

Published online at:

<http://www.cvent.com/destination-guide/brisbane/>

<http://www.cvent.com/destination-guide/brisbane/things-to-do.shtml>

<http://www.cvent.com/destination-guide/brisbane/meetings.shtml>

<http://www.cvent.com/destination-guide/brisbane/transportation.shtml>

Why Host a Meeting in Brisbane?

With a perfect climate to complement world-class conference and meeting facilities, it's no wonder that Brisbane rates as the world's 6th best business destination, according to *The Economist Magazine*. Over the last 20 years, Brisbane has experienced enormous economic, population and cultural growth, and it's impossible to miss the taste of optimism in the air. As the gateway to Australia's most popular tourist attraction, the Great Barrier Reef, Brisbane has excellent transportation links, with the non-curfew international airport just a 20-minute drive from both the central business district and the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.



As a large component of the impressive South Bank cultural redevelopment, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre has become the envy of other world cities. Built on three levels, the centre is home to the 4,000- to 8,000-capacity Great Hall, four exhibition rooms totaling almost 20,000 square meters, a wide variety of meeting rooms and a ballroom, as well as fully integrated in-house services. Work is currently underway on an AU\$130 million expansion program, due for completion in 2010 that will create five new levels of facilities, as well as two more stand-alone plenary halls. The centre is adjacent to two major hotels and within easy walking

distance of 27 more. Its prime location downtown also lends easy walking access to many of the city's cultural hotspots including the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and the multi-faceted Queensland Cultural Centre.

Want to impress guests with a really special venue? Look no further than Brisbane's 30 unique venues. For a venue seeped in prestige and sumptuousness, why not try the [Brisbane City Hall](#)? Set amid a backdrop of sweeping marble staircases, mosaic floors and glittering chandeliers, City Hall will provide an unforgettable function for 20 to 1,500 guests. Alternatively, the XXXX Ale House offers a wonderfully historic venue decorated with copper and wood brewing kettles and catering for events for 80 to 350 people. Or, get outside and enjoy some of that famous Queensland sunshine. South Bank's 13 versatile and dynamic venues include Streets inner city beach and Gondwana Rainforest Sanctuary, which can cater for between 10 and 10,000 guests.



As Queensland's capital, Brisbane is the seat of government and commerce in the region. Brisbane's port, as part of Australia TradeCoast, is Australia's fastest-growing economic development area. Queensland's government has invested major resources in developing technology and science industries in Brisbane and the city is home to the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland and the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at the Queensland University of Technology. The city is the regional home to numerous international and national companies including DHL and Asia Pacific Aerospace.

Key Brisbane Metro Area Facts

Time Zone: Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
Convention Center: [Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre](#)
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Airports: [Brisbane Airport \(BNE\)](#)

Population	1,857,594	Destination Type Listings
Hotels	230	• Beach destination
Hotel Rooms	12,700	• Smoke free restaurants
Unique Venues	75	
Restaurants	300	

Additional Brisbane Information / History?

Sun-drenched days and sultry evenings set the scene for this gorgeous sub-tropical city where the idyllic climate leads to an al fresco, happy-go-lucky lifestyle envied by the rest of Australia. Settled in 1825 as a British penal colony, it's impossible to imagine what the prisoners would think of lively and cosmopolitan Brisbane today. Ever since 1859 when Queensland was proclaimed a separate colony and Brisbane was chosen as its capital, population growth has been steady, with the exception of a spike during World War II when hundreds of thousands of troops arrived in Brisbane to defend Australia. Today this heavenly metropolis is home to 1.86 million people and is Australia's fastest growing city.



Brisbane, known locally as Brissy, is the 3rd largest city in Australia and can be found reclining around two great loops of the Brisbane River in the southeast corner of Queensland. The cultural heart of the city is the breathtaking South Bank redevelopment. Attracting over 11 million visitors a year, South Bank is a cultural smorgasbord, with attractions such as the Queensland Art Gallery, the Performing Arts Complex and the [Queensland Museum](#)

Queensland Museum. Nestled among these grand buildings are pedestrianized plazas and walkways, stylish restaurants and bars, and, surrounding the area, the luscious green backdrop of South Bank Parklands, which run for over half a mile alongside the river. The Parklands' centerpiece, and its most distinctive attraction, is Streets Beach. Take a break from the heat at this artificial beach with real sand that curves through the park and opens into a lagoon overlooking Brisbane River and the gleaming skyscrapers of the central business district.



Downtown Brisbane is a wonderful assortment of the old and new. Majestic historic buildings including the gothic revival cathedral of St. Stephen and Parliament Building blend seamlessly with modern architectural triumphs such as the Riverside Centre. Explore the city and indulge in Queensland's best shopping in the Queen Street Mall and Little Stanley Street before checking out the boho chic suburb of Fortitude Valley. Once in "The Valley," choose from a sumptuous array of restaurants serving award-winning cuisine

and wines, such as the super stylish Cru Bar & Cellar, or enjoy a cocktail at one of many venues overlooking the river.

Brisbane's buzzing nightlife captivates visitors, but they should be cautioned against staying up too late, as they won't want to miss out on the numerous daytime attractions found in this gateway to outdoor adventure. Watch the sun rise floating over the city on a [hot air balloon](#), cuddle a Koala at [Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary](#) or take a refreshing wilderness walk in [Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens](#). Whatever visitors to Brisbane choose to do, they will definitely enjoy the city's philosophy on life, which is simply to enjoy it, usually in the sunshine over an icy cold drink.

Brisbane Climate Information

Brisbane has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers, mild winters and an average of seven hours sunshine each day. The average temperature in the summer months of November to February is 30°C (86°F). The average temperature for the winter months of March to September is 15°C (59°F).

The rainy season runs from late December to March, bringing thunderstorms and occasional hail, and the average annual rainfall is about 946 millimeters (37 inches). Humidity hovers around 50 percent all year. With such a consistent mild climate, the best months to visit are March and October.

Brisbane Places of Interest

Fortitude Valley

Fortitude Valley, also known as simply The Valley, is a culturally rich and eclectic suburb just northeast of central Brisbane. The Valley is a melting pot of Brisbane's best shopping, food, music and art and boasts the recently upgraded Brunswick Mall and Brunswick Street Market. In addition to checking out a vibrant outdoor environment and a thriving restaurant and nightlife scene, visitors can explore nearby Chinatown, the microcosm of Asia with a wealth of shops and delicious Asian eateries. Brunswick Street Market is open Saturday from 8 AM to 4 PM. *For more information: +61 7 3257 4510*

Old Windmill & Observatory

As the oldest buildings in the city and one of only two buildings left from Australia's convict era, a trip to the Old Windmill & Observatory provides visitors with a unique link to Brisbane's past. It was built of rendered stone and brick in 1828 by Captain Patrick Logan, who is known by most as a brutal man in Australian history for his treatment of convicts. The building was soon converted into a large treadmill where the convicts, instead of the wind, ground the corn. The Windmill became known as the Observatory at the end of the 19th century after an observation platform and cabin were built, and the building lays claim to some early experiments with television. It is closed to the public but can easily be explored on the outside.

Queen Street Mall

For avid shopaholics, there's no better place to be than Queen Street Mall, the premiere spot to experience the very best of Queensland's unique style. Providing the best shopping in Queensland is an easy task for this fully pedestrianized shopping haven. Over 26 million visitors a year flock to the city to visit the over 500 stores in this precinct. Comprising Queen Plaza, Wintergarden and the Myer Centre, as well as numerous shopping arcades, the area has undergone extensive redevelopment and also features outdoor restaurants with shady awnings that provide welcome relief for weary shoppers. The range of shopping is exceptional with leading Australian fashion labels such as Myer and David Jones rubbing shoulders with classic international designer labels such as Louis Vuitton. The Queen Street Mall is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 6 PM, Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 5:30 PM and Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Riverside Market

Ideally located with glorious views over the Brisbane River, the Riverside Centre hosts the Riverside Market every Sunday. Welcoming and vibrant, the market has been running for over 15 years, with many of the original marketers still braving the early morning start to ply their goods every week. Guests will be swept up by the cavalcade of color and delicious aromas as they mingle with the locals and search out a bargain. Visitors can pick up a memento in one of a multitude of stalls selling ceramics, flowers and collectables, or sample the mouth-watering selections of gourmet dips, jams and cheeses. After combing through the goods,



shoppers can kick back and savor the experience on the quay side while watching the boats sail past. The Riverside Market runs Sunday from 7 AM to 4 PM. *For more information: +61 7 3870 2807*

South Bank

In South Bank, visitors are never more than a hop, skip or jump away from culture, entertainment, fine dining and relaxation. South Bank is home to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Maritime



Museum, the [Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre](#) and the State Library. It is also the location of a cultural giant: the Queensland Cultural Centre, which encompasses the Queensland Museum, Sciencentre, Queensland Art Gallery and Queensland Gallery of Modern Art. Further attractions include historic Stanley Street Plaza, with its funky shops, cafes and restaurants, and South Bank Parklands, where visitors can swim in the unique inner city Streets Beach. South Bank is also home to the Suncorp Plaza, an open outdoor theater that regularly screens free international sporting events and movies. *For more information: +61 7 3867 2051*

Brisbane Entertainment

Brisbane City Hall Art Gallery and Museum

Built in the 1920s, Brisbane City Hall is a significant historical Brisbane landmark that today encompasses an art gallery and the Museum of Brisbane. Stepping into the main foyer is like stepping back in time, and visitors will relish the elaborate, high-vaulted ceilings, floor mosaics and glorious marble staircases. The City Hall Art Gallery and Museum were officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977, but the museum has since undergone an upgrade. Re-opened in 2003 with more of a focus on the social history of Brisbane, it has now hosted over 1.5 million visitors who flock to the museum to explore the early beginnings of this fascinating city.



Brisbane City Hall is available for private functions. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and weekends from 10 AM to 5 PM. Entry is free. *For more information: +61 7 3403 8888*

Brisbane Powerhouse

An important hub of theater, movies, music, comedy, visual arts and festivals, as well as a prime dining and meetings venue, the Brisbane Powerhouse is Brisbane's impressive homage to the arts, featuring a constantly changing schedule of events to wow both local and international visitors. The Powerhouse started life as a power station but fell into disrepair around the 1970s. Re-designed and re-opened in 2000, it's now a distinct Brisbane icon, using an intriguing mix of European panache, crude textures and preserved graffiti walls to cradle its performance spaces. Located on the banks of Brisbane River beside New Farm Park, the Powerhouse underwent a further AU\$3.5 million redevelopment in 2007 that saw an upgrade of the Turbine Platform concert stage, hospitality facilities and Powerhouse Theatre as well as the addition of a new Rooftop Terrace and café bar.

Powerhouse Arts has a number of venues available for private functions. The Powerhouse Box Office is open Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, Saturday from noon to 4 PM and two hours prior to all performances. Ticket prices vary based on performance. *For more information: +61 7 3358 8622*

Queensland Gallery of Modern Art

From its enviable riverside position in the thriving hub of South Bank, the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art is the epitome of grace and quiet elegance. As the largest modern art gallery in Australia, the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art is able to host particularly large exhibitions, such as the work of prolific artist Andy Warhol.

The gallery began its collection in 1895 and now has an extensive permanent collection of over 11,000 pieces including indigenous and contemporary Australian art, Queensland heritage art and contemporary Asian, Pacific and international art. Old favorites include many of the early works such as Blandford Fletcher's *Evicted* and *Under the Jacaranda* by R. Godfrey Rivers. The gallery's flagship project is the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art series of exhibitions, which is now a huge event on the national and international arts calendar. Located within the gallery is the Australian Cinémathèque, which presents a wide range of thematic film programs and exhibitions.

The gallery has 10 spaces available for a variety of private functions of 25 to 1,000 people. The Queensland Gallery of Modern Art is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free, though additional charges may be required for special exhibitions and some Cinémathèque programs. *For more information: +61 7 3840 7303*

Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Located in the cultural heart of Brisbane, the Performing Arts Complex at South Bank boasts four venues that regularly host the Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland and Queensland Theatre Company, along with many other visiting performing arts groups. Attracting many international acts, the Lyric Theatre is the main venue for operas, ballets and musicals and has received critical acclaim for its design. The Concert Hall hosts orchestral performances and boasts a majestic 6,500-pipe Klais Grand Organ. The Cremorne Theatre is an adaptive space particularly suitable for smaller creative productions and experimental theater, while the Playhouse utilizes the very best theater technology to enhance powerful dramatic performances.



The 2,000-seat Lyric Theatre, 1,800-seat Concert Hall, 312-seat Cremorne Theatre and 850-seat Playhouse are available for private events. The box office, located on level 1 of the Performing Arts Centre, is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 8:30 PM. Ticket prices vary based on performance. *For more information: +61 7 3840 7444*

Brisbane Restaurants

Cru Bar and Cellar

Cru Bar and Cellar in Fortitude Valley is an absolute must for any wine aficionado. Housing an extensive cellar with a global range of new and vintage wines, the bar staffs full-time sommeliers help patrons choose the perfect food and wine combination. Intimate lighting dances off the antique Baccarat crystal chandelier while patrons dine at tables, enjoy a range of nibbles at the onyx-topped bar, or, in classic Queensland style, dine al fresco. The cuisine is modern Australian and includes the appetizing Victorian lamb rump with a Dijon mustard seed crust on creamed potato with truffled honey figs and glaze.

Cru Bar and Cellar is available for private functions. It serves lunch and dinner Monday through Sunday from 11:30 AM to 10 PM and breakfast Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Entrees range from AU\$18.50 to AU\$30. *For more information: +61 7 3252 2400*

E'cco Bistro

For more than 10 years, E'cco Bistro has been heralded as one of the finest restaurants in the state and has won an astonishing number of accolades. The historic former tea warehouse has a daring and vivid look with pinot red walls, a polished Masonite floor and wooden tables and chairs. Diners will love the cozy bistro atmosphere and the mouth-watering aromas that drift into the restaurant from the open kitchen. Using only the freshest ingredients, the bistro serves up dishes such as the Margaret River lamb rump, roast Jerusalem artichokes, cavolo nero and caramelized shallots.

E'cco Bistro serves lunch Tuesday through Friday from noon to 2:30 PM and dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 6 to 10 PM. Entrees start at AU\$36.50. *For more information: +61 7 3831 8344*

Montrachet

Located in the funky suburb of Paddington, this distinctive French brasserie will transport diners straight to France. Run by a passionate French ex-pat Thierry Galichet, the brasserie is crammed full of French knick-knacks among a classic marble and dark wood bar and gorgeous lamps casting a blanket of intimacy over the room. Montrachet has a splendid range of imported chardonnays and pinot noirs to accompany such stunning dishes as Carré d'Agneau, a baked rack of lamb served with ratatouille and potato gratin. Patrons must try to save a little room for dessert; the traditional favorite crème brûlée comes highly recommended.

Montrachet serves lunch Monday through Friday from noon to 3 PM and dinner Monday through Friday from 6 to 10:30 PM. Entrees range from AU\$32 to AU\$38. *For more information: +61 7 3367 0030*

Pier Nine

Located on the Eagle Street Pier overlooking the Brisbane River, Pier Nine is Australia's most awarded seafood restaurant. With elegant aquatic-themed décor and huge glass windows affording wonderful views of the river, patrons can choose from at least four different varieties of fresh oysters, freshly shucked and served on premises. Other tasty offerings include the iconic Queensland wild caught barramundi, brown bellied mud crabs and Moreton Bay lobsters as well as a variety of meat dishes.

The restaurant offers rooms for private events as well as catering menus. Pier Nine is open daily from 11:30 AM to 10 PM. Entrees range from AU\$35 to AU\$50. *For more information: +61 7 3226 2110*

Brisbane Nightlife

Belgian Beer Café

The Belgian Beer Café offers the self-described chance to spend "a lazy afternoon exploring centuries of Belgian brewing tradition." Certainly, with over 30 brews to choose from, patrons will want to take their time. Guests can sample an exquisite range of beers, from Hoegaarden to the stronger "abbey" beers, brewed by monks in the early 18th century, in the magnificently restored 1920s art nouveau bar. Visitors also marvel at the huge range of glasses, each designed for a specific beer, and the skill with which the bar staff serve the drinks. An outdoor beer garden invites patrons to sit under the sun while enjoying their libations.

The café is available for private functions. The Belgian Beer Café is open Monday through Sunday from 11:30 AM to late. *For more information: +61 7 3221 0199*

Breakfast Creek Hotel

One of the most famous watering holes in Australia and certainly the most famous in Queensland, the Breakfast Creek Hotel, or "Brekky Creek," with its majestic French Renaissance-style architecture, opened its doors in 1890 and was an instant success. The historic hotel is steeped in folklore, and staff are more than willing to spill the stories up their sleeves, such as regular ghost sightings of the Breakfast Creek Hotel's first proprietor William MacNaughton Galloway, who fell to his death from a second floor window. The building has seen a great many renovations. The most recent in 2003, at a cost of AU\$4.5 million, restored the hotel to its former glory while leaving the character intact.

The public bar has terrazzo flooring, lofty ceilings and old barrels for tables. Other bars and spaces include the Spanish Garden, Staghorn Garden, Substation no. 41 and a private bar veranda. Many of the spaces are available for private functions. The Breakfast Creek Hotel is open daily from 10 AM to late. *For more information: +61 7 3262 5988*

Sit Down Comedy Club

Priding itself on hosting the very best stand up comedians, the Sit Down Comedy Club has gained an international reputation for comedy, attracting world-famous comedians such as Ross Noble, Eric Bana and the Umbilical Brothers, among many others. Drawing from a wide pool of local, national and international talent, the comedy club presents new shows every week that guarantee patrons a laugh. The comedy club is hosted by McGuire's Paddington Tavern, or the "Paddo" Tavern, a large drinking establishment serving great beers and bistro food.

The Sit Down Comedy Club can organize for comedians to perform at functions, including conferences. The Paddington Tavern has a variety of rooms for private functions and offers catering for groups of 10 to 130 guests. Comedy shows usually start at 7 PM. Shows generally cost between AU\$20 and AU\$30. *For more information: +61 7 3369 4466*

Tongue & Groove

Combining a trendy café/restaurant upstairs and a live music bar downstairs, Tongue & Groove is a great place to visit after the sun has gone down and the dancing shoes are on. The bar has funky décor with bold shapes and colors and comfortable couches, creating the friendly, welcoming vibe for which it's known. Patrons will find themselves in a central hub of Brisbane's musicians and artists, and, apart from a slight leaning towards jazz, a good mix of music from blues and reggae to funk and electronic echoes off the walls. The focus is on local talent, but Tongue & Groove also hosts interstate and international acts.

The bar is available for private functions. Tongue & Groove is open Monday and Tuesday from 5 PM to close and Wednesday through Sunday from 8 AM to close. Entry to the bar is usually free. *For more information: +61 7 3846 0334*

Family Activities in Brisbane

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Founded in 1927, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is located in a beautiful natural setting about five kilometers from the central business district. One of the world's oldest and largest koala sanctuaries, it is also one of the only sanctuaries where visitors are allowed to hold and pet the koalas. Children adore these furry little creatures and delight in the opportunity to not only feed and meet them but to also mingle with some kangaroos, often when they have a baby kangaroo, or joey, in their pouch. Other wildlife at the sanctuary includes Tasmanian devils, wombats, echidnas, a number of reptiles, parrots, kookaburras, emus, cassowaries and free flying lorikeets. A small farm also hosts sheep dog shows.

The sanctuary is open daily from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. Entrance costs AU\$17 for children and AU\$22 for adults. *For more information: +61 7 3378 1366*

Queensland Museum

Linking the past, present and future, the Queensland Museum is sure to fascinate the kids. The first stop should be at the permanent Dinosaur Garden where visitors can walk among life-sized models of a Tyrannosaurus Rex and Triceratops. Another popular attraction is the extremely rare German A7V Tank, called "Mephisto." Captured by Australian Troops during World War I, the tank is the only remaining German tank from that time period. From boomerangs to dung beetles and historical artifacts to hands-on science, the museum keeps guests entertained for hours.



The museum has venues available for private functions. Queensland Museum is open daily from 9:30 AM to 5 PM. It is closed Christmas and Good Friday. Admission is free, though some special exhibitions may require additional charges. *For more information: +61 7 3840 7555*

Sciencentre

Sciencentre is at the cutting edge of hands-on science-based exhibitions with almost 100 interactive exhibits. The center is divided into three main galleries: guests can check out the *Body Zone*, where kids can jump on a bike and see how their joints work as they ride tandem with a skeleton; investigate the *Earth Space Gallery*, where the mysteries of night and day are explained as a giant pendulum puts the earth in a spin; then stop by *Action Stations*, where visitors can use their own energy to generate light, learn about gyroscopes and flywheels and even freeze their own shadow.



Sciencentre is available for private functions. It is open daily from 9:30 AM to 5 PM. It is closed Christmas and Good Friday. Admission is AU\$10 for adults. Admission for children under 5 is free. *For more information: +61 7 3840 7555*

Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium

Opened in 1978, the planetarium was named after Sir Thomas Brisbane, governor of New South Wales in the early 1920s, who was an avid astronomer; in fact, he was one of the first to map the stars of the Southern Hemisphere. The planetarium features the Cosmic Skydome planetarium theater, which will transport guests into space; the Display Zone, where they can see images from the Hubble Space Telescope; and various artifacts, displays, asteroid fragments and model spacecraft. A mini theater screens short films on astronomical topics and space missions including the movie *The Search for Life: Are We Alone?* The highlight of any trip, however, is stargazing in the observatory itself with one of the planetarium's astronomers.

The planetarium is available for private events and can cater for between 35 and 120 guests. Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium is open Tuesday through Friday from 2:30 to 4:15 PM, Saturday from 11 AM to 8:15 PM and Sunday from 11 AM to 4:15 PM. Entrance fees are AU\$7.10 for children and AU\$12.10 for adults. *For more information: +61 7 3840 7555*

Recreation and Outdoors in Brisbane

City Botanic Gardens

Covering nearly 50 acres of land in the heart of the city and nuzzled peacefully in one of the Brisbane River's great loops, the City Botanical Gardens is an oasis of gardens and lawns that cover the slopes below Parliament House and the Old Government House. Moreton Bay figs, buyna pines, macadamia trees and jacaranda trees provide welcome green respite for picnickers, office workers, joggers, cyclists and in-line skaters. The sub-tropical climate ensures a permanent display of color and pungent fragrances that float on the breeze from the flame trees, orchids, oleanders and frangipanis. The pretty Mangrove Boardwalk, which skirts the riverbank on the eastern rim, remains lit until midnight; possum spotting is a popular activity after dark.



The gardens have a number of venues for private functions. The City Botanic Gardens are open 24 hours a day. Entrance to the gardens is free. *For more information: +61 7 3403 2535*

Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and Reserve

Mount Coot-tha has a number of great outdoor attractions including a lookout with a bird's-eye view over the city, numerous bush walks, one of which includes an art display by some local aboriginal artists, and a 3,706-acre reserve of natural bushland. Most spectacularly, Mount Coot-tha is home to Brisbane's second Botanic Gardens. Not to be confused with the City Botanic Gardens, the 140-acre Mount Coot-tha gardens are reputedly home to Australia's largest sub-tropical display of flora. Visitors love the Tropical Dome indoor display, the Exotic Rainforest and the forests of bunya, bougainvilleas and eucalypts. For a peaceful and tranquil retreat, guests can visit the Japanese Gardens, outfitted with typical Japanese decorations and unique water features.



Several lawn sites as well as the Auditorium are available for private events at the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. The gardens are open daily, September to March, from 8 AM to 5:30 PM, and daily, April to August, from 8 AM to 5 PM. Entrance is free. *For more information: +61 7 3403 2535*

Streets Beach Parklands

As astonishing as it seems to have a beach in the middle of a city, Brisbane's man-made Streets Beach is a complete hit with visitors and locals alike. The lagoon, which was completed in 1992, provides a welcome spot for over nine million visitors a year to cool off after a busy day. Containing enough water to fill five Olympic swimming pools, the pool was constructed from about 2,000 square meters of concrete surrounded by 4,000 cubic meters of sand, sourced locally from the Rous Channel in Moreton Bay. Palm trees, rocky creeks and exotic plants surround the beach, which is patrolled by lifeguards daily between 9 AM and 5 PM. The beach is open daily from 6 PM to close. Admission is free.

Walk-About Creek Wildlife Centre

Just a few kilometers west of Brisbane is the 61,776-acre Brisbane Forest Park, an area of bush land providing a crucial environment to a large variety of plants and animals. The Walk-About Creek Wildlife Centre in the park offers visitors the chance to learn about the many different and diverse environments of Australian wildlife. Features include a large walk-through aviary, aquariums and wildlife enclosures with platypus, wallabies, wombats, snakes, turtles and spotted quoll. The forest park itself offers wonderful fauna and flora viewing opportunities. Guests can explore over 800 species of plant in open eucalypt woodlands, gum forests and lush subtropical rainforests, while keeping an eye out for the endangered giant barred frog in a cool mountain stream or for the bell miner bird, whose call often echoes through the forest.

The Walk-About Creek Wildlife Centre has facilities available for private functions and also offers catering for 20 to 180 people. It is open daily from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. It is closed Christmas, December 26, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and January 2. Admission is AU\$2.60 for children and AU\$5.30 for adults. *For more information: +61 7 3512 2300*

Brisbane Tours

Balloons over Brisbane

Ever wanted to soar like a bird over a city? With Balloons Over Brisbane patrons can float above it all and catch jaw-dropping views of this magnificent city and beyond. On a clear day, views extend all the way to the Gold Coast and the Moreton Bay Islands to the south and the impressive Glasshouse Mountains to the north. Balloons Over Brisbane gives guests the opportunity to help inflate the balloon, if they wish, before their champagne breakfast and sunrise flight. The launch site varies based on prevailing wind conditions, but one thing is guaranteed: unforgettable views.



Flights are weather dependent, always at dawn and last approximately one hour. They cost between AU\$255 and AU\$310. Group discounts are available from Tuesday through Friday for six or more passengers with tickets costing AU\$265 per person. *For more information: +61 7 3844 6671*

Kookaburra River Queens

Take a step back in time for this special cruise on the Brisbane River with the Kookaburra River Queens' fleet of authentic paddlewheelers, based on the design of the Mississippi originals. Guests can jump aboard and enjoy all the highlights of riverside Brisbane over lunch, commentary and light entertainment, or make an evening of it with the dinner cruise, which includes a three-course buffet and live music and dancing. Having recently undergone an extensive renovation program, the Kookaburra River Queens now offer Brisbane's premium cruise experience.



The Kookaburra River Queens can be hired for private events of up to 350 guests. Tours range in price from AU\$35 to AU\$85. *For more information: +61 7 3221 1300*

Story Bridge Adventure Climb

A true Brisbane icon, Story Bridge offers an unforgettable climbing experience. Boasting one of the deepest foundations in the world, Story Bridge is a cantilever bridge that links Fortitude Valley to Kangaroo Point, providing an essential transportation link in the city. The Story Bridge Adventure Climb is a two-and-a-half-hour climb offering breathtaking panoramic views of Brisbane as patrons climb up and over the bridge. Experienced Climb Leaders guide groups while giving fascinating commentary about the history and heritage of the bridge and city.

The adventure climb operates daily excluding Christmas and the Riverfestival and Riverfire weekend. Guided dawn, day, twilight and night tours are offered. Tours range in price from AU\$110 to AU\$130. *For more information: +61 7 3891 6160*

XXXX Ale House, Visitor Centre and Brewery Tour

The XXXX Ale House has invested millions in its fun, interactive brewery tour and visitor centre. Celebrating all things beer, the Ale House at XXXX delves into the history of the well-known Castlemaine Perkins brewery and its even more famous product, XXXX beer. Using advanced technology, the tour invites patrons to join an animated version of Mr. XXXX, who showcases over 125 years of brewing history. Guests visit the inner workings of the brewery while being entertained with a myriad of colorful stories. The tour ends with a seat at the Ale House Bar, where patrons can sample some of the delicious brews.

Tours run Monday through Friday every hour between 10 AM and 4 PM and Wednesday until 6 PM. Saturday tours run at 10:30 AM, 11 AM and 12 PM. Tours cost AU\$20. *For more information: +61 7 3361 7597*

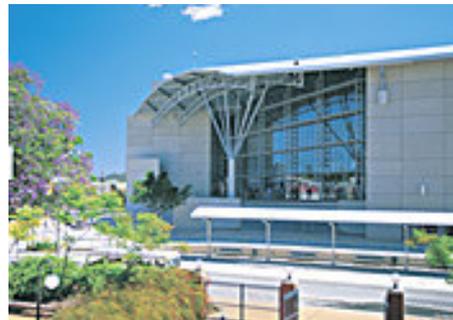
Brisbane Convention Center Information

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

With a stunning location and world-class conference and meeting facilities, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre has become the envy of other world cities. Successfully able to accommodate and manage events of any size, the centre is easily accessible by car, ferry, train and bus and is only a short 20-minute drive from Brisbane Airport. Located in South Bank, the cultural heart of Brisbane, the centre is just a short walk from big attractions such as the

Queensland Performing Arts Centre and the Queensland Cultural Centre, as well as over 30 restaurants, cafes and shops and Brisbane's riverfront parkland.

Built over three levels, the centre has been designed to provide flexibility and versatility to any event, as spaces can be tailored to meet planners' needs. Four exhibition halls contain a total of 20,000 square meters of clear span floor space. The Great Hall can accommodate 4,000 people, but can also expand to fit groups as large as 8,000 people. It can also be split into four smaller auditoriums with raised seating and direct access to Conveners' offices, the registration area and the exhibition halls. Other features include executive appointed boardrooms, the 1,581-square-meter Plaza Ballroom and a wide variety of different sized meeting rooms. Additionally, its special South Bank River Room is a picturesque spot for dinners and receptions of up to 300 guests.



Work is currently underway on an AU\$130 million expansion program, due for completion in 2010. This expansion will create five new levels of boutique convention facilities including another ballroom and two more stand-alone plenary halls. When the expansion is complete, Brisbane will boast the most flexible meetings and events venue in the country.

Fully integrated in-house services complement the centre's adaptable space, including award-winning in-house catering and three dedicated Speakers' Presentation Centres. These centres come fully-equipped with the latest presentation technology, a welcome lounge and soundproof rehearsal rooms. A comprehensive Audio-Visual Department with highly skilled technology specialists ensures the technical side of events is conducted with seamless professionalism. Other amenities include on-site security and parking for 1,600 vehicles.

Merivale Street
P.O. Box 3869
South Bank, QLD 4101
Australia
Phone: +61 7 3308 3000

Other convention centers in the Brisbane region

Brisbane City Hall
King George Square
Brisbane, QLD 4000
Australia
Phone: +61 7 3403 4233

Brisbane Airport Information

Brisbane Airport (BNE)

Brisbane Airport is the largest and the 3rd busiest airport in Australia with over 17.5 million passenger movements between 2006 and 2007. The airport has an international terminal, a domestic terminal and one runway, with another under construction as part of an AU\$1 billion expansion plan, due for completion in 2015. The airport operates without a curfew and has direct connections to 26 international destinations. Easily accessible by various modes of transportation, the airport is located just 20 minutes by car from downtown Brisbane along the Gateway Motorway.

In addition to its new runway, the airport's international terminal is also undergoing major redevelopments to be completed by the end of 2008. The redevelopments include updated passenger check-in and arrivals facilities, two larger baggage carousels, two new aircraft gates to accommodate the new A380 Airbus, and enhanced shopping and dining facilities over three levels, including the new northern concourse. Such additions position Brisbane Airport to provide a world-class travel environment with a comfortable, practical feel and stylish new look.

With an exquisite range of places to shop and eat, Brisbane Airport is as much a destination as a major transport center. Travelers can spend time browsing an exciting range of shops selling anything from Australiana and Aboriginal artifacts to books, magazines, surf wear, chocolate, jewelry, DVDs and

sunglasses. A number of cafes and restaurants serving a delicious range of food and drinks line the terminals, including Aromas, a Brisbane institution, where patrons can enjoy great coffee, tea, beer or wine as they chose from a delectable selection of meals, sandwiches or cakes. For a fresh juice to enliven the senses of weary travelers, the Luscious Juice Bar offers a fine range of juice cocktails, smoothies and healthy snacks.

Other airport services provide currency, travel and accommodation advice. Short-term, long-term and valet parking is available. The new AU\$35 million multi-level car park at the international terminal ensures parking is easy, convenient and time-saving for travelers.

Airline carriers serving Brisbane Airport

- Air New Zealand
- Air Niugini
- Air Pacific
- Air Vanuatu
- Aircalin
- Airlines PNG
- Australian air Express
- Brindabella Airlines
- Cathay Pacific
- China Airlines
- Emirates
- Etihad Airways
- EVA Air
- HeavyLift Cargo Airlines
- Japan Airlines
- Korean Air
- MacAir Airlines
- Malaysia Airlines
- Our Airline
- OzJet
- Pacific Air Express
- Qantas
- Regional Express
- Royal Brunei Airlines
- Singapore Airlines
- SkyAirWorld
- Thai Airways International
- Toll Priority
- Virgin Blue

Brisbane Train Information

Roma Street Transit Centre

The Roma Street Transit Centre is the major hub for all long and short distance buses and trains. Citytrain, the urban rail network, comprises 10 suburban lines that cover the west, north and east sides of the city. Citytrain also manages the Airtrain service in conjunction with Brisbane Airport, which runs every 15 to 30 minutes from the city to the airport. The Airtrain costs AU\$13 for a single trip and takes about 20 minutes. Citytrain services generally run Monday through Sunday from 5 to 1 AM.

Brisbane Public Transportation

Translink

Brisbane public transportation is excellent and simple to use. Translink operates an integrated ticketing system, which works on a zone system for all trains, buses and ferries. There are 23 zones in total, but the city center and most of the inner city suburbs are located within Zone 1. For access to public transportation more than once in a day, travelers can purchase a daily ticket, which allows unlimited transport on trains, buses and ferries. A Zone 1 single ticket costs AU\$2.30 and is valid for two hours across all forms of public transportation. A Zone 1 daily ticket costs AU\$4.60.

Buses

Citybus operates regular services from the city to the suburbs and is a convenient way to travel around town. The Cityxpress services and Rockets, which are fast peak-hour commuter buses, offer even quicker transport. Buses generally operate Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 9:30 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 6:30 PM. A free bus loop, which circles the city area stopping at [Queen Street Mall](#), [City Hall](#), Central Station and Riverside, runs Monday through Friday every 10 minutes from 7 AM to 6 PM.

Ferries

Due to Brisbane's geography alongside the curving Brisbane River, ferries are often the best, as well as the most enjoyable, means of travel. The fast blue CityCat catamaran travels between the University of Queensland in the southwest to Apollo Road in the northeast with stops at North Quay, South Bank, Riverside and New Farm Park. It runs daily every 30 minutes from 5:30 to 12:40 AM. The Inner City

Ferries zigzag back and forth across the river and generally operate daily every 10 minutes from 6 to 12:30 AM.

Rental Cars

Rental car companies Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz, Red Spot and Thrifty operate at Brisbane Airport. Rental car customer service desks are located on level 2 at the international terminal.

Taxis

Taxis are numerous in Brisbane and guests should have no difficulty in flagging one down. Fares start at AU\$2.50 and increase at a rate of AU\$1.74 per kilometer. Guests should expect a taxi fare of around AU\$33 from the city to the airport.

Distance to...

- **Gold Coast, QLD** **69km**
- **Byron Bay, NSW** **140km**
- **Lismore, NSW** **146km**
- **Coffs Harbour, NSW** **311km**
- **Gladstone, QLD** **443km**
- **Newcastle, NSW** **615km**
- **Sydney, NSW** **730km**