



EXPERIENCE BRISBANE

The Great Outdoors

Brisbane's diversity of landscapes far exceeds its city limits. Within an hour's drive of the centre you could find yourself diving in lucent water or mountain biking through pristine forests. There are plenty of half day options to mix and match, and ample ways to spend an entire day experiencing Brisbane's surrounds.

HALF-DAY ITINERARIES

- 1. Brookwater Golf Club** (Ipswich Shire ☎07 3814 5500 🌐brookwatergolf.com) Brisbane's not short of picturesque golf courses, but this was designed by Greg Norman, and it's been rated the finest in Queensland. Towering ironbarks line the two nine-hole loops, and the 18 greens are championship-standard.
- 2. Hot-air Ballooning** Get an eyeful of the Great Dividing Range's rich tapestry of farms, mountains, valleys and lakes. Sail the sky with Balloons Above (Laidley Shire ☎07 5466 5066 🌐balloonsabove.com.au) and witness greater Brisbane's finest landscapes.
- 3. Clear Mountain Bicycle Tours** (Pine Rivers Shire ☎0430 085 604 🌐clearmountainbicycletours.com.au) Really want to work the pins? Spend a morning or afternoon mountain biking through Brisbane's wild hinterland. Tailored to all fitness levels, these half- and full-day tours negotiate Clear Mountain's forests with pitstops for lunch.

FULL-DAY ITINERARIES

- 4. Kayak Bribie Island** Put the guns to the test and paddle the islands' beautiful waterways with Aquarius Sea Kayaks (Caboolture Shire ☎07 3408 2490 🌐aquariusseakayaks.com.au). Get a group together for a guided eco-tour or hire a sea kayak and do your own thing.
- 5. North Stradbroke Island** (Redlands Shire ☎1300 667 386 🌐moretonbayislands.com.au) 'Straddie' is one of the largest sand islands in the world. Take in a day of sublime bushwalking, 4WDing, excellent surfing, and swimming in vivid mineral lakes on a tour with Stradbroke Island Beach Tours (☎07 3824 6247 🌐stradbroketours.com.au).
- 6. Lake Somerset Holiday Park** (Kilcoy Shire ☎07 5497 1093 🌐lakesomerset.com.au) An hour's drive northwest of Brisbane will land you in this 45-hectare retreat for campers, caravanners and day-trippers alike, perched on the shores of Lake Somerset. Exhaust yourself with waterskiing, fishing, sailing and swimming and cap the day off with a sunset BBQ.
- 7. WhiteWater World** (Coomera ☎07 5588 1111 🌐whitewaterworld.com.au) Thrills, spills and watery hills are a hop-skip from Brisbane's CBD. This massive water park (right next door to Dreamworld) dishes up the world's best slides, a wave pool, pipelines and plenty of grass to park yourself.

Active Pursuits

In true Brisbane inventive style, the city offers a variety of half-day activities to keep you energised. Cycle around the Brisbane River before lunch and then climb the Kangaroo Point cliffs at night. Or maybe kayak in the afternoon and then rollerblade along the RiverWalk in the evening. Whatever your active fancy, inner Brisbane offers a way to pursue it.

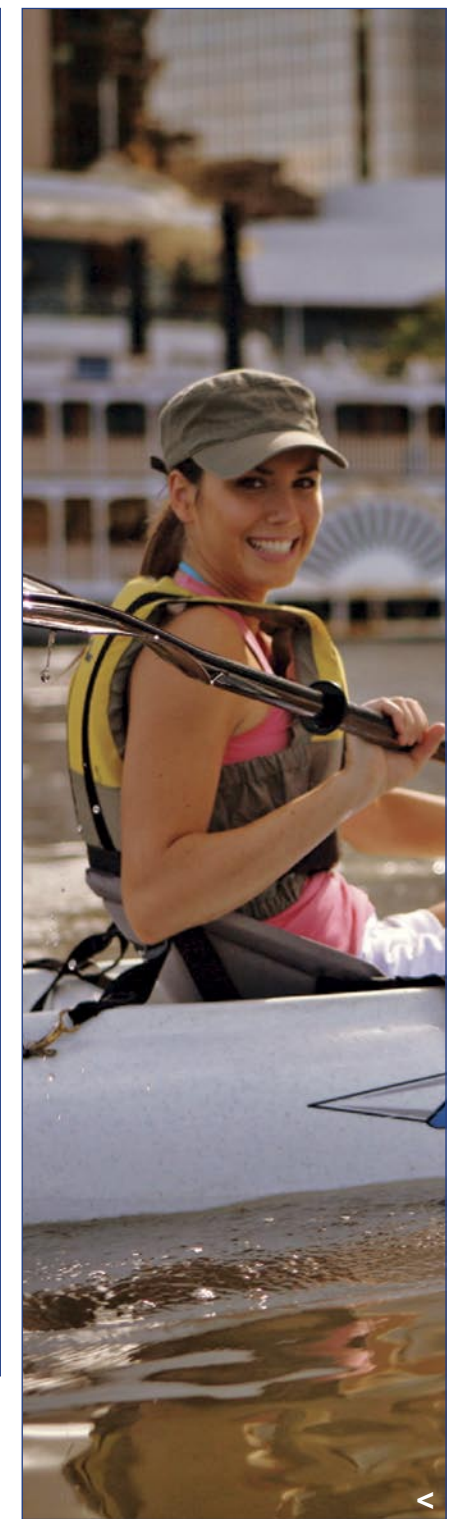
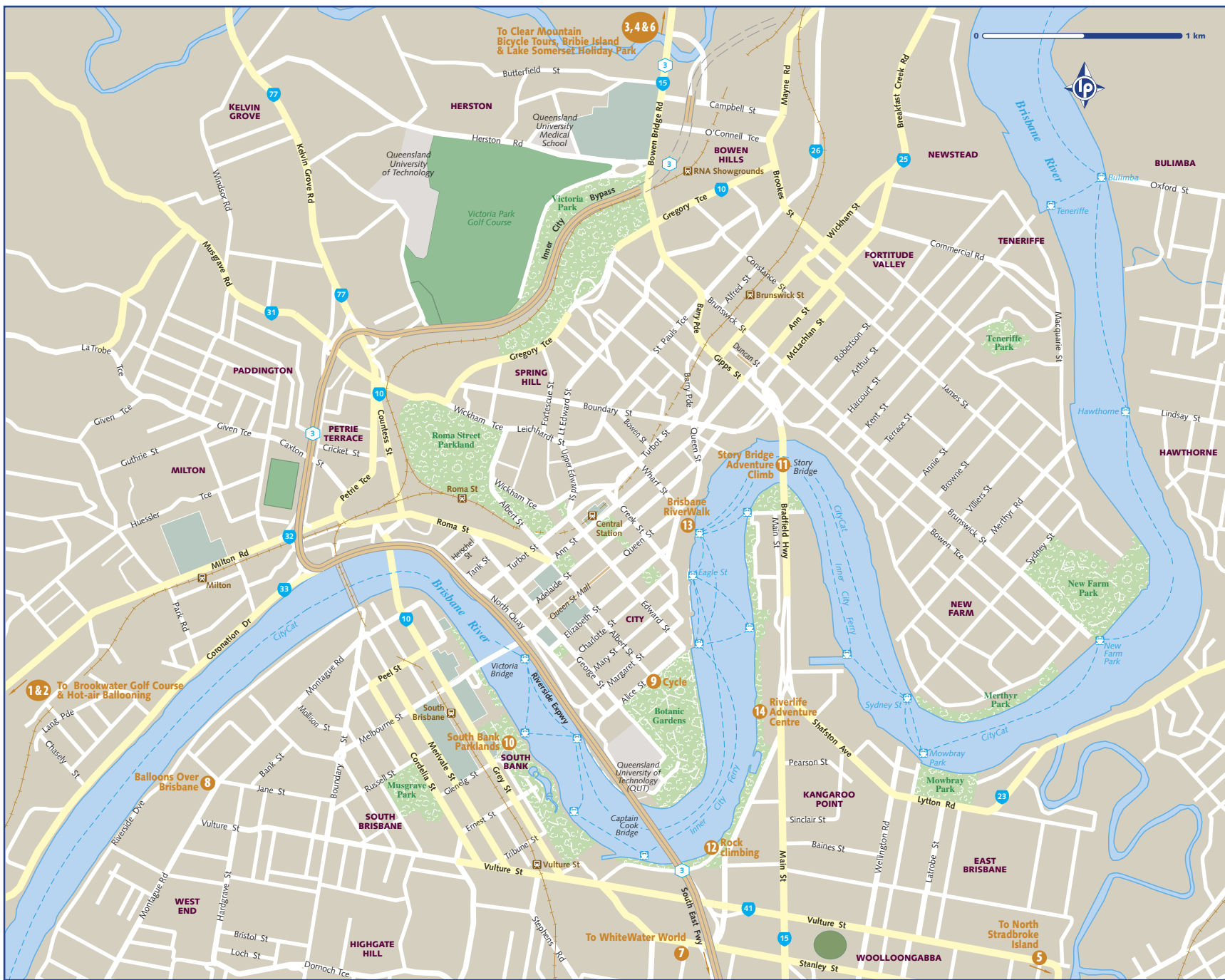
AM - MORNING ITINERARIES

- 8. Balloons Over Brisbane** (West End ☎07 3844 6671 🌐balloonsoverbrisbane.com.au) Greet the day with a sunrise tour of Brisbane's best side – take a hot-air balloon high above the city and soak up the views all the way to Moreton Bay. Top the morning off with a European breakfast.
- 9. Cycle** Explore Brisbane via some 500 cycleways. The most scenic hug the Brisbane River and range from 5km to 20km, but the network criss-crosses throughout the city. Hire wheels from cycle shops around the city, including Valet Cycle Hire (Alice St ☎0408 003 198 🌐cyclebrisbane.com) located in the City Botanic Gardens.
- 10. South Bank Parklands** (South Bank ☎07 3867 2051 🌐visitsouthbank.com.au) Brisbane might not be right on the coast, but you can beat the heat at the manmade Streets Beach in South Bank which provides ample sand and crystal-clear water to cool off in. The scenic esplanade offers prime views of the CBD across the water and a smorgasbord of attractions, eateries and small rainforests if you feel like being a bit more energetic.
- 11. Story Bridge Adventure Climb** (Kangaroo Point ☎1300 254 627 🌐storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au) Conquer your fear of heights and spend a couple of hours scaling this Brisbane

icon. Jaw-dropping views take in 360 degrees of the city and you get commentary and happy snaps thrown in.

PM - AFTERNOON & EVENING ITINERARIES

- 12. Rock climbing** (Kangaroo Point Cliffs) These magnificent pink volcanic cliffs are an ideal venue to test your mettle. The best time to go is at night, when the cliffs are floodlit and numerous operators conduct abseiling and climbing instruction. Try Torre Outdoor Adventure (☎07 3870 0643 🌐torremountaincraft.com.au).
- 13. Brisbane RiverWalk** (Brisbane River ☎07 3403 8888 🌐experiencebrisbane.com) Spanning more than 3km, this pedestrian walkway follows the course of the Brisbane River through the ever-evolving inner suburbs. You can stroll a few kilometres and jump on a *CityCat* to get you back to point A, or hit the pavement for a longer amble.
- 14. Riverlife Adventure Centre** (Kangaroo Point or South Bank Parklands ☎07 3891 5766 🌐riverlife.com.au) Get in, out and around the mighty Brisbane River at this waterfront adventure centre. Kayak the liquid bends, abseil the surrounding cliffs, cycle the pathways and get a head start on the latest fad – kick biking.



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