



## There's something special about Maryborough

Colonial architecture, magnificent riverside parks, chilling ghost tours, heritage characters and a unique link to Mary Poppins - the old port city of Maryborough has so much to offer visitors to the Fraser Coast.

There's something very special about Maryborough - a vibrant and friendly city which from the mid 1800s to Federation was second only to Sydney as Australia's main immigration point for thousands of settlers who flocked to the new colony with a dream of a better life.

Maryborough's enchanting past still echoes today with many of the stately colonial buildings that were the merchant banks and opium dens of a bygone era being lovingly reinvented as restaurants, cafes and museums.

And it's the place where an historic chapter of literary history began. With glorious streetscapes as the setting, and just a spoonful of imagination, visitors to Maryborough can jump right into the magical world of Mary Poppins - the famous, fictional creation of Pamela Lyndon Travers who was born in Maryborough in 1899.

There are a host of "practically perfect" Mary Poppins-inspired experiences for the whole family to enjoy including being photographed next to the life-sized bronze statue of the world's most famous nanny outside her creator's heritage-listed birthplace.

Visitors can follow a Magical Mary Trail at their own pace or opt for their own Mary Poppins character guide for a delightful tour of discovery exploring the links of PL Travers' novels and the Maryborough of old. There's even the opportunity to join Mary for tea!

Thousands of visitors each year immerse themselves in the city's rich history, where a remarkable collection of museums and historical displays provide an enthralling connection to yesteryear.





Formerly one of Australia's largest and busiest ports, its once thriving wharves have been converted into the exceptional heritage precinct of Portside, offering the heritage-listed Queens park, riverside restaurants, stunning artistic exhibits, historic pubs, steam train rides and river cruises.

Families flock to the interactive displays at the Bond Store and Portside Centre where a sound and light show recapturing old settlers' stories of sly grogging, slave trading and other acts of sculduggery is a firm favourite.

With stock dating back to the 1890s the Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum provides a snapshot of what shopping was like 130 years ago. At Maryborough, holidaymakers can also trace their family history at the world-renowned Heritage Centre in Richmond Street and see the Victoria Cross medals of the nation's most decorated war hero, Keith Payne, at the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum.

A must in Maryborough is a visit to its famous weekly market each Thursday, when the city centre transforms into a bustling outdoor market with a great variety of art, craft, fresh produce and plants.

Maryborough also offers an array of regular family events, quirky tours and trails including ghost tours of haunted and historic sites; costumed guides capturing the spirit of the sailors and settlers who shaped the city; Sunday in the Park featuring brass bands, food and fun on the river; guided bus tours taking in Queensland's best collection of heritage buildings; historic pub trails and more.

For lovers of Australian architecture, Maryborough is the epicenter for the classic Queenslander home, offering the largest concentration of the stunning tributes to tropical living to be found anywhere in the State, many of which have been painstakingly restored to near perfect condition by their owners.

Perhaps one of Maryborough's finest assets is its friendly locals who are always willing to offer a smile and a warm "g'day". It has been named Queensland's friendliest town and has featured in university studies as having one of the highest levels of well-being in Australia.

Maryborough is one of the jewels in the crown of Queensland's Fraser Coast, also home to the World Heritage Listed Fraser Island and the world-renowned whale watching destination of Hervey Bay.

## **ENDS**

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