

# Overview of Queensland

Situated in the northeast corner of Australia, Queensland is widely recognised as the country's holiday playground. Aptly nicknamed the 'Sunshine State', it is known for its hot weather, glorious coastlines and, in particular, the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef is a UNESCO-listed marine park that stretches for more than 1,250 miles (2,000km) along the Queensland coast. This richly-coloured underwater world has one of the most diverse animal and plant ecosystems on earth, and is dotted with idyllic island resorts. Queensland's collection of UNESCO World Heritage Sites also includes the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites at Riversleigh, the Wet Tropics of Queensland, the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, and Fraser Island.

Further south, beyond Brisbane, the coastline is known as the Gold Coast. Here visitors can swim and surf all year round at 35 patrolled beaches along the 45 miles (70km) of coastline. Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland, while Cairns, in the tropical north, is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. Brisbane boasts some world-class attractions too, such as the iconic Story Bridge and the oldest and largest koala sanctuary in the world, the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, where lucky visitors can feed, pet and hold the lovable koalas.

Queensland also has a buzzing cultural scene that should not be overlooked. Pieces from world-renowned street artists energise walls in Brisbane and Toowoomba, and Australia's largest gallery of contemporary art lies in Brisbane. The state's cracking live-music calendar is another draw, with the Ballandean Estate's annual Opera in the Vineyard festival featuring as a highlight. Visitors should make a point of exploring the rich indigenous cultures, which offer tremendous insight into this ancient region through art, dance and guided tours.

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## Key Facts

### **Language:**

English is the official language of Australia.

### **Passport/Visa:**

A valid passport and a visa or ETA is required for travel to Australia. An ETA is an electronically issued and verified visa, not visible in a passport. ETAs are issued to passengers travelling for touristic or business purposes. Tourist ETAs are usually valid for three months. ETAs are obtainable online at: [www.eta.immi.gov.au](http://www.eta.immi.gov.au) or through most travel agents. It is highly recommended that passports are valid six months after departure from a holiday destination.

### **Currency:**

The unit of currency is the Australian dollar (AUD), which is divided into 100 cents. Credit cards are widely accepted and ATMs are freely available throughout the country. Banks and bureaux de change exchange most foreign currencies. Banking hours are generally 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9.30am to 5pm on Friday, but some banks offer extended hours and some are open on Saturday mornings.

### **Electricity:**

Electrical current is 230 volts, 50Hz. Three-pin flat blade plugs are used but are different to those in most other countries, so an adapter is normally required.

# Travel to Queensland

## Climate for Queensland

Straddling the Tropic of Capricorn, Queensland's climate is subtropical. From November to March humidity is generally high throughout the state, but sea breezes bring some relief along the coast. Brisbane in the south has a hot and humid climate, particularly in summer, but winter is mild and sunny with cool nights (July and August). The best time to visit the northern part of the state is from September to November. Tropical cyclones can occur in the north from November to April, mostly during January to March.

## Health Notes when travelling to Australia

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required by travellers over one year of age arriving within six days of having stayed overnight or longer in an infected country. No other special immunisations or medications are required for most trips to Australia; however, insect repellents are strongly advised because of the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. Another health risk is sunburn, and visitors are advised to take precautions. Medical services are excellent but can be expensive, so travellers should ensure that they have adequate insurance. Australia has a reciprocal health agreement with the United Kingdom providing for free hospital emergency medical treatment; proof of UK residence is required.

## Safety Notes when travelling to Australia

The crime rate in Australia is low; however, travellers should be aware that tourists could be targeted by petty criminals. Visitors should be vigilant about personal possessions and travel documents, particularly in popular tourist destinations such as along the Gold Coast. Tropical cyclones normally occur between November and April in some parts of Australia, particularly in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. There is a serious risk of bush fires in summer (November to March), especially in Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and ACT. Also during the summer months, the shallow coastal waters of northern Australia and Queensland become infested with marine stingers, commonly known as box jellyfish, whose sting is highly dangerous and can be deadly. Visitors should pay attention to signs on beaches and follow the instructions of local lifeguards to avoid injury.

## Customs in Australia

Generally an informal attitude, in dress and behaviour, prevails in most social and business situations. Sport, particularly rugby and cricket, is almost a religion in Australia.

## Duty Free in Australia

Travellers to Australia over 18 years do not have to pay customs duty on 2.25 litres of alcohol; and 25 cigarettes or 25g of cigars or tobacco products. All tobacco products in travellers' baggage are included in this category, regardless of where they were purchased. Gifts are included in the A\$900 duty-free allowance. Fresh produce and animal or plant products are prohibited.

## Doing Business in Australia

Those doing business in Australia are sure to find that the friendly yet professional corporate atmosphere of the country will provide them with an exciting opportunity to develop their careers. The business culture of Australia is a bit of a hybrid breed, incorporating the trappings of British formality and conservatism, the egalitarian ethos of Scandinavian countries, and the dynamic, innovative approach to business that is generally thought of as American in origin - rounded out, of course, with typical Australian warmth and humour. The approach to management in Australia is consultative, pragmatic, and strictly non-hierarchical. Those in positions of relative power are accorded respect by virtue of their personal qualities, not simply because they happen to be the boss.

Business etiquette in Australia further reflects this egalitarian ethos. Business people should use titles initially, though they will almost certainly be told to dispense with them and refer to their colleagues by their first names. They should maintain eye contact when speaking to their associates, as this is regarded as a sign of forthrightness and trustworthiness, qualities that Australian business people tend to favour over showiness, self-aggrandisement or empty promises. Business meetings in Australia should be scheduled about a week in advance, and then confirmed a few days before they are due to take place.

Colleagues should be punctual, as lateness can be seen as a symptom of flakiness or indifference. Business meetings in Australia do not generally proceed from a set agenda. Rather, they are viewed as open forums, in which ideas are to be debated and discussed. In fact, over-preparing for a meeting can make participants seem pushy, as though they wish to bully others into adopting their opinions on the issue at hand. The dress code for business in Australia remains surprisingly traditional: dark suits and ties are the norm for men; for women, business suits, worn either with pants or a skirt. As a general rule, business people should avoid loud jewellery and accessories, as to Australian eyes they might make them seem arrogant. The official language of business in Australia is English, and business hours are generally from 8.30am (or 9am) to 5pm (or 5.30pm), Monday to Friday.

## Communication in Australia

The international dialling code for Australia is +61. Hotels, cafes and restaurants offering free WiFi are widely available; purchasing a local prepaid SIM card can be a cheaper option than paying international roaming costs, which can be quite high.

## Tipping in Australia

Most service providers in Sydney don't expect a tip, so travellers shouldn't feel pressured into giving one. A tip of 10 percent is standard in restaurants, however, and passengers usually round up to the nearest dollar or more in taxis.

## Passport/Visa Note

A valid passport and a visa or ETA is required for travel to Australia. An ETA is an electronically issued and verified visa, not visible in a passport. ETAs are issued to passengers travelling for touristic or business purposes. Tourist ETAs are usually valid for three months. ETAs are obtainable online at: [www.eta.immi.gov.au](http://www.eta.immi.gov.au) or through most travel agents. It is highly recommended that passports are valid six months after departure from a holiday destination.

# Airports in Queensland

## Brisbane Airport (BNE)

### *Brisbane Airport*

**www.brisbaneairport.com.au**

**Location:** Brisbane The airport is situated eight miles (13km) northeast of Brisbane.

**Time:** GMT +10.

**Contacts:** Tel: +61 (0)7 3406 3000.

**Transfer between terminals:** The Airport Transfer Bus takes passengers between terminals and from both terminals to the Skygate shopping precinct for free.

**Getting to the city:** The Airtrain Rail Link departs every 15 minutes to and from the Brisbane Central Business District. It operates between 5.15am and 10pm, taking about 20 minutes. There is also a direct link to the Gold Coast. Taxis, limousines and airport buses are also available from both terminals.

**Car rental:** Car hire companies represented at the airport include Avis, Budget, Hertz, Europcar, Redspot and Thrifty.

**Airport Taxis:** Black & White Cabs and Yellow Cab Co can be hailed at the airport. A A\$3.70 airport pick-up fee is charged in the airport taxi ranks, and the meter fee is added to this cost.

**Facilities:** The airport includes cafes, bars, and restaurants, bureaux de change and ATMs, duty-free shopping facilities, and a huge variety of other shopping opportunities. Hotel reservation and visitor information services are also available.

**Parking:** Short-term parking is adjacent to the terminals; long-term parking is connected to the terminal via a covered walkway. The Airpark is further from the terminals and is accessible by the complimentary shuttle service.

## Cairns International (CNS)

### *Cairns International Airport*

**www.cairnsairport.com**

**Location:** The airport is situated four miles (7km) north of Cairns.

**Time:** GMT +10.

**Contacts:** Tel: +61 (0)7 4080 6703.

**Transfer between terminals:** A covered walkway connects the Domestic and International terminals (about a five minute walk).

**Getting to the city:** There is an airport shuttle bus service to hotels and the city centre and taxi ranks are located directly outside the arrival halls. Most major hotels operate courtesy bus services to and from the airport.

**Car rental:** Avis, Red Spot, Budget, Hertz, Europcar and Thrifty are represented at the airport and can be found in the Arrivals Halls of T1 and T2.

#### **Airport Taxis:**

**Facilities:** Shops, restaurants, bars, currency exchange and ATMs, baby-changing facilities, showers and baggage storage are available in domestic and international terminals. Duty-free shops are also available and facilities for the disabled are good.

**Parking:** The airport has drive-up-and-park rates as well as long-term parking.

**Departure Tax:** None.

## Gold Coast Airport (OOL)

### *Coolangatta Airport*

**[www.goldcoastairport.com.au](http://www.goldcoastairport.com.au)**

**Location:** Gold Coast, Queensland Gold Coast Airport is located on the Gold Coast Highway, one mile (3km) from Coolangatta.

**Time:** GMT +10.

**Contacts:** Tel: +61 (0)7 5589 1100.

**Getting to the city:** The SkyBus Byron Bay Express runs daily services from the airport to a centrally located stop in Byron Bay on Jonson Street, and the SkyBus Gold Coast Airport Shuttle connects the airport to the most popular tourist locations. TransLink's integrated network includes G:link trams, Surfside Buslines and Queensland Rail, with Routes 777 and 760 departing from the airport. Taxis are available at the southern end of the terminal, outside the domestic arrivals area.

**Car rental:** Car rental companies, including Avis, Hertz, Budget, Thrifty and Europcar, are located opposite the check-in counters.

#### **Airport Taxis:**

**Facilities:** Travelex has currency exchange and ATM facilities at the airport. Other facilities include cafes, bars and snack bars, wifi, various shops and duty-free stores. Facilities for the disabled are good.

**Parking:** Short- and long-term parking is available adjacent to the terminal building. Disabled parking spaces are available in both lots with direct access to the walkway linking to the terminal building.

**Departure Tax:** None.

## Brisbane

Australia's third largest city has a relaxed, easy-going ambience that is well suited to its moniker: 'The City of Sundays'. As the capital of the state of Queensland, however, it has a serious side too, and despite its laid-back aura it is filled with the cosmopolitan hustle and bustle of a major urban hub. Brisbane has several interesting districts, a good selection of street cafes, a wonderful riverside park, a very full cultural calendar, and a vibrant nightlife. Culture vultures should head for the South Bank, home to the Queensland Museum with its interactive displays; the Queensland Art Gallery with its magnificent collection; and the Performing Arts Centre, where international theatre companies and performing artists take to the stage.

There is plenty to keep shopaholics busy too, with the designer boutiques and department stores of Queens Street Mall ready to welcome visitors and numerous bustling markets dotted around the city. Sport fanatics, as always the case in Australia, are well catered for thanks to the Gabba sports ground and Suncorp Stadium, where the Wallabies often take on the world at rugby. The city is generally easy to explore on foot, and provides the perfect base from which to make daytrips to popular surrounding areas.

Situated on Australia's fabled Gold Coast, Brisbane provides easy access to Australia's east coast resorts and theme parks on the Pacific Motorway. A sub-tropical climate ensures that a holiday in Brisbane will be a sunny experience no matter what time of year is chosen. Most of the rain falls in summer, but not enough to deter holidaymakers. Most of those who travel to Brisbane come for leisure and pleasure. It is an ideal destination for a family holiday, a surfing holiday, or as a good base for anyone wanting to visit the nearby National Parks.

## Getting around in Brisbane

There are three main types of public transport in Brisbane: buses, trains and ferries (CityCats), all operated by TransLink. Bus routes may be somewhat complicated for visitors, but they do cover most of the city. Buses need to be flagged down and will not automatically stop at bus stops. Two free bus routes that cover a number of popular tourist attractions are available in Brisbane: the City Loop operates around the CBD between red signposted bus stops, using distinctive red buses; and the Spring Hill Loop operates between the CBD and Spring Hill between yellow signposted bus stops, using distinctive yellow buses. Trains are quick and efficient, covering most of the city and suburbs. The ferry system, which serves points along the Brisbane River, is very popular with visitors. Ticketing for all forms of transport is cheap, and works on a zoning system. A variety of passes are available. Cycling is a popular option, and the city has many dedicated cycle-paths. Trains, buses and ferries are equipped to carry bicycles. Taxis can be found in ranks in the city centre and near most major hotels. Taxis may be pre-booked or hailed on the street. Driving a car in the city centre can be confusing because it consists mainly of a grid of one-way streets. There are parkades available downtown.

## Climate in Brisbane

Brisbane enjoys a subtropical climate with very high humidity and temperatures in the summer months, between December and February, and dry, mild winters, between June and August. Summers in Brisbane are often plagued with thunderstorms, heavy hailstorms, cyclonic winds and drought, but generally the warm, sunny weather is well suited to the holidaymakers who visit for leisure and pleasure all year round. The rainy season runs from November to March. Temperatures average between 67F (19C) and 84F (29C) in the peak summer months, but it is only marginally cooler the rest of the year, with the exception of the winter months, when temperatures average between 49F (9C) and 71F (22C).

## Sightseeing in Brisbane

The most popular tourist attractions in Brisbane include Sea World, the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, South Bank, and the Queensland Maritime Museum, located on the southern bank of the Brisbane River. The best views of the city can be earned by climbing the iconic Story Bridge on the Story Bridge Adventure Climb, or hiking up Mt Cootthra for splendid panoramic views.

Visitors to Brisbane who are travelling with kids in tow will be pleased to know that besides being in one of the most naturally beautiful destinations in the world, Brisbane itself offers plenty of activities, both outdoors and in. Parents can take the kids to the Children's Art Centre at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art for a more cultural outing, while a trip to Sea World, Queensland's most popular attraction, is guaranteed to please with dolphins, penguins and even sharks to captivate and enthrall children of all ages.

Travellers can pack a picnic, plenty of sunscreen and a Frisbee or ball and head to the New Farm Park where rolling green grass, fig trees and playgrounds offer options for exercise and relaxation. Animal lovers can't miss a visit to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary where visitors can interact with cuddly koalas and even get to hold or feed them. At the South Bank Parklands children can swim at the artificial beach, enjoy a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane, meet other kids in the playgrounds or even rollerblade and skateboard along the river's edge. Other great parks in Brisbane include Marchant Park and Peace Park, which both feature excellent playground areas.

## Brisbane Attractions

## The Gabba

Named after the suburb of Woolloongabba in which it is located, and with a seating capacity of 42,000, the famous Gabba Cricket Ground is just a short bus ride from the city of Brisbane. Visitors can check out locals, the Queensland Bulls Cricket team or the Brisbane Lions Australian Rules football team, depending on when they choose to visit. Over the years The Gabba has hosted athletics, Australian Rules football, baseball, concerts, cricket, cycling, rugby league, rugby union, soccer and pony and greyhound races. Those lucky enough to catch an international cricket match are ensured a great day out. Sport is integral to Australian culture and even for those who are not themselves fanatical a visit to this passionately supported sports ground will be an exciting experience.

## Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

The world's oldest and largest koala sanctuary, the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is home to more than just the cute and cuddly koala, but also to kangaroos, Tasmanian devils, wombats, echidnas and various species of reptiles, as well as Australian parrots, cockatoos, kookaburras and cassowaries. Visitors can handle the koalas here (for a fee), making this one of only a few sanctuaries in the world where this is possible. Feeding and petting is also permitted and is carefully monitored, so this an ideal activity for families travelling with small children.

**Website:** [www.koala.net](http://www.koala.net)

## South Bank

The South Bank is a central Brisbane district packed with world-class attractions and experiences for visitors. It attracts nearly 10 million people each year, mostly to the South Bank Parklands, which were established on the former site of World Expo 88. The Parklands contain Australia's only man-made beach and lagoon, right in the heart of the city, known as South Bank Beach. There are also rainforest walks, picnic and barbecue areas and water features. One of Brisbane's most popular tourist attractions, South Bank is also home to the Queensland Cultural Centre, which includes Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery, the State Library of Queensland, the Greater Union Hoyt's South Bank Cinemas and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, which all line the Brisbane River proudly.

Shoppers and fashion lovers will enjoy Little Stanley Street, where all the latest in fashion can be picked up from the boutiques and retail stores lining the strip. The South Bank Art and Craft Markets take place every Friday night, as well as every Saturday and Sunday during the day. Visitors should head to the South Bank Visitors Centre which provides information on current events, including cultural activities, accommodation options, event information and details regarding restaurant and bar facilities.

## Story Bridge

One of the oldest bridges in Australia, the Story Bridge is a 3,517-foot (1,072m) long cantilevered bridge that spans the Brisbane River, connecting Fortitude Valley to Kangaroo Point. Brave visitors who are certain they don't suffer from vertigo can climb to the top of the bridge and be rewarded with breathtaking views over Brisbane's cityscape. One of only a handful of bridge climbs in the world, the Story Bridge is well worth a visit for those travelling through Brisbane. Advance bookings are recommended and money can sometimes be saved by booking online. Special deals are available for groups and there is even an abseiling option.

**Website:** [www.sbac.net.au](http://www.sbac.net.au)

## Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

Formerly known as the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves, the Gondwana Rainforests were renamed after a southern supercontinent that existed approximately 550 million years ago. Fossil records show that Gondwana was covered by the same kind of rainforests as the latter-day attraction.

The reserve includes 50 national parks that include Lamington National Park, Mount Chinghee National Park, Springbrook National Park, Mount Barney National Park and Main Range National Park, among many others that lie on the New South Wales side of Queensland. There are very few places on earth that contain so many plants and animals that remain fairly unchanged from their fossil records. The rainforests are remarkable and hugely rewarding for hikers and nature-lovers. Unsurprisingly, the forests have been UNESCO-listed.

There are a number of entry-points to the rainforest and, despite the pristine nature of the region, there is sufficient infrastructure to enable in-depth exploration of the forest, with well-maintained access-roads and walking trails, a number of adventure tour operators offering activities, and various accommodation options.

## Sea World

One of Queensland's most popular attractions for visitors of all ages and an absolute must while on holiday with the kids in Brisbane, Sea World offers marine attractions, rides, shows and much more. Visitors can check out the ocean's most fearsome predator at Shark Bay, get up close and personal with Australia's only polar bears at Polar Bear Shores or see the Fairy penguins in their penguin suits, before taking a stroll through the Sea World Aquarium to discover Australia's exotic marine life. The adventurous can climb aboard the Jet Rescue rollercoaster ride, which is an exhilarating ride for kids of all ages.

**Website:** [seaworld.com.au](http://seaworld.com.au)

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## Cairns

The cosmopolitan, colourful city of Cairns, in far north Queensland, is a tourist hub and the gateway to two of the world's most awesome World Heritage Sites, the Great Barrier Reef and the 110-million-year-old Daintree Rainforest.

Cairns started life as a small fishing encampment, which received an injection of prosperity in the 19th century when gold was discovered to the north and tin and timber began to be exploited in the nearby Atherton Tablelands. The harbour and fishing operations increased in importance, and tourism arrived in the early 20th century when marlin fishing became popular, and the world discovered the delights of exploring the Great Barrier Reef.

Aided by its pleasant, warm climate, the relaxed tropical town has now become a frenzied international tourism centre, flooded with visitors most of the year, its streets lined with souvenir stores, eateries and some first class hotels. The harbour is clogged with streamlined pleasure boats, and the offshore islands bristle with resorts. To cater for tourists the city fathers have even created a man-made salt-water lagoon and sandy beach on the Esplanade to replace the original muddy swamp that crowned Trinity Bay.

To holiday in Cairns is to holiday in a city that has a mission to make tourists as happy as possible. Facilities and fun recreation opportunities are excellent, and the city is a relatively inexpensive destination. Anyone who enjoys a sunny beach holiday should travel to Cairns, where the magnificent man-made lagoon offers safe swimming all year round, the sunshine guarantees a suntan, and there are plenty of shops, restaurants and nightclubs to indulge in. A Cairns holiday is also popular among young adventure tourists, with pursuits such as scuba diving, skydiving, and ballooning on offer. And, of course, the Great Barrier Reef is just a hop and a skip away.

## Getting around in Cairns

Central Cairns is compact enough to explore on foot. Visitors tend to congregate around the Esplanade and city centre, where there are plenty of taxis and bus stops. The public buses cover most areas with reasonable fares, though visitors should note that bus services are less frequent at night and over weekends. The city's Sunbuses run from a central transit terminal and maps and timetables are freely available from hotels and other tourist establishments. Metered taxis operate day and night from ranks throughout the city, or can be flagged down in the street. Car hire firms are plentiful for those wishing to explore further afield. Naturally, boat rides and cruises are also a popular transport option in Cairns.

## Climate in Cairns

Cairns has a tropical climate with little distinction between the seasons. Temperatures are warm to hot all year round, with the occasional cold snap during June and July. The rainy season is between November and May, characterised by sudden heavy falls and occasional tropical cyclones. Generally though, blue skies, sunshine, gentle breezes and pleasantly warm temperatures are the order of the day.

## Sightseeing in Cairns

Any time of year is a good time to visit Cairns due to its tropical climate and the splendid variety of natural attractions and outdoor activities on the city's doorstep. A stay in Cairns is a dream come true for nature lovers, particularly scuba divers.

Visitors can meet some of Australia's indigenous animals such as crocodiles, red pandas and koalas at Wildlife Zone or the Cairns Tropical Zoo; ride the gondolas above a canopy of the rainforest, over magnificent waterfalls and gorges, to the village of Kuranda on the Skyrail, one of Cairns' most popular attractions; or pick out some stunning opal jewellery at Quilpie Opals.

Those keen on venturing out of the city should head straight for the coast where the Great Barrier Reef awaits avid snorkelers and scuba divers, while the verdant Daintree Rainforest, part of the oldest tropical rainforest still surviving on earth, is best explored on horseback or from the treetops. Nearby Cape Tribulation is also an outdoor enthusiasts paradise, with activities such as kayaking, snorkelling, jungle surfing and river cruising on offer. The Whitsunday Islands, of which 70 percent has been declared a national or marine park, boast the resort village of Airlie Beach and are the perfect place to relax and enjoy the picturesque surroundings.

## Cairns Attractions

## Bowling Green Bay National Park

About a six-hour drive south of Cairns lies Bowling Green Bay National Park. Covering 55,300 hectares, this is the largest National Park in the region, an area once home to the Wulgurukaba Aboriginal people who have left their mark with beautiful rock paintings. Bowling Green Bay National Park is situated between Townsville and Bowen and includes the Mount Elliot area and adjacent coastal wetlands, salt pans and mangrove swamps. Alligator Creek meanders through the park, with beautiful waterfalls and cascades crashing into deep pools, surrounded by tropical rainforest. Bowling Green Bay is a glorious place to enjoy hiking and camping and is a popular weekend excursion from Cairns.

**Website:** [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay)

## The Esplanade

The recently renovated Cairns Esplanade is the entertainment hub for visitors to the city, providing numerous recreational opportunities, and lined with a host of good restaurants, bars and cafes. Apart from a safe, sandy swimming lagoon and vast lawns used for all sorts of purposes from picnics and barbecues to kite flying, the Esplanade features wonderful Saturday arts and crafts markets, spiced up by buskers and colourful street characters. The Cairns Esplanade is also a great place to get some exercise in the city, popular with joggers and the site of a free fitness programme with classes four days a week that anybody can join. There is never a dull moment on this lively foreshore.

**Website:** [www.cairnsesplanade.com](http://www.cairnsesplanade.com)

## Skyrail

The most popular tourist attraction in Cairns is the Skyrail rainforest cableway, which travels nearly five miles (7.5km) from the Caravonica Terminal, the gondolas gliding above the canopy of the rainforest over magnificent waterfalls and lush gorges, to the village of Kuranda. En route passengers can alight temporarily at two stations to explore the boardwalks that have been constructed in the heart of the forest. Interpretative centres have been set up so visitors can learn about the ecology, fauna and flora of the fascinating ancient rainforest. The return journey takes about two and a half hours, and the gondolas seat up to six people. Booking in advance is advisable.

**Website:** [www.skyrail.com.au](http://www.skyrail.com.au)

## Paronella Park

Magical Paronella Park was the imaginative brainchild of a young entrepreneur, Jose Paronella, who built his dream castle on this site near Mena Creek, about 75 miles (120km) south of Cairns, in 1929. Since then the castle has come to be regarded as an architectural marvel, and a top tourist attraction, which has been used as a set for several movies. The picturesque grounds, overlooking Mena Creek Falls, feature interesting forest walks, bamboo gardens, a secret garden and a 'tunnel of love'. Cultural performances and guided walks are offered to visitors as part of the admission price. In 1997, Paronella Park was recognised as a historical treasure and listed by the National Trust. It is a popular venue for romantic events such as weddings and consistently delights visitors.

**Website:** [www.paronellapark.com.au](http://www.paronellapark.com.au)

## The Wet Tropics of Queensland

The Wet Tropics of Queensland is said to be the oldest tropical rainforest still surviving on earth, and is a UNESCO-listed site containing the highest number of rare or threatened plant and animal species on the planet. It also has 13 different types of rainforest and 29 species of mangrove. Among the national parks included in the Wet Tropics are Barron Gorge National Park, Black Mountain National Park, Cedar Bay National Park, Daintree National Park, Girringun National Park and Wooroonooran National Park.

This unique area covers around 745 miles (1,200km) of northern Queensland, and is visited by droves of tourists, who access it usually from Cairns, via Daintree Village. Visitors will enjoy an unrivalled natural experience, from the beautiful golden beaches to hiking through ancient forest ecosystems full of gorgeous birds, primitive flowering plants, and fascinating animals such as the estuarine crocodile. Daintree is about two hours north of Cairns, on the Captain Cook Highway, making it easily accessible for excursions and weekend getaways.

**Website:** [www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au/wet-tropics-rainforest/](http://www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au/wet-tropics-rainforest/)

## Great Barrier Reef

One of the great natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef is as big as the total combined area of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and contains more than 1,000 islands that range from sandy mounds to rainforest isles. Divers, snorkellers and nature lovers can reach specific sites by air or by water taxi. Non-divers can view this underwater world from a glass-bottomed boat.

The Reef ecosystem has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years to give life to almost 7,000 species of plants and animals. It is home to some endangered species such as the green loggerhead turtle, and is a breeding site for humpback whales. Visitors can either cruise the islands or make a base in Cairns or one of the many seaside towns along the Queensland coast. Visitors can access the Great Barrier Reef from numerous regions in Queensland, from the southern gateway of Bundaberg, Coral Coast and Country to Gladstone, Capricorn, the Whitsundays, Mackay, Townsville and Tropical North Queensland, including Cairns.

**Website:** [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

## Cape Tribulation

Located within the Daintree National Park and the Wet Tropics area of Queensland, the pristine and picturesque destination of Cape Tribulation is well worth a visit while travelling through Queensland. Visitors can explore the oldest rainforest on earth from the treetops or on horseback, relax on a river cruise and spot Australia's famous crocodiles, or simply take in the marvellous scenery that abounds. The iconic Great Barrier Reef is just a short boat ride away for adventurers who desire world-class snorkelling; beach lovers will welcome strolls or horseback rides along the spectacular coast. Accommodation such as luxury resorts, self-catering cabins, bed and breakfasts and camping facilities are available.

## Riversleigh

Australia's most famous fossil site, Riversleigh, in northwest Queensland, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an extension of the Lawn Hill National Park. It contains the fossil remains of ancient mammals, birds and reptiles of Oligocene and Miocene age, which were found in limestone by freshwater pools, and in caves during the period when the surrounding ecosystem was evolving from rainforest to semi-arid grassland. Most of what is known about the evolution of Australian mammals in the last 30-million years comes from bones found at a single site in the Riversleigh fossil beds, half of which were unearthed in one hour. Species such as primitive koalas and wombats, huge crocodile and large, flightless birds, as well as a range of ancestral thylacines (Tasmanian tigers) were discovered in Riversleigh.

**Website:** [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/boodjamulla-riversleigh/about.html](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/boodjamulla-riversleigh/about.html)

## Cairns Zoom and Wildlife Dome

This spectacular attraction is enclosed by a 65-foot (20m) high glass dome on top of Cairns' iconic Reef Hotel Casino and offers exhibits and shows featuring some of Australia's most exotic and fascinating animals. Here visitors can learn more about these unique creatures and get a fabulous introduction to the Wet Tropics Rainforest area around Cairns, preparing them for all the close-up encounters they may have with the indigenous wildlife. In this rainforest environment visitors can experience the thrill of birds such as parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, doves and rosellas swooping freely overhead and come face-to-face with the adorable rainforest wallabies. Of course, the fact that the wildlife experience is housed in a giant dome makes this attraction wonderful no matter what the weather.

**Website:** [www.cairnsdome.com.au](http://www.cairnsdome.com.au)

## Townsville

With a magnetic charm and dozens of fabulous attractions and golden sandy beaches, this laid-back little town oozes with character and takes pride in being the unofficial capital of Queensland. Townsville is located on the shores of Cleveland Bay and with views of the picturesque and idyllic Magnetic Island in the distance it's not hard to see why people are so strongly drawn here.

Townsville played an active role in World War II, when American and Australian troops were stationed here during the Pacific campaign. Japanese bombs were even dropped in the harbour in 1942, but thankfully there was very little damage to the coastal city. Today an army of local and international tourists visit, drawn to the year-round good weather and varied attractions to suit any inclination.

Visitors can take a trip to the magnificent Magnetic Island to explore the National Park, or take the plunge and do some reef diving to discover the famous Yongala Wreck or Great Barrier Reef to the east. Back on land, they can go on a 4x4 trip into the Outback to the west, marvel at the magnificently verdant tropical rainforests dotted with waterfalls to the north, or visit the mango and sugar cane farms to the south.

With numerous restaurants and bars, wonderful shopping opportunities and a quiet cosmopolitan feel, Townsville has something for everyone, though it should be noted that saltwater crocodiles are present in all swimming locations here, including the beach, so caution should be exercised in the water.

## Getting around in Townsville

Townsville's public transport system incorporates bus services operated by Sunbus, which provides regular and efficient services between major points throughout the city. Taxis can generally be found outside major hotels and tourist sites, are easily hailed on the street, and usually operate 24 hours a day throughout the metropolitan area. Ferries and water taxis operate regularly to Magnetic Island and Palm Island. Car rental agencies can be found in the city and travellers planning on exploring further afield should opt for a rental car, which is the most convenient option when exploring the wider region.

## Climate in Townsville

With around 3,000 hours of sunshine a year Townsville experiences a tropical savannah climate. Its rainfall is not nearly as high as other tropical regions such as Cairns, with the majority of the rain falling in the 'wet season', which runs from November through April. Winters are mild and pleasant, moderated by southeasterly trade winds and far from cold. July is the coldest month of winter, with average daily temperatures still reaching 77F (25C). The summer months are warm and December is the hottest month, with daytime temperatures soaring to 88F (31C). Townsville is prone to tropical cyclones between November and May which form mainly over the Coral Sea.

## Sightseeing in Townsville

Townsville is one of Queensland's best loved holiday destinations and boasts numerous attractions and activities for tourists.

Those interested in the WWII history of the city, and all things military, should visit the Army Museum of North Queensland. Animal lovers shouldn't miss a visit to the Billabong Sanctuary to meet some of the unique Australian wildlife. The Museum of Tropical Queensland, which is interactive and state-of-the-art, tells the tale of the maritime history of the region, as well as detailing the natural and human history of tropical Queensland. The whole family will enjoy Reef HQ, a huge aquarium, and the neighbouring Cultural Centre, which documents the history and culture of the Aboriginal peoples of the region.

Those who seek out heights will enjoy a hike up the magnificent Castle Hill, which looms above Townsville and provides spectacular views. Magnetic Island can clearly be seen from the granite outcrop, situated nearly five miles (8km) away, and the island is a very popular excursion from the city. Half of the island is covered by the National Park of the same name, a haven for nature lovers.

## Townsville Attractions

## Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island was named by Captain James Cook in 1770, when he believed that the landmass of the island affected the magnetic compass on his ship, 'Endeavour'. More than half of the island, which is about five miles (8km) from Townsville, is a National Park known for its rugged landscape of granite boulders, hoop pines and eucalyptus trees. The island has 23 beaches and bays, some of which can only be reached on foot. There are more than 12 miles (20km) of walking trails marked out on the island. Part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park fringes the island, which is also home to the most northerly colony of free-ranging koala bears in Australia.

The island offers a range of massage treatments and there are two regular markets for visitors to enjoy. Visitors will also find a diverse and vibrant community of artists, whose works are inspired by the natural beauty and history of Magnetic island. Art lovers can shop and admire local art just metres from the beach, or visit some of the intimate local galleries. A wide range of accommodation and transport is available.

**Website:** [www.thisismagneticisland.com.au](http://www.thisismagneticisland.com.au)

## The Strand

This 1.3-mile (2.2km) long tropical beach and palm tree-dotted promenade is one of Townsville's most popular attractions. Visitors can take a leisurely stroll, enjoy the scenery from their bicycles, take a dip at one of the safe swimming beaches, or enjoy a picnic overlooking the ocean at one of the many designated picnic areas in the gardens. Families travelling with their children in tow can visit the nearby water park, while the trendy restaurants and bars that line the strip make a wonderfully romantic and picturesque setting at any time of day, with views stretching out over to Magnetic Island. The fourth Friday of each month also sees Strand Park used for night markets, which are great places to pick up some unique souvenirs in Australia, such as Aboriginal arts and crafts, and boomerangs.

## Riverway

This beautiful riverfront parkland stretches along nearly seven miles (11km) of the Ross River, with nodes at Pioneer Park, Loam Island, Apex Park and the Ross River Dam. The Riverway has fast become one of Townsville's most popular tourist attractions. Pioneer Park is the activity hub where visitors can enjoy sport, entertainment, performing arts, visual arts, swimming in the two huge lagoons, dining and shopping at the village precinct, and even picnicking and barbecuing along the picturesque shores of the Ross River. There is something to amuse and delight people of all ages, making the Riverway popular with locals and tourists alike.

## Reef HQ Aquarium

One of the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world, the Reef HQ Aquarium was built as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Featuring 130 species of coral, 120 species of fish and plenty of star fish, sea urchins, sponges and sea cucumbers, Reef HQ also features a predator exhibit, a children's section, a gift shop and a cafe to provide refreshments. A trip to the Reef HQ Aquarium is a must for all visitors who plan on taking a dive at the Great Barrier Reef, as they'll learn more about the species of marine life they might encounter while exploring the miraculous underwater world. The Aquarium is a great attraction for families in Townsville, especially on a rainy day.

**Website:** [www.reefhq.com.au](http://www.reefhq.com.au)

## Mackay

Virtually surrounded by sugar cane fields and aptly nicknamed the 'sugar capital' of Australia, Mackay is nestled in the heart of the tropics and hosts thousands of visitors each year. With classic 19th-century colonial architecture and dozens of fabulous natural attractions, Mackay has a unique charm and a little something for everyone.

With the mighty blue Pioneer River flowing past the city, the surrounding areas boast spectacular rainforests in national parks and beautiful islands just off the coast of Queensland. Not to mention the palm-fringed golden beaches, relaxed atmosphere, fabulous shopping and nightlife opportunities and a close proximity to the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. It's not hard to see why visitors love this small coastal city.

Visitors can trek through the rainforest of the Finch Hatton Gorge to the waterfalls, spot the elusive platypus or bandicoot in the Eungella National Park, snorkel along the Great Barrier Reef, soak up the history at Outback towns such as Clermont and Nebo or along the Heritage Walk, visit the mining town of Blair Athol, or frolic along one of 31 unspoilt, pristine beaches such as at Cape Hillsborough where wild wallabies can often be seen on the beach at sunrise.

Other activities available to visitors in Mackay include golf, fabulous reef, estuary and creek fishing, and even 4x4 trails, while those looking for some cultural activities can peruse Mackay's modern art gallery, Artspace Mackay, or stroll around the weekend markets to pick up some local crafts and produce, while the restaurant scene is something to be explored.

## Gold Coast, Queensland

Australia's beloved Gold Coast stretches south from Queensland's capital, Brisbane, along 45 miles (70km) of coastline into northern New South Wales. The stunning array of beaches along this coastline are a major drawcard, and where once only the surf graced the shoreline today there is a plethora of high-rise accommodation, giant theme parks, vibrant nightlife and countless restaurants. The sun shines here 300 days out of the year, and the beach resort towns with their alluring names all offer soft golden sand, rolling waves and the chance to gain a perfect suntan.

Not even the severe cyclone of 2011 could keep tourists off the stunning beaches of the Gold Coast for long, and the region has long since fully recovered. More than nine million visitors descend on the Gold Coast every year, and although the main attraction is the glitzy nightlife and fun resort lifestyle the region does have more to offer. For serious surfers, Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads are known for great surf breaks, and nature-lovers can get a dose of beauty at two of the best national parks in Queensland, Lamington and Springbrook, which are just beyond the coast.

## Climate in Gold Coast, Queensland

The Gold Coast generally enjoys a warm, subtropical climate all year round with temperatures seldom dropping below 68F (20C). During the summer months, between November and May, the area experiences daily temperatures exceeding 86F (30C), with frequent afternoon showers. Cyclones and flooding also occur during this period. The rain abates from June to October and the days are still warm, although a pullover might be required on some evenings. The Gold Coast enjoys about 300 days of sunshine a year, with two distinct seasons. The wet season occurs in the summer months, the rainfall being an upshot of the high temperatures and tropical humidity, and the dry season occurs from June to October, providing the Gold Coast with consistent weather and pleasant temperatures.

## Sightseeing in Gold Coast, Queensland

One of the best destinations in the world for fun in the sun, the Gold Coast is all about beaches, glitzy hotels, theme parks, and a riotous nightlife. Surfer's Paradise is the holiday hub on the Gold Coast and the main lure for travellers, with glorious shopping, partying and dining options to tantalise visitors. For a brilliant view of Surfer's Paradise, visitors can climb up to the Observation Deck of the Q1 building, the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere. Favourite theme parks along the Gold Coast include Sea World, Movie World, Wet n Wild, WhiteWater World and Dreamworld.

Those who want to meet the local (non-human) wildlife, should head to the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, David Fleays Wildlife Park or Paradise Country for close encounters with animals such as koalas. And those wanting a break from the beach festivities and the serious business of getting a perfect tan, should explore the beautiful national parks in the region, which include Lamington and Springbrook. A visit to Tamborine National Park is another popular excursion from the coast.

## Gold Coast, Queensland Attractions

### Fraser Island

Fraser Island is just a two-hour drive north of Brisbane, and is the world's largest sand island. Blessed with a unique ecological system of giant dunes, forests, streams and freshwater lakes, it was deservedly placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1993. The island draws visitors wishing to explore the unique elevated lakes (there are more than 200 of them), which contain pure, acidic water that is so low in nutrients that few fish survive in them. The island, well-covered in vegetation, is inhabited by bats, dingoes and more than 350 species of birds. It also features giant satinay trees that stand 60 metres high, as well as several other rare and ancient botanical species. The island is 75 miles (120km) long and about nine miles (15km) wide, and can be explored on walking trails or by four-wheel-drive vehicle. Accommodation is plentiful on the island, in ecologically sensitive resorts.

**Website:** <http://www.fraserisland.net>

## Tamborine Mountain

Tamborine Mountain is inland from the Gold Coast, about 21 miles (34km) northwest of Nerang and about 40 miles (62km) from Brisbane. It is a popular scenic drive destination, as the area includes seven national parks featuring a variety of subtropical rainforest. Mount Tamborine itself rises 1,837ft (560m) above sea level. The main Tamborine National Park covers a large section of the mountain, offering walking trails through abundant rainforest and past waterfalls, with excellent picnic facilities. There are also numerous art and craft galleries in the area, several restaurants and a few wineries. Tamborine Mountain is the perfect excursion for those staying on the Gold Coast who want to experience more of Australia's natural landscapes than just the lovely beaches.

**Website:** <http://www.tamborinemountain.net>

## Wet 'n Wild Water World

This premier water theme park was recently voted Brisbane's best tourist attraction. Situated at Oxenford on the Pacific Highway, in 20 acres of tropical parkland, it incorporates a wave pool, children's pool, speed slide, toboggan ride and a variety of twisting slides, all supervised by fully qualified lifeguards. There are also barbecue and picnic facilities in the park, as well as a cafe and souvenir shop. A variety of combo tickets are available, including a combined pass to three of the big theme parks: Wet 'n Wild, Movie World and Sea World. Wet 'n Wild is open every day of the year except Christmas and Anzac Day, and the water is heated when necessary, ensuring a fun day out even in miserable weather.

**Website:** <http://www.wetnwild.com.au>

## Sanctuary Cove

Billed as 'Australia's first fully integrated tourism resort' the Sanctuary Cove holiday resort is situated on 474 hectares in picturesque surroundings around four man-made harbours on the Coomera River. Sanctuary Cove is a gated community, but is open daily and entry is free. The holiday resort can be reached by road, north from Surfer's Paradise or south from Brisbane (exit 57 off of the Pacific motorway), or by water (cruises operate daily). The waterfront Marine Village contains more than 80 speciality stores, cafés and restaurants and visitors on holiday here can watch glass-blowing and opal cutting. The Sanctuary Cove holiday resort also contains a health and fitness centre, two championship golf courses, a 300-berth marina and a private country club. There are many major events held through the year such as the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (each May), golf tournaments and concerts.

**Website:** <http://www.sanctuarycove.com>

## Surfer's Paradise

Formerly a small coastal resort town, the Surfer's Paradise holiday resort has blossomed into the pulsating heart of the Queensland Gold Coast. Set on a peninsula, about 50 miles (78km) from Brisbane, with the warm Pacific Ocean on one side and the deep blue Nerang River on the other, Surfer's Paradise is considered to be the holiday capital of Australia. Visitors throng here to holiday among the bright lights, shops, high rise resort hotels and attractions squeezed onto the finger of land that is surrounded by a 492-foot (150m) wide beach that stretches for almost six miles (10km) in each direction. Although now best known for its more glitzy attractions, Surfer's Paradise is also a popular surfing destination and deserves its name, though those keen to catch some waves should note that the breaks can get very busy.

**Website:** <http://www.surfersparadise.com>

## Whitsunday Islands

Discovered by Captain James Cook in 1770, the Whitsunday Islands is an archipelago of approximately 160 breath-taking tropical islands and atolls off the east coast of Queensland's Airlie Beach. The islands were named by Cook when he passed through around Whit Sunday, the seventh day after Easter Sunday, and was immediately struck by their beauty. Set in the crystal clear azure waters of the Coral Sea in the heart of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays are a sailor's paradise and one of Australia's most popular tourist attractions, drawing more than 600,000 visitors annually.

Most tourists tend to stick to the resort areas to enjoy the endless water activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling, fishing, sailing, and relaxing on the sun-drenched beaches, as 70 percent of the region has been declared a national or marine park. The resort islands of Hamilton Daydream, Hayman, South Molle and Lindeman are the most popular destinations with foreign visitors and accommodation is easy to find on these charming islands.

Perfect for a family getaway, a relaxing break from the hustle and bustle of the city, or a romantic honeymoon, the Whitsundays have something for everyone. At the end of a busy day exploring the islands and meeting the marine life off their shores, what could be better than a romantic sunset cruise to round off the perfect day in this small slice of paradise.

## Sightseeing in Whitsunday Islands

This group of roughly 160 beautiful tropical islands lies off the northeastern coast of Queensland and is today one of the greatest tourist attractions in Australia. This aquatic playground lies 95 miles (150km) north of Mackay and 190 miles (300km) south of Townsville, which offer easy access to the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. Holidaymakers flock to the adjacent mainland and island resorts to enjoy sailing, diving, exploring the reefs, or simply relaxing on thousands of sandy beaches. The main town in the area is the cosmopolitan resort village of Airlie Beach on the mainland, which has a plethora of tour offices offering trips to the Whitsundays.

Hamilton is the largest and most developed of the islands, and often the starting point for Whitsundays adventures, or Great Barrier Reef tours. Whitehaven Beach is one of the most popular and beautiful beaches in Australia, and arguably the world. The town of Bowen also boasts some remarkable coastline, and the tiny island called Daydream is as lovely as its name suggests.

Scuba diving, snorkelling and sailing are the most popular activities for visitors, but those wanting an extra thrill should look into helicopter or seaplane trips to get spectacular views from the air.

## Whitsunday Islands Attractions

### Hamilton Island

The most developed of the Whitsundays, the privately owned Hamilton Island is also the most populated, boasting some of the most valuable real estate in Australia. When visitors take a look at the breathtaking scenery and views, the value of the land is not surprising! Pristine and unspoilt surroundings, world-class accommodation and five-star dining opportunities make Hamilton Island a great day or overnight trip for visitors to the Whitsundays; the Great Barrier Reef is just a short boat ride away. During peak season, September to January, it can become extremely busy, so if visitors are looking for a quiet retreat from the noisy crowds, they should come another time.

**Website:** <http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au>

### Whitehaven Beach

Whitsunday Island is a popular tourist resort island for both day-trippers and overnight visitors and is the largest and most popular island of the Whitsundays. Most famous for its 2.8 mile (4.5km) stretch of pristine sugary white sandy beach known as Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Island's beauty is unrivalled. Featuring what is said to be the purest sand in the world (98 percent silica), the American government considered mining the sand from Whitehaven Beach for military purposes in the 1960s but, thankfully, this never happened and the beach is now protected within the bounds of the national park.

Many boats dock at the beach daily bringing thousands of tourists to explore one of the most famous beaches in the world. Tongue Point features a wooden trail that stretches up to a lookout point over Whitehaven Beach; it's the ideal location for that picture-perfect postcard shot.

## Airlie Beach

The gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands, Airlie Beach is a small town in the Whitsunday region and is a fabulous place to soak up all there is in this idyllic part of Australia. With a great variety of activities to enjoy, such as snorkelling, fishing, crocodile safaris and scenic flights over Whitehaven Beach, there's plenty to see and do in this laid-back and picturesque town. Although the vibe is generally relaxed, it becomes simply electric after dark, with holidaymakers lining the streets, beer gardens overflowing and bars and clubs pumping until the wee hours.

Travellers should be aware that the Irukandji jellyfish, which pack a powerful sting, pose a major threat to swimmers during the months of November to May when they abound in the water, but there are safe places to swim, including a medium-sized swimming lagoon on the foreshore that is the perfect place to cool off on a hot summer's day.

**Website:** <http://www.airliebeach.com>

## Sunshine Coast

One of Queensland's premier holiday destinations, just north of Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast runs from Caloundra to Cooloola, the gateway to the UNESCO-listed site of Fraser Island. A thriving city life is juxtaposed by the wildness of the coast and nearby Blackall Mountain Range and Noosa Hinterland, providing all kinds of holiday opportunities for visitors.

With an average of 300 days of sunshine a year it's no mystery how the coastline got its name, or why it is a favourite holiday destination for visitors of all persuasions. This region is home to more national parks than any other area of Queensland, as well as numerous world-class golf courses, rewarding fishing opportunities on the reefs at Mooloolaba, and over 62 miles (100km) of sugary white beaches to laze upon, where travellers can soak up all that glorious sunshine. The surf along this stretch of coastline is good too, with Noosa National park offering clean waves and a very nice right hand point break at the Alexandra Headland.

The most popular holiday destination on the coast is the resort town of Noosa. Visitors can explore the Noosa Everglades on a boat tour, visit the Blackall Range and drop by the quaint villages of Montville, Flaxton and Mapleton to experience true hinterland hospitality. Then there's the breath-taking natural beauty of the Mapleton Falls National Park and Kondalilla National Park, which are also located in the Blackall Range, and the hinterland towns of the Glasshouse Mountains, home to Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo in Beerwah.

## Climate in Sunshine Coast

The aptly named Sunshine Coast has one of the highest sunshine readings in the world, averaging seven hours a day. There is little variation between the summer and winter months, with average temperatures in summer, between December and February, ranging from 63F to 82F (17C to 28C). The spring and autumn seasons are mild and pleasant on the Sunshine Coast. Winters are cool and mild with average temperatures ranging from 55F to 77F (13C to 25C).

## Fraser Coast

One of Queensland's fastest growing regions, the Fraser Coast is best-known as the home of Fraser Island and the Great Barrier Reef, two of Queensland's World Heritage Sites, and is the capital of whale watching in Australia thanks to the amount of giant humpback whales that frequent its waters. Boasting a rich and diverse natural beauty, the Fraser Coast region encompasses the areas of Fraser Island, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Cooloola, Tiaro, and the Great Sandy Strait.

Travellers can take a trip back in time and visit the old gold mining town of Gympie, where gold-diggers flocked and saved Queensland from its severe economic depression in 1867. Visitors can also admire the beautiful colonial architecture of the charming Victorian town of Maryborough, visit the Mount Walsh National Park, watch loggerhead turtles hatching on Mon Repos Beach from January to March, feed the dolphins breakfast in Tin Can Bay, or simply relax with a good book on the stunning stretches of sandy white beaches.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fraser Island is by far the region's most popular attraction. The largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island's pristine freshwater lakes and creeks are the perfect place for nature lovers to escape for a bit of peace and quiet, while the verdant rainforests are juxtaposed with swampy wetlands and the coastal strands of Pandanus palms. Keen fishermen should take a trip to Hervey Bay where monsters such as garfish and marlin can be hooked, as well as red emperor, barramundi and mangrove jack. Hervey Bay is also the best place to view the awesome humpback whales as they make their annual migration south from July to November.

With endless activities and a good range of natural and man-made attractions to visit, it's not surprising the Fraser Coast is becoming one of Australia's premier holiday destinations.

# Queensland Attractions

## Overview

Queensland is one of Australia's main tourism hot spots, with attractions and activities enough to entertain anybody lucky enough to visit. Although best known for its spectacular beaches and coral reefs, Queensland also boasts incredible rainforests and desert landscapes. The most popular cities, towns and resorts in the state include Surfer's Paradise, Hamilton Island, Noosa, Port Douglas, Airlie Beach, Burleigh Heads, Mooloolaba, Coolumb, and, of course, Brisbane.

Queensland is home to an impressive five UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island; The Gondwana Rainforests, ancient and teeming with wildlife; The Great Barrier Reef, one of the greatest natural wonders of the world; Riversleigh, Australia's most famous fossil site; and the spectacular rainforests of the Wet Tropics of Queensland. Other must-see tourist sites include Magnetic Island, the Skyrail of Cairns and the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, not to mention the many urban attractions of Brisbane and all the theme parks along the celebrated Gold Coast.

## Fraser Island

Fraser Island is just a two-hour drive north of Brisbane, and is the world's largest sand island. Blessed with a unique ecological system of giant dunes, forests, streams and freshwater lakes, it was deservedly placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1993. The island draws visitors wishing to explore the unique elevated lakes (there are more than 200 of them), which contain pure, acidic water that is so low in nutrients that few fish survive in them. The island, well-covered in vegetation, is inhabited by bats, dingoes and more than 350 species of birds. It also features giant satinay trees that stand 60 metres high, as well as several other rare and ancient botanical species. The island is 75 miles (120km) long and about nine miles (15km) wide, and can be explored on walking trails or by four-wheel-drive vehicle. Accommodation is plentiful on the island, in ecologically sensitive resorts.

**Website:** [www.fraserisland.net](http://www.fraserisland.net)

## Bowling Green Bay National Park

About a six-hour drive south of Cairns lies Bowling Green Bay National Park. Covering 55,300 hectares, this is the largest National Park in the region, an area once home to the Wulgurukaba Aboriginal people who have left their mark with beautiful rock paintings. Bowling Green Bay National Park is situated between Townsville and Bowen and includes the Mount Elliot area and adjacent coastal wetlands, saltpans and mangrove swamps. Alligator Creek meanders through the park, with beautiful waterfalls and cascades crashing into deep pools, surrounded by tropical rainforest. Bowling Green Bay is a glorious place to enjoy hiking and camping and is a popular weekend excursion from Cairns.

**Website:** [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay)

## Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island was named by Captain James Cook in 1770, when he believed that the landmass of the island affected the magnetic compass on his ship, 'Endeavour'. More than half of the island, which is about five miles (8km) from Townsville, is a National Park known for its rugged landscape of granite boulders, hoop pines and eucalyptus trees. The island has 23 beaches and bays, some of which can only be reached on foot. There are more than 12 miles (20km) of walking trails marked out on the island. Part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park fringes the island, which is also home to the most northerly colony of free-ranging koala bears in Australia.

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**Website:** [www.thisismagneticisland.com.au](http://www.thisismagneticisland.com.au)

## Tamborine Mountain

Tamborine Mountain is inland from the Gold Coast, about 21 miles (34km) northwest of Nerang and about 40 miles (62km) from Brisbane. It is a popular scenic drive destination, as the area includes seven national parks featuring a variety of subtropical rainforest. Mount Tamborine itself rises 1,837ft (560m) above sea level. The main Tamborine National Park covers a large section of the mountain, offering walking trails through abundant rainforest and past waterfalls, with excellent picnic facilities. There are also numerous art and craft galleries in the area, several restaurants and a few wineries. Tamborine Mountain is the perfect excursion for those staying on the Gold Coast who want to experience more of Australia's natural landscapes than just the lovely beaches.

**Website:** [www.tamborinemountain.net](http://www.tamborinemountain.net)

## Wet 'n Wild Water World

This premier water theme park was recently voted Brisbane's best tourist attraction. Situated at Oxenford on the Pacific Highway, in 20 acres of tropical parkland, it incorporates a wave pool, children's pool, speed slide, toboggan ride and a variety of twisting slides, all supervised by fully qualified lifeguards. There are also barbecue and picnic facilities in the park, as well as a cafe and souvenir shop. A variety of combo tickets are available, including a combined pass to three of the big theme parks: Wet 'n Wild, Movie World and Sea World. Wet 'n Wild is open every day of the year except Christmas and Anzac Day, and the water is heated when necessary, ensuring a fun day out even in miserable weather.

**Website:** [www.wetnwild.com.au](http://www.wetnwild.com.au)

## The Esplanade

The recently renovated Cairns Esplanade is the entertainment hub for visitors to the city, providing numerous recreational opportunities, and lined with a host of good restaurants, bars and cafes. Apart from a safe, sandy swimming lagoon and vast lawns used for all sorts of purposes from picnics and barbecues to kite flying, the Esplanade features wonderful Saturday arts and crafts markets, spiced up by buskers and colourful street characters. The Cairns Esplanade is also a great place to get some exercise in the city, popular with joggers and the site of a free fitness programme with classes four days a week that anybody can join. There is never a dull moment on this lively foreshore.

**Website:** [www.cairnsesplanade.com](http://www.cairnsesplanade.com)

## Skyrail

The most popular tourist attraction in Cairns is the Skyrail rainforest cableway, which travels nearly five miles (7.5km) from the Caravonica Terminal, the gondolas gliding above the canopy of the rainforest over magnificent waterfalls and lush gorges, to the village of Kuranda. En route passengers can alight temporarily at two stations to explore the boardwalks that have been constructed in the heart of the forest. Interpretative centres have been set up so visitors can learn about the ecology, fauna and flora of the fascinating ancient rainforest. The return journey takes about two and a half hours, and the gondolas seat up to six people. Booking in advance is advisable.

**Website:** [www.skyrail.com.au](http://www.skyrail.com.au)

## Paronella Park

Magical Paronella Park was the imaginative brainchild of a young entrepreneur, Jose Paronella, who built his dream castle on this site near Mena Creek, about 75 miles (120km) south of Cairns, in 1929. Since then the castle has come to be regarded as an architectural marvel, and a top tourist attraction, which has been used as a set for several movies. The picturesque grounds, overlooking Mena Creek Falls, feature interesting forest walks, bamboo gardens, a secret garden and a 'tunnel of love'. Cultural performances and guided walks are offered to visitors as part of the admission price. In 1997, Paronella Park was recognised as a historical treasure and listed by the National Trust. It is a popular venue for romantic events such as weddings and consistently delights visitors.

**Website:** [www.paronellapark.com.au](http://www.paronellapark.com.au)

## The Wet Tropics of Queensland

The Wet Tropics of Queensland is said to be the oldest tropical rainforest still surviving on earth, and is a UNESCO-listed site containing the highest number of rare or threatened plant and animal species on the planet. It also has 13 different types of rainforest and 29 species of mangrove. Among the national parks included in the Wet Tropics are Barron Gorge National Park, Black Mountain National Park, Cedar Bay National Park, Daintree National Park, Girringun National Park and Wooroonooran National Park.

This unique area covers around 745 miles (1,200km) of northern Queensland, and is visited by droves of tourists, who access it usually from Cairns, via Daintree Village. Visitors will enjoy an unrivalled natural experience, from the beautiful golden beaches to hiking through ancient forest ecosystems full of gorgeous birds, primitive flowering plants, and fascinating animals such as the estuarine crocodile. Daintree is about two hours north of Cairns, on the Captain Cook Highway, making it easily accessible for excursions and weekend getaways.

**Website:** [www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au/wet-tropics-rainforest/](http://www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au/wet-tropics-rainforest/)

## Great Barrier Reef

One of the great natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef is as big as the total combined area of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and contains more than 1,000 islands that range from sandy mounds to rainforest isles. Divers, snorkellers and nature lovers can reach specific sites by air or by water taxi. Non-divers can view this underwater world from a glass-bottomed boat.

The Reef ecosystem has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years to give life to almost 7,000 species of plants and animals. It is home to some endangered species such as the green loggerhead turtle, and is a breeding site for humpback whales. Visitors can either cruise the islands or make a base in Cairns or one of the many seaside towns along the Queensland coast. Visitors can access the Great Barrier Reef from numerous regions in Queensland, from the southern gateway of Bundaberg, Coral Coast and Country to Gladstone, Capricorn, the Whitsundays, Mackay, Townsville and Tropical North Queensland, including Cairns.

**Website:** [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

## The Gabba

Named after the suburb of Woolloongabba in which it is located, and with a seating capacity of 42,000, the famous Gabba Cricket Ground is just a short bus ride from the city of Brisbane. Visitors can check out locals, the Queensland Bulls Cricket team or the Brisbane Lions Australian Rules football team, depending on when they choose to visit. Over the years The Gabba has hosted athletics, Australian Rules football, baseball, concerts, cricket, cycling, rugby league, rugby union, soccer and pony and greyhound races. Those lucky enough to catch an international cricket match are ensured a great day out. Sport is integral to Australian culture and even for those who are not themselves fanatical a visit to this passionately supported sports ground will be an exciting experience.

## Sanctuary Cove

Billed as 'Australia's first fully integrated tourism resort' the Sanctuary Cove holiday resort is situated on 474 hectares in picturesque surroundings around four man-made harbours on the Coomera River. Sanctuary Cove is a gated community, but is open daily and entry is free. The holiday resort can be reached by road, north from Surfer's Paradise or south from Brisbane (exit 57 off of the Pacific motorway), or by water (cruises operate daily). The waterfront Marine Village contains more than 80 speciality stores, cafés and restaurants and visitors on holiday here can watch glass-blowing and opal cutting. The Sanctuary Cove holiday resort also contains a health and fitness centre, two championship golf courses, a 300-berth marina and a private country club. There are many major events held through the year such as the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show (each May), golf tournaments and concerts.

**Website:** [www.sanctuarycove.com](http://www.sanctuarycove.com)

## Surfer's Paradise

Formerly a small coastal resort town, the Surfer's Paradise holiday resort has blossomed into the pulsating heart of the Queensland Gold Coast. Set on a peninsula, about 50 miles (78km) from Brisbane, with the warm Pacific Ocean on one side and the deep blue Nerang River on the other, Surfer's Paradise is considered to be the holiday capital of Australia. Visitors throng here to holiday among the bright lights, shops, high rise resort hotels and attractions squeezed onto the finger of land that is surrounded by a 492-foot (150m) wide beach that stretches for almost six miles (10km) in each direction. Although now best known for its more glitzy attractions, Surfer's Paradise is also a popular surfing destination and deserves its name, though those keen to catch some waves should note that the breaks can get very busy.

**Website:** [www.surfersparadise.com](http://www.surfersparadise.com)

## Cape Tribulation

Located within the Daintree National Park and the Wet Tropics area of Queensland, the pristine and picturesque destination of Cape Tribulation is well worth a visit while travelling through Queensland. Visitors can explore the oldest rainforest on earth from the treetops or on horseback, relax on a river cruise and spot Australia's famous crocodiles, or simply take in the marvellous scenery that abounds. The iconic Great Barrier Reef is just a short boat ride away for adventurers who desire world-class snorkelling; beach lovers will welcome strolls or horseback rides along the spectacular coast. Accommodation such as luxury resorts, self-catering cabins, bed and breakfasts and camping facilities are available.

## The Strand

This 1.3-mile (2.2km) long tropical beach and palm tree-dotted promenade is one of Townsville's most popular attractions. Visitors can take a leisurely stroll, enjoy the scenery from their bicycles, take a dip at one of the safe swimming beaches, or enjoy a picnic overlooking the ocean at one of the many designated picnic areas in the gardens. Families travelling with their children in tow can visit the nearby water park, while the trendy restaurants and bars that line the strip make a wonderfully romantic and picturesque setting at any time of day, with views stretching out over to Magnetic Island. The fourth Friday of each month also sees Strand Park used for night markets, which are great places to pick up some unique souvenirs in Australia, such as Aboriginal arts and crafts, and boomerangs.

## Riverway

This beautiful riverfront parkland stretches along nearly seven miles (11km) of the Ross River, with nodes at Pioneer Park, Loam Island, Apex Park and the Ross River Dam. The Riverway has fast become one of Townsville's most popular tourist attractions. Pioneer Park is the activity hub where visitors can enjoy sport, entertainment, performing arts, visual arts, swimming in the two huge lagoons, dining and shopping at the village precinct, and even picnicking and barbecuing along the picturesque shores of the Ross River. There is something to amuse and delight people of all ages, making the Riverway popular with locals and tourists alike.

## Riversleigh

Australia's most famous fossil site, Riversleigh, in northwest Queensland, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an extension of the Lawn Hill National Park. It contains the fossil remains of ancient mammals, birds and reptiles of Oligocene and Miocene age, which were found in limestone by freshwater pools, and in caves during the period when the surrounding ecosystem was evolving from rainforest to semi-arid grassland. Most of what is known about the evolution of Australian mammals in the last 30-million years comes from bones found at a single site in the Riversleigh fossil beds, half of which were unearthed in one hour. Species such as primitive koalas and wombats, huge crocodile and large, flightless birds, as well as a range of ancestral thylacines (Tasmanian tigers) were discovered in Riversleigh.

**Website:** [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/boodjamulla-riversleigh/about.html](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/boodjamulla-riversleigh/about.html)

## Reef HQ Aquarium

One of the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world, the Reef HQ Aquarium was built as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Featuring 130 species of coral, 120 species of fish and plenty of star fish, sea urchins, sponges and sea cucumbers, Reef HQ also features a predator exhibit, a children's section, a gift shop and a cafe to provide refreshments. A trip to the Reef HQ Aquarium is a must for all visitors who plan on taking a dive at the Great Barrier Reef, as they'll learn more about the species of marine life they might encounter while exploring the miraculous underwater world. The Aquarium is a great attraction for families in Townsville, especially on a rainy day.

**Website:** [www.reefhq.com.au](http://www.reefhq.com.au)

## Cairns Zoom and Wildlife Dome

This spectacular attraction is enclosed by a 65-foot (20m) high glass dome on top of Cairns' iconic Reef Hotel Casino and offers exhibits and shows featuring of some of Australia's most exotic and fascinating animals. Here visitors can learn more about these unique creatures and get a fabulous introduction to the Wet Tropics Rainforest area around Cairns, preparing them for all the close-up encounters they may have with the indigenous wildlife. In this rainforest environment visitors can experience the thrill of birds such as parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, doves and rosellas swooping freely overhead and come face-to-face with the adorable rainforest wallabies. Of course, the fact that the wildlife experience is housed in a giant dome makes this attraction wonderful no matter what the weather.

**Website:** [www.cairnsdome.com.au](http://www.cairnsdome.com.au)

## Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

The world's oldest and largest koala sanctuary, the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is home to more than just the cute and cuddly koala, but also to kangaroos, Tasmanian devils, wombats, echidnas and various species of reptiles, as well as Australian parrots, cockatoos, kookaburras and cassowaries. Visitors can handle the koalas here (for a fee), making this one of only a few sanctuaries in the world where this is possible. Feeding and petting is also permitted and is carefully monitored, so this an ideal activity for families travelling with small children.

**Website:** [www.koala.net](http://www.koala.net)

## South Bank

The South Bank is a central Brisbane district packed with world-class attractions and experiences for visitors. It attracts nearly 10 million people each year, mostly to the South Bank Parklands, which were established on the former site of World Expo 88. The Parklands contain Australia's only man-made beach and lagoon, right in the heart of the city, known as South Bank Beach. There are also rainforest walks, picnic and barbecue areas and water features. One of Brisbane's most popular tourist attractions, South Bank is also home to the Queensland Cultural Centre, which includes Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery, the State Library of Queensland, the Greater Union Hoyt's South Bank Cinemas and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, which all line the Brisbane River proudly.

Shoppers and fashion lovers will enjoy Little Stanley Street, where all the latest in fashion can be picked up from the boutiques and retails stores lining the strip. The South Bank Art and Craft Markets take place every Friday night, as well as every Saturday and Sunday during the day. Visitors should head to the South Bank Visitors Centre which provides information on current events, including cultural activities, accommodation options, event information and details regarding restaurant and bar facilities.

## Story Bridge

One of the oldest bridges in Australia, the Story Bridge is a 3,517-foot (1,072m) long cantilevered bridge that spans the Brisbane River, connecting Fortitude Valley to Kangaroo Point. Brave visitors who are certain they don't suffer from vertigo can climb to the top of the bridge and be rewarded with breathtaking views over Brisbane's cityscape. One of only a handful of bridge climbs in the world, the Story Bridge is well worth a visit for those travelling through Brisbane. Advance bookings are recommended and money can sometimes be saved by booking online. Special deals are available for groups and there is even an abseiling option.

**Website:** [www.sbac.net.au](http://www.sbac.net.au)

## Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

Formerly known as the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves, the Gondwana Rainforests were renamed after a southern supercontinent that existed approximately 550 million years ago. Fossil records show that Gondwana was covered by the same kind of rainforests as the latter-day attraction.

The reserve includes 50 national parks that include Lamington National Park, Mount Chinghee National Park, Springbrook National Park, Mount Barney National Park and Main Range National Park, among many others that lie on the New South Wales side of Queensland. There are very few places on earth that contain so many plants and animals that remain fairly unchanged from their fossil records. The rainforests are remarkable and hugely rewarding for hikers and nature-lovers. Unsurprisingly, the forests have been UNESCO-listed.

There are a number of entry-points to the rainforest and, despite the pristine nature of the region, there is sufficient infrastructure to enable in-depth exploration of the forest, with well-maintained access-roads and walking trails, a number of adventure tour operators offering activities, and various accommodation options.

## Hamilton Island

The most developed of the Whitsundays, the privately owned Hamilton Island is also the most populated, boasting some of the most valuable real estate in Australia. When visitors take a look at the breathtaking scenery and views, the value of the land is not surprising! Pristine and unspoilt surroundings, world-class accommodation and five-star dining opportunities make Hamilton Island a great day or overnight trip for visitors to the Whitsundays; the Great Barrier Reef is just a short boat ride away. During peak season, September to January, it can become extremely busy, so if visitors are looking for a quiet retreat from the noisy crowds, they should come another time.

**Website:** [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au)

## Whitehaven Beach

Whitsunday Island is a popular tourist resort island for both day-trippers and overnight visitors and is the largest and most popular island of the Whitsundays. Most famous for its 2.8 mile (4.5km) stretch of pristine sugary white sandy beach known as Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Island's beauty is unrivalled. Featuring what is said to be the purest sand in the world (98 percent silica), the American government considered mining the sand from Whitehaven Beach for military purposes in the 1960s but, thankfully, this never happened and the beach is now protected within the bounds of the national park.

Many boats dock at the beach daily bringing thousands of tourists to explore one of the most famous beaches in the world. Tongue Point features a wooden trail that stretches up to a lookout point over Whitehaven Beach; it's the ideal location for that picture-perfect postcard shot.

## Airlie Beach

The gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands, Airlie Beach is a small town in the Whitsunday region and is a fabulous place to soak up all there is in this idyllic part of Australia. With a great variety of activities to enjoy, such as snorkelling, fishing, crocodile safaris and scenic flights over Whitehaven Beach, there's plenty to see and do in this laid-back and picturesque town. Although the vibe is generally relaxed, it becomes simply electric after dark, with holidaymakers lining the streets, beer gardens overflowing and bars and clubs pumping until the wee hours.

Travellers should be aware that the Irukandji jellyfish, which pack a powerful sting, pose a major threat to swimmers during the months of November to May when they abound in the water, but there are safe places to swim, including a medium-sized swimming lagoon on the foreshore that is the perfect place to cool off on a hot summer's day.

**Website:** [www.airliebeach.com](http://www.airliebeach.com)

## Sea World

One of Queensland's most popular attractions for visitors of all ages and an absolute must while on holiday with the kids in Brisbane, Sea World offers marine attractions, rides, shows and much more. Visitors can check out the ocean's most fearsome predator at Shark Bay, get up close and personal with Australia's only polar bears at Polar Bear Shores or see the Fairy penguins in their penguin suits, before taking a stroll through the Sea World Aquarium to discover Australia's exotic marine life. The adventurous can climb aboard the Jet Rescue rollercoaster ride, which is an exhilarating ride for kids of all ages.

**Website:** [seaworld.com.au](http://seaworld.com.au)

# Currency

The unit of currency is the Australian dollar (AUD), which is divided into 100 cents. Credit cards are widely accepted and ATMs are freely available throughout the country. Banks and bureaux de change exchange most foreign currencies. Banking hours are generally 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9.30am to 5pm on Friday, but some banks offer extended hours and some are open on Saturday mornings.

## Exchange rate for 1 AUD - Australian Dollar

<b>0.00</b> BMD Bermudan Dollar	<b>0.61</b> EUR Euro	<b>0.66</b> USD U.S. Dollar	<b>0.53</b> GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	<b>100.83</b> JPY Japanese Yen	<b>0.90</b> CAD Canadian Dollar
<b>0.60</b> CHF Swiss Franc	<b>25.96</b> UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	<b>292.55</b> KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	<b>61,338.47</b> LBP Lebanese Pound	<b>3.20</b> LYD Libyan Dinar	<b>4.52</b> BOB Bolivian Boliviano
<b>0.00</b> NPR Nepalese Rupee	<b>0.00</b> OMR Omani Rial	<b>0.00</b> QAR Qatari Rial	<b>0.89</b> SGD Singapore Dollar	<b>7.13</b> SEK Swedish Krona	<b>0.00</b> TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar
<b>0.00</b> VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	<b>38.30</b> DOP Dominican Peso	<b>0.00</b> HRK Croatian Kuna	<b>11.17</b> MXN Mexican Peso	<b>402.35</b> XOF West African CFA Franc	<b>0.00</b> PGK Papua New Guinean kina
<b>0.00</b> BSD Bahamian Dollar	<b>0.00</b> FJD Fiji Dollar	<b>0.00</b> HNL Honduran Lempira	<b>88.22</b> DZD Algerian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> MMK Myanma Kyat	<b>0.00</b> BWP Botswana Pula
<b>2.45</b> PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	<b>618.45</b> CLP Chilean Peso	<b>254.94</b> AMD Armenia Dram	<b>15.35</b> CZK Czech Koruna	<b>11.62</b> MDL Moldova Lei	<b>92.19</b> ISK Icelandic Krona
<b>8,292.08</b> UZS Uzbekistan Sum	<b>2.45</b> ILS Israeli New Sheqel	<b>0.47</b> JOD Jordanian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	<b>25.14</b> UYU Uruguayan Peso	<b>0.00</b> MUR Mauritian Rupee
<b>0.00</b> NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	<b>7.17</b> NOK Norwegian Krone	<b>2.66</b> PLN Polish Zloty	<b>2.47</b> SAR Saudi Riyal	<b>0.00</b> LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	<b>24.24</b> THB Thai Baht
<b>2.41</b> AED U.A.E Dirham	<b>3.36</b> BRL Brazilian Real	<b>3.05</b> RON Romanian New Leu	<b>5.15</b> HKD Hong Kong Dollar	<b>402.35</b> XAF Central African CFA Franc	<b>16,742.92</b> VND Vietnamese Dong
<b>578.86</b> ARS Argentine Peso	<b>0.00</b> XCD East Caribbean Dollar	<b>0.00</b> GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	<b>6.63</b> MAD Moroccan Dirham	<b>0.00</b> BHD Bahrain Dinar	<b>0.66</b> PAB Panamanian Balboa
<b>1.12</b> AZN Azerbaijan Manat	<b>2,583.37</b> COP Colombian Peso	<b>58.27</b> KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	<b>238.57</b> HUF Hungarian Forint	<b>7.18</b> TJS Tajikistan Ruble	<b>10,592.92</b> IDR Indonesian Rupiah
<b>31.60</b> EGP Egyptian Pound	<b>895.51</b> KRW South Korean Won	<b>4,914.01</b> PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	<b>3.12</b> MYR Malaysian Ringgit	<b>334.99</b> CRC Costa Rican Colón	<b>1.10</b> NZD New Zealand Dollar
<b>183.12</b> PKR Pakistani Rupee	<b>60.23</b> RUB Russian Rouble	<b>12.20</b> ZAR South African Rand	<b>2.07</b> TND Tunisian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> BBD Barbadian Dollar	<b>1.20</b> BGN Bulgarian Lev
<b>21.31</b> TRY Turkish Lira	<b>37.75</b> PHP Philippine Peso	<b>21.29</b> TWD New Taiwan Dollar	<b>767.66</b> NGN Nigerian Naira	<b>0.00</b> XPF CFP Franc	<b>0.00</b> GHS Ghanaian Cedi
<b>0.00</b> JMD Jamaican Dollar	<b>0.00</b> ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	<b>0.00</b> BND Brunei Dollar	<b>71.77</b> RSD Serbian Dinar	<b>4.77</b> CNY Chinese Yuan	<b>4.58</b> DKK Danish Krone
<b>2.30</b> TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	<b>54.97</b> INR Indian Rupee				