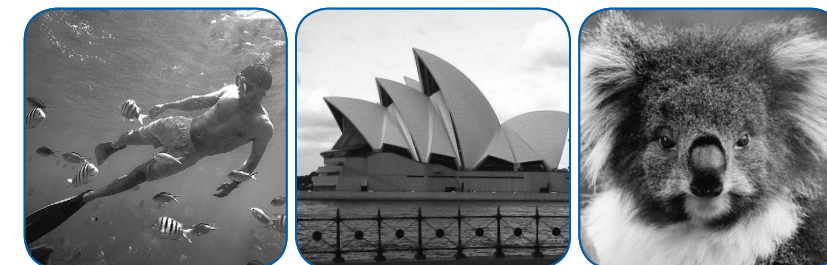


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PORT EXPLORER

Brisbane AUSTRALIA

GENERAL INFORMATION Brisbane is the capital of Queensland. With a population of around 1.5 million, it is Australia's third largest city – after Sydney and Melbourne. Well known as the River City, Brisbane has a range of leisure attractions focused on and along the river. Today, this modern city is renowned for its care-free atmosphere. Its many tourist attractions and facilities are easy to access, and shopping at any one of its stylish arcades, department stores or weekend markets is uncrowded and enjoyable.

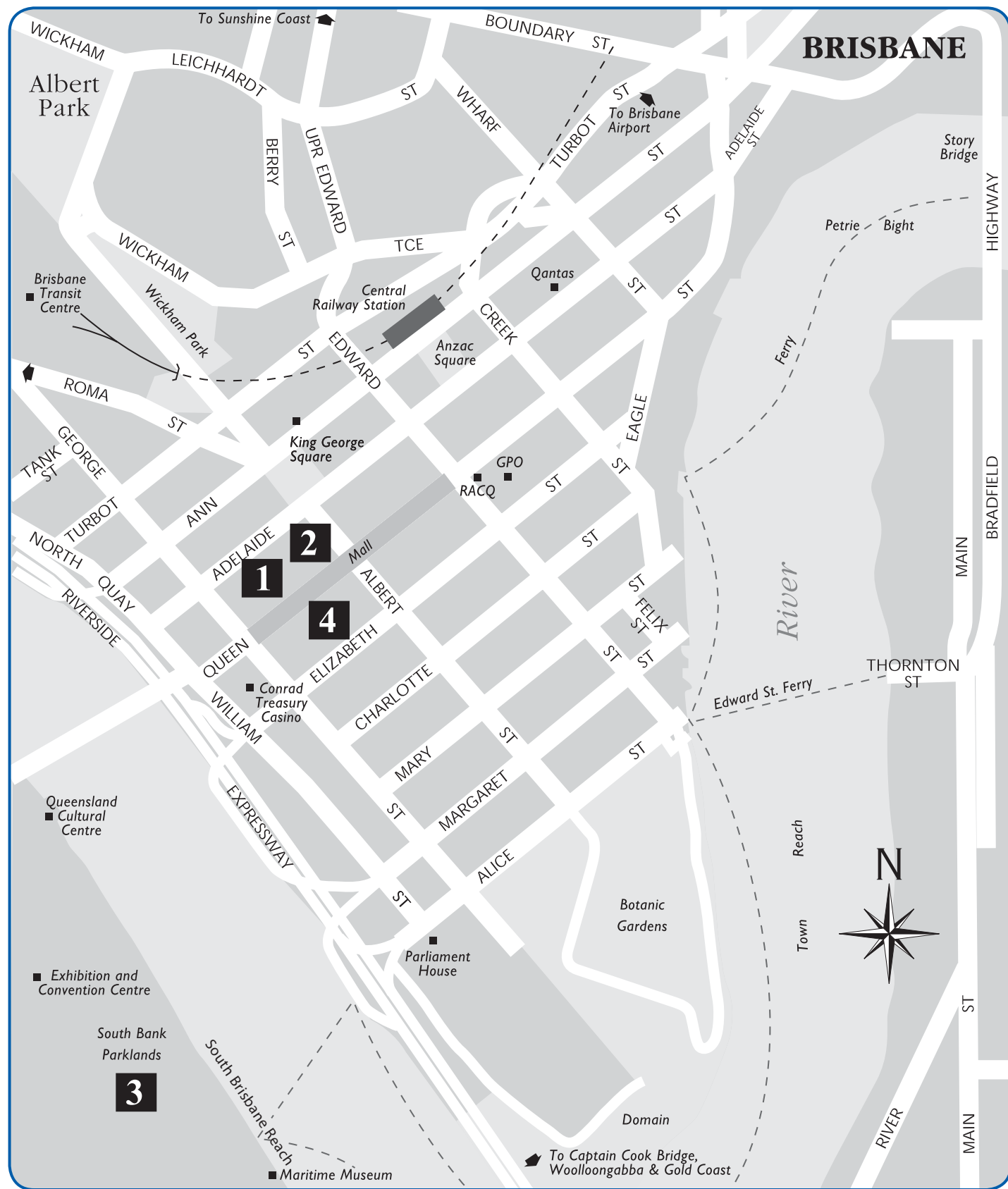
The climate is subtropical with the lush foliage of mango trees and banana plants sprouting from the gardens. The city spreads over rolling hills and, in recent boom years, has outgrown its lingering reputation as 'the largest country town on earth'.

The Commonwealth Games were held here in 1982, and in 1988 the city staged the World Expo. Despite its size (Brisbane sprawls over more land than any other Australian city), visitors will find within a few miles mountains covered with subtropical rainforest, and miles of superb sandy beaches in Moreton Bay and its islands. Within the city of Brisbane there is a mix of colonial architectural grandeur reflecting in a mirror of modern towers. From George Street, which houses the cosmopolitan Queen Street Mall with cafés and department stores, to the city's fine old churches you will find a blending of history and culture to suit all tastes.

HISTORY When the colony of New South Wales needed a better place to store its worst convicts, the tropical country farther north seemed a good place to drop them. Accordingly, in 1824, a penal settlement was established at Redcliffe on Moreton Bay, but was soon abandoned due to lack of water and hostile Aboriginal people. The settlement was moved south and inland to Brisbane, a town grew up, and although the penal settlement was abandoned in 1839, Brisbane's future was assured when the area was thrown open to free settlers in 1842. As mineral riches were developed, Brisbane grew to be a city, and today it is the third-largest in Australia.



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POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Queensland Art Gallery Houses the State's permanent collection. Established in 1895 and housed in various locations, it is the State's finest collection of more than 11,000 Australian and International paintings, sculptures, decorative art, indigenous art and multi-media installations.

2 Queensland Museum Contains more than two million items that relate to the natural, human, and technological history of the Sunshine State.

3 South Bank Parklands Incorporates lush parklands and tourist attractions, such as the acclaimed Queensland Cultural Center, White Sand Beach & Lagoon, and Maritime Museum.

BEYOND BRISBANE

Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens A scenic wooded area only 4 miles (6.5 km) from downtown, Mt. Coot-tha Park is the home of the Brisbane Botanical Gardens and the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium. The 128 acres (51 hectares) of gardens include a dome-shaped greenhouse with over 2,000 tropical shrubs and trees, a Japanese Garden and an extensive collection of Australian native plants.

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary A wildlife reserve with spectacular views of the city where visitors can cuddle a koala. There are more than 130 of the creatures housed at the park, and in order to feed them all, Lone Pine maintains a plantation of 40,000 eucalyptus trees.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Brisbane and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: While tipping is still optional in Australia it is increasingly seen at better hotels, restaurants and in taxis. As a general rule in restaurants add 5%-10% of the bill depending on service and in taxis add 5%-10% depending on the length of the trip.

Local Cuisine: The seafood restaurants in Brisbane are especially wonderful and offer you an opportunity to sample local specialties like Moreton Bay bugs (a delectable shellfish with a flavor similar to that of lobster), Queensland mud crabs, and fresh fish from the Great Barrier Reef. The Sunshine State's tropical products – pawpaws (papayas), mangoes, pineapples, and avocados – also come as an unexpected treat, as does the excellent beef.

Local drink: Australia boasts a vibrant spirits industry, and samples of the country's renowned beer or local wines are widely available at bars and restaurants.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The stores cater for all needs from clothes and jewelry (especially opals) to Australian souvenirs.

4 Myer Centre One of the largest central-business-district shopping centers in Australia completely fills the block bounded by Queen, Elizabeth, Albert and George streets. Within the center's five levels are a huge department store, 250 specialty shops, 8 cinemas, taverns, and a food fair.

Queen Street Pedestrian Mall extends from Edward to George streets.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar. Denominations include \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills and \$.10, \$.20, \$.50 \$1 and \$2 coins. Foreign exchange rates fluctuate. There is also a slight variation for cash or traveler's checks.

POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE FACILITIES The General Post Office (GPO) is located at 261 Queen St. and is open Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Other post offices in the city, such as the one in the Transit Centre, are open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To call the U.S. from Australia, dial 00 (International access) + 11 (U.S. country code) + area code + local number. Dial the following access numbers to place a call with your personal calling card:

- AT&T: 1.800.881.011
- MCI: 1.800.881.100
- SPRINT: 1.800.881.877

TOURIST INFORMATION Brisbane Visitors and Convention Bureau operates an information center in the middle of the Queen Street Mall, open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Friday from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

TRANSPORTATION Brisbane is well served by public buses, suburban trains, and cross-river ferries. In addition, a City Sights specialty bus makes the rounds of the major attractions. There are also five major taxi companies all operating 24 hours a day.

USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES The language spoken is English; however, it is spiced with a vocabulary and some pronunciations bound to confuse non-native speakers. For example:

- Are you right? ▪ Do you need help?
- Good on ya ▪ Good for you.
- Good day ▪ G'day
- Good afternoon ▪ Arvo
- Woman ▪ Sheila
- That's OK ▪ No worries
- General store ▪ Milk bar
- Evening meal ▪ Tea