



SAFETY AND SECURITY INFORMATION
FOR VISITORS TO QUEENSLAND

Welcome to Queensland.

The information contained in this document is intended to provide the reader with an overview of relevant legislation and matters of interest for visitors to Queensland. While not exhaustive, the information is designed to provide an overview of information relevant to ensure a safe and enjoyable time. For clarification or additional information, please contact with the relevant areas or visit internet sites identified in the document.



TERRORISM AND PROTEST ACTION

TERRORISM

Australia's National Terrorism Threat Level remains at 'PROBABLE'¹: there is credible intelligence, assessed by our security agencies, to indicate that individuals or groups continue to possess the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.

The assessment highlights the persistent threat of terrorism in Australia and reinforces that the potential for a terrorist attack in Australia is a very real threat. While the factors that led to the raising of the terrorism threat level in September 2014 have not diminished, the Australian Government has no information to suggest any specific attack planning is underway or that a terrorist attack is imminent—but credible intelligence indicates the planning of such attacks is a plausible scenario which cannot be discounted.

Reporting unusual or suspicious activity to authorities may help minimise the threat. The Australian Government has compiled and released personal characteristics and behaviours which individuals, prone to radicalisation and extremism, may display. This and further information can be found on the Australian Government's 'Living Safe Together' website. Residents and visitors should continue to exercise caution and report any suspicious incidents or activity to police or the National Security Hotline on 1800 1234 00.

PROTEST ACTION

Queensland laws enable and support peaceful public assemblies in Queensland. A public assembly is any rally or demonstration held in a public place, whether or not it is held in just one place or it moves between an assembly point and another location. A public place includes a road, a place usually open to or used by the public, or a place that is temporarily open or being used by the public.

A peaceful public assembly may be subject to restrictions that are 'necessary and reasonable' for:

- protecting public safety
- maintaining public order; or
- the protection of others' rights and freedoms, including their right to:
 - ◊ enjoy the natural environment; or
 - ◊ carry on their business.

Persons attending the Commonwealth Games should be wary of becoming involved in any protest action during their visit as public assemblies should be authorised by police and other relevant local authorities prior to the assembly occurring. The commission of offences, even during an authorised public assembly, may still render you liable for arrest and charging by police.

1. Current at 13 February 2017. [See National Terrorism Threat Advisory System](#)



LEGISLATION

GENERAL

- The laws in Queensland are not too dissimilar to those in the majority of other countries throughout the world.
- If you are a victim of crime or otherwise involved in an incident, or are arrested/detained by police, it is requested you identify yourself to police as a participant in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and provide your correct name to ensure police can take appropriate action and provide the necessary support.

TRAVELLING IN QUEENSLAND

If you are travelling in Queensland for an extended period, maintain regular contact with your family or friends at home so they know you are safe - this will allay any concerns they may have for your safety and could prevent an unnecessary search. Whether you are here on long or short term stay, always carry with you a list of contactable relatives and their contact details.

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/visitors/TravellinginQueensland.htm>

TRAFFIC

- Be aware when driving or walking across roads that vehicles drive on the left side of the road.
- Generally, if you are visiting Queensland from another country or jurisdiction, you can drive a motor vehicle if you have a valid overseas licence with authorisation to drive that class of motor vehicle. For more information visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/driver-licensing/overseas/driving/>
- Bicycle and motorcycle riders must wear a helmet. All persons in a motor vehicle must wear a seat belt.
- A driver or rider cannot hold or use a mobile telephone while driving and significant fines apply.
- Driving under the influence of liquor or drugs is viewed seriously in Australia:
 - ◊ If intending to drink or use recreational drugs—do not drive;
 - ◊ Consider having a dedicated driver or use public transport;
 - ◊ Queensland police have a general power to stop and require a driver to undergo a test to determine if a driver or person in charge of a vehicle is under the influence of alcohol or a drug. It is an offence to refuse to undergo any such test.
- If driving in the rural areas of Australia, some roads are narrow and caution needs to be exercised. Anyone travelling in these areas needs to be aware of heavy vehicle traffic, wild life and stock that may be on the roads and road shoulders.



LEGISLATION

TRAFFIC CONTINUED

- If you are involved in a traffic crash in Queensland;
 - ◊ Ensure you are in a safe location away from the traffic
 - ◊ If anyone is trapped or injured call 000
 - ◊ If police are required to direct other traffic, deal with hazards, a driver appears affected by alcohol or drugs, or an involved person fails to exchange their details—Call Policelink on 131444. If none of these circumstances exist drivers should exchange details and contact your insurer / vehicle hire company.
 - ◊ If a vehicle involved in the crash requires towing, (and police did not attend), the crash is to be reported to Policelink within 24 hours on 131 444 or online or via the smart phone app.

CRIMINAL

- Police generally have the right to demand name and address and, if necessary, proof thereof.
- Possession of a firearm without the appropriate licence is illegal and are generally not allowed to be carried in public areas.
- Possession of knives in a public place is generally illegal.
- Sexual intercourse must occur between consenting adults.
- The legal age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16 years of age.
- Prostitution is generally illegal in Queensland with the exception of licensed brothels and single prostitutes operating from a single premise.

DRUGS

- Possession of illicit drugs and most performance and image enhancing drugs is a criminal offence in Queensland.
- Illicit drugs may be offered for sale, particularly within entertainment areas. It is a criminal offence to purchase or possess these drugs and the quality of the drugs can vary significantly.
- Customers within the entertainment areas, females in particular, should be aware of incidents of drink spiking and not leave drinks unattended. If there are any doubts, purchase a new drink.

https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/visitors/Documents/ADL_Young_Booklet.pdf
www.druginfo.adf.org.au



LEGISLATION

STREET AND GOOD ORDER OFFENCES

- Public drunkenness, disorderly behaviour, indecent behaviour and obscene language is not tolerated, especially within entertainment precincts and a person may be arrested for these offences.
- Don't become involved in fights or brawls as you may be charged with offences arising from such incidents.

SAFETY

PERSONAL SAFETY

Australia and Queensland is regarded internationally as a safe destination to travel to and the community willing to share and enjoy the Australian way of life however some caution needs to be exercised as generally the case in most countries.

- Don't go anywhere alone. Have a friend, colleague, or 'mate' accompany you.
- Don't carry or display large sums of cash in public.
- Be careful with valuables and identity documents including passports and credit cards. Do not leave them on display in vehicles or leave them unattended in public areas.
- Avoid poorly lit or unlit areas such as parks and laneways.
- If you are a victim of a criminal offence, report the matter to the police on 131444. If the matter is an emergency call 000.

https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/visitors/Documents/SafetyinQueensland_Factsheet.pdf

PROPERTY SECURITY

Whether you are living here on a long term basis or just for a few weeks, to ensure your safety please consider the following advice:

- Whilst staying at any accommodation, secure your property.
- Always lock the door.
- When staying in accommodation, ask what security facilities, like safes, are provided by the establishment to store passports and other valuables.
- Make it difficult for bag-snatching thieves by using a money belt.
- Keep large amounts of cash and cheques separate.
- Avoid giving the impression that you are carrying a lot of money.
- Remember not to take all your money and valuables with you if you are partying or day trekking.



SAFETY

PROPERTY SECURITY CONTINUED

- Try not to advertise that you have purchased something from duty free outlets- place duty free bags out of sight.
- Leave valuables in a secure location when going to the beach or pool.
- Carry your shoulder bag at the front of your body.
- Mark or photograph your property for identification purposes.
- Keep a list of all serial numbers, model numbers and specific features of your property for identification purposes and insurance claims.
- Lock an unattended vehicle and secure any valuables, making sure they are out of sight or locked in the boot (trunk) or glove compartment

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/visitors/Documents/SecureMulti-ResidentialLiving.pdf>

BEACH AND WATER SAFETY

Queensland has many beautiful beaches and waterways. It is important for all visitors to make themselves aware of water safety issues including swimming between red and yellow flags, rips and currents, maritime safety, and the dangers of marine life.

For further information visit:

[Travelling in Queensland](#)

[Tourism Queensland](#)

BUSHWALKING

Queensland has many scenic national parks and protected areas with panoramic views for visitors to enjoy. The following tips will help ensure your safety:

- Plan your hike. Don't go walking in remote areas alone.
- Find out how long it should take to get there and to return.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Take enough water, suitable clothing and basic emergency and overnight items.
- Always check the weather forecast and stay on marked trails.

If travelling or camping in remote areas, consider having safety communications equipment such as a Satellite Navigation system.



SAFETY

ALCOHOL

Australian beer and alcohol is generally stronger in alcohol content than in a number of other countries and, as a general rule, can range from 2% to 5.9%. The alcohol content is generally displayed as a percentage on the receptacle, however if drinking by the glass it is a good idea to ask the provider the alcohol content. Be aware of the effect alcohol may have upon you, especially the greater content per drink.

- Alcohol is not permitted to be consumed in public places and there are significant fines for doing so.
- The minimum legal age for possession and consumption of alcohol is 18 years of age and proof of age may be demanded prior to entry into licensed premises or the service of alcohol.
 - ◊ Proof can be through production of a document that has a photograph and a date of birth. E.g. Driver's Licence, Passport.
- Generally, it is an offence:
 - ◊ to drink alcohol or possess an opened alcoholic drink in a public place.
 - ◊ to be drunk in licensed premises and a public place.
 - ◊ for bar staff to serve someone who is drunk.
 - ◊ to supply a person under the age of 18 with alcohol
 - ◊ to send someone under the age of 18 to buy alcohol.
- It is an offence for a person to be unruly or fight inside a licensed premises. A security provider at a licensed premises, such as a night club or hotel, has the authority to refuse entry or to evict persons from those premises. The security provider does not have to give you a reason and, if you argue or resist, they are authorised by law to use reasonable force to remove you. Furthermore, you may then be charged by police.
- Licensed premises and those who serve alcohol are governed by a "Responsible Service of Alcohol" policy and may decline the service of alcohol to persons who are intoxicated or whose behaviour is disruptive or unwarranted. Continued service of alcohol is an offence.
- Trading hours for bars and nightclubs is generally between 10:00am and 05:00am, however some licensed premises within Safe Night Precincts are approved to only 3.00am. These include some areas on the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns, and Townsville. Entry to licensed premises will require you to provide photographic identification for scanning prior to entry to licensed premises who trade after 12 midnight within a Safe Night Precinct.



SAFETY

AIRPORT SECURITY AND CUSTOMS

It's important to know that if you are travelling via air domestically or internationally, airport security and customs are taken very seriously in Australia. The tips below will help ensure you have a safe and pleasant journey.

- Do not leave bags unattended at airports.
- Keep your bag/s in sight at all times.
- Lock and secure your baggage effectively.
- The smuggling of native plants and animals out of Australia is a serious offence in all states of Australia and offenders can receive large fines, deportation and/or possible imprisonment for their actions.
- Never carry someone else's bag or packages, regardless of what they offer or what they say - you may become the unwitting carrier of illegal items.

GENERAL POLICE POWERS

- If a serious incident occurs and police believe you may be a witness—you must provide your name and address to police if requested.
- If police believe you were involved in a criminal offence, police have the power to arrest you while they investigate the incident. This means you may be placed in a vehicle or conveyed to a watch-house while the investigation takes place.
- Police can give you a direction to 'move on'. This means that at any time a police officer can tell you to leave a defined area for a specific period of time and you must comply. A failure to comply with the direction may result in you being arrested and charged,
- Police also have the option to issue you with a 'Notice to Appear' as an alternative to arrest. The 'Notice to Appear' requires you to appear before a court at a specific time, date, and place to answer a charge. A failure to appear before the courts may result in a warrant for your arrest being issued.
- Uniformed police and plain clothes officers have identical powers and plain clothes officers should be able to show you their police identification if requested.
- Should you be arrested for any matter, or be the subject of a criminal investigation, your Chef de Missions and Consulate for your country will be advised.

CCTV

Queensland has an extensive public and private CCTV network in operation across the State, covering public areas, public transport, licensed premises, public facilities and venues including shopping malls, nightclubs and hotels, shopping centres, trains, buses, and taxis. A number of the major road networks are also covered by CCTV cameras to monitor the movement of traffic and identify potential issues.



SAFETY

SMOKING

- It is an offence to sell or supply tobacco products to people under 18 years of age.
- It is illegal for anyone under 18 years to purchase tobacco products.
- Local Councils can designate public places as smoke free. For example, Brisbane's Queen Street Mall is smoke free. Signage will identify non-smoking areas.
- There is no-smoking anywhere inside pubs, clubs, restaurants and workplaces in Queensland. This includes commercial outdoor eating or drinking areas. Some licensed premises may designate an outdoor smoking area, where smoking and drinking may occur. If unsure about where you are allowed to smoke, ask staff at the venue.
- There is no-smoking in outdoor public places such as patrolled beaches, near public children's playground equipment, in major sport stadiums or within 4 metres of any entrance to a non-residential building.
- It is an offence to smoke in a motor vehicle if a person under 16 years of age is in the vehicle.

SMOKING



SAFETY

NATURAL DISASTERS

Queensland experiences a range of natural disasters including floods, bush fires and cyclones.

When they occur, it is important for everyone to take heed of warnings on radio, television, via SMS and the internet.

During natural disasters, Queensland Police Service will regularly post updates on [Facebook](#) and via [Twitter](#) providing warning information and advice. The [Bureau of Meteorology](#) has comprehensive weather information and warnings.

The [Australian Red Cross](#) maintains a National Registration and Inquiry System for people displaced or inquiring about persons within a disaster area.

The best way to respond to a natural disaster is to make sure that you have an emergency kit prepared and an emergency plan established. Visit [Queensland Government Disaster Management 'RACQ Get Ready Queensland'](#) to learn how to prepare for a disaster.

Visitors should also note that during Queensland summers when conditions are often hot and dry, local fire bans are put into place to prevent bushfires. Visit [Queensland Fire and Rescue Service](#) for information about fire bans and bushfire warnings.

Roads can also be subject to flooding and information about road and travel conditions can be found by visiting [QLD Government Traffic and Travel Information](#) or ringing [131940](#). Information can also be found by visiting [Road Conditions RACQ](#).

If a road is flooded **do not** attempt to cross it, instead seek an alternative route.



LOCATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

QUEENSLAND GENERALLY

Queensland (abbreviated as **QLD**) is the second largest and third-most-populous state in the Commonwealth of Australia. Situated in the north-east of the country, it is bordered by the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales to the west, south-west and south respectively. To the east, Queensland is bordered by the Coral Sea and Pacific Ocean. Queensland has a population of 4,750,500, concentrated along the coast and particularly in the state's South East. The state is the world's sixth largest sub-national entity, with an area of 1,852,642 km². Often referred to as the "Sunshine State", Queensland is home to 10 of Australia's 30 largest cities and is the nation's third largest economy. Tourism in the state, fuelled largely by its warm tropical climate, is a major industry. (Source:Wikipedia)

Queensland and the Queensland people, are generally very welcoming and engaging.

For more information visit: <https://www.queensland.com/>

GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast is a coastal city in the Australian state of Queensland, approximately 66 kilometres (41 mi) south-southeast of the state capital Brisbane and immediately north of the border with New South Wales. With a population of 494,501 in the 2011 Census, the Gold Coast is the sixth-largest city in Australia, making it the largest non-capital city, and the second-largest city in Queensland. The city is counted as part of the Gold Coast–Tweed Heads Significant Urban Area (pop. 624,918,^[3] 2015) and the larger South East Queensland Region. (Source:Wikipedia). For more information visit: <http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/thegoldcoast/default.html>

BRISBANE

The capital of Queensland and largest city in the state is Brisbane, Australia's third largest city. Brisbane is situated approximately 66 kilometres (41 mi) North of the Gold Coast. Brisbane's metropolitan area has a population of 2.3 million,^[1] and the South East Queensland urban conurbation, centred on Brisbane, encompasses a population of more than 3.4 million.^[10] The Brisbane central business district stands on the original European settlement and is situated inside a bend of the Brisbane River, about 15 kilometres (9 miles) from its mouth at Moreton Bay.^[11] The metropolitan area extends in all directions along the floodplain of the Brisbane River Valley between Moreton Bay and the Great Dividing Range, sprawling across several of Australia's most populous local government areas (LGAs), most centrally the City of Brisbane, which is by far the most populous LGA in the nation.



LOCATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

(Source:Wikipedia). For more information visit: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/>

TOWNSVILLE

Townsville is a city on the north-eastern coast of Queensland, Australia. It is in the dry tropics region of Queensland, adjacent to the central section of the Great Barrier Reef.^[4] Townsville is Australia's largest urban centre north of the Sunshine Coast, with a 2015 population estimate of 180,333.^[1] Considered the unofficial capital of North Queensland by locals, Townsville hosts a significant number of governmental, community and major business administrative offices for the northern half of the state.^[5]

Popular attractions include "The Strand", a long tropical beach and garden strip; Riverway, a riverfront parkland attraction located on the banks of Ross River; Reef HQ, a large tropical aquarium holding many of the Great Barrier Reef's native flora and fauna; the Museum of Tropical Queensland, built around a display of relics from the sunken British warship HMS *Pandora*; Castle Hill, the most prominent landmark of the area and a popular fitness destination; The Townsville Sports Reserve; and Magnetic Island, a large neighbouring island, the vast majority of which is national park. (Source:Wikipedia). For more information visit:

<https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/about-townsville>

CAIRNS

Cairns is a major city on the east coast of Far North Queensland in Australia. The city is the 5th most populous in Queensland and 14th overall in Australia.

Cairns was founded in 1876 and named after William Wellington Cairns, Governor of Queensland from 1875-1877. It was formed to serve miners heading for the Hodgkinson River goldfield, but declined when an easier route was discovered from Port Douglas. It later developed into a railhead and major port for exporting sugar cane, gold and other metals, minerals and agricultural products from surrounding coastal areas and the Atherton Tableland region.

The estimated residential population of the Cairns urban area in 2015 was 147,993.^[1] Based on 2015 data, the associated local government area has experienced an average annual growth rate of 2.3% over the last 10 years.^[7] Cairns is a popular tourist destination because of its tropical climate and access to the Great Barrier Reef, one of theseven natural wonders of the world. (Source:Wikipedia)

For more information visit: <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/region>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- In an emergency dial 000 for Police, Fire or Ambulance.
- Call 000 if the emergency is life threatening, to report a crime happening right now, or if you are in any danger.
- Calling 000 connects you to an operator who will ask which emergency service you require. 000 operators only speak English.
- Speak calmly and clearly—state where you are and what is happening.

Non-Urgent assistance

- Policelink 131444 number is available 24/7 for you to report non-urgent incidents including wilful property damage, stealing offences, break and enters, stolen or unlawful use of motor vehicles and lost property.
- For non-urgent advice and general inquiries you can also contact a local police station. See Station locator here (https://www.police.qld.gov.au/station-locator/station_locator.asp).
- To provide anonymous information about criminal activity contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:** <http://dfat.gov.au/about-australia/Pages/about-australia.aspx>
- **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games:** <https://www.gc2018.com/?name=home>
- **Queensland Police Service:** <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/visitors/default.htm>
 - QPS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandPolice>
 - QPS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/qpsmedia>
- **Tourism Queensland (Health and Safety):** <https://www.queensland.com/en-au/plan-your-trip/health-and-safety>

