacent to the N.P. and has picnic tables, amenities and a board walk.

Mt Archer N.P. has 3 walks around the summit as well as the 14 km **Zamia Walk** from the summit to **Sunset Drive (-23.333, 150.547)**.

SOUTH ROCKHAMPTON WETLANDS

Duck Ponds Reserve (-23.430, 150.510) is accessed from Port Curtis Rd and is a reserve managed by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld.

Woolwash Lagoon (-23.429, 150.527) and **Gavial Ck crossing (-23.446, 150.540)** are accessed from Old Port Curtis Road with several stopping places for viewing.

WEST ROCKHAMPTON & GRACEMERE LAGOONS

Bessie Sue Lagoon (-23.414, 150.480) is accessed from Nelson St and is on private property although it can be viewed from the road. It dries up in winter.

Paradise Lagoon (-23.387, 150.398) and **Lotus Lagoon (-23.370, 150.460)** are both on private property but views can be obtained from the road.

Springers Lagoon (-23.450, 150.491) is a deep water lagoon at Gracemere accessed from Sullivan Rd. There is a walking track and picnic tables.

Gracemere Lagoon (-23.433, -150.448) is accessed from Holland St and has a walking track to the edge.

All distances and directions from Rockhampton CBD.

Alton Downs (-23.303, 150.356) is 20km N, has cropping and grazing country with roadside viewing.

Mt Morgan Dam picnic area (-23.643, 150.406) is 40km SW. Good for both bush and water birds.

12 Mile Rd (-23.676, 150.753), **Port Alma Rd (-23.625, 150.707)** and **Bajool Weir (-23.648, 150.660)** are 50km S, fairly adjacent with the first two sites for locating the critically endangered Capricorn Yellow Chat.

Etna Ck Rd and Alligator Ck (-23.196, 150.403), 30km N on the Fitzroy R has adjacent cropping country. Look out for Yellow Honeyeaters, their southern limit.

Camoo Picnic Area, Mt Etna N.P. (-23.164, 150.467) 27km N has a walking track through dry rainforest.

Lake Mary Swamp (-23.105, 150.588) and **Hedlow Ck Camping Reserve (-23.116, 150.580)** are 25km NE. Lake Mary is a large seasonal swamp on private property but can be viewed from the road. Apart from the reserve, Hedlow Ck is also private property.

Baga (Mt Jim Crow) N.P. (-23.220, 150.629) is 26km NE. It is a large volcanic plug surrounded by dry rainforest with limited walking tracks.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Birdlife Capricornia. Secretary, Allan Briggs
(07 4935 4645, abriggs@irock.com.au);
<https://birdlife.org.au/groups/birdlife-capricornia>

[https://www.explorerockhampton.com.au/Blogs/
The-best-bird-watching-locations-around-Rockhampton](https://www.explorerockhampton.com.au/Blogs/The-best-bird-watching-locations-around-Rockhampton)

Booklets by Allan Briggs on
'Birds of Rockhampton', 'Birds of the Capricorn Coast'
and '12 Walks around Rockhampton'.