

# How to wander your way down the BRISBANE RIVER

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**B**risbane is the gateway to Queensland, celebrated as Australia's 'sunshine state'. While plenty of visitors fly into Brisbane and immediately move on to another destination, we believe the city shouldn't be overlooked. It's creative, outdoorsy and so effortlessly welcoming.

Brisbane doesn't like people to rush. It invites you to meander, to drift.

Regardless of whether you have ample time in the city or only a day or two, one thing is for sure: following the bends of the Brisbane River is well worth any traveller's time.

Planning (or pondering) a visit? You can use these words as a base; the sites and experiences highlighted are listed from west to east, following the way the river flows. Then, simply customise to your liking.



## Ignite the imagination at QAGOMA

The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art are separate galleries, 150 metres apart, but are collectively known as QAGOMA.

The galleries champion works from the Asia-Pacific region, but of course host international exhibitions, too. It's home to more than 20,000 artworks.

The bonus? Both galleries are free to enter. The buildings are considered artworks in their own right, housed in two striking sandblasted concrete structures that overlook the river.

## Find your bearings on the water

CityHoppers are free ferries that stop at eight key scenic spots along the Brisbane River. Starting at North Quay and ending at New Farm, it's incredibly easy to spot a CityHopper. Just remember, they're distinctly red. Their hop-on, hop-off nature makes seeing Brisbane at your preferred pace seamless.

CityCats and comparatively smaller, electric-powered KittyCats, are paid ferry services that stop at 22 terminals. Between these ferry options, you'll be well connected to the city centre and surrounding inner suburbs.

If the (commonly) warm weather allows, be sure to sit outside and take in some subtropical air. Along the way, you'll find Brisbane's alluring intersection of historical buildings and soaring skyscrapers.





## Hop over to Kangaroo Point

To see one of Brisbane's most stunning natural features, head over to the volcanic rock cliffs at Kangaroo Point. Visitors can also enjoy one of the city's best panoramas from Joey's or Medley, two restaurants that flaunt what Modern Australian food is made of.

You can walk or cycle along the riverside paths. For those craving more adrenaline, you can even rock climb or abseil with the help of a local instructor.



## Cool off at Streets Beach

If the day is a little too warm for your liking and you'd like to cool off, it's worth checking out Streets Beach – Australia's only inner-city manmade beach. This modern oasis is about a 20-minute walk from QAGOMA, on the same side of the river.

Admire the city skyline from a white sand shore and sparkling waters. Streets Beach is also a great option for those travelling with kids, with qualified lifeguards on patrol all year-round. Surrounded by the tropical greenery Queensland famous for, it offers a slice of resort life in the heart of the city. Amazingly, entry is free.

## Finish strong at Howard Smith Wharves

As the sun sets, we'd recommend heading to this rejuvenated waterfront precinct, home to some of Brisbane's most exciting restaurants and bars.

Diners are spoilt for choice at Howard Smith Wharves, where they can treat themselves to local Brisbane beer at the famed a Brewing Co, modern Greek food at Greca, Italian at Ciao, Japanese at Yoko Dining or Chinese at Stanley.

As the night darkens, the Story Bridge gloriously illuminates, changing its colours depending on the time of year and special events on the calendar.



## Bonus: want to meet a koala?

If you have a little more time to spare, you ought to know Brisbane is home to the world's largest koala sanctuary. Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, founded in 1927, is now home to over 120 koalas. Visitors have the opportunity to get extremely close and admire them chilling in the trees.

Despite its namesake, there aren't just koalas hanging around. The sanctuary has more than 70 Australian species crawling, slithering and flying around. You can even feed a kangaroo while you're there.

There's a dedicated cruise that runs from the city centre to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. It departs from the Brisbane Cultural Centre Pontoon once daily, seven days a week. We believe 75 minutes of scenic sail is by far the best way to reach the sanctuary.



# A Quick Guide to Honiara

Conveniently positioned centrally within the South Pacific and embedded deeply in World War Two history and Melanesian culture, Honiara is not only the capital of the Solomon Islands, but a great base for travellers visiting the South Pacific.

As well as this, there are a number of excellent food and drink options throughout the city, and modern facilities available for every kind of traveller.

