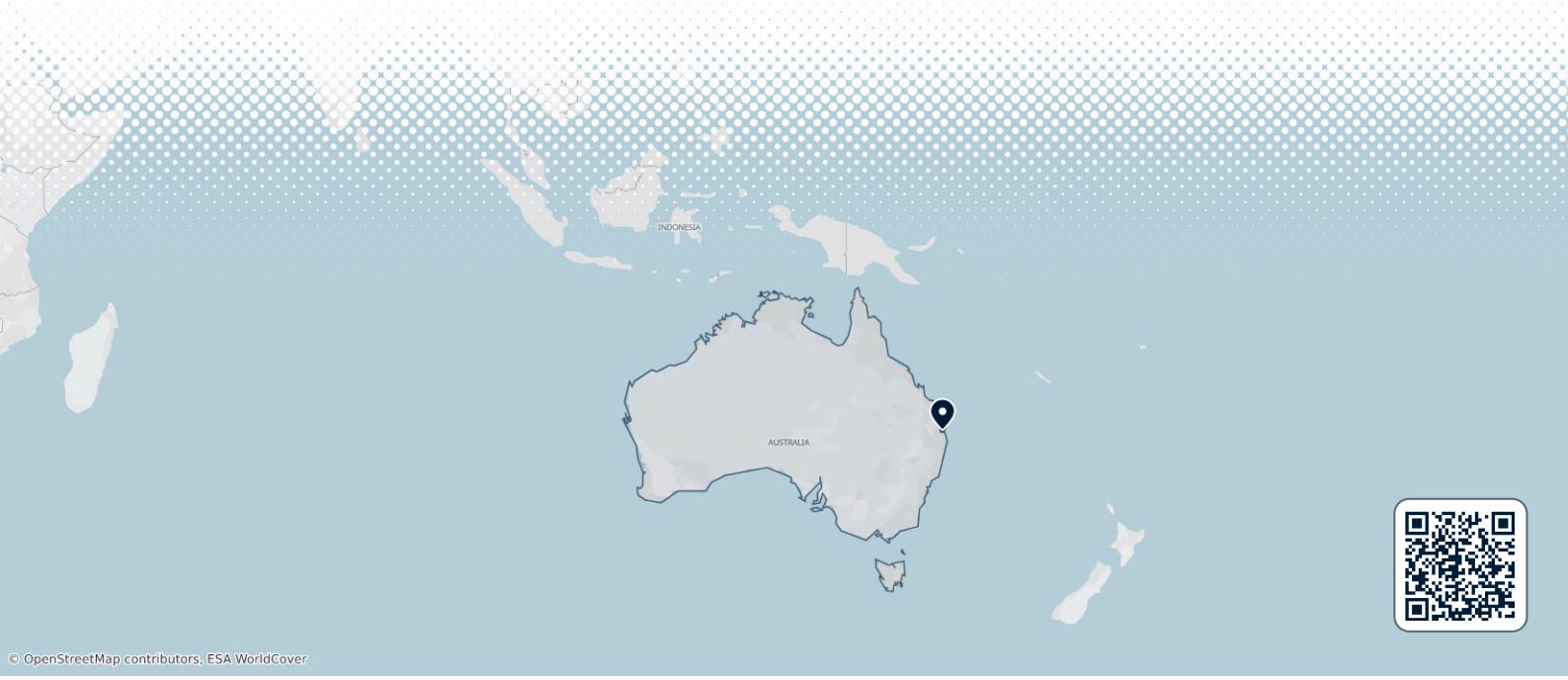


Brisbane

Queensland · Australia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Brisbane sits on a looping river in Queensland's subtropics, warm and outdoor-oriented for most of the year. It has grown from a small river town into Australia's third-largest city, but keeps a relaxed, low-rise character next to Sydney and Melbourne. Visitors come for river life, contemporary art and museums clustered at South Bank, and quick access to beaches, rainforest, and islands within a couple of hours.

The Brisbane River loops through downtown and is used daily for commuting by ferry as much as for recreation. Riverside parklands, a free artificial swimming lagoon, and a compact, walkable city centre make Brisbane easy to explore on foot or by boat. The subtropical climate keeps outdoor life going nearly year-round.

When to visit

Brisbane's subtropical climate stays warm most of the year: winter (June to August) is mild, dry, and sunny, while summer (December to February) is hot, humid, and prone to sudden afternoon storms.

The city's biggest annual event is **Riverfire**, a fireworks and air display over the Brisbane River each September. It draws large crowds to the riverbanks each year.

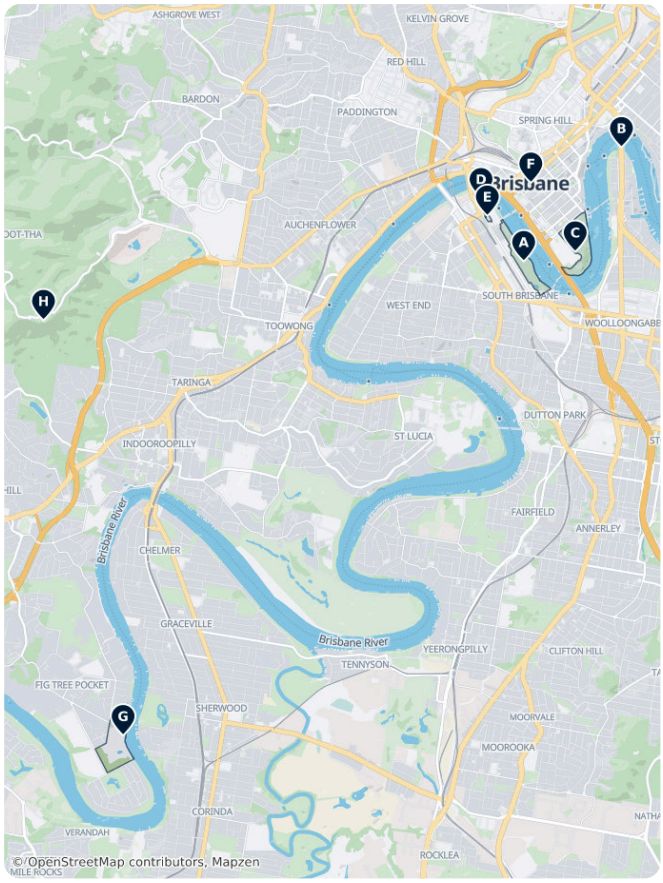
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for wildlife watching	29° / 33°	23° / 20°	Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme)
February	Good Good for wildlife watching	29° / 33°	23° / 20°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme)
March	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 31°	22° / 19°	16 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
April	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 29°	19° / 16°	Humid air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	16° / 12°	
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	14° / 9°	Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 23°	13° / 8°	Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	13° / 9°	20 sunny days · Dry air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 29°	16° / 12°	20 sunny days
October	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 31°	18° / 15°	UV 8 (Very high)
November	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 32°	20° / 17°	Humid air · UV 10 (Very high)
December	Good Good for wildlife watching	29° / 33°	22° / 19°	Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme)

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

The dry winter months are the most comfortable for sightseeing outdoors, while summer brings the heaviest rain and humidity.

Top sights



A South Bank Parklands is Brisbane's main gathering spot: riverside parkland built on the site of the 1988 World Expo, with Streets Beach, a free artificial swimming lagoon in the middle of the city. B Story Bridge, a steel cantilever bridge opened in 1940, links the city centre to Kangaroo Point. It is one of only three bridges in the world offering a guided climb to the top. C City Botanic Gardens was planted in 1825 as a farm for the original penal colony. Shaded and mature, it sits right at the edge of downtown along the river.

D Gallery of Modern Art is Australia's largest gallery of modern and contemporary art, part of the Queensland Cultural Centre at South Bank alongside E Queensland Museum's natural history and cultural collections. F Brisbane City Hall, a 1930s building modeled on the Roman Pantheon, is Brisbane's civic landmark; its observation deck and clock tower look out over King George Square.

G Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, founded in 1927, is the world's oldest and largest koala sanctuary. It's home to around 80 Australian species and offers hands-on animal encounters. H Mount Coot-tha Lookout, on the summit of Mount Coot-tha, has been a public viewpoint since the 19th century. It gives a wide panorama of the city, river, and Moreton Bay, especially at sunset.

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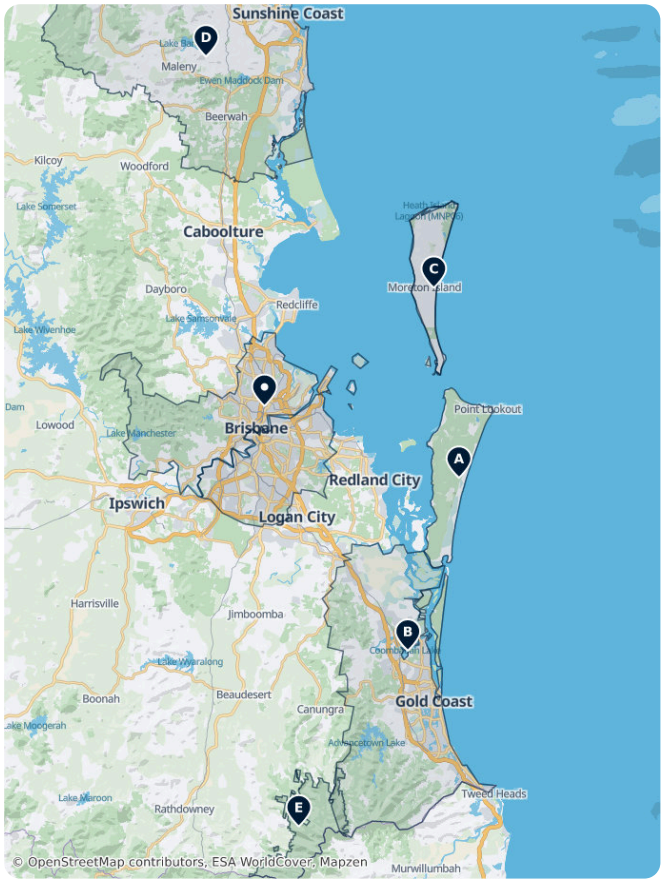
What to experience

A few things define a visit to Brisbane beyond its sights.

- Abseil or rock-climb the sandstone cliffs at Kangaroo Point Park, a favorite after-work spot for local climbers just across the river from the city centre.
- Catch a cricket or Australian rules football match at Brisbane Cricket Ground, known to everyone simply as "the Gabba".
- Ride the free CityHopper ferry across the river at sunset for skyline views from the water.
- Swim at Streets Beach, a free artificial lagoon with sand and lifeguards inside South Bank Parklands.
- Have a meal or a drink at Howard Smith Wharves, a riverside dining precinct built into the cliff face right under Story Bridge.
- Browse the stalls and food trucks at a weekly night market along the riverfront.

Day trips

Brisbane sits within reach of beaches, islands, and rainforest, making it an easy base for day trips.



- A North Stradbroke Island — about 1 hour by car and ferry from Cleveland. Sand-island beaches and whale watching in season (June to November), a quieter alternative to the mainland coast.
- B Gold Coast — about 1 to 1.5 hours by car or train. Australia's theme-park capital, alongside the famous surf beach at Surfers Paradise.
- C Moreton Island — about 1.5 hours including the ferry from Brisbane. Sand dunes, snorkeling around the Tangalooma wrecks, and wild dolphin feeding at dusk.
- D Sunshine Coast — about 1.5 hours by car. Beaches, the Glass House Mountains, and Australia Zoo, the wildlife park run by the Irwin family.
- The Scenic Rim, including Mt. Tamborine National Park and E Lamington National Park — about 1.5 to 2 hours by car. A rainforest plateau with waterfalls and wineries, plus ancient rainforest with a treetop canopy walk.

Where to explore

Brisbane's home region of Queensland stretches along Australia's east coast, with easy access to beach cities and outdoor destinations.

- South along the coast, Gold Coast pairs surf beaches with Australia's biggest theme parks.
- North, Sunshine Coast is quieter and more laid-back, backed by the Glass House Mountains.
- In Moreton Bay, Moreton Island is almost entirely national park, reached by ferry and known for its sand dunes and shipwrecks.

Getting there

- **By air**: Brisbane Airport (BNE), about 13 km northeast of the city, is Queensland's main international and domestic gateway (Brisbane Airport). The Airtrain runs directly to the city centre in about 22 minutes, for around A$20 one-way.
- **By train**: Roma Street and Brisbane Central stations connect to Queensland Rail's network. Trains run south to the Gold Coast, north to the Sunshine Coast, and long-distance to Cairns and regional Queensland (Queensland Rail).
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches arrive at the Roma Street transit centre, with services along the east coast to Sydney and beyond.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: TransLink runs buses, trains, and the CityCat/CityHopper ferries across the city. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly at the bus, train, and ferry gates instead of buying a paper ticket — this is the easiest way for visitors to pay (TransLink).
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and taxis operate throughout the city and are easy to find in the city centre and South Bank.
- **On foot / cycling**: The city centre, South Bank, and the river precincts are flat and walkable, linked by free pedestrian bridges. Dockless e-bike and e-scooter share (Beam, Neuron, Lime) is available across the city, and the riverside paths make cycling a pleasant way to get around.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Compact, flat city centre with free pedestrian bridges linking the CBD, South Bank, and river precincts.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Riverside paths are pleasant for cycling; dockless e-bike and e-scooter share covers most of the city.

Driving

- **Side of the road**: Australia drives on the left, opposite to the US and much of Europe.
- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city centre — parking is limited and public transit covers the CBD, South Bank, and inner suburbs well. A car becomes useful for day trips to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, or Scenic Rim.
- **Parking**: Metered street parking and multi-storey car parks are common in the city centre; pay by app or meter. Expect A$10 to 20 or more per hour in the centre.
- **Restrictions**: None beyond normal traffic rules — Brisbane has no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Brisbane's dining centres on its riverside precincts rather than one historic old town. South Bank and West End are both an easy walk from the city centre and packed with casual restaurants, cafes, and bars along the river. Chinatown in Fortitude Valley adds a concentration of Asian restaurants a short walk from downtown.

For something distinctly local, tour XXXX Brewery, home of the XXXX beer brand and one of Queensland's oldest working breweries.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Vegemite on Toast · Vegemite
A salty, savory yeast-extract spread eaten in a thin layer on buttered toast — a genuine national quirk best tried sparingly.

LUNCH

Meat Pie
A hand-held pastry filled with minced meat and gravy, sold everywhere from bakeries to servos and football matches.

Fish and Chips
Battered fish and fried potato chips, often eaten at the beach wrapped in paper.

DINNER

Barbecue (Barbie) · Barbie
Grilled sausages, steak, and seafood cooked outdoors — a common way Australians socialize with friends and family.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Sausage Roll
Minced sausage meat wrapped in flaky pastry, a classic bakery and school-canteen staple.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Lamington
A sponge cake cube coated in chocolate icing and desiccated coconut.

Tim Tam
A chocolate-coated biscuit with a chocolate cream filling, a beloved everyday treat.

DRINKS

Flat White
A espresso-based coffee with steamed milk and a thin layer of microfoam, an Australian (and New Zealand) coffee-culture staple.

Schooner of Beer · Schooner
A 425ml beer serving size, the standard pub order alongside the smaller 285ml middy/pot.

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Safety & health

Brisbane is a safe city for tourists by international standards. The most common issue is opportunistic theft and bag-snatching in busy nightlife areas like Fortitude Valley late at night — keep valuables close and avoid leaving bags unattended at outdoor cafes.

Sun exposure is the bigger everyday risk: the subtropical sun is strong even on overcast days, and UV levels are high most of the year. Wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses, especially between 10am and 3pm.

History

Brisbane began as a penal settlement in 1824, established to isolate the colony's most difficult convicts from Sydney. The The Old Windmill, built by convict labor from 1828, is Queensland's oldest surviving building. The nearby Commissariat Store, from the same era, is the oldest still in continuous use. Both are among the clearest traces of that era still standing in the city centre.

Free settlers arrived from 1842, and Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859, with Brisbane as its capital. Parliament House and the nearby Treasury Building, both grand 19th-century buildings, date from the decades of growth that followed. The city's modern skyline and cultural precincts largely date from the 1980s, when Brisbane hosted the 1982 Commonwealth Games and the 1988 World Expo — the event that transformed the South Bank site into the parkland it is today.

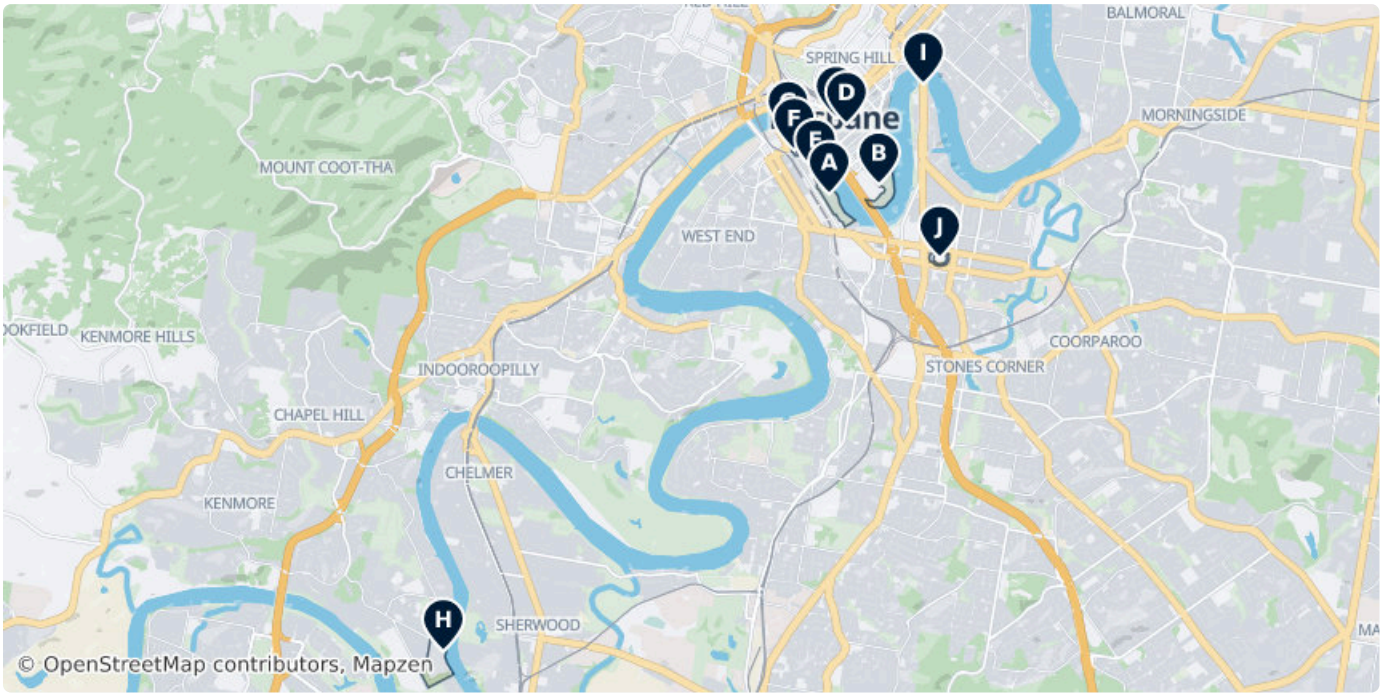
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Australia at a glance:

CURRENCY	EMERGENCY	ELECTRICITY	TAP WATER
AUD A$	**000**	Type I 230 V · 50 Hz	**Safe to drink**

Brisbane Unmissables

Brisbane's landscape is defined by the winding Brisbane River, featuring the South Bank Parklands with its man-made beach and the heritage-listed City Botanic Gardens. The city's cultural hub includes the Gallery of Modern Art—Australia's largest—and the Queensland Museum. Historical landmarks like the 1930s City Hall and the steel cantilever Story Bridge anchor the urban center, while the Queen Street Mall provides a dedicated pedestrian shopping district. For sports and wildlife, the list features the iconic Gabba stadium and the world-renowned Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.





A South Bank Parklands

The South Bank Parklands are located at South Bank within the suburb of South Brisbane in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

(Unnamed Road), Brisbane 4101, Australia
(-27.47805, 153.02280)

+61 7 3156 6366



B Brisbane City Botanic Gardens

The City Botanic Gardens is a heritage-listed botanic garden on Alice Street, Brisbane City, City of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

147 Alice St, Brisbane City, QLD 4000, Australia
(-27.47691, 153.02965)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation... , +61 7 3403 8888



C Brisbane City Hall

Brisbane City Hall, in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, is the seat of the Brisbane City Council.

Adelaide Street, Brisbane City, Queensland, Australia
(-27.46878, 153.02375)

Mo–Fr	08:00–17:00
Sa–Su	09:00–17:00

brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/bri...



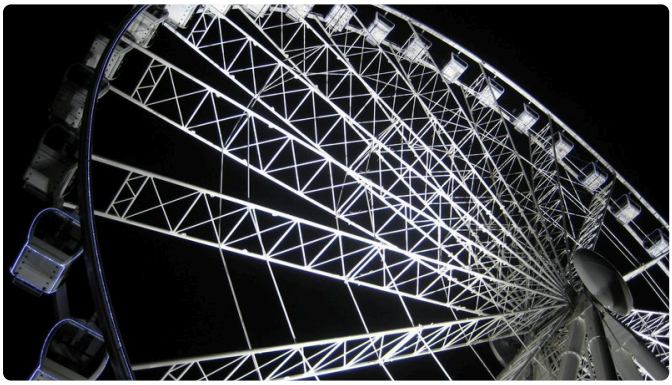
D Queen Street Mall

The Queen Street Mall is a pedestrian mall located on Queen Street in the centre of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

146 Queen Street, Brisbane, QLD 4010, Australia
(-27.46951, 153.02520)

Mo–We	09:00–17:00
Th	09:00–21:00
Fr–Su	09:00–17:00

+61 7 3006 6200



E The Wheel of Brisbane

The Wheel of Brisbane is an Observation Wheel in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

98 Russell Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4101, Australia
(-27.47532, 153.02089)

Mo–Th	10:00–22:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–23:00
Su	10:00–22:00

thewheelofbrisbane.com.au, +61 7 3844 3464



F Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum Kurilpa is the state museum of Queensland, dedicated to natural history, cultural heritage, science and human...

Grey Street, 4101 (-27.47268, 153.01797)

Mo–Su	09:30–17:00

museum.qld.gov.au, +61 7 3153 3000



G Gallery of Modern Art

The Gallery of Modern Art is an art museum located within the Queensland Cultural Centre in the South Bank precinct of Brisbane, Queensland...

Stanley Place, Cultural Precinct (-27.47061, 153.01713)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

qagoma.qld.gov.au, +61 7 3840 7303



H Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is an 18-hectare koala sanctuary in the Brisbane suburb of Fig Tree Pocket in Queensland, Australia.

Jesmond Road 708, 4069 (-27.53402, 152.96953)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

koala.net, +61 7 3378 1366



I Story Bridge

A heritage-listed steel cantilever bridge opened in 1940. It spans the Brisbane River to connect Fortitude Valley with Kangaroo Point and is one of only three bridges in the world that offers guided climbs.

Bradfield Highway, Kangaroo Point QLD 4169, Australia (-27.46459, 153.03581)

storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au



J The Gabba Stadium

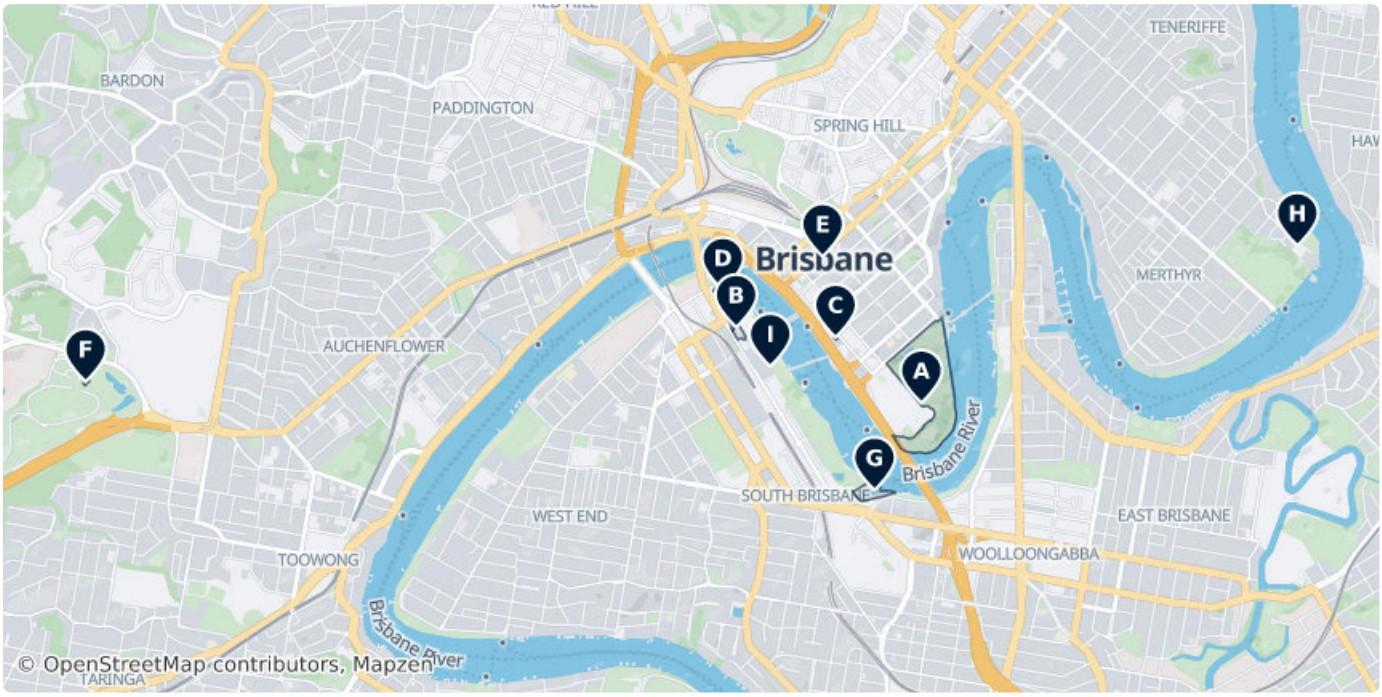
The Brisbane Cricket Ground, commonly known as the Gabba, is a major sports stadium in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, Australia.

411 Vulture Street, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102, Australia (-27.48588, 153.03805)

thegabba.com.au, +617 3008 6166

Brisbane Essentials

Brisbane's cultural landscape is defined by a mix of heritage sites and modern creative hubs. This collection features the convict-built Commissariat Store and the heritage-listed City Botanic Gardens alongside the contemporary Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) in South Bank. Visitors can explore Queensland's natural history at the Queensland Museum, maritime heritage by the river, or astronomical displays at the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium. The list also highlights repurposed industrial architecture at the Brisbane Powerhouse and the social history exhibits housed within the Museum of Brisbane.





Ⓐ Brisbane City Botanic Gardens

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147 Alice St, Brisbane City, QLD 4000, Australia (-27.47691, 153.02965)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation... , +61 7 3403 8888



Ⓑ Queensland Museum

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Grey Street, 4101 (-27.47268, 153.01797)

Mo–Su 09:30–17:00

museum.qld.gov.au, +61 7 3153 3000



C Commissariat Store

Commissariat Store is a heritage-listed storehouse at 115–127 William Street, Brisbane City, City of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

William Street 115 (-27.47323, 153.02424)

Tu–Fr 10:00–16:00

queenslandhistory.org/commissariat-sto..., +617 3221 4198



D Gallery of Modern Art

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Stanley Place, Cultural Precinct (-27.47061, 153.01713)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

qagoma.qld.gov.au, +61 7 3840 7303



E Museum of Brisbane

Museum of Brisbane explores contemporary and historic Brisbane, Australia, and its people through a program of art and social history...

L3, Brisbane City Hall, 64 Adelaide Street, Brisbane QLD 4000, Australia (-27.46871, 153.02342)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

museumofbrisbane.com.au, +61 7 3339 0800



F Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium

The Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium is located on the grounds of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in the suburb of Mount Coot-tha, Brisbane,...

Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong QLD 4066, Australia (-27.47571, 152.97692)

brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation... , +61 7 3403 2578



G Queensland Maritime Museum

The Queensland Maritime Museum is located on the southern bank of the Brisbane River just south of the South Bank Parklands and Queensland...

412 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, QLD 4101, Australia
(-27.48178, 153.02669)

Mo–Su 09:30–16:30

maritimemuseum.com.au, +617 3844 5361



H Brisbane Powerhouse

Brisbane Powerhouse is an arts and cultural hub located in a former power station in the Brisbane suburb of New Farm, Queensland, Australia.

119 Lamington Street, New Farm, QLD 4005, Australia
(-27.46811, 153.05337)

brisbanepowerhouse.org, +617 3358 8622



I Cremorne Theatre

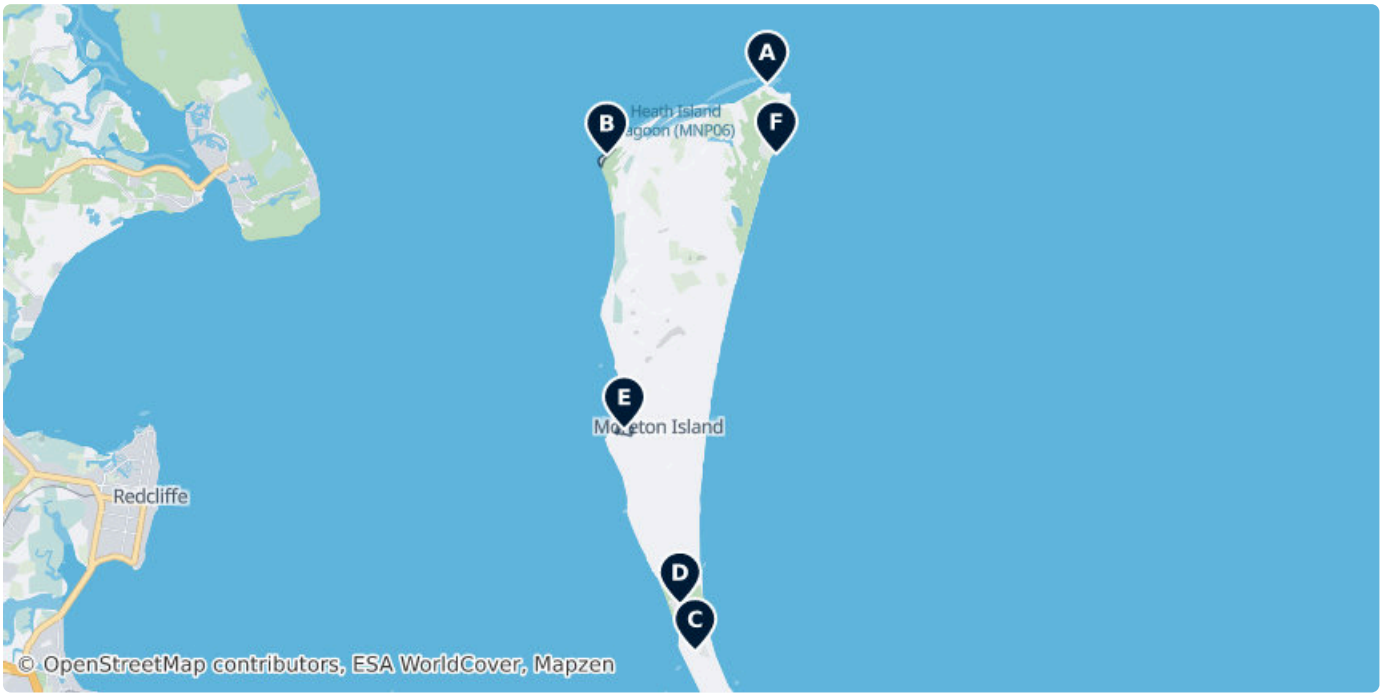
The Cremorne Theatre was a theatre in South Brisbane, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia that operated, with interruptions, from 1911 to 1954.

(Unnamed Road), Brisbane 4101, Australia
(-27.47486, 153.02011)

qpac.com.au/visiting/our-venues/cremorne-theatre/

Coastal Gems

Located on Moreton Island (Mulgumpin), these coastal sites showcase the diverse geography of one of the world's largest sand islands. The selection includes the expansive Big and Little Sandhills, formed by wind-driven deposits, and the inland dunes of The Desert, known for sand tobogganing. Coastal points like Comboyuro Point offer calm waters on the western side, while the eastern shore features the more exposed Braydon Beach, situated within a protected Marine National Park zone.



A Honeymoon Beach

Secluded cove at the northern tip of Moreton Island near Cape Moreton. It features rocky headlands and views across the Coral Sea.

(Unnamed Road), 4025, Australia (-27.02336, 153.45465)

B Comboyuro Point

Situated on the northwestern coast of Moreton Island, this area features calm waters and views across Moreton Bay toward the Glass House Mountains.

(-27.05858, 153.36581)

C Little Sandhills

Wind-formed sand dunes on the southern end of Moreton Island used for sand tobogganing. Offers panoramic views of the bay and surrounding coastline.

(-27.30273, 153.41473)

D Big Sandhills

Massive sand formations on southern Moreton Island rising significantly above the landscape. These dunes provide vantage points over the South Passage.

(-27.27968, 153.40640)

E The Desert

A large, vegetation-free sand dune area located inland from Tangalooma. It is a primary site for sand boarding and tobogganing.

(-27.19342, 153.37551)

F Braydon Beach (MNP07)

Located on the eastern side of Moreton Island, this beach is part of a Marine National Park zone (MNP07) within the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

(-27.05779, 153.45972)

DATA SOURCES

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