



Around Brisbane

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Why Go?

Just outside the city, Brisbane has some enchantingly diverse areas that make for a fine day or overnight trip. Thirty minutes east of the CBD, you reach the edge of Moreton Bay, where you can explore laid-back coastal towns, linger over a seafood feast or book a cruise exploring the marine-rich waters of the bay. The lovely islands just offshore provide a wide range for activities – sea-kayaking, snorkelling, surfing, bushwalking, camping or just lounging on pretty beaches.

West of the city and perched high on the Great Dividing Range you'll find Toowoomba, a large and charming country town with wide tree-lined streets, stately homes and magnificent gardens.

In the Granite Belt south of there, vineyards and orchards thrive in the cold, crisp air. This is the heart of Queensland's wine country, with boutique wineries, fruit farms and cosy cottages. Nearby, balancing boulders and spring wildflowers attract bushwalkers.

Best Places to Eat

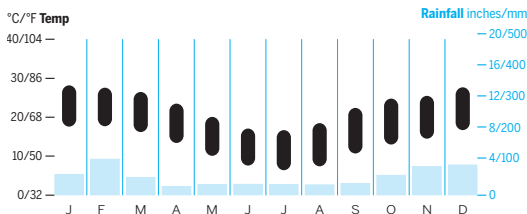
- » Morgans (p99)
- » Fish Cafe (p100)
- » Look (p104)
- » Shiraz (p109)

Best Places to Stay

- » Pandanus Palms Resort (p103)
- » Stradbroke Island Beach Hotel (p103)
- » Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort (p105)
- » Happy Valley (p108)

When to Go

Toowoomba



January As Queensland bakes, cooler climates in Toowoomba make for a fine escape.

July Cooler weather and peak season for whale watching, with sure sightings in Moreton Bay.

September Spring blossoms in the Granite Belt with a floral festival and blooming wildflowers.



Around Brisbane Highlights

- 1 Beachcombing, whale watching, surfing and bushwalking on peaceful **North Stradbroke Island** (p101)
- 2 Hand-feeding dolphins, sand-boarding and lazing about under swaying palms on **Moreton Island** (p104)
- 3 Sampling bold reds and farm-fresh produce and

enjoying nights by the fire in **Stanthorpe** (p106), the heart of Granite Belt wine country.

- 4 Bushwalking amid the pristine beauty of **Girraween National Park** (p110)
- 5 Celebrating the return of spring during the colourful Carnival of Flowers in **Toowoomba** (p111)

- 6 Feasting on fresh seafood, then strolling along the pretty esplanade at **Manly** (p100)

- 7 Discovering the local lore in a fascinating history museum, followed by whale watching at **Redcliffe** (p99)

- 8 Taking a spooky ghost tour on the former island prison of **St Helena** (p100)