

# Brisbane

**Brisbane is located on the banks of the beautiful and serene Brisbane River, 25 kilometres upstream from the coast, on the floodplain between Moreton Bay and the Great Dividing Range in south-eastern Queensland. It is the third largest city in Australia with a population of approximately 1.77 million people and its city centre is vibrant and compact so is easy to explore by foot. Despite its size Brisbane is very relaxed, with a balmy climate perfect for an outdoors lifestyle, the ideal state capital city in the tropical state of Queensland.**

The main bus terminal is the Transit Centre on Roma Street, just 500 metres northwest of the city centre, and all the main bus companies arrive and leave from here. Buses run to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Cairns, as well as towns up and down the coast. Trains also arrive at the Transit Centre. There are direct trains to Sydney, but if you want to go any further south or west, you'll have to go via Sydney. Interstate and international travelers can also arrive by plane, with the airport about 15 kilometres northeast of the city centre. The airport shuttle bus runs between the airport and the Transit Centre about every half-hour till mid-evening. The easiest way to get to or from the airport is to take the Airtrain from either Roma Street or Central stations. There are also shuttle buses to the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. There are always taxis available to take visitors into the city centre.

Brisbane boasts a number of backpacker hostels, as well as hotels, motels, and self-contained apartments close to the city centre. With the city expanding rapidly in recent years there are also plenty of good cafés and restaurants to dine in, mostly located just out of the city in the inner suburbs.

## Sights & Attractions

Brisbane's most popular recreational areas include the lovely City Botanic Gardens, relaxed South Bank Parklands, and the Roma Street Parkland. The Brisbane Botanic Gardens are home to the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium.

Mount Coot-tha features a popular state forest reserve; the lookout at the top of the Mt Coot-tha also offers visitors sensational views of the surrounding city and sparkling river below. Other popular tourist destinations include the Goodwill Bridge in the South Bank Parklands, Portside Wharf, City Hall, Brisbane's Alma Zoo, the Maritime Museum, the Museum of Brisbane, the Carlton and United Brew house, the Footsteps Gallery, and the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. If it is a shopping spree you're after then head to the Brunswick Street Mall or Chinatown.

North-west of Brisbane is the D'Aguilar Range containing the Brisbane Forest Park. Here you will discover spectacular parkland full of native

bush, subtropical rainforest, remote gorges, breathtaking walking trails, and an abundance of birdlife.

## Arts/Culture/Festivals

In Brisbane you will find popular pubs, clubs, and entertainment within both the city centre and further out in Fortitude Valley. The Brisbane Powerhouse in New Farm and the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Fortitude Valley feature regular exhibitions and festivals of visual art, music and dance.

In the Brisbane city centre you will find the Queensland Performing Arts Complex, containing the Lyric Theatre, Concert Hall, Cremorne Theatre and the Playhouse Theatre. The Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company, and Opera Queensland (as well as other art groups) all perform at these venues. The Queensland Cultural Centre, located at South Bank, features the Queensland Art Gallery, the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, State Library, Museum, Lyric Theatre, and Concert Hall.

Major cultural events in Brisbane include the 'Ekka' (the Royal Queensland Show) and the River Festival, held each September at the South Bank Parklands. There is also a biannual Brisbane Festival, the Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) in July/August and the Paniyiri festival at Musgrave Park (an annual Greek cultural festival) held on the first weekend in May. The Brisbane Medieval Fayre and Tournament happens each June in Musgrave Park, and the Valley Fiesta (an annual three-day event in September) promotes Fortitude Valley as the hub of arts and youth culture. The Bridge to Brisbane fun run has also become a popular annual charity event for Brisbane.

## History

The first white settlement of Brisbane emerged after a penal colony settlement at Redcliffe, 28 kilometres north, was abandoned. The penal colony moved to the location of Brisbane city in 1825, and free settlers arrived from 1842 onwards. The city was named after Sir Thomas Brisbane, the Governor of New South Wales from 1821 – 1825. The local indigenous people knew the area of Brisbane as Mian-jin, meaning 'place shaped as a spike'.

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In 1859 Brisbane was chosen as the state capital of Queensland and would later play a key role in the Allied campaign during World War II, as the South West Pacific headquarters for General Douglas MacArthur. Brisbane more recently hosted the 1982 Commonwealth Games, the 1988 World's Fair (Expo '88), and the 2001 Goodwill Games.

## Climate

Brisbane has a humid subtropical climate with hot, humid summers (though with less humidity than further up the Queensland coast) and dry, mild winters. Summer's average temperature is around 30°C, though there are some extremely hot days, so if visiting at this time, bring a hat and sunscreen, you will need it! The winter season (June to August) has cool, sunny days and cool nights, with a daytime average temperature of 18°C. From late spring through to early autumn, thunderstorms are common over the Brisbane region (with a chance of severe weather).

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