

Things to do in Brisbane

Parks/Walks	2
Albert Street Literary Walk	2
Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary	2
City Botanic Gardens.....	2
Roma Street Parkland	2
City Centre Heritage Trail.....	3
Historic/Educational.....	3
Museum of Brisbane	3
Customs House	4
Old Government House	5
Old Windmill	5
State Parliament House	5
Locations	6
South Bank	6
The Brisbane CBD.....	6
Cultural.....	7
Brisbane Festival	7
Queensland Writers Centre	7
QAGOMA (Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art)	7
Queensland Museum and Sciencentre	7
The Cube	7
Digital Futures Lab	8
Social	8
Services	8
CityHopper	8
Brisbane Greeters	9
Farmers' markets	9
Riverside Markets at the City Botanic Gardens	9
Entertainment.....	9
Improvised comedy.....	9
Latin Friday Nights at Brisbane Square	10
Some Brisbane authors	10
Books about Brisbane	10
Exploring Literary Brisbane (book).....	10
Independent bookshops	11
Avid Reader	11
Riverbend Books	11
Fun facts about Brisbane	11

Parks/Walks

Albert Street Literary Walk

In September 1996, Brisbane City Council commissioned a series of 32 plaques as part of the completion of the Albert Street urban refurbishment. These plaques showcase various observations on Brisbane by a variety of famous authors, including Steele Rudd, Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker), Thea Astley and David Malouf. To walk it, start from King George Square, cross Adelaide Street and continue down Albert Street to Alice Street and the City Botanic Gardens. Turn at Alice Street and come back on the other side of Albert Street, cross Adelaide Street and finish at City Hall. The trail is completely free and takes around 30 minutes to an hour, depending on how fast you want to take it. A guide is available from the Museum of Brisbane.

Cost: Free

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

<http://www.koala.net/en-au/>

Only 12 km from Brisbane City, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is the world's first and largest koala sanctuary with over 130 koalas. Hold a koala anytime, hand feed kangaroos and meet a large variety of Australian wildlife in beautiful, natural settings. You can take a river cruise to the Sanctuary from Brisbane.

Cost: \$36 (plus transport costs)

Sanctuary open 9 am – 5 pm, 7 days a week

City Botanic Gardens

<http://www.brisbane-australia.com/city-botanic-gardens.html>

Take a walk in the City Botanic Gardens: they're right next to the CBD and have amazing views of the river and a huge array of flora with educational displays. Originally the gardens were planted by convicts in 1825 with food crops to feed the prison colony. In 1828, the botanist Charles Fraser selected the site to become a public garden, and by 1855 the garden was established. The gardens are now Brisbane's oldest and most mature, with many rare and unusual botanic species. There are free guided walks led by Volunteer Guides Monday to Saturday. You can join one at the Rotunda near the Alice Street entrance at either 11 am or 1 pm. You'll also find the Gardens Cycle Hire at the Alice Street Main Entrance so you can explore the gardens by bicycle.

Cost: Free

Roma Street Parkland

Roma Street Parkland is located in the direct heart of Brisbane and has been dubbed the world's largest subtropical garden in a city centre. The park is amazingly diverse in the range of flora on offer, with over 100,000 varieties of shrubs and 1200 mature trees. There are many pathways interspersed throughout the parkland with shelters, seating, barbecue facilities and beautiful viewpoints.

Volunteers host free one-hour guided walks, leaving The Hub at 11 am and 1 pm daily.

Address: 1 Parkland Boulevard, Brisbane (just north of the Roma Street Transit Centre)

Cost: Free

City Centre Heritage Trail

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/sports-leisure/walking/walking-trails/heritage-trails/classic-city-centre-heritage-trail>

The Classic City Centre Heritage Trail takes you on a journey through a range of sites and events that have shaped Brisbane's history, including:

- Brisbane's early convict history
- 'Great Fire of Brisbane' in the 1860s
- Brisbane's commercial prosperity in the 1880s
- military presence in Brisbane in World War II
- Brisbane in the 1970s.

There are 26 points of interest along the Classic City Centre Heritage Trail. The trail begins in Queen Street, then passes City Hall to Ann Street and up Jacob's Ladder to Wickham Terrace. From Wickham Terrace move to Anzac Square, the GPO, St Stephen's Cathedral and back to Queen Street past MacArthur's Chambers on Edward Street. For more information, download the City Centre Heritage Trail brochure.

Cost: Free

Historic/Educational

Museum of Brisbane

<http://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/>

Museum of Brisbane has a host of exhibits that celebrates the communities and culture of Brisbane through an original and contemporary blend of social history and visual arts. Upcoming events include 'Tastes like sunshine', an insight into the minds, and taste buds, of some of Brisbane's most innovative contemporary chefs. The exhibition will feature acclaimed artists who will create a sensory and interactive exhibition that will delight your senses and challenge your pre-existing notions of food.

Address: Level 3, City Hall, 64 Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Hours: Open daily 10 am – 5 pm

Contact: 3403 8888

Cost: Free

Brisbane City Hall

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/brisbane-city-hall/city-hall-history-heritage/about-city-hall>

City Hall is one of Queensland's most significant heritage and cultural icons and is listed with the National Trust and included in the National Estate. The first foundation stone was laid in 1917 by the then Governor, Sir Hamilton Gould-Adams, before a design had even been drawn. The design, submitted by architects Hall and Prentice in November 1919, was estimated at 480,000 pounds. The design was accepted and the then Prince of Wales laid a second foundation stone in July 1920. Building City Hall was a major undertaking in the 1920s. It took 10 years to build at a cost of around 980,000 pounds.

When the City Hall offices opened for business on 3 January 1928 it was:

- one of the most expensive Australian buildings
- ranked as the second largest construction of its time, only outdone by the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- the first major Australian concrete 'column and beam' building constructed.

Brisbane City Hall was officially open in April 1930 and is the seat of the Brisbane City Council.

The main entrance from King George Square is emphasised by imposing Corinthian columns that are nearly 14 metres high. The building has a clock tower rising 92 metres above the ground. One of the main building features is its grand marble staircase. The Main Auditorium is City Hall's single largest space. The copper dome over the room is the largest in Australia, spanning 31 metres.

Brisbane City Hall was reopened in April 2013 after a three-year renovation.

Free guided tours are available inside City Hall seven days a week at 10.30 am, 11.30 am, 1.30 pm, 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm. Bookings are essential.

Take a ride up to the iconic City Hall Clock Tower from 10 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. Entry is free. Tickets are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. You can obtain a ticket in person on the day at the Museum of Brisbane reception counter on Level 3.

Address: 64 Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Hours: 8 am – 5 pm

Contact: 3403 8888

Cost: Free

Customs House

<https://customshouse.com.au/front-page>

Customs House is situated on the Brisbane River in the CBD and is one of Brisbane's heritage listed icons. It is a cultural, educational and heritage facility owned by The University of Queensland.

Located inside the grand Corinthian columns is a striking ballroom, fine boardrooms and seminar rooms as well as a restaurant serving a tasty selection of food with a great view from the terrace overlooking the river and Story Bridge.

Address: 399 Queen Street, Brisbane

Hours: Open daily from 9 am – 5 pm (except public holidays)

Contact: 3365 8999

Cost: Free

Old Government House

<http://www.ogh.qut.edu.au/>

Old Government House was the hub of colonial life in the early days of Brisbane. Constructed between 1860 and 1862, shortly after Queensland achieved separation from New South Wales, the House was Queensland's first public building. A rare surviving example of the domestic work of Queensland's first Colonial Architect Charles Tiffin, the House was both a private residence and official state office for Governor Bowen, the colony's first governor, and continued to be the home of Queensland's governors until 1910. As one of Queensland's most significant historical buildings, it was the first building in the state to be heritage listed in 1978. In 2002, the Queensland University of Technology accepted custodial responsibility for the House and undertook a lengthy restoration project. Old Government House was reopened to the public in June 2009 as a historic house museum, a gallery housing the works of renowned Australian artist William Robinson and an elegant venue available to hire for private functions.

Address: George Street, Brisbane

Hours: Sunday to Friday 10 am – 4 pm, closed Saturday

Contact: 3864 8005

Cost: Free

Old Windmill

Built by convicts in 1828, the Old Windmill is not just the longest surviving convict building but also the oldest windmill in existence in Australia. Seen as a folly due to its ill-conceived often windless location, it became a symbol of dread and torture as penal Commandant Patrick Logan used convicts to work a treadmill he had constructed to keep the arms turning in lieu of wind. The sandstone tower has been used as a mill, signal station, fire lookout tower and meteorological station.

Address: 226 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane

Windmill can only be viewed from outside, no admittance.

State Parliament House

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/explore/history/parliament-house/building-parliament-house>

Parliament House, completed in 1868, is Queensland's premiere heritage building and one of Brisbane's best-known landmarks. Located on the corner of George and Alice streets, it overlooks the expansive and majestic Botanic Gardens. The buildings in the parliamentary precinct date from

different stages in the history of Queensland, ranging from 1868 through to 1979. Major refurbishments of the George and Alice streets buildings occurred in 1982 and of the Annexe in 2000. Free tours are provided five times daily on weekdays, unless it is a parliamentary sitting day, when visitors are welcome to watch proceedings from the public gallery.

Address: Cnr George and Alice streets, Brisbane

Hours: Mon to Fri 9 am – 5 pm

Phone: 3406 7111

Cost: Free

Locations

South Bank

South Bank is at the heart of Brisbane's entertainment, culture and recreation precinct. The **South Bank Parklands** were constructed on the old site of Brisbane's World Expo '88 and were opened to the public in 1992. The Parklands features grassy areas, plazas, rainforest and an artificial swimming beach with white sand and palm trees. The **Grand Arbour** connects Vulture Street to the **Cultural Forecourt** and is made of curling steel columns and brilliant pink flowering bougainvillea.

The **Wheel of Brisbane** was built to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Queensland and the 20th Anniversary of World Expo '88. It's a giant wheel ride that carries gondolas up into the air to give you an amazing view of Brisbane. The ride takes 15 minute and runs from 10 am to 10 pm so you can get a different view each time you venture up.

Within the South Bank Parklands is the **Epicurious Garden**, a giant edible garden filled with exotic plants, fragrant herbs and seasonal fruit and vegetables. To keep the garden thriving, drop in Tuesday to Thursday from 7 am to 2 pm to collect free food from the Harvest Cart.

Cost: Free

The Brisbane CBD

<http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/The->

[City?utm_source=redirects&utm_medium=www.bnecity.com.au&utm_campaign=301_Redirects](http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/The-City?utm_source=redirects&utm_medium=www.bnecity.com.au&utm_campaign=301_Redirects)

The city offers a discovery in every direction. Home to over 1000 stores, including the largest range of flagship boutiques in Queensland, it is the state's premier shopping destination. The Brisbane CBD is also a food and drink lovers' paradise, with everything from burger joints and riverside bistros, to laneway bars and hidden cafes, as well as the most Good Food Guide-awarded venues in Queensland! Besides shopping and eating there's **The City Sounds** free music program, countless events, a cinema, a casino, parks, galleries, performance spaces and even a bowling alley.

Cultural

Brisbane Festival

<http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/>

Each September, the Brisbane Festival explodes across the city with a thrilling program of theatre, music, dance, circus, opera and major public events.

The full program will be released on 11 July 2017.

Queensland Writers Centre

[Program of events](#)

Level 2, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane

Cost: Free

QAGOMA (Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art)

<https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/>

QAGOMA is located across two riverside buildings in South Bank's Cultural Precinct and presents an evolving program of Australian and international exhibitions, with a focus on the contemporary art of Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Address: Stanley Place, South Brisbane

Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily

Cost: Free (some exhibitions are ticketed)

Queensland Museum and Science Centre

<http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/>

Queensland Museum is the state's centre for natural history, cultural heritage, science and human achievement. Home to permanent and changing exhibitions and collections, the museum also provides innovative public programs and educational experiences. The Queensland Museum is also home to the Science Centre, where visitors can take part in exciting and educational kinetic and interactive displays and experiments.

Address: Corner Grey Street and Melbourne Street, South Brisbane

Hours: 9.30 am – 5 pm daily

Cost: Free (some events are ticketed)

The Cube

<http://www.thecube.qut.edu.au/>

The Cube is one of the world's largest digital interactive learning and display spaces dedicated to providing an inspiring, explorative and participatory experience of QUT's Science and Engineering research. Part science lab, part digital engagement, the Cube soars across two storeys of the centre and is designed to support interactive displays of research projects using advanced digital technology, including 14 high-definition projectors, more than 40 multi-touch screens and sound technology. The Cube will facilitate opportunities for you to discover, visualise and contribute to

research projects in the works. Environments will be replicated at a real-world scale, allowing you, as ‘citizen scientists’, to experience real project scenarios and explore big questions of the 21st century.

Address: Science and Engineering Centre, Gardens Point, 2 George Street, Brisbane

Hours: 10 am – 4 pm daily

Cost: Free

Digital Futures Lab

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/calevents/general/digital-futures/digital-futures/lab>

Discover smart cities and digital bodies, real-life robots and risky algorithms. Immerse yourself in virtual worlds, learn mindfulness from a machine and share your dreams and predictions for the future. Check out the latest gadgets, have a virtual reality experience or control a computer with your mind. This immersive space is designed to make you think and maybe even look twice.

Address: SLQ Gallery, Level 2, State Library, Stanley Place, South Bank

When: Monday to Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Cost: Free

Social

Sunday Sessions on the Green

http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/south-bank/whats-on/live-music/sunday-sessions-on-the-green?sc_lang=en-au

The sun is shining and the weather is great – there’s no better way to enjoy Queensland’s famous climate than with a relaxing Sunday Session at Brisbane’s most spectacular riverfront destination, River Quay Green. Finish your weekend on the right note with live music performances, lawn games and funky chill-out seating on the lush River Quay Green every Sunday afternoon. This weekly event showcases the soft and smooth tunes of some of Brisbane’s best musicians, all set against the backdrop of the sparkling city skyline.

Services

CityHopper

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/public-transport/citycat-ferry-services/cityhopper>

The CityHopper service allows you to discover Brisbane for free with ferries running every 30 minutes between 6 am and midnight, seven days a week. The CityHopper travels along the Brisbane River, stopping at North Quay, South Bank 3, Maritime Museum, Thornton Street, Eagle Street Pier, Holman Street, Dockside and Sydney Street terminals. As the CityHopper is free, all you need to do is hop on and hop off and enjoy taking in the Brisbane River and city sights. For up-to-date timetable information, or to plan your journey, visit TransLink’s website.

Brisbane Greeters

<http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/Brisbane-Greeters>

Brisbane Greeters is an ambassador service that welcomes and connects visitors, locals and new residents to Brisbane. Greeters conduct short walking/public transportation orientation experiences based on special interests and places around the city. Brisbane Greeters is a FREE public service open to everyone. Brisbane Greeters are locals who love living here so much that they are enthusiastic about introducing you to their city, and sharing their intimate knowledge of it with you.

Address: Tours leave from the city, Roma Street Parklands and Riverside.

Cost: Free, but you need to book online or phone: 3156 6364

Farmers' markets

On weekends, almost every suburb has its own market where you can pick up the freshest produce, flowers, meat and artisan goods. There are markets every Wednesday in the heart of the city with more than 200 stallholders bringing you the highest quality produce.

Address: Reddcliff Place (George Street end of the Queen Street Mall)

Date: Wednesdays

Time: 8 am – 6 pm

Riverside Markets at the City Botanic Gardens

Riverside Markets is a Brisbane CBD weekend farmers market, located in the City Botanic Gardens and the lower block of Albert Street. Come for breakfast and stay for the great atmosphere. With great coffee, brunch and live bands, browse the extensive range of fashion, arts and gifts. Pick up your weekly stock of organic fruit and veg.

Address: 1 Albert Street, Brisbane

When: Sundays 8 am – 3 pm

Cost: Free

Entertainment

Improvised comedy

Hump day got you down? You need a laugh, and make it a double. Join local comedy favourites ImproMafia for a night of free improvised hilarity at one of Brisbane's most dynamic venues.

Free every Wednesday at Upper Roma Street's Beetle Bar, Double Shot Impro is two engaging, spontaneous shows in one. In the first half, Brisbane's freshest new talent join experienced improvisers to battle it out in Theatresports™-style challenges. Later, ImproMafia's old hands vie to be crowned King of the Impro Hill, daring each other to songs, games and scenes in which anything could happen!

Address: Beetle Bar, 350 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane

Date: Wednesdays

Time: 7 pm

Cost: Free

Latin Friday Nights at Brisbane Square

Latin Friday Nights features professional Latin dancers showing off their skills from 7.00 pm, with free dance classes beginning at 8.00 pm. It's a great social event designed to get friends and strangers alike to mix and mingle (and get a bit spicy, of course). There's no need to worry about skill level as beginners are always welcome. Anyone can join in; it is completely free and no bookings are required.

Address: Reddacliff Place, 266 George Street, Brisbane

Time: From 7 pm

Cost: Free

Some Brisbane authors

- Andrew McGahan: *1988*
- Ben Law: *The Family Law*
- Frances Whiting: *Walking on Trampolines*
- Isobelle Carmody: *The Gathering*
- John Birmingham: *He Died with a Felafel in His Hand*
- Kate Morton: *The Distant Hours*
- Kristina Olsson: *Boy, Lost*
- Matt Condon: *The Trout Opera*
- Narelle Oliver: *The Very Blue Thingamajig*
- Nick Earls: *Zigzag Street, Wisdom Tree* novella series
- Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker): *We Are Going*
- Robert Hoge: *Ugly*
- Susan Johnson: *The Landing*
- Venero Armano: *Romeo of the Underworld*
- William McInnes: *A Man's Got to Have a Hobby*

Books about Brisbane

Exploring Literary Brisbane (book)

<https://penguin.com.au/books/words-to-walk-by-exploring-literary-brisbane-9780702235177>

From Malouf to McGahan, from Shapcott to Sparrow, *Words to Walk By* unveils Brisbane through the lives and works of the city's best-loved authors. With 25 scenic walks through Brisbane's literary past and present, this pocket-sized guide is the essential accessory for walking enthusiasts, history and literary buffs alike. The walks, complete with detailed maps, span from the city to the bayside suburbs, covering Brisbane's landmark cultural and historical sites, while taking in the iconic sub-tropical landscape. Explore Brisbane's rich literary heritage by re-discovering your favourite novels, characters and settings and learning about the writers who created them.

Independent bookshops

Avid Reader

193 Boundary St, West End, Ph: 3846 3422

Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 8.30 pm; Saturday 8.30 am – 6.00 pm; Sunday 8.30 am – 5.00 pm

Riverbend Books

193 Oxford Street, Bulimba, Ph: 07 3899 8555

Sunday to Wednesday: 7 am – 6 pm; Thursday to Saturday: 7 am – 8 pm

Fun facts about Brisbane

http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/information/articles/destinations/things-you-did-not-know?sc_lang=en-au

1) China Town in Fortitude Valley was part of the movie set in Jackie Chan's movie *Jackie Chan's First Strike*.

Jackie Chan's First Strike is a 1996 Hong Kong action film and remains his highest grossing film in Hong Kong. The movie was shot partially in Brisbane, where a scene features a car chase and explosion in Fortitude Valley's China Town Mall. The mall's pagoda was destroyed and subsequently rebuilt after the filming.

2) The first lamington was made in 1900 at Old Government House for Lord and Lady Lamington.

French chef Armand Galland accompanied Lord and Lady Lamington to Brisbane in 1900. The lamington was born of necessity – it was Galland's answer to the perennial problem of unexpected visitors coming up the path. He pulled from the pantry day-old French vanilla sponge cake, chocolate and coconut and whipped up the cake. It proved so popular that Lady Lamington was inundated with requests for the recipe and thus Galland named his treat in honour of his patrons.

3) Queen Street was a barracks between 1827 and 1830 for up to 1000 convicts.

A multi-storey stone convict barracks was constructed on the corner of Queen and Albert Streets. A central archway led from what is now Queen St into a walled yard at the rear of the building.

Positioned within this archway was the flogging triangle – a constant reminder to the convicts of the consequences of disobedience.

4) Brisbane was the busiest submarine port in the world during World War II.

The bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 brought the US into war with Japan in the Pacific. Within hours of the attack, ships heading towards Pearl Harbour were diverted to Brisbane. By December 1943, Brisbane was host to over 75,000 American troops. Brisbane was the closest city to the 'action' but was out of range of Japanese bombers and had a river lined with hundreds of wharves to dock ships ... as well as some excellent ship-building and repairs facilities.

5) North Stradbroke Island and Moreton Island are the second- and third-largest sand islands in the world.

North Stradbroke Island is known for some of the most spectacular scenery found anywhere in Australia. Moreton Island is home to adventure with a diverse range of exciting activities and wildlife experiences to enjoy.

6) The Story Bridge is a twin of the Jacques Cartier Bridge in Montreal, Canada.

The Jacques Cartier Bridge follows the general design concept of the Quebec Bridge. It was, in turn, one of the design influences for the Story Bridge which was completed in 1940. The Story Bridge Adventure Climb offers the best views of the city and is an amazing must-do experience for visitors.