



# Queensland

POP 4.84 MILLION / 07

## Includes ➔

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gauge (p285)
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## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ New Inchcolm Hotel & Suites (p283)
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- ➔ 1770 Getaway (p354)

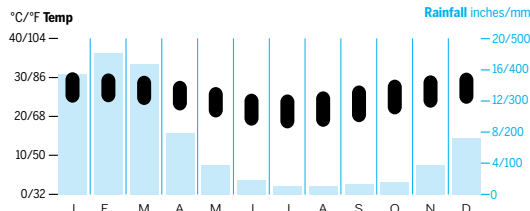
## Why Go?

From the surf-soaked Gold Coast beaches and buzzing Brisbane to the tropical Daintree rainforest, the Sunshine State offers a dizzying array of distractions and outdoor adventures. Queensland's big-ticket lure is the 2000km-long submarine kingdom of the Great Barrier Reef, an underwater wonderland of colourful marine life and corals. Tropical islands are also a speciality, where you can charter a yacht or just laze on a near-deserted beach.

Even away from the surfing, snorkelling and diving, Queensland delivers on adventure: go white-water rafting on grade-IV rapids, kayak the coastline, skydive onto the beach or bushwalk through rainforests and gorges. Wildlife-watching is superb here too, with tropical birds, whales, cassowaries and crocs filling your photo album. And don't discount the wonders of the vast inland Outback or the remote 4WD territory of Cape York Peninsula – some of Australia's most rugged and exhilarating travel.

## When to Go

### Cairns



**Jun–Sep** Crowds and higher prices in the north, cooler in the south. Best time to spot migrating whales.

**Apr–May & Oct–Nov** Warm, with long beach days. Fewer crowds; resort prices drop slightly.

**Dec–Mar** The wet season: hot with torrential rain in the north. Party season on the Gold Coast.

