



# BRISBANE

WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE NEXT BIG THING? YOU CAN BET IT'LL BE IN THE QUEENSLAND CAPITAL.

WORDS CELESTE GILL

## OUT & ABOUT

Brisbane whirs to life with bike riders and downward dogs at sunrise, enjoys third-wave coffee, a hefty dose of culture, shopping and al fresco eats throughout the day, and winds down somewhere with a view of the **BRISBANE RIVER**. A barbecue atop the **KANGAROO POINT CLIFFS** at sunset is an iconic Brisbane experience.

## EAT STREETS

Make your way to **FISH LANE** in South Brisbane. It's where you'll find **GAUGE** ([gaugebrisbane.com.au](http://gaugebrisbane.com.au)), heralded by *The New York Times* as one of the most creative members of Australia's new culinary scene. Nearby are pan-Asian eats at **CHU THE PHAT** ([chuthephat.com.au](http://chuthephat.com.au)), tucked-away whisky bar **MAKER**, and the Aussie phenomenon that is **SELATO MESSINA** ([gelatomessina.com](http://gelatomessina.com)). On the other side of the river, book or arrive early to score a seat at one of **FORTITUDE VALLEY**'s most coveted tables: **HONTO** ([honto.com.au](http://honto.com.au)), **LONGTIME** ([longtime.com.au](http://longtime.com.au)) or **GERARD'S BISTRO** ([gerardsbistro.com.au](http://gerardsbistro.com.au)), which all sit within a few blocks.



## STAY & PLAY

*Affordable*  
With a rooftop pool, **NEXT HOTEL** is luxe for less in the city center. [nexthotels.com](http://nexthotels.com)

*Moderate*  
Miami meets Queensland at **THE CALILE**. [thecalilehotel.com](http://thecalilehotel.com)

*Luxe*  
**OVOLO INCHOLM** does a sophisticated take on quirky. [ovolohotels.com.au](http://ovolohotels.com.au)

## INSIDER'S SECRET

Start Sundays like the locals do and walk along **SOUTH BANK**, dipping your toes into the world's only man-made city-center beach and stopping for a picnic on the lawn at **RIVER QUAY**; **POPOLO** ([popolodining.com](http://popolodining.com)) does great Italian picnics to order, and free live music provides the soundtrack.

**THE ABSOLUTE MUST-DO**  
**TAKING A HELICOPTER INTO THE DUMARESQ VALLEY TO GO FISHING IS NEXT-LEVEL LUXURY. GO FISH AUSTRALIA** ([GOFISHAUSTRALIA.COM.AU](http://GOFISHAUSTRALIA.COM.AU)) **WHISKS GUESTS FROM BRISBANE TO A SECRET SPOT. FISH FOR YELLOWBELLY AND MURRAY COD, THEN COOK YOUR CATCH - OR TUCK INTO A FRESH SEAFOOD FEAST - ON THE PORCH OF DUMARESQ HOMESTEAD.**

**THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES**  
Queensland is one of only two states in Australia where you can hug a koala; catch a ferry to **LONE PINE SANCTUARY** ([koala.net](http://koala.net)) for your cuddly close-up and then head to the **GALLERY OF MODERN ART** ([gagoma.qld.gov.au](http://gagoma.qld.gov.au)) for lunch at **GOMA RESTAURANT** where chef Doug Innes-Will champions standout local seafood, paired with something off the Queensland-led wine list.



## EASY SIDE TRIPS

*Moreton Island*  
Within 30 minutes' drive of the city you can be on a fast ferry to the third-largest sand island in the world. Visit between June and October to score front-row seats to the humpback whale migration.  
**WHAT TO DO:** Moreton Island is an adventure lover's paradise with sand boarding, fishing, and the skeletons of 15 ships, scuttled in 1963 just offshore, providing spectacular snorkeling and diving (hello, wobbegong sharks). Each evening, you can take part in sustainable hand-feeding of wild dolphins.  
**WHERE TO STAY:** **TANGALOOMA ISLAND RESORT** ([tangalooma.com](http://tangalooma.com)) offers everything from hotel rooms to luxe villas, or sleep in safari tents at **CASTAWAYS** ([moretonislandadventures.com.au](http://moretonislandadventures.com.au)).  
**WHERE TO EAT:** **THE GUTTER BAR** ([thegutterbar.com.au](http://thegutterbar.com.au)) is your quintessential toes-in-sand, fresh-oysters-off-the-trawler, glass-of-chilled-white-in-hand beach bar.



*Noosa*  
This beachside town on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, just under two hours from Brisbane, is the perfect mix of sophisticated cool and old-school family vacation fun.  
**WHAT TO DO:** The day to day here revolves around the beach; learn to surf, paddle board or kayak on the aqua waters (try [goridearwave.com.au](http://goridearwave.com.au)), or take up position in one of the casual cafes and restaurants that fringe Main Beach. **THE NOOSA NATIONAL PARK** is perfect for bushwalking – and koala spotting – or for a once-in-a-lifetime experience go swimming with humpback whales ([sunreef.com.au](http://sunreef.com.au)).  
**WHERE TO STAY:** **PITCH LUXURY CAMPING**'s ([pitchluxurycamping.com](http://pitchluxurycamping.com)) tents come with queen beds, delicious picnic baskets and uninterrupted nature. **NETANYA NOOSA** ([netanyanoosa.com.au](http://netanyanoosa.com.au)) has five-star facilities overlooking Main Beach.  
**WHERE TO EAT:** Chef Peter Kuruvita's **NOOSA BEACH HOUSE** ([noosabeachhousepk.com.au](http://noosabeachhousepk.com.au)) does seafood with a Sri Lankan twist; **LOCALE** ([localenoosa.com.au](http://localenoosa.com.au)) serves up wood-fire pizzas in an industrial chic space.

*Scenic Rim*  
An hour from Brisbane, the Scenic Rim encompasses six national parks, stunning mountain peaks, and one of south-east Queensland's largest food producing regions cloaked in ancient rainforest. Keep your eyes peeled for kangaroos.  
**WHAT TO DO:** Start the day in a hot air balloon to see why it's called the Scenic Rim. Culinary crusaders can join a number of food and wine tours, while active types can go horse riding in the foothills of the **LOST WORLD VALLEY**, cross the nine suspension bridges that make up **O'REILLY'S TREE TOP WALK**, or hike high-end with the two-day guided **SCENIC RIM TRAIL** ([spicersretreats.com](http://spicersretreats.com)).  
**WHERE TO STAY:** The **O'REILLY** family were pioneers of this region and a stay at their retreat ([oreillys.com.au](http://oreillys.com.au)) puts you in prime position to explore **LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK** (and spot glow worms at night). **NIGHTFALL** ([nightfall.com.au](http://nightfall.com.au)) is an exclusive glamping experience for just six guests on the banks of picture-perfect Christmas Creek, or you can muck in on a farm stay at **TOMMERUP'S DAIRY FARM** ([tommerupsfarmstay.com.au](http://tommerupsfarmstay.com.au)).  
**WHERE TO EAT:** Head to **HOMAGE AT SPICERS HIDDEN VALE** for hyper-local paddock-to-plate fare and unexpected surprises, like an amazing emu egg marshmallow dessert ([spicersretreats.com](http://spicersretreats.com)), or lunch overlooking the lavender fields at **KOOROOMBA VINEYARD** ([kooroomba.com.au](http://kooroomba.com.au)). 🇦