

Croydon

Historical Goldrush-Town in the Gulf Savannah
North Queensland



Croydon's heritage started with the discovery of gold in 1885 that led to the development of a rich, booming, gold-mining township and the arrival of the railway in Croydon in 1891. As the gold production slowed fortunes of the town looked to the cattle industry.



The rich and varied heritage of Croydon is now enjoyed by the new gold-rush tourism as visitors come to explore and experience the history of this outback town.

Come and Enjoy Incredible Croydon

Croydon Shire has proudly promoted its history by placing significant heritage places on the Heritage Register and through their restoration and conservation.

The Croydon Heritage Precinct includes the Police Station and Sergeant's Residence with Gaol, the Courthouse and Town Hall where it was built from 1886. The Mining Museum reveals mine equipment in its original Iguana Consols Mine location with more mining machinery next to the Council offices. The Men's Ward from the old hospital has been moved and restored to become an important community centre, and the Chinese Temple archaeological site highlights the important contribution of Chinese settlement in the north. The Croydon Cemetery has been in operation since 1885 and is still used today. Cemeteries are a large window into the economic and social history of the district. The Tabletop School House has been moved into town.

Croydon is the rail depot and destination for the RM93 Gulflander train. It provides tourists with an historic journey on original and unique termite-resistant, heritage-listed steel rails and sleepers. The Gulflander travels to the reconstructed Croydon Station weekly, overnights, and returns to Normanton the next day. Normanton was established in 1868 but became a land/sea port for wealthy Croydon when gold was discovered. The train carried goods, people and gold.

The Croydon town housed factories, foundries, schools and 36 hotels. Of the original 122 liquor licences issued on the Croydon goldfields, there is only one still operational today. The Club Hotel has retained its historic flavour in old style rooms, atmosphere and good old-fashioned hospitality.

A visit to the famous Croydon General Store and Museum, which has continuously traded since 1894, is another Croydon living history experience. During the gold rush, the streets were lit by gas lamps. Four original lamp posts and replicas of these lamps line the sandstone-kerbed streets around the heritage precinct area and other parts of the township.

For a completely different experience go to Lake Belmore to barbecue, canoe, water ski or fish. The lake was built for the town water supply in 1995 and is now a sparkling jewel in the savannah. It has barbecues, toilets and showers, a pontoon and boat ramp, and big barramundi and sooty grunter for the catching. The dam wall height is 31.4 metres, the lake capacity is 5,000 mega litres, and at 90% full the lake is 11 metres deep. A bird watching hide provides a hidden viewing place with bird lists available from the True Blue Visitor Information Centre.

The town has a range of businesses close by for all your travel needs. The Croydon Caravan Park is a lush, shady, grassed oasis with a swimming pool, laundry and clean modern amenity blocks. There are powered and unpowered sites, serviced cabins and pets are welcome.

Start your adventure at Croydon's True Blue Visitor Information Centre. Our friendly staff can give you advice and information about your stay and the Incredible Croydon Walking Trail map will be your personal guide.

For a True Blue Heritage Experience



Incredible Croydon Walking Trail

- TRUE BLUE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**
This outstanding VIC has displays, a theatrette with a renowned audiovisual of Croydon, internet service, artefacts, information and sculpture gardens, antique cars and heritage houses. Please check the website or ring True Blue Visitor Information Centre for opening times.
- THE CROYDON HERITAGE PRECINCT**
Police Sergeants Residence c. 1897
This beautiful building was once the residence of the Officer in Charge of Police.
- The Police Station c. 1896**
Photographic displays and museum artefacts tell the story of Croydon at the Police Station with the Gaol directly behind it. **Don't wake the prisoner!**
- Croydon Courthouse c.1887**
Sit at the table in the public gallery and read about past events. Enjoy the court case unfolding while you sit, relax and are taken back in time. Wander through the back rooms and take in the atmosphere of the former Goldfields Administration Office. **Last court held was in 1926.** Enjoy the Art Gallery and other displays.
- TOWN HALL c. 1890**
Today this lovely building is used as a Picture Theatre, Dance Hall and Live Music and Travelling Show venue. The two original 1895 lamp posts on the footpath were made in Croydon. (Public toilets at rear of building)
- CROYDON SHIRE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**
Next to the Administration Office there is a Ten Head Stamper Mill brought into town by the Council from the southern end of the gold field. The Croydon Public Library and the NEC Seniors Broadband Kiosk are on the left of the Administration Office.

- SAINT MARGARETS ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Anglican and Catholic services are held regularly (notices at VIC). All denominations are welcome to attend. The Bell Tower has a cairn under it. The church was rebuilt after a cyclonic episode demolished it in 1942.
- FEDERATION PARK/ANZAC PARK**
The sculptures are by Hans Pehl, Blacksmith Artist. The park has gazebos with plenty of seating, free electric BBQs, picnic tables and children's playground, a tennis court and the Croydon War Memorial. (Public toilets)
- DATUM POST TREE**
The dead Cooktown Ironwood tree was used as a reference for the original survey of the town.
- CROYDON CARAVAN PARK**
The Park is situated on the "Lady Mary" gold mine. It is centrally located, close to all businesses and amenities, has a pool, plenty of shade, green grass, 2 air-conditioned en-suited units and powered and unpowered sites. For bookings phone 07 4745 6238.
- CHINESE TEMPLE**
The Croydon Chinese Temple Archaeological Dig Site is a revealing window into Chinese settlement in northern Australia. Ongoing research will continue to disclose more about the policies of the day and the attitudes that triggered them. The information plaques along the walk-way provide insights into the personal lives of the Chinese living in Croydon.
- LAKE BELMORE**
Less than 4km from town Lake Belmore has sealed road access and a turn around opportunity, boat ramp, pontoon, free electric BBQs, all year round fishing (Barramundi and Sooty Grunter),

- boating, canoeing, bird watching and a shaded children's playground. Camping not permitted. (Showers and toilets)
- SUNSET AT DIEHMS LOOKOUT**
The lookout provides a bird's eye view of Croydon and is located on the road to Lake Belmore.
- CROYDON CENTRE SUPERMARKET AND CAFE**
The cool, shaded annexe is perfect for real coffee, cake and meals. Takeaways, cold drinks, groceries, souvenirs and fuel and gas also available. Phone: 07 4745 6159



Heritage Precinct



Lake Belmore is less than 4km from town.



Catch a Barramundi



For more information

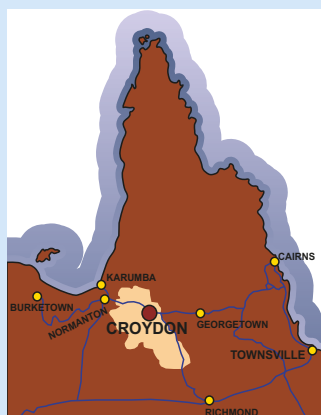
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- OLD BUTCHER SHOP (Replica)**
The original was brought in from Little River around 1940. The iron and weatherboard structure collapsed in a storm in 1996 and was rebuilt from corrugated iron.
- REESE PARK**
Originally the site of the Bank of NSW, this central park has shaded picnic tables for weary travellers. (Toilets)
- CLUB HOTEL CROYDON**
Built in 1887 this is the last of 36 hotels in Croydon town, and still operating today for drinks, meals and accommodation. For bookings phone 07 4745 6184.
- CROYDON GENERAL STORE**
The General Store is the longest continuously running store in Queensland, built in 1894, and houses a local collection of memorabilia and artefacts. As well as groceries, dining on the verandah, take-away food, home-made treats, fuel, tyres and souvenirs are available. Phone: 07 4745 6163
- CENTENARY PARK**
The stone cairn marks the spot where gold was thought to have been discovered in Croydon. A nugget was found in a post hole, dug while fencing for cattle, in 1885.
- MINING MUSEUM**
An original Iguana Consols Mine with an operable 'stamper', mining machinery and chimney, the original Bing Chew family home and information plaques.
- MALE WARD FROM THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL (SES BUILDING)**
Originally built in 1894, this building was moved to make place for the new hospital and is still used for community purposes.
- CROYDON RAIL STATION and GULFLANDER RAIL MOTOR TERMINUS**
This award winning steel replica replaced the original timber structure. During the tourist season the Gulflander train arrives from Normanton at about 1.30pm on Wednesdays, returning the next morning. Bookings can be made by phoning QLD Rail in Normanton on 07 4745 1391.
- CROYDON CEMETERY**
Located 2km past the Rodeo Grounds this cemetery is heritage listed and has operated since 1885. The old graves reveal the severe hardship of life on outback goldfields.
- GULFGATE ROADHOUSE and POST OFFICE**
Fuel, licensed restaurant, hot and cold drinks, take-away food, batteries, tyres, souvenirs, post office and cabins. For bookings phone 07 4745 6169.
- GOLF COURSE**
Enjoy a free 9 hole game of golf on Croydon's Savannah Golf Course, endorsed by Greg Norman's pro team in 2011. The course, with its artificial turf on the tees and greens, suits beginners and challenges experienced players. Get your self-guided map from the True Blue Visitor Information Centre.
- RECREATION GROUNDS & BOWLS GREEN**
Enjoy a game of bowls on artificial greens at the sport and recreation grounds. Bowls are available for guests of the Caravan Park. Contact the Visitor Information Centre for weekly bowls nights.
- SWIMMING POOL**
25 metre outdoor pool with 6 lanes, wheel chair access into the pool, fenced toddler pool with shade cover. Check website or Visitor Information Centre for opening times.
- CWA**
The CWA in Croydon started up in 1926 to support the hospital and those struggling to survive when the gold field faltered. It declined in 1934 and was reformed in 1948. The gorgeous little CWA building was placed on Department of Justice land in 1964. Today's CWA members are still very active.



CAMPING IN THE CROYDON SHIRE IS ONLY PERMITTED IN THE CROYDON CARAVAN PARK