

International Destination Guide
Brisbane | Australia



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1. Introduction to Brisbane

1.1 History of Brisbane

Brisbane began as a penal settlement in 1823 and was named by explorer John Oxley in honour of Sir Thomas Brisbane, the then Governor of New South Wales, who had sent Oxley north to discover a new and more isolated site for second offence convicts.

By 1825, the convicts and their keepers had occupied what is now Brisbane. It took another 17 years for Brisbane to be established as a free settlement. In 1844, there were only 540 residents and few solid buildings or dwellings. Conditions were difficult, food was scarce and it was dangerous to leave town because of hostile bushrangers and aborigines. Immigration schemes (to bring new settlers from England) were introduced and, by 1851, the population had grown to over 8,000.

Today the city is a landscape of shining glass towers containing many of the sandstone and stucco buildings established in the latter half of last century. The Grand Government buildings of George Street and the palatial City Hall still play a role in today's Brisbane. Another two of the city's finest buildings, the Treasury and Old Customs House, have taken on a new life as a Casino and Gallery Museum respectively. The Windmill Tower on Wickham Terrace, built in 1828 by convicts to grind maize, is recognised as Brisbane's oldest surviving building.

Brisbane remained a part of New South Wales until the state of Queensland was formed in 1859. Despite some initial setbacks, Brisbane's Parliament House was completed in 1878. Brisbane was proclaimed a municipality before Separation but was not declared a city until 1902.

1.2 Statistics

Population of Brisbane	1,810,900 approximately
Population of Qld	4,001,000 approximately
Population of Australia	20,619,195 approximately
Land mass of Queensland square kilometres (mainland and islands)	1,730,648 square kms
Land mass of Australia	7,682,300 square kms

Australia is approximately the size of mainland USA, excluding Alaska, and about 24 times the size of the British Isles. Queensland is the second largest mainland state of Australia.

1.3 Climate

Queensland lives up to its reputation as the 'Sunshine State' with an average 11.5 hours of daily sunshine – 300 days a year. Its warm and sunny climate attracts many visitors keen to escape colder climates. The climate lends itself to outdoor living. Many activities, both social and sporting, are conducted outdoors. Most houses have verandahs or terraces where families and friends congregate for informal entertaining.

Summer	December, January, February	Can be very hot and humid with occasional sub-tropical showers mid afternoon
Autumn or Fall	March, April, May	Can be changeable with sunny and rainy periods, less humid and cooler evenings
Winter	June, July, August	Crisp cool mornings with many fine days, colder evenings
Spring	September, October, November	Clear days, moderate temperatures and low humidity. Best described as 'beautiful one day, perfect the next'.

1.4 Dressing for Brisbane's weather

Winter is mild but a jacket or sweater is usually required. In summer you will require light clothing suitable for hot weather and should wear a sun hat and sun block-out cream at all times when in the direct sunlight. A choice of natural fibre clothing is most suitable in the hottest and most humid months of January, February and March. Children often wear UV suits at the beach to protect against sun damage and schools regularly enforce the wearing of hats at playtime throughout the year.

1.5 Time zones

Brisbane only operates on Eastern Standard Time (EST) and does not change to Eastern Summer Time during summer to take advantage of daylight savings.

Brisbane is officially 10 hours in front of Greenwich Mean Time, however, the time difference will vary from 9 hours to 11 hours depending on whether the United Kingdom or Australia is on daylight savings time.

Time zones around the world are published in the front pages of your White Pages telephone directory.

Australia has three standard time zones:

EST Eastern Standard Time	Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania
CST Central Standard Time	South Australia and the Northern Territory
WST Western Standard Time	Western Australia

Note that some townships in the far west of New South Wales, such as Broken Hill, actually operate on CST.

1.6 Daylight savings

During the summer months some states of Australia practise 'daylight savings'. This involves moving clocks forward one hour to gain an 'extra' hour of daylight at the end of the working day. Daylight savings begins at 2:00 am on the last Saturday in October. Daylight savings ends on the last Saturday in March, when clocks are put back one hour (again at 2:00 am).

Queensland does not adopt daylight savings for the summer months. During this time Queensland remains on Eastern Standard Time thereby creating a one hour time difference between Queensland and the other Eastern states for the summer period only.

1.7 Public holidays in Brisbane for 2007

Holiday	2007	2008	2009	2010
New Year's Day	Monday, 1 January	Tuesday, 1 January	Thursday, 1 January	Friday, 1 January
Australia Day	Friday, 26 January	Monday, 28 January	Monday, 26 January	Tuesday, 26 January
Good Friday	Friday, 6 April	Friday 21 March	Friday 10 April	Friday, 2 April
Easter Saturday	Saturday, 7 April	Saturday, 22 March	Saturday, 11 April	Saturday, 3 April
Easter Monday	Monday, 9 April	Monday, 24 March	Monday, 13 April	Monday, 5 April
Anzac Day	Wednesday, 25 April	Friday, 25 April	Saturday, 25 April	Monday, 26 April
Labour Day	Monday, 7 May	Monday, 5 May	Monday, 4 May	Monday, 3 May
Queen's Birthday	Monday, 11 June	Monday, 9 June	Monday, 8 June	Monday, 14 June
Royal Qld Show	Wednesday, 15 August	Wednesday, 13 August	Wednesday, 12 August	Wednesday, 11 August
Christmas Day	Tuesday, 25 December	Thursday, 25 December	Friday, 25 December	Saturday, 25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday, 26 December	Friday, 26 December	Saturday, 26 December	Monday, 27 December

1.8 Calendar dates

Calendar dates in Australia, when abbreviated, are written with the day of the month preceding the month. For example March 4, 2000 would be written 4/3/2000.

Initially this can be confusing, especially if you come from North America where the month precedes the day of the month, so it is wise to confirm dates where there is potential for confusion.

1.9 Quarantine and customs

Australia has strict quarantine and customs regulations.

1.10 Currency

Australian currency consists of coins with values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and One and Two dollars. Notes are issued at values of Five, Ten, Twenty, Fifty and One Hundred dollars. This is based on the decimal system where one hundred cents equals one dollar.

2. Shopping

2.1 City shopping

In Brisbane the main shopping area extends from George Street to Edward Street and Adelaide Street to Charlotte Street. Part of Queen Street has been closed to motor traffic creating an open-air mall, which is popular as a meeting place. Major department stores, such as Myers and David Jones front onto the Queen Street Mall. Nearby are several refurbished arcades and shopping complexes. Broadway on the Mall, Wintergarden and the Queen Adelaide Centre accommodate upmarket fashion and boutique stores. Macarthur Central and Queen Street Central are the newest additions to this popular shopping precinct.

2.2 Standard shopping hours

Monday to Wednesday	9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Thursday and Friday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Note that city stores open for late night trading on Friday only and regional complexes open for late night trading on Thursday only.

2.3 Sunday shopping

Sunday shopping is permitted in the City Centre and at most major regional shopping complexes. Contact individual stores for their Sunday trading hours. Extended shopping hours apply for pre-Christmas shopping.

2.4 Metropolitan shopping

Fortitude Valley features specialist and alternate clothing, multicultural food stores and some of Brisbane's best Asian restaurants. Given Terrace, Paddington also has a variety of speciality and fashion shops as well as antique markets. Brisbane has introduced modern home and fashion outlets in New Farm, Newstead and Teneriffe to accommodate urban renewal development and inner city unit dwellers. Alfresco and café dining in these areas is very popular. Stones Corner has fashion factory outlets for many leading Australian women's wear designers.

Most suburbs have a local shopping centre or strip mall, which often consists of a row of stores along a street or road.

2.6 Mall shopping

Large shopping complexes or malls, with multiple stores under the one roof and free parking, are:

Indooroopilly Shoppingtown

Moggill Road, Indooroopilly. Tel 3378 4002

Garden City Shopping Centre

Kessels Road, Upper Mt Gravatt. Tel 3349 7744

Toowong Village

Sherwood Road, Toowong. Tel 3870 7177

Westfield Shoppingtown Carindale

Old Cleveland Road, Carindale. Tel 3398 9688

Westfield Shoppingtown Chermide

Gympie Road, Chermide. Te; 3359 0755

Centro Toombu

Sandgate Road, Toombul. Tel 3266 7122

DFO

Direct Factory Outlet, Airport Drive. Tel 3305 9250

2.8 Food shopping

Major supermarket chains for grocery shopping are Bi-Lo, Coles and Woolworths. Trading hours will vary but most major supermarkets remain open until 9:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Local, suburban shopping centres may also have small supermarkets and convenience stores or 7-Elevens, known as 'milk bars'. Delicatessens supply specialist foodstuffs, meats and cheeses from local producers and many countries around the world.

2.9 Tipping

Tipping is not as widespread in Australia, as it is in North America, as full wages are paid to employees working in the hospitality and service related industries. You can tip a taxi driver, waiting staff at restaurants, a hotel porter and other service staff in first class hotels. The recipient will generally appreciate your tip. Ten percent is a fair tip and recognises excellent service.

3. Banking

3.1 Banks

Normal banking hours are:

9.30 am to 4pm – Monday to Thursday

9.30 am to 5pm – Friday

Some banks are now open on Saturday morning's at large shopping centres. Please check with your bank.

Banks in the Brisbane Central Business District have more liberal trading hours and Automatic Teller Machines (ATM's), are also available for after hours withdrawals and deposits. The major banks have offices in the Brisbane CBD and local branches in the suburbs. Many different types of savings and cheque accounts are available.

3.2 Opening a bank account

To open a bank account in Australia you need to provide '100 points' of identification. Items such as your passport, driver's licence, Medibank card etc can all contribute to the '100 points'.

If you currently hold a bank account in another state of Australia you may simply transfer your account to a local branch, of the same bank, in your new state. Westpac and Challenge customers should note that the Bank of Melbourne is a Westpac affiliate in Brisbane. The Bank of New Zealand is an affiliate of the ANZ Bank.

If you have arrived from overseas and wish to open a bank account you can open an account with only your passport as identification providing you do so within 6 weeks of your arrival in Australia. After the 6 weeks you will need to provide '100 points' of identification and should therefore take your passport, driver's licence and proof of address with you when you go to open the account.

ANZ	131 314
Citibank	132 484
Commonwealth Bank	132 221
National Australia Bank	132 265
St George Bank	133 330
Westpac	132 032

3.3 ATM – Automatic teller machines

ATM's allow you to deposit and withdraw cash sums during and after bank trading hours. You will find ATM's in front of most bank branches and increasingly they are being positioned in shopping malls, airports, hotel lobbies and other convenient locations. On request your bank will issue you with an ATM card, which will be linked to one of your accounts.

Do not write your PIN (personal identification number) in your wallet or purse and notify your bank immediately if you lose your ATM card. Many banks' ATM's are interchangeable, ie you can withdraw cash from a Commonwealth Bank ATM with a Westpac card, but you may incur an additional fee for this type of transaction.

3.4 EFTPOS – Electronic fund transfer point of sale

EFTPOS allows you to pay for goods and services by making a direct transfer from your bank account to the service provider. EFTPOS is a convenient and increasingly common way to pay for groceries, petrol and a wide range of retail products.

3.5 Credit cards

Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard, American Express and Diners Club credit cards are widely accepted in Australia. Many credit cards are linked to loyalty systems where you can accrue frequent flyer points and other awards.

3.6 Cheque accounts (check accounts)

Many savings accounts offer a cheque account option, although cheques will attract additional bank fees. Cheque cashing privileges may be arranged at some grocery stores. To '**cross a cheque**' means to make a cheque '**not negotiable**'. This measure prevents any person, or company, from cashing the cheque at a bank counter. The cheque must be paid into a bank account. Two lines and/or the words 'not negotiable' are written across the face of the cheque. Cheques should always be made 'not negotiable' for safety purposes unless you wish to exchange the cheque for cash at the bank. When you deposit a cheque to your bank account the funds are typically not available to you until the cheque has been processed or 'cleared'. This takes three business days.

3.7 Telephone and internet banking

Many banks provide telephone and internet banking facilities that allow you to transfer funds between accounts, pay bills and pay credit cards by telephone or online. Contact your bank for details.

3.8 Bill pay (Bpay)

This is a telephone or internet banking service that allows you to pay bills by direct transfer from your bank account. Bpay is a convenient method for paying utility bills such as telephone, power, gas and water.

4. Driving and motor vehicles

4.1 Road regulations

Australian cars are right hand drive and travel on the left side of the road. Generally speed limits are 50 or 60 kilometres per hour in built up areas and up to 110 kilometres per hour on highways and freeways. All local speed limits, and other traffic indicators, are well signposted. Suburbs and freeways are also signposted. Directions to tourist attractions are displayed on signs with brown backgrounds.

4.2 Road rules specific to Queensland

Queensland has a few road rules that differ slightly than other Australian states. These relate to driving on Brisbane city roads where bus and transit lanes operate. All bus and transit lanes will be signposted. Thick yellow lines painted adjacent to gutters indicate clearways. No stopping is permitted in these areas and not all clearways are signposted. As of 1 July, 2007, Learner drivers and newly licensed drivers in Queensland have to display 'Learner – L' plates when driving. 'Provisional – P' plates are not required.

It is compulsory for a driver, and all passengers, to wear seat belts whenever the vehicle is in motion. Children must be suitably restrained at all times. Children's seats and baby capsules must be correctly attached to the vehicle and must conform to Australian Safety Standards.

4.3 'On the Spot' fine

Police Officers will issue an 'On the Spot' fine for minor traffic infringements such as speeding and driving whilst using a mobile phone (unless you are using a 'hands-free' device). You do not pay the policeman, however you are expected to pay the fine to the relevant authority within a specified time. The courts handle major traffic offences, such as drink driving or dangerous driving. Some offences will incur demerit points, which can ultimately result in licence suspension.

4.4 Push bikes and motorcycles

It is compulsory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or a motorcycle.

4.5 Drink driving

'Drink Driving' is a local term for driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol. Offenders face strong penalties including licence disqualification and a possible jail term.

Blood Alcohol Limit

Drivers on a full licence	0.05%
Drivers under 25 years of age who have held licence less than 3 years	0.02%
Drivers on a learner's permit of P1/P2	0%

Police may ask a driver, at any time, to pull off the road and undertake a Random Breath Test to measure blood alcohol level. Queensland police have mobile Random Breath Test units, commonly called 'booze buses' which set up beside the road to test passing drivers.

4.6 Parking

The Brisbane Central Traffic Area is a regulated parking area covering the Central Business District and nearby suburbs, e.g. Fortitude Valley, West End, South Brisbane, Spring Hill and Newstead. Unless specifically signed or metered, a two hour parking limit applies to all unsigned roads: Monday to Friday 7:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am – 12:00 noon.

In the city, blue signs indicate multi-level parking stations. On-street meter parking is available in the city area for a fee. Major suburban shopping centres offer free parking and most residential areas offer free on-street parking.

In some high-density residential areas, free on-street parking may be limited to local residents. In these areas you will need to obtain a parking permit from the local municipal council and affix it to your vehicle. Brisbane City Council publishes a free resource entitled 'Glovebox Guide to Parking in Brisbane'.

4.7 Tolls

Brisbane has two toll roads known as the Gateway Bridge and the Logan Motorway. Toll fees are clearly signed as you enter the toll road and all accept cash payments. If you plan to use these toll roads on a regular basis you should purchase an E-tag, an electronic tag which you keep in your car. This allows pre-payment of tolls, speedier traffic lanes at tollgates and avoids fines.

4.8 Registration and Compulsory Third Party Insurance (CTP)

All motor vehicles on Queensland roads must have current registration with Queensland Transport and current Compulsory Third Party Insurance (CTP). Vehicle owners nominate their CTP insurer of choice then purchase the policy from Queensland Transport in conjunction with motor vehicle registration fees.

Registration fees are based on type of car, for example a four door sedan will cost around \$A200 for twelve months registration plus CTP. CTP insurance cost will vary depending on whether you live in a high or low risk area for motor accidents. Most metropolitan areas are considered high risk and insurance will be around \$A350.

4.9 International drivers

Holders of International Permits may drive on Queensland roads up until the expiry date of the permit (International permits are generally issued for periods of one or two years). Holders of an Overseas or Interstate (other Australian states) Licence may drive in Queensland for three months only. To obtain a Queensland driver's licence you will need to undertake a full test, which includes a practical driving component as well as a theory test.

4.10 All drivers

If you have relocated to Brisbane, from overseas or interstate, it is **strongly recommended** that you apply for a Queensland driver's licence at the earliest opportunity. This will avoid difficulties in regard to insurance claims should you be unfortunate enough to be involved in a motor vehicle accident. Holding a local driver's licence will also facilitate obtaining car insurance.

4.11 Obtaining a driver's licence

To apply for a Queensland Driver's Licence contact: **Queensland Transport** on **132 380**.

Interstate transferees can exchange a current, out-of-state photo driver's licence for a Queensland licence for a small changeover fee.

4.12 Traffic handbook

Should you need to sit another driver's license exam you may purchase a copy of **'Your Keys to Driving in Queensland'** from any newsagent or the Queensland Transport office or online at: www.transport.qld.gov.au

4.13 Queensland Transport Contact Details

Queensland Transport office locations are listed in the White Pages telephone directory.

Qld Transport Office Hours 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9.30 am – 4.30 pm Wednesday

Qld Transport General Enquiries 132 380
RTA 24 hour hotline on Traffic conditions 132 701
Qld Transport website www.transport.qld.gov.au

4.14 Driving instruction

If you wish to have professional driving instruction prior to taking your driver's licence examination contact the RACQ Driver Education Unit on **3666 9744**. Other driving schools are listed in the Yellow Pages telephone directory. Driving lessons may be particularly useful if you are not experienced with right hand drive motor vehicles.

4.15 Motor vehicle insurance

Extended Third Party Property Insurance covers damage you may cause to a motor vehicle driven by another person or 'third party'. Fully Comprehensive Insurance covers damage caused to your own motor vehicle. Both types of policy are available through a range of insurance companies. Rates will vary depending on your age, driving history, who other than yourself drives the vehicle and what type of vehicle you are driving. Some insurance companies will not cover drivers under the age of 25 or drivers with a history of being involved in accidents and therefore can offer more competitive rates to mature drivers with good driving records. It is advisable to shop around for the best deal on insurance.

4.16 Insurance companies offering motor vehicle insurance

Allianz	131 000	www.allianz.com.au/
AAMI	132 244	www.aami.com.au/
CGU	131 532	www.cgu.com.au
NRMA	132 132	www.nrma.com.au/
QBE	131 101	www.qbe.com
RACQ	131 905	www.racqinsurance.com.au
Suncorp	131 155	www.suncorp.com.au

If you are transferring to Brisbane from another state of Australia make sure you advise your insurance company immediately of your change of address.

4.17 Car hire

Several car hire companies operate in Brisbane and have branches in other Australian states. Rates vary depending on type of vehicle required and the length of hire. It is recommended that you contact the company directly to ascertain current hire rates. Major car hire companies rent new or late model motor vehicles however there are hire companies that rent older vehicles at a discount rate. See the Yellow Pages telephone directory for a full listing. Major car hire companies:

Avis	136 333
Budget	132 727
Europcar	131 390
Hertz	133 039
National	1300 365 564
Thrifty	136 139

4.18 Motoring associations

The Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, RACQ, offers its members a roadside breakdown service and a range of maps and information for touring Australia by road. Three levels of membership are offered – Club Care, Plus Care and Ultra Care.

Membership fees range from \$A54.00 to \$A145.00 depending on the level of cover required. Reciprocal rights with motoring associations in other states of Australia are included. The RACQ can also arrange a pre-purchase vehicle inspection, by their qualified motor mechanics, if you are planning to purchase a second hand car.

4.19 RACQ Royal Automobile Club of Queensland

General and Membership Enquiries	131 905
Roadside Assistance (24 hr) (available to members only)	131 111
Touring Services	3361 2406

Or visit their website: www.racq.com.au

Joining the RACQ roadside breakdown service is highly recommended.

4.20 Importing a motor vehicle into Australia

If you are considering bringing your own car with you to Australia it is important to carefully check current customs' requirements and consider the costs, and possible risks, of importing a motor vehicle. Australian motor vehicle safety standards are higher than many other countries and your car may not meet safety criteria for registration. Duties to be paid upon importation will depend on the age and value of the car.

Further costs will include transportation, insurance whilst in transit, any modifications required to meet Australian Safety Standards, registration and insurance in Australia. The vehicle must also obtain a quarantine clearance before it will be released from the port of entry. For further information on importing a motor vehicle phone: Australian Customs Service Customs Information Centre on **1300 363 263**

Or visit their website: www.customs.gov.au

4.21 Petrol

Petrol prices are around \$A1.25 to \$A1.40 per litre but fluctuate frequently. Queensland petrol prices are lower than other states. All new and late model cars use unleaded fuel. Leaded fuel, previously known as 'super', is still used in older motor vehicles.

5. Public transport

5.1 Local transport

Brisbane City Council and Queensland Rail operate an integrated public transport system incorporating buses, ferries and trains. Tickets, which allow you to travel on any combination of train, bus or ferry, are available for two hours or full day. Tickets may be purchased from ticket offices at train stations, automated ticket machines located at rail stations, onboard ferries or from bus drivers. If you purchase a ticket on a bus or ferry you will be expected to have the correct, or close to correct, fare. They generally will not accept a large note that requires substantial change. Concession fares are available for students and senior citizens. On some bus routes, peak hour commuters benefit by speedier transit on dedicated Busways. Day Rover and South East Explorer travel passes are available for one day unlimited travel on bus, ferry and rail services however boundaries apply. For information phon: **TransInfo 131 230**.

5.2 Buses

Three different kinds of bus services operate in Brisbane:

City Circle 333 (Blue and White Buses)
A frequent downtown circuit service.

Citybus (White and Yellow Buses)
All stop downtown and suburban services.

Cityxpress (Blue & Yellow Striped Buses)
Operate half-hourly express services.

5.3 Ferries

City Ferries Downtown service every 20 -30 minutes and cross-river service every 10 – 15 minutes.

CityCat Ferries Fast catamaran ferries with regular stops between Hamilton, downtown and St Lucia.

5.4 Citytrain

Regular air-conditioned electric commuter rail services link the city, suburbs, bayside districts and beyond, as well as major sights. City trains also operate to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

Information and timetables	TransInfo	131 230
Information on train services – Metropolitan	Citytrain	3606 5555
Information on train services – Country Qld and interstate	Traveltrain	1300 131 722

Or visit their website: www.transinfo.qld.gov.au

5.5 Tourist city bus

A free tourist bus (Red and White Bus) operates 'The Loop' and circles the city at 10 minute intervals. A complete journey takes approximately 30 minutes but you can leave and join the bus at any designated stop. The free city bus provides a good way to orientate you with the city. Hours are from 10 am to 6 pm seven days a week.

5.6 City tours

The City Sights tour allows you to discover the historic and cultural sights of Brisbane while enjoying modern, air-conditioned travel with informative commentary. City Sights lets you set your own pace, alighting at any designated stop and includes bus and ferry transfers. Day or night tours are offered. Adult and concession fares are available and timetable information is obtained from **TransInfo 131 230**.

5.7 Airlines

Brisbane's Domestic and International Airports are located 16 kilometres north east of Brisbane City. Major Air Service providers in Australia:

Qantas Airways

Domestic & International Reservations 131 313

Today's Flight Information 131 223

Or visit their web site: www.qantas.com.au

Virgin Blue

Domestic Reservations 136 789

Or visit their web site: www.virginblue.com.au

JetStar

Domestic Reservations 131 538

Or visit their web site: www.jetstar.com

An airport tax covering security etc. is levied on each traveller departing overseas, the cost of which is collected by the airlines and included in the cost of your ticket.

5.9 Downtown connections

Coach transfers regularly operate between airport terminals and the city's transit centre, major hotels and both the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Taxi Cab ranks are conveniently located at terminal entrances, while car hire is available from within the terminals. Limousines can be booked at the Traveller's Information Service desk.

Airtrain

Airtrain provides a fast, economical and convenient link from both airport terminals to downtown Brisbane city every 15 minutes, with connections to the Citytrain network. Cost is A\$11.00 to downtown's Roma Street, Central or Brunswick Street stations. A Brisbane to Gold Coast service also runs every half hour – cost \$22. Timetable information: **131 230**.

5.10 Taxi Cabs

Black & White Cabs 131 008

Yellow Cabs 131 924

Silver Service 133 100

Maxi Taxi 136 294

Taxi cabs will accept cash, major credit cards and CabCharge vouchers.

6. Homes and residential areas

Owning your own home has often been called the 'Great Australian Dream' and Australians have one of the highest home owner-occupier rates in the world. Brisbane, like all major cities in the world, offers a wide range of accommodation.

Brisbane is a city designed for subtropical living. The older suburbs of Brisbane consist mainly of timber houses, due to the fact that in the early days there were no brickworks in Queensland and timber was in plentiful supply. In many areas of Brisbane you will see 'Old Queenslander' style houses raised from the ground with surrounding wide verandahs. These are popular in Queensland due to their design, which creates a cooler living environment.

An emerging trend in inner city Brisbane has been townhouses and apartments. The demand for this style of housing has been driven by the demographic change towards smaller households and accessibility to city workplace, cultural and entertainment amenities.

Suburbs stretch in all directions from the City centre, following the shores of Moreton and Redland Bays and extending back into the hilly, treed regions behind Brisbane. Outer lying areas of Brisbane offer the opportunity to live on acreage properties or even small farms.

Purchase and rental prices vary widely and will depend on the location, type of accommodation and market conditions. Residential property prices are increasing especially in Brisbane, where strongest price rises have occurred in suburbs within 5 kilometres of Brisbane's central business district.

6.1 General overview

Within 5 kilometres of the City

Highly varied styles of housing including high-density apartments, townhouses, workers cottages, and classic 'Queenslanders' including some prestige heritage properties.

5 – 10 kilometre radius

Unique 'Queenslander' style and workers cottage constructions, often on large blocks of land. Many of these homes have been extensively renovated and refurbished in recent years. Rent can be quite high for quality properties in good locations. Modern apartment and townhouse developments and small lot housing are increasingly available.

10 – 15 kilometre radius

Mixed range of homes including modest post-war housing, lowset timber or brick veneer bungalows on quarter acre blocks of land. Some properties have been extended and modernised and you will find pockets of more contemporary housing. Townhouses and villas designed as small freestanding homes, usually grouped in a single level complex of six to eight, are also available.

15 – 20 kilometre radius

Contemporary estate style developments from the 1960's to present day. Homes are freestanding but blocks of land are generally smaller than the traditional 'quarter acre' favoured by Australians.

20 kilometre plus

New housing estates featuring one and two level project homes and rural-residential areas, which may include one to five acre allotments.

Most suburban areas will have their own clusters of shops, restaurants, churches and schools. Local Government Councils provide childcare facilities, child playgroups, kindergartens, sporting facilities and recreational areas.

6.2 Brisbane residential areas

The following is a brief overview of popular residential districts surrounding Brisbane.

Inner urban and inner eastern suburbs

Spring Hill, Fortitude Valley, New Farm, Teneriffe, Newstead, Bowen Hills

Unconventional dense urban living, restaurants, bars, shops and some of Brisbane's most hip homeware and furniture shops define this community. Modern apartments, warehouse conversions and older style workers cottages command high rentals. The area is well serviced by public transport and offers a trendy cosmopolitan lifestyle.

South Brisbane

Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane, Coorparoo, West End, Highgate Hill

Modern executive apartments through to workers cottages and median density complexes dominate the area. These suburbs provide easy access to the city by public transport. West End is renowned for having the greatest mix of cultures in Brisbane. Rental properties are usually quite affordable considering the close proximity to the city.

Western suburbs

Auchenflower, Milton, Toowong, Indooroopilly, St Lucia, Kenmore, Chapel Hill and The Gap.

Features family homes from many eras. Older style 'Queenslanders' are often renovated and rental accommodation is highly sought. These suburbs are in close proximity to two major universities and Kenmore State High School; the river and one of Brisbane's largest shopping complexes. Though median density rental accommodation is usually available, quality houses are also readily available.

Northern suburbs

Hamilton, Ascot, Clayfield, Hendra, Woolloowin, Wilston, Windsor

Hamilton and Ascot have the highest median house sale prices for all Brisbane suburbs and the underlying real estate value is reflected in the rents asked for quality homes. These areas are in close proximity to the airport and city with good commuter access by public transport. Two major shopping complexes service the area. Subdividing larger blocks for small lot development has become a popular choice for building new executive style housing.

Bayside suburbs

Redcliffe, Sandgate, Manly, Cleveland, Ormiston

These suburbs offer a lifestyle for people who enjoy the beaches and water sports such as sailing, jet skiing, sailboarding and fishing. Several canal developments and marinas have made these suburbs very popular with boat enthusiasts. Commuting to the city on public transport is approximately a 50-minute trip. The area is well serviced by regional shopping complexes, good quality schools and many recreational facilities.

6.3 City living

Inner city living, once a rare lifestyle in Australia is increasing in popularity and many property developers have catered to the trend by building modern apartment complexes in the city area or by redeveloping older heritage buildings to residential apartments.

6.4 Renting a home

When renting a place to live in Queensland, there are a series of steps that you need to follow.

Once you have selected a rental home you will be required to pay one month's rent and a security deposit commonly called the 'bond', equal to one month's rent, before the realtor will provide the keys.

Prior to moving-in, or immediately after, you should complete the property condition report (in detail) supplied by the realtor. You and the realtor should sign the property condition report and you should keep a copy in a secure place, as it could be required at the end of your tenancy. The property condition report records the condition of the home at the time you moved in and will be referred to should a landlord wish to retain part of your security deposit.

The correct name for a lease is 'Residential Tenancy Agreement' and it is a legally binding document with rights and responsibilities for both tenant and landlord clearly set out by the Department of Fair Trading.

Your responsibilities as a tenant

The landlord of a rental home is entitled to reimbursement from your Bond or Security Deposit when damage has occurred, other than fair wear and tear. The following information will help ensure you understand your responsibilities as a tenant and minimise the likelihood that bond money will be withheld by the realtor:

- the home should be kept clean and the real estate agent should be advised of any maintenance issues
- the lawns and gardens should be regularly maintained, with attention paid to keeping gardens free of weeds and plants watered during dry periods
- marks and stains on carpets must be removed immediately before serious and permanent damage occurs. If necessary, engage a professional carpet cleaner
- nothing should be adhered, nailed into or screwed into any wall or door without the express written approval of the landlord or the real estate agent. When motifs, posters and the like are removed, paint and plaster damage occurs and the tenant will be held responsible
- damage to the home or problems should be reported immediately to the real estate agent
- pets are NOT allowed under standard Residential Tenancy Agreement. You MUST have written consent from the landlord to keep a pet at a rented property
- pets may NOT be kept in apartments or flats. Most townhouse and unit developments will also have body corporate restrictions regarding pets, and in particular dogs
- your real estate agent will carry out regular inspections of the property and written notice will be given to you when this is to occur (some agents also drive past the property every month to do external inspections)
- remember you must give a minimum of fourteen days written notice should you want to vacate once the lease has expired. If your lease contains further options to continue residency, make a diary note to comply with notice dates
- when you are vacating, it is important that all keys are handed in to the agents office otherwise rent will continue to accrue until the agent has possession of the keys
- your rent is due on or before the due date. Always contact your real estate agent if you are unable to pay by that date
- if your lease has special terms and conditions these are parts of the Residential Tenancy Agreement and are legally binding.

6.1 Purchasing a home

Stamp duty

When you purchase a residential property in Queensland you will be required to pay a substantial stamp duty to the Federal Government. The amount payable depends on whether the house is the 'primary place of dwelling' or an 'investment home'. When the house is the 'primary place of dwelling' you will pay \$A7,200 on a purchase price of \$A250,000 and up to \$A30,975 duty on a purchase price of \$A900,000.

Price guides

Before you purchase it is a good idea to see what other buyers have paid for homes in the area. Australian Property Monitors publish Home Price Guides for \$A59.95 per post code. Each guide shows you sale price of homes in a particular postcode area for the previous twelve months. Call **1800 817 616** to obtain copies.

Legal Costs and 'Conveyancing'

Legal costs and conveyancing will cost between \$A500 and \$A1,500 for a straightforward purchase but can run much higher if the circumstances of the purchase are complicated. Even if you plan to handle the purchase yourself you should get a solicitor to go through the contract and make sure you understand all aspects of the contract. Names of conveyancing solicitors may be obtained from the Yellow Pages telephone directory.

Building and pest inspections

To protect your investment you should have professional building and pest inspections carried out on a home prior to purchase. A building inspection will cost between \$A250 –\$A1000 and is a worthwhile investment particularly when you are buying an older or renovated home. In Queensland it is strongly recommended to engage a professional termite inspector to ascertain any damage or infestation to property. Termite damage is sometimes difficult to detect and extremely expensive to rectify.

Valuations

If you are borrowing money to purchase a property the lending institution will usually have a professional Valuer inspect the property prior to lending. If you are uncertain of what to pay for a property you can also arrange an independent valuation. Valuers should be members of the AIVLE (Australian Institute of Valuers and Land Economists). The cost of an independent valuation may vary with the value of the home being valued.

It is important to note that some properties sold in Brisbane are sold by auction. Typically these properties are advertised and open for inspection for three weeks prior to the auction. Purchasers then bid onsite, on the advertised day and time. Purchasing a property at auction does not have a cooling-off period and if borrowing money, loan applications must be approved prior to commencement of bidding.

Purchasing a home for international transferees

Temporary residents who wish to buy a property in Australia should consult the Foreign Investment Review Board in Canberra, phone **02 6263 3795**, to check current regulations on purchasing real estate in Australia.

Or visit their website: www.firb.gov.au

6.2 Temporary accommodation

Hotel accommodation

Brisbane offers a range of hotel accommodation including 5 star hotels, boutique hotels and budget accommodation.

Major 5 star hotels include:

Conrad Treasury Brisbane	3306 8888
Hilton Brisbane	3234 2000
Marriott Brisbane	3303 8000
Stamford Plaza Brisbane	3221 1999
Sofitel Brisbane	3835 3535
Brisbane Riverview Hotel	3862 1219

Serviced apartments

Serviced apartment accommodation is a popular alternative for families on the move. A serviced apartment, typically, has its own kitchen and laundry facilities, and comes fully equipped with linen, towels, crockery, cutlery and cooking equipment; so that you may self cater. There is also a daily or weekly cleaning service where linen and towels are replaced. Rates for serviced apartments depend on the standard of the accommodation and location of the apartments.

6.3 Rates and utilities for residential properties

Council rates

Local Government Authorities (also known as 'Councils') issue rates notices for residential premises based on the unimproved land value of the property. Rates will vary depending on the local council issuing the rate notice and are paid by the owner of a property, not the tenant. Garbage collection, sewerage and waste services, water rates and consumption are generally included in the rate assessment.

Water rates

The Brisbane City Council Rate Account notice includes charges for 'Sewerage, Water & Waste Management' and 'Water Meter Consumption'. These accounts are issued quarterly (every three months). Problems with water supply to any property should be referred to Brisbane Water – Brisbane City Council on **3403 8888**.

In a rental property the water consumption charges are the responsibility of the tenant, however it is sometimes included in the weekly rental. When you enter your Residential Tenancy Agreement your lease should clearly state who is responsible for water consumption charges.

Electricity

Domestic electricity supply throughout Australia is 240 volt, AC 50 cycles. Standard three pin plugs are fitted to domestic appliances. Transformers are required for 110-volt appliances, such as a hairdryer or a contact lens steriliser.

Electricity connections can be made by contacting Energex on **131 253**.

Connection fees quoted are for established residential premises. New homes or commercial premises fees may be higher. Energex will require your name, telephone number and address for electricity to be connected. If the premises are rented then the name and address of the real estate agent must also be supplied. A security deposit of A\$80.00 is required prior to connection. This deposit is refunded when vacating, or can be put toward the final bill. A State Government levy for ambulance services, provided by Queensland Ambulance, is included on all electricity accounts.

In a rental property all electricity usage charges are the responsibility of the tenant unless expressly stated in the Residential Tenancy Agreement.

Gas

Brisbane has a natural gas supply. Some of the older areas of Brisbane have gas facilities installed in houses via gas mains. Other areas will need to have LPG cylinders installed at their homes if they require gas. Contact the following gas suppliers for more information:

Supplier	Connections	Area Covered
Energex	131 253	Southern Suburbs and Bayside
Origin Energy	132 461	Northern Suburbs and Ipswich

In a rental property all natural gas usage charges are the responsibility of the tenant unless expressly stated in the Residential Tenancy Agreement.

6.4 Telecommunications

Telephone

Brisbane telephone numbers have eight digits. To dial Brisbane from another state of Australia dial 07 + local 8 digit number. To dial Brisbane from another country dial 61 + 7 + local 8 digit number. Telstra Corporation Ltd and Optus provide local telephone services. There are also a number of other private telecommunication providers offering competitive pricing on local, long distance and international calls. Check the Yellow Pages telephone directory for listings.

Telstra

In the front pages of your White Pages telephone directory you will find information about the telecommunication services provided by Telstra Corporation. These services include direct international dialling, mobile telephone services and paging systems. For Telstra telephone connections phone:

Telstra	Residential connections	132 200
Telstra	Business connections	132 000

Or visit their website: www.telstra.com.au

Optus

A relative newcomer, Optus now has cable in many areas, and costs will vary depending on line access to your area. They provide the full range of telecommunication options.

Optus	Enquiries	133 937
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Or visit their website: www.optus.com.au

The following information will be required for connection of your telephone service:

Full name, residential address, date of birth, driver's license number, occupation and employer's name and address.

Fax or internet

If you require an additional telephone line into your home for a facsimile (fax) machine or internet access then you should contact Telstra on **132 200**. If you are renting a property you will need your landlord's permission to have a new line installed. Fax machines manufactured outside Australia are not always compatible.

6.5 Emergency calls

Life threatening emergencies:

Dial **000** and state whether you require assistance from Fire, Police or Ambulance

Other emergency numbers include:

Queensland State Emergency Service (SES)	3247 8454
Dental Emergencies	3231 3777
Poisons Information Centre	131 126

You should keep a list of emergency numbers near your telephone. If you have children make sure they know how to dial for help in the case of an emergency.

6.6 Post Office

Australia Post is the national postal organization and provides a wide range of postal and related services. Addresses in Australia are identified by four digit postcodes, which should be used whenever addressing mail within Australia. The majority of Queensland postcodes begin with the digit four (4). Brisbane City centre is postcode 4000 and the Brisbane General Post Office is 4001.

Postcodes for suburbs and towns are listed in the back of your White Pages telephone directory.

Postcode booklets are available, free of charge, from any Australia Post Office.

Brisbane General Post Office (GPO) is located at 261 Queen Street, Brisbane, Qld 4001.

Australia Post Customer Services 131 318

6.7 Home contents insurance

If you are a tenant in a rented home the house will be covered by insurance held by the owner of the home however you are responsible for insuring your own possessions. This insurance is called Home Contents Insurance and you should coordinate a cover note BEFORE your effects are placed in your home. Don't forget your transit insurance does not cover your effects once they are placed in the home.

Contact individual insurance companies to obtain quotations. Major insurance companies include (please check the Yellow Pages telephone directory for a complete list of companies):

Allianz	131 000	www.allianz.com.au/
AAMI	132 244	www.aami.com.au/
CGU	131 532	www.cgu.com.au
NRMA	132 132	www.nrma.com.au/
QBE	131 101	www.qbe.com
RACQ	131 905	www.racqinsurance.com.au
Suncorp	131 155	www.suncorp.com.au

Some insurance providers offer discounts if you take both your Home Contents and Motor Vehicle insurance through the one company.

If you are transferring to Brisbane from another state of Australia make sure you advise your Home Contents insurer immediately of your change of address.

7. Education and schools

The education of your children is probably one of the most important considerations you will undertake during your relocation process. You may choose to enrol your child in either the government or private school system. Please see the table below for a comparison of ages for entry into Programs in Australia (*note: there may be some variations between schools*):

State/Territory	Entry age into program two years before Year One	Entry age into program one before Year One	Entry age into Year One	Compulsory starting age	Primary School age(s)	Secondary School age(s)
Western Australia	Entry age, 4 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year (Kindergarten)	Entry age, 5 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year (Pre-primary)	Entry age, 6 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year	The beginning of the school year in which the child reaches the age of 6 years 6 months	6 – 12	12 – 17 (years 8 – 12)
New South Wales	4 by 31 July (Pre-School)	5 by 31 July (K)	6 by 31 July	6th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Victoria	4 by 30 April (Pre-School)	5 by 30 April (Prep)	6 by 30 April	6th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Queensland	4 by 31 December (Kindergarten)	5 by 31 December (Pre-School)	6 by 31 December	6th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 17 (years 8 – 12)
South Australia	Continuous entry after 4th birthday	Continuous entry after 5th birthday (Reception)	Single entry in January after 2–5 terms in Reception depending on initial entry	6th Birthday	5 – 13	12 – 18 (years 8 – 12)
Tasmania	4 by 1 January in year of entry (Kindergarten)	5 by 1 January in year of entry (Prep)	6 by 1 January	6th Birthday	5 – 12	11 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
ACT	4 by 30 April in year of entry (Pre-school)	5 by 30 April in year of entry (Kindergarten)	6 by 30 April	6th Birthday	5 – 12	11 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Northern Territory	Continuous entry after 4th birthday (Pre-school)	Continuous intake (January, April, July) after 5th birthday into Transition	January entry after 2 – 4 terms in Transition. Note: System will change 2004	6th Birthday	5 – 13	12 – 18 (years 8 – 12 except in Alice Springs which is 7– 12)

Get set for Prep

Queensland's new Preparatory Year will give all young Queenslanders the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition to Year 1 and setting them on the path to lifelong learning.

Prep replaces preschool from 2007 and the starting age for Year 1 will increase by six months from 2008.

Prep is not compulsory and early childhood education and care providers will continue to offer programs for children not enrolled in Prep.

Children born between 1 January and 30 June 2002 will be eligible to attend Prep in 2007. Children born between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003 will be eligible for Prep in 2008. Children born in 2001 will start Year 1 in 2007. Those born in the latter part of 2001 may be eligible for Prep if an assessment determines that they won't be ready for Year 1 before 2008.

The Primary school system in Queensland covers a seven year span from Year 1 to Year 7, after which children move on to Secondary education. Secondary schooling covers Year 8 to Year 12 (five years).

The school year varies a little from state to state in Australia but generally begins in late January and ends in December just prior to Christmas. The school year reflects the reversal of seasons found in the Southern Hemisphere. The year is divided into four terms with holiday breaks in between. Children arriving from the Northern Hemisphere will either lose or gain six months in their grade placement. Schools try to place a child in their closest age group. Most schools favour the wearing of school uniforms. Students are required to purchase their own textbooks and school supplies.

State school term dates 2007:

Term 1	Monday 29 January until Thursday 5 April
Term 2	Tuesday 17 April until Friday 22 June
Term 3	Tuesday 10 July until Friday 21 September
Term 4	Monday 8 October until Friday 14 December

Note that school term dates vary from state to state in Australia.

Public, state or government schools

Public schools are also known as State or Government schools, as they are run by the State government, and are listed alphabetically by suburb in the Yellow Pages under 'Schools'. State, or Government, Schools are run by the State Department of Education. The Queensland Department of Education's website is www.education.qld.gov.au

Families relocating to Australia on most categories of business visas have special regulations applied to them with regard to schooling in the public (government) system. In addition, fees are payable for enrolment in the public system. These fees must be paid and approval received before the student starts at the school.

'Private' or Independent Schools

Private schools are also known as Independent Schools and are listed by gender or as co-educational in the Yellow Pages under 'Schools'. Private schools will have slightly different term and holiday times to those listed above. Private schools also generally have smaller classes, more grounds and an emphasis on sport and extracurricular activities. Private schools are fee paying and are run independently of the Victorian Department of Education. Many are church affiliated although they accept children of all faiths.

Further information may also be obtained from websites supported by major private schools:

All Hallows' School	3831 3100	www.allhallows.qld.edu.au/
Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie)	3896 2200	www.churchie.qld.edu.au/
Brisbane Boys' College	3309 3500	www.bbc.qld.edu.au/
Brisbane Girls Grammar	3332 1300	www.bggs.qld.edu.au/
Brisbane Grammar	3834 5200	www.bgs.qld.edu.au/
Clayfield College	3262 0262	www.clayfield.qld.edu.au/
St Margaret's Anglican Girls School	3862 0777	www.stmarg.qld.edu.au
St Aidans' Anglican Girls' School	3373 5999	www.staidan.qld.edu.au/
St Joseph's College (Terrace)	3214 5200	www.terrace.qld.edu.au/
St Joseph's Nudgee College	3865 0555	www.nudgee.com/
St Peters Lutheran College	3377 6222	www.stpeters.qld.edu.au
Somerville House	3248 9200	www.somerville@qld.edu.au

Catholic schools

For information on schools operated by the Catholic Church contact Catholic Education Office on **3840 0400**. The website for the Catholic Education Office is www.bne.catholic.edu.au/

Preschools

Most Australian children attend one year of pre-school, usually at four years of age (five in Queensland), before going to primary school. Preschools are also known as kindergartens, 'kindys' or nursery school. An increasing number of kindergartens are now providing classes for three year olds where children have an opportunity to interact with other children of their own age.

Queensland preschools are run on the basis of two to three sessions per day for two to five days per week, depending on the availability of facilities and teachers. Government run preschools usually do not charge a fee and are often located adjacent to or nearby the local primary school. Private preschools charge fees payable on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Suitable placement in preschools or childcare facilities is in very high demand so early enrolment is recommended. Often transferring families experience children being 'wait listed' for the next available vacancy at popular centres.

For more information contact The Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland on **3552 5333**.

Playgroups

Most residential communities will have local playgroups for young children. The local municipal council will have information on local playgroups and other activities of interest for children.

Language classes

French	Alliance Française de Brisbane	191 George Street, Brisbane	3221 7957
Italian	Dante Alighieri Society	23 Foster Street, Newmarket	3356 7731
Various	Foreign Language Centre	Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley	3852 3744

Tertiary education

University and open learning

Information on University degree courses may be obtained by phoning the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) on **3368 1166** or by phoning individual university campuses which are listed in the Yellow Pages telephone directory under Universities and Tertiary Education Colleges.

University courses are also available by correspondence through the Open Learning Australia program. Contact: **1800 677 728** for information on courses and fees.

TAFE

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) offer trade, business and hobby diploma courses from several city and suburban locations. For course information phone **1300 308 233** or visit their website: www.tafe.net

Adult education

The Adult Community Education (ACE) also offers a range of general, language, creative and business courses during day and evening. For further information phone: **131 248**.

University of the Third Age, Brisbane (UTA) offers programs for participation of senior citizens in university courses, 243 Edward Street, Brisbane. For further information phone: **3003 1490**.

8. Religion

Brisbane's multicultural heritage ensures that virtually every major religion is practised in Brisbane. Your Yellow Pages telephone directory (under Churches, Mosques & Temples) can provide a full range of contacts.

Anglican Church of Australia, Diocesan of Brisbane	3835 2222
Buddhist Society of Queensland	5559 4160
Catholic Church, Diocesan of Brisbane, The Catholic Centre	3336 9246
Jewish Community Organizations	3229 4462

9. Leisure and recreational activities

If you would like to know What's Happening around Brisbane contact Brisbane Marketing for up to date information on **3006 6200**.

The 'My City Events and Calendar' can be found at: www.ourbrisbane.com or in the front colour section of your Yellow Pages telephone directory.

January

VB Series One Day International Cricket
The Lord Mayor's Australia Day Celebrations
Australian Women's Hardcourt Championships (Tennis)

February

Chinese New Year and Festivities
Brisbane Motor Show
ANZ Ladies Masters (Golf)

March

Caxton Street Carnivale
St Patrick's Day Parade

April

Redlands Heritage Festival
Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race
Anzac Day Service

May

Brisbane Jazz Festival
Caxton Street Seafood & Wine Festival
Kitefest at Redcliffe
Paniyiri Greek Festival
Sanctuary Cove Boat Show

June

Brisbane Pride Festival
Rotary World Convention
Brisbane Wine Festival
Caravan and Camping Show
Whale Watching Season
Winter Racing Carnival

July

Jazz and Blues Festival
Brisbane International Film Festival
Valley Fiesta
Queensland Biennial Festival of Music

August

The 'Ekka' Royal Queensland Show
Brisbane Boat and Fishing Expo
Ambiwerra Jazz and Wine Festival

September

National Festival of Beers
Brisbane River Festival
Spring Hill Fair
Chinese Moon Festival

October

Brisbane Writers Festival
RACQ Fashion Festival
Off Road 4WD Recreation Show
Italian Festival

November

Brisbane Golf Show
Bird Week
Pan Pacific Masters Games

December

4KQ The Night the River Sings
Mountain Jazz
New Year's Eve at South Bank

Sport

Brisbane's residents are keen sports watchers, as well as participants. Three codes of football are played being Rugby League (NRL), Rugby Union (ARU) and Australian Rules (AFL). Netball, basketball, baseball, hockey and soccer are also popular sports for spectators and major games attract large crowds.

The Brisbane River and the city's close proximity to bay and ocean beaches accommodate many water related activities. Swimming, rowing, sailing and fishing are the most popular year-round water sports.

The Royal Queensland Golf Club situated on the Brisbane River is just one of the many international standard golf courses to be found in Queensland. Golf is extremely popular as a local sport and for the many tourists visiting the state.

The Brisbane Cricket Ground, or 'The Gabba', situated south of the river at Woolloongabba hosts many major sports events and is home to the Brisbane AFL team, the Brisbane Lions. The new Suncorp Stadium, previously Lang Park or affectionately known as 'The Cauldron', hosts the rugby league 'State of Origin' matches between New South Wales and Queensland, and is also the home ground for Brisbane's NRL team, the Brisbane Broncos. Ballymore Sports Ground is currently used by the Queensland Reds and hosts Super 12 and World Cup Rugby matches.

Sporting organisations

AFL Queensland	3394 2433
Bowls Queensland	3355 9988
Brisbane District Golf Association	3279 5207
Hockey Queensland	3399 6577
Netball Queensland	3848 6330

North Brisbane Basketball Association	3300 2210
Queensland Rugby League	3393 2222
Queensland Rugby Union	3214 3333
Queensland Soccer Federation	3420 5866
Queensland Swimming Association	3390 2011
Rowing Queensland	3846 2711
Surf Life Saving Queensland	3846 8000
Tennis Brisbane	3263 8511

Galleries and Museums

Brisbane has some of the finest art galleries and museums in Australia. Its extensive collections are complimented by many smaller galleries and museums, which provide a window into Brisbane's history, culture and artistic trends.

Queensland Art Gallery (South Bank)	3840 7303
Queensland Museum (South Bank)	3840 7555
Museum of Brisbane (City Hall, King George Square)	3403 6363
Brisbane Powerhouse (New Farm Park)	3358 8622
Customs House (on the river at east end of Queen Street)	3365 8999
Institute of Modern Art (Fortitude Valley)	3252 5750
Kingsford-Smith Memorial (Caretakers – Brisbane Airport)	3406 3000
Maritime Museum (South Bank)	3844 5361
Newstead House (Newstead)	3216 1846

Markets

South Bank Craft Village Lantern Markets

South Bank Parklands
Arts, crafts, psychic readings, massage, alfresco dining
Friday 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

South Bank Craft Village Markets

South Bank Parklands
Arts, crafts, psychic readings, massage, alfresco dining
Saturday
11:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Chinatown and Brunswick Street Markets

Brunswick Street Mall, Fortitude Valley
Handmade clothing, recycled fashion, jewellery, crafts
Saturday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Farmer's Market

Widespread throughout Brisbane – see your local paper for locations.
Organic produce, market garden produce, gourmet food items
Saturdays and Sundays

Riverside Markets

Riverside Centre and Eagle Street Pier, Brisbane
Arts, crafts, clothing and homewares
Sunday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Local art and craft markets are also popular. You will find these advertised in local community newspapers.

Booking services

Tickets to most major sporting and entertainment events are available through booking agencies:

Ticketmaster7	136 100	www.ticketmaster7.com/
Ticketek	132 849	www.ticketek.com/

Newspapers

The main newspapers in Brisbane are 'The Courier Mail' (Monday to Saturday) and 'The Sunday Mail' (Sunday). Saturday's edition of the Courier Mail has large classified sections for real estate, employment and motor vehicles along with lifestyle segments. You can access articles and classified advertisements from their website: www.news.com.au/couriermail/

Major daily national newspapers include The Australian Financial Review and The Australian.

Community newspapers

Local community newspapers are usually delivered to your home free of charge. Your local paper is a great way to find out what is happening in your new neighbourhood and it will include a large range of advertisements for local tradesmen and services such as babysitters, gardeners, pool maintenance etc.

Home entertainment and DVD's

Australia uses the PAL-BG colour and channel coverage system. There are over 30 different broadcast formats used throughout the world and most are incompatible with one another. You should consult with the manufacturer of your television and VCR/DVD before bringing them to Australia, as they may not work here.

You can rent or purchase VCR's and/ or DVD's which will play both USA and Australian format, they are called NTSC systems.

Entertainment videos/dvd's can be rented from video hire stores found in most suburban shopping centres.

Free to air television

Brisbane has five free to air television channels being Channels 2, 7, 9, 10 and 8. Channel 2 is the ABC, or Australian Broadcasting Commission, government funded station and Channel 8 is SBS the multicultural television station.

Pay television

Pay or cable television, which is relatively new to Australia, is provided through Foxtel and Optus. For information on connections and cost contact:

Foxtel	(Cable) Enquiry Line	131 999
Optus	(Cable) Enquiry Line	133 937

If you are renting a home you will require the landlord's permission to connect pay television. If you require access to pay TV, you should check the availability before you sign the lease as not all properties currently have access to this facility.

Islands, beaches and the Bay

Brisbane is flanked by beautiful stretches of coastline on the protected waters of Moreton Bay and the open waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Moreton Bay has an archipelago of 365 islands, one for every day of the year. The 1,000 square kilometres of bay has some very special attractions. Moreton Island is predominantly National Park. Its vast tracts of dunes include Mt Tempest the tallest sand dune in the world. On its bay shores beside Tangalooma Resort, dolphins living in the wild make regular visits to meet visitors. Out to sea during winter and spring, humpback whales can be spotted on their migratory paths. North Stradbroke also has endless sandy beaches and locked away in the centre of the island are crystal clear freshwater lakes. A popular destination for weekend campers and day-trippers by taking the Stradbroke Ferry.

If you are planning a day on the water with your own boat, Peel Island's Horseshoe Bay is a popular mooring for a picnic on the bay. Or take a cruise tour to St Helena, the site of Brisbane's early prison. Cruises, daytrips and guided tours operate to several islands.

Moreton Bay has some of the best fishing and finest sailing waters in Australia. You can sail the waves on day cruises or capture the maritime atmosphere at picturesque marinas dotted around the Bay suburbs. Head for the English style resort of Redcliffe, the closest sea beaches to Brisbane. Redcliffe is well known for its local seafood, water sports, fishing and relaxed pace.

Cleveland, on the edge of Moreton Bay, was once planned as the site for Brisbane. It still boasts some of Brisbane's finest heritage buildings including Ormiston House, the Old Lighthouse and Queensland's first licensed pub, the Grand View. A great spot to explore, picnic, dine or shop at the weekend craft markets.

About 40 minutes north of Brisbane, Bribie Island is the only island in Moreton Bay accessible by road. Separated from the mainland by picturesque Pumicestone Passage, Bribie offers visitors a friendly resort, ideal for families with calm water swimming as well as surf beaches, coral reefs for divers, shady picnic spots and great fishing.

Two of Australia's most popular holiday destinations are within easy reach of Brisbane. To the south is the world famous Gold Coast and its fabulous beaches of sparkling blue waters on white sands, vibrant beachfront boulevards, nightlife and a hinterland of wondrous subtropical rainforests. Sixty minutes north of Brisbane is where the Sunshine Coast begins and unspoiled beaches seem to stretch forever. Caloundra, Kawana, Maroochydore, Mooloolaba, Coolumb and Noosa are favoured spots.

Theme parks and attractions

Queensland accommodates five of Australia's finest collection of theme parks all less than sixty minutes from Brisbane.

Dreamworld

Now includes Wiggles World
Dreamworld Parkway, Coomera ph: 5588 1111
Fast action rides, children's rides, Tiger Island
Open Daily 9.30 am – 5:00 pm

Sea World

The Spit, Main Beach ph: 5588 2205
Marine Park, action rides, Polar Bear Shores
Open Daily 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Warner Bros Movie World

Pacific Highway, Oxenford ph: 5573 8485
'Hollywood on the Gold Coast'
Open Daily 9.30 am – 5.30 pm

Wet'n'Wild Water World

Pacific Highway, Oxenford ph: 5573 2255
Water Park, giant wave pool, Dive-In movies
Open Daily 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

For information on these and other attractions contact Tourism Queensland on 3535 3535 or visit their website: www.tq.com.au

Sun protection and skin cancer

You will hear the saying, 'Slip, Slop, Slap'. In Australia we have very high UV rays and as a consequence unprotected skin will burn very easily, even on a cloudy day. The Cancer Council of Queensland recommends that when outside we slip on a tee shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat. Use sunscreen with a high protection factor and do not spend extended periods in direct sunlight during the middle of the day. Special UV protection swimsuits are now available for children. For more information please call the Cancer Council of Australia on **3258 2200**.

Learn to swim

Learn to Swim programs are conducted at swimming pool centres throughout Brisbane. Check your Yellow Pages telephone directory or contact your local council for further information. Queensland state and private schools incorporate 'Learn to Swim' programs for children within the primary curriculum. Many schools have their own swimming pools and district swimming clubs.

10. Health care

Brisbane has a wide range of health care facilities including local suburban General Practitioners, 24 hour Medical Centres, private and public hospitals and specialist doctors. Telephone numbers for doctors may be found in the Yellow Pages telephone directory under 'M' for Medical Practitioners.

Health Insurance

Medicare is a Government health insurance scheme that takes a percentage of annual taxable income from all employed persons in Australia. Medicare covers the cost associated with being treated as a public patient in a public hospital. To be treated as a private patient in a hospital you will have to pay the associated costs or obtain private health insurance.

Medicare also offers private health insurance through a subsidiary group known as Medicare Private.

Private hospital costs vary from hospital to hospital, but like many countries private hospitals are expensive. Fees are based on a daily rate with extra charges levied for doctors, medications and operating theatre charges.

Medicare does NOT cover temporary residents in Australia. If you are not certain of your eligibility for coverage ascertain your visa status (that is the visa classification under which you entered Australia and then contact a Medicare office to check your eligibility).

It is strongly recommended that overseas visitors take out private health insurance for the term of their assignment in Australia. If you are transferring to Brisbane from another state of Australia you should advise Medicare of your new residential address as soon as possible.

International transferees that have health insurance at home may be able to transfer to a local fund, without penalty, at a similar level of cover with an Australian fund if your home health fund is a member of the International Federation of Health Funds.

Remember in a medical emergency -Dial **000** for an ambulance.

Major hospitals

Royal Brisbane Hospital	Herston	3636 8111
Royal Children's Hospital	Herston	3636 3777
Royal Women's Hospital	Herston	3636 8111
Mater Misericordiae Health Services	South Brisbane	3840 8111
Princess Alexandra Hospital	Woolloongabba	3240 2111
The Wesley Private	Auchenflower	3232 7000

Inner welfare clinics

All local councils operate Infant Welfare Clinics at numerous locations in the municipality for the benefit of mothers with preschool age children. A trained nursing sister is in attendance at various hours a week to check children's health and progress and arrange immunisations when necessary. These services are free of charge.

Babysitting agencies

There are quite a few Nanny and Babysitting agencies in Brisbane. It is always a good idea to meet with representatives from a few agencies so that you feel comfortable with the types of service they can provide. Reputable agencies will always provide references on request.

Charlton Brown Australia

221 Bonney Avenue, Clayfield 3221 3855 or

Nanny College

1300 301 888

Dial an Angel

21 Station Road, Indooroopilly 3878 1077

Pet Care

Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Hospitals can be found in many residential areas. Check the Yellow Pages telephone directory for Veterinary Surgeons to find a clinic close to your new residence. You can also contact:

RSPCA

301 Fairfield Road, Fairfield 3426 9999

Animal Welfare League

Rossmans Road, Strathpine 5581 7600

11. Regulatory

Income Tax

Income tax must be paid on all income and interest earned in Australia, including wages and profits made on the sale of most kinds of property. Every person who earns income in Australia should have a Tax File Number, or TFN. Upon your arrival you should lodge an application with the Taxation Office to obtain a personal tax file number. The amount of tax due is assessed at the end of the financial year, which runs from 1 July to 30 June.

A professional taxation consultant will be able to assist you in arranging your financial matters. It is an offence to fail to lodge an income tax return or to refuse to answer questions asked by the Taxation Office. Penalties may be imposed for late lodgement of returns, late payment of tax assessed, understatement of income and overstatement of deductions.

Personal Tax Enquiries

Australian Taxation Office

132 861

Voting

Voting is compulsory for Australian born and naturalised Australians in all Federal, State and Local Government elections. British subjects on the electoral roll prior to January 1984 are also eligible to vote. Forms for enrolling on the electoral roll may be obtained from any Australia Post office. Enquiries regarding voting and enrolling on the electoral roll may be directed to the Electoral Roll Enquiries **132 326** or the Australian Electoral Commission **3834 3400**.

Total fire ban days

Bushfires can be extremely dangerous particularly in the timbered outer suburbs of Brisbane, especially at the end of a long, dry summer. When the risk of bushfires is high the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority may declare a Total Fire Ban Day. It is an offence to light a fire in the open on a Total Fire Ban day and heavy penalties apply. If you are caught in a bushfire area you should follow instructions of fire fighting personnel in the area.

Water restrictions

Permanent Water Saving Rules are now in effect. The decision to lift or introduce water saving rules is made by the Queensland Government based on information it receives from Brisbane Water. The status of water saving rules is reviewed monthly. Weather forecasts, water consumption, seasonal factors, and rainfall in catchments are all taken into consideration. It is important that we continue to save water and conserve our precious drinking water supplies for the long term. Further information can be found at: www.qld.gov.au/

Pet registration

Local Councils strongly enforce the registration of cats and dogs in residential areas and may also limit the number and types of animals you may keep. Pet registration fees are cheaper for desexed pets. Fines apply for unregistered pets, pets that disturb neighbours and pets that are not confined in accordance with local legislation. Severe penalties, including destruction of the dog, apply should your dog attack people or property. Contact your local council for specific pet regulations in your area. Some councils do not require registration if the pet is microchipped.

12. Additional information

Associations and clubs

Australian American Association	3278 6366
American Legion	3269 1945
English Speaking Union	3262 3769
Newcomers Club (Welcome Wagon Australia)	3300 1544
Friends of Music Society	3208 4487
National Trust	3229 1788
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland	3221 0194

Overseas consulates in Brisbane

American	(Sydney)	(02) 9373 9200
British	1 Eagle Street, Brisbane	3223 3200
Canadian	(Sydney)	(02) 9364 3000
Danish	180 Queen Street, Brisbane	3221 8641
German	10 Eagle Street, Brisbane	3221 7819
Greek	215 Adelaide Street, Brisbane	3292 7422
Italian	10 Eagle Street, Brisbane	3229 8944
Japanese	12 Creek Street, Brisbane	4051 5177
New Zealand	(Sydney)	(02) 8256 2000
Spanish	25 Mary Street, Brisbane	4038 2324

Dealing with culture shock

Culture shock can be defined as a sense of disorientation and the accompanying anxiety and stress that result from being transported from one culture to another.

It is important to remember that it is normal, even in the most seasoned expatriates, and usually follows quite recognisable states. It particularly affects the non-working partner of a relocated executive.

The initial excitement and euphoria at the prospect of living in a new state or country often gives way to confusion and frustration as the settling in process begins.

Clues given out by the locals may be unfamiliar and difficult to read. Local customs, language and messages conveyed by body language will need to be learned and interpreted before the appropriate responses can be given.

This can lead to discouragement and despair and a generally negative and critical attitude to the new environment (and even your loved ones) unless steps are taken to move into the next stage.

It is important to:

- become familiar with your immediate surroundings
- resist making negative comparisons between the old and the new environment
- become involved in the local community -join a tennis or golf club or a local bridge group
- get out and about (look in your local newspaper for activities that interest you)
- set goals and targets to acquire new skills and interests (for example, collecting antiques, attending local history or pottery classes)
- find a balance between physical activity, rest and relaxation
- be prepared to ask for advice when necessary
- retain a sense of humour.

Above all, it is vital to communicate with your family, to be open and accepting of each other's thoughts and feelings, and to listen to and support each other. Allow each other time and space to grieve for what has been left behind. Acceptance is reached when the behaviour of the locals no longer seems so strange, when there is pleasure from new opportunities and experience and joy from new friendships -when you finally feel in control.

Being relocated is an opportunity for personal growth, for expanding horizons both physically and emotionally. It is a chance to enjoy a new closeness with family through shared experiences.

Australian Terms and Phrases

Australian Term	Explanation
Baths	Public swimming pools
Beaut	Very good
Billy	Tin can used to boil tea on open fire
Blinds	Window shades
Block of flats	Apartment house
Block	Parcel of land
Bonnet	Hood of the car
Bookings	Reservations
Boot	Trunk of car
Bottling	Canning
Braces	Suspenders
Chemist	Druggist
Chooks	Chickens
Cistern	Toilet tank
Coffee crystals	Unrefined brown sugar served with coffee
Costumes, bathers, togs	Swim suit
Cotton wool	Cotton
Crook (adjective)	No good
Crook, to be	To be sick
Cut lunch	Snack lunch
Dear	Expensive article
Devonshire tea	Tea and scones, jam and whipped cream
Docket	Sales check
Drawing pins	Thumb tacks
Dust bins, rubbish bin	Garbage can, trash
Entry	To charge
Estate agent	Real estate agent
Fair dinkum	For real, the best, on the level
Fairy lights	Coloured lights
First floor	Second floor
Flat	Apartment
Footpath	Sidewalk
Footy	Football (Australian Rules)
Fortnight	Two weeks
Fridge	Refrigerator
Fringe	Bangs
Full stop	Period
Gaol	Jail
Garbo	Garbage collector
Garden	Yard
Globe	Light bulb
Grog	Alcoholic beverage
Ground floor	First floor
Hire purchase	Instalment plan buying
Holiday	Vacation
Jumper	Pullover, sweater
Kilo	2.2 pounds
Kiosk	Small novelty and food stand
Lid	Cover or hat
Lift	Elevator

Australian Term	Explanation
Lounge	Living room
Mate	Good friend
Middy	285 ml glass of beer
Nappy	Diaper
Nought	Zero
Noughts and crosses	Tic-tac-toe
Oldies	Parents
Overtaking lane	Passing lane
Pegs	Clothes pin
Pelmet	Valance
Petrol	Gas
Pikelets	Small pancakes
Pillar box or post box	Mail box
Plaits	Braids
Pommy	Englishman
Postie	Postman
Pot	285ml glass of beer
Power point	Electrical outlet
Queue up	Line up
Reel of cotton	Spool of thread
Right, to be	To be satisfied
Ring, to	To call on the telephone
Rug	Lap robe
Sandshoes	Sneakers
Schooner	425ml glass of beer
Serviette	Table napkin
Shiela	Young girl
Shout, to	To buy you a drink
Singlet	Man's undershirt
Sister	Registered nurse
Skiting board	Mouldings
Spanner	Wrench
Spencer	Lady's undershirt
Supper	Light meal after the evening entertainment
Surgery	Doctor's office
Suspenders	Garters
Tariff	Rate
Tea	Early evening meal
Tick	To check
Tingle	To call on the telephone
Torch	Flash light
Truck call	Long distance
Tucker	Food
Tunic	Uniform
Unit	Apartment
Wash up	Washing the dishes
Windscreen	Windshield
Wireless	Radio
Wog	Virus
Wool	Yarn for knitting
Zed	z

International Clothing Sizes

Men's Clothing

Suits, Jackets, Sweaters

Australia	12	14		16		18		20	
United States	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Great Britain	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Continent	44	46	48	49 ½	51	52 ½	54	55 ½	57

Shirts

Australia	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45
United States	14 ½	15	15 ½	16	16 ½	17	17 ½	18
Great Britain	14 ½	15	15 ½	16	16 ½	17	17 ½	18
Continent	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45

Shoes

Australia	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
United States	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Great Britain	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Continent	40	41	42	43	44 ½	46	47

Women's Clothing

Dresses, Suits, Coats, Sweaters

Australia	10	12	14	16	18	20
United States	8	10	12	14	16	18
Great Britain	10	12	14	16	18	20
Continent	38	40	42	44	46	48

Shoes

Australia	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½	8	8 ½	9
United States	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½	8	8 ½	9
Great Britain	3 ½	4	4 ½	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½
Continent	35	36	36	37	37	38	38	39	39
France	35	35	36	37	38	38	39	39	40

All size equivalents are approximations only

Metric Conversions

Length

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 centimetre (cm)	=0.394 inch	1 inch	=2.54 centimetres
1 metre (m)	=3.278 feet	1 foot	=0.305 metre
1 metre (m)	=1.094 yard	1 yard	=0.914 metre
1 kilometre (km)	=0.621 mile	1 mile	=1.609 kilometres

Weight

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 gram (g)	=0.0353 ounce	1 ounce	=28.35 grams
1 kilogram (kg)	=2.205 pound	1 pound	=456.3 grams
1 tonne	=0.984 long ton		

Area

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 square metre	=10.76 square feet	1 square mile	=2.59 square kms
1 hectare	=2.471 acres	1 acre	=0.405 hectares
1 square kilometre	=0.386 square mile		

Traffic Speed Limits

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
40 kilometre/hour	=24.84 mph	20 mph	=32.18 kilometre/hour
60 km/h	=37.29 mph	30 mph	=48.28 km/h
80 km/h	=49.72 mph	40 mph	=64.36 km/h
100 km/h	=62.15 mph	50 mph	=80.45 km/h
110 km/h	=68.37 mph	60 mph	=96.54 km/h

Liquid Measures

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 millilitre (ml)	=0.0352 fl oz	1 pint	=0.568 litre
1 litre (l)	=1.76 pints	1 gallon	=4.546 litres
1 litre (l)	=0.22 gallon		

Temperature

Celsius to Fahrenheit	
0 degrees Celsius (C°)	= 32 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
25 degrees Celsius (C°)	=77 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
35 degrees Celsius (C°)	=94 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
40 degrees Celsius (C°)	= 103 degrees Fahrenheit (F)

Please Note

At the time of printing, the information contained herein was true and correct. However, we will not accept liability for any misinformation contained herein and all interested persons must undertake their own investigation into specific items.

Notes

Emergency Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY – AMBULANCE, POLICE, FIRE – **DIAL 000**

Service	Name	Number
Local Doctor		
Local Hospital		
Local Police		
Local Fire		

Other Useful Number

Service	Name	Number
Relocation Consultant		
Local Crown Office		
Local Post Office		
Local Council		

General School Search Notes

Schools visited

General Home Search Notes

Homes Visited

General Search Notes

Community facilities

Other
