

Discovering Brisbane's Precincts

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Whether you shop 'till your feet hurt, hit a nightclub until tomorrow, enjoy fine dining, visit a museum, dive into water sports or mix with locals in eclectic suburban precincts, there's something in Brisbane for everyone to explore.

Uncovering the layers...

Modern and vibrant, exciting and diverse, there are many eclectic precincts which combine to make Brisbane the special city that it is. Here are a couple of urban villages you might want to explore.

- **Make your way to the West End** - Explore a treasure trove of weird and wonderful boutiques, second hand stores and hip cafes as you stroll through one of Brisbane's trendiest suburbs. From dreadlocked Rastafarians to Chinese, Vietnamese, organic and Turkish restaurateurs, West End is an intoxicating infusion of cultures and lifestyles. www.ourbrisbane.com.au
- **Abuzz on the bank** - Wander through the markets, visit an art gallery, cool off in a beautiful man-made beach which overlooks the CBD, or grab a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants and cafes which are dotted throughout the buzzing inner-city South Bank precinct. The cultural hub of Brisbane, South Bank also houses the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Performing Arts Complex, State Library and Museum. The Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) is also located at the northern end of South Bank, and since it opened in 2006, it has attracted high-profile, Australian-first exhibitions including Andy Warhol and Picasso. www.visitsouthbank.com
- **Deep in the Valley** - Fortitude Valley (or 'The Valley' as it is affectionately known to locals) is home to an amazing collection of contemporary art, award-winning restaurants and cafes, hip fashion strips and nation-leading bars and clubs. The Valley is an expression of contemporary Brisbane – a bold, progressive and youthful city with a savvy creative community at its heart. Pockets, streets and centres such as Ann and Brunswick Streets, James Street and Emporium have emerged in recent years. www.ourbrisbane.com.au
- **Coming into Port** - The Portside Wharf complex opened in August 2006 in the inner-northern Brisbane suburb of Hamilton. This exciting riverfront location, less than 5km from the CBD, is the beginning of Brisbane's largest urban renewal project
- **Hamilton Northshore** - Here locals and visitors alike enjoy a range of international dining and boutique shopping experiences in a vibrant public plaza and river-side setting. www.portsidewharf.com.au
- **The Westside story** - Paddington and Rosalie are Brisbane's most popular inner-Western urban villages. Meander through the main strips of Latrobe and Given Terraces and stumble upon a wide selection of cafes, quirky collectables, quaint cottages, vintage boutiques, designer and retro stores. www.ourbrisbane.com.au

Shopping

Queensland fashion takes its cue from our outdoor lifestyle and beautiful subtropical environment. Whether you're looking for a bargain, window shopping at internationally known labels, or searching for a one-of-a-kind piece, here are some of Brisbane's best fashion haunts.

- **Designer fit for a Queen** - The Queen Street Mall has long been considered the centre of fashion and retail in Queensland. This vibrant shopping and lifestyle precinct lies in the heart of Brisbane City and is arguably Australia's most successful pedestrian mall, hosting more than 26 million visitors a year. Some 700+ local, national and international labels have made their homes here – many enjoy mall and street frontage, while others are tucked inside world-class centres and heritage listed arcades. The Queens Plaza precinct situated within the mall is a mecca of glamorous designer fashion and accessory stores where visitors can browse through a fine selection of exclusive shops such as Tiffany and Co., Louis Vuitton, Max Mara, Guess Accessories and Herringbone. Visit www.queenstreetmall.com
- **Eclectic fashions hit the Valley** - Stroll through Fortitude Valley's Ann and Brunswick Streets to discover a funky fashion strip offering modern local fashions and edgy urban styles. Check out TCB (Totally Chic Boutiques), Brisbane's new urban shopping hub offering Brisbane's hottest young designers exclusively under the one roof. Experience leading Brisbane fashion labels Sass and Bide in their flagship store on James Street along with a variety of Australian labels such as Lorne Jane, Scanlan and Theodore and Paul Hunt. Don't miss the Emporium, one of Brisbane's most exciting luxury shopping and lifestyle precincts home to Australian fashion designers such as Harry Who. The weekend Valley Markets are also a unique shopping experience, showcasing everything from emerging fashion designers to Asian arts and crafts, fabulous handmade accessories and artworks. Visit www.ourbrisbane.com/visitors/shopping/valley www.emporium.com.au; www.tcbforwin.com.au
- **Young Designers transform South Bank** - Queensland's up-and-coming fashion designers and artists are taking centre stage at South Bank Young Designers' Market. Showcasing local creative talents, the markets are an extension of the current South Bank Lifestyle Market which operates every Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. The extra 40 stalls sell a range of new fashion and accessories, jewellery, home wares, design furniture and art. Visit www.visitsouthbank.com.au
- **Bag a bargain** - If you hate paying full-price and love hunting down a bargain, head to Direct Factory Outlets (or DFO), Brisbane's biggest outlet sale superstores. Trading at two convenient locations – one near the airport and another at Jindalee near the city – DFO features 100 individual factory outlet stores. Offering up to 70 per cent discounts off normal retail prices, DFO offers a convenient way to shop for less all under the one roof. Visit www.dfo.com.au

Music

Brisbane's thriving cultural scene harbours a fantastic local music industry and helps the city attract a range of national and international musical performances.

- **Brisbane Powerhouse** - The Brisbane Powerhouse is an early 20th century power station which has been transformed into a performing arts centre. Complete with bold industrial structures and graffiti-clad walls, it's a dramatic setting for many local, national and international performances. www.brisbanepowerhouse.org
- **The Zoo** - Brisbane's longest standing live music nightclub venue, The Zoo caters to the more independent end of the musical spectrum. Hear everything from beats, hip hop, jazz, rock, and pop to acoustic, folk, dub and reggae. www.thezoo.com.au
- **The Tivoli** - Built in 1917 and restored in Art Deco style, this elegant, fully licensed theatre is one of the hottest venues in Brisbane for both local and international touring acts. www.thetivoli.net.au

Nightlife

Whether you're looking for a quiet cocktail, a great night out clubbing, or a hearty pub meal, Brisbane's great range of inner-city and suburban bars, nightclubs, hotels and pubs is sure to have it covered.

- In the CBD, mix with the after-work crowd for a drink at riverside bars like **Jade Buddha** and **Friday's**, or be tempted by a wide range of boutique and exported beers at **Belgian Beer Café**. www.ourbrisbane.com
- Head out of the city and experience the relaxed vibe of Brisbane's suburban bars. The pick of the bars at vibrant West End include an exotic oriental establishment **Lychee Lounge**, the popular **Uber**, or **Sling** with over 250 different cocktails on its menu. At New Farm, old-favourite **Gertie's** bar and lounge offers an extensive range of wine, cocktails and premium beers, and a cosy, hip atmosphere. www.ourbrisbane.com
- **The Family** is Brisbane's most popular nightclub and is regarded as one of the best in Australia. Its four floors, incredible interior, artistic performers and DJs certainly won't disappoint the most seasoned of clubbers. Other bars in the Valley worth a visit include **The Bowery Bar** which recently won Best Bar in Australia by Gourmet Traveller Magazine, **Press Club**, **Cru Bar** and **Emporium Hotel Cocktail Bar**. www.thefamily.com.au, www.thebowery.com.au, www.emporiumhotel.com.au and www.cru.com.au
- Iconic Queensland pub, **The Regatta** offers the ideal riverside setting for a relaxing afternoon drink on one of its famous grand balconies, or alternatively, a great night out grooving to top 40 music and Aussie rock. www.regattahotel.com.au
- Enjoy ice-cold beers, live entertainment and good old-fashioned pub atmosphere at the well known **Story Bridge Hotel**, set under the city's iconic Story Bridge and overlooking the city gardens, river and skyline. www.storybridgehotel.com.au
- When it comes to the quintessential Brisbane pub, they don't come any better than the **Breakfast Creek Hotel**, just north of the CBD. This much-loved icon is best known for its great atmosphere, world-famous steaks and beer served from traditional wooden kegs. www.breakfastcreekhotel.com/

Lifestyle

Live as the locals do and immerse yourself in some of Brisbane's iconic outdoor lifestyle experiences.

- **A beach in the city centre** - Nestled within the towering city high rises, a beautiful white sand beach and crystal clear lagoon awaits at South Bank. Laze beneath shady palms and take a dip in Australia's only inner-city beach before wandering through the markets, or enjoying a bite to eat at one of the many cafés, restaurants and bars. www.visitsouthbank.com
- **Inner city adventures** - Glide along the beautiful Brisbane River past sleek high-rises, riverside markets and lush Botanical Gardens as you kayak through the heart of Brisbane. The Riverlife Adventure Centre offers a range of ways to explore Brisbane's CBD from guided kayaking tours to rock climbing the 200 million year old Kangaroo Point Cliffs. Or why not hire a bike or rollerblades from Riverlife and explore the many riverside boardwalks and precinct. www.riverlife.com.au
- **Cheer our local sporting heroes** - Australians are crazy about their sports, no one so much as in Queensland! Join the locals cheer on our local sporting heroes – the Lions, Broncos and Reds at their home grounds in Brisbane. www.ourbrisbane.com/activeandhealthy/sport/
- **Al fresco dining pleasures** - With a year-round climate of sunshine, blue skies and balmy nights, Queensland's climate is custom-made for al fresco dining. From seafood served overlooking the surf to picnics in riverside parks, there's something for every taste. www.ourbrisbane.com

- **Fresh from the farm** - The delicious tastes and heady aromas of the Powerhouse farmers Markets are a true feast for the senses. Every second and fourth Saturday from 6am to 12noon, thousands of enthusiastic market-goers stock up on farm-fresh produce in the grounds of the historic riverside Powerhouse arts centre. www.brisbanepowerhouse.org
- **All new at Queensland Gallery of Modern Art** - Overlooking the beautiful Brisbane River, Queensland's Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) offers a two site art gallery that is Australia's second largest public art museum and a treasure trove of contemporary art, interactive workshops and world-class exhibitions. www.qag.qld.gov.au/goma
- **Cheers! Visit the XXXX Alehouse** - Brewed here for more than 100 years, XXXX beer is a Queensland icon. The heady scent of hops fills the air on a brewery tour, then it's time for a relaxing lunch and ice-cold beer at the XXXX Alehouse. www.xxxx.com.au
- **A Story worth climbing** - Scale to the top of Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge to discover the city from a spectacular perspective. One of only three such experiences in the world, Story Bridge Adventure Climb operates dawn, day, twilight and night climbs. www.sbac.net.au
- **CityCat** - Jump aboard one of Brisbane's CityCats (high speed catamarans) and let the wind blow through your hair as you take in the view cruising along the meandering Brisbane River. The regular services connect The University of Queensland in the west through the city to the Bretts Wharf precinct in the north. www.translink.com.au