



## Romance heats up in the Sunshine State

Re-ignite the romance under the star-filled skies of Outback Queensland, or relax with your loved one on a blissful cruise through the exotic Great Barrier Reef. Heat up the passion with a crackling fire in a lodge atop scenic mountains, or show that special someone how much you care by planning a romantic picnic on a deserted island. These are just some of the many passion-filled pursuits on offer in romantic Queensland. The state's top 10 romantic destinations listed below will be sure to light that special spark in your relationship.

### **The love boat**

A paradise of secluded white sandy beaches, sparkling blue waters, stunning mountain views and warm, sunny weather year-round – the Whitsunday Islands are the perfect place to relax with a loved one.

Lie back together and take in the breathtaking scenery as a premium yacht or luxury launch charts you around the 74 picturesque islands that make up the Whitsundays. Swim together in the pristine warm waters, bask in sunshine on deserted beaches and sip cocktails as you watch the sunset on a perfect day. Snorkel or scuba dive the world's most famous reef and witness the exotic and diverse range of marine life the Great Barrier Reef has to offer.

And no romantic escape to the Whitsundays is complete without a visit to Heart Reef – a breathtaking coral reef that has naturally formed in the shape of a heart. What could be more romantic than taking in its beauty from an aerial tour or swimming together within its tranquil waters. Visit [www.whitsundaytourism.com](http://www.whitsundaytourism.com)

### **Be pampered in Palm Cove**

Boasting world-class fine dining, rejuvenating spas and retreats, luxury hotels, and one of Australia's best beaches, it's no wonder Palm Cove is among Queensland's top romantic holiday destinations.

With its palm-fringed streets and award-winning beach, the resort village of Palm Cove, just 20 minutes north of Cairns in Tropical North Queensland, provides the perfect setting for the ideal romantic and relaxing getaway. Stay at one of the many luxury resorts offering in-house spa and massage treatments and be pampered with your partner. After enjoying a body soak, oceanic massage or soothing facial, why not discover the romantic delights of the region including the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

Given its popularity as a romantic getaway destination, many of the luxury hotel and spa retreats offer couples enticing romance packages which might include wine and chocolates on arrival, limousine transfers, spa treatments, fluffy robes and access to balcony hot tubs.

Visit

[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/)



### **Romantic riverside dining in Brisbane**

When it comes to a special meal with that special someone very few experiences compare to a riverside dinner in the Queensland capital. Reflecting the bright lights of the vibrant city, the Brisbane River and cityscape beyond provide the perfect backdrop to a romantic meal.

If high-class dining and superior service is what you are seeking in your romantic riverside dinner, its hard to go past Queensland's most awarded restaurant strip, Eagle St Pier. With spectacular views of the Brisbane River and Story Bridge, the exclusive *Michaels*, *Vino's* and *Il Centro* won't disappoint. After dinner why not stroll along Riverwalk, a three-kilometre scenic walking track along the river. Together, take in the lights of the city skyline, the majestic Kangaroo Point cliffs and get up close to the famous Brisbane icon – the Story Bridge.

Visit [www.experiencebrisbane.com](http://www.experiencebrisbane.com)

### **Lakeside champagne picnic**

There's no better way to experience the magnificent beauty of Fraser Island's Lake McKenzie than enjoying a champagne picnic with that special someone. Also known as the 'Window' lake because of its clear aqua waters, Lake McKenzie is the most outstanding of Fraser Island's inland freshwater lakes with its white, sandy beaches, breathtaking scenery and fabulous swimming and snorkelling opportunities.

What could be more romantic than a picnic by the pristine shoreline amidst a tranquil oasis of wildlife, fauna and a spectacular freshwater lake? After swimming, snorkelling and perhaps a scenic walk, why not complete the romantic escape by sipping champagne as the sun goes down.

Visit [www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/fraser-coast/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/fraser-coast/)

### **Island romance**

For a memorable holiday with that special someone, nothing quite compares to a romantic rendezvous on one of the many islands scattered around the Great Barrier Reef. Take your pick from small secluded islands you share with very few others, to large resort islands with world-class facilities.

Spend your days bathed in sunshine while you relax on pristine deserted beaches and swim or snorkel in crystal clear waters. For sporty couples, many islands offer a range of water sports such as jet-skiing, kayaking and sailing, as well as tennis and golf. Come evening time, relax and unwind with cocktails in the sand as you watch the sunset together, followed by a candle-lit dinner with fine wine and cuisine.



### **Romance peaks in mountain retreat**

Romance will peak when you escape with your significant other to a mountain cabin hideaway in the hinterland of Queensland's Gold or Sunshine Coasts.

During the evenings enjoy a crackling fire or perhaps a spa bath in your romantic log cabin, nestled amidst forest and wildlife with views to the mountain ranges and coastline beyond. Use daylight hours to explore the stunning hinterland scenery at your doorstep, whether it's a treetop walk through World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast hinterland, or shopping and a meal at quaint Montville, inland from Sunshine Coast beaches. Visit

**[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/gold-coast/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/gold-coast/) or [www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/sunshine-coast/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/sunshine-coast/)**

### **Propose on a private beach picnic**

The Gold Coast's ultimate romantic rendezvous! Be whisked away by seaplane with your lover to a deserted beach and experience a day of private picnicking and playing in the sun and surf.

Enjoy a scenic flight over Surfers Paradise before being set down by your pilot at a secluded beach on either North or South Stradbroke Island. Armed with a gourmet picnic, champagne, beach umbrella, blanket and snorkelling gear, you and your partner have hours to enjoy each other, and the island's beautiful beaches, waters and national parks, before the pilot returns.

And if the romance is really blossoming, perhaps you'd even like to consider the deserted island proposal alternative. This involves a marriage proposal being delivered on your behalf via skywriting or aircraft with banner, while the two of you watch blissfully from the privacy of your deserted beach below. Now would be the appropriate time to pop the bubbly!

Visit **[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/gold-coast/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/gold-coast/)**

### **Love is up in the air**

Let your romance scale new heights and get the adrenaline pumping with an exciting hot air balloon ride over the breathtakingly-beautiful Atherton Tableland in Tropical North Queensland. Available for private charter and weddings this hot air balloon ride is a romantic experience you and your loved one will remember forever.

Be picked up from your Cairns hotel early morning and gently glide over the panoramic Atherton Tableland at sunrise, absorbing the stunning diversity of the region. If you can tear your eyes off each other, feast them on mountain landscapes, rainforests, waterfalls, farms and lakes, before finishing off your adventure with champagne breakfast upon landing.

Visit

**[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/)**



### **Reef romance and relaxation**

Unwind and relax with your partner whilst sharing the magic of a cruise on the Great Barrier Reef, off Cairns. Leave the rainforest, restaurants and pampering spas of the Tropical North Queensland mainland tourist haven behind and set sail on the reef.

Why not join an intimate cruise ship for a relaxing and romantic five-day tour of Australia's most treasured natural icon and discover exotic islands and stunning reef destinations. Spend your days swimming, snorkelling or diving in the reef's waters teeming with diverse marine life, relaxing on secluded pristine beaches and exploring romantic tropical islands like Hinchinbrook, Lizard and Fitzroy. Come night time, indulge in a delicious meal and glass of wine, and be swept away by the romance of a moonlit night on the calm water.

Visit

**[www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/tropical-north-queensland/)**

### **Star attraction after dark**

What could be more romantic than an evening under the stars with your partner? The Queensland Outback offers vast expanses of clear sky which at night light up spectacularly with stars as far as the eye can see.

Visit the Cosmos Centre at Charleville after dark and enjoy a guided tour of the night sky using powerful telescopes. Gaze at star clusters, planets and more as you learn about the Milky Way and Earth's place in the Solar System. Visit

**[www.outbackholidays.info](http://www.outbackholidays.info)**