In This Book

QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the region – we help you decide what to do and how to do it



Need to Know

Tips for a smooth trip



Neighbourhoods

What's where

Explore Brisbane & the Gold Coast

The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood



Top Sights

Make the most of your visit



Local Life

The insider's region

The Best of Brisbane & the Gold Coast

The highlights in handy lists to help you plan



Best Walks

See the city on foot



Brisbane & the Gold Coast's Best...

The best experiences

Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free experience



Getting Around

Travel like a local



Essential Information

Including where to stay

Our selection of the region's best places to eat, drink and experience:



Eating

Orinking

Entertainment

Shopping

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- Telephone Numbers
- Opening Hours
- P Parking
- Nonsmoking
- @ Internet Access

 ➡ Wi-Fi Access
- ▼ Vegetarian Selection
- © English-Language Menu
- ₱ Family-Friendly
- Pet-Friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- M Metro
- S Subway
- ☐ Train

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood:



Lonely Planet's Brisbane & the Gold Coast

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the destination.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the region into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the region: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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Welcome to Brisbane & the Gold Coast

No longer satisfied to remain in the shadow of Sydney and Melbourne, Brisbane is subverting stereotypes and surprising the critics. Welcome to Australia's new subtropical 'It kid'. A little way south, the Gold Coast is built for pleasure and remains utterly dedicated to sun, surf and the body beautiful; this strip of coast may be Australia's most iconic holiday destination.

Brisbane city skyline at sunset F11PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK ®



Brisbane & the Gold Coast Top Sights

City Hall (p24)

Brisbane's 'People's Palace' was built in the 1920s.

