Explore the High Country

Your local guide to the towns, flavours, walks and scenic places around Ravensbourne Escape

A stay at Ravensbourne Escape is about more than beautiful accommodation. Wander through country villages, enjoy a long lunch, discover local makers or head into the forest for fresh air and spectacular views.

We are proud to be part of the **High Country Hamlets**, a picturesque microregion nestled along the Great Dividing Range, north of Toowoomba, with Ravensbourne Escape perfectly positioned to explore it all.

Discover everything the region offers by downloading the **High Country Hamlets Map here.** Also found on their website: highcountryhamlets.com.au

Our Recommendations

START HERE

The **Hampton Visitor Information Centre** is a great first stop for local advice, maps and ideas. It is approximately 10 minutes from Ravensbourne Escape; turn left as you exit the stone gates onto the main road. Then drive 14 km until you get to the end of the road.
That is Hampton, with the information centre on your left at the intersection. The Visitor Information Centre is also home to the annual **Hampton Festival**, held on the third weekend in May - A weekend celebration of local food, wine, music and arts.

DISCOVER NEARBY TOWNS

HAMPTON | approx. 10 minutes

A welcoming country hamlet at the intersection of New England Highway and Esk-Hampton Road.

- **Visitors Info Centre** – great regional info here
- **The Hampton Store**
- **The Magpie / Salt Antiques** – Collectables
- **"Wild Woman Designs"** Pottery & Activities – call her for a visit: 0409 047 649
- **Post Office & Coffee**

PECHEY | approx. 15 minutes

Drive to Hampton, then turn **RIGHT** on the New England Highway for 5 minutes.

- **Pechey Homestead and Gin Distillery** – open most weekends for tastings. Check out their website for times **www.pecheydistilling.com**

CROWS NEST | approx. 20 minutes

A charming town for cafés, local shops and heritage character. Drive to Hampton, then turn RIGHT on the New England Highway for 10 minutes.

DISCOVER NEARBY TOWNS

CROWS NEST | continued...

“The Nolans Block” www.nolansblock.com.au

- **My Little Blueberry Patisserie & Coffee** Shop. 5 Stars. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10 AM -2 PM
- **Myrtille Bistro** (said “Murr-tee”) – Lunch & Dinner in style. 5 Stars. Must book ahead
- **The Potager Gifts Food and Memorabilia**
- **High Country Collective** – Nice fashion and gifts
- **Hair with Kerri** – Hairdresser
- **Stuff** – Homewares – very chic

Also in Crows Nest

- **Grand Old Crow Hotel** – Pub & Bistro - 7 days
- **Crows Nest Soft Drinks Factory** – A must-visit!
- **Post Office • IGA store • The Nest Café • Feeling Saucy Pizza House**
- **Crows Nest Country Butchery** – great local meat and food items
- **Small Shops • Historic Park • Memorial**
- **Crows Nest Museum and Historical Village** - step back in time
- **Library & Art Gallery** – You will be surprised...
- **Crows Nest Community Arts & Crafts** – Excellent!
- **Crows Nest Aquatic Centre** - open mid-September to April

CABARLAH | approx. 20 minutes

Drive to Hampton, then turn LEFT onto the New England Highway; continue for 10 minutes to reach Cabarlah.

- **Farmers Arms:** Oldest operating pub in Queensland
- **Cyrano:** French Gift Shop – Delightful
- **Clock & Bull Brewhouse:** Restaurant & Cafe
- **Golf Course** (The Barracks)
- **Cabarlah Markets:** Once a month on the Last Sunday, 8 AM to 2 PM. Located behind the Farmers Arms

DISCOVER NEARBY TOWNS

HIGHFIELDS | approx. 25 minutes

Drive to Hampton, turn LEFT onto the New England Highway, then travel 15 minutes towards Toowoomba.

- **Danish Flower Art store & Café**
- **The Chocolate Cottage:** Great food & gifts at The Village Green
- **The Village Green:** The Chocolate Cottage, boutique shops, and Wellbeing Cottage
- **Relish Café:** *Yum!*
- Coles & Woollies supermarkets, plus most services, cafes and other businesses.

ESK | approx. 20 minutes

Turn RIGHT at *our stone entrance gate* onto the highway and follow the road down to ESK for 20 minutes.

- **The Nash Gallery Café:** a nice old house with lovely food and coffee, plus local art.
- **Esk Grand Hotel**
- **Brisbane Valley Roasters Cafe & Eatery**
- Bottle Shop
- Shops
- Cafes
- IGA Store
- Post Office

TOOWOOMBA | approx. 40 minutes

Drive towards Hampton, turn LEFT onto the New England Highway, then travel for about 30 minutes

What can we say? Toowoomba is big, pretty, and walkable. Explore the parks and gardens, galleries, restaurants, cinemas and Grand Central shopping centre.
Try Fitzy's Bar on Margaret Street & Sofra's Turkish Restaurant, Cork & Lever for tapas and cocktails, plus many more places to choose from.

LOCAL FOODS & EATERIES

Enjoy the freedom to self-cater and unwind in the comfort of your accommodation, or venture out to discover the region's fresh local produce, cafés and country eateries.

Myrtille Bistro & My Little Blueberry | Crows Nest
A destination for a special meal, pastries or coffee. Located at 1 Thallon Street. Book ahead for the bistro.

Feeling Saucy | Crows Nest
Italian-style dining and takeaway options, on Charlotte Street.

Grand Old Crow Hotel | Crows Nest
Country pub atmosphere for lunch or dinner.

Clock & Bull Brewhouse | Cabarlah
Craft beers, hearty pub meals and relaxed country dining.

Farmers Arms Tavern | Cabarlah
Classic country pub meals, cold beers and friendly local atmosphere.

The Chocolate Cottage | Highfields
A favourite for café treats, gifts and a leisurely stop.

Relish Cafe | Highfields
Wholesome café meals, great coffee and relaxed dining.

Meringandan Hotel | Meringandan
Generous country pub meals, cold drinks and relaxed dining.

Rosalie House Restaurant & Winery | Lilyvale
A scenic winery and dining destination, approximately 35 minutes away. Bookings are recommended.

Please check opening hours before visiting to avoid disappointment, as trading times may vary.

PARKS, BUSHWALKS, & SIGHTSEEING

RAVENSBOURNE NATIONAL PARK | approx. 800 metres

Ravensbourne National Park is a lush pocket of rainforest just 800 metres from our front gates (turn left at the front gates), with bushwalks that vary from very short to longer hikes. The park preserves one of the few examples of rainforest that originally covered much of the local area. This day-use park has short walks through rainforest and open Eucalypt forest, which support an amazing array of native birdlife.

Various walking tracks allow you to view features of the rainforest and open forest. While the walks are short - only one is longer than a kilometre - you can spend a full day exploring the park. You can discover some of the forest's more interesting features on the Cedar-block self-guiding walk.

Facilities are available at the park, and two picnic areas are provided. Both have picnic tables, wood barbecues, firewood, water and toilets. The Cedar Block picnic area also has a shelter shed. Enjoy a panoramic view over the range towards Brisbane, the Scenic Rim and the Lockyer Valley from the **Gus Beutel Lookout.**

CROWS NEST NATIONAL PARK | approx. 20 minutes

The Waterfall Walk and Valley of Diamonds in Crows Nest National Park are beautiful and relatively easy – 20 minutes from us by car.

You can choose between the Kauyoo Loop and the Koonin Lookout walk, but we suggest putting them together and doing the lot. The waterhole has been closed down in the last couple of years due to falling rocks, but it's still a beautiful walk. You can still access Kauyoo and Bottlebrush Pools, both of which are refreshing swims. Just be conscious that there's often creek flooding after heavy rain. The Koonin Lookout is worth the extra walking time, with its stunning outlook over Ravensbourne's rolling hills.

Walking Time: 1.5 hours
Classification: Most is Grade 3, but the Kauyoo Loop includes a Grade 4 section of steep crevices and slippery rocks.

** NO DOGS / PETS ALLOWED IN THE NATIONAL PARKS **

VISIT THE LOCAL LAKES

LAKE COOBY | approx. 30 minutes

Lake Cooby provides the water supply for Toowoomba, but it's also a picturesque picnic spot with a playground and BBQ facilities. Start at either Loveday Cove or the Cooby Dam Wall, and walk to the other side for lunch. Loveday Cove is definitely the more beautiful outlook, so we recommend parking at Cooby Dam Wall and enjoying a picnic at the cove.

Lake Cooby is home to the Darling Downs Sailing Club, and we bet you didn't know we had one of those.

Walking Time: 90 minutes return
Classification: Grade 4 (it's mainly easy with one moderate climb in the middle)

LAKE CRESSBROOK | approx. 15 minutes

Lake Cressbrook has covered and grassy picnic areas, gas barbecues, a children's playground, basketball and beach volleyball courts. Fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and windsurfing are popular activities. There are two boat ramps. (Petrol outboards allowed.) A 5 km walking circuit starts at the camping ground, loops around the lake shore, and then back over the lightly wooded ridge. You may see the resident red deer and loads of kangaroos and wallabies

Walking Time: 2.5 hours
Classification: Grade 3
Check for alerts here.

LAKE PERSEVERANCE | approx. 15 minutes

You don't even have to get wet to enjoy what Lake Perseverance has to offer. Just take a drive across the dam wall to the recreation area. What could be better than enjoying a picnic or barbecue in a quiet bushland setting while overlooking the tranquil waters of Lake Perseverance. Unlike Cooby and Cressbrook, Toowoomba's other water supply lakes, fishing, boating and windsurfing are not permitted at Lake Perseverance. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do

**** NO DOGS / PETS ALLOWED IN THE NATIONAL PARKS ****

OTHER WALKS CLOSER TO TOOWOOMBA

Redwood Park | 3 hours | Grade 4

Spanning 243 hectares along the Great Dividing Range, Redwood Park offers scenic bushwalking trails, native vegetation and spectacular views. The Redwood Forest Walk connects with the Grass Tree Track, featuring steep and rugged sections. Signage is limited, so take a map.

Picnic Point Parklands | Moderate–Challenging

One of Toowoomba's most popular scenic destinations, offering well-established walking trails with stunning views across the Lockyer Valley. The Picnic Point Circuit includes steep climbs and descents, with a café and beautiful picnic areas to enjoy afterwards.

Table Top Mountain | 2 hours | Grade 5

A challenging climb to one of Toowoomba's most iconic natural landmarks. Expect steep rocky sections, loose gravel and some scrambling, rewarded with breathtaking 360-degree views. A culturally significant site, best suited to experienced and well-prepared hikers.

Cranley Escarpment | 1.5–2.5 hours | Grade 3

Located on Toowoomba's north-western outskirts, this 45-hectare bushland reserve features over 3 km of interconnected walking trails. Enjoy peaceful natural surroundings, wide tracks and a mix of gentle and steeper sections. Signage is limited, so bring a map.

continues...

OTHER WALKS CLOSER TO TOOWOOMBA

continued...

Glen Lomond Park | 1.5 hours | Grade 4

Tucked away in Middle Ridge, Glen Lomond Park offers rugged bushwalking trails shared with mountain bikers and horse riders. The Hell Hole Track and Falls Walk feature steep sections and rewarding views across the range towards Table Top Mountain. Navigation can be challenging.

Jubilee Park | 1–3 hours | Grade 4

A popular bushland reserve in Mount Lofty, offering a network of trails for walkers, runners, horse riders and mountain bikers. Choose the shorter Acacia Trail or tackle the longer Jubilee Bridle Trail, with plenty of hills, native bushland and scenic outlooks.

Mount Peel Bushland Park | 45 minutes | Grade 4

Located near the University of Southern Queensland, Mount Peel offers over 4 km of bushland trails. The Ironbark Walking Circuit is a short, rewarding loop through natural vegetation, ideal for a morning hike. Tracks are largely unsigned, so plan your route before visiting.

Walking times and grades are approximate. Please check current trail conditions, access and weather before setting out.

YOUR HIGH COUNTRY ESCAPE AWAITS

STAY, UNWIND & EXPLORE

After discovering all that the beautiful High Country has to offer, there's no better place to relax and recharge than Ravensbourne Escape.

Nestled amongst the natural beauty of Ravensbourne, our collection of 12 self-contained holiday homes offers the perfect setting for a romantic getaway, family holiday or group retreat.

Whether you're planning a weekend away or a longer stay, enjoy the freedom to explore at your own pace and return to the comfort and privacy of your own holiday home.

MAKE YOUR NEXT GETAWAY MEMORABLE

- **Beautiful accommodation** – Choose from a range of spacious, self-contained holiday homes.
- **Peaceful surroundings** – Unwind amongst native bushland, fresh mountain air and spectacular views.
- **Explore the High Country** – Discover nearby villages, local eateries, walking trails and natural attractions.
- **Something for everyone** – Perfect for couples, families, friends and group getaways.

READY TO ESCAPE?

Book your stay directly with Ravensbourne Escape and start planning your next High Country getaway.

3143 Esk Hampton Road, Ravensbourne 4352

Rob **0427 989 570**

info@ravensbourneescape.com.au

ravensbourneescape.com.au

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Tripadvisor

World Travellers Choice Awards 2025

Queensland Tourism Awards

2019 Best Self-Contained Accommodation

Google Reviews

5 Stars