

VA & NZ Experience Australia Famil

# Brisbane

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TRAVEL  
TODAY

A Travel Today Destinal Feature  
October 2015



# Brisbane and Beyond

TABS ON  
**TRAVEL  
TODAY**

Tue 17 Nov 15 p2

## BNE A Standalone Destination For Kiwis



Brisbane is no longer a gateway point. It's evolved from a sleepy riverside destination into a vibrant and ever-expanding city—complete with funky lane-ways, hip hotels, rooftop bars and countless riverside restaurants.

Kiwi product managers visiting the city over the weekend were im-

pressed, with most saying Brisbane is set to 'come of age' thanks to the wide range of projects planned, and some already completed.

Many of the product managers on the Air New Zealand/Virgin Australia Great Aussie Experience had not been to Brisbane for some time—but all agreed the city was becoming an attractive destination for Kiwis in its own right.

"We have had some really good feedback from the trade and we want to position Brisbane as a stay-put destination rather than an access point," says Tourism Events Queensland New Zealand manager Sally Holyer. "But Brisbane's proximity to the Sunshine and Gold Coast allows for dual destination holidays, so Kiwis can spend a few days in the city, and a week at the beach—which not only extends length of stay but also the commission potential for agents."

### BNE Expanding

Brisbane Airport too is in the midst of upgrades to its facility. The airside retail outlets have been refurbished and Brisbane Airport Corporation's vision is to be the world's best. To this end the company is investing AUD3.8B in infrastructure projects over the next decade—including runways.



### Eat Street Markets

For clients looking for something a little different Brisbane's Eat Street Markets feature 50 shipping containers reconfigured as mini-restaurants & bars, as well as 20 retailers (think arts, crafts and jewellery), live entertainment and local produce. The markets are open 1600-2200 Fri and Sat, and the live bands are free. See [eatstreetmarkets.com](http://eatstreetmarkets.com)



### High-tech Next Hotel A Hit With Kiwi Trade

Located right on Brisbane's Queens Street Mall, the high-tech Next Hotel can be recommended for clients looking for a centrally-located boutique hotel with a twist. Owned by SilverNeedle Hotels the property has undergone a multi-million development—with its quirky offering including four free mini bar choices daily, a smartphone (complete with data plan) to use for the stay, sleeping pods and an app which controls the room lights, appliances and entry. The hotel is located next to Forever

21 and just along from H&M which opened in Brisbane on the weekend. There's an on-site gym, restaurant, pool and roof top bar. Pictured enjoying some bubbles at the hotel's roof top bar is:

Air NZ's Rachel Pedder with Flight Centre's Alice Urbahn and Sharon Martin from Lifestyle Holidays Roann Roberts from Flight centre with Next Hotel's Sharon Cauldwell, Tim Allen from House of Travel and Tourism and Event Queensland's Sally Holyer.



### Major Queens Wharf Development Is All Go

The Queensland Government yesterday confirmed it had finalised the contracts on its AUD3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development. The huge riverside redevelopment includes five- and six-star hotels (combined offering over 1100 new hotel rooms), shops, signature restaurants and bars, a marketplace, laser and light shows, a cinema, improved connections with South Bank and a host of water based activities. It is also being designed to showcase festivals in the city. Construction is scheduled to commence in 2017, subject to regulatory approvals, with completion date scheduled for 2022. The Star Entertainment Group (which owns the Treasury Casino and Hotel, and formerly known as Echo Entertainment) has partnered with Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd and Far East Consortium Ltd to form the Destination Brisbane Consortium joint venture for the Queens Wharf project.

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# Brisbane and Beyond

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Wed 18 Nov 15 p3

## Dolphins Are Just The Beginning



Home to one of the most-respected wild dolphin feeding programmes, Tangalooma Island Resort has earned rave reviews from visiting wholesale product managers who say the resort has real growth potential from the Kiwi market.

The group on the weekend's Air New Zealand/Virgin Australia famil was impressed by the range of options at the resort—which included accommodation types to suit most budgets as well as a huge range of free, and premium, activities.

Located 40km off Brisbane on Moreton Island, Tangalooma Island Resort is easy to get to, with a number of ferry sailings daily between the Holt St

Wharf and the resort. While popular for day trips, the resort recommends a minimum three-night stay for clients to really experience the resort, and the range of activities on offer.

### ... Kiwi Potential

With a focus on experiences and product particularly suited to families, many in the Kiwi trade group were sold on the resort as an add-on to a Queensland break.

"It's a perfect add-on for Kiwis, particularly families, heading to the Gold Coast," says Flight Centre Product's Roann Roberts. "There's so much to do in addition to the dolphin feeding but the resort has a relaxed feel, making it a great place for families to explore after a few busy days on the Gold Coast."

### Battle Of The Brands



Air NZ's 'Battle of The Brands' was reignited at Tangalooma last weekend. HoT's Tim Allen and Rachel Mancini (on left) were up against Flighties' Ro Roberts and Alice Urbahn in a light hearted sand tobogganing challenge. The winner—Flight Centre.



### Tobogganing And More: So Much To Do

There's over 80 tours and activities on offer at Tangalooma Resort—and a large number of those are free. The dolphin feeding experience is complimentary, once per visit, for clients staying at the resort.

As well as scuba, snorkelling and marine tours there's ATV quad bike rides, including pint-sized bikes. The popular sand tobogganing in the Tangalooma Desert was a hit with the Kiwis visiting. The 90-min tour is AUD38, adults. The NZ/VA

famil group is pictured post sand sliding—along with speedster Alice Urbahn from Flight centre, inset.

There's helicopter rides, Segway beach tours, fishing excursions and more. In the winter months (Jun-Oct) there's also guided whale watching tours.

The tours can get busy (or booked out) during cruise ship visits. It may pay to check at the time of booking if a client's stay coincides with a cruise ship visit.

### Tangalooma: The Facts

**Where:** Located on Moreton Island, 40km from Brisbane

**How To Get There:** Tangalooma operates regular ferry services between its Holt St Wharf (near BNE airport) and the resort. Clients can opt for a day trip to the island or stay overnight.

**Accommodation:** Options range from campsites through to 4.5-star apartments. The bulk of the standard rooms are 3.5-star. The resort units and suites with kitchenettes are popular with the Kiwi market. Holiday houses sleeping up to 12 are also available.



### Affordable Beachfront Dining Options

Tangalooma-bound guests can choose to self-cater or there's also two restaurants, a café, coffee shop and a bar. Tangalooma Resort's director of sales Craig Laurin says the property's rooms with self-catering options are popular with the Kiwi market—but dining out at the resort is also affordable. There's a buffet breakfast at the recently refurbished Turisops and the beachfront Fire and Stone Restaurant offers an Asian fusion 'fire menu' as well as traditional grill fare (steaks, pizzas etc) on the 'stone menu'. There's a casual standard of dress and almost every seat has a view.

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# Brisbane and Beyond

TABS ON  
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Thu 19 Nov 15 p4

## Up, Up And Away



**Soaring high over the Scenic Rim near Brisbane got the thumbs up from even the timid Hot Air balloon passengers—making the 4am start well worth the effort.**

And because regular ballooning's just not enough—the NZ/VS famil group dabbled in a little extreme ballooning under the watchful eye



of experienced Hot Air balloon pilot 'Laurie'. Suitable for all those with an adventurous spirit who can make the climb into the giant basket, the experience was highly recommended by those in the group—and finished with a bubbly breakfast at O'Reilly's Grand Homestead and Vineyard visit (which also included turtle spotting and searching for platypus).

**1** Ready for some hot air action is House of Travel's Rachel Mancini, Roann Roberts from Flight Centre, Air NZ's Rachel Pedder and Tim Allen from HoT.

**2** The gusty wind provided a fun filled landing—which was the highlight for most in the group. Pictured disembarking, from the sideways basket is Tim Allen from HoT and Flight Centre's Roann Roberts.

**3** Ready for take-off is Air NZ Holidays' Alicia McGregor, Sharon Martin from Lifestyle Holidays and TEQ's Sally Holyer.

## Wildlife A-plenty

Located close to Brisbane city, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary continues to attract a high number of Kiwi travellers. Known as the world's first koala sanctuary the attraction offers a wide range of wildlife encounters—including the iconic koala cuddling experience (like Air NZ's Rachel Pedder pictured). Clients can feed kangaroos (like Flight Centre's Alice Urbahn) and lorikeets—and even hold a snake. There's also a new sheep dog show, offering an insight into Aussie outback farm life. See [koala.net](http://koala.net)



## Edgy Precincts

Brisbane is officially 'cool'. The city is now home to several 'edgy precincts' such as Fortitude Valley, commonly known as Brisbane's evening entertainment capital. Clients can enjoy Yum Char at the valley's Chinatown area, browse the funky boutiques along Brunswick St, and take in the sights of Ann St including the Bakery Lane boutique shopping and arts development. For more, [CLICK HERE](#) Paddington has also made the transition from a blue collar suburb to a hipster hangout. Shops selling vintage wares are now mixed with an eclectic mix of boutiques and eateries. For those seeking a little culture, there's art galleries such as the Lethbridge, Percolator or Red Sand. For more [CLICK HERE](#)



## Memorable Les Mis Performance For Kiwis

The award-winning production of Les Miserables opened at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre last week. Those on the famil took in a poignant performance of the show, after the weekend's events in Paris. A tribute made by the cast after the show to those who had lost their lives in Paris, made the performance a night those in the group will always remember.

**1** House of Travel's Tim Allen and Flight Centre's Alice Urbahn join in the fight for freedom during the show. **2** A limo transfer ensured the evening started in style for Sharon Martin from Lifestyle Holidays, pictured with TEQ's Sally Holyer and Air NZ Holidays' Alicia McGregor.

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