

Get Out of Town

Fossicking for petrified wood

Enjoy some fresh air and country scenery when you join the fossicking enthusiasts with your own pick, shovel and bucket to fossick for a piece of petrified wood.

Chinchilla petrified wood dates back to the Jurassic period with cycads, conifers and ferns being covered with massive amounts of volcanic ash and mud flows. A Dept of Resources fossickers licence and fees to fossick on two local sites must be obtained and are available at the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre.

Bird watching and bushwalking

Pack your picnic lunch and binoculars and take a walk in the country or just sit on the water's edge to observe the many species of bird life at Old Man Lagoon, Round Waterhole, Archer's Crossing, Chinchilla Weir and parts of Barakula State Forest.

Collect your **Birds of Western Downs** brochure from the Visitor Information Centre.



Kogan township and power station

Take a drive from Chinchilla to Brigalow and across to Kogan via Banana Bridge Road, where you will pass by the Kogan Creek Power Station. While in the township of Kogan visit the Q150 Hugh Sawrey Walkway with its variety of sculptures, and have a seat at the picnic table with a statue of the artist himself and his mate, then local publican, "Darkie" Dwyer playing a card game. Visit the Kogan Hotel for a meal and spot some more art on the walls and around the pub.

Go for a country drive

Get off the highway and drive along the many sealed roads around Chinchilla that form a grid-pattern amongst flat farming areas, or wind your way around the district's undulating terrain. Drive past fields lush with crop varieties, look for paddocks of grazing cattle or marvel at the infrastructure of the resource industry in the region.



Fossicking for Petrified Wood



Chinchilla Botanic Parkland



Fire Tower Interpretive Centre, Chinchilla Museum



Q150 Hugh Sawrey Walkway (Kogan)



ASK A LOCAL

We hope you enjoy your stay. The information is a guide only. Always drive to conditions and if in doubt, ask a local.

Visitor Information Centre

Warrego Highway (opposite Pioneer Cemetery)
Chinchilla QLD 4413

☎ (07) 4660 7291

@ chinchilla.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au

🌐 www.westerndownsqueensland.com.au

OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9am–4.30pm

Saturday 9am–1pm Sunday 10am–12pm



Experience Chinchilla

It's the
people that
make it.



Things to See and Do

1 The Big Melon

Stop and take a photo of this giant four tonne, nine metre wide watermelon slice which stands pride of place on the Warrego Highway, between the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre and the railway crossing.

A national on-line travel company competition to build a new "Big Thing", saw Chinchilla's bid for a big melon slice beat three other finalists for an over-sized tourist attraction.

2 Chinchilla Botanic Parkland

The Parkland is located on the site of the Chinchilla Railway Depot when the railway line ran from Brisbane to Miles in the 1870s. A section of the Parkland sits on the original location of the four-bay steam engine shed, built in 1914. The Parkland sign fronting Canaga Street is located at the original siding wall, the last remaining relic of this infrastructure which connected to the main rail track by a spur line.

The region's Aboriginal cultural history and diverse flora including Wattles, White Cypress Pine and Chinchilla White Gums feature in the gardens.

Be inspired by the Demonstration Garden or walk along the meandering Ephemeral Creek which mirrors the banks of nearby Charleys Creek.

Enjoy a splash of water when the showpiece watermelon fills up and empties in the custom built watermelon water play area.

3 Town Centre

The Camphor Laurel tree-lined Heeney Street in the town's centre was named in 1887 after Francis Xavier Heeney, a Warrego district Crown Lands Commissioner. A walk along this street takes in the main retail precinct, the old Court House, Post Office, historical markers and the Cypress Pine Art Sculpture round-a-bout. Take a rest in Fuller Place, a community space in the middle of Heeney Street which is surrounded by the Lapunyah Art Gallery, Cinema and Library.

Nearby, Bell and Middle Streets also feature historical points of interest and other retail shops.

4 Chinchilla Weir

Located on the Condamine River, 10km south of Chinchilla, the Weir is a freshwater playground for locals and visitors. Camping is available (two nights maximum) with toilets, limited powered sites, bbq and picnic facilities. Donations for camping are accepted at the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre.

5 Lapunyah Art Gallery

This local gallery has a regular changing program of exhibitions from local and visiting artists.

6 Charleys Creek Walk and Rotary Park

Start your walk in Rotary Park and read about the area's past on the "Just a Glimpse" pictorial timeline signage before stepping up the pace and proceeding under the Railway and Highway bridges and enjoying a creek-side walk which extends to Middle Street and Mutch Street.

7 Chinchilla Museum

A showcase of the town and surrounding district's past history, featuring a petrified wood display, the cactoblastis story, Cypress Pine and Fire Tower Interpretive Centre.

8 Pioneer Cemetery

Situated opposite Visitor Information Centre. Delve into Chinchilla's history with a wander through this cemetery with burials dating back to 1892.

9 Leichhardt Monument

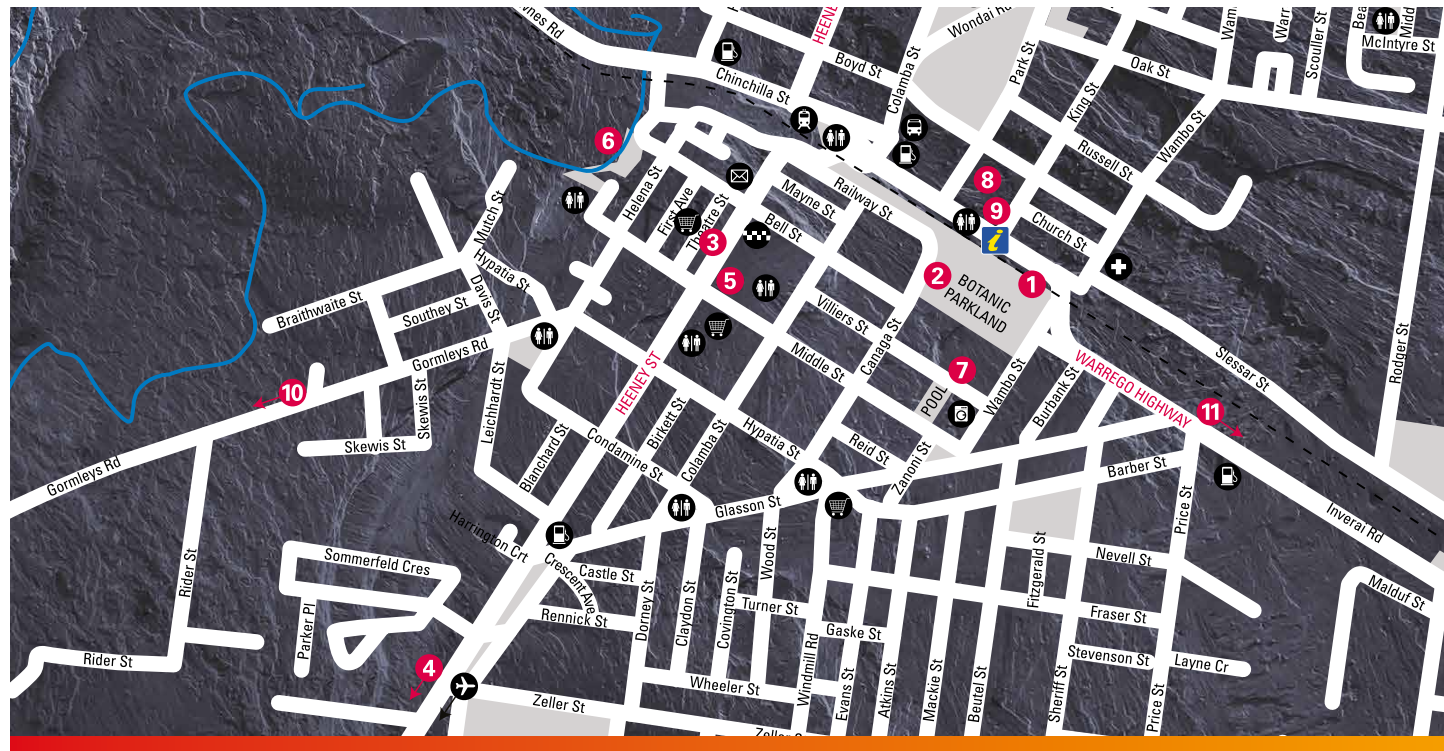
Located in the Pioneer Cemetery across the road from the Visitor Information Centre. This Prussian explorer passed through the area in 1848.

10 "The Shanti" Cactoblastis Monument And Shed

The cactoblastis moth and its larvae eradicated the nuisance plant, the "prickly pear" which covered much of Queensland's farm land in the early 1900s. A monument and replica shed is located near the entrance to the property "The Shanti" on Clarke's Road which operated as a Field Station to breed the moth in the early 1930s.

11 Boonarga Cactoblastis Memorial Hall

Located on the Warrego Highway, the hall was built in 1936 after the Field Station closure to recognise the success of this "Miracle Bug" program in the effected district.



Chinchilla Weir