

Brisbane

Eguide



Brisbane, the capital city of the state of Queensland is situated in the southeast corner of Queensland, Australia. The Central Business District of Brisbane is situated in a curve of the Brisbane River. The eastern suburbs are along the shores of Moreton Bay, to the north is the Sunshine Coast and to the south is the Gold Coast.

Many historic sandstone buildings have been preserved, but the majority of the CBD now consists of high rise buildings. Brisbane is very pedestrian & bike friendly. Excellent transport is available via fast Catamarans on the river and network of buses and trains.

The first European exploration of Moreton Bay, where Brisbane lies, was carried out in 1797 by Matthew Flinders, who landed where today Redcliffe is situated. In 1799, Flinders, in the Norfolk, charted the east coast of Queensland.

In 1823, John Oxley in the Mermaid named the Brisbane River after the Governor of New South Wales at the time and travelled 100 kilometres up the river.

A convict settlement was established at Redcliffe in 1824 and moved to Brisbane in the following year. At the time, this territory was still part of New South Wales. The first free settlers arrived in 1837 and by 1840 all convicts had been withdrawn from Brisbane.

By 1851, the residents of Queensland had started to think of independence from New South Wales. Queen Victoria was petitioned and agreed, preferring the name Queensland to the alternative suggestion of Cooksland. Queensland was proclaimed on 6th June 1859.

Brisbane, although it has a population of a million and a half, has quite a different atmosphere from the larger capital cities, Sydney and Melbourne. It was founded in July 1825 as a penal settlement, on the orders of the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane, and it soon gained a reputation as one of the harshest of such settlements.

By 1840, however, with all the convicts withdrawn, Brisbane had become a city for free settlers. When Queensland was separated from New South Wales and became a colony in its own right, Brisbane became its capital.

Animal Attractions

Alma Park Zoo

This zoo located thirty minutes north of Brisbane, features Australian and exotic animals in a rainforest setting. During the day are a number of "meet the keeper" shows where all the animals can be seen more closely. *Alma Road, Dakabin (07 3204 6566). Zoo Train from Roma Street to Dakabin.*

Australia Zoo

The world famous Australia Zoo is about one hour north of Brisbane and easily reached by train, car or part of an organised tour.

Walkabout Creek Restaurant and Wildlife Centre

You can enjoy a close up look at some of Australia's native animals in a recreated natural environment. *60 Mount Nebo Road, Brisbane (07 3300 4855).*



Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

This is the ideal place to cuddle a koala and have a photo taken at the same time. The sanctuary first opened in 1927. You will also find an array of other Australian native animals and birds such as kangaroos, emus, wombats, Tasmanian devils, dingoes and various reptiles.

The Sanctuary is located 11km southwest of the CBD. *Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket (07 3378 1366).*

Daisy Hill Koala Centre

This conservation and information centre about koalas and their habitat can be found 25km Southwest of Brisbane. Koalas can be spotted in the wild, and there are beautiful bushwalking tracks and picnic areas to enjoy. *Daisy Hill Road, Daisy Hill (07 3299 1032).*



Art Galleries

Institute of Modern Art

A contemporary art space founded in 1975. It offers a diverse program, including moving image, sound art and new music, featuring emerging and established artists. *420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley (07 3252 5750).*

Queensland Art Gallery

The Art Gallery is at the southern end of Victoria Bridge, within walking distance of the city centre. It was established in 1895, but moved to this new building in 1982.

There is a large collection of Australian art from all periods, and also of Asian art, as well as British and European works. *Melbourne Street, South Brisbane (07 3840 7303).*

Queensland Gallery of Modern Art

Located in the Queensland Cultural Centre is Brisbane's newest gallery. It is the largest gallery of modern and contemporary art in Australia and also houses Australia's first built cinematheque, designed to show cinema in art form.

This gallery is located 150m from the Queensland Art Gallery. *Kurilpa Point, Southbank.*

Historic buildings

Anzac Square

From Ann Street there is a fine view across the Anzac Square War Memorial to the Post Office standing imposingly on the other side of Post Office Square. In Anzac Square itself are various sculptures, and, most importantly, the Shrine of Remembrance.

In the tunnel which leads from Anzac Square to Central Station is the World War II Shrine of Memories. *Between Ann and Adelaide streets.*

Newstead House

The U.S. Army occupied this historical house during World War II, and it is Brisbane's oldest surviving home. Built in 1846 it has been restored to its Victorian splendour. *Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead (07 3216 1846).*

St John's Cathedral

An Anglican Cathedral built in the 19th century Gothic Revival style and designed in 1888 by John Loughborough.

Old Government House

Old Government House, in George Street, is now used by the National Trust. This elegant building was the home of the Governor for the first half century of the existence of Queensland. *2 George Street, City (07 3138 4463).*

City Hall

Built in 1930, this sandstone building is situated in King George Square. Highlights are the marble staircase and gothic light fittings. An old fashioned elevator will take you to the bell tower, the bells chime every 15 minutes and can be deafening if you are inside the tower at midday. *King George Square, Anne and Adelaide streets, City (07 3403 8888).*



Parliament House

Parliament House is located in George Street, with free guided tours available.

This building was constructed in 1868, and is the home of Australia's only single-house parliament. *Corner Alice and George Streets, City (07 3406 7562).*

St Stephen's Cathedral

The foundation stone of the first church here was laid in 1848 and the building opened in 1850. It became a cathedral in 1859. This is now St. Stephen's Chapel, and it is the oldest church in Queensland.

The present cathedral building dates from 1874, in part, but it has been added to several times since then.

There is a good collection of 19th Century stained glass windows from Europe. *249 Elizabeth Street, City (07 3336 9111).*

Story Bridge

Just near Chinatown is Story Bridge, from which there is a magnificent view of the river and city, by day or by night.

The bridge itself is one to admire too. The unexpected height of the structure above the water below is breathtaking.

Treasury Building

The Treasury building which houses the casino is one of Brisbane's grandest buildings. The interior has a six storey atrium and provides all the standard casino games as well as over 1000 pokie machines.

The Treasury casino is open 24 hours and provides a couple of quality restaurants as well as cafes and bars. *Corner of Queen and George Streets, City (07 3306 8888).*



Museums

Harts Flying Fighter Museum

This museum houses a collection of restored fighter planes and is located 12km South of Brisbane city at the Archerfield Aerodrome. *Wirraway Avenue, Archerfield (07 3272 9484).*

Museum of Brisbane

This small museum can be found in City Hall. It displays an historical account of Brisbane's past, as well as having up to date information on the city. *King George Square (07 3403 8888).*

Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum is part of the Cultural Centre at South Bank. It has many exhibits including a display on Queensland's endangered species of mammals. Included is the Science centre which has interactive and hands on displays to entertain all ages. *Grey Street, South Brisbane (07 3840 7555).*

Queensland Energy Museum

Queensland energy explained with exhibits showing the early history of electricity and gas in Queensland. *Herston, Brisbane.*

Queensland Police Museum

Some of the worst crimes explained along with displays on police investigative techniques. *Queensland Police Headquarters.*

Queensland Military Memorial Museum

The history of Queensland's service in the Commonwealth Defence Force going back to the early 1800's. *Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.*

Telstra Museum

Automatic phone exchanges and working exhibits provide an insight into telecommunications. *Clayfield, Brisbane.*

Queensland Performing Arts Museum

A back stage view of the theatre and its artists. *South Brisbane, Brisbane*



Parks

Boondall Wetlands Reserve

An area of 1000 hectares of mangroves, tidal flats, grassland and forest on the edge of Moreton Bay near Nudgee Beach. *Boondall, Brisbane.*

Brisbane Forest Park

This huge parkland is situated in the D'Aguilar Range, 10km north of the CBD. It has an abundance of walking trails of varying distances, all taking in native flora and fauna. It is an ideal park for horse riding, cycling, camping or scenic drives. The park houses the Walk About Creek study centre, where you can see many freshwater creatures close up, another highlight is the walk through aviary. *60 Mt Nebo road, (07 3300 4855).*

Southbank Parklands

These magnificent parklands in the heart of the city are situated on the western bank of the Brisbane River. Covering 16 hectares, which include restaurants, playgrounds, markets, walking and cycling paths and a beach. It really has something for everyone. *Southbank (07 3867 2051).*

Mt Coot-tha

The place for obtaining a view of the whole city is Mt. Coot-tha, situated 7km west of the city centre. A collection spread over 52 hectares with over 20,000 plants and species from around the world.

The lookout gives a spectacular view of Brisbane. There is also a large Botanic Garden and the Brisbane Planetarium can also be found here. *Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-tha (07 3403 8888).*

Brisbane City Botanical Gardens

The City Botanic Gardens were established in 1855. Here you can find elderly palms and figs, and a mangrove walk, all beside a pleasant bend in the Brisbane River.

Roma Street Parklands

Roma Street Parkland is a large sub tropical garden in the centre of Brisbane.

There are a number of themed gardens, rainforest and places to sit and relax. Within the garden is a large collection of public art.

There are also picnic areas, BBQ and a playground. *Roma Street, Brisbane (07 3006 4545).*

Stadiums

The Gabba

Located at Woolloongabba, 2km from Brisbane's CBD, the Gabba is home to the AFL's only Queensland team the Brisbane Lions. The Gabba also plays host to local and world class cricket matches. *Vulture Street, Woolloongabba (07 3008 6166).*

Suncorp Stadium

This Stadium is 52,000 seat world class sporting arena. It plays host to local and international rugby and rugby union, football and outdoor concerts. Located close to the CBD, Suncorp Stadium was extensively redeveloped in 2003. Tours of the stadium are conducted on weekdays. *40 Castlemaine Street, Milton (07 3331 5000).*

Theatres

Brisbane Powerhouse

Brisbane Powerhouse has been created within a historic old powerhouse situated on the banks of the Brisbane River.

The Powerhouse exposes and celebrates the diversity of contemporary arts in Brisbane. *119 Lamington Street, New Farm, Brisbane. (07 3358 8622).*

Harvest Rain Theatre

A full range of shows at this innovative theatre with performances using a mixture of professionals and amateurs. *New Farm, Brisbane.*

Princess Theatre

This small theatre was constructed in 1888 and presents a variety of classical and contemporary performances. *8 Annerley Road. Woolloongabba (07 3891 6022).*



Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts

This is Australia's first fully integrated creative arts space, and plays host to dance, music, visual arts, circus, multimedia, indigenous theatre, and youth arts displays and performances.

Located in the trendy Fortitude Valley the centre was named after the late Australian poet, conservationist and aboriginal rights campaigner Judith Wright. *420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley (07 3872 9000).*

La Boite Theatre

Contemporary theatre with production by local artists. *6- 8 Musk Avenue (07 3007 8600).*

Metro Arts Centre

This contemporary venue showcases community theatre, local drama productions and dance performances. *109 Edward Street, City (07 3221 1527).*

QUT Gardens Theatre

Not only does this University theatre host student productions it also a good venue for local and international plays, musicals and dramatic performances. *George Street, City (07 3864 4213).*

Queensland Conservatorium

Concerts from both students and invited performers. *South Bank, Brisbane (07 3735 6241).*

Queensland Performing Arts Complex

QPAC on the South Bank provides a choice of venues that include the Lyric Theatre which seats 2000 guests and hosts opera, dance and musical theatre; the Concert Hall also seats 2000 and hosts the Symphony Orchestra as well as local and international acts; the Playhouse and Cremorne Theatre are smaller venues and host plays and dramas. *Corner of Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Bank (07 3872 9000).*



Shopping

Brisbane Arcade

If you are looking for local designers and trendy labels this is a good arcade to stroll through in the CBD. *160 Queen Street Mall (07 3221 5977).*

Broadway on the Mall

This arcade has a lot of everything over two levels; there are some good affordable fashions to be found here. *Queen Street, City (07 3229 5233).*

Chinatown

Chinatown, adjacent to Brunswick Street Station, offers some of the best food value in Brisbane. There is a market area here where fresh produce may be purchased, and there are also plenty of small Chinese restaurants. These restaurants stay open well into the evening.

DFO Factory Outlet

This is a bargain hunter's paradise, with over 120 brand name stores offering up to 70% of retail prices. There are a couple of food courts as well so you can rest in between shopping splurges. Located at the Brisbane Airport turn off. *1 Airport Drive, Brisbane Airport (07 3305 9250).*

MacArthur Central

This is a new shopping precinct offering a variety of shopping including fashion, gifts, lifestyle, books and much more. *Between Queen and Elizabeth Streets, CBD (07 3007 2300).*

Paddington

This is a beautiful, historic suburb just west of Brisbane. It has quaint little shop fronts offering an array of shopping, from arts and crafts to specialty shopping. There are plenty of good cafes and places to be pampered. *Given Terrace, Paddington.*

Queen Street Mall

This is Brisbane's main shopping precinct, with over 500 shops and several arcades.

The Mall offers numerous dining options to suit all tastes, as well as having lots of impromptu entertainment, displays and music in the mall.

There is always plenty to see and do in this area of Brisbane. *Queen Street Mall, CBD.*

The Valley

This is Brisbane's trendy, funky shopping precinct. It has a bit of everything and a lot of one offs and up to date labels. You can shop for everything here, fashion, accessories, home wares and much more.

There are also plenty of cafes and eateries to revive you after pounding the pavements. *Ann and Brunswick Streets, Fortitude Valley.*

Wintergarden

This shopping complex located in the CBD offers upmarket shopping, with jewellery shopping and local fashion designers displaying their designs. *171-209 Queen Street, (07 3229 9755).*



Markets

Crafts Village Markets

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, you can follow the brightly coloured tents to stroll these popular city markets. There is a variety of arts and crafts, handmade goods and plenty of souvenirs to purchase. These markets are part of the Southbank precinct, a short stroll from the CBD. *Stanley Street Plaza, Southbank (0414 888 041).*

Farmers Market

You can purchase the best local produce in Brisbane at these markets, held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. With over 100 stalls selling fresh produce, from fruit and vegetables to meat and seafood, and everything in between. *Brisbane Powerhouse, Lamington street, New Farm (0439 999 009).*

Riverside Markets

Plenty to see and do at these markets at the Riverside Centre in Brisbane. Open only on Sundays, they also take in the Eagle Street Pier craft and Deli markets, where you can purchase a variety of handcrafted products as well as high quality local produce. *123 Eagle Street, City (07 3870 2807).*

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