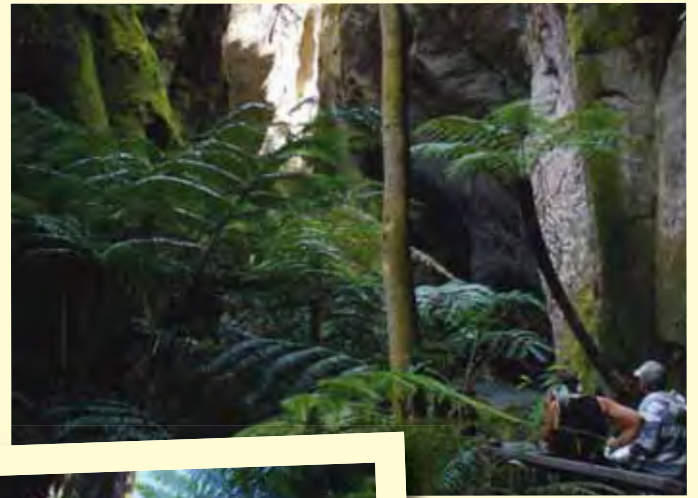


Carnarvon Gorge National Park Central West Queensland



If you want to go on more than a day trip and do not believe that the central west of Queensland can offer subtropical, then you need to visit here.

Reputedly, the average stay here in the privately run site of Takarakka – which offers a mixture of camp and caravan sites as well as safari huts and cabins – is three days. I would recommend at least that if you truly wish to see all of the park that is readily accessible from what is the south-east corner of a park which has an unbroken 160km seam beginning in slightly higher tablelands. This seam effectively creates a preserved corridor for fauna and flora through seven main sections of the overall park.

Many side-treks and points of interest are available from the one main path which enters into the bottom end of the gorge and offers truly magnificent sights. You may have to be prepared to walk parts of the main trek over several separate walks if spreading the effort over two or three days for most sights within the gorge, but it is worth it.

Due to the ever present water supply from the tablelands and also water passing through porous sandstone, the gorge is always with running water. There are many protected pockets along the winding gorge floor as well as upon the mostly unattainable ridges lining the gorge. With limited direct sunlight pervading the gorge there is a number of palms and ferns existing in the area, including the rare King Fern (*Angiopteris evecta*). At the time of writing there are only 13 specimens in central Queensland and all of them are at one location, Ward's Canyon.

Wildlife such as kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and platypus as well as numerous bird species inhabit the park also and it is a wondrous experience to briefly share their world.

