



# Brisbane & Around

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Urbane (p299)
- ➔ Gauge (p300)
- ➔ Island Fruit Barn (p318)
- ➔ King Arthur Cafe (p301)
- ➔ Shouk Cafe (p304)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ New Inchcolm Hotel & Suites (p297)
- ➔ Next (p296)
- ➔ Spicers Balfour Hotel (p298)
- ➔ Allure (p318)
- ➔ Bunk Backpackers (p297)

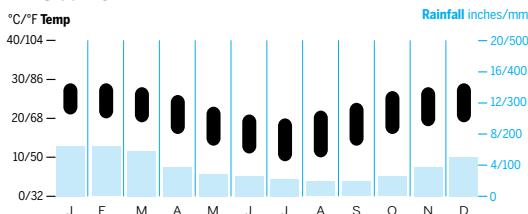
## Why Go?

Sophisticated city galleries and rooftop bars, desolate subtropical beaches, cool-climate vineyards: the greater Brisbane region deals in Queensland's most gasp-inducing contrasts. Star of the show is Brisbane itself, a lush, sultry metropolis with flourishing restaurant, bar and cultural scenes that attest to its coming of age. Lapping at the city's eastern fringe is Moreton Bay, home to low-lying sandy isles – including Moreton Island – that beckon with their turquoise waves, sparkling forests and passing parade of whales, turtles and dolphins.

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, rock climbing or just to walk the dog. And when it's too hot outside, Brisbane's subcultural undercurrents run cool and deep, with bookshops, globally inspired restaurants, cafes, bars and live-music venues aplenty.

## When to Go

### Brisbane



**Jan** Brisbane swelters during summer, making it the perfect time to cool off in the surf.

**May–Aug** Cooler temperatures (bring a jacket) and clear blue skies.

**Sep** Spring has sprung. Warmer temperatures and the hot-ticket Brisbane and Big-sound festivals.



## Brisbane & Around Highlights

**1 Gallery of Modern Art** (p285) Finding your modern muse at one of Australia's hottest galleries of contemporary art.

**2 South Bank Parklands** (p285) Picnicking, strolling or simply sunning by an inner-city beach at Brisbane's best-loved riverside hangout.

**3 West End** (p300) Roaming bookshops, microbreweries and band venues in Brisbane's boho heartland.

**4 Brisbane Powerhouse** (p289) Catching a show in a converted power station.

**5 North Gorge Headlands Walk** (p317) Experiencing one

of North Stradbroke Island's most beautiful walks.

**6 Brisbane Riverwalk** (p288) View the city skyline and the river on this illuminating path.

**7 Story Bridge Adventure Climb** (p291) Scale Brisbane's Story Bridge on this thrilling two-hour climb.