

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a dense green forest covers a hillside that slopes down towards a beach. The beach is a mix of white sand and dark rocks. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, with white waves breaking along the shore. In the background, a large, flat-topped island or headland is visible, surrounded by more forested land and a body of water. A white starburst graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "OCEANIA" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The starburst has a jagged, sun-like edge.

OCEANIA



ARTS & CULTURE



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FOOD & DRINK



FESTIVALS & EVENTS

BRISBANE

Brisbane may be Australia's third city (by size anyway) but a host of new bars, independent stores and cultural events see Brissy rivalling its southern competitors. Due to its tropical climate and outdoor lifestyle, Brisbane is a magnet for the fit and beautiful and doesn't have to cost you big bucks.

01

Museum of Brisbane

Brisbane was 'blessed' with a construction boom during one of Australia's less aesthetically pleasing eras, leaving it with little in the way of heritage buildings. Thankfully, the 1920s City Hall remains intact and you can learn about Brisbane's history and people on a free guided tour at the museum (register early). There are also art exhibitions to take in if time allows. museumofbrisbane.com.au; Level 3, City Hall; 10am-5pm; free.

03

Street Beach

Just near Brisbane River you'll find an artificial beach that descends to a shallow lagoon suitable for paddling. This is a popular spot in which to chill, particularly with families. On warm weekends, if you don't want to jostle for space on the sand there is plenty of lawn space nearby on which to picnic and people-watch all afternoon. visitbrisbane.com.au/south-bank; Stanley St, South Bank parklands; daylight hrs; free.

02

Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mount Coot-Tha

One of many excellent Australian botanic gardens to explore, the gardens here are arranged by theme and geography, and there are self-guided walks – including one on plants used by Queensland's indigenous people. Behind the gardens is Mt Cooth-Tha, which has numerous forested walking tracks. Hike the 2km-long trail to the summit for views over Brisbane. brisbane.qld.gov.au; Mt Coot-Tha Rd, Toowong; 8am-5.30pm; free.



02

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