



# Welcome to Brisbane Queensland

Taylor Coulter Relocation Guide 2010



## INDEX

3.	Welcome to Brisbane
3.	Art & Culture
3.	Associations and Organisations
3.	Buying Property
4.	Car Hire
4.	Driving in QLD
4.	Driving Licences
7.	Education
8.	Events
9.	Further Education
9.	Higher Education
9.	Hospitals
9.	Markets
10.	Motoring Organisations
10.	Motor Vehicle Registration
11.	Newspapers
11.	Public Transport
12.	Radio
12.	Renting Property
13.	Residential Areas of Brisbane
14.	Shopping in Brisbane
15.	Television
15.	Tourist Information
16.	What to see in Brisbane
17.	What to see in QLD

## Welcome to Brisbane

Sprawling along the banks of the winding Brisbane River, and situated between the dramatic backdrop of the Glasshouse Mountains and the sparkling ocean, Brisbane is alive with activity, a modern city with a relaxed feel.' Beautiful one day, perfect the next', Queensland enjoys a sub-tropical climate that lends itself to the pleasures of outdoor life, so escape the pressures of work with fun in a theme park on the gold coast, or simply sit back and enjoy a beautiful tropical sunset.

Visit the QLD tourism website at [www.qttc.com.au](http://www.qttc.com.au).

## Art & Culture

Brisbane has lots to offer in the way of art and culture with museums, galleries, concert halls and centres for the performing arts, for example:

Queensland Art Gallery	<a href="http://www.qag.qld.gov.au">www.qag.qld.gov.au</a>
Arts Queensland	<a href="http://www.arts.qld.gov.au">www.arts.qld.gov.au</a>
The Queensland Museum	<a href="http://www.qm.qld.gov.au">www.qm.qld.gov.au</a>
The National Trust of Queensland	<a href="http://www.nationaltrustqld.org">www.nationaltrustqld.org</a>
QLD Museum Southbank Science Centre	<a href="http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/sciencentre">www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/sciencentre</a>
Museum of tropical Queensland	<a href="http://www.mtq.qm.qld.gov.au">www.mtq.qm.qld.gov.au</a>
Brisbane Jazz Club	<a href="http://www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au">www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au</a>
Queensland Performing Arts Centre	<a href="http://www.qpac.com.au">www.qpac.com.au</a>
Brisbane Powerhouse Centre for the Arts	<a href="http://www.brisbanepowerhouse.org">www.brisbanepowerhouse.org</a>
Southbank Arts Precinct	<a href="http://www.visitsouthbank.com.au">www.visitsouthbank.com.au</a>

## Associations and Organisations

The following is a list of some associations and organisations based in QLD that may be of assistance to interstate and overseas visitors.

### INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

British Down-Under Social Club Inc	PH - 3208 2269
French Australian Chamber of Commerce	PH - 3891 3866
The German Club	PH - 3391 2434
Chinese Club of Queensland Ltd	PH -3257 0888
Canadian Association Inc.	PH - 3374 2740
Casa Italia community Centre	PH - 3358 4150

### COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Lions Club	<a href="http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/">http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/</a>
Rotary Club	PH - 3847 8344
Volunteer Centre of Queensland	PH -3229 9700

## Buying Property

Private housing is purchased by either "private treaty" or at auction. The real estate agent receives a commission from the seller on the sale of the property. 'Stamp Duty' is a tax on the sale of the property and is payable by the purchaser.

The legal formalities of buying are handled either by solicitors or non-legal specialists. As well as looking at the sale contract they organise searches (eg. for restrictions on land use, validity of title) and arrange inspections (eg. pest and building inspections,). They also attend the final settlement to ensure all payments are made.

For further information visit the Real Estate Institute of Queensland website at [www.reiq.com.au](http://www.reiq.com.au).

You can also get further information on buying property and price guides at [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

For up to date information on current purchase prices, visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

## Car Hire

There are numerous car rental companies to choose from if you prefer to rent rather than buy a car. Try:

- Avis Australia Ph: 13 63 33 or visit [www.avis.com.au](http://www.avis.com.au)
- Budget Ph: 1300 362 848 or visit [www.budget.com.au](http://www.budget.com.au)
- Hertz Ph: 1300 132 607 or visit [www.hertz.com.au](http://www.hertz.com.au)
- Thrifty Ph: 1300 367 227 or visit [www.thrifty.com.au](http://www.thrifty.com.au)
- Bargain Wheels [www.bargainwheels.com.au](http://www.bargainwheels.com.au)
- Ezy car hire [www.ezycarhire.com.au](http://www.ezycarhire.com.au)

## Driving in QLD

Generally speed limits are between 50 km per hour (38 mph) unless otherwise stated in built up areas to 110kms per hour (70 mph) on freeways. The legal limit of blood alcohol while driving is 0.05% - random breath testing is conducted. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory. There are many approved car seats for children, which can be easily installed in any car. Annual registration of a car is required, and third party insurance is compulsory. It is compulsory for motorcyclists and bicyclists to wear helmets.

For more information visit the Queensland Transport Website at [www.transport.qld.gov.au](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au).

## Driving Licences

### INTERSTATE LICENCE HOLDERS

#### What is an interstate licence?

An interstate licence is a driver licence issued to you in another Australian state or territory.

#### External territory licences

If your driver licence was issued on Christmas Island, Norfolk Island, or in the Cocos Keeling Islands, your licence will be recognised throughout Australia. You can find further information at the [Queensland Transport website](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au).

#### When can I drive in Queensland on my interstate driver licence?

You are only allowed to drive in Queensland on your interstate driver licence if you:

- only drive the class of motor vehicle authorised on that licence
- comply with the conditions (if any) of your licence
- carry your licence with you at all times when driving and immediately show it to a police officer when asked to do so.

#### When am I not allowed to drive in Queensland on my interstate licence?

You must not drive in Queensland on your interstate driver licence if:

- you have been disqualified from holding a driver licence by an order of an Australian court

- your authority to drive on the licence has been suspended or withdrawn.

### **When would my authority to drive in Queensland on my interstate driver licence be suspended?**

Your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate driver licence will be suspended if you have:

- unpaid court fines
- an excess number of demerit points on your traffic history
- been convicted of driving more than 40 km/h over the speed limit.

### **When would my authority to drive in Queensland on my interstate licence be withdrawn?**

Your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate licence will be withdrawn if you:

- become medically unfit to drive safely
- have been residing in Queensland for three months or more.

### **I hold an interstate licence. How can I get a Queensland driver licence?**

To get a Queensland driver licence for the same class as your interstate licence you will need to:

- show your interstate licence and supporting evidence of identity
- show evidence of Queensland residence
- surrender your interstate licence.

For more information visit the licensing area of the Queensland transport site at <http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Licensing/>.

You may also be required to:

- show evidence that you are medically fit to drive safely
- pass an eyesight test
- pay the licence fee, if you wish to purchase an additional period.

### **How do I learn about the road rules?**

To learn about the Queensland road rules and driving in Queensland in general, you can:

- purchase a copy of the publication *Your keys to driving in Queensland*, available from Queensland Transport customer service centres or most newsagents

or

- read **Your keys to driving in Queensland** online. This is available at <http://www.transport.qld.gov.au>.

### **What will happen if I drive in Queensland when I am not allowed to?**

If you drive in Queensland when you are not allowed to, you will be charged with unlicensed driving and you may have to appear in court.

## INTERNATIONAL LICENCES

This page will help you understand what you need to do to drive in Queensland with an international licence. This information is for both new residents to Queensland and travelers passing through.

### **What is an international driver licence?**

An international driver licence is a licence to drive a motor vehicle issued to you under the law of another country.

**Note:** A New Zealand driver licence is also an international driver licence.

### **When can I drive in Queensland on my foreign driver licence?**

You are only allowed to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign driver licence if you:

- only drive the class of motor vehicle authorised on that licence
- comply with the conditions (if any) of your licence
- carry your licence with you at all times when driving and immediately show it to a police office when asked to do so.

### **When am I not allowed to drive in Queensland on my foreign driver licence?**

You must not drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign driver licence if:

- you have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver licence by an order of an Australian court
- your authority to drive on the licence has been suspended or withdrawn.

### **When would my authority to drive in Queensland on my foreign driver licence be suspended?**

Your authority to drive in Queensland on your interstate or foreign driver licence will be suspended if you have:

- not paid any fines imposed on you by a court
- accumulated an excess number of demerit points on your traffic history
- been convicted of driving at more than 40 km/h over the speed limit.

### **When would my authority to drive in Queensland on my foreign driver licence be withdrawn?**

Your authority to drive in Queensland on your foreign driver licence will be withdrawn if you:

- become medically unfit to drive safely
- have lived in Queensland for three months since gaining Australian citizenship or a visa allowing an indefinite stay in Australia.

### **I hold a foreign driver licence. How do I get a Queensland driver licence?**

To get a Queensland driver licence for the same class as your foreign driver licence, you will need to:

- show your foreign driver licence and a recognised translation of the licence if it is not in English

- show your supporting evidence of identity
- show evidence of Queensland residence.

For more information visit the licensing area of the Queensland transport site at <http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Licensing/>.

You may also be required to:

- show evidence that you are medically fit to drive safely
- pass an eyesight test
- pay the road rules test fee and pass the test
- pay the practical driving test fee and pass the test
- pay the licence fee.

## Education

Schooling in Queensland is divided into primary and secondary school.

Primary school begins in the year of the child turning 6 years of age. The child therefore must turn 5 before the 31st December in the year before Grade 1 begins. Primary school runs for seven years beginning in Grade 1 and finishing in year 7.

Secondary school runs for 5 years beginning in Year 8 and finishing in year 12.

The school year begins in January and is divided into four terms of approximately nine to twelve weeks each with two-week holidays (longer for private schools) in between each term. The summer or Christmas holidays are approximately six weeks from the middle of December until the end of January (longer for private schools.)

School hours in Queensland are from 9am until 3pm in the state schools. The private schools vary from 8.40am to 3.20pm. The school week runs from Monday to Friday, with sporting fixtures between secondary schools taking place on Saturdays. School uniforms are worn at all schools in Queensland. It is compulsory for children to wear a school hat for sun protection during all terms at primary and secondary schools. The Cancer Council is very active and have introduced into all schools "NO HAT, NO PLAY".

In all schools there is an opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities. Some examples of these are tennis, swimming, music, football, cricket, drama, ballet, karate, rugby, soccer and debating. Each individual school will inform you of the activities they have available.

It is essential for children entering pre-school and school to produce proof of immunization. The Government are introducing new immunization programs to protect children against measles, mumps and rubella.

Secondary students who need to travel by bus or train to school must pay for this service. Only certain exemptions are given over distance travelled by students to their nearest school.

### FEES FOR STUDENTS ON A 457 VISA

Primary and High School education in Queensland is provided free in the public system for young people with 457 visa status.

Term Dates (N.B. This may vary with certain schools)

2010

Term 1: 27 January - 1 April

Term 2: 12 April - 25 June

Term 3: 12 July - 17 September

Term 4: 4 October - 10 December

## Events

<b>January</b>	Summer Solstice Chinese New Year Celebrations Australia Day Celebrations
<b>February</b>	ANZ Ladies Masters Golf Tournament Barramundi Season opens World Travel Expo
<b>March</b>	Brisbane International Motor Show Gold Coast Triathlon Clean up Australia Day
<b>April</b>	Winter Racing Carnival Begins Anzac Day Surf Life Savers Championship
<b>May</b>	Yag'ubi Multicultural Festival 2006 Fraser Island Bird Week
<b>June</b>	Sugar Cane Harvesting begins
<b>July</b>	Brisbane International Film Festival Brisbane Festival
<b>August</b>	Royal Queensland Show Goldfest (Gold Mining Heritage festival)
<b>September</b>	River Festival National Road Cycling Championship
<b>October</b>	Australian Camp Oven Festival Lexmark Indy 300 Motor Racing
<b>November</b>	Pan Pacific Masters Games Turtle Season Begins
<b>December</b>	Australian PGA Golf Streets NYE Celebrations at South Bank

## Further Education

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Colleges offer a wide range of courses, resulting in the award of a diploma certificate. These courses vary from one, two and three years. For more information visit the TAFE Queensland Website at [www.tafe.net](http://www.tafe.net).

## Higher Education

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre accepts applications for state universities. For more information visit <http://www.qtac.edu.au/>. The following lists universities located in QLD:

University of Queensland	<a href="http://www.uq.edu.au">www.uq.edu.au</a>
Queensland University of Technology	<a href="http://www.qut.edu.au">www.qut.edu.au</a>
Bond University	<a href="http://www.bond.edu.au">www.bond.edu.au</a>
Central Queensland University	<a href="http://www.cqu.edu.au">www.cqu.edu.au</a>
James Cook University	<a href="http://www.jcu.edu.au">www.jcu.edu.au</a>
Southern Cross University	<a href="http://www.scu.edu.au">www.scu.edu.au</a>
Griffith University	<a href="http://www.gu.edu.au">www.gu.edu.au</a>
University of Southern Queensland University	<a href="http://www.usq.edu.au">www.usq.edu.au</a>

## Hospitals

There are both public and private hospitals throughout the Brisbane region. Large hospitals close to the city centre include:

Royal Women's Hospital	Herston	3253 8111 / 3253 3777
Royal Children's Hospital	Herston	3253 8111 / 3253 3777
Royal Brisbane Hospital	Herston	3253 8111 / 3253 3777
Mater Private Hospital	South Brisbane	3840 1111
St Andrew's War Memorial	Spring Hill	3834 4455
Greenslopes	Greenslopes	3394 7111
Wesley Hospital	Auchenflower	3232 7000

To avoid possible delays in the emergency departments of the major hospitals it is recommended that minor illness and injury be treated at a local medical centre which will be listed in the Yellow Pages telephone directory under "medical".

## Markets

### BRUNSWICK STREET MALL

Fortitude Valley

Open Saturday Mornings

3252 5999

A wide range of goods on sale.

### RIVERSIDE MARKETS

Riverside Centre and Eagle Street Pier, Brisbane

Open Sundays

Hundreds of stalls with crafts, fashion, jewellery, food and toys

3883 2400

### SOUTH BANK CRAFT MARKETS

South Bank Parklands

Open Saturday and Sunday

Crafts, fashion, jewellery, food and toys

3867 2000.

## Motoring Organisations

The RACQ offers a comprehensive range of services to QLD motorists. These include:

- 24 Hour Road Service - for breakdowns
- Car Insurance
- Technical Advice on vehicles
- Vehicle Inspections
- Approved Dealers List

Membership: There is an annual cost for Basic Care package, plus a joining fee, which may be waived in some cases. For more information the RACQ can be contacted on 13 19 05 or via the RACQ website at [www.racq.com.au](http://www.racq.com.au).

## Motor Vehicle Registration

Annual registration of a car is required, with costs widely varying depending on the size and make of the car. Fees can be paid 6 monthly or annually, but a premium is charged if you pay 6 monthly. Fees do not include Compulsory Third Party Insurance. For more information about CTP fees contact an insurance provider. Some links are provided below:

RACQ	Ph: 13 19 05	Web: <a href="http://www.racq.com.au">www.racq.com.au</a>
Suncorp Metway	Ph: 13 11 60	Web: <a href="http://www.suncorp.com.au">www.suncorp.com.au</a>
AAMI	Ph: 13 22 44	Web: <a href="http://www.aami.com.au">www.aami.com.au</a>
Allianz	Ph: 13 10 00	Web: <a href="http://www.allianz.com.au">www.allianz.com.au</a>
NRMA	Ph: 13 21 32	Web: <a href="http://www.nrma.com.au">www.nrma.com.au</a>
QBE	Ph: 1300 137 440	Web: <a href="http://www.qbe.com/australia/">www.qbe.com/australia/</a>

To register your vehicle, you will need the following documentation:

- 1) Completed Registration Form
- 2) Compulsory Third Party Certificate from a Licensed Third Party Insurer
- 3) Original copy of Road Worthy Certificate not more than 30 days old
- 4) Identification of Proof of Ownership

For further information contact Queensland Transport on 131 466, or visit the Queensland Transport website at [www.transport.qld.gov.au](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au).

### TO TRANSFER THE REGISTRATION OF A VEHICLE FROM INTERSTATE

You will need the following documentation:

#### 'APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION' FORM

This is available from the Transport Department. This needs to be completed. If buying through a car yard, then this is done for you.

#### CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS

This certificate is required for a car to be registered. This needs to be done annually for a renewal of registration.

#### COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

This is available from any insurer of your choice. This insurance is automatically added on to your registration, and shows insurer of Transport Department's choice.

#### PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF THE VEHICLE

Either hire purchase documents, or receipt of payment.

#### PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

Personal identification as the owner of the car, e.g. a photo driving licence, passport.

#### PREVIOUS REGISTRATION

Previous registration documents for vehicle.

Once you become resident in Queensland, you have three months in which to arrange for the transfer of your car registration.

#### CLAIMING A REFUND

You will be given a receipt for the previous vehicle plates. Keep photocopies of your old registration papers and send these together with copies of your new registration documents and the receipt for the old plates to a Motor Registry in your home state.

#### Newspapers

The Brisbane newspapers are The Courier Mail ([www.couriermail.news.com.au](http://www.couriermail.news.com.au)) published Monday to Saturday, and the Sunday Sun published on Sundays.

QLD residents can also purchase the national newspapers - The Australian and the Australian Financial Review, which are published Monday to Saturday.

There are also many suburban newspapers printed on a weekly basis and delivered free to homes in the area.

#### Public transport

Brisbane has many forms of public transport including buses, trains, ferries and the citycat. For detailed information on buses, trains and ferries contact the transport hotline on 13 12 30.

#### TRAINS

Citytrain offers comprehensive links between most parts of the city and suburbs. Queensland Rail operates Traveltrain country services to Brisbane. There are a variety of concession tickets that can save money.

Airlink: A train runs from the Roma Street transit centre to the airport and return every half hour. This connects to all major trains both interstate and within the state and also to the suburban railway stations.

For more information contact the Transport Information Railway Centre, 305 Edward Street, Brisbane Ph 3235 2222. For Country and Interstate Trains reservations and fares contact: Travel Train reservations - 132 232.

You can also access further information at their website at [www.citytrain.com.au](http://www.citytrain.com.au).

#### BUSES

The Brisbane City Council provides the bus services in Brisbane. Cityxpress buses only stop at designated stops, and offer a more direct service than buses that stop at every stop. CityCircle buses travel between all the major shopping centres and travel in both directions. The full circle takes about 4 hours. It's actually a great way to see Brisbane, as it travels through the different suburbs along the way. This bus service does not go near the city centre. A discount fare is offered when travelling between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. Day Rover tickets offer unlimited all-day travel on all city council buses trains and ferries.

The long distance train and coach terminal is at Brisbane Transit Centre, Roma Street, Brisbane.

For timetables, routes and fares visit the Public Transport site at [www.transinfo.qld.gov.au](http://www.transinfo.qld.gov.au).

#### FERRIES/CITYCAT SERVICES

City jetties, running from Edward Street, Eagle Street, Riverside and Gardens Point - link to South Bank, Dockside, Kangaroo Point, New Farm and down to St Lucia. Services operate from around 5.30am until 10.30pm. There are a variety of concession tickets that can save money. More details are available from the Brisbane Visitors Convention Bureau information

booths. Tickets can be purchased on-board the Ferry and CityCat.

For timetables, routes and fares visit the Public Transport site at [www.transinfo.qld.gov.au](http://www.transinfo.qld.gov.au).

## Radio

### AM Bands include:

4BC-1116	News, information & talkback
4BH 882	News & music

### FM Bands include:

B105	News & music
B104.5	News & music
Triple J 107.7	News & music
4ZZZ 106.9	News & music

## Renting Property

When a home is selected to rent, the Real Estate Agent will ask for an Application Form to be completed. This form requires personal details and credit references. In order to secure a property a deposit may be immediately payable - this will be deducted from your first month's rent.

Real Estate Agents use a Two Part Form provided by the Real Estate Institute of Queensland ([www.reiq.com.au](http://www.reiq.com.au)). The document is a legal and binding contract. The Lease Agreement is signed by the tenant and the landlord – you will often find that additional clauses are added listing any details agreed to by both parties.

The second part of the Agreement is a Condition Report. This is a log showing room by room the condition of the property. Any damage, marks or broken fittings are noted on this form, so at the end of the lease the Tenant does not pay for damage that already exists. The Agent completes his side of the form before the Tenant moves in, and then the Tenant has 10 days to complete his side of the report. This is then lodged with the Rental Bond Board.

### BOND

It is obligatory to lodge a bond with the Rental Bond Board. For unfurnished accommodation the bond is usually equivalent to four weeks rent. This amount is reimbursed at the end of the tenancy together with accumulated interest.

### LOOKING FOR RENTAL PROPERTY

Real Estate Agents all have their own rent rolls. Some properties are listed with multiple Agents. The Agent receives a monthly commission for managing the rental property. Properties are advertised on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the Courier Mail.

You can also look online for rental properties at [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

## Residential Areas of Brisbane

### Eastern Suburbs

These suburbs are on the edge of Moreton Bay. Cleveland offers canal living right on the bay with a commute time of 30 minutes. This area is not part of the Brisbane City Council, but comes under the jurisdiction of Redland Shire Council. Wynnum/Manly is situated 16 to 18kms east of the city centre. This offers a green buffer between Moreton Bay and the residential area. A crowded marina at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in Manly offers a different lifestyle to other areas. Public transport in the form of bus and rail are available. Private schools and colleges, both single sex and co-educational are available within these areas. The accommodation available is a mixture of high-set colonials and modern brick, some offering bay views.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### Inner Eastern Suburbs

These areas are situated approximately 3-10km east to south/east of the city centre. There are a mixture of homes on the Brisbane River - old and new, brick and wooden. Those housed in the new estates are predominantly brick. Carindale and Belmont are two of the suburbs, which offer large executive style homes. Public Transport is bus only. A good selection of private schools and colleges are within a 15-minute drive and a private bus service is available to these schools.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### Southern Suburbs

These areas are popular with business professionals and their families. There is also a large Chinese community. Large shopping centres cater for the very large southern population with lots of young families, utilizing the pre-school and day-care facilities offered. Public transport - bus and train. A large number of public schools are available and the inner city colleges are easily accessed by public transport.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### Inner West

Only 2 km from the city, these suburbs are very popular with young professionals. Paddington and Red Hill offer a village atmosphere with very old homes on elevated blocks to catch the cool bay breezes. This area is in walking distance to the city centre. Caxton Street, the main thoroughfare, is full of restaurants and cafes, antique shops. Ashgrove, Bardon, Auchenflower, Toowong and Indooroopilly are a little further west, but still only 10 - 15 minutes from the city. These have a mixture of architecturally designed modern style houses to the traditional Queenslander, or 1930's wooden home. Many young families live in the renovated homes painted in fabulous colours that match Brisbane's warm climate. Mt Cootha shelters these areas.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### Outer West

Situated 10 - 15kms west of the city centre. This is an established upmarket suburb, very popular with professionals. These areas have very stylish large executive homes, sometimes on acreage blocks. It does have an older area of around 20 - 30 years old. Some of the older homes are tired and in need of updating, but the newer homes are very presentable. Public Schools and a good bus service are offered in these areas, along with good shopping facilities, parks, gyms and sporting venues.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### **Northern Suburbs**

Clayfield, Ascot and Hamilton are the most prestigious of Brisbane's traditional suburbs with gracious homes set in wide tree lined avenues. There are generally quality homes, with part of this area offering city and river views. Close proximity to the airport, racecourses, fashionable shopping districts, quality schools and hospitals. Train and buses service this area. New Farm is found closer to the city on the Brisbane River. This peninsula offers restaurants, cafes and a cosmopolitan style of living. Older style apartments have been renovated, offering space and river views.

Further afield, there are plenty of good quality suburban dwellings, mostly more modern brick areas. Bridgeman Downs, McDowall, Carseldine are only 25 - 30 minutes commute from the City. These areas also offer plenty of public facilities such as schools, shops, recreational areas and parks. The area is serviced by bus only.

To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au) or [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

### **Shopping in Brisbane**

Brisbane has many large supermarkets, shopping centre and plazas. David Jones and Myer are the major department stores found in the city and most regional shopping centres. Kmart, Target and Big W are chains of stores selling a wide range of items from motor vehicle accessories, garden tools, to linen and clothing. They are generally priced at the lower end of the market.

Woolworths and Coles are large supermarket chains providing food, meat and vegetables. Many offer a home delivery service. To locate your nearest store or order online visit [www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au) or [www.coles.com.au](http://www.coles.com.au).

Retail hours are:

8.30am - 5.30 pm Monday to Friday	Shopping Centres and Plazas
8.00am - 8.00 pm Monday to Friday	Suburban Supermarkets
8.30am - 9.00pm Thursdays	Suburban Shopping Centres
8.30am - 9.00pm Fridays only	City
9.00am - 5.00 pm Saturdays	Shopping Centres, Plazas, S/markets
10.00am - 4.00 pm Sundays Only	City Mall Only

### **CITY SHOPPING**

The Queen Street Mall is the main shopping centre in the city. This is where David Jones and the Myer Complex are located.

### **SUBURBAN SHOPPING**

The suburban shopping centres feature all the major retailers, and many host a cinema complex. Car parking is usually provided free of charge. The main shopping centres in Brisbane are: Carindale, Toombul, Garden City, Stafford City, Brookside, Chermshire, The Hypermarket, Indooroopilly.

## **Television**

Brisbane has six free-to-air analog television stations:

**ABC TV**  
**Channel 7**  
**Channel 9**  
**Channel 10**  
**SBS**  
**BRIS 31 (Local TV Station)**

Between 2010 and 2013 analog free-to-air TV signals are being switched off and replaced with digital-only signals. For more information visit <http://www.digitalready.gov.au/>.

Foxtel supplies digital television to Brisbane, however not all suburbs are connected. For information call: 131 999 or visit [www.foxtel.com.au](http://www.foxtel.com.au).

## **Tourist Information**

The main tourist information centres in the city are located at:

City Hall Brisbane City Council Information Kiosk  
Queen Street Mall  
3221 8411

Queensland Government Travel Centre  
Cnr Adelaide and Edward Sts  
3221 6111

"This Week in Brisbane" is available free from Tourist Centres and Hotels.

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Albert Street  
3227 8185

## What to see in Brisbane

### The City Botanical Gardens

Situated in George Street, beside the Queensland University of Technology, Queensland's oldest public gardens, established in 1828, are a must see. The gardens are full of huge Moreton Bay fig trees, with riverside walks and a mangrove boardwalk. Free volunteer-guided walks are available Tuesday to Friday Ph 32214528 for bookings. Open 24 hours, admission free.

### The Treasury Casino

Housed in the old Treasury building and Lands Administration building. There are gaming tables and machines, restaurants, bars and a 97-room Hotel.

### The Customs House

Situated on the riverbank at Queen Street, the Customs House was originally built in 1886-9 and has been restored, housing a gallery, bookstore and Brasserie, open daily.

### Parliament House

Parliament House is an impressive French Renaissance-style building on the corner of George and Alice Streets. It has been the seat of government since 1868. Half-hourly tours are conducted at 10.30am and 2.30pm when Parliament is sitting, with additional tours at 11.15am and 3.15pm when Parliament is not in session.

### Anzac Square

Found between Ann and Adelaide Streets is the site of the Shrine of Remembrance with an eternal flame burning inside the sandstone colonnade.

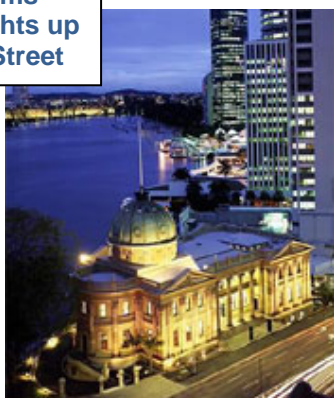
### City Hall

City Hall is an imposing Italianate sandstone building with an 85-metre clock tower, and an observation level at 62 metres. Guided tours are available on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

### South Bank Parklands

Made up of 16 hectares of recreational parklands on the bank of the Brisbane River, overlooking the city, with walkways, bikeways, shops, restaurants and cafes. There are free BBQ facilities and a man-made patrolled beach and lagoon. There is day and nighttime entertainment including festivals, fireworks, and street theatre.

The impressive Customs house lights up Queen Street



A beach within the city - the picturesque man made lagoon at South Bank



## What to see in QLD

### Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast is approx 1½ hours north of Brisbane. The beaches here are beautiful, and boast great surfing conditions. You can walk the Cooloola National Park, a living natural museum, or fossick for gold near Gympie. The sunshine coast is also where you will find the world famous 'Australia Zoo' ([www.australiazoo.com.au](http://www.australiazoo.com.au)) home to many unique Australian animals, birds and flora. Fishing is unsurpassed with river, rock, beach or deep-sea. There is something to suit everyone in the Sunshine Coast.

### Gold Coast

The Gold Coast is located on the Eastern seaboard of Australia just 80km south of the City of Brisbane. Boasting some of the best weather in Australia, pristine beaches, and beautiful rolling ocean waves, the Gold Coast is a surfers dream, hence the name 'surfers paradise'.



The Gold Coast is also the home of fun for adults and kids alike with theme parks a plenty, including Warner Brothers Movie World, Sea World, Wet 'n' Wild, and Dream World. Accommodation is easily found in either direction from the low budget stay to 5 star hotels.

### North Stradbroke Island

North Stradbroke Island boasts beautiful sandy beaches and freshwater lakes. From June to October, whales may be seen. Vehicular ferries connect to Stradbroke Island with 12 trips daily.

### Stanthorpe

This is a growing wine district, with accommodation and restaurants. The Ballendine area is very established with old Italian Wine Makers favouring the area, and in May they hold 'Opera in the Vineyard'. This is very popular and is usually heavily booked each year. The Glen Aplin area is growing with new restaurants and Cottage Stay Accommodation adding new interest to the region. The road to Stanthorpe is very good and only takes approximately 2½ hours travelling time.

### Hervey Bay & Fraser Island

3 hours north of Brisbane on the Bruce highway, Hervey Bay is renowned for the annual whale-watching season (August to the end of October), and is a launch point for the world heritage listed Fraser Island. Stretching over 123 kilometres along the southern coast of Queensland, and the largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island is a place of exceptional natural beauty, with long uninterrupted white beaches, strikingly coloured sand cliffs and ancient rainforests. Accessible by road, you can also fly to the Fraser coast from all domestic airports.

### Further Afield

#### Cairns

Cairns is situated in far north Queensland. A laid back and relaxed atmosphere prevail; the pace is a little slower so you can achieve a well-earned rest. There are plenty of water related activities on offer though, and where better a place to learn to scuba dive? After dark Cairns city comes alive with nightclubs, restaurants, night markets and the Casino.

Visit <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/content/root/index.html>.

### **The Great Barrier Reef**

A visit to Queensland could never be complete without a trip to the spectacular Great Barrier Reef. There are many points along the north Queensland Coast that allow access to the reefs, Coral Cays and Islands. Take a learn to Sail yachting experience from Airlie beach to the Whitsunday's, float over reef in a glass bottomed boat, camp on Lady Musgrave National Marine Park. The options are numerous. For more information visit the Great Barrier Reef Visitors Bureau at [www.greatbarrierreef.aus.net](http://www.greatbarrierreef.aus.net), or alternatively the Queensland Tourism website at [www.tq.com.au](http://www.tq.com.au).

### **Outback Queensland**

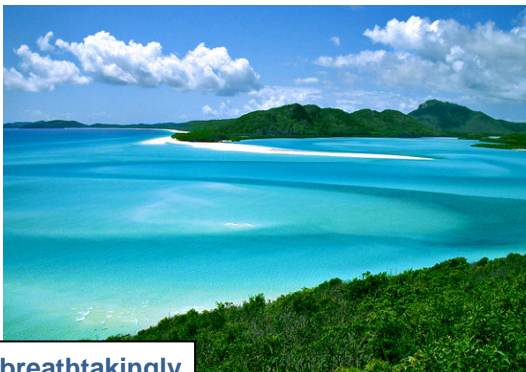
The beautiful sunburnt countryside and unspoiled landscape of Queensland's outback is the perfect place to visit if you want to get out into the bush. This is camping, 4wd, fishing, stockman country, where you can sleep under the stars, try some bush tucker, tell tall tales around a camp fire and fossick for all kinds of gems.

Most of Queensland's Outback is accessible by car, with towns are usually no more than two hours apart. For the off-road enthusiast, there are plenty of opportunities to go bush.

You can also travel by coach to all major Outback centres along the Overlander's Way from Townsville to Mount Isa, and on the Matilda Highway from Cunnamulla to Karumba.

Queensland Rail runs three authentic Outback trains: the Spirit of the Outback to Longreach, the Westlander to Charleville and the Inlander from Townsville to Mount Isa; for those short on time, regular flights operated by QantasLink, Qantas and MacAir Airlines service many regional centres.

Visit [www.AdventureOutback.com.au](http://www.AdventureOutback.com.au) for more information.



**The breathtakingly beautiful Whitsunday Islands**



**Anemone fish guarding their coral home on the Great Barrier Reef**

**A spectacular sundown in Queensland's Outback**

