



# Brisbane & Around

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Brew (p286)
- ➔ Kwan Brothers (p289)
- ➔ Baker's Arms (p286)
- ➔ Varias (p308)
- ➔ Island Fruit Barn (p303)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Latrobe Apartment (p286)
- ➔ Limes (p282)
- ➔ Bowen Terrace (p282)
- ➔ Casabella Apartment (p286)
- ➔ Vacy Hall (p310)

## Why Go?

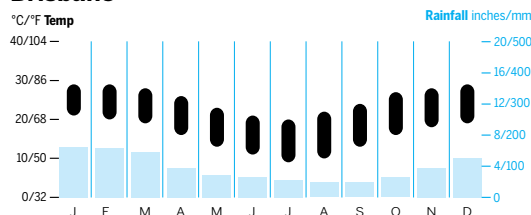
Australia's most underrated city? Booming Brisbane is an energetic river town on the way up, with an edgy arts scene, pumping nightlife, and great coffee and restaurants. Lush parks and historic buildings complete the picture, all folded into the elbows of the meandering Brisbane River.

Brisbanites are out on the streets: the weather is brilliant and so are the bodies. Fit-looking locals get up early to go jogging, swimming, cycling, kayaking or rock climbing, or just to walk the dog. And when it's too hot outside, Brisbane's sub-cultural undercurrents run cool and deep, with bookshops, globally inspired restaurants, cafes, bars and band rooms aplenty.

East of 'Brizzy' is Moreton Bay, with its low-lying sandy isles, beaches and passing parade of whales, turtles and dolphins. To the west is the rural inland hub of Toowoomba (also underrated) and the surprising Granite Belt Wine Region, which bottles up some impressive drops.

## When to Go

### Brisbane



**Jan** Brisbane swelters during summer, making it the perfect time to head to North Stradbroke Island.

**May–Aug** Cool, mild temperatures (bring a jacket) and clear skies – Brisbane is at its best!

**Sep** Spring has sprung. Warm temperatures and the very arty Brisbane Festival.



## Brisbane & Around Highlights

**1** Visiting Brisbane's world-class **Gallery of Modern Art** (p273), followed by a paddle at Streets Beach in the **South Bank Parklands** (p274).

**2** Catching some live comedy at the **Brisbane Powerhouse** (p296), before a night on the tiles in **Fortitude Valley** (p293).

**3** Checking out some bookshops, live bands and bars in Brisbane's **West End** (p294).

**4** Roaming along the **North Gorge Headlands Walk** (p302) on North Stradbroke Island, spotting turtles, rays and dolphins offshore.

**5** Going bush in the city: hiking up bushy slopes to the **Mt Coot-tha Lookout** (p272).

**6** Chugging up, down or across the **Brisbane River** (p277) on a ferry.

**7** Meandering between cellar doors in the **Granite Belt Wine Region** (p307).