

2023 - 2025 VISITOR GUIDE

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INVIANA A

GETTING HERE

Air

The closest commercial airport is located in Townsville and offers domestic flight services.

Bus

Coach services connect to both Ayr and Home Hill daily and provide north and southbound services. For more information on coach services and to book visit: www.premierms.com.au www.greyhound.com.au

Rail

Queensland Rail's Spirit of Queensland services Ayr, Home Hill and Giru. For more information on services and to book, visit: www.queenslandrailtravel.com.au

Road

The Burdekin is a one hour drive south of Townsville, two hour drive east of Charters Towers or a three hour drive north of Mackay. Smaller communities surround the major towns of Ayr and Home Hill including Alva, Brandon, Clare, Dalbeg, Giru, Groper Creek, Jerona, Millaroo and Wunjunga. Roads to these towns are signposted from the Bruce Highway. Self-drive is a popular choice for travel in Queensland giving you the flexibility and accessibility to see it all.



INGHAM

TOWNSVILLE

Just an hour south

of Townsville!

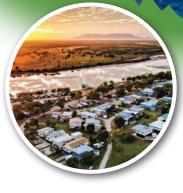
CHARTERS

BURDEKIN

MACKAY

HOME HILL

BOWEN



UP FOR UNEXPECTED

The Burdekin is located along the Queensland coastline between Bowen and Townsville and west to



Dalbeg. The Burdekin, along with Hinchinbrook, Townsville, Magnetic Island, Palm Island and Charters Towers make up the Townsville North Queensland region, an emerging destination of choice amongst travellers.

The Townsville North Queensland region is transforming; continuing to grow and evolve, to boldly command the position as the capital of North Queensland. A quintessential tropical paradise with a thriving metropolis and renowned hub for sports and events.

Townsville is the big smoke of regional Queensland, and yet one of the North's best kept secrets, with an unrivalled power to surprise. Experience something new, different or familiar - but with a twist. Discover something you didn't know you were looking for and leave inspired with a fresh perspective.

To learn more about the Townsville North Queensland region, scan the QR code or check out

www.townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au





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VISIT BURDEKIN GUIDE 2023-2025



WELCOME

Welcome to the Burdekin, where unspoilt natural beauty meets a thriving rural community right on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef.

From pristine beaches to boutique shopping, world-class fishing and unique cultural attractions, there is so much to discover.

Famous for its wealth of water, abundant sunshine and rich agriculture, the Burdekin is home to over 30km of unspoilt beaches perfect for walking, exploring, picnics, kitesurfing, fishing and more.

With several boat ramps positioned around the district providing access to creeks, rivers and estuaries as well as shoals and reefs situated just off the coast, boaties are spoilt for choice for their Burdekin fishing adventure.

For experienced divers, the SS Yongala shipwreck is located just 22km from Lynch's Beach at Alva. Rated one of the top dive sites in the world, it is one of the only places along the east coast of Australia where reef and estuary fish can be seen together along with numerous species of rays, turtles and corals.

The Burdekin boasts spectacular wetlands offering a diverse range of bird species that rival that of Kakadu National Park. The Burdekin is home to over 26 percent of bird species found in Australia. The Burdekin offers great boutique shopping with an abundance of specialty stores offering fashion, homewares, giftware and more. The quaint cafes serve up great coffee and treats while the many restaurants, hotels and eateries provide a range of cuisines to suit everyone.

There are nine public parks in the region which make the perfect place for hours of entertainment for families and a place to relax in nature. Plantation Park in Ayr is a popular stop offering shady areas for picnics, access to the Juru Walk and the stateof-the-art Plantation Nature Play.

Enjoy panoramic views of the region from the top of Mount Inkerman which can be accessed by vehicle or by walking up the Mount Inkerman Nature Trail. Cool off in the newly built Burdekin Water Park located at the Burdekin Aquatic Centre in Ayr which features waterslides, buckets, sprays and play area to suit all ages.

When it comes time to find a place to lay your head, there are a number of accommodation options. For those who are self-contained and just passing through, the Home Hill Comfort Stop offers a free stopover for a maximum of two nights.

Where else in the world can you visit with 300 days of sunshine a year and an abundance of fresh water? Visit the Burdekin today and discover your very own adventure.

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FIND US ONLINE

Visit Burdekin Website

For information on where to stay, things to do, what to see, upcoming events and to plan your trip, scan the QR code or check out



www.visitburdekin.com.au

My Community Directory

The Burdekin Community Directory is an online platform which showcases several local organisations, clubs and groups in the shire. To connect with

essential community services in health, recreation, arts, culture and social support, scan the QR code or check out



@relliemayphotography

www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/ Queensland/Burdekin

Social Media

We love seeing all your snaps from around the Burdekin and hearing about your experiences in the region, so be sure to use **#visitburdekin** when uploading your photos to social media. There are some other tags you can also use to share the love across the region including: **#townsvillenorthqueensland #upforunexpected #thisisqueensland #seeaustralia**

Follow our social media channels for more travel inspiration:

OA @VISITBURDEKIN

(a)marnihinephotography

aseanscottphotography

@thekelliestephenson

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VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

To talk to a local expert, obtain brochures and maps, experience the Yongala Dive Virtual Reality Experience or the Wilmar Virtual Mill Tour, be sure to call into one of the Burdekin's Visitor Information Centres.

Burdekin Gateway Visitor Information Centre

The Gateway Visitor Information Centre is located behind the Comfort Stop in Home Hill in the heritage listed Queensland Rail building. The Visitor Information Centre operates 7 days a week and includes an impressive collection of images which showcase the building of the Burdekin Bridge from 1947 to 1957.

💡 12 Railway Street, Home Hill

🕻 07 4782 8241

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am to 4pm Sat - Sun: 9am to 1pm

Driver Reviver Site: During opening hours

Burdekin Visitor Information Centre

Located in the lush Plantation Park along the Bruce Highway, the Burdekin Visitor Information Centre in Ayr makes for the perfect stop on your road trip or visit to the Burdekin. The Visitor Information Centre is located next to public toilets, picnic tables, BBQ facilities and the Plantation Nature Play which is a great facility for kids.





Plantation Park, Bruce Highway, Ayr

🕻 07 4783 5988

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am to 4pm Sat - Sun: 9am to 1pm

Driver Reviver Site:

During opening hours

Visitor Information

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

Dive the SS Yongala Escape the crowds and immerse yourself in an experience offered nowhere else on the Great Barrier Reef. Rated one of the top dive sites in the world, exploring the S.S. Yongala is a diving experience matched by few other places. The combination of the wreck's mysterious history and the vast amount of resident marine life make the Yongala a bucket list dive. Yongala Dive is a PADI 5 Star Dive Resort operating from Alva and offers the quickest access to the wreck. **2** Shop 'til you drop The towns of Ayr, Home Hill and Brandon offer great boutique shopping that attracts people from all over the region who are looking for something unique. There is an abundance of specialty stores offering fashion,

homewares and gift ideas that you won't find anywhere else.





Taste the Burdekin The Burdekin is home to a variety of options for breakfast, lunch and dinner or a snack in between. Pop into one of the quaint cafes and grab a delicious coffee, enjoy quality pub meals at one of the many hotels, experience refined dining at a local restaurant or taste one of the many international cuisines on offer.



See if from the top Rising dramatically from the vast surrounding landscapes, Mount Inkerman, south of Home Hill, offers an awe-inspiring view of the landscape below. Drive to the top or hike through the Mt Inkerman Nature Trail. There are two access points, one on the access road and the other page the

other near the Inkerman Shop.

Experience a cane fire The Burdekin is one of the last regions in Australia to still predominately burn sugar cane before harvest. There is nothing quite like witnessing the raw power of a sugar cane paddock going up in flames. Visitors can witness a cane fire from June to November as farmers throughout the region burn their crops before harvesting. Alternatively, the first cane fire of the season event is part of the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival at the Home Hill Showgrounds held at the end of May biennially.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

Gatch a barra Drop a line in one of the Burdekin's many creeks or estuaries and catch a barramundi. Head to a local bait and tackle store or pick up a copy of the Visit Burdekin Fishing Guide for all the insider tips on where to catch the biggest barra. Be sure to check that barra season is open before you try joining the metre club.

Visit Wunjunga or Alva With beach huts perched high on large granite boulders, sandy bays and views of Cape Upstart, Wunjunga is a popular place for picnics, camping and fishing. Visit Alva for stand-up paddle boarding, kitesurfing or just relaxing. With over 30km of unspoilt beaches in the Burdekin, there is plenty of room for everyone, even pets!



B Immerse yourself in history and culture

The Burdekin tells tales of a captivating colonial past, of farming triumphs and community spirit. Walk Pioneer Avenue, visit the Ayr Nature Display, appreciate the public art murals

and sculptures throughout Ayr and Home Hill or stop in at the Brandon Heritage Precinct.

9 Catch a show at the Burdekin Theatre

The Burdekin Theatre hosts a range of productions, concerts and gala events throughout the year.



Step back in time to World War II

Would you like to step into an old bunker and imagine what it would be like to be tasked with the job of detecting enemy planes? Well you can do just that at the Charlie's Hill WWII site located south of Home Hill.

For 101 things to do in the Burdekin, scan the QR code or check out



www.visitburdekin.com.au/things-to-do

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EVENTS CALENDAR

March	April	May	June
NQ FAST TRACK TALENT SHOWCASE	SHANE MUSPRATT CUP Burdekin Junior Rugby League	BURDEKIN JUNIOR EISTEDDFOD	BURDEKIN SHOW
		XX	
	BURDEKIN NETBALL JUNIOR CUP CARNIVAL Burdekin Netball Association	BURDEKIN GROWERS RACE DAY Burdekin Race Club	BURDEKIN RAGS TO RUNWAY Burdekin Artisans
	EUGENE PAGOTTO MEMORIAL CANEFIELD ASHES Home Hill Cricket Association		
	BURDEKIN SUGAR RUSH Burdekin Road Runners and Walkers	SWEET DAYS HOT NIGHTS FESTIVAL (Biennial)	
	HOME HILL SUGAR BOWL Home Hill Tennis Association	ROTARY DUCK RACE Ayr Rotary Club	

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SWEET DAYS HOT NIGHTS FESTIVAL

The Burdekin, nestled on the North Queensland coast, is the Sugar Cane Capital of Australia and is known for its rich agricultural and horticultural industries and diverse community of cultures which are all celebrated at the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival.

The festival combines two iconic Burdekin events and a large range of associated events which make for an impressive line-up for all to enjoy whilst marking the start of the sugar cane harvesting season in the Burdekin.

The Burdekin Cultural Fair featuring First Fire celebrates the diversity of the region with a number of cultures coming together to provide an array of food, activities and entertainment for the whole family. The onstage performances will transport you across the world and the kids will be entertained for hours with interactive cultural activities and games.

A highlight of the event is the lighting of the First Fire for the sugar cane crushing season! The Burdekin is one of the only regions in Australia that still burns sugar cane crops before harvesting. A cane fire is a unique experience as you hear the roar and crackling of the crop, smell the sweet essence of the burning sugar and feel the heat of the fire as it tears through the paddock. The second headline event of the festival encompasses a family fun day alongside the intense competition of the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships. The championships are a true test of skill and endurance, bringing to life the back-breaking work of our forefathers who established the sugar cane industry in the Burdekin. Divided into age categories and team events, the competitors battle it out on the cane field for thousands of dollars in prize money and the title of the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Champion.

Spectators can enjoy the fun festival atmosphere with live music, food and market stalls, the Gudjuda Turtle Hospital display and a large range of free kid's activities including a jumping castle, animal farm, crafts, ATVs, mechanical bull and much more!

The festival is held biennially and will be back in May 2025.

For more information and updates, please scan the QR Code, visit www.sweetdayshotnights.com.au or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @sweetdayshotnights





FRIDAY 30 - SATURDAY 31 MAY 2025 HOME HILL SHOWGROUNDS

Join us in the Burdekin for the HOTTEST Festival around! Enjoy the truly unique experience of witnessing a cane fire up close, celebrate the Burdekin's many cultures and step back in time as you watch the hand cane cutters battle it out for the title. Don't miss the excitement at the Home Hill Showgrounds for a weekend of family fun and entertainment!



@sweetdayshotnights @visitburdekin Follow us on social media to keep up to date with the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival and associated events

www.sweetdayshotnights.com.au

TOWNS

Ayr

One of the major towns in the Burdekin is Ayr which sits between Brandon and Home Hill on the north side of the Burdekin River. Ayr has a buzzing CBD with a number of great retail shops, supermarkets, chemists, gyms, hairdressers, beauty services, banks, cafes, restaurants and much more.

Ayr is home to the Burdekin Theatre, Burdekin Water Park, a number of parks and playgrounds, drive-in theatre and the Ayr Nature Display, just to name a few. Ayr is also home to the iconic Burdekin Water Festival which is one of the longest running festivals in Queensland which celebrates the region's abundance of water with a street parade and mardi gras.

Home Hill

Situated on the southern side of the Burdekin Bridge is the town of Home Hill, which is home to many of the regions attractions, fascinating history and events. Mount Inkerman is located just south of Home Hill and makes for the perfect spot to take in the view of the town, surrounding cane fields, Cape Upstart and the Burdekin River.

Home Hill is alive with events all year round with the major ones including the legendary Burdekin Growers Race Day, *Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival*, many large sporting events and the Home Hill Harvest Festival.

Brandon

Brandon is one of the most historic towns in the region. The Brandon Heritage Precinct is home to the restored St Patrick's Catholic Church, the former Brandon Railway Station, the Iron Works Brewery and the Burdekin Machinery Preservationists. The extensive display of sugar industry machinery is housed in the former Renown Theatre building.

There is also the John Tait Steam Gallery, the Alf Shand Blacksmith Shop and the Fielding Engine Shed. The most significant item on display is the 1911 Marshall Colonial tractor, which is the only one of its kind remaining in Australia.

Giru

There are plenty of things to do in the town of Giru which is situated between Ayr and Townsville, just minutes off the highway. Giru is home to Invicta Mill, the Giru International Hotel and the Haughton River.

Cromarty Creek boat ramp is an eight-minute drive from Giru which offers access to the Haughton River and great fishing for Barramundi.

Ayr, CBD

TOWNS

Clare

Clare is situated half an hour west of Ayr and boasts a swimming pool, school, corner store and the Clare Club. Farmers in the Clare area produce sugar cane, horticulture crops and cattle.

Dalbeg

Dalbeg is situated on the banks of the Burdekin River. It is a small community which grows sugar cane, sandalwood trees and horticulture crops. On the drive to Dalbeg is Cornford Lookout which offers magnificent views of the Burdekin River.

Millaroo

Millaroo, which fronts the Burdekin River, is a rural community which has a strong agricultural presence in sugar cane and horticulture. The town has a social club and a school which services the surrounding area.

Alva

Alva is just 16km from Ayr and is home to the popular Lynch's Beach which is a great spot to fish, walk and relax with family and friends. The township is comprised of permanent residents, holiday and vacation homes and accommodation at Alva Beach Tourist Park. Alva Park offers BBQ facilities, a playground and a half basketball court as well as toilets and showers. During the summer months, the Ayr Surf Lifesaving Club volunteers patrol a section of the beach.

Jerona

Jerona is just over half an hour's drive north of Ayr. The fishing township is home to a number of permanent residents and is surrounded by the Bowling Green Bay National Park. The picturesque town sits on the banks of Barratta Creek and offers excellent fishing and boat ramp facilities.

Groper Creek

Groper Creek is located 17km from Home Hill yet is miles away from the stress of everyday life. The creek-side village is home to about 50 permanent residents and many weekend and holiday homes. Groper Creek features two boat ramps, a jetty, a new kids play park and the Groper Creek Caravan Park.

Wunjunga

32km south of Home Hill is the small fishing village of Wunjunga. The best way to enjoy all that Wunjunga has to offer is by setting up a tent or caravan at Funny Dunny Park camping grounds. The small grounds offer limited short-stay camping for selfcontained vehicles in return for \$5 per night.

Three Aboriginal middens are located at Wunjunga. They are a protected site significant to the region's traditional owners. Wunjunga Beach (Beachmount) features sandy beaches, rolling waves and excellent fishing.

Groper Creek Township

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PARKS AND REST AREAS

TH

	Ano.	Bonities	i citi	And Area
ALVA	Alva Park • Sandowns Street	•	•	 Half Basketball Court Soccer Net
AYR	Anzac Memorial Park • Macmillan Street	•	•	All Abilities Play Equipment Skate Park War Memorial
	Coutts Park Beach Road	•	•	 Half Basketball Court Gym Equipment
	Plantation Nature Play Bruce Highway	•	•	All Abilities Play Equipment Walking Path Visitor Information Driver Reviver site
BRANDON	Sandy Corner • Bruce Highway		•	
	Spiller Street Park Bruce Highway	•	•	 Half Basketball Court War Memorial
CLAR	Clare Pool Park • School Road		•	•
GIRU	Brolga Park Carey Street	•	•	 Skate Park Half Basketball Court
GROPER CREEK	Groper Creek Park • Hinkson Esplanade	•	• (All Ages Play Equipment
HOME HILL	Arch Dunn Memorial Park 🛛 🔍 Tenth Street	•	•	War Memorial
	Ford Park •	•	•	
	Home Hill Comfort Stop • Eighth Avenue	•	•	
	Burdekin Diorama∕Lions Park ● Bruce Highway		•	Diorama
- ALLAR	Lloyd Mann Park Eighth Avenue		•	Walking Path Artwork
Contraction of the second	Watson's Green Ninth Street		(Half Basketball Court Skate Park Ninja Course
INKERMAN	Mt Inkerman • Mt Inkerman Road	•	•	Lookout
WUNJUNGA	Funny Dunny Park • Wunjunga Road	7		Campground Drop Toilet
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POOLS

Burdekin Aquatic Centre

The Burdekin Aquatic Centre is located in Ayr and includes a 50m swimming pool, children's wading pool and water park. Both pools and water park have shade cover. The main pool is covered only at the shallow end. A lifeguard is on duty at all times the pool is operating and the kiosk is open serving snacks and drinks. The water park was opened in early 2023 and offers a one-of-akind design featuring equipment for all ages including slides, water play areas and a cane bin bucket.

The newly built kiosk and main entry to the Burdekin Aquatic Centre is now located on the corner of MacMillan and Pool Streets.

Home Hill Swimming Pool

The Home Hill Swimming Pool is located on Eleventh Avenue and consists of a 50.3m swimming pool and a separate children's wading pool. Both pools have shade cover. The main pool is covered only at the shallow end. A lifeguard is on duty at all times the pool

Home Hill Swimming C

HOME HILL

POOL

YMPIC

is operating and the kiosk is open serving snacks and drinks.

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FISHING AND BOATING

The fishing and boating in the Burdekin is second to none with numerous creek systems, offshore reefs and an abundance of fish.

Boat Ramps

There are 8 public boat ramps in the Burdekin Shire which provide access to fantastic fishing locations both inshore and offshore.

Cromarty Boat Ramp leads into the Haughton River in Giru which is famous for barramundi

fishing but also delivers catches of whiting and flathead, grunter, mangrove jack and bream.

Barramundi Creek Boat Ramp also

known as Morris's Creek is situated 43.6km north of Ayr.



Barratta Creek Boat Ramp provides access to Bowling Green Bay. The Barrattas area delivers good fishing

from the boat ramp or by boat in the creek system and is locally known as a mud crab hot spot.

Ocean Creek Boat Ramp can be a great spot to chase barramundi, mangrove jack and mud crabs and provides the best access to offshore fishing.

Plantation Creek Boat Ramp is located 13km from Ayr and delivers catches of whiting, bream and flathead. **Hell Hole Boat Ramp** at Rita Island can deliver good catches of whiting, bream and mangrove jack. The boat

ramp is 22km from Ayr and is the best access by boat into the mouth of the Burdekin River from Ayr.



Groper Creek Boat Ramp is one of the best fishing locations in the Burdekin and is located 17km from Home Hill. This boat ramp provides access to the Burdekin River from Home Hill as well as Wallace Creek and offshore fishing locations. Groper Creek is net free from commercial fishing and provides

catches of species such as barramundi, mangrove jack, whiting, grunter, bream and prawns.



Wallace Creek Boat Ramp is located 20.2km from Home Hill and offers the same opportunities as the Groper Creek boat ramp and is also a

commercial net free creek.



Molongle Creek

Boat Ramp is located in the Whitsunday Shire, 45km south of Home Hill, but is a popular launch point for locals and visitors looking to access Cape Upstart by

boat.

DON'T HAVE A BOAT?

Throughout the region there are plenty of land based options that provide great fishing.

Groper Creek has a jetty which makes

it a perfect place to wet a line or throw out a cast net for prawns.



Lynch's Beach at Alva is

the place to go fishing for flathead, whiting, grunter, salmon and barramundi. Four-wheel drive vehicles are permitted access onto the beach

which makes it easier to get to your favourite fishing spot. **Wunjunga Beach** (Beachmount), is a fisherman's paradise. Access by four-wheel drive vehicle or by foot can be found at access points along

Wunjunga Road and at the end of the Wunjunga township.



The Burdekin River

flows for more then 700km from its source to the ocean east of Ayr. It is known to deliver good numbers of barramundi among other species depending on whether you are fishing in the fresh or salt water part of the river. There are several entry points to the

Burdekin River on both Ayr and Home Hill sides.

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ICE, BAIT & TACKLE SHOPS

- About Town Bait and Tackle Ayr
- BCF Ayr
- Intersport Ayr

Please observe the area's fishing restrictions and regulations at all times.

For information about zoning, bag limits and sizes, scan the QR code or visit www.daf.qld.gov.au



Marine stingers are encountered in the warm tropical waters along the Burdekin coastline. They are most prevalent during warmer months from November to May.

Saltwater and estuarine crocodiles inhabit wetlands, rivers and coastal areas in the Burdekin. Exercise caution when fishing near waterways. Do not approach these animals.

For more information on fishing in the Burdekin, scan the QR code to download the Visit Burdekin Fishing Guide



Boat Ramps



CROMARTY CREEK (HAUGHTON RIVER)



BARRAMUNDI CREEK (MORRIS' CREEK)



BARRATTA CREEK



OCEAN CREEK







HELL HOLE



GROPER CREEK



WALLACE CREEK



Access to boat ramps is via unsealed roads, with the exception of Groper Creek.

COMMERCIAL NET-FREE AREAS



GROPER CREEK WALLACE CREEK PHILLIPS CREEK HAUGHTON RIVER

Commercial fishing in these areas is strictly prohibited.

FISHING SHOALS



12 MILE SHOAL S 19° 20' 06.8 11NM OFF OCEAN CK E 147° 37' 18.3'

36' 42.1" 20' 06.8" 37' 18.3"





DISTANCES TO BOAT RAMPS

r R	Cromarty Creek (48.7km)
	Barramundi Creek/Morris' (43.6km)
	3 Barratta Creek (42.7km)
	Ocean Creek (13.1km)
	9 Plantation Creek (13.8km)
	6 Hell Hole (22.5km)

HOME HILL

7 Groper Creek (14.2km)8 Wallace Creek (20.2km)



AY

Please observe the area's fishing restrictions and regulations at all times. For information about zoning and bag limits visit **www.daf.qld.gov.au**.

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Saltwater and estuarine crocodiles inhabit wetlands, rivers and coastal areas. Exercise caution when fishing near waterways. Do not approach these animals.



BURDEKIN CLIMATE DATA

The Burdekin experiences a tropical savannah climate with hot, humid summers and warm winters. A wet season with heavy monsoonal downpours runs from November to March with a relatively dry season from April to October.

Like most of North Queensland, the Burdekin is prone to tropical cyclones, usually forming between November and April.

FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN MAX °C MIN °C Rainfall (mm) 257

BEACHES AND BEYOND

From adrenaline pumping Lynch's Beach to wondrous Wunjunga, the Burdekin has two main beaches each offering unique and different experiences.

Lynch's Beach

Lynch's Beach at Alva, 20 minutes drive from Ayr, offers a relaxed location providing the perfect setting to unwind and explore at your own leisure.

At low tide, the beach makes for excellent exploring with hundreds of soldier crabs, endless shells and an abundance of bird life. Outer sand bars create an inshore lagoon that is popular among kitesurfers and paddleboarders on weekends. The beach is also a hotspot for fishing, with many anglers bringing in decent catches to show off.

Four-wheel drive vehicles are permitted on the beach with access points at the causeway and down Yongala Drive. Suitable vehicles can also launch their boats from the beach while larger boats require tractors for launching which is a unique site to see.

On weekends during the summer months, the beach is patrolled by volunteers of the Ayr Surf Lifesaving Club at the beach access in front of the Surf Lifesaving Club. Care needs to be taken if swimming due to changeable conditions, marine stingers and other marine life. If you are unsure on where to swim at the beach or the conditions, please approach the patrolling lifeguards before going in the water.

Wunjunga Beach

For those wanting to experience a truly secluded beach, Wunjunga Beach (Beachmount) is an absolute must.

Wunjunga features 14km of coastline perfect for four-wheel driving, picnics, fishing and walks along the beach. Wunjunga is accessed by a bitumen and dirt road which travels through a cattle property and is a haven for local wildlife.

It is not recommended to swim at this

beach due to marine stingers and other marine life.

S.S. YONGALA

The **S.S.** Yongala was a 110m passenger and cargo ship that sank off Cape Bowling Green on 23 March 1911, with the loss of all 122 people on board. This tragic event remains one of Australia's worst maritime disasters.

A Navy vessel identified a possible 'wreck' in a mine-sweeping mission in 1947, but it was never followed up. The ship lay undiscovered for almost 50 years, until it was finally positively identified in 1958. Yongala Dive, based at Alva, is a PADI 5 Star Dive Resort which offers the fastest way to get to the wreck. Diving the wreck is an experience matched by few other places on the planet. You'll come face-to-face with a prolific amount of marine life including giant gropers, enormous marble rays, schools of barracuda, eagle rays, turtles, sea snakes, bull sharks and more.

CULTURE

Whether it's learning about one of the oldest living societies on the planet or catching a flick at one of the last drive-in theatres in Queensland, the Burdekin offers a diverse range of cultural experiences.

Gudjuda Reference Group

The **Gudjuda Reference Group** honours the cultural heritage of the Bindal traditional owners of the land. The Burdekin is part of the Birrigubba nation which includes Bindal land from north of the Burdekin River to Townsville and Juru land from south of the Burdekin River to Bowen. The **Juru Walk** at the southern end of Plantation Park, provides an important bond to the Burdekin's Aboriginal history. A bush tucker

garden was planted alongside the walk and features more than 30 species of plants. Plantation Park is also home to a 60m carpet snake sculpture, **Gubulla Munda**, which was built by the Gudjuda



Reference Group in 2004 to celebrate and promote indigenous culture. The sculpture marks the significance of the site as a traditional burial ground. Across from the sculpture is the **Gudiuda Deck**

Café which offers great food and beverages and Aboriginal artworks inside.

Burdekin Art Trail

the way.

In addition to **Gubulla Munda**, the Burdekin is home to a number of art sculptures and murals across the district. Follow the **Burdekin Art Trail** map to experience all of the incredible art the Burdekin has to offer and learn about the stories along Follow the Burdekin Art Trail by scanning the QR code.



www

CULTURE

Burdekin Theatre

The **Burdekin Theatre** is the home of arts and entertainment in the Burdekin region playing host to a diverse range of live performances, conferences, meetings, seminars, weddings, exhibitions and many other events. The proscenium arch theatre was built in 1982 and features several artworks around the grounds including the **Living Lagoon** water

feature at the Queen Street entrance.

Check out what's on at the Burdekin Theatre by scanning the QR code or go to



www.burdekintheatre.com.au



Libraries

Library membership is free to all Queensland residents with identification. Library members have access to a free Library Members Wi-Fi network and one hour's free library computer access per day.

International and interstate visitors are offered a visitor membership that requires proof of identity and current residency, as well as a \$25

non-refundable fee. Visitor members have the same computer and Wi-Fi privileges as ordinary members.



Burdekin Library

♀ 108 Graham Street, Ayr

Home Hill Branch Library

♀ 77-79 Ninth Avenue, Home Hill

Stardust Drive-In Theatre

For those who want to 'drive' back in time, a trip to one of the of the last remaining drive-in-theatres is a must for your visit. The **Stardust Drive-In Theatre**, located in Ayr, offers a great family outing with a double feature on Friday and Saturday evenings on the big screen. An indoor cinema offers showings during the week and on weekends. Nestled inside is also a **fairy garden**, **mini golf course** and the famous **Silver Screens 'n Coffee Beans Café**.

Looking for Something Different?

Immerse yourself in the magical peace and tranquility of our Garden Café



Enjoy the vibrant excitement of movies in airconditioned comfort of the indoor

CALAXY

CINEMA GALAXY

Or revisit the nostalgia of drive in movies on the biggest screen in North Qld



www.stardust.8m.net 27 Kilrie Road, AYR Like and Follow us at: - Silver Screens 'n Coffee Beans - Cinema Galaxy Ayr (movie info)

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HISTORY

The Burdekin tells tales of a captivating past of farming triumphs and community spirit. The history of the Burdekin has been shaped by agriculture, wars and natural disasters, but the region would not be what it is today without the pioneers who pushed on and had a vision of what a rich region the Burdekin could become.

The Burdekin's rich history has resulted in a number of heritagelisted and restored buildings. In the Ayr CBD, there is the iconic Town Clock, Council Chambers, Ayr Post Office and Court House. There is also the Masonic Building, Ayr State High School and just north in Brandon, the former St Patrick's Catholic Church which now (having been relocated) forms part of the **Brandon Heritage Precinct**.

In Home Hill, there is the Home Hill Powerhouse which was the largest powerhouse in North Queensland when it was built in 1922.

Brandon Heritage Precinct

Brandon is home to many of the machines that helped develop the Burdekin region into what it is today. The **Brandon Heritage Precinct** is home to the **Burdekin Machinery Preservationists** and features a display of old farm machinery, stationary engines, tractors and cars which have been restored to working condition.



MANDA

Burdekin Machinery Preservationists

Silver Link Interpretive Display

The **Silver Link Interpretive Display** at the Home Hill Visitor Information Centre houses many photos depicting the history of the region and the construction of the Burdekin Bridge.

Pioneer Avenue

The **Pioneer Avenue** plaques in Home Hill tell the story of the region's pioneering families. The plaques sit under the shady paperbark trees in the main street, Eighth Avenue, Bruce Highway.

Burdekin Lions Diorama

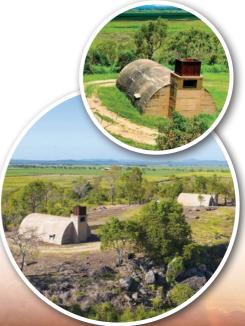
The **Burdekin Lions Diorama** near the Burdekin Bridge in Home Hill offers a great insight into the region's early sugar history. The Diorama includes the John Drysdale Memorial which is a tribute to the man who developed stability in the region.



Interested in history? Check out the Ayr and Home HIII Heritage Walks here.

Charlie's Hill WWII Site

Just 8km south of Home Hill is the **Charlie's Hill WWII site**. The No 211 Radar Station was one of twenty radar installations along the North Queensland coastline which operated to give an early warning of approaching enemy aircraft during World War II.



HN DRYSDALE

SHOPPING

Retail therapy is a must during your trip to the Burdekin with an impressive range of shops to explore.

There are plenty of places in the Burdekin that can attend to your every need – from a pedicure to camping gear and everything in between.

For those who are looking for unique pieces for your wardrobe or home, the Burdekin offers wonderful boutique shopping. With a small number of chain stores in the region, most of the shopping is made up of individual businesses offering an assortment of clothing, homewares and accessories from boutique labels.

From head to toe, local businesses cater to every inch of the body. From hats to fascinators to clothing, shoes and jewellery, there is something for every occasion and every budget. From high-end fashion labels to op-shop finds, the complete range of offerings will suit everyone.





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79 EIGHTH AVENUE, HOME HILL PHONE: 4782 1156





DINING

You will be spoilt for choice amongst a diverse range of eateries in the Burdekin from local pubs to quality takeaway and everything in between.

Hotels and Pubs are a popular choice amongst locals and visitors alike with up to 7 pubs across the shire located in Ayr, Brandon, Clare, Giru and Home Hill, all offering the classic favourites with their own individual twists. **Cafés** make the perfect stop for a delicious coffee, tea or juice which pairs well with a hearty breakfast, lunch, snack or sweet treat to spoil yourself. You will find a great range of cafés in the towns of Ayr, Brandon and Home Hill.







Avr is home to a selection of unique restaurants if you are looking for something special during your stay, with most specialising in local produce.

Paying homage to the diversity of the Burdekin, vou will find a number of international cuisines on offer if you are looking for something different. Restaurants and takeaway outlets include Chinese, Indian, Turkish, and Japanese inspired dishes.

There is nothing better than a good bakery and you can find some of the best in the towns of Ayr and Home Hill. We challenge you to put our famous freshly made pies, pasties, bread and pastries to the test and we are sure you will be impressed.

As well as the range of eating options available, the Burdekin is proud to

also offer the classic time saving takeawav chain stores that are the perfect fit for when you are in a hurry and looking for the ease of a drive-thru





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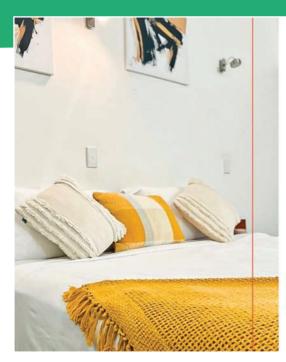
NIGHTLIFE

If you are looking for some nightlife during your stay in the Burdekin, there are several options for you to consider.

GLASS & ALUMINIUM

Families can enjoy a fun evening out at the **Burdekin Bowl** which offers tenpin bowling in a buzzing and vibrant setting. You could also spend your night catching the latest movie either under the stars or indoors at **Stardust Drive-In Theatre** or the **Galaxy Cinema**.

There are many pubs and hotels scattered across the shire that often host live music on the weekends, quality pub food, cold drinks, pool tables and pokie machines.





Where comfort awaits...

Nestled in the heart of sugar cane country, our motel is the perfect haven for those seeking comfort after a day of exploring. Our rooms are equipped with cozy beds, bar fridge, microwave and luxury hotel toiletries that will make you feel right at home. Plus, take advantage of the delicious dining options at our onsite restaurant, Burnt Sugar.

Book your stay today!

233 Queen Street, Ayr, QLD 4807 P: 07 4783 6666 E: info@ayrtravellersmotel.com.au www.ayrtravellersmotel.com.au





Visit us for delectable meals served right at your table. Burnt Sugar is perfect for hosting functions, parties and caters to various dietary requirements, making it an ideal place for everyone to enjoy a meal together.

Located at Ayr Travellers Motel 233 Queen Street, Ayr, QLD 4807 Call us to book: 07 4783 6666 Check out our menu!



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WALKS

For those wanting to stretch their legs, there are plenty of places to walk and be surrounded by nature in the Burdekin.

Mount Inkerman

Rising dramatically from the vast surrounding landscape, Mt Inkerman, south of Home Hill, offers awe inspiring views of the landscape. The hike up to the top via the Mt Inkerman Nature Trail offers a steep but scenic walk that winds through the bush. There are two access points for the start of the nature trail which ascend to the lookout at the top. The first access point is found by turning off the Bruce Highway at the Mt Inkerman turnoff. Halfway up the road, there is a clearing on the right where the trail starts. The second access point can be found by turning off the highway at the Mt Inkerman Shop. Park in the carpark and walk left alongside the mountain where you will see a sign for entry.

Juru Walk

Juru Walk is a walking trail developed in partnership with the local Shire Council and the Gudjuda Reference Group and is located at the southern end of Plantation Park, Ayr. Juru Walk showcases the cultural importance of Plantation Park and provides a 'learning space' for the Burdekin community. Local primary schools participate in cultural events delivered by the Gudjuda Reference Group and Traditional Owners to increase awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Burdekin River Bridge Walk

The Burdekin Bridge, affectionately referred to as the SilverLink, is the district's best known landmark – it also offers a fantastic walk along the pedestrian walkway. Visitors wanting to experience the walk will need to pull off the highway on the north side of the bridge, find a park near the stairs and walk up to the bridge access from

there. The bridge is 1.1km long and in 2010 was recognised as a National Engineering Heritage Landmark.



Burdekin Be Active Trails

The Burdekin Be Active Trails in Ayr and Home Hill promote improving your health through physical activity and maps out walks of 1km to 5km throughout both towns. The trails are an all-access, all-hours exercise path complete with rest stations, activity stations and water points. To access the maps please **scan the QR Code**.



HOME HILL COMFORT STOP

The Comfort Stop offers some of the cleanest amenities in Australia and they are all free.

Home Hill Comfort Stop

The Home Hill Comfort Stop, located off the Bruce Highway in Home Hill, includes all the facilities you need to enjoy a short break on your travels. Parking for self-contained vehicles is available in Railway Avenue (the street behind the Comfort Stop) and visitors are permitted to a free stay for a maximum of 48 hours.

The Comfort Stop facilities include toilets, hot showers, BBQ facilities, meal preparation benches, sinks, picnic tables and a disabled bathroom. During the winter months from April through to September, the Comfort Stop is very popular and it is best to arrive by lunchtime to secure your spot for the night.

Public Dump Points

- Ayr Shell Service Station: 245 Queen Street, Ayr
- Home Hill Dump Point: Over the railway line on Sixth Street, Home Hill





HOME HILL CARAVAN PARK admin@homehillcp.com.au 4782 2498

ACCOMMODATION

You will be spoilt for choice among the range and quality of accommodation in the Burdekin. There is something to suit everyone and their budget from Caravan Parks to Motels, AirBnb and rest areas.

Budget and Backpackers

Ayr Backpackers

(07) 4783 5837

- 54 Wilmington Street, Ayr
- 😵 www.ayrbackpackers.com.au

Ayr Budget Accommodation

- 🐛 (07) 4783 5695
- 💡 139 Queen Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.ayrbudgetaccommodation.com.au

Burdekin Backpackers

0450 216 873
90 Eleventh Avenue, Home Hill

Imperial Backpackers

(07) 4782 1155
 29 Seventh Street, Home Hill

Motels

Ayr Max Motel

- 🐛 (07) 4783 2033
- 4 Edwards Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.ayrmax.com.au

Ayr Traveller's Motel

- 🐛 (07) 4783 6666
- ♀ 233 Queen Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.ayrtravellersmotel.com.au

Ayrline Motel

- 🐛 (07) 4783 1100
- 129 Edwards Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.ayrlinemotel.com.au

Burdekin Motor Inn

- (07) 4782 1511
- ♀ 14 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill
- 🔅 www.burdekinmotel.com.au

Country Ayr Motel

- 🐛 (07) 4783 1700
- 9 197-199 Queen Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.countryayrmotel.com.au

Parkside Motel Ayr

- (07) 4783 1244
- 74-76 Graham Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.parksidemotelayr.com.au

Plantation Park Motor Inn

- 🐛 (07) 4783 1498
- ♀ 274 Queen Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.ppmi.com.au

Tropical City Motor Inn

- (07) 4783 1344
- 121-125 MacMillan Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.tropicalcitymotorinn.com.au

Cabins, Caravan Parks & Camping

Alva Beach Tourist Park

(07) 4783 3383
 20-36 Braby Street, Alva

www.alvabeachtouristpark.com.au

Burdekin Cascades Caravan Park

- 🐛 (07) 4783 1429
- 230-240 Queen Street, Ayr
- 🔅 www.burdekincascades.com.au

Discovery Park Ayr

- (07) 4783 3933
- 짖 34 Norham Road, Ayr
- 🔅 www.discoveryparks.com.au

Funny Dunny – Wunjunga

246 Wunjunga Road, Wunjunga Toilet only, \$5 per night

Groper Creek Caravan Park

- 🐛 (07) 4782 0186
- Hinkson Esplanade, Groper Creek
- 🔅 www.gropercreek.com.au

Home Hill Caravan Park

- (07) 4782 2498
- Cnr Eleventh Avenue & Eighth St, Home Hill
- 😵 www.homehillcp.com.au

Home Hill Comfort Stop

FREE 2 Night Maximum Stay Railway Avenue, Home Hill

Home Hill Showgrounds Caravan Park

- 🐛 0472 636 578
- Sixth Avenue, Home Hill

Hotel Brandon (cabins only)

- (07) 4782 5255
- 54 Drysdale Street, Brandon
- 🔅 www.hotelbrandon.com.au

Inkerman Caravan Park

- 0431 572 448
- ♀ 3 Wallace Road, Inkerman

Michelle's Caravan Park

- 🐛 0459 367 209
- ♀ 158 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill





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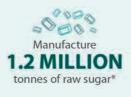
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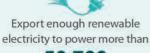
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Invested in the BURDEKIN REGION

Each year, in the Burdekin, we:







50,700 homes for a year*

Provide jobs for **910** Queenslanders *Figures are annual average 2018-2022

The Burdekin region is the sugarcane capital of Australia.

We own four sugar mills in the Burdekin: Invicta, Pioneer, Kalamia and Inkerman. Our mills have been a major part of the Burdekin landscape for over a century.

We're proud of our significant contribution to the Burdekin community and Queensland economy.







INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Water

Sitting at the mouth of the Burdekin River delta and on top of Australia's largest underground aquifer, which contains more than 20 million megalitres of fresh water, the region is known for its liquid gold. This abundance of water makes the district drought resistant which, combined with an average of more than 300 days

of sunshine annually, makes the Shire an agricultural dream.

Sugar

Widely known as Australia's Sugar Cane Capital, the Burdekin produces about one quarter of Australia's total sugar production. The district produces about 8 million tonnes of sugar cane annually, from which 1.2 million tonnes of raw sugar is produced at the region's four large-scale mills generating an annual output of over \$2.5 billion. The crushing season typically runs from June to November, with the mills operating 24 hours, seven days a week. You will notice Wilmar's cane trains (locos) running around the clock at this time of year, transporting bins of sugar cane to the mills and returning empty bins back to the cane siding. The Burdekin is also one of the last places in Australia to burn the sugar cane crop before harvesting. Farmers set fire to their paddock prior to harvesting to remove the excess leaves from the sugar cane stalk which makes the crop more efficient to harvest

Horticulture

The region's fertile soil, mild winter conditions and an abundance of water means it is possible to grow just about anything which is why it is known as Australia's food bowl. About 3400ha of the region is dedicated to horticulture crops such as achacha, capsicums, mangoes,

melons, pumpkins, zucchini and more.

Aquaculture

The aquaculture industry continues to grow in the district with Pacific Biotechnologies operating an algal facility as well as Pacific Reef Fisheries which produces black tiger prawns.

Renewable Energy

The Burdekin is fortunate to be recognised as having high levels of solar irradiation. This, combined with 300 days of sunshine a year and large areas of flat terrain, make the area perfect for large scale solar power developments.

HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Burdekin region is serviced by two hospitals and a number of medical facilities.

The region's main hospital is located on Chippendale Street in Ayr and features an emergency department. A second hospital located in Home Hill does not have an emergency department.

There are a number of doctors surgeries, chemists, optometrists, and health services throughout the region. In Ayr, the local chemists are open Saturday morning and work on a roster to open on Sundays.

Regis Aged Care has facilities in Ayr and Home Hill, catering for all care requirements.

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance, Police, Fire call 000

Administration & General Enquiries:

State Emergency Services (SES): **132 500**

Burdekin Shire Council: **4783 9800**

Weather and Warnings:

\$ 1300 659 219

Cyclone Warnings: **\$ 1300 659 212**

Department of Transport and Main Roads:

13 19 40



101 Eighth Ave, Home Hill Open: Monday-Friday 8am to 5.30pm Saturday 8am to 12pm Phone: (07) 4782 1228



Ben Chandler B.Pharm 82 Queen Street, Ayr, QLD, 4807 (07) 4783 1203 (07) 4783 4536 admin@ayramcal.com.au Hours of Operation Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5:30pm Saturday: 8:30am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-12:30pm Saturday: 8:30am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-12:30pm Sunday: 9:00am-

BURDEKIN DISASTER INFORMATION

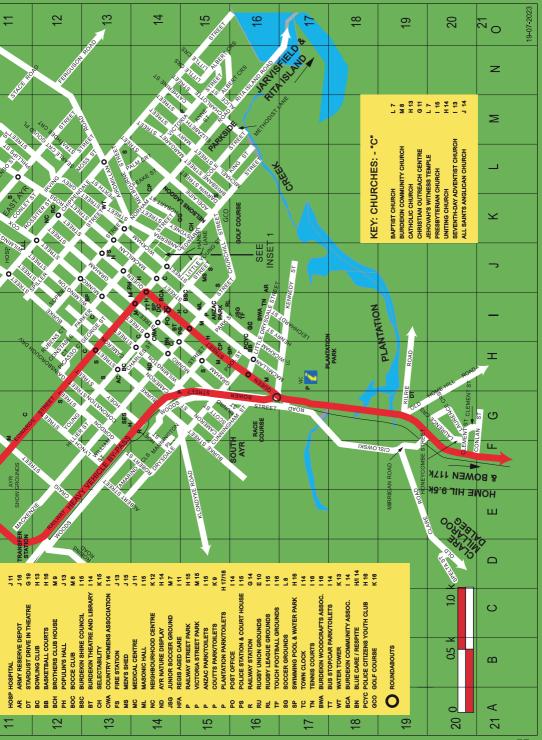
Whilst the Burdekin is a wonderful place to live and visit, there is a serious side to North Queensland which is heightened over summer with potential risks for natural disasters such as cyclones and flooding. It is important you are aware of these risks and know where to find information and resources relative to the local area.

The Burdekin Shire Council has an Emergency Action Guide where you will find important information on potential disasters. This will assist your family to prepare before, during and after disasters. You can locate this guide on the Council Website or pick up a copy from the Burdekin Shire Council's Customer Service Desk. Additionally, you should familiarise yourself with Council's Disaster Dashboard. The dashboard contains essential and up to date information on emergency news, road conditions, weather warnings, power outages, school closures, river heights, waste services, emergency contacts and much more.



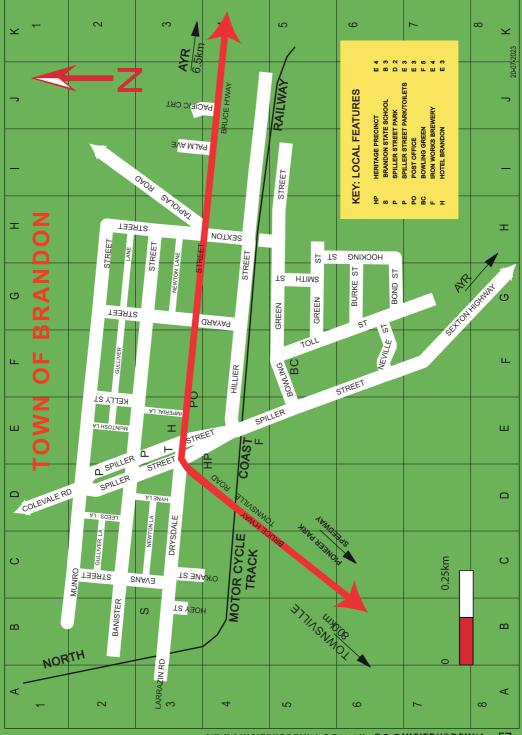


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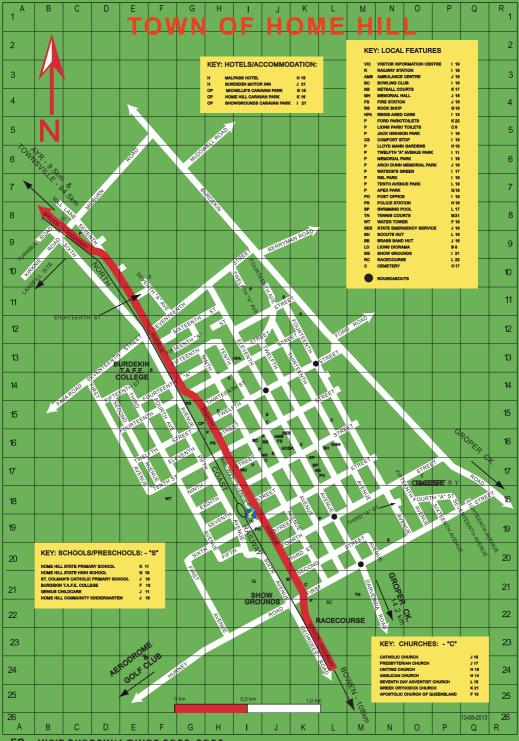




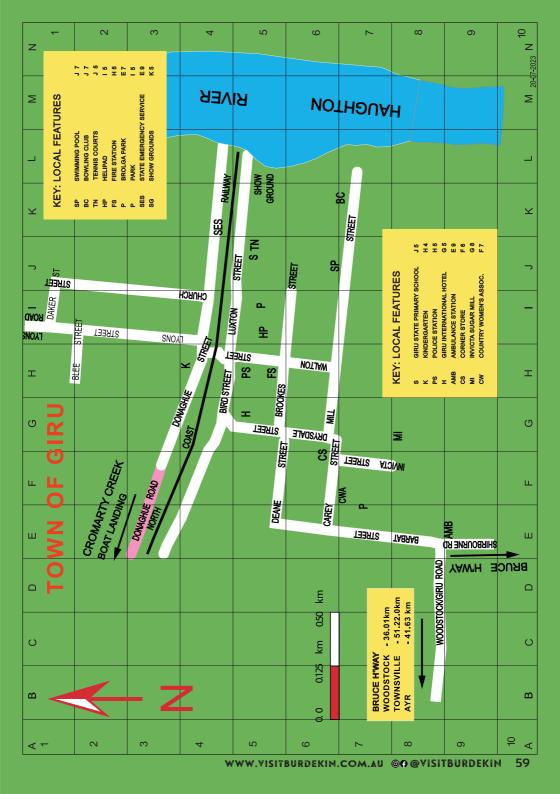
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