

Things To Do In and Around Brisbane (Meanjin)

July 2026



Figure 1: Brisbane from above

1 Top Tourist Attractions in Brisbane

- South Bank Parklands, including the Wheel of Brisbane and Streets Beach
- Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
- The Story Bridge and Howards Smith Wharves
- Mt Coot-tha Lookout
- Queensland Cultural Centre Precinct - includes Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Queensland Museum and State Library of Queensland and Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)
- Customs House
- Brisbane Botanic Gardens
- Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium
- Kangaroo Point Cliffs
- New Farm Park and Brisbane Powerhouse
- Brisbane River Cruise



(a) Koalas at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary



(b) Mt Coot-tha Lookout

Figure 2: Some of Brisbane's Top Tourist Attractions

2 Day Trips and Tours

- Take a trip to Tangalooma Resort on Moreton Island (website: www.tangalooma.com) – an hour catamaran ride from Brisbane, perfect for a beachy day trip; options for trips include a Dolphin Feeding Day Cruise, or the Classic Day Cruise. Additionally, June to October is whale watching season so you can join a whale-watching cruise to witness the Eastern Humpback Whale migration.



(a) Dolphin Feeding at Tangalooma



(b) North Stradbroke Island

Figure 3: Day Trips

- Join a Yura tours trip to North Stradbroke Island (website: www.yuratours.com.au) and enjoy the natural beauty of the island while the traditional owners of the land welcome you to their island home and share cultural knowledge and stories.
- Hire a car or join a trip and head to Noosa for the day to see Australia's famous beaches and if you go on a Wednesday or Saturday stop by the famous Eumundi markets.



(a) Noosa Main Beach



(b) Glow Worm Caves at Tamborine Mountain

Figure 4: Day Trips

- Take a trip to the Gold Coast Hinterland with scenic day tour group (website: <https://scenicdaytourgroupp.com.au/>). Options include visiting Springbrook National Park, Tamborine Mountain, or the glow worm caves.
- Take a trip to Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast to visit the home of the world-famous Crocodile Hunter. Visit the Crocoseum to watch the crocodiles put on a show, feed kangaroos and wallabies, and cuddle a koala - you can do it all at Aus Zoo!



(a) Crocoseum at Australia Zoo



(b) Sirromet Winery

Figure 5: Day Trips

- Visit Sirromet Winery (www.sirromet.com) or one of the other local wineries around (take a trip with www.pineappletrips.com.au for example). Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Scenic Rim Region paired with a glass (or two) of Australian-made wine.
- Enjoy a best of Brisbane day tour with Adventure day tours (website: www.adventuredaytrips.com.au) - highlights of a private tour with these guys include a guided introduction to Brisbane including Mt Coot-tha, South Bank, Kangaroo Point

3 Fun For Free

- Walk along the Brisbane Riverwalk - A beautiful waterfront path connecting the CBD and Howard Smith Wharves.
- Visit the Museum of Brisbane and learn about Brisbane's history through free exhibitions.

- Take a stroll through Brisbane’s South Bank Parklands and perhaps even take a dip at Streets Beach.
- Join a free guided tour of Brisbane City Hall and Clock Tower Tour - one of Brisbane’s most iconic buildings.
- Enjoy a walk through the City Botanic Gardens; a peaceful riverside oasis in the heart of the city.
- Visit QAGOMA (Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art) where most exhibitions and collections are free to visit and there are daily guided tours led by volunteers.
- Take a ride on the CityHopper Ferry which is a free way to experience Brisbane from the river.
- Explore New Farm Park, which is a favourite local park with riverside views and beautiful rose gardens.
- Visit Brisbane’s newest casino (The Star) and take a trip up to their SkyDeck to enjoy Brisbane from above.



(a) Streets Beach



(b) QAGOMA Exhibitions

Figure 6: Highlights of South Bank

4 Great Value Experiences

- Take a scenic CityCat cruise - Brisbane’s public ferries provide one of the city’s best sightseeing experiences for only a small fare (50 cents).
- Enjoy the spectacular city views while rock climbing at Kangaroo Point Cliffs.
- Visit Eat Street Northshore for a lively night market with food vendors, entertainment and river views.
- For the space lovers the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium offers affordable astronomy shows set within the Mt Coot-tha precinct.
- Hire an E-Bike or E-Scooter as a fun way to explore the river and parklands.
- Visit The Commissariat Store Museum - an old Commissariat Store House that is one of only two surviving convict-era buildings in Queensland. The building is now a museum dedicated to showcasing Queensland’s history.



(a) Kangaroo Point Cliffs Rockclimbing



(b) The Brisbane Citycat (Ferry)

Figure 7: Highlights of the Riverside

5 Best Places to Eat and Drink

- Howard Smith Wharves:
 - Greca - Greek food
 - Stanley - Catoneese food
 - Ciao Papi - Italian food
 - Yoko Dining - Japanese food
 - Felons Brewing Co. - craft beer and casual dining beneath the Story Bridge
 - Mr Percival's - A signature Brisbane overwater bar with outstanding views.
- South Bank Dining Precinct - a wide variety of cafés, bars and restaurants along the river.
- Brisbane Powerhouse:
 - Bar Alto
 - Mary Mae's Bar + Kitchen
- Special Occasion Dining:
 - Blackbird Bar and Grill
 - Patina at Customs House
- Best of Australian Seafood:
 - Tillerman Seafood Restaraunt at Northshore
 - Gambaro Seafood Restaurant (best known for their Moreton Bay bugs)
- Local Cafes - cafe culture is a big part of Aussie life, but if you are looking for an afternoon coffee be aware that most cafes will close around 2pm.
 - John Mills Himself - hidden cafe in Brisbane CBD with some of the best coffee around
 - Anytime Coffee - Brisbane CBD
 - Felix for Goodness - Brisbane CBD
 - Bellissimo - Fortitude Valley
 - Speed Dial - Newstead
 - Death before Decaf - New Farm
 - Cups on Melbourne - South Brisbane
 - Good Good - West End



(a) Howards Smith Wharves and the Story Bridge



(b) South Bank Dining

Figure 8: Best Views and Food

6 Local Shopping Highlights

- Boutique Shopping
 - James Street, Fortitude Valley - lined with designer boutiques, Australian fashion labels, homewares stores, cafés, restaurants, and wellness spaces.
 - Queen Street Mall - located in the heart of the CBD, Queen Street Mall is Brisbane's largest shopping precinct, with hundreds of retailers ranging from international brands to Australian department stores.
 - Brisbane Arcade - opened in 1924, Brisbane Arcade is one of Brisbane's most beautiful heritage buildings, featuring boutique jewellers, artisan businesses, bespoke fashion, and traditional afternoon tea venues.
- Markets
 - Jan Powers Farmers Markets - a Brisbane institution that is held at several locations across Brisbane, these markets showcase local produce, gourmet foods, flowers, artisan products, and specialty Queensland goods.
 - West End Markets - popular weekend destination boasting a selection of fresh produce, artisan products, flowers, coffee, baked goods, and locally made crafts.
 - Brisbane City Markets - midweek (Wednesday) markets that offer local produce, flowers, gourmet foods, and specialty products in central Brisbane locations
 - Eat Street Northshore - Brisbane's iconic night market it is a lively waterfront market built from colourful shipping containers, featuring dozens of food vendors offering cuisine from around the world, live entertainment, and river views.
 - South Bank Collective Markets - held along South Bank's riverfront, these markets feature local artists, craftspeople, jewellery makers, and designers.