

Carnarvon National Park



Carnarvon Gorge. Photo courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland

The Carnarvon National Park is an inland oasis situated in the semi-arid region of lower Central Highlands and Coalfields. It is approximately 700km or nine hours drive north-west of Brisbane.

The Park is set within this area and is renowned for its magnificent gorges, creeks, walking trails and diverse landscapes. It is a popular destination for tourists.

To the Traditional Custodians, Carnarvon is a living landscape of connectivity to culture that's immersive holistically. Their sacred stories are embedded in everything within the park and continues to bind them to each other and the land. Ancient aboriginal artworks adorn the sandstone walls and are popular viewing for tourists and locals alike.

The Park covers 300,000 hectares and is managed in three main sections—Carnarvon Gorge, Mount Moffatt and Salvator Rosa / Ka Ka Mundi. This unique area of Queensland is home to over 172 species of birds and many other insects and animals.

Carnarvon Gorge Section

Located approximately 246 km north of Roma and 241km south-east of Emerald (3hrs drive), Carnarvon Gorge is the most visited area of the park and

includes numerous short visitor walks as well as one of the trail heads for the 86km Carnarvon Great Walk. Carnarvon Gorge is accessible by conventional vehicle on bitumen roads. Vehicle access to the park can be restricted during flooding events with employees potentially being isolated for extended periods of time, with storms frequently occurring through summer. In winter, temperatures may fall below zero, while in summer they reach well over 30°C.

Mount Moffatt Section

The Mount Moffatt area is mostly rugged and remote high country. It is known for numerous short visitor walks, approximately 60km of four-wheel drive roads, one of the trail heads for the 86km Carnarvon Great Walk and four camping areas.

Salvator Rosa and Ka Ka Mundi Section

This section of the Carnarvon National Park is known for some short visitor walks, approximately 40km of four-wheel drive roads and two camping areas which are open all year.

Salvator Rosa forms the western edge of the Central Queensland Sandstone Belt. The park features crystal clear springs, the Nogoia River and wildflowers which add colour to the landscape in spring.

Amenities and services

The Carnarvon National Park is a remote location and as such offers limited amenities and services. Mobile phone reception is generally not available and electricity is supplied by 'single phase' power-line in Carnarvon National Park.

A lodge and two caravan parks are located adjacent to Carnarvon Gorge.

Rolleston is the nearest town to Carnarvon Gorge (1.5 hour drive), Injune is closest to Mount Moffatt (162km or 2.5 hour drive) and Tambo is the nearest town to Salvator Rosa (2 hour drive). Springsure is approximately 2.5 hours from Salvator Rosa.

At these towns, residents and visitors have access to some amenities such as:

- post office and corner store
- cafe
- hotel
- service station
- state primary school
- library and information centre.

Springsure, Roma and Emerald are the closest towns that offer a wider range of services and facilities, such as:

- emergency services
- medical centres and pharmacies
- state, independent and catholic kindergartens, day care centres, primary and secondary schools
- banks and credit unions
- supermarkets and speciality shops
- petrol stations
- mechanics.

Various cafes, hotels, restaurants and takeaway shops are also established in these larger towns.

Medical and Dental Facilities

The nearest hospital for Mt Moffat and Carnarvon Gorge is located at Injune which also has a doctor's practice and chemist. Springsure has a hospital. A Community Health Clinic is located at Rolleston but is not permanently staffed. Emerald and Roma are the nearest centres which provide dental services and are also the centre for the regional hospitals. The Queensland Ambulance Service has stations located at Injune and Springsure. Neighbouring stations have airstrips which are utilised by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Education

The nearest primary school to Carnarvon Gorge is located at Rolleston but due to distance, children of QPWS employees and neighbouring stations are generally schooled via distance education. A community run school bus currently operates between Rewan and Rolleston which is an approximate 1.5 hour trip each way. It is an additional 20 minute drive from park accommodation to Rewan.

Shopping

Major supermarket chains are located in Roma and Emerald with both centres providing a range of speciality shops and services. Retailers in Roma do

not trade from noon Saturday or on Sundays. Coles and Woolworths in Emerald cater for "click and collect", Woolworths in Roma uses country orders.

A SPAR supermarket is located in Springsure () and an IGA supermarket is located in Injune ().

Fuel is available at Rolleston, Injune and Springsure.

QPWS employees residing in departmental housing are permitted to grow fruit and vegetables at their residences. Pets are not allowed at Carnarvon Gorge.

Access

Carnarvon Gorge is between Roma and Emerald. To access the park from Roma, drive 90km north to Injune, then a further 160km along the Carnarvon Highway to the Carnarvon Gorge turnoff.

To access Carnarvon Gorge from Emerald, drive 65km south to Springsure, then 70km east to Rolleston and a further 61km to the Carnarvon turnoff. No fuel is available after leaving Rolleston or Injune.

The 45km road from the Carnarvon Highway to Carnarvon Gorge is sealed, but can become impassible after heavy rain at flooded creek crossings.

This road is suitable for conventional vehicles and caravans.

Access to Mount Moffatt and Salvator Rosa is via unsealed roads, which are inaccessible during wet weather. Only four-wheel drive vehicles should be used to access these locations.

To access Mount Moffatt from Roma, drive 90km north to Injune, then a further 52km west along Womblebank Gap Road, then a further 110km north along Carnarvon National Park Road.

To access Salvator Rosa from Springsure drive 144km west towards Tambo, then a further 54km south via "Cungelella" to main visitor area.

Things to do

The Carnarvon region is the most popular spot to visit in the Queensland Central Highlands.

Residents and visitors have access to countless walking trails in the area, with many spectacular sites along the way.

Carnarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge has a licensed restaurant which is open during the peak visitation period of March to November. The national park provides bushwalking, remote camping opportunities and swimming at the Rock Pool. Neighbouring properties conduct a variety of tourism based

activities and accommodation during the peak visitor season.



Carnarvon Gorge, photograph courtesy of Brett Roberts, QPWS.

Accommodation

For private accommodation, the purchasing and rental market is available in the larger towns of Emerald, Springsure, Injune and Roma.

For more specific information regarding ranger accommodation, refer to the 'Working in Guide' or ask the contact officer.

Further information

For more information, search for 'Carnarvon Gorge Region' on the DES website www.des.qld.gov.au/

Map

