

EXPERIENCE BRISBANE

Small Pleasures

Romance is about the small things: languid lunches, sunny breakfasts and dinners with a view. Make a meal or a day of it. Head to North Stradbroke or a country retreat for a romantic weekend. Spend the morning at a spa and the evening by an open fire at a vineyard restaurant. Whatever your romantic fancy, there's so much to fall in love with in greater Brisbane.

HALF-DAY ITINERARIES

- 1. Aim high** Book a basket for two and take in the best views of South East Queensland's Scenic Rim and its World Heritage-listed national parks on a balloon flight with Floating Images (Ipswich Shire ☎ 07 3294 8770 🌐 floatingimages.com.au).
- 2. The ultimate indulgence** Spend a morning pampering the body at Harbour Day Spa (Redlands Shire ☎ 07 3821 2955 🌐 harbourdayspa.com.au). Wind down with Thai bath soaks, aromatherapy massages, champagne and lunch.
- 3. Treat your inner gastronome** 'I love you' goes so much better with fine wine and dining. At the summit of stunning Mt Mee, an hour's drive from Brisbane, you can lunch at Birches Restaurant (Caboolture Shire ☎ 07 5498 2244 🌐 birchesrestaurant.com.au), with views to Moreton Island, a glorious open fire, and fabulous Mod-Oz cuisine.

FULL-DAY ITINERARIES

- 4. Abscond to North Stradbroke for a cheeky weekend** (Redlands Shire ☎ 1300667386 🌐 moretonbayislands.com.au) Hide on secluded beaches, swim in mineral lakes, whale watch, and cosy up in a designer villa at Domain Stradbroke Resort (☎ 1800 199 556 🌐 stradbrokedomain.com). Pure romance.
- 5. Spend a chauffeured day at Sirromet Winery** (Redlands Shire ☎ 07 3206 2999 🌐 sirromet.com.au) Tuck yourselves into the back of a 1957 Chevrolet Bel-air from Retro Rides (☎ 07 3256 6490 🌐 retro-rides.com.au) and head to Restaurant Lurleen's, overlooking the vineyard and Moreton Bay at Mt Cotton. Stop at the cellar door for an award-winning drop on your way home.
- 6. Horse riding for two** Saddle up and explore the rolling hills around Wivenhoe Dam. Spend a tranquil day on horse back, stopping for an alfresco smorgasbord lunch with Mountain Lake Adventures (Esk Shire ☎ 07 5423 1645 🌐 horserides.com.au).
- 7. Have a weekend in the country** Escape the metropolitan mayhem and spend a weekend at Peppers Spicers Peak (Boonah Shire ☎ 07 4666 1083 🌐 peppers.com.au). Surrounded by World Heritage-listed Main Range National Park, this exquisite lodge offers superlative food and wine, open fires and boutique décor.

A Fine (Weather) Romance

Brisbane's sultry weather and laid-back heart provide the perfect back-drop for romantic escapades. Spend mornings meandering through sub-tropical gardens, indulge in long lunches at fine restaurants, splash out and delight in a shopper's paradise, and then don the new threads for sunset cocktails at a stylish bar.

AM - MORNING OPTIONS

- 8. Fly Me To the Moon** (☎ 07 3423 0400 🌐 flymetothemoon.com.au) What better way to see the sunrise over the city than from a hot-air balloon? Flights offer unparalleled views of Brisbane and out towards the beautiful Glass House Mountains and Moreton Bay. Wrap things up with a delicious buffet breakfast at the Sofitel.
- 9. Shop til you drop** (Queen Street Mall ☎ 07 3006 6200 🌐 experiencebrisbane.com) Shopaholics can spend themselves giddy in Queen Street Mall, the crux of retail in Brisbane's CBD. In swanky Queens Plaza you can shop for high-end designer fashion and accessories. Make like Holly Go-Lightly and stop in at Tiffany & Co for a little indulgent something.
- 10. Ripple Massage** (☎ 0438 567 906 🌐 ripplemassage.com.au) Ironing out the creases and ripples never felt so good. That's because these guys design massage packages and deliver them to your door. The two-hour couples massages are an ideal way to wind down and rejuvenate.
- 11. Watt Modern Dining** (Brisbane Powerhouse, New Farm ☎ 07 3358 5464 🌐 watt.net.au) Team the sunshine with superlative al fresco dining at this award-winning restaurant. Park yourself at a waterfront table and savour Mod Oz, Middle Eastern and Asian cuisine teamed with Australia's best vino.

PM - EVENING OPTIONS

- 12. Cooking Classes** Impress that special someone by showing off your exceptional culinary skills. Pick these up in a jiffy after a cooking class at one of Brisbane's finest restaurants – Mondo Organics (West End ☎ 07 3844 1132 🌐 mondo-organics.com.au), James St Cooking School (James St Markets, Fortitude Valley ☎ 07 3252 8850 🌐 jamesstcookingsschool.com.au) or Black Pearl Epicure (Fortitude Valley ☎ 07 3257 2144 🌐 blackpearl.com.au).
- 13. An evening on the vino at Anise** (Brunswick St, New Farm ☎ 07 3358 1558) Bring your fancy threads and palates to this trendy wine bar and restaurant. Patrons plant themselves on high-backed chairs along the narrow bar, nibble freshly shucked Moreton Bay oysters and plunge into the extensive range of wines.
- 14. Spending the night at Conrad Treasury** (William Street, CBD ☎ 1800 506 889 / 07 3306 8888 🌐 conradtreasury.com.au) Brisbane's classiest hotel is in the beautifully preserved former Land Administration Building. Every room is unique and awash with heritage features, polished wood, elegant furnishings and marble.

