

# Central Highlands Top 10 Free Attractions!

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Carnarvon Gorge



## Emerald Botanic Gardens

Relax as you meander through an oasis like no other. The Emerald Botanic Gardens is a tropical paradise, the perfect location for an early morning walk, a family picnic or an energetic game.

**Rifle Range Rd, Emerald**



## Lake Maraboon

Fairbairn Dam & Lake Maraboon are holiday destinations in themselves! The lake is stocked with eight different kinds of fish including barramundi, & is famous for the Red Claw Crayfish. You can relax by the lake, take a swim or try your hand at waterskiing. Picnic tables & free electric & wood barbecues are available.

**via Gregory Hwy & signed turnoff to Selma Rd, Emerald**



## Carnarvon Gorge

Carnarvon Gorge is a spectacular gorge system with towering white cliffs & lush side gorges. Located in Carnarvon National Park, it is the Central Highlands' most popular attraction. Carnarvon Creek meanders through eucalypt & cabbage palm forest & attracts 170 bird species. Explore creeks, mossy gorges & cool rainforests on 21 kms of walking track.



## Blackdown Tableland

Blackdown Tableland National Park protects a sandstone plateau rising abruptly above Central Qld's flat plains. Bordered by high rugged cliffs, this is the traditional home of the Ghungalu people. Rock art across the park reminds us of their connection with this land. Featuring deep gorges, the park offers amazing lookouts & scenic waterfalls.

**via Capricorn Hwy, signed turnoff 35 km east of Blackwater**



## The Big Easel

Once famous as a major sunflower producer, Emerald is now home to the world's biggest Van Gogh 'Sunflower' painting located in Morton Park on an easel at the western end of Clermont Street (Capricorn Highway). The superstructure is 25 metres high with approximately 13.6 tonnes of steel involved in its construction.

**Morton Park, Emerald**



## Historic Railway

In 1899 Emerald's first Railway Station was built, but unfortunately burned down within a year. In 1900 a new Railway Station was built of timber, with iron roof & wrought iron trimmings. The heritage-listed railway station boasts an elaborate entry with wrought iron lacework and pillared portico, offering great photos.

**100 Clermont St, Emerald**



## Visitor Information Centre

Commence your tour of Emerald & the Central Highlands at the Visitor Information Centre in Clermont Street. This building, an attraction in itself, is the first 'straw-bale' Visitor Information Centre in Queensland. Yes, that's right, the walls are made from bales of straw!



## Peak Range Lookout

The distinctive Peak Range, a succession of gigantic conical & dome topped mountains north of Capella, is a photographer's delight. Discover the grandeur of the Peaks up close on a self drive tour, or while sampling country hospitality. A special place where you are invited to relax, unwind & enjoy the stunning natural beauty.

**Gregory Hwy (Great Inland Way), 1km south of Capella**



## Gem Stores

Catch gem fever as you discover the famous jewels of the Central Highlands. Explore the famous gem shops, galleries, jewellers & locally created cottage industries that are the lifeblood of the Sapphire Gemfields.

**Sapphire, Rubyvale, Anakie & the Willows Gemfields**



## Japanese Gardens

The Japanese Gardens in Blackwater are reputed to be the best of their kind in Queensland. The gardens mark the relationship between Blackwater & its sister city, Fujisawa in Japan.

Japanese Gardens Blackwater are an ideal spot to stop on your trip along the Capricorn Highway, located between Emerald & Rockhampton.  
**Capricorn Hwy, Blackwater**