Queensland
make it your home
Why Queensland?

People around the world want to improve their quality of life and that of their families. Queensland’s excellent lifestyle, clean green environment and business opportunities make it a great place to live and work. This state is a place of great opportunities, ideas and innovation that welcomes the world to visit, study, do business and invest. Our political stability and solid growth make for an investment-friendly business environment. We offer a safe, long-term investment climate, supported by our highly skilled workforce and strategic Asia-Pacific location.

International investors can pursue a wealth of opportunities and business advantages through our six diverse economic sectors, including agriculture, construction, resources, tourism, science and innovation, and education and training.

We welcome highly skilled business people and professionals who want to make this state their home and contribute to our economy and culture.

The Neish Family’s story

Originally from a small town called Hawik in Scotland, 33 year old Hamish is now living a lifestyle most people only dream of in Queensland, Australia.

After visiting the Sunshine State with his wife in 2004, Hamish made the decision to move away from the cold and enjoy a whole new life in one of Australia’s most desirable cities, Brisbane.

Queensland has relaxed its visa requirements in recent years and boasts the fastest processing system in Australia.

As a registered nurse, Hamish was eligible to apply for a skilled visa that also allows his family to migrate with him.

Rather than go through a migration agent, Hamish completed the application himself online and just three months later he had all the permission he needed to live and work in Australia.

“We saved ourselves a heap of money by doing the application ourselves,” Hamish said, “and it really wasn’t very hard.”

His wife Kerry is a mental health nurse.

“We moved to Australia almost a year after we started the visa process and found work immediately in the private hospital system,” he said.

The couple’s four year old son Fergus is also settling in to the new lifestyle easily.

“We just feel at home here, the landscapes are similar but the weather is so much better,” Hamish said.

The young family is revelling in the outdoor lifestyle; snorkelling with dolphins at Tangalooma, camping at Fraser Island and eating outdoors on the barbeque all year round.

“Nominating Queensland on your visa application can speed the process up by months and the State is actively encouraging skilled migration at the moment,” Hamish said.

The couple now plans to apply for Australian citizenship.
# Queensland

**snapshot**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Area</strong></th>
<th>1727 million km² (667,000 mi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital city</strong></td>
<td>Brisbane, population 2.24 million (April 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>4.69 million (Dec quarter, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coastline</strong></td>
<td>5200 km (2,000 mi)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Climate</strong></th>
<th>Tropical/subtropical/temperate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer temperatures</strong></td>
<td>17 to 30 degrees Celsius (62 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter temperatures</strong></td>
<td>10 to 22 degrees Celsius (50 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit)</td>
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| **Major international airports** | Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast |
| **Currency**                    | Australian dollar |
| **Time zone**                   | GMT +10 |
| **International calling code**  | +61 7 |
Queensland’s Regions

The Great Barrier Reef

Tropic of Capricorn

Mt Isa
Far North
North West
North
Central
Central West
South West
Darling Downs
Wide Bay Burnett
Rockhampton
Gladstone
Sunshine Coast
Gold Coast
Brisbane
Gold Coast
Rockhampton
Gladstone
Sunshine Coast
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Brisbane

Mt Isa

Far North

North West

North

Central

Central West

South West

Darling Downs

Wide Bay Burnett

Rockhampton

Gladstone

Sunshine Coast

Gold Coast

Brisbane

Kilometres

SCALE

0

100

200

15° S

15° S

28° S

Queensland's Regions

The Great Barrier Reef

Tropic of Capricorn
Welcome to the Queensland lifestyle

If you’re looking for business and career opportunities as well as a great lifestyle, make Queensland your home.

Queensland offers many business and career opportunities in diverse industries, with a stable economy and excellent working conditions. And the pace of your lifestyle is your choice; Queensland has large, metropolitan cities along the coast to rural towns and everything in between.

Located on the east coast of Australia, Queensland is one of the country’s most attractive places to live and work, with a lifestyle that ranks among the best in the world. Known as Australia’s sunshine state, Queensland is the second-biggest state in the country, covering 1.727 million km² - twice the size of Texas, USA and seven times the size of the UK.

Queensland has many natural, economic and structural advantages over other parts of the country and the world. We have a diverse culture and an open, friendly and inclusive society. We also have abundant natural resources, sophisticated infrastructure, a highly skilled workforce and innovative industry, research and development sectors.

Investors and business people will also benefit from a stable political system, diverse economy, competitive taxes and Queensland’s close proximity to Asia-Pacific markets.

We welcome people, both interstate and international and recognise the valuable contribution that they can make to our great state.

So choose Queensland and share in our quality of life, our business rewards and our economic future.
Fast Facts

Lifestyle

- Queensland has an excellent quality of life - pleasant subtropical environment
- affordable housing, a world class education system and advanced health services
- an average of 263 days of sunshine each year
- 7000 km of coastline and a myriad of waterways
- more than a million square kilometres of tropical wetland and outback to explore
- clean, green environment free from serious animal and plant pests due to strict regulations
- our population is projected to double to around 9.1 million people by 2056
- an enviable lifestyle – Australia is number two in the world on the ‘where to be born’ index - best countries for a healthy, safe and prosperous life (The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2013).

Political

- Queensland’s political stability and solid growth make for an investment-friendly business environment
- we belong to one of the top 10 most politically stable countries in the world that boasts a AAA credit rating from all three major rating agencies
- our pro-growth strategy encourages business and employment growth with low costs and intellectual property laws that respect and protect intellectual property rights.

Economic

- Our economy has grown rapidly, outperforming the OECD average, and is forecast to enjoy 6% growth in 2015-16
- we have a high quality labour-force - highly educated and efficient with low levels of absenteeism
- the eighth-most resilient economy to economic cycles in the world (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2014)
- an advantageous foreign investment environment – international investors can generally repatriate all capital and profits to their own country
- a sophisticated, reliable and highly efficient infrastructure relative to other high growth destinations worldwide
- world class telecommunications infrastructure with well-serviced road, rail, sea and air transport.

Legal

Queensland has a solid and stable legal framework including:
- effective regulation of contracts, loans, banking, real estate and the stock market
- full protection of intellectual property and patents
- effective dispute resolution practices.

Queensland has great advantages for migrants, including a safe, stable economy, a business-focused government and solid economic growth, forecast to grow at 6% by 2015-16 (Queensland State Budget Papers 2013-14).

The Queensland economy has benefited from significant government spending on infrastructure, a strong mining and resources sector and solid foreign migration, adding to the state’s skilled workforce.

Ideally positioned at the crossroads of the Asia-Pacific, Queensland is close to the growth markets of the world. This provides a strong advantage as both an investment destination and an export stepping-off point.

As a leader in Australia’s economic growth, averaging 4.2% from 2001-11, Queensland’s internationally-renowned tourism, agriculture, resources, construction and education industries are complemented by an emerging research and bio-industries sector.
Mr Changchun’s story

Mr Changchun Ji, Chairman of Fullshare Group, made frequent visits to Australia and came across some tremendous opportunities to invest in Queensland’s tourism industry. He hasn’t looked back since.

A few years ago, the Nanjing businessman, who has interests across China in construction engineering, property development, new energy, tourism and hospitality, was catching up with a Melbourne businessman with tourism investments in North Queensland. The businessman wanted to attract overseas investors for the growing array of opportunities Queensland presented.

Mr Ji said Australia has a solid reputation in China as a good place to do business and after investing in several of Queensland’s tourism developments, he can see why.

“After meeting with my friend and business colleague I heard about Queensland and the opportunities it presented. I did some thorough research and after many trips I made the decision to invest in the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, and various holdings at Laguna Quays in Queensland’s far north.”

“We chose Queensland due to its strong and growing economy, particularly in tourism. Its government departments are very supportive with proactive investment policies and fast project approval processes. The state also offers well established and highly efficient infrastructure, and this is what sealed it for my company to do business in Queensland.”

The Queensland Government is facilitating investment to revitalise existing infrastructure across the state through the Destination Q plan. Destination Q is a partnership between the Queensland Government and the tourism industry, recognising tourism as one of the four pillars of its economy.

As a result of his investments, Mr Ji qualified for a Business Talent visa, allowing him to nurture his interests in Australia and China. Making it even easier is the infrastructure in Queensland which includes 14 international and domestic airports.

Mr Ji has gone on to further expand Fullshare’s Queensland portfolio, investing across the state’s regions in the Laguna Comprehensive Tourism Development in Mackay and Whisper Bay Luxury Water Front Villas in Airlie Beach, both in regional Queensland’s central coast areas.

“The Business Talent visa has given me certainty to continue investing in Queensland and my family and I have been spending time in Queensland as we work on these property developments.”
There are three levels of government in Australia - local, state and federal. Queensland’s state government works with local councils and the federal government to champion the interests of business and industry, cutting unnecessary red tape and costs and streamlining business approval processes. This includes providing access to decision makers on investment planning and development, simplified planning laws, reduced application costs for businesses and reduced approval times for major projects.

Regulatory reforms make it easier to do business in Queensland, including a one-stop-shop for doing business in this state - www.business.qld.gov.au.

The Queensland Government website, www.qld.gov.au, provides information on government services including health and education.

Business and Skilled Migration Queensland is a unit of Trade & Investment Queensland. They help business migrants by referring them to experts who can assist with information on investment and export in diverse industries, including resources, energy, construction, food and agriculture and tourism.
Queensland’s regional centres

Queenslanders enjoy an outdoor lifestyle. The subtropical climate means more winter sunshine and warmth than in most other Australian states. More than half of the state’s population lives outside Brisbane in regional and rural communities. Queensland is Australia’s most decentralised state, and the regions are well serviced to meet the needs of residents and visitors. Each distinct region has its own character. Many regions include large population centres as well as a number of smaller communities.

The Payan family’s story

Creating an outdoor adventure playground on the Gold Coast is a long way from a career in the French military. But French national Denis Payan wanted a change of pace, and he found that Queensland had the answers.

After leaving the French army, Denis, 52, created his outdoor business Adventure Parc, which specialises in outdoor ropes courses.

After growing his business significantly across France, Denis and his wife Pascale saw a great opportunity to move to Australia and set up a similar business, and Queensland was firmly in their sights.

“Queensland has everything we were after – an ideal outdoor setting and importantly, it was a safe and secure with a perfect weather environment to set up a business such as ours.”

In 2007 the Payan family was granted a State Sponsored Business Owner visa (class 163), and the rest is history.

“We established Adventure Parc firstly at Mount Tambourine in the Gold Coast Hinterland and then at the Gold Coast’s Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary - both perfect settings for an outdoor business.”

“Business is fantastic for us. Adventure Parc has grown so much that last year we had more than 65,000 visitors and we have employed 25 staff to meet the demand.”

“The visa application process also went very smoothly, taking only six months. It was then eight months for us to gain our permanent residency in 2010.”

“We received such good support from both the Queensland and Australian governments.”

Six years later and Denis, Pascale, and sons Adrien and Arno are loving life.

“The boys took to the Gold Coast lifestyle like ducks to water,” Denis said. Denis’s comment to anyone considering setting up business in Queensland is to make sure people do their research.

“For my business, I travelled the east coast of Australia to view similar businesses and to meet people wishing to develop similar business models. We found that the Gold Coast had the right lifestyle and economic climate and was the place for us,” Denis said.

“We also wrote a thorough business plan, which had extra emphasis given that our Australian visas were based on us setting up a successful business here.”

“Life is great. Moving to the Gold Coast is the best thing we’ve ever done.”

Pascale Payan

Denis Payan

Arno Payan

Pascale Payan
Our essential services

Health
High quality health services are available throughout Queensland.

Queensland Health offers public health services through more than 55 hospitals throughout the state. In addition, there are more than 20 private hospitals offering services for a fee, mostly in the south east corner of the state and major population centres.

Queensland Health hospitals offer general inpatient, outpatient and emergency services. Australian residents have access to emergency ambulance and medical assistance as well as the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, through which most prescription medicines are subsidised.

The state has an extensive network of general practitioners, dentists and specialists, as well as pharmacists, physiotherapists, and optometrists in regional towns throughout the state, with visits made to remote communities.

Education
Queensland has more than 1,230 public schools and over 470 private schools throughout the state. The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has identified that learning outcomes and resources available to Australian students as being above the OECD average.

There were 733,652 full-time students attending Queensland schools in 2011, 20.8% of the Australian total. Of these, two-thirds attended government schools and a third attended non-government schools.

State schools teach a common curriculum in line with the national curriculum and are broadly classified as primary, secondary, combined (primary and secondary) or special. Schooling is compulsory for children aged from six to 16 years in Queensland.

Queensland has a highly skilled population, with three out of four people holding a trade, training or tertiary qualification (DETA, qualifications).

Housing
There is a wide range of housing available in Queensland, with homes on suburban blocks being the most popular. Most houses built between the turn of last century and the 1950s are of timber and raised on stumps, but many built from the 1960s on are brick veneer built on a slab.

House prices in Queensland compare favourably to those in other states of Australia, with a median price of $422,000 depending on the suburb, town or region. Permanent residents can purchase property in Queensland.

The south east corner of the state has many unit or apartment complexes, with increased population density toward the city centres of Brisbane and the Gold Coast in particular.

Because of Queensland’s climate, most houses and units are built with the outdoors in mind, and most have some form of outdoor entertainment area or verandah.
Economy
Brisbane has a diverse economy and offers internationally competitive education, finance, property, and business services. The city houses world class research and development facilities and is a hub for innovative research, with research centres established and funding offered to secure top scientific talent. Hundreds of interstate and international companies have headquarters in Brisbane. The city also offers a full range of community services, a cosmopolitan lifestyle and a lower cost of living compared to other capitals.

Major projects
- BaT Tunnel (Brisbane underground bus and train tunnel)
- Bruce Highway Upgrade
- Multi-billion dollar rail opportunities including the Southern Freight Rail Corridor
- Integrated resort developments, including the Queen’s Wharf Project in Brisbane

Lifestyle
Brisbane is a multicultural city built around the Brisbane River. It has a subtropical climate and outdoor lifestyle. The city offers an active urban life, while having many diverse getaways in nearby regions – from coastal escapes to rural retreats. There are also vineyards to the south and old-growth rainforest in the mountains to the west.

Considered a cultural hub for arts, entertainment and dining, Brisbane features a full calendar of theatre, cinema, ballet, musicals, art exhibitions, concerts, festivals and opera. The Gallery of Modern Art at South Bank is considered one of the best galleries in the country.

With an international and domestic airport, plus rail and bus services, getting around and travelling to and from Queensland’s capital is easy.

To find out more about living in the Greater Brisbane area, just go to:
- www.brisbane.qld.gov.au
- www.ipswich.qld.gov.au
- www.logan.qld.gov.au
- www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au
- www.redland.qld.gov.au
- www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Greater Brisbane

Brisbane is the capital of Queensland and the third-largest city in Australia. It has the attractions, facilities and infrastructure of a large city, but its open space and tropical architecture make it more relaxed than the southern capitals of Sydney and Melbourne.

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Living on the Gold Coast

With over 70 km of sandy beaches, the Gold Coast has tropical rainforests, multiple theme parks, a magnificent hinterland and active city centres.

**Economy**
The Gold Coast is known internationally as a tourism destination and has established marine, health and medical precincts, education and creative sectors. There are a number of major infrastructure projects underway on the Gold Coast.

**Major projects**
- 2018 Commonwealth Games
- Southport business centre revitalisation – declared a Priority Development Area
- Stage two of the Gold Coast light rail project
- Gold Coast cultural precinct at Evandale

**Lifestyle**
In addition to its seaside lifestyle, the city offers a wide variety of recreational activities, including music festivals celebrating both local and international acts.

The Gold Coast is also home to three major theme parks – Sea World, Dreamworld and Movie World – as well as wildlife sanctuaries, a casino and a convention centre. At night, Surfers Paradise is a vibrant entertainment precinct with themed bars, hotels and nightclubs.

Public transport options include trains, buses, a new light rail system, as well as an international and domestic airport.

To find out more about living on the Gold Coast, just go to: www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au
Economy
The Sunshine Coast’s growing economy is dominated by four main sectors – tourism, leisure, construction and retail. However, it is diversifying, with a number of developing industry sectors including education, agribusiness, aviation and clean technologies. The health, research and education sectors feature prominently in the economy, with the Sunshine Coast University Hospital precinct including a Science Academic Research Centre. Education and research capabilities on the Sunshine Coast are also linked with the University of the Sunshine Coast at Sippy Downs, which is inland between Caloundra and Mooloolaba.

Major projects
- Sunshine Coast University Hospital and adjacent health and medical precinct at Kawana
- A new city centre in Maroochydore – commercial, civic and entertainment opportunities
- An expanded Sunshine Coast Airport providing a national and international gateway to the region
- Expansion of the University of the Sunshine Coast
- An upgrade of the Bruce Highway from Caboolture to the Sunshine Coast

Lifestyle
The Sunshine Coast is well-known for its pristine beaches, scenic drives and unspoiled national parks. From the ocean to the hinterland, Sunshine Coast restaurants take advantage of fresh local produce. Popular tourist hot spots include Noosa’s Hastings Street, Maroochydore’s Duporth Avenue and the Mooloolaba Esplanade. There are daily flights between the Sunshine Coast airport, Sydney, Melbourne and other major cities. There is also a regular rail service between Brisbane and Nambour, and bus services from various beaches to the suburbs.

To find out more about living at the Sunshine Coast, go to these local government websites:
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
www.noosa.qld.gov.au

Living on the Sunshine Coast
The Sunshine Coast lies an hour north of Brisbane and is world-renowned for its beautiful beaches, national parks and friendly communities. The Sunshine Coast is often a destination for rest and relaxation and is made up of a string of coastal communities, spread along 50 km of coastline.

Area
2,291 km²

Population
278,202
(ABS estimated resident population 2013)

Median household income $1,010 a week
(Census 2011)
- for Councils listed below

Local Councils
Sunshine Coast, Noosa

Key business and industry organisations
Chambers of Commerce and Industry Queensland - Sunshine Coast, Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast, Property Council of Australia - Queensland Division Sunshine Coast Committee, Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Business, Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd, Sunshine Coast First, Urban Development Institute of Australia Sunshine Coast.

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temperatures
Summer
- Mean maximum 29°C/84°F
- Mean minimum 20°C/68°F
Winter
- Mean maximum 21°C/69°F
- Mean minimum 10°C/50°F
South West Queensland is known for fine wines, fresh produce and stunning wildflowers. The region covers nearly 400,000 km², stretching from the Great Dividing Range west to the South Australian border. There are three distinct sub regions – the Darling Downs, Maranoa and South West.

Economy
South West Queensland and the Darling Downs produces around a third of Queensland’s agricultural output and is a major producer of cotton and beef. Mining, construction, manufacturing, healthcare and transport are all major employers in the South West and the Darling Downs.

Major projects
- Toowomba’s second range crossing
- New Acland Coal mine expansion
- BOC Chinchilla micro - LNG plant
- Wandoan Elimatta Project
- SunState GTL Project GTL plant
- Charlton Wellcamp - Business Park incorporating Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport

Lifestyle
The Darling Downs includes Toowoomba, one of Queensland’s largest regional urban centres. It is the business and service hub for the entire region. Toowoomba is also home to one of the state’s largest university campuses – the University of Southern Queensland. Toowoomba provides a range of dining choices, wineries and vineyards, gourmet delis and cafes. At night, there are hotels, clubs and bars to choose from and venues offering live music, pool tables and karaoke.

To find out more about living in South West Queensland and Darling Downs area, go to:
www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au
www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au
www.somerset.qld.gov.au
www.southerndowns.qld.gov.au
www.goondiwindirc.qld.gov.au
www.maranoa.qld.gov.au
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au
www.balconne.qld.gov.au
www.murweh.qld.gov.au
www.paroo.qld.gov.au
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au
www.bulloo.qld.gov.au

Living in South West Queensland
and the Darling Downs

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- Charlton Wellcamp - Business Park incorporating Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport

Lifestyle
The Darling Downs includes Toowoomba, one of Queensland’s largest regional urban centres. It is the business and service hub for the entire region. Toowoomba is also home to one of the state’s largest university campuses – the University of Southern Queensland. Toowoomba provides a range of dining choices, wineries and vineyards, gourmet delis and cafes. At night, there are hotels, clubs and bars to choose from and venues offering live music, pool tables and karaoke.

To find out more about living in South West Queensland and Darling Downs area, go to:
www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au
www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au
www.somerset.qld.gov.au
www.southerndowns.qld.gov.au
www.goondiwindirc.qld.gov.au
www.maranoa.qld.gov.au
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au
www.balconne.qld.gov.au
www.murweh.qld.gov.au
www.paroo.qld.gov.au
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au
www.bulloo.qld.gov.au
The Wide Bay Burnett region’s economy has historically been based on agriculture, timber, heavy manufacturing, mining and fishing. In recent years, this has been supplemented by growth in horticulture, tourism, aviation, advanced manufacturing, aquaculture, food processing, marine, construction and service industries.

**Major projects**
- Bruce Highway upgrade and realignment between Cooroy and Curra
- Coopers Gap Wind Farm
- Norwood Coal Mine Project
- Andrew and Lauren Projects - UCG and coal to liquids
- Glen Wilga Coal Mine

**Lifestyle**

The Wide Bay Burnett region includes the towns of Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Kingaroy, Cherbourg and Gympie and the areas of the Fraser Coast, North Burnett and South Burnett. More than 80% of the region’s population lives in the urban centres, which offer diverse lifestyles, from rural to seaside living.

The Wide Bay Burnett region has three university campuses offering high quality education and training services for national and international students.

**To find out more about living in the Wide Bay Burnett area, go to:**

- [www.northburnett.qld.gov.au](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au)
Gladstone is 550 km north of Brisbane, located between the mouths of the Calliope and Boyne rivers, with a large deep water harbour protected by off-shore islands. Gladstone is known as a centre of industry, and has an attractive town centre with beautiful beaches a 20 minute drive away.

**Economy**

The Gladstone region is a thriving industrial base served by one of Australia’s busiest ports, the Port of Gladstone. With recent and ongoing investment in unconventional gas, Gladstone’s strong industrial growth looks set to continue.

Gladstone’s economy is also based on retail trade, metals smelting and manufacturing industries. Agriculture also plays a significant role in the broader region’s economy.

**Major projects**

- Arrow Energy LNG Plant on Curtis Island
- Yarwun Alumina Refinery
- Queensland Curtis LNG Project Pipeline, exploration and processing LNG Plant
- Arrow Surat Pipeline Coal Seam Gas pipeline
- Australian Pacific LNG Coal Seam Gas pipeline and LNG plant development

**Lifestyle**

Gladstone offers its residents a pleasant lifestyle, with close proximity to islands, beaches and national parks. The city has a subtropical climate with islands, waterways and beaches providing year round boating, fishing, swimming and surfing.

The Gladstone region features established infrastructure including an airport, a convention centre and services for families, couples and singles.

**To find out more about living in the Gladstone area, just go to:**

www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

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**Living in Gladstone**

**Area**

10,488 km²

**Population**

63,955

(ABS estimated resident population 2013)

**Median household income**

$1,725 a week

(Census 2011)

- for Councils listed below

**Local Councils**

Gladstone

**Key business and industry organisations**

Gladstone business and industry group, Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gladstone Community Advisory Service, AgForce, Gladstone Engineering Alliance, Gladstone Area Promotions and Development Ltd, Gladstone Industry Leadership group.

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**Temperatures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29°C/84°F</td>
<td>22°C/71°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean maximum</td>
<td>Mean maximum</td>
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<tr>
<td>22°C/71°F</td>
<td>12°C/53°F</td>
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<td>Mean minimum</td>
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Gladstone
Living in Rockhampton

Rockhampton or ‘Rocky’ as it is known by locals, is on the Fitzroy River around 600 km north of Brisbane and 40 km inland from the coast. Just a 30 minute drive away is the beautiful Capricorn Coast - the coastal strip between Yeppoon and Emu Park. Fifteen kilometres off the coast of Yapoon is Great Keppel Island, blessed with beautiful beaches and coral reefs.

Economy
Rockhampton is known as the beef capital of Australia. The city acts as a business gateway for the mining and agricultural industries that operate in Western Queensland. It houses two large abattoirs and one of the largest livestock sales facilities in the country at Gracemere, just west of the city.

Rockhampton is a health and retail hub for the surrounding areas. Tourism is also playing a greater role in the economy, with people using Rockhampton as a base to visit the Capricorn Coast and Keppel Group of Islands.

Major Projects
- Bruce Highway upgrade - Yeppen South project
- Redevelopment of the Rockhampton Base Hospital
- Rockhampton Riverfront redevelopment including convention and sporting precincts
- CQUUniversity and TAFE Partnership to form Queensland’s’ first dual sector university
- Development incentives available for certain CBD and residential development projects

Lifestyle
Rockhampton is the gateway to Capricorn Coast to the east, the Berserker ranges to the west and the Capricorn Caves a short drive north of the city. Residents and visitors can enjoy a range of adventure activities from caving, camping and bushwalking to boating, snorkelling and diving.

Rockhampton’s restaurants offer some of the best steaks in Australia, as well as fresh seafood and cuisines from around the world. The fun continues at night as the city offers a thriving nightlife with many bars, hotels and clubs.

To find out more about living in the Rockhampton area, just go to:
www.rockhampton.qld.gov.au
www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au
www.livingstone.qld.gov.au

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To find out more about living in the Rockhampton area, just go to:
www.rockhampton.qld.gov.au
www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au
www.livingstone.qld.gov.au
Central West Queensland is known for its wide open skies and breathtaking landscapes. It is an inland region of the state, roughly west of Rockhampton and extending to the Northern Territory border. This region includes the Simpson Desert and six other national park areas.

**Economy**

With a warm dry climate, Central West Queensland has a strong mining and resources industry and a thriving agricultural industry. The region is serviced by major highways and a long distance passenger rail service from Brisbane to Longreach and has six airports: Longreach, Winton, Windorah, Barcaldine, Aramac and Blackall.

**Major Projects**

- Carmichael Coal Mine – Adani Mining Ltd
- China First (Galilee Coal Project) (open cut and underground) – Waratah Coal Pty Ltd
- Sealing and upgrade of sections of the Outback Way
- South Galilee (open cut and underground), AMCI – Bandanna Energy

**Lifestyle**

Longreach is a thriving country town in Central West Queensland. It has the conveniences of a city but retains its rural character. Famous for becoming the first base for Qantas Airlines, Longreach is also the birthplace for the world’s first flying doctor service. The town prospers on beef, sheep and tourism industries.

To find out more about living in the Central-West area, just go to:

- www.barcaldine.qld.gov.au
- www.barcoo.qld.gov.au
- www.btrc.qld.gov.au
- www.diamantina.qld.gov.au
- www.longreach.qld.gov.au
- www.winton.qld.gov.au
- www.boulia.qld.gov.au

**Check out the temperatures**

- **Summer**
  - Mean maximum: 38°C/96°F
  - Mean minimum: 22°C/71°F

- **Winter**
  - Mean maximum: 23°C/73°F
  - Mean minimum: 9°C/48°F

**Area**

396,650 km²

**Population**

12,458

(ABS estimated resident population 2013)

**Median household income**

$1,014 a week

(Census 2011)

– for Councils listed below

**Local Councils**

Barcaldine, Longreach, Boulia, Winton, Diamantina, Blackall-Tambo, Barcoo

**Key business and industry organisations**

Mackay and the Whitsundays

Mackay, located 1,100 km north of Brisbane, is the gateway to the magnificent Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef. The region is known for its scenic beaches, relaxed tropical lifestyle and recreational attractions.

**Economy**
Mackay is Queensland’s premier coal region, producing 50% of the state’s coal. The Mackay and Whitsunday region has experienced population and economic growth fuelled mainly by global demand for resources that are mined in the west. Regional strengths centre on world demand for energy, that drive specialty mining and engineering services. In the Whitsundays, tourism is the largest sector, with an emphasis on lifestyle and high quality food production.

**Major Projects**
- Eagle Downs underground coal mine Moranbah
- Caval Ridge (OC) – BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance
- Byerwen (OC) – Byerwen Coal Pty Ltd
- Grosvenor underground – Anglo American Metallurgical Coal Ltd

**Lifestyle**
This beautiful region is famous for its tropical beaches and island destinations. Mackay, Proserpine and Airlie Beach to the north provide numerous dining options, from casual waterside meals to rainforest retreats, hotels and cafes. There are also golf courses, theatres and entertainment venues offering international and local performances and weekend arts and produce markets.

Mackay has a domestic airport, regular bus services (including a free service on Sundays) and is connected by rail to the rest of Queensland.

**To find out more about living in the Mackay and Whitsunday areas, go to:**
www.mackay.qld.gov.au
www.isaac.qld.gov.au
www.whitsunday.qld.gov.au

**Living in Mackay and the Whitsundays**

- **Area**: 85,664 km²
- **Population**: 180,200 (ABS estimated resident population 2013)
- **Median household income**: $1,174 a week (Census 2011)

**Local Councils**
Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday

**Key business and industry organisations**
Tourism Whitsundays, Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation, Regional Development Australia Mackay Whitsunday, AgForce.

**Temperatures**
- **Summer**: 30°C/86°F - 23°C/73°F
- **Winter**: 22°C/71°F - 12°C/53°F

**Medians**
- **Area**: 85,664 km²
- **Population**: 180,200
- **Median household income**: $1,174 a week
Townsville is the largest city in Queensland north of the Sunshine Coast and the unofficial capital of North Queensland. The city has a range of government, community and business headquarters for the northern half of the state. Popular tourist destination Magnetic Island lies eight kilometres offshore.

**Economy**
Townsville has a diverse economy, with employment opportunities across a variety of industries. The region’s main employment is in retail trade, healthcare and social assistance, public administration and safety, defence, manufacturing, education, training and construction.

**Major projects**
- Townsville Port Expansion Project
- Townsville Marine Precinct

**Lifestyle**
Townsville has access to world class education facilities, leading edge healthcare, affordable housing, entertainment, dining precincts and a wide range of outdoor recreation options.

Although Townsville is in the dry tropics, the surrounding region hosts a mix of rainforests, coral reefs, sandy beaches and outback bushland.

Townsville has an excellent transport network. This includes the Townsville Domestic Airport, regular bus services, ferry services to Magnetic Island and rail connecting Townsville with other major cities in Queensland.

**To find out more about living in the Townsville area, just go to:**
- www.townsville.qld.gov.au
- www.burdekin.qld.gov.au
- www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au
- www.piac.qld.gov.au
- www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

**Temperatures**
- **Summer**
  - Mean maximum: 34°C/93°F
  - Mean minimum: 22°C/71°F
- **Winter**
  - Mean maximum: 24°C/75°F
  - Mean minimum: 7°C/44°F
Economy
Mining and agriculture drive the region’s economy. Mount Isa accounts for a large part of the world’s base and precious metal mining industry.

Major projects
- Flinders and Gilbert River Agricultural Development areas
- Roseby Copper Project

Lifestyle
Mount Isa is the largest town in the North West region. It is serviced by the 1,000 km Barkly Highway which connects northern Queensland to the Northern Territory.

Mount Isa’s large mining industry has led to significant investment in transport infrastructure in the region, and the town has a large regional airport and is well serviced by highways and rail.

To find out more about living in the Mount Isa and North-West area, just go to:
www.mountisa.qld.gov.au
www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au
www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au
www.richmond.qld.gov.au
www.burke.qld.gov.au
www.croydon.qld.gov.au

Living in Mount Isa and the North West Region

The North West is one of the largest regions in Queensland and is home to unique towns including Cloncurry, Camooweal and Julia Creek, surrounded by the outback.

Area
194,843 km²

Population
29,537
(ABS estimated resident population 2013)

Median household income $1,292 a week
(Census 2011)
- for Councils listed below

Local Councils
Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond, Burke, Doomadgee, Croydon

Key business and industry organisations
Mount Isa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bowen Collinville Enterprise (BCE Inc).

Mean maximum Summer 33°C/91°F
Mean minimum Winter 25°C/77°F
Mean maximum Summer 24°C/75°F
Mean minimum Winter 11°C/52°F
Living in

Cairns and Tropical North Queensland

Cairns is a gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage rainforests. It is 348 km north of Townsville and is at the heart of Far North Queensland. With a tropical climate, it has higher rainfall than Townsville to the south. It is a multicultural society, known for its adventure activities, the Coral Sea and lush rainforests.

Economy

Tropical North Queensland covers an enormous geographic and economically diverse area. In addition to its natural attractions, it is a major agricultural region, with a sugar bulk loading shipping terminal, marine fishing base and a range of agricultural services.

Cairns is the administrative and health services base for the Far North Region. Its close proximity to Papua New Guinea attracts companies who want to establish major projects there.

Cairns is an international education and training centre, hosting a James Cook University campus, a CQUniversity campus and a Distance Education Study Centre.

Major projects

• South of the Embley Project
• Aquis Resort at the Great Barrier Reef Project

Lifestyle

Tropical North Queensland offers a variety of attractions, including the Daintree Rainforest, Green Island and the Great Barrier Reef.

The Cairns Esplanade has an ocean view and numerous dining and entertainment options, including restaurants, nightclubs, bars, a casino and hotels.

Cairns also has a large convention centre, international and domestic airport and regular bus and rail services.

To find out more about living in the Cairns and Far-North area, just go to:

- www.cairns.qld.gov.au
- www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au
- www.trc.qld.gov.au
- www.mareeba.qld.gov.au
- www.douglas.qld.gov.au
- www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au
- www.cook.qld.gov.au
- www.weipatownoffice.qld.gov.au
- www.torres.qld.gov.au
- www.tsirc.qld.gov.au

Key business and industry organisations

Far North Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Far North Queensland Tourism Industry Group, Queensland Farmers’ Federation, Tourism Far North Queensland, Cairns Business Network, Australian Banana Growers Council, AgForce, Seafood Queensland, Queensland Farmers Federation.
Queenslanders enjoy an enviable lifestyle – be it by the coast or in vibrant cities, in the slower paced hinterland or the vast outback. Queensland has plenty of sunshine and one of the world’s biggest backyards in which to live.
Settling in

How quickly you settle into your new environment may depend on a range of factors. When arriving in Queensland, you will need somewhere to live, as well as information on services such as schools, transport and health. Shortly after you arrive, you may also need access to employment and education. Visit www.qld.gov.au for more information on government services to help you settle in.

Australian laws

Knowing and understanding Australian customs and laws will help you adjust to life in the community. Everyone is free to maintain their cultural and religious traditions within the law, while supporting the democratic way of life and underlying values. These values include the freedom and dignity of each person, the equality of men and women and tolerance for others.

Customs

It is important that you know what you can and cannot take into the country and what you need to declare. For information on what food, plant material and animal materials you can bring or send to Australia, refer to the Quarantine and Inspection Service on www.daff.gov.au.

Money

When sending money to or from overseas, a telegraphic transfer is fast and secure between international banks. Australian companies almost exclusively pay wages directly into a bank account. When you open an account for the first time, you will be required to take along some identification (ID). You might also be able to set up an account before you arrive in Australia. Australian banks have the expertise to assist with your banking and insurance needs.
Everyday living

Queensland encourages healthy living and an active lifestyle. Smoking is not permitted in most eateries and bars. To keep safe, whether you want to ride a bike, drive a car or catch public transport, you will need to consider the road rules. Bike helmets are compulsory, as are front lights and back lights for riding at night. Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road and seat belts must be worn by all occupants.

Sport and recreation

Sport is an integral part of Queensland’s culture with the environment well suited to outdoor activities. Spend your free time participating in sport or recreational activities or join many other Queenslanders supporting local and state teams.

Queensland also offers fantastic everyday recreation opportunities such as sailing, diving, camping, bushwalking, fishing, four-wheel driving or surfing on any one of our great beaches.

Australia is world-class when it comes to competitive sports, with some of the world’s top sporting teams and international champions located right here in Queensland.

Queensland has excellent indoor and outdoor sporting facilities servicing the cities and towns. For information on sports in Queensland and sporting associations visit www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Sport is an active part of school education and there are almost unlimited opportunities for children to participate.

As Queensland has the second largest coastline in Australia and pristine waterways and lakes, water sports of all kinds are extremely popular. With such warm, sunny weather, swimming, sailing, surfing, water skiing, canoeing and kayaking are all popular activities throughout the year. You can also explore the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef where you can snorkel, scuba dive or sail between the many islands.

To ensure you safely enjoy Queensland’s beaches, make sure you swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches.

If you enjoy bushwalking and the natural environment, Queensland has a lot to offer with its national parks, including the world heritage listed Daintree Rainforest.
Cultural activities

Queensland has a rich cultural and arts sector with world-class performances, venues, festivals and artists. Artslink Queensland, formerly the Queensland Arts Council, delivers a variety of programs and services and promotes arts communities.

Arts organisations, performance and exhibition venues are located throughout Queensland and include internationally recognised organisations. Festivals celebrating Queensland’s way of life are also held throughout the State during the year.

Food and dining

You have many choices when dining out in Queensland, with a diversity in food and cuisines.

In recent years, a distinctive style of ‘Modern Australian’ cuisine has developed; an innovative infusion of traditional meals combined with native spices and other organic flavours finished with an Asian influence.

The secret is the freshness of the ingredients. The incredible array of fruit, vegetables, meats and seafood used by Queensland’s chefs are often grown and produced locally.

Additionally, most cities and towns have a good array of international foods, such as Italian, Indian, Thai and Chinese.

So whether you’re craving a hearty breakfast in the sun, relaxing over a long lunch or satisfying your appetite after a day at the reef, there’s a wonderful choice of venues and menus to discover in Queensland.

Travel and holidays

The climate is perfect, the people are friendly and relaxed and the activities are many and varied.

You can experience the red hot outback, the lush green rainforests, the golden beaches and sunshine, the cool blue coastline, the living kaleidoscope of the Great Barrier Reef and the colourful towns and people.

Many of the amazing attractions that make Australia so famous are right here. Queensland attracts visitors from across the country and around the world and there’s no part of Queensland more colourful than the people. You’ll find the locals friendly, helpful and more than accommodating.

From theme parks to ecotourism, from the Gold Coast to the Tropical North, you’ll find plenty of great places to play and stay in Queensland.

From thousands of accommodation options from backpackers to bed and breakfasts to luxury resorts, there will be something that meets your holiday expectations.

For more visit www.queenslandholidays.com.au
Nicolle and James’ story

UK-based optometrist Nicolle Beer decided to establish a practice in Noosa, on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, after finding love while on a visit home to Johannesburg in late 2008. Nicolle and James, an Australian electrical engineer working in Zambia’s mining industry, maintained a long-distance relationship, before looking at the range of opportunities open to them both in Queensland.

“James had an enduring desire to return to live in Queensland, and we realised the potential of the State’s well-established health system, its stable economy, its quality lifestyle and, above all, its need for qualified optometrists,” Nicolle said.

“There was a range of visa opportunities, but because I had professional skills and experience in demand in Queensland, I elected to apply for a State Nominated regional visa.”

Optometry was on the Queensland Government list for regional Queensland, but not for Brisbane, so Nicolle decided to apply to live and work on the Sunshine Coast.

“I contacted Trade and Investment Queensland’s Business and Skilled Migration Unit and was assigned a case officer who was extremely helpful as they guided me through the process.”

“The visa processing time was impressively short, my visa was granted and I moved to Noosa in August 2011.”

Nicolle has since worked as a locum across the state, including in Ayr and Gympie.

James brought his electrical engineering skills home from Zambia’s mining industry, working as a project manager in Roma’s coal seam gas industry.

In October 2013, Nicolle and James welcomed baby Xander Harold.

“I am proud to be part of Queensland, and that we will be able to raise our little boy in this fantastic location,” Nicolle said.
More useful web sites

Visit some of the following web sites to discover why you should make Queensland your home:

About Queensland

- Business development: www.business.qld.gov.au
- Local governments in Queensland: www.lgaq.asn.au
- Queensland Holidays: www.queenslandholidays.com.au
- Queensland statistics: www.qgso.qld.gov.au
- Study Queensland: www.studyqueensland.qld.edu.au

Migration

- Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection: www.immi.gov.au
- Migration Agents Registration Authority: www.mara.gov.au
- Migration Institute of Australia: www.mia.org.au
- Business and Skilled Migration Queensland: www.migration.qld.gov.au

Banking

- ANZ: www.anz.com
- Commonwealth Bank: www.commbank.com.au
- HSBC Bank Australia: www.hsbc.com.au
- MoneySmart: www.moneysmart.gov.au
- National Australia Bank: www.nab.com.au
- Suncorp: www.suncorp.com.au
- Westpac Banking Corporation: www.westpac.com.au

Business and investment information

- Australian Government business assistance: www.ausindustry.gov.au
- Business and industry: www.business.gov.au
- Business and investment regulatory authority: www.asic.gov.au
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland: www.cciq.com.au
- Foreign Investment Review Board: www.firb.gov.au
- Franchise Council of Australia: www.franchise.org.au
- Investing in Australia: www.investaustralia.gov.au
- IP Australia: www.ipaustralia.gov.au
- Office of Fair Trading Queensland: www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au
- Queensland Treasury Corporation: www.qtc.com.au
- Trade & Investment Queensland: www.tiq.qld.gov.au
For more information, please contact:

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Trade & Investment Queensland
PO Box 12400, George Street
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Australia

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www.migration.qld.gov.au
migration@qld.gov.au
@qldstatemigration