

APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

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Brisbane

The Jagera and Turrbal Aboriginal clans had lived around the Brisbane River for a considerable time period before European settlers arrived, but the exact length is hard to pin down. Aboriginal occupation of Australia dates back around 40,000 years (according to most scholars at least) and there is no evidence to suggest that the Brisbane river and Moreton Bay region, with its ample supply of food, would have been left uninhabited once discovered.

Surveyor General John Oxley 'found' the river in 1823 after a tip-off from some ex-convicts who had found their way to the region and had been mixing with the local Aborigines. He named it after the Governor of New South Wales at the time, Thomas Brisbane (in 1823 the state of Queensland didn't exist).

Europeans didn't settle the region until the first convict jail was built in Redcliffe in 1824, but even that was quickly moved to the site of the present-day Brisbane CBD in 1825 after officials realised the natural bend in the river provided a pretty good barrier against escape.

Free settlement didn't begin in the Brisbane region until 1842 because the Government initially wanted the jail kept isolated from the wider community. The usual assortment of entrepreneurs and ex-convicts quickly followed and a town began to grow around the river. By the late 1880's Brisbane was the main centre of commerce and the capital of the colony of Queensland and it was beginning to develop its own distinctive architecture and culture

The city grew steadily until World War II when it became the main allied headquarters in the South Pacific and an influx of Australian and American servicemen stretched the population to three quarters of a million. Industry flourished and continued to boom post war and Brisbane firmly staked its claim as the third largest city in the country.

The 1982 Commonwealth Games were hosted in Brisbane and the city received a massive infrastructure and sporting facilities boost as a result.

In 1988 the world expo, "Expo '88", was hosted at what is now South Bank (across the river from the CBD), and the event also helped put Brisbane 'on the map' so to speak.

Brisbane has always struggled behind Sydney and Melbourne in the cultural stakes, but the city now has a thriving arts scene and is responsible for some of the best live music and bands in the country.

The Brisbane River has played an important part in the settlement, development and evolution of Brisbane.

Flooding of major rivers is almost a given, especially in sub-tropical climates. The Brisbane River has flooded numerous times with several serious floods resulting in loss of life and massive repair bills.

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Brisbane - Kangaroo Point

Kangaroo Point is positioned on a peninsula formed of harder rhyolite rock which the Brisbane River flows around. On the northern tip of the peninsula the Story Bridge connects it to the central business district and the suburb of Fortitude Valley. The suburb of Woolloongabba is positioned to the south. The six-lane Main Street runs from Story Bridge to Woolloongabba. The landscape of Kangaroo Point is predominantly high rise residences towards the tip of the peninsula whilst the southern end is predominantly low-medium density flats and Queenslander kind of houses.

Quick Facts

- Before British settlement, Kangaroo Point used to be occupied by the Turrbal people. It is one of the earliest suburbs settled in Brisbane and subsequently, is one of Brisbane's oldest suburbs, rich in history and character. It had a reputation for violent and rowdy street gangs around the 1900s, with a range of street riots.
- In 1823, explorer John Oxley described Kangaroo Point as a "jungle, fringed with mangroves with the higher land open forest, covered with grass". During the time of the subsequent convict settlement (1825–41), Kangaroo Point was cleared and used for cultivation of crops.
- Subsequently, the place was opened up for free settlement, the first land sales taking place on 13 December 1843. Among the early buyers was Captain J.C.Wickham, the Police Magistrate. Surveyor James Warner constructed the first residence at Kangaroo Point in 1844.
- Until the federation of the Australian colonies in 1901, the Queensland Navy's primary storage facility was positioned in the suburb. The first ship-based radio transmission in Australia was made between HMAS Gayundah and the structures in 1903. The naval stores buildings were occupied by the Royal Australian Navy till 1959, and then by the Australian Army till 1984. The heritage-listed buildings are now used by an adventure company focussing on river activities and rock climbing.
- The opening of the Story Bridge in July 1940 was the most significant development of the suburb. Trolleybuses operated by the Brisbane City Council linked the suburb with Fortitude Valley through the Story Bridge from 1953 to 1969, running along Main Street from Woolloongabba and other eastern suburbs.
- The Kangaroo Point Natural History Project was carried out by the council in 2013 to recognize the contribution by some of Queensland's pioneering scientists and researchers from the area. Along a heritage trail through the CT White and James Warner parks are a collection of signs and sculptures to commemorate their lives and work: Cyril Tenison White (government botanist), Frederick Manson Bailey (colonial botanist), Silvester Diggles (naturalist), Oscar Werner Tiegs (entomologist and zoologist), James Warner (surveyor), and Harry Oakman (landscape artist).
- Kangaroo Point is home to the more-than-160-year-old St Mary's Anglican Church.
- Kangaroo Point is also home to Ellis Street, one of the 20 steepest hills in Brisbane according to the City Council.
- Kangaroo Point is also home to one of less than 200 Mormon temples in the world (as of August 2015).

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Brisbane - South Bank Parklands

Rich in cultural history, South Bank's Parklands had their first glimpse of promise in its post-industrial-period when World Expo 88 opened the place up for public visitation. Enjoyed by so many and considered as a treasured public space to Brisbane after Expo, South Bank's Parklands had been redeveloped for public enjoyment, and that lush inner-city oasis is still loved by the public today. Considered a haven of natural splendour and flanked by famous attractions which include

The Wheel of Brisbane, Stanley Street Plaza, Little Stanley Street, and River Quay, the Parklands create a domain of escapism and leisurely enjoyment for all who visit. Regardless of the time of day, the Parklands constantly put on a fantastic show. Whether it's the sun streaming through the famed bougainvillea-draped Arbour or a superb red-tinted sundown dancing light along the river's surface, views from the Parklands continually inspire a breathless moment (and typically a photo or two).

Quick Facts

- South Bank has a rich and diverse history. It was initially a meeting place for the original landowners, the Turrbal and Yuggera people.
- In the 1840s, European settlement saw it radically change into Brisbane's CBD. Then, in the 1850s, South Bank Precinct was quickly instituted as the business centre of Brisbane.
- In 1883, extreme flooding triggered the settlers to relocate the CBD to where it is today, on the Brisbane River's north banks.
- By 1930, South Bank had been re-established as a bustling river port and industrial zone that was buzzing with markets, wharves, dance halls and theatres. However, over time development slowed and the place slowly spiralled into disrepair.
- The 1970s marked the beginnings of a new era, with parkland reclaimed along the river bank, and the Queensland Cultural Centre was constructed which covered the Queensland Art Gallery, the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and State Library of Queensland (today it also consists of the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art).
- In 1984, South Bank was chosen as the site for World Expo 88. World Expo 88 was immensely successful and breathed new life into South Bank – it attracted 18 million visitors to the precinct all through its six month run and it also showcased the area's potential as public space. Once World Expo 88 was over, the people of Brisbane were so enamoured with South Bank that they lobbied to preserve it as public parkland.
- In 1989, the South Bank Corporation, a Queensland Government statutory body, was set up to oversee the development and administration of the new South Bank Parklands.
- The Parklands opened in 1992; Little Stanley Street opened in 1998; and River Quay opened in 2011.
- Today, South Bank is one of Brisbane's most vibrant, busy and cherished spaces. It is constantly developing and is quickly turning into one of Australia's most internationally recognisable spaces.

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Brisbane - King George Square

King George Square is a public square, positioned between Adelaide Street and Ann Street (and between two sections of Albert Street), adjacent to Brisbane City Hall. Originally, Albert Street ran west from the Botanic Gardens as far as Ann Street and the original city markets. A square was situated between Ann Street and Adelaide Street, south of Albert Street and was referred to as Market Square. This grew to be the site of the Brisbane City Hall (which was finished in 1930). The City Hall was set back from Albert Street and this widened area of the street, and some land north of Albert Street, was renamed Albert Square in honour of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria.

Quick Facts

- Following the death of King George V in 1936, the square was widened to include the area which had been Albert Street, and renamed King George Square in honour of the King.
- The bronze Lion sculptures, which "guard" the King George Square entrance to the Brisbane City Hall, were initially on large sandstone plinths, as part of the George V memorial, which was unveiled in 1938, as a tribute to the King from the citizens of Brisbane.
- Vehicular traffic, including a trolley-bus route, operated through the square until 1969, when the roadway was closed to traffic. Buildings on the northern side of the square were acquired by the City Council and demolished and work commenced on the construction of the underground King George Square Car Park.
- Albert St used to pass between City Hall and the statue until 1969, when the Square was redeveloped and Albert St was closed off at Adelaide St.
- The statue of the King was shifted closer to City Hall, and it was turned around as a result of the Queen, when she saw the statue on a visit here, asking "Why is Grandpapa retreating?" The statue was repositioned, with King George V now majestically leading his subjects into battle.
- A round-shaped fountain, located in the centre of King George Square, was also demolished, and a rectangular-shaped fountain built. As a direct result of the (2005–2007) drought, the water in the rectangular-shaped fountain was temporarily replaced by a special "Watersense garden" with drought-resistant plants.
- There are statues of some famous Queenslanders in a special section of King George Square, which is called "Speakers' Corner". The statues are of Steele Rudd (1868–1935), Emma Miller (1839–1917), and Sir Charles Lilley (1830–1897). Bronze sculptures from the Expo '88 site have also been incorporated into the square's design.
- In October 2009 the new King George Square was opened after 16 months' redevelopment. A national design competition was held to select the company to redesign the square. The winner was UbrisJHD.
- The square redevelopment followed the conversion of the underground lower two levels of the King George Square Car Park into the King George Square busway station.
- The redesign has been heavily criticized for excess surface heat, glare and its lack of shade.

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Brisbane - Story Bridge

The Story Bridge is a heritage-listed steel cantilever bridge spanning the Brisbane River that carries traffic between the north and the south suburbs of Brisbane. It is the longest cantilever bridge in Australia. The road across the bridge is named Bradfield Highway. The bridge connects Fortitude Valley to Kangaroo Point.

Currently the bridge is repainted every seven years using 17,500 litres of paint. There is approximately 105,000 square metres of painted steel surfaces. It is the longest cantilever bridge in Australia. More than 97,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day.

Quick Facts

- Before the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 the Government of Queensland asked John Bradfield to design a new bridge in Brisbane.
- Construction on the bridge began on 24 May 1935, with the first sod being turned by the then Premier of Queensland, William Forgan Smith.
- Components for the bridge were fabricated in a purpose-built factory at Rocklea. Work sometimes continued 24 hours per day.
- Until it was completed the bridge was known as the Jubilee Bridge in honour of King George V.
- It was opened on 6 July 1940 by Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, Governor of Queensland and named after John Douglas Story, a senior and influential public servant who had advocated strongly for the bridge's construction.
- This opening date came five years after construction commenced and fourteen years after initial recommendations for a river crossing in the Kangaroo Point vicinity. Queenslander, Dr John Bradfield's design team prepared 600 working drawings.
- There was little room for error, as the men worked on the bridge from each side – hoping to meet exactly in the middle. It all came together on 28 October 1939 and, according to the more poetic reports of the day, a rainbow formed in the sky as the final panel was locked into place.
- A toll booth was established on one side to recuperate construction costs, at a fee equivalent to five cents per vehicle. This tolls were lifted much earlier than authorities expected, largely thanks to the increased traffic from United States army troops during World War Two (the city was the Allied Forces' headquarters for the South West Pacific campaign).
- Essentially, the Story Bridge was one of the then governments' three major public works projects, creating years of employment for many men during the Great Depression.
- The Story Bridge is the largest steel bridge designed, fabricated and constructed in Australia by Australians.
- The Story Bridge is as much of an icon to Brisbane as the Sydney Harbour Bridge is to Sydney.
- Like the Sydney Harbour Bridge, you can drive across it, walk across it, and even go up onto the spans via a guided bridge climb.

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Brisbane - City Hall

City Hall is one of Queensland's most important heritage and cultural icons. City Hall has social and historical significance for locals, in particular, those whose households helped in the design and development of City Hall. Since its opening in 1930, City Hall has been a symbol of civic pride and over the years it has turned out to be one of Brisbane's best icons and community assembly places. The structure has played a vital role in the lives of the neighbourhood in times of war, peace, celebration and refuge and has rightly earned the title of the 'People's Place'. City Hall is home to Brisbane's civic, community, artistic and social life and has hosted many well-known visitors such as The Rolling Stones and Queen Elizabeth II. The Queensland Heritage Register and the National Trust of Queensland list City Hall as a 'culturally, historically and architecturally significant building'. The building also features the Council's own Heritage Register.

Quick Facts

- In 1909 architects designed a new town hall but the contract was terminated when Brisbane property owners refused to approve the 180,000 pounds to build it.
- The first foundation stone was laid in 1917 by the then Governor, Sir Hamilton Gould-Adams, before a new design had even been drawn.
- In 1917, architects Hall and Prentice were employed to submit designs for Council offices and a public hall. Their design, submitted in November 1919, was estimated at 480,000 pounds. The design was accepted and the then Prince of Wales laid a second foundation stone in July 1920.
- Building City Hall was a major undertaking in the 1920s. It took 10 years to build at a cost of around 980,000 pounds.
- At the time the City Hall offices opened on 3 January 1928 it was in Australia one of the most expensive buildings constructed, the second largest construction of its time (Sydney Harbour Bridge the largest), and the first major concrete 'column and beam' building constructed.
- It was designed by architectural firm, Hall and Prentice, City Hall has a great circular hall and corridors surrounded by offices and function venues. The main entrance from King George Square is emphasised by imposing Corinthian columns that are nearly 14 metres high. The building has a clock tower rising 92 metres above the ground. One of the main building features is its grand marble staircase.
- The Main Auditorium is City Hall's single largest space. The copper dome over the room is the largest in Australia, spanning 31 metres in diameter. The dome is supported on a brick base that allows the interior of the Main Auditorium to be unobscured by columns.
- The architectural style of City Hall has been described as 'inter-war academic classical'. Classical styles, with Ancient Rome and Greece influences, were popular for major public buildings and monuments during the 1920s and 1930s.
- For 30 years City Hall was the tallest building in Brisbane. The chiming of the clock bell could be heard as far away as Wynnum and the clock tower could be read through binoculars from Camp Hill.
- For more than 60 years it has been the main location of Brisbane City Council employees and an event location for the people of Brisbane.
- The building is now listed with the National Trust and included in the National Estate. It is also included in the Queensland Heritage Act of 1992.

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Brisbane - City Botanic Gardens

The City Botanic Gardens (formerly the Brisbane Botanic Gardens) is a heritage-listed botanic garden on Alice Street, Brisbane. It was also regarded as Queen's Park. It is situated in Gardens Point in the Brisbane CBD and is bordered by the Brisbane River, Alice Street, George Street, Parliament House and Queensland University of Technology's Gardens Point campus. The Gardens encompass Brisbane's most mature gardens, with many rare and uncommon botanic species. In particular the Gardens feature a special collection of cycads, palms, figs and bamboo.

Quick Facts

- Much of the present-day Botanic Gardens was surveyed and selected as the site for a public garden in 1828 by the NSW Colonial Botanist Charles Fraser, three years after the establishment of the European settlement at nearby North Quay, Brisbane. Originally the gardens were planted by convicts in 1825 with food crops to feed the prison colony.
- In 1855 a portion of several acres was declared a Botanic Reserve. In the same year Walter Hill was appointed as curator of the Botanic Reserve, a position he held until 1881.
- He began an active planting and experimental program. Some of the older trees planted in the Gardens were the first of their species to be planted in Australia, due to Hill's experiments to acclimatise plants. He encouraged the work of the sugar pioneer John Buhot which culminated in the first production of granulated sugar in Queensland in April 1862.
- Hill also supported the work of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society which was formed in 1862, and the Botanic Gardens was the propagation and distribution point for the Society's imports.
- By 1866 Hill had succeeded in having the extent of the Botanic Gardens enlarged to approximately 27 acres (11 ha). A 10-acre (4.0 ha) strip along Alice Street was not part of the Gardens but served as a park and sporting field known as Queen's Park.
- Due to the proximity to the river, the Botanic Gardens have been flooded nine times between 1870-2011. With many plants being washed away, the Brisbane City Council established a new botanic gardens at Mount Coot-tha.
- The Gardens were also the home for over 100 years for Harriet, a tortoise reportedly collected by Charles Darwin during his visit to the Galápagos Islands in 1835 and donated to the Gardens in 1860 by John Clements Wickham, former commander of the HMS Beagle and later Government Resident for Moreton Bay.
- Harriet was named in honour of Harry Oakman, curator of the Gardens from 1945 to 1962 and the creator of the zoo at the Gardens. The zoo closed in 1952. Harriet lived out her final years at Australia Zoo until dying in June 2006.
- The City Botanic Gardens was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 3 February 1997. The Queensland Heritage Register describes the Gardens as "the most significant, non-Aboriginal cultural landscape in Queensland, having a continuous horticultural history since 1828, without any significant loss of land area or change in use over that time. It remains the premier public park and recreational facility for the capital of Queensland, which role it has performed since the early 1840s.

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Brisbane - Tangalooma Island Resort

Initially a whaling station, Tangalooma Island Resort (formerly regarded as Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort) is a resort on the west side of Moreton Island. It lies on the eastern shore of Moreton Bay and is recognised for its resort accommodation, dolphin-feeding program, sand dunes and wreck diving. Swimming is famous along the white beaches. It has a population of over 300 and receives more than 3500 tourists each week as it is only about 70 minutes from Brisbane by express catamaran.

Moreton Island National Park is 98% of the island, although there are three small townships there: Bulwer, Koorinal and Cowan Cowan. The adjoining waters are protected as the Moreton Bay Marine Park. Tangalooma is the aboriginal word that means "where the fish gather". Tangalooma and Moreton Island, have a rich history dating back to the native Aboriginals and early European settlement.

Quick Facts

- Moorgumpin meaning 'place of sandhills' is the Aboriginal name for Moreton Island. The Indigenous people of Moorgumpin are known as the Ngugi. Moorgumpin lies within the area referred to as Quandamooka. Quandamooka is commonly defined as the Moreton Bay region.
- Extensive site surveys have established that the Ngugi people lived permanently on the Island, maintaining a marine-based lifestyle for over 2000 years. Fish, shellfish, dugong, turtle and crustaceans formed a major portion of their diet, which was supplemented by the bungwall fern (*Blechnum indicum*), midyim berries (*Austromyrtus dulcis*), pandanus and honey.
- Archaeological sites on the Island are important to the Ngugi descendants as a reflection of their heritage. Up to 330 cultural sites have been recorded and include shell and bone scatters, large middens and a stone quarry.
- In 1770 Captain James Cook named "Morton Bay" after the Scottish Earl of Morton on the 17th May, which was later misspelled as 'Moreton Bay' in translations from his journals.
- It wasn't until 1823 that the first 'white visitors' arrived on Moreton Island. The last of the Ngugi people were forced to relocate to Stradbroke Island in 1850, where their descendants still live today.
- World War II saw two large defence batteries built on Moreton Island — one at Cowan Cowan and the second at Toompani (known as the Rous Battery). During the war a naval base and jetty were built at Tangalooma. The remains of the batteries and other relics are still present and are of historic significance.
- The resort (formerly known as Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort) is well known for the hand-feeding of wild dolphins. Every evening at sunset a pod of up to 11, local bottlenose dolphins swims to the beach in front of the resort where selected guests can feed them, an activity supervised by the Tangalooma Marine Education and Conservation Centre (TMECC).
- Apart from the dolphin feeding program, there are many tours and other activities on offer, including whale watching cruises. Accommodation consists of about 300 rooms, as a variety of hotel units, villas and apartments. Sites for private housing are available on the sand hills behind the resort.
- Located to the north of Tangalooma Island Resort is a total of 15 vessels that were deliberately scuttled between the 1960s through to the 1980s. These wrecks have now become a man-made ecosystem providing a haven for local marine life such as bream (fish), sea turtles and wobbegongs. The Wrecks are popular with boats as they provide a calm place to anchor and are known as a great snorkelling location.

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Brisbane - Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

Acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is the world's first and biggest koala sanctuary, with ninety years of experience and a hundred thirty koalas. In 2015 Lone Pine was inducted into the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame for 5 consecutive years of excellence. Interact with a hundred species of Australian animals, with hands-on experiences and presentations. Hand-feed kangaroos and wild lorikeets, or hold a lovely koala. Lone Pine is also home to two platypuses, dwelling in a AUD1 million exhibit, who will entertain you with their playful antics.

Quick Facts

- The Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary was opened in 1927. The name originates from a lone hoop pine that was planted by the Clarkson family, the first owners of the 4.6-hectare (11-acre) site.
- The sanctuary began with two koalas called Jack and Jill. Lone Pine became known internationally during World War II when Americans, including Douglas MacArthur's wife, visited the park to view the native Australian animals.
- It was established in the Moggill District, on a largely undeveloped bush land peninsular formed by a U-bend in the Brisbane River.
- The dirt road leading to 'Lone Pine' was hilly and sometimes impassable in wet weather, thereby making car or bus trips to the koala sanctuary less desirable than arrival by boat.
- From 1934, 'Lone Pine' ran a tourist ferry Mirimar II from the Brisbane City wharves to a sanctuary's jetty that was constructed along the Sherwood Reach of the River. A koala 'riding' the back of a German Shepard dog greeted tourists.
- By the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, it had developed into Brisbane's most popular privately owned tourist attraction and was recognised as a leader in koala research and conservation.
- The Mirimar II (82 tons) was requisitioned by the RAN twice during the war. From 4 September to 17 November 1939, she mounted two Vickers .303 heavy machine guns and she was used as an auxiliary examination vessel. She was returned to Lone Pine.
- On 26 May 1941, she was requisitioned again into the RAN on 19 August 1941. She was commissioned as a patrol vessel with four depth charge chutes added.
- The Commonwealth finally purchased Mirimar II from Lone Pine on 15 December 1942. The arrival of US forces in Brisbane around Christmas 1941 boosted tourist numbers to 'Lone Pine'.
- With military vehicles such as jeeps and White scout cars that were designed for off-road use, American servicemen found the road to the koala sanctuary not to be a problem.
- With its koalas and other exotic Australian wildlife plus other attractions such as its kiosk and the Ye Olde Wishing Well, the sanctuary was a popular destination for American Servicemen and servicewomen on leave.
- 'Lone Pine' received world media coverage when US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited it during her visit to US troops in Brisbane on 13 September 1943. The Royal Australian Navy used the sanctuary's tourist boat Mirimar as an auxiliary patrol vessel.

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Brisbane - New Farm Park

New Farm Park is a heritage-listed public park at 137 Sydney Street, New Farm. Designed by Albert Herbert Foster and constructed from 1914 to 1950 by Gladwin Legge & Co, it was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 7 February 2005. The park covers 15 hectares (37 acres) and is at the southeastern end of the New Farm peninsula on a bend in the Brisbane River. The Powerhouse arts centre is at the eastern end of the park. New Farm Park is one of Brisbane's oldest, grandest and biggest parks, and attracts more than 18,000 visitors every week from all around the world. It is also a famous spot for local families, with enough amusements to keep little ones busy all day.

Quick Facts

- Before European settlement, the New Farm area was covered with bush and dotted with shallow lagoons. It supported a variety of wildlife and proved a bountiful resource to local Aborigines, the Turrbal people. The area was called Binkin-ba meaning place of the land tortoise.
- It then became a place for the European settlers to grow their food, as Captain Logan ordered it to be cleared as the "new farm" (in addition to the existing farms at the Botanical Gardens and South Brisbane) for the settlement of Brisbane.
- Convict labour was used to grow maize and vegetables needed for the penal outpost. Some years later, the land would be subdivided for smaller tenant farms.
- Then land-holder and solicitor Thomas Adams leased his holdings to the Moreton Bay Jockey Club, and the annual races moved from the outlying area of Coopers Plains into the suburb now known as New Farm.
- Proximity to the city and then the electric tramway system's extension down Brunswick St saw some of Brisbane's most prominent citizens build houses in the area.
- After some activism from locals seeking the establishment of a recreation reserve, Brisbane City Council acquired the land that had been the old race track, and New Farm Park was established in 1914.
- From the outset, the Council saw to beautification of the park with extensive landscaping and planting, and the park's position on the bank of the Brisbane River enhanced its drawing power. Picnickers could frequently watch boats of all sizes pass by, and that also holds true today - although the boats are more likely to be powered by motor rather than sail.
- The fifteen hectares of parkland on the river soon became a hit with locals, and the Council extended its use by creating a cricket pitch and other sporting facilities. In addition to extensive rose beds, poinsettias and jacarandas were also planted; and a kiosk and bandstand were erected in 1915.
- In 2000 a fire destroyed the kiosk, and since then there has been argument and controversy about a replacement. A temporary commercial venture operates there at the moment. Regrettably, some of the old jacarandas have been lost, probably due to the drought conditions here in Brisbane recently.
- Current park use includes both active and passive use. Active use ranges from sports use, such as soccer, football, croquet, tennis, basketball and boules, to social events and festivals, playground use, weddings, and cycling and jogging. More passive uses include picnics, strolls through the gardens, listening to brass bands every second Sunday, and tourists visiting to witness the jacarandas bloom.

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Brisbane - Sirromet Winery

Sirromet, a family owned and run winery, located at Mount Cotton, just a short drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast incorporates state of the art facilities, exquisite dining, wine tours and tastings, and award winning restaurants.

The Sirromet story began when owner Terry Morris was in Victoria attending a dinner party with friends. Terry mentioned that he had tried a great wine from Queensland's Granite Belt to which his Victorian friends laughed and said "There's no such thing as a great wine from Queensland." This was the spark that Terry needed to create his vision for Sirromet.

Quick Facts

- Terry had choosing land in the Granite Belt Region, providing the perfect location for growing grapes and in 2000, the cellar doors swung open to the public.
- Sirromet winery boasts nearly 1000 awards for their exquisite wine collection which utilises traditional wine making methods along with new technology.
- The Granite Belt was formed by an ancient tectonic uplift that forced a significant Granite Mass 820m above sea level. Over time, softer rocks and soils have eroded, leaving a clearly identifiable Granite Plateau.
- Due to its elevation, this plateau experiences some of Australia's coldest winters. The sub-zero temperatures cause water that has been absorbed in exposed granite boulders and rocks to freeze and expand, forcing mineral particles into the soil. This annual soil enrichment allows local vineyards and orchards to grow the highest quality produce with unique, rich flavours
- Sirromet's Cellar Door which is open daily for wine tastings delivered by expert and passionate staff. Many enjoy a behind the scenes tour which during winemaking season a full-scale production takes place in the facility.
- Restaurant Lurleen's offers the ultimate fine dining experience, freshness and flavours with all menus prepared by executive chef Mathew Fulford, dishing up modern Australian cuisine and fresh local seafood overlooking the beautiful views across Moreton Bay.
- If it's more of a relaxed alfresco food experience you prefer with friends and family then the Italian inspired Tuscan Terrace restaurant is the perfect place to delight your senses surrounded by the rolling hills of the well-manicured Sirromet grounds.
- With something onsite to suit the whole family, including SUPA GOLF and live music.
- Sanctuary by Sirromet, high-end glamping tents are to provide you with a comfortable base for you to explore the many pleasures and experiences of the winery and surrounds.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Gold Coast - Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Village Roadshow is Australia's biggest theme park operator featuring some of the most exciting entertainment, rides and slides available anywhere in the world.

Village Roadshow Theme Parks (VRTP), a wholly-owned division of Village Roadshow, has its headquarters on the Gold Coast's vacation playground, where it operates Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World, Wet'n'Wild, Paradise Country, Australian Outback Spectacular and Sea World Resort & Water Park, a 402 room hotel next to Sea World. Collectively these Queensland based Village Roadshow Theme Parks enjoy approximately 5 million visitors per annum. In addition, in December 2013 VRL opened Wet'n'Wild Sydney.

Quick Facts

- In 1989, the publicly listed Sea World Property Trust who owned its namesake theme park coordinated a three-way venture to acquire Wet'n'Wild Water World from the Herring Group of Companies and build the adjacent Warner Bros. Movie World theme park. The joint venture known as Warner Village Theme Parks was led by Chief Executive Officer John Menzies. Prior to the formation of the company, Menzies was Managing Director of Sea World.
- In 1992, Pivot Leisure sold its two-third stake of the Sea World Property Trust to AOL Time Warner and Village Roadshow Limited.
- In April 2001, AOL Time Warner and Village Roadshow Limited announced plans to acquire the remaining 31.6% of Sea World Property Trust that they did not already own. This would also mean the ownership of Warner Village Theme Parks would lie entirely with the two firms. However, the takeover bid failed as the two firms were only able to acquire 85.65% of the trust, just shy of the 90% required for compulsory acquisition.
- A second takeover bid of Sea World Property Trust was put forward in December 2001. This bid was ultimately successful, with compulsory acquisition beginning in February 2002, and the delisting of the Sea World Property Trust from the Australian Securities Exchange in April 2002.
- Warner Village Theme Parks remained a joint venture between Time Warner and Village Roadshow until Village took full ownership of the group in 2006. Time Warner continues to provide a licence to the Warner Bros. brand. The group was renamed Village Roadshow Theme Parks.
- In April 2008, Village Roadshow Theme Parks proposed African Safari World, an amusement park and zoo to replace the Werribee Open Range Zoo, 32 kilometres (20 mi) southwest of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. This was followed by the proposal to acquire and re-develop Aussie World into Wet'n'Wild Aussie World.
- In late 2008, Sydney Attractions Group was purchased by Village Roadshow after months of discussions. This included the acquisition of Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Tower and Sydney Wildlife World. The company further expanded its interests in local attractions in 2009, with the purchase of Oceanworld Manly in Australia and Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World in New Zealand.
- In December 2010, they announced that they would sell approximately \$115 million worth of assets to Merlin Entertainments.
- On 3 March 2011, the deal was finalised with Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Wildlife World, Oceanworld Manly, Sydney Tower, Hamilton Island Wildlife Park and Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World all being sold off.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Gold Coast - Sea World Gold Coast

Sea World is a marine mammal park, oceanarium, and theme park that consist of rides, animal exhibits and different attractions. It promotes conservation through schooling and the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured or orphaned wildlife.

Sea World have constantly been strongly linked to education. Sea World has emerged as a frequent destination for school field trips, provides all kinds of volunteer opportunities, and plays a fundamental role in helping to train the next generation of marine biologists. So whilst Sea World is certainly a place where you can have a lot of fun, out of all of the Gold Coast theme parks, it is by far the most educational. Over the past few decades, Sea World has progressively become one of the most well-known theme parks on the Gold Coast.

Quick Facts

- The history of SeaWorld begins with Keith Williams in 1958. A local businessman, Williams purchased a large tract of land along the Gold Coast with the intent of developing a tourist attraction that would draw people to Australia.
- Calling his venture the Ski Gardens, the early days of SeaWorld were devoted to showcasing Williams' love of water skiing as a tourist attraction. As Ski Gardens blossomed and grew, so did the crowds. Looking to expand, Ski Gardens relocated down the Gold Coast, a short distance from its original site in 1971.
- The original site was then utilised for other pursuits until 1972 when Williams built a marine auditorium for sea lion and dolphin shows in order to broaden the appeal of his investment. This decision led to the incorporation of SeaWorld, taking the various small enterprises owned by Williams that were scattered around the Gold Coast and bringing them under one roof.
- SeaWorld took a giant step forward in 1976 when its main competitor, Marineland, was purchased by Williams.
- Adding to the amusement park in 1978, major rides were built, including the Viking's Revenge Flume Ride and Castle. The biggest jump to SeaWorld's reputation came in 1982 when the 'Corkscrew' opened, and the crowds flocked to take a ride on the roller coaster.
- Williams, now looking to focus his attention on building Gold Coast-based luxury resorts and serviced apartments, sold SeaWorld to a consortium in 1984. The sale in 1984 provided a fresh injection of capital for SeaWorld.
- Effective marketing to a more international crowd led to record rates of attendance in the late 1980s and mid-1990s. Tourists flocked from across the globe to see the rapidly expanding SeaWorld.
- A true windfall occurred in 1999 when SeaWorld secured the sponsorship of the Cartoon Network. A portion of the park was dedicated to the network's cartoon characters, which attracted even bigger crowds.
- Recent additions to SeaWorld include housing endangered polar bears in the early 2000s and the expansion of educational programs that entertain while also informing the public of the fragile nature of Earth's aquatic habitats.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Gold Coast - Dreamworld

As Australia's biggest theme park, Dreamworld offers worlds of adventure for the whole family. With rides catered to all thrill levels, wildlife experiences, live shows and presentations, traditional cultural displays and access to WhiteWater World, the park truly is so many worlds in one.

Dedicated precincts, including ABC KIDS World and DreamWorks Experience, allow guests to meet their favourite movie and television characters. Dreamworld Corroboree brings to life the world's oldest culture and, as home to over 500 animals, who help support the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation's conservation initiatives, guests can experience tigers at Tiger Island or, come face-to-face with Australian wildlife at Corroboree. With over 40 rides, slides and attractions, the park offers thrills and spills all in one place.

Quick Facts

- In 1974, John Longhurst bought 85 hectares of land to build his dream. With a few attractions and a lot of heart, Dreamworld opened to the public on December 15, 1981.
- The site that Dreamworld now occupies once belonged to John and Sarah Williamson, an English cattle raising family who in 1874 decided to name their house Hollywood Cottage, and thus placing this name on a hardwood beam, which was then placed above their front door. Their original cottage still stands intact on Dreamworld grounds, as part of Gold Rush Country, where the descendants of the Williamson's stayed on until 1989.
- Ninety-five years later John Longhurst, on a flight between Hawaii and Japan, envisioned what would later become Dreamworld. Longhurst was a man from a simple background, having begun his work life as a truck operator and mechanic, later being a successful lawn mower manufacture, which then lead to successfully graduating as a builder and boat maker.
- After purchasing 85 hectares of land in the Coomera area, Longhurst then brought a second-hand bulldozer, and had to be taught how to drive it. For a period of two years, Longhurst worked a twelve-hour day, gouging out 800 meters of waterway, 30 meters wide and 3 meters deep; it was later filled with water and called the Murrissippi. This would be his signature upon the opening of his kingdom.
- Ken Lord, a Sydney furniture retailer, later combined forces with Longhurst, and successively began to develop the site. Designers from Disneyland and Disneyworld were employed to manufacture the overall design of the park, which was further elaborated and finished by Australian architects, by using photographs of early Australian pioneer buildings.
- To this day, Dreamworld has developed an immersive visitor experience through product and customer initiatives and has been successful in leveraging national and international brand associations with leading entertainment partners including Big Brother, DreamWorks and The Wiggles.
- In 2006, Dreamworld opened a brand-new waterpark - WhiteWater World. It is the most advanced waterpark in the world, a \$60 million investment packed with water-powered wow and the only water park in the world boasting all four of the hottest waterslides on the planet. Detailed below is a snapshot of the significant events and milestones Dreamworld and now WhiteWater World have experienced.

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Gold Coast - Movie World

Warner Bros. Movie World (more frequently referred to as Movie World) is a movie related theme park owned and operated by Village Roadshow via Village Roadshow Theme Parks since the take over from Warner Media and is the only movie related park in Australia. The park consists of a variety of movie-themed rides and attractions ranging from motion simulators to roller coasters and slow river rides. In addition, well-known characters also patrol the park, giving tourists the chance to take snap shots with them. These include Batman, Superman, Green Lantern, Austin Powers, Marilyn Monroe, Scooby-Doo and Shaggy and different Looney Tunes characters. Minor street shows along with skits and singing performances are also present. The All-Star Parade showcases characters alongside vehicles and movie-themed floats.

Quick Facts

- In 1989, C.V. Wood was employed to design a 415-acre (168 ha) theme park adjacent to the existing Warner Roadshow Studio complex. He had designed six theme parks including Disneyland.
- The park was completed within 16 months, converting swampland into a theme park modelled after similar movie-based theme parks overseas such as Universal Studios Hollywood or Disney's Hollywood Studios.
- The park's official opening was held on 3 June 1991. Queensland Premier Wayne Goss marked the occasion by cutting novelty film reel at an opening ceremony which was attended by celebrities such as Clint Eastwood, Mel Gibson, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. Initial attractions at the park focused on learning about and getting involved in movie related scenes and behind the scenes action.
- Opening day attractions included a Movie studio tour, Movie Magic Special Effects Show, Western Action Show, Police Academy Stunt Show, Warner Bros. Classics and The Great Gremlin Adventure, Young Einstein Gravity Homestead, Roxy Theatre and Looney Tunes Land which featured the Looney Tunes Musical Revue and Looney Tunes River Ride.
- In 1992, Batman Adventure – The Ride opened to the left of the park's entrance. After 5 years, in 1997, Looney Tunes Land was renamed Looney Tunes Village and a variety of Zamperla rides were installed including Marvin the Martian's Rocket Ride, Taz Hollywood Cars, Sylvester and Tweety Carousel and Yosemite Sam's Railroad. Additionally, Marvin the Martian in 3D opened in the Roxy Theatre, replacing Adventures in the Fourth Dimension. Then in 1998, Warner Bros. Movie World opened the \$18 million Wild West Falls Adventure Ride (then known as Wild Wild West).
- In 2001, the park celebrated its 10th anniversary with 1000 invites being given out via radio station B105 in August 2001.
- In June 2008, Movie World began construction of a roof over Main Street, similar to those at Universal Studios Japan and Tokyo Disneyland. The roof measures 4,000 square metres (43,000 sq ft) and provides an all-weather venue, whether it be hot or rainy.
- In 2013, Warner Bros. Movie World originally planned to open the Mini Cars Driving School. After a short delay, the ride opened on 12 September 2014 as Junior Driving School. The ride allows children to drive their own cars around a miniature version of the theme park.
- In 2016, a new themed area dedicated to DC villains opened where the old Boot Hill once stood. With this land came a new ride, The Doomsday Destroyer, which is a giant looping thrill ride. It also introduced an interactive experience with the figures around the area utilizing a RFID wristband.

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Gold Coast - Surfers Paradise

Surfers Paradise is colloquially recognized as 'Surfers', a suburb that has many high-rise apartment buildings and a vast surf beach. The feature of the heart of the suburb is Cavill Mall, which runs thru the shopping and leisure precinct. Cavill Avenue, named after Jim Cavill, an early hotel owner, is one of the busiest shopping strips in Queensland, and the centre of recreation for nightlife. One of the features of the location is the Surfers Paradise Meter Maids designed to establish goodwill with tourists. Surfers Paradise is the Gold Coast's amusement and tourism centre and the suburb's high-rise structures are the best known feature of the city's skyline.

Quick Facts

- In 1869, James Beattie was one of many first selectors or farmers to travel down to the south coast and hinterland. He selected 80 acres on the northern bank of the Nerang River. The location of his farm was not far from the future Cavill Avenue. Beattie built a single-roomed cottage, a barn for his produce and a jetty on the river bank.
- A German immigrant called Johann Meyer acquired Beattie's land in 1877. He developed a short-lived sugar plantation and mill on the property. Meyer quickly found, as many would in the future, that there was money to be made in providing accommodation and services to visitors and travellers. He built a private ferry service over the Nerang River as well as the Main Beach Hotel near the river bank in 1887.
- In 1889, Meyer's Main Beach Hotel was declared a postal receiving office, officially titled Elston. A postal address meant an official place name and a mark on the map. People would still refer to the place for a long time as Meyer's Ferry.
- By the 1890s, the first entrepreneur of the area, Johann Meyer faced financial ruin and, after he died in 1901, the Main Beach Hotel licence lapsed.
- As early as 1917, a Brisbane real estate company, Arthur Blackwood Ltd, offered for sale the Surfers Paradise Estate. The auction was unsuccessful, partly because access to the area was still difficult to access. While there was a railway station in Southport, there was no bridge crossing to Elston and visitors relied on the ferry and boats. Surfers Paradise was a great promotional type of name, and Jim Cavill lobbied strongly to have the name Elston changed to Surfers Paradise.
- In 1925, Brisbane hotelier Jim Cavill opened the Surfers Paradise Hotel located on what would later become the site of the Surfers Paradise Centre which incorporates the Surfers Paradise Beer Garden and Hard Rock Cafe. In opening the hotel and neighbouring zoo, Cavill created the first attraction in the suburb. Located between the ferry jetty and the white surf beach off the South Coast Road, it became popular and shops and services sprang up around it. The suburb was officially renamed on 1 December 1933 after the local council felt the Surfers Paradise name was more marketable.
- A development boom followed in the 1950s and 1960s. The first high rise in Surfers Paradise was erected in 1959 and was named the Kinkabool. The Kinkabool stood 10 stories high and remains to this day in Hanlan Street.
- The next three decades saw a development boom unlike any in the country, a growth spurt that would push Surfers Paradise and the wider Gold Coast (which was named in 1959) from sleepy coastal holiday town to major urban centre. Many tall apartment buildings were constructed, including

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the iconic buildings Iluka, St Tropez and The Pink Poodle. The boom later saw strong Japanese investment in the 1980s.

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Gold Coast - SkyPoint

SkyPoint offers one of the Gold Coast's most spectacular experiences, boasting some of the most breathtaking views in Australia. Located 230-metres above sea-level, on level 77 of the iconic Q1 building in Surfers Paradise, SkyPoint Observation Deck showcases the Gold Coast's bustling cityscape, picturesque hinterland and glistening coastline in one unforgettable panorama. As Australia's tallest building and only beachside observation deck, SkyPoint is an exclusive sought-after experience for both locals and visitors. Featuring the Gold Coast's highest dining and entertainment destination at SkyPoint Bistro + Bar, Australia's tallest external building climb, and a number of spectacular event spaces, there is something suited to everyone.

Quick Facts

- In 1998, the Anderson family acquired the properties on a central Surfers Paradise site bound by the Gold Coast Highway, Clifford Street, Hamilton Avenue and Northcliffe Terrace – the latter streets named in the late 1920s in honour of members of Australia's champion Olympic sculling team.
- Some 139 lots were amalgamated and until 2002, when construction of Q1 commenced, the properties remained as they were.
- The project to build the world's tallest residential tower was officially launched on 28 June, 2002. Sunland Construction team began work immediately, with a workforce of 500 people labouring for over 3 years, or a total of 2.5million man hours. More than 2,500 people were involved in the project.
- Q1 Resort and Spa officially opened on 26 October, 2005, including an observation deck known as the QDeck.
- Ardent Leisure purchased the observation deck in 2009 and following a \$1 million refurbishment, rebranded it to SkyPoint in 2010, to reflect the vibrant tourism offering.
- Innovations, including the opening of the SkyPoint Climb in 2012, have continued to develop its attractiveness.
- SkyPoint has one of the world's fastest elevators, taking you from ground to Level 77 in 42.7 seconds.
- The tourism destination offers stunning 360-degree views of the entire Gold Coast, from the surf to the hinterland and beyond.
- There are 1331 steps from ground-level to Level 77.
- The Q1 building is the tallest building in Australia, at 322.5 metres high, which includes the spire at the top. It is one of the tallest residential buildings in the world.

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Gold Coast - Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a heritage-listed zoological garden that was constructed in 1947. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 18 September 2009. The sanctuary is world-renowned for its feeding of huge flocks of free-flying wild rainbow lorikeets, which come to the sanctuary to feast off the unique mixture which the lorikeets eat.

The numerous events, shows and sights consist of dingo encounters, free flight bird shows and feeding of the park's huge saltwater crocodile. The park also incorporates a serious aspect of its work and exhibits, and behind the scenes includes a cutting-edge veterinary and rehabilitation hospital.

Quick Facts

- The idea came to fruition as beekeeper and flower grower Dr Alex Griffiths sought out a way to protect his prized blooms. By regularly feeding the lorikeets, he was able to veer their attention away from what was once their nectar and floral quarters, towards something even more tantalising — wombaroo nectar with honey.
- In 1947, Griffiths opened up, what was then the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary, to the public as a small-scale lorikeet feeding display. In short order, this wonderful arena of birdlife garnered the attention of both locals and tourists, eventually becoming one of the Gold Coast's best family attractions.
- The famed model railway attraction was built in 1964, and by this time, the Sanctuary's diversity of animals had grown immensely.
- The park was gifted to the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) in 1976, which turned the site into a not-for-profit social enterprise to directly facilitate the park's rising numbers of native flora and fauna.
- In 1989, the original Currumbin Wildlife Hospital was founded, and specialist veterinarians have been caring for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife ever since.
- Alex Griffiths passed away on 29 July 1998. He had received numerous awards during his life: he became a Member in the Order of Australia in 1976; was awarded the "Order of the White Cross" for protection of wildlife in 1977 and "Freedom of the City" of the Gold Coast by Mayor Lex Bell in 1989; and received an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University in 1995.
- The name was changed to the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in 1995, to better reflect the broad range of animals which found their home at the park.
- In 1999 Gold Coast City Council named a nearby open space in Teemangum Street, Alex Griffiths Park.
- In 2010, the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation was commenced to support the critical demands of the hospital (with its 10,000+ animal admissions per year), which operates as a community service. The Foundation aims to raise \$1 million annually to treat, rehabilitate and release sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife, and to fund much needed koala chlamydia research.
- Today, the heritage listed sanctuary continues to operate on a not-for-profit basis, with all funds going back into the park to fuel research, public education and the caring of sick and injured wildlife. While the lorikeets continue to attract crowds twice daily, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary not only gives people the opportunity to see a range of Australia's wildlife species but to also interact with them.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Gold Coast - ABC Helicopters

ABC Heli provides a range of helicopter excursions and charters on the lovely Gold Coast. They have a long history and a very reputable scenic joy flight and charter business situated on the Southern Gold Coast. Their crew and "VIP" luxury helicopters will make sure your flight is the best possible experience ever.

Quick Facts

- Operating their own fleet of helicopters, ABC Heli is approved by CASA to provide Charter and Air Work Services.
- Not bound by times, schedules or routes – you can choose your own destination which is only limited by imagination.
- The ABC Heli fleet includes, the Eurocopter EC120 Colibri
- The EC120 sets the standard in modern helicopter technology. Passenger comfort is unsurpassed with awesome views from every seat, air conditioning, smooth ride and the quietest helicopter available today. Not to mention great looks, the Ferrari of flying.
 - Passengers = Pilot plus 4
 - Speed = 120 knots (222 km/h)
 - Range = 700 km
- The Robinson R44 Raven II and Clipper II is fast, reliable, comfortable and economical. There is a reason why the R44 is the worlds highest selling small helicopter. Perfect for nearly every job, joyflights, charters, photos and even lift work. And with the floats on the Clipper II, it becomes just the machine for over water operations.
 - Passengers = Pilot plus 3
 - Speed = 110 Knots (203 km/h)
 - Range = 610 km
- They have the “latest and safest” luxury helicopters, and the highest level of professional pilots, which is why the local celebs choose ABC Heli.
- Local surfing legends Joel, Parkinson, Mick Fanning and Steph Gilmore, as well as the Gold Coast Titans stars, Preston Campbell, Mat Rogers and Scott Prince all choose ABC Heli.
- They currently operate from bases on the Gold Coast, Brisbane and Moreton Island.
- All aircraft are required to operate within weight and performance limitations. Every flight has a maximum allowable total weight for passengers. Passengers will be weighed on the day of their flight to ensure that they do not exceed aircraft limitations. Flight prices are based on standard passenger weights.

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Gold Coast - Broadbeach

Broadbeach is a suburb in the City of Gold Coast. Present development in the area usually incorporates low rise structures, consisting of single bedroom homes and apartment blocks. Much of the suburb consists of canal waterways, including Lake Intrepid that are linked to the Nerang River. The suburb contains a main avenue intersection between Nerang - Broadbeach Road and the Gold Coast Highway.

Quick Facts

- In 1934, the South Coast Bulletin announced a new seaside township had been surveyed fronting the Pacific Highway and adjoining Main Beach, about one mile south of Surfers Paradise.
- The township had been appropriately named Broadbeach and the first section of the site had been surveyed into 70 allotments.
- Back in the 19th century, at the junction of Little Tallebudgera Creek and the Nerang River, timber getter, Ned Harper established an assembly point for the cedar, beech, ash teak and mahogany logs which had been cut from the riverbanks upstream.
- From the deep water frontage of Harpers Wharf, sailing vessels took aboard the roughly hewn timber destined for Sydney or Brisbane. Alternatively, the timber was rafted from here to Brisbane.
- The area south of the original Harpers Wharf is now part of the Cascade Gardens Reserve.
- The estuary area around Little Tallebudgera Creek and the superb stretch of beach to the east was a feasting ground for the aboriginal people of the area, the Kombumerri people.
- Apart from moveable feasts, evident from the surviving eugarie shell middens, archaeologists in the 1960s uncovered an ancient aboriginal burial ground at Broadbeach.
- In the 1980s, the ancestral remains from this burial ground were interred in a reserve known as Kombumerri Park.
- The Broadbeach sand dunes were also a strategically important resource during World War 2.
- Southport Minerals mined the mineral sand rutile from the leased reserves and exported the concentrated mineral overseas for the production of special alloy steels and welding equipment.
- By the mid 1950s, mining had ceased, the dunes were reconstructed, planted with grasses and trees and the land auctioned for redevelopment.
- The commercial and housing development of the area was led by the construction of the Lennons Broadbeach Hotel completed in 1957.
- Built on a site which had been mined for mineral sand, the hotel was often promoted as an oasis in the desert and is in fact now the site of the Oasis commercial centre in Victoria Avenue.
- At the 2011 Census, Broadbeach had a population of 4,614.
- Today, Broadbeach is a vibrant business and family-friendly entertainment precinct.

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Gold Coast - Point Danger

Point Danger is a headland, situated at Coolangatta on the southern end of Gold Coast. Separated by Snapper Rocks and Rainbow Bay to the west, with Duranbah Beach and the Tweed River mouth to the south, present-day Point Danger has also indicated the border between New South Wales and Queensland, since 1863. The point is the site of the Captain Cook memorial and lighthouse, the Centaur Memorial and Walk of Remembrance, the Marine Rescue NSW Point Danger station, and the southern end of the Gold Coast Oceanway.

Quick Facts

- Captain James Cook, upon encountering the eastern Australian coast and naming Rame Head (Victoria), then sailed up the coast to the famous Botany Bay
- Continuing North from there, at about 5 pm on 16 May 1770 (log date) he encountered the reefs that run 3 nautical miles (5.6 km; 3.5 mi) east from Fingal Head and Cook Island.
- To avoid these reefs, formed by a lava flow from Mount Warning, Cook was forced to change his course to the east. Cook's log indicates his ship was "about 5 miles from the land".
- However having to pull away to the east to avoid the reefs, that we now know only run 3 nautical miles (5.6 km; 3.5 mi) to sea from Cook Island, would indicate Cook was much closer to the point he named Point Danger.
- The next morning, (same log date 16 May) James Cook, although much further out to sea, recorded the location of the reefs and named the point off which the island and reefs lie - Point Danger. He wrote:
 - *We now saw the breakers again they lay two Leagues from a point under which is a small Island, their situation may always be found by the peaked mountain before mentioned from them this mountain or hill, and on this account I have named Mount Warning it lies 7 or 8 Leagues inland the land is high and hilly about it, but it is conspicuous enough to be distinguished from everything else. The point off which these shoals lay I have named Point Danger.*
- These reefs are now named Danger Reefs and comprise Inner Reef, South Reef and Outer Reef.
- Today, you will find the Captain Cook Memorial doubling as an active lighthouse, moulded from cast iron recovered in the 1960s from the Endeavour itself and formed into the monument in 1970.
- Point Danger is also home to the Centaur Memorial which remembers the sinking of the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur in 1943 while the Walk of Remembrance commemorates other ships and lives lost at sea during World War II.
- An icon in Australian history, Point Danger commemorates the discovery of the east coast while also attracting thousands for its natural beauty.

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Gold Coast - Nerang River

The Nerang River catchment is the largest and most significant river system on the Gold Coast. Its upper reaches in the McPherson Range and Springbrook Plateau deliver flows through significant rural areas and also feed into two dams (Hinze Dam and Little Nerang Dam). These provide a large percentage of the Gold Coast's drinking water supply. Its catchment lies within the Gold Coast local government area and covers an area of 493.3 square kilometres. The river is roughly 62 kilometres (39 mi) in length.

Quick Facts

- The river was initially named the River Barrow by government surveyor Robert Dixon when he charted the Gold Coast in 1840, after Sir John Barrow, Secretary of the Admiralty.
- The Barrow River appears on the early maps of Moreton Bay by William Baker but the name only survived in use for a short period.
- The surveyor general Thomas Mitchell later changed many places to Aboriginal names, and this included giving the Nerang River its present name.
- Neerang or neerung are Yugambah words meaning "little shark" or "shovel-nosed shark". But the local aboriginal people called the river Mogumbin or Been-goor-abee; and the peoples of the Tweed called it Talgai.
- The first contemporary record of the name Nerang Creek or River being used occurred in 1853, when the Reverend Henry Stobart, tutor to Lord Henry Scott-Montagu and Lord Schomberg Kerr sailed down Morton Bay to the present site of Southport and Stobart wrote of 'Nerang Creek'. It is suggested that the tutor and his charges were accompanied by others who knew the area well.
- By the 1860s, Nerang was commonly used in regional newspapers as the name of the waterway that emptied into the Pacific Ocean near the small settlement of Nerang Heads, later renamed Southport.
- The Nerang River rises in the McPherson Range in the Numinbah Valley on the New South Wales and Queensland border and heads north, then east where it flows through Nerang and reaching its mouth in the Gold Coast Broadwater at Southport on the Gold Coast and emptying into the Coral Sea.
- The river descends 255 metres (837 ft) over its 62-kilometre (39 mi) course.
- Major crossings of the river occur at Nerang where the river is crossed by the Pacific Motorway and at Southport where the river is crossed by the Gold Coast Highway.
- The Nerang River catchment is the largest and most significant river system on the Gold Coast. These provide a large percentage of the Gold Coast's drinking water supply.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Gold Coast - Burleigh Heads

Burleigh Heads, or simply Burleigh to locals, sits like a cool comma between Surfers Paradise to the north and Coolangatta to the south. It's a picturesque punctuation mark along the Gold Coast and most definitely somewhere to pause. The suburb boundary extends as far north as Miami Headland, Miami, and as far south as Tallebudgera Creek, Palm Beach. To the west, is the township of West Burleigh, with shopping and industrial areas, and Burleigh Waters, a suburb with a man-made lake, council parks and gardens. The centre of the neighbourhood is James Street, which consists of cafes, delis, hairdressers, retailers, chemists, restaurants and charity stores.

Burleigh Heads' surf break attracts surfers from the Gold Coast and beyond. At the headland of Burleigh, locally recognised as "The Point", barbecues and cricket matches are held, and spectators can watch the surfers. On Sunday afternoons, local musicians and fire-twirlers regularly come out to the park beside Burleigh SLSC for a jam and dance session.

Quick Facts

- Indigenous Australians inhabited the area of Burleigh Heads for thousands of years prior to European settlement. The Indigenous tribe were known as the Kombumerri clan, who had named the area 'Jellurgal'.
- In 1840, James Warner was commissioned to survey the coastline near Moreton Bay. Warner named the headlands near Tallebudgera Creek, 'Burly Head' because of its massive appearance.
- Decades later the name was adapted to the more genteel spelling of 'Burleigh Heads' and was declared a town reserve by the Queensland Government in 1871.
- By 1873, the township had been surveyed, a number of the allotments sold and a track created connecting Burleigh Heads to Nerang.
- On 11 November 1879, the Queensland Government created 74 division of local government which saw Burleigh Heads zoned into the Nerang Division.
- On 9 December 1948, as part of a major reorganisation of local government in South East Queensland an Order in Council replaced ten former local government areas between the City of Brisbane and the New South Wales border with four new local government areas.
- The northern section appears to have been subdivided by the mid 1950s, but was the site of extensive sand mining in the following decades. The broad beachfront park is a legacy of that activity.
- Burleigh township itself is much older and was the site of early development including restaurants and guest houses to support the increasing interest in bathing that took place in the last years of the 19th century and the first of the 20th century. It has been the centre of beach activities and a camping site for many years.
- The commercial centre of James and Conner Streets was established by the 1930s and began to boom during the postwar period.
- At the 2011 Census, Burleigh Heads had a population of 9,188.

For more information:
email ads@austrade.gov.au
phone 1800 048 155
or visit austrade.gov.au



APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

NSW and Southern QLD - Rainforest Way

The Rainforest Way is a circular sequence of scenic drives that extends through South East Queensland throughout the border into the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales.

It follows roughly the caldera of the extinct Tweed Volcano in the north east corner of NSW, whose volcanic plug is Mount Warning. The vicinity includes many National Parks, of which several are categorized as World Heritage Sites. The drive features Gondwana Rainforests.

Quick Facts

- The Rainforest Way was conceived in 1994 as a regional and state tourism initiative involving the NSW and Queensland governments and private operators but it wasn't funded until 2005.
- It comprises seven distinct touring routes that loop away and link up with each other from a series of major roads connecting the two states.
- Major towns travelled through as part of the Rainforest Way include:
 - Gold Coast
 - Beaudesert
 - Tweed Heads
 - Byron Bay
 - Lismore
 - Ballina
 - Casino
 - Kyogle
 - Murwillumbah
- The Border Ranges National Park can also be experienced from Lions Road, named after the local Lions clubs that campaigned for a road along the same route as the interstate railway line in 1971.
- Looping off the Primary Eastern Route, between Lismore and Nimbin, the Minyon Falls link road covers three sections of Nightcap National Park, including the western side, where you can walk to the historic Protester Falls, the site of the state's first successful anti-logging protest, in 1979.
- University students staged a Woodstock-inspired Aquarius Festival in the dairy town in 1973, changing Nimbin's fate forever. Highlights of the town's main street include the Hemp Embassy and shop, selling hemp products and art in the heritage "tomato sauce" building, the Artists' Gallery and the Nimbin Museum, which recounts the history of the village in psychedelic style.
- The Rainbow Power Company (1 Alternative Way, on the site of the original Aquarius Festival) builds sustainable energy sources and Djanbung Gardens, established in 1994 a kilometre from the town's centre on the site of an old cow pasture, is a dedicated permaculture education centre where people can learn techniques of sustainable, eco-friendly living and housing.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Cairns - Big Cat Green Island Cruises

Green Island Tours and day trips is the best in the business. Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises offer multiple options including two full day and two half day departures daily, they also offer Cairns tour packages incorporating full and half day Great Barrier Reef tours combined with must do Cairns attractions, ensuring you have an unforgettable Cairns holiday in Far North Queensland. Green Island Great Barrier Reef Tours are one of the most popular things to do whilst in Cairns.

Only 45 minutes from Cairns, this tropical Island is a beautiful coral cay on Australia's Great Barrier Reef with unique island rainforests, surrounded by white sandy beaches & magnificent coral reefs and abundant marine life. Locally owned & operated Big Cat offer 4 x different departures, either full day or half day. Snorkel, dive and swim in the clear island waters, view the spectacular reef on one of our Glass bottom boats or Semi Submarine coral viewing tours or even explore the Island National Park and simply lay back and relax on the white sandy beach.

Green Island is reputed to be the most popular island National Parks within Australia's Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. It is ideal for families, couples, groups and charters. Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises have a range of Green Island tours to suit everyone. Snorkel from the beach in your own comfort zone. Can't swim? No problem, Big Cat offers the only Semi Submarine on the Island as well as many other reef activities.

A range of optional activities are also on offer including diving, helmet diving, beach hire, Marineland Melanesia Nautical Museum and an underwater observatory. Combine your tours. Save time and money, mix and match your half or full day tour with some of the other main attractions in Cairns. Our Cairns tour packages have something for everyone. Reef tours depart at 9am, 11am and 1pm daily, enjoy this tropical island paradise in Queensland's sunshine state.

Quick Facts

- Green Island is a beautiful coral cay on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Snorkel, dive and swim in the warm island waters, view the spectacular reef from the coral viewing tours, explore Green Island National Park or just relax on the sandy beach.
- Green Island coral cay is readily identified from the air by its emerald rainforest surrounded by white sandy beaches and beautiful coral reefs.
- "Big Cat" is a modern comfortable air-conditioned 35 metre catamaran with spacious interior cabins and a relaxed atmosphere.
- Travel time to Green Island is over one hour from Cairns. Passengers can take part in the many activities available or simply relax on the beach.
- Address: Reef Fleet Terminal, 1 Spence St, Cairns City QLD 4870, Opening hours: 6:30am–9pm

For more information:
email ads@austrade.gov.au
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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Cairns - Rainforestation Nature Park

Rainforestation Nature Park is located five minutes from Kuranda in Far North Queensland. Set on a hundred acres (40 ha) in the midst of World Heritage rainforest, the park (formerly Mountain Groves) opened in 1976. The site had formerly been used as a coffee and orange plantation. Rainforestation has since elevated substantially to promote tourists awareness into indigenous culture, Australian native flora and fauna and World Heritage-listed rainforest.

Board an amphibious World War II Army Duck for an exceptional rainforest tour on both land and water, where your guide will identify and explain fascinating plants and wildlife as you pass by. Then meander thru the Tropical Fruit Orchard, with over forty unique species of exotic tropical fruit trees. Learn about indigenous way of life with the interactive Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience. The Koala & Wildlife Park has native Australian species such as crocodiles, wombats, dingoes, snakes, lizards, and a cassowary. Handfeed kangaroos and wallabies, or have your photograph taken cuddling a lovable koala or holding a small crocodile at an extra cost. Rainforestation caters to groups of all sizes for any function event, from informal luncheons or canapés and drinks to private dinners or fully themed extravaganzas.

Quick Facts

- Rainforestation Nature Park was purchased by Charles & Pip Woodward in 1974.
- It was initially an orange orchard, named Mountain Grove.
- After extensive construction, the park was officially opened as a tourist attraction on 29th July 1976, with amphibious Army Duck tours and the Colonial Restaurant.
- Rainforestation has three main components:
 - Army Duck Rainforest Tour
 - Operating since the park opened in 1976, visitors tour the rainforest aboard an amphibious World War II Army Duck (DUKW) as a guide explains the array of local plants and wildlife. The tour continues on a lake, and passes through a tropical fruit orchard, with over 40 different species of exotic tropical fruit trees.
 - Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience
 - Opened in 1993, Pamagirri means "silent snake". The Experience includes a performance by the Pamagirri Aboriginal Dance Troupe in a rainforest amphitheatre, and a Dreamtime Walk where visitors can learn to throw a boomerang and play a didgeridoo.
 - Koala & Wildlife Park
 - Opened in 1996, visitors can walk along elevated boardwalks to view native Australian animals, including crocodiles, koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, wombats, cassowaries, lizards and snakes.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Cairns - Skyrail Rainforest Cableway

Skyrail Rainforest Cableway is a 7.5 km scenic cableway running above the Barron Gorge National Park, in the Wet Tropics of World Heritage Area, North of Cairns. Since opening, it has gained more than 25 awards. Skyrail Rainforest Cableway journeys thru the world's oldest continually surviving rainforest on earth, older than the Amazon Rainforest.

The cableway, which travels over the McAlister Range between Smithfield and Kuranda, consists of six-person gondola cabins that traverse metres above the treetops. A one-way trip takes about 1.5 hours, and a return trip is about 2.5 hours. Two rainforest stations, Red Peak Station and Barron Falls Station, permit exploration of the forest ground on boardwalks, interaction with the surroundings and education of the World Heritage area.

Quick Facts

- The original Skyrail concept was conceived in 1987. From then until 1994 is the pre-construction phase. In June 1994, Skyrail construction commenced.
- Skyrail opened to the public on 31 Aug 1995. Stretching 7.5km, Skyrail was the world's longest gondola cableway at the time of completion. More importantly, Skyrail provided people with a unique opportunity, and a world first, to see and experience the rainforest in a safe and environmentally friendly way. The cableway was installed with 47 gondolas; a carrying capacity of 300 people per hour. The project cost was estimated at AUD\$35 million.
- On Sep 1995 Skyrail booked out on opening days. Response from the public and tourism industry was overwhelming - by the end of the first year, Skyrail had employed an additional 30 staff.
- In 1996, Skyrail announces plans for a multi-million dollar upgrade, including the purchase of an additional 67 gondolas to meet customer demands.
- Skyrail completed a \$2.5million upgrade in May 1997; 67 new gondolas were purchased, taking the total number of gondolas to 114 and increasing the carrying capacity to 700 people per hour. The upgrade also included major building extensions to Skyrail Kuranda Terminal.
- In March 2002, Skyrail hosted Her Majesty the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen and Duke travel on Skyrail and experience the wonders of Australia's Tropical Rainforests including a guided rainforest boardwalk tour at Red Peak Station.
- In September 2005, Skyrail officially launched the Skyrail Rainforest Foundation. Entered on the Australian Government's Register of Environmental Organisations, the Foundation's primary objective is to raise and distribute funds to support tropical rainforest research and education projects.
- In 2006, it underwent an AU\$2.5 million upgrade which included a replacement café, expanded ticketing services and a larger retail store.
- In November 2013, Skyrail introduced 11 Diamond View glass floor gondolas which seat 5 people and offer yet another amazing perspective of the rainforest below. And in April 2014, the Canopy Glider, a ranger-escorted, open-air gondola, was added.
- On 31 August 2015, Skyrail celebrates a major milestone having completed 20 years of operations and boasting a host of 'firsts' along the way. From international awards and accreditations to innovative operational solutions right from the start, Skyrail quickly forged a reputation as an iconic, eco-tourism attraction amongst visitors domestically, and globally.

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APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

Cairns - Kuranda Town

Kuranda is a town and locality on the Atherton Tableland in the Shire of Mareeba, in the far north. It is surrounded by tropical rainforest and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage listed Barron Gorge National Park.

Surrounded by World Heritage Rainforest, 1,000 feet above Cairns, lies the picturesque village of Kuranda. The journey to Kuranda is an experience in itself. You can take a gentle drive up through the rainforest, float above the trees aboard Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, or catch the world famous Kuranda Scenic Railway. But however you decide to arrive, make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to discover everything the village has to offer. There's the famous arts and craft markets, river cruise, ATV quad biking and rainforest walks, and an abundance of wildlife experiences, tours and attractions.

Quick Facts

- In this part of the tropical North the rainforest is home to the Djabugay aboriginal people who have lived here for over 10,000 years.
- Exploration by Europeans in the early 1800s opened the way for gold prospectors and the timber industry and settlement by the pioneers.
- Kuranda was first surveyed in 1888 by Thomas Behan and the building of the railway and road from the new seaport of Cairns paved the way for trade and the movement of people over the mountains.
- At a suitable elevation of 380 metres above sea level coffee was the crop of choice until severe frosts in the early 1900s wiped out the harvest.
- Kuranda became a destination for locals on holiday and honeymooners with the word soon spreading of the magnificent Barron Falls and the lushness of the rainforest.
- During the 1940s there was a big military presence in the area; training and rest and recreation for troops and Air Force personnel took precedence over tourism.
- In the late 1960s Kuranda was the place to be spectacular scenery, a wonderful climate, cheap living, grow your own food, do your own thing. So called "hippy" communes flourished for a few years. In the
- 1970s new settlers arrived; musicians and people with artistic talents and imagination pursuing an alternative lifestyle. Their unusual hand-built houses of bricks and timber were inspired by this unique place. Open-air market stalls sold locally grown produce and an abundance of handmade wares. Buskers and fortune-tellers entertained the crowds. The community prospered. The population grew fast with the improved road allowing commuters to work in Cairns and live in the clean atmosphere of Kuranda.
- Over the past thirty years it has developed a wide range of tourist attractions - two major markets, lots of shops for tourists, a Butterfly Sanctuary, a Birdworld, an Australian zoo named Koala Gardens and the old train trip has been added to with Skyrail Rainforest Cableway which runs for 7.5 km over dense rainforest. It is a compelling and enjoyable tourist destination.
- The Kuranda experience today is an amalgam of all that has gone before, a cosmopolitan and happy village community. The people who live here have a deep appreciation of the beauty around them, and a cheerful welcome for the visitor.

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Cairns - Crystal Cascades

The Crystal Cascades is a cascade waterfall on the Freshwater Creek in the Far North. Crystal Cascades is one of the hidden gems of the tropical north that locals wish they could hide from visitors, reachable only by self-drive.

It is a secluded freshwater swimming hole, hidden in a tropical rainforest, where a series of small waterfalls flow into huge rock pools surrounded by enormous granite boulders. Rainforest trees hang over the mountain water, keeping it cool and refreshing. There are also council managed and cleaned BBQ and picnic tables in the area with a toilet/change room block close-by.

Quick Facts

- The Crystal Cascades is located in a relatively unspoilt section of the upper Freshwater Creek, in the Redlynch Valley, west of Cairns, with numerous waterfalls and swimming waterholes popular with locals and tourists.
- This secluded waterhole is hidden in the rainforest around 20 minutes from Cairns City Centre.
- The largest waterhole is sited alongside a sheer cliff which locals and tourists climb to jump into the adjoining deep waterhole.
- The most famous part of the cliff is called "No Fear" which is the highest perch from which to jump.
- In 2014 an 18-year-old man drowned when he failed to resurface after slipping over the edge of the waterfall, while swimming in a restricted area.
- Formed by a series of waterfalls, creating many different plunge pools, the whole area is a series of small rapids perfect for sliding down and cooling off in the hot weather. Much better than staying inside in air con all day.
- Crystal Cascades is not a big tourist spot, you will only hear about it from speaking to locals. None of the major tour operators visit here meaning that it is usually very quiet and a great place to spend a chilled out day relaxing in the sunshine.
- You can easily spend the whole day taking in all the different plunge pools, each one offers something different whether it's another rapid or whirlpool or a different stunning view to admire. Also make sure you take a packed lunch or picnic and use the free picnic tables there.
- Crystal Cascades is not manned by life guards so make sure you do not go there alone and be safe when you are there. Stick to the areas which are signposted and avoid going on un-marked bush walks, it's surprisingly easy to get lost.

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Cairns - Lake Placid

Lake Placid is a suburb of Cairns in far northern region. It is termed after a natural pond in the Barron River, formed by a rock barrage. Lake Placid is the entrance to the Barron Gorge National Park.

Lake Placid Tourist Park is set amongst 14 acres of tropical rainforest and is perhaps one of the most untouched caravan parks in the Cairns region. Located far enough away from the Cairns CBD to be in a quiet and relaxing location, yet near enough to all that the Cairns city has to offer. Its caravan park is next to the cool, crystal clear waters of Lake Placid (at the base of the world heritage Barron River Gorge National Park). Located near Cairns city, the park is central to the popular tourist attractions such as Cairns Skyrail, the Kuranda Scenic Railway and Cairns' northern beaches. It is the best location for a relaxing excursion and pets are welcome too.

Quick Facts

- Cairns historian John Walters has written *The Story of the Port on the Barron River*, a comprehensive account of the history of Old Smithfield. In his introduction he writes: Smithfield, the northern beaches suburb of the city of Cairns and the centre of activity for the region, had a predecessor with the same name.
- That Predecessor was just a township and it was created with good intentions but little thought. As a result it had a life of a little more than two years, before it was deserted and finished in ruins.
- The ruins succumbed to the elements, termites and nature itself so that nothing now remains to remind us of its existence except for a lonely cemetery.
- Old Smithfield suffered heavy flooding each year from its establishment in 1876 until March 1879. Rain began to fall on St Patrick's Day and continued for another 12... destroying the town.
- The rough, tough citizens of the shanty town of Smithfield on the Barron River, just north of Cairns, certainly had fun while it lasted. Trouble was the centre existed such a short time, falling victim to lawlessness, grog and finally a flood.
- During Smithfield's brief life span it boasted a bunch of Queensland's most unattractive but expensive harlots, more crime per head of population than any other Queensland centre and so much gold the locals shod their horses with the stuff.
- Smithfield, one of Australia's shortest-living and most bizarre towns, came into being because it was seen as the site of a potential trading centre that would push Cairns off the map.

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Cairns - Australia Butterfly Sanctuary

The Australian Butterfly Sanctuary is a butterfly zoo and exhibit located in the centre of Kuranda. It is listed by the Guinness Book of Records as Australia's largest butterfly flight aviary and exhibition. The sanctuary was conceived, designed, and constructed by Paul and Susan Wright in 1987. The sanctuary rears only native butterflies of Australia that are bred on the premises. The lab breeds about 30,000 caterpillars each year, and sends about 24,000 pupae to be released in the aviary.

Quick Facts

- The Woodward Family CaPTA Group (CaPTA) was founded by Charles and Pip Woodward who opened Rainforestation Nature Park in 1976 which is located in Kuranda.
- Charles and Pip pioneered rainforest tourism with Army Duck Tours and later introduced the Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience and Koala & Wildlife Park.
- In 1981, Charles and Pip started Tropic Wings Coach Tours and then expanded significantly during the new millennium adding Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas, Cairns ZOOM & Wildlife Dome and Jungle Tours & Trekking to become the CaPTA Group.
- Their three sons, Michael, Ben and Peter are all now actively involved in the business.
- CaPTA has also established the Careers Training Centre, a Registered Training Organisation specialising in tourism and indigenous training and more recently into Yutong coach sales, maintenance, service and parts through ABC Sales & Maintenance.
- The Australian Butterfly Sanctuary is the largest butterfly light aviary and exhibit in Australia and the southern hemisphere – an all-weather experience in the heart of Kuranda.
- Home to over 1500 magnificent tropical butterflies, you'll be enchanted by the aerial dynamics of these elusive wonders of nature as you wander through the aviary's rainforest gardens.
- Guided aviary tours are available at no extra cost throughout the day, detailing a butterfly's life cycle and behaviour. Be sure to wear something bright (red or white) and let these beautiful and colourful creatures flutter all over you as you wander through.
- As well as walking through the aviary, your visit now includes a "behind the scenes" tour of the breeding laboratory which houses 4000 caterpillars.
- This interesting and educational experience provides an opportunity to view the caterpillars in their varying stages of development.
- After the tour, see butterflies from around the world in the museum exhibit.

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Cairns – Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park

Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park is only 15 minutes from the heart of Cairns, and right next door to Skyrail.

Discover where Australia begins at Tjapukai. Explore the rich history of the world's oldest living culture, dating back over 40,000 years. Whether you visit the park by day or night, you'll enjoy a unique cultural experience with performance, dance, food and arts. Tjapukai is one of the most authentic Aboriginal experiences in Australia.

See Aboriginal performers bring the world's oldest living culture to life through dance, art and interactive demonstrations. Visit by day, and learn about bush foods, the didgeridoo, hunting methods and how to throw a boomerang and spear. Or visit by night for Night Fire Dinner & Show.

By day, experience traditional face painting, and see the Djabugay creation story performed in the only 360° theatre in Cairns. Enjoy Aboriginal dance performances, bush foods and medicines presentation, weapons and hunting presentation, didgeridoo demonstration, and a try your hand at boomerang and spear throwing. Open daily from 9am to 5pm.

By night, take a magical journey into Australia's Dreamtime. Meet the Bama Indigenous rainforest people, who will paint your face to link you to their traditional land and take you on a mesmerising journey with the haunting sounds of the didgeridoo. Enjoy an arrival drink and canapes prepared with Indigenous flavours. A sumptuous tropical buffet dinner is followed by didgeridoo performance and an Aboriginal dance show. Participate in a traditional fire lighting ceremony and finish the evening with a spectacular fire ball shooting towards the stars.

Tjapukai by day or by night, is the perfect way to gain a deeper understanding of Australia's diverse Aboriginal heritage. Tjapukai has event spaces of all sizes and has an events team who can coordinate any type of event from a small team meeting, to a large conference or gala dinner.

Quick Facts

- Aboriginal cultural activities & performances- 9am to 5pm daily
- Aboriginal Guided Bush Food Trail - daily 11am
- Cultural Creations (Aboriginal arts & crafts) - daily 11am
- International Buffet Lunch in Flame Tree Restaurant 11:30am to 2pm
- Café service daily 9am to 5pm
- Night Fire Dinner & Show - 7pm to 9:30pm nightly
- Retail Store – daily during day and night operating hours
- Event spaces, indoor and outdoor, from 10 to 2,000 people
- Event coordination, functions, parties, conferences, meetings, weddings, team building
- Education specific programs, student workbooks, group activities
- Only Aboriginal Dinner & Show 15 mins from Cairns
- Tjapukai is an all-weather experience
- Tjapukai is wheelchair and pram friendly

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<p>Gold Coast - ABC Helicopters https://www.abcheli.com.au/ https://www.australia.com/en/atdw/product.56b264687b935f730e3c9d.html</p>
<p>NSW and Southern QLD - Rainforest Way https://www.australia.com/en/places/gold-coast-and-surrounds/7-amazing-drives-on-the-rainforest-way.html https://destinationtweed.com.au/welcome/rainforest-way/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainforest_Way</p>
<p>Cairns - Big Cat Green Island Cruises https://greenisland.com.au/green-island-tours/ https://www.downundertours.com/great-barrier-reef-tours/big-cat/big-cat-green-island-reef-cruise-full-day/</p>
<p>Cairns - Rainforestation Nature Park https://www.rainforest.com.au/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainforestation_Nature_Park</p>
<p>Cairns - Skyrail Rainforest Cableway https://www.skyrail.com.au/ https://www.kuranda.org/getting-here/skyrail-rainforest-cableway/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skyrail_Rainforest_Cableway</p>
<p>Cairns - Kuranda Town https://www.kuranda.org/history/ http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/kuranda-qld</p>
<p>Cairns - Crystal Cascades https://www.cairnsattractions.com.au/explore/getting-back-to-nature/crystal-cascades.423.html https://www.lonelyplanet.com/australia/cairns/attractions/crystal-cascades/a/poi-sig/1230370/362361 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Cascades</p>
<p>Cairns - Lake Placid http://www.lakeplacidtouristpark.com/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Placid,_Queensland</p>
<p>Cairns - Australia Butterfly Sanctuary https://australianbutterflies.com/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Butterfly_Sanctuary</p>

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