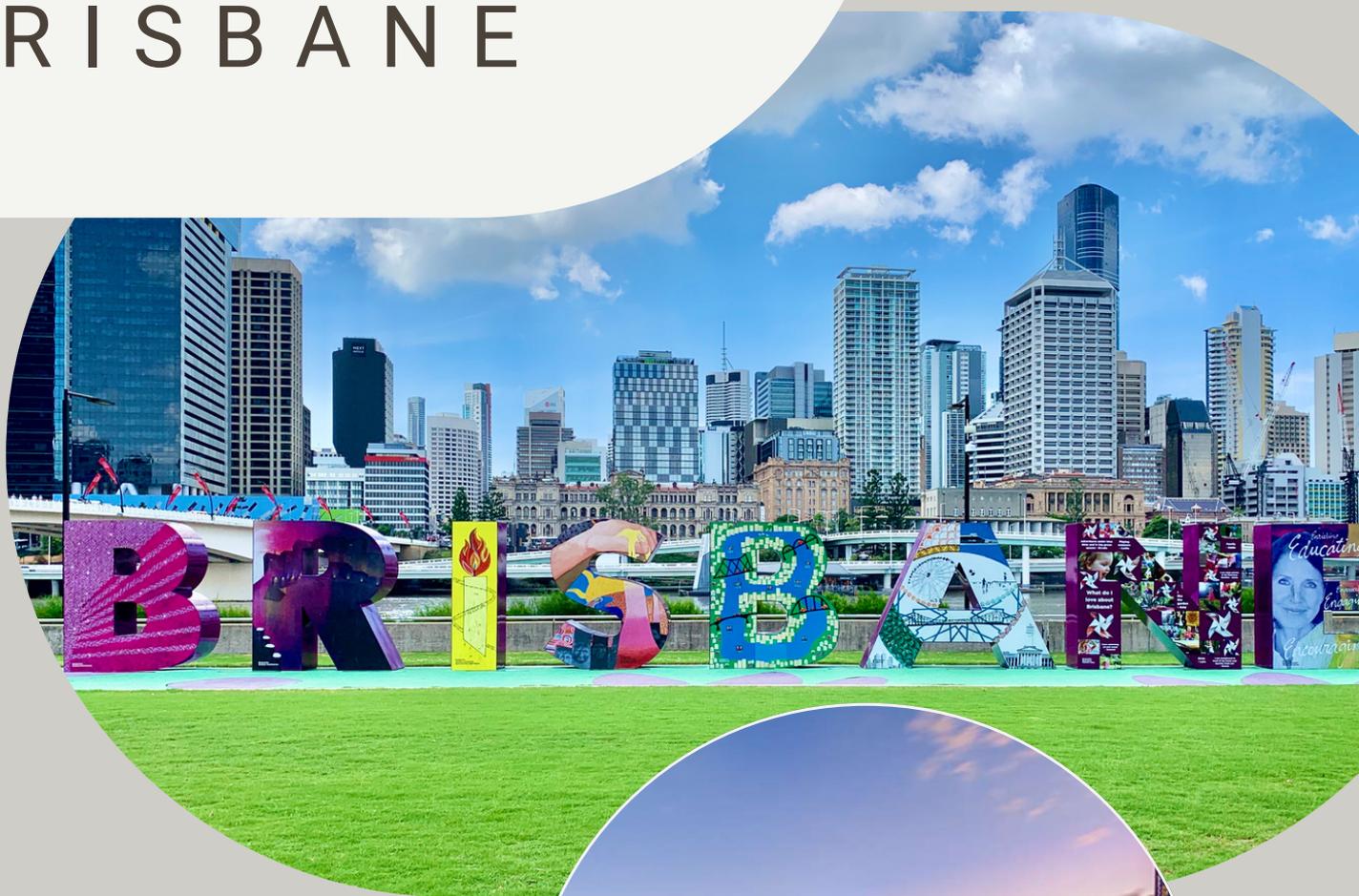


COMPLETE GUIDE FOR NEW FAMILIES MOVING TO BRISBANE



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Abstract

If you're considering moving to Brisbane this guide has been written to help you get the most common questions answered. As they say "there is no such thing as a stupid question", but often people are afraid to ask things due to the fear of looking stupid, so while below are common information feel free to reach out with any additional question.

Overall moving to Brisbane or any new location is a life-changing experience, so it's important to do your research and get as many questions answered, as this will ensure you settle in and have a minimal amount of surprises at your new home.

I. Introduction

If you're thinking of moving to Australia and trying to decide where to live, Brisbane is a city well worth considering.

Brisbane seems to have shaken off its reputation as a slightly behind-the-times big country town, and turned into a bustling, multicultural contemporary city.

To help decide if living in Brisbane could be for you, this blog post will give you an overview of the Brisbane lifestyle and hopefully answer any questions you may have about Australia's river city!

1. Where is Brisbane in Australia?

In a country as enormous and sparsely populated as Australia, it's crucial to consider the location of any city you may choose to live in – not something I gave much thought to as a young exchange student with no travelling experience!

Brisbane sits almost halfway up the east coast of Australia, in the southeast corner of Queensland. Since the east coast is well developed and highly travelled, Brisbane is not particularly isolated in Australian terms.

The nearest state capital to Brisbane is Sydney, which is a good ten-hour drive away! There are plenty of smaller towns and cities in between though, as well as to the north on the way up to Cairns.

2. How Big is Brisbane?

Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland, and its population of 2.5 million makes it the third-most-populated city in Australia (after Sydney and Melbourne). It's also one of the country's major business hubs.

The city has a fairly compact centre (called the Central Business District, or CBD in Australia) with a mixture of modern skyscrapers and heritage buildings dating back to the early 19th century.

3. Living in Brisbane: Weather & Seasons

Another crucial aspect to consider is the temperature in Brisbane. Remember Australia lies in the southern hemisphere, meaning the cities to the south are generally cooler (and since the country is so huge, the difference can be vast).



4. Daylight Hours in Brisbane

This may seem a strange topic to cover, but many of you moving to Australia won't be aware that Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory do not have daylight saving.

This means that in the height of summer in Brisbane, the sun goes down around 6:50pm, about an hour and 20 minutes earlier than in Sydney. The sun doesn't set in Melbourne and Adelaide until just after 8:30pm.

5. Brisbane Beaches (or Lack of!)

Due to its location on the coastline, it's natural to assume that Brisbane has a multitude of beaches like the other major cities. Unfortunately that's not the case!

Brisbane CBD lies about 15 km inland, on a peninsula of the Brisbane River. Its eastern suburbs lie along the shores of Moreton Bay, which have mud flats and mangroves rather than powdery white sand.

6. Living in Brisbane: Things to Do

Despite the lack of beaches, there are still plenty of amazing things to do in Brisbane. Most attractions are centred around the river, and the CBD itself has a more modern, shiny look than Sydney and Melbourne, but with green spaces too.

As I mentioned, there are now plenty of cafes and restaurants in Brisbane, as well as bars and nightclubs in the city and nearby Fortitude Valley if that's your thing.

7. Trips from Brisbane: Holiday Destinations

Even though Brisbane isn't a beach city, it lies smack-bang in the middle of the well-trodden backpacker route up the east coast. The city is ideally located to reach some of Australia's most popular tourist destinations.

Off the coast of Brisbane itself lies tropical Moreton Island and Stradbroke Island amongst others. To the south, there's the busy Gold Coast, bohemian Byron Bay, and then a string of beautiful holiday towns along the Brisbane to Sydney coastal route.

8. Brisbane Insects & Wildlife

I know that a huge worry for many of you is Australia's range of hairy, scary and possibly lethal creatures. It's actually extremely rare to die from a spider bite in Australia; there's only been one recorded death in over 40 years.

I've travelled the majority of the Australian coastline, including camping in rural areas, and I've lived in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney. The worst I've had is a very painful sting from a bull ant. I've rarely seen snakes – only ever in national parks, and mostly in Tasmania.

9. Brisbane Property Prices

Brisbane has seen a huge amount of development over recent years, with lots of high-rise apartments being built in the CBD and along the riverfront. This is apparently to cater for high demand from young, multicultural residents who want to enjoy city life by the water.

Property prices in Brisbane are significantly lower than in Sydney and Melbourne, which could be a deciding factor for those of you hoping to buy a home. However, the pandemic has seen a trend of people from the colder states like New South Wales and Victoria moving up to milder Queensland, which has propelled Brisbane's property market.

10. Renting in Brisbane

The June 2022 CoreLogic report linked above states that the median weekly rent for a house in Brisbane at that time was \$550, and for a flat, \$450. This makes Brisbane the fourth-cheapest state capital in Australia to rent in, after Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

As a comparison, the cheapest state capital in Australia to rent a home in was Adelaide, with median weekly rent of \$480 for a house and \$400 for a flat/unit.

I hope this overview on living in Brisbane has helped with your big decision! I think the Brisbane lifestyle is pretty great, and would suit both young professionals and families alike. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there back in my student days!

II. CHECK OUT THE COOLEST SUBURBS IN BRISBANE

Right now Brisbane is having a renaissance. We've grown up, we're trying on new clothes, we're innovating and exploring a new chapter in our history. Suburbs that were once not worth a moment's thought about have flipped into some of the coolest spots to eat, drink, shop and dance in the entire city. It's an exciting time to be here.



If when you visit a new city you love to explore the inner-city suburbs, soak in each individual vibe and pretend you're a local for the day, this is the Brisbane guide for you.

Brisbane City

The beating heart of Brisbane has a new focus – the riverfront. While in the centre of the CBD you can find the state's best shopping and cool laneways stuffed with great bars, it's down by the river that new developments have reclaimed the waterfront and are making the City pump more than ever.

The funky, fresh and very Queensland five-star W Hotel opened to fanfare off George Street with farm-to-table Three Blue Ducks as the signature restaurant. Nearby, Sydney favourite has opened Phoenix, a contemporary yum cha restaurant, and Persone is an Italian concept from the Gambaro family. A stone's throw away, high-end Chinese diner Donna Chang wows with more marble and crystal than you can poke a stick at, and downstairs find glitzy cocktail bar The Boom Boom Room.

Right now we're eagerly awaiting the opening of Howard Smith Wharves (especially the hexagon over-water bar), and the epic Queens Wharf (which will have the city's first six-star hotel and an incredible sky deck). Riverside darling Eagle Street Pier (where you currently find some of the city's best fine dining) is also set for a complete makeover. We told you it was an exciting chapter for Brisbane!

Fortitude Valley

This suburb has been for a ride over the decades – from the grand department stores of the 1940s, through to police corruption and illegal casinos in the '80s. Music venues and studios took up cheap rent in the '90s, and luckily some smart-thinking local councillors changed laws to protect them from noise complaints. Boom – Australia's first entertainment precinct was born.

Fast forward nearly 30 years and Fortitude Valley is at the centre of Brisbane's epic music scene, with the super cool annual festival BIGSOUND using most venues, and one of the most exciting music projects on the horizon – a 3500-person arena in the heart of Brunswick Street Mall.

With a slightly grungy edge, Fortitude Valley is a melting pot of all nightlife after dark. Head in for a BYO dinner in Chinatown Mall or try more upmarket LongTime, Honto, Little Valley or Happy Boy. Then kick on to a boutique wine bar, pub or cocktail den before hitting a nightclub or live music venue until the wee hours.

South Brisbane

Five years ago the area between South Bank and West End was a wasteland, but now there's nowhere we'd rather embark on a food safari in Brisbane. At the heart of this change, the historic Fish Lane is the centrepiece of the puzzle.

By day explore street art just a stone's throw from the state's main art galleries, and by night bar hop between glasses of heavy French Bordeaux at La Lune, crafty pints at SBC and creative cocktails at tiny Maker. We feel confident recommending this area as whether you want Italian, Balinese, Vietnamese, fish 'n' chips or something weird and wonderful, Fish Lane delivers the best.

Woolloongabba

The first thing that comes to mind? The Gabba! Around this hallowed sports ground expect to find some of the city's best heritage pubs and the historic German Club, but most importantly a bunch of new developments and classic spots in the Gabba Fiveways. A suburb once known for its antique shopping, most stores have moved further from the centre and now it's all about kick-ass pizza, excellent cocktail bars and some of the city's best breakfast spots.

Paddington

The charming streets of Paddington have a special place in our hearts, mostly thanks to the gorgeous wooden, stilted Queenslander homes caked in decorative metal lace. This is a suburb best explored by day, so start early. Plan to brunch at one of the many excellent cafes such as Naim, Chapter IV, Kettle & Tin or Sassafras – all are set inside these cute Queenslanders.



West End

The bohemian heart of the city is changing – but the local community is working hard to keep things real, alternative and just a bit weird. An annual street art festival, streetcar derby, weekly farmers' market and Boundary Street's variety of vegan stores, delis, breweries, music spots and small bars keep this inner-city suburb hip without being shiny.

Newstead

While we've unofficially renamed this suburb Brewstead, there's more to this suburb than excellent craft beer. Five years ago you mightn't have heard of it, but now this is a dense inner-city suburb of new apartments, dining and weird ways to get fit.

South Bank

Confession: we've got a huge crush. Yep, QAGOMA makes our stomach flutter and heart skip a beat. The state's major art galleries leave us in a constant state of awe and wonder, with incredible, ever-changing and thought-provoking exhibitions, a fantastic restaurant and gorgeous building. They're just two favourites in Brisbane's Cultural Precinct, where amazing theatre and world-class ballet take to the stage at QPAC nightly and Queensland Museum displays fascinating exhibitions from around the world.

Bowen Hills

Honestly, we never thought we'd be recommending Bowen Hills as a cool spot to hang out – but here we stand. Known as the suburb where the 10-day Ekka pops up every August, part of the Brisbane Showgrounds at Bowen Hills has been transformed into an inner-city dining precinct. Yep, King Street is open and home to a strip of super trendy restaurants and bars.

New Farm

There's a lot to love about New Farm. Since 2000 the super edgy, heritage Brisbane Powerhouse has been putting on amazing shows by the river, New Farm Park is a darling place to laze about and eat cheese on weekends, and about a dozen small and independent art galleries are scattered within walking distance of each other.

III. Tips for New Families Moving to Brisbane

Here's the good news — Brisbane is an absolutely awesome place to live and an even more awesome place to raise kids! We have wonderful weather, a great outdoor lifestyle, beautiful scenery, amazing wildlife, loads of cool things happening and brilliant facilities and services for residents. But because we know that relocating to a new city or even a new country can be extremely difficult and stressful, we've put together some great tips to help make the moving to Brisbane transition smoother, and help you and your kids to settle in, find friends and discover everything that this amazing city has to offer!

Know what to expect when moving to Brisbane

Brisbane is the third largest city in Australia, with a population of over two million people. The beautiful Brisbane River snakes its way around the city, and leads out to Moreton Bay. While the coast in Brisbane is more wetland than beaches, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast are within easy reach for a fun day trip from Brisbane, and the man-made beach and lagoon at South Bank Parklands bring the beach to the city for all to enjoy. Brisbane has all of the services and facilities you would expect of a modern, cosmopolitan city, as well as a

diverse range of leisure and cultural services, world-class attractions and amazing year-round weather. You can find more information about Brisbane here.

Find an awesome place to live

Choosing where to live in Brisbane will of course be a very important decision. While in and around the city centre may be convenient for work, it is also more expensive, and heading out to the suburbs can get you more for your money and more family-friendly areas. For an overview of some of the main Brisbane suburbs, including their location, a brief description, distance to the city and median house prices, you can follow this link. If you are yet to find an apartment or house in Brisbane, the main search engines for rental and sales properties used by locals. For share houses and other options, you can also check out the local ads on Gumtree.



Get health care

There are excellent health care services in Brisbane. The health care scheme Medicare provides free and subsidised health care for those with a Medicare Card, which is available to Australian citizens, permanent residents and visitors from certain countries.

Important telephone numbers

> Emergency services: 000 > Non-urgent health advice: 13 43 25 84 (13 HEALTH) > Poisons advice line: 13 11 26 > Family Care (after-hours in-home doctor service): 13 74 25 (13 SICK)

Doctors

In Brisbane, you are not limited in terms of which GP (general practitioner/family doctor) you wish to visit or register with, so you are free to look around for a doctor that you trust. Of course, for convenience, your local medical centre would be the best place to start. There are also after-hours doctor services and late night chemists available all around the city.

Hospitals

There are many excellent private and public hospitals in Brisbane. For hospitals and other medical facilities near you, you can click on your area on the left of this page (usually Metro North or Metro South). If you are new to the area, it is definitely worth finding out where your local Emergency Department is, just in case.

Getting around

Brisbane has an excellent public transport system and with the new integrated go card ticketing system it is even easier. There are trains (including the Airtrain servicing the airport), buses, taxis and the Citycat ferry service, which is one of the most enjoyable and scenic ways to explore the city! You can visit Translink to plan your journey on any of these modes of transport.

Join a playgroup

A great way to make connections with others in your local community is by joining a local Brisbane playgroup. If you have kids aged 0-5 years, it can be a great way for them to make loads of new friends and enjoy the stimulation of learning through play.

Find other groups, classes and activities

There are also lots of classes and activities for kids run through organisations such as the YMCA and PCYC, and so many more listed and reviewed on the Brisbane Kids website! Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council all run regular events for families too, so keep an eye out for free local activities hosted by your council.

Head to your local library

Kids love heading to the library to choose new books, DVDs and CDs to borrow. Many Brisbane libraries also have awesome kids' areas, and offer free events such as 'Toddler time', 'Babies, books and rhymes' and 'Children's storytime'. Click here for more information, or visit your local council website to search for what's on at your local library.

IV. Find A Great Removalist Company In Brisbane

When it comes to moving, no matter how big or small it may appear, one of the essential things on your to-do list should be to hire a great removalist company in Brisbane to help you out in the process.

Although, it may seem that your friends and relatives can offer some help in packing and moving but the truth is that they are not trained professionals and thus it is imperative to take help of an experienced removalist.



Hiring professional removalists will ensure that your possessions are adequately packed and reach the destination safely. The entire process of moving takes not only time and energy but also knowledge about the place; you are relocating to. The best removalists in Brisbane know that the city enjoys a very mild weather throughout the year, but it is better to plan your move in Autumn (March-May) or Spring (September – November) as these seasons will provide you more dry and mild weather with appropriate temperature conditions for a smooth and comfortable move.

So, whether you are moving interstate or intrastate, book your move well in advance, for these months. In order to help you find a great removalist in Brisbane, here are some points you should contemplate while making a choice.

Start Searching Online

Start searching early for a reliable removalist in Brisbane as the process of finalising one may take some time. You can go online or ask for references from friends and relatives.

Their experiences can help you a great deal in making a choice as the first-hand experience is the best recommendation. Even after getting a recommendation, you should search online and shortlist a few companies which have a good track record and positive customer reviews.

Visit their website and thoroughly examine the details regarding the facilities they provide and the charges for the same. Remember, recent referrals for any company is a must and try to keep such removalists in Brisbane on your priority list.

Check Credentials

Once you have short-listed some removal companies, that suit your need, it is the time to research about them. You should not miss this step as for interstate and international removals it is vital for you to hire an experienced and licenced mover.

Also investigate that the removalist you are choosing is registered with AFRA or not. In Australia, the Australian Furniture Removers Association is the principal governing body for removalist companies. Focus on hiring a moving company which has been in the business for at least ten years or more like the experience of the company can make or break it for you.

Removals Insurance

While an experienced removalist will take all the precautions to keep your belongings safe and undamaged, you cannot deny the fact that accidents can happen anytime. So to be on the safe side, you should inquire about the insurance options from your chosen list of moving companies.

There are many types of covers available like specified events insurance, which gives protection for specific events and damages. Or the Insurance of transit, which covers goods in transit and not the ones lying in your old or new home.

The most appropriate is the one which gives cover for the whole moving process, including any damage caused to the goods in the form of scratching, chipping, denting etc. A good removal company will offer you an appropriate insurance for your belongings, whether they provide it themselves or third party insurance for your goods. So, it is in your best interest to find a removalist who offers the best cover for your belongings and thus give you peace of mind.

Ask For Quotes

After you have checked all the credentials of the shortlisted companies, call them for a quote. Don't hesitate to ask questions from the representative about the charges, services, GST or any other storage charges etc. Also inquire about the policies about call-out fee, waiting charges etc. and then shortlist the companies that fit your budget and requirements.

Ask For In-Home Survey

The in-home survey is imperative before landing on the final quote. It is necessary to let the movers know and see in person not only the things you want to move but also the location of your new and old home.

By an onsite inspection, your removalist will get a chance to plan your move in advance and note down the difficulties such as restricted access, tight staircase, items that require special handling etc. You must show your mover everything you wish to move to your new home as every single thing will affect the moving cost and thus help in calculating the accurate price estimate.

Also, in some cases where delicate and fragile items are involved, your removalist may demand special packing to keep the things safe. Once your removalist gives you an accurate quote, ask for interpretation in writing, to ascertain how much you are paying for packing, insurance, hourly rate, and any storage costs. This knowledge will help you compare quotes more accurately and make a wise choice.

Confirm Who Will Perform The Job

It is essential to know who would perform the task on your moving day as in some cases, Brisbane removalists act as a middleman and subcontract moving jobs, thus shifting the actual responsibility to the third party, and in a matter of any dispute, you don't know who has to be held responsible.

Moreover, you had trusted a company by thoroughly examining the website and word of mouth. So, it is better to hire a removalist who performs the job by themselves like Better Removalists Brisbane.

Extra Services And Features

A reputed and experienced removalist in Brisbane will offer you an extensive range of services in their package like packing and unpacking, moving supplies, packing accessories etc. according to the need of the customer. The competence of the company to offer additional services along with basic ones speaks volumes about its knowledge and experience of the industry.

By hiring such professional and experienced moving company like Better Removalists Brisbane, who provide you such wide range of services, you will make sure that your move is completed smoothly, in time and without any loss or breakage.

V. Top-Rated Attractions & Things to Do in Brisbane

Australia's third largest city, Brisbane (or "Brissie" as Aussies affectionately call it) offers sophisticated big-city attractions in a sun-splashed riverside setting. Although the city's history dates back to 1824, Brisbane rose to the world stage after hosting the Commonwealth Games in 1982 and World Expo in 1988. Today, you can still feel the buzz of this multicultural Queensland capital at its many tourist attractions and lively events.



Seeking a culture fix? Brisbane has you covered. In the Cultural Centre, you can ogle Indigenous art and cutting-edge contemporary creations alongside works from European masters. Brisbane is also clean, green, and safe. Lush parklands punctuate the city, bike and walking paths radiate throughout, and a strong emphasis on innovation and creativity bubbles throughout the city.

River cruises are the best way to sightsee in the city. Brisbane straddles its eponymous waterway, linked by bridges, and elegant historic buildings peek out amid the gleaming

skyscrapers. Hop aboard a cruise for an overview, and focus on your favorite spots later on foot.

East of the city, the blue waters of Moreton Bay hold even more allure. You can head out on rewarding day trips from Brisbane to subtropical islands. Families also appreciate the city's many free attractions and kid-friendly adventures.

Discover the best places to visit in this relaxed riverside city with our list of the top attractions and things to do in Brisbane.

1. Cuddle a Koala at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Ever wanted to cuddle a koala? At Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, you can tick this lifelong dream off your bucket list.

You can also get up close with more than 70 species of other lovable Aussie animals. Hand-feed kangaroos, cackle with kookaburras, and watch as flocks of kaleidoscopic rainbow lorikeets descend during a feeding. Wallabies, wombats, dingoes, snakes, and even crocodiles also live in this compact sanctuary nestled on the Brisbane River.

Keeper talks and interactive demonstrations keep animal lovers engaged. Daily encounters and experiences include bird of prey flight demonstrations, platypus feeding, sheep dog and shearing shows, Tasmanian devil keeper talks, and barn animal encounters. Not surprisingly, visiting this famous Brisbane attraction is one of the top things to do in Brisbane with the family.

2. Visit the Museums & Galleries in the Cultural Centre

On the banks of the Brisbane River, the heritage-listed Cultural Centre in South Bank is a fantastic, family-friendly destination for a day out. Here, you'll find an impressive collection of museums, galleries, and performance venues. Award-winning architecture adds to the precinct's beautiful setting on the river near picturesque parklands.

You'll find plenty of things to do here for the whole family. Browse the excellent collections at the State Library of Queensland; keep the kids entertained with the Queensland Museum and Sciencentre's interactive exhibits; or admire thought-provoking, cutting-edge art at the popular Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA).

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) here stages world-class performances of everything from opera and ballet to comedy shows and contemporary music concerts.

Right nearby are the South Bank Parklands, where you can relax on the riverfront amid the lush lawns and gardens, or take a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane.

3. Sightsee on a River Cruise

One of the best ways to go sightseeing in Brisbane is aboard a river cruise. The Brisbane River runs through the heart of the city, and many of the city's top attractions line its banks, vying for your attention. This is an excellent way to gain a fresh perspective of Brisbane landmarks such as the Story Bridge, Kangaroo Point Cliffs, and even some of the wildlife, like the fruit bats that gather along the mangroves on the riverbank.

Once you experience a scenic overview of the city on the water, you can get your bearings, and pinpoint places to spend more time during your visit.

4. Stroll through Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mount Coot-tha

Visitors are spoiled for choice when it comes to gardens in Brisbane. Lush parks and gardens punctuate every corner of the city, and Brisbane's botanic gardens are renowned for their impressive collections of subtropical plants.



Diverse themed gardens take you on a journey through 128 acres of horticulture. Highlights include the beautiful Japanese gardens and the largest collection of Australian rainforest trees in the world, as well as sections dedicated to fragrant plants, bamboo, cactus, indigenous plants, and more.

5. Admire the Views from the Brisbane Lookout Mount Coot-tha

For one of the best views of Brisbane, drive up to the Brisbane Lookout Mount Coot-tha. Here, you can breathe in a breathtaking panorama over the entire area, with the city

skyscrapers sprouting in the distance. Walking tracks weave through the national park, and a restaurant serves up delicious food with superb views.

If you're looking for things to do in Brisbane at night, many locals and tourists come here in the evening for views of the city at sunset.

The lookout is only about a four-minute drive from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mount Coot-tha, and it makes a perfect complement to a garden tour.

6. Find Inspiration at the Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)

The excellent – and free – Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) occupies two adjacent but contrasting buildings along the waterfront in the South Bank Cultural Precinct. Together, they display more than 1,700 works of art from around the world, with a special focus on Australia, the Pacific, and Asia.

This bold collection is sure to spark animated conversations between art lovers of all stripes. Even the Gallery of Modern Art's award-winning, glass-encased building makes a statement.

Permanent exhibitions at the Queensland Art Gallery include the International and Asian Collection, with classic and contemporary works; the Indigenous Australian Collection; and the dramatic sculptures gracing the grounds. The interior is beautiful. Water features and giant chandeliers reflect the light that floods in through floor-to-ceiling windows.

7. Explore South Bank & Ride the Wheel of Brisbane

The original site of World Expo in 1988, South Bank is filled with parklands, plazas, and promenades. You'll also find a diverse array of restaurants, and the precinct hosts some exciting Brisbane events and film screenings.

This riverside paradise sits directly opposite the CBD, with Streets Beach at its center. A swim in the human-made lagoon is a popular choice on a warm Brisbane day. Other popular things to do in South Bank include working out at the free fitness classes, visiting the Epicurious Garden, and biking or strolling along the trails. You can also sign up for a host of free children's programs and tours.

8. Shop at Queen Street Mall

Craving a shopping fix? The vibrant Queen Street mall will give your wallet a workout. This popular shopping precinct Brisbane's CBD (central business district) is home to more than 700 retailers showcasing local, national, and international designs and labels.

You'll find everything here from Aussie favorites like R.W. Williams, Lorna Jane, and Zimmermann to high-end labels like Chanel, Dior, Tiffany & Co., and Louis Vuitton. The six-level Myer Centre department store anchors the mall. Cafés buzz with shoppers throughout

the day, and a labyrinth of heritage-listed arcades make it rewarding to explore the complex. You'll find some hidden gems down these.

On a budget? Don't worry, H&M and other discount retailers live along here, too.

Most Wednesdays, the area at the bridge end of the mall transforms into the bustling Brisbane City Markets selling local produce, flowers, and artisan products.

If you're on a mission to explore more of the best shopping in Brisbane, don't miss the high-end designer and home decor stores in Fortitude Valley. For vintage treasures, thrift stores, and antiques head to Paddington. It's also a popular breakfast spot.

9. Get Your Heart Pumping on the Story Bridge Adventure Climb

Constructed during Australia's Great Depression in the 1930s, the attractive steel Story Bridge is a much-loved Brisbane landmark. As one of only three bridge climbs in the world (after Sydney and Auckland), this one also offers something totally unique – the choice to abseil the descent.

Catering to people of all fitness levels and those 10 years of age or older, the two-hour experience takes you 80 meters above the Brisbane River for uninterrupted views of the city.

New offerings including Walk the Plank, where you can conjure your inner pirate and tiptoe out on a plank 80 meters above sea level as traffic rushes past below. Another new adventure is the Cantilever Lean Out. If you sign up for this tour, guides hold your harness as you lean out as far as you can from the dizzying heights.

10. Feast at Eat Street Northshore

Eat Street Northshore is like a party for your taste buds. You can eat around the world at this nightlife hot spot, soak up the carnival-type atmosphere, and listen to rockin' good live music at the same time. Eat Street is a pedestrian precinct, and you can wander around here with the whole family – even your pooch.

Food is a highlight. Hundreds of vendors dispense treats from around the globe, from Malaysian to Mexican cuisine, and Peruvian to paella. It's not haute cuisine by any measure, but if you're looking for some international comfort foods – and creative versions of them – this is your place.

Mac and cheese burger, anyone? Japanese pizza? Deep-fried camembert? You'll find it all here. The mind-boggling array of foods can be a little overwhelming. A great strategy is to buy some plates to share and taste a little bit of all your favorites. Kids will love the giant clouds of fairy floss (cotton candy), but the parents not so much after the sugar-high kicks in.

This is not a great place to come if you're on a diet. That said, some vendors do cater to celiacs. But while you're gorging on doughnut fries, you can at least feel good knowing that Eat Street strives to be sustainable – all the vendors are in colorful shipping containers, fresh produce is grown on-site, packaging is compostable, and as much waste as possible is recycled.

Several stages host live musicians and novelty acts, so you can find a table based on your music tastes, and move around throughout the evening.

11. Take a Day Trip to Moreton Island

Easily accessible via a 75-minute ferry ride from downtown Brisbane, Moreton Island is the perfect day trip. As the world's third largest sand island and with more than 98 percent of the island designated as national park, Moreton Island is one of Queensland's best-kept secrets.

12. Take a Tour of Customs House

Owned by the University of Queensland, this magnificent 19th-century building offers a cultural and educational experience. Although operating as a function center, Customs House includes plenty of public spaces, including an indoor/outdoor restaurant offering unparalleled river and Story Bridge views.

The daily high tea here is popular with locals and visitors, but reservations are essential. Free guided tours of the building are available on Sundays, and free music concerts are often staged in the Long Room.

Conclusion

Consider all the information and get to know all about this city and enjoy your life here with your family.

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