

# Maryborough

FRASER COAST

## Walk Tour Discovery Trail

Discover a fascinating city and its colourful past. Maryborough captures this history in its beautifully restored buildings and houses and has arguably the state's best display of homes from the 19th and 20th centuries. This walk tour will help you discover the city's unique character and takes approximately 1.5 hours.



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Information and bookings



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### 1. Maryborough City Hall and Cistern Chapel

Designed by Brisbane architects Hall and Dods in American colonial style, City Hall was erected in 1908 with a £10,000 donation from George Ambrose White. The proscenium features Maryborough's city emblem - the Crimson Bottlebrush. The exterior uses locally made Meredith bricks while red cedar was used extensively throughout the interior. In 1935 the clock tower, curtain tower and stage were added. The Hall was restored and refurbished in early 1990, after the building and many of its records were damaged in an arson attack. In front of City Hall is a replica of a small cannon which represents the original from Marbiak Island in the Torres Strait which was cast in 1750 and gifted to the town, Christmas 1877.

To the left of the City Hall building is one of Maryborough's latest tourism drawing cards. Fast forward to the year 2020 when the community rallied together to donate funds to the 'Divine Dummies' project transforming the toilets on the side of the picturesque City Hall to become the finest public toilets in Australia. Artists were chosen from a tender process, with Fraser Coast's Akos Juhasz and Gary Madden providing most of the work. The murals incorporate Maryborough's history, local culture, fauna, flora, fun and humour to impress the travelling eye!

Continue to the right hand side of City Hall. You will pass a giant draught board and the ...

### 2. Bauer and Wiles Memorial Fountain

Australia's only outbreak of the pneumonic plague was in Maryborough in 1905. This fountain is a memorial to nurses Cecilia Bauer and Rose Wiles who died from the deadly disease after volunteering to nurse victims of the plague. Proceed along Lennox Street to ...

### 3. St Paul's Anglican Church

The first church was built at the original township in 1853 and was moved in 1856. A large wooden church was built in 1866 and the current brick building was consecrated in 1879. The colours of the 47th Infantry Wide Bay Regiment are prominently displayed in the church. The Bell Tower and its peal of nine bells which arrived from the UK in 1888 were a gift from pioneer Edgar Aldridge in memory of his wife Maria. Across the road is ...

### 4. Railway Station

Built in 1880, this heritage-listed railway station features a Victorian design. The complex also houses the Whistlestop Museum which documents Maryborough's impressive rail history. The first sod for the railway line from Maryborough to Gympie was turned in 1878, with pick and shovel gangs completing the project in three years. Note as you leave the railway station, the air raid shelter built during the Second World War. Turn left into Ellena Street ...

### 5. Ellena Street Pavement, Artwork and Sculpture

Primary school students designed the pavers with the theme "I can find it in Maryborough". Maryborough-born artist Susie Hansen designed the large sculpture in the street as a tribute to Maryborough industry. The sculpture is a flywheel cut in half which was originally fitted to a single-cylinder kynoch suction gas engine in the powerhouse of Walkers Ltd. Turn left into Adelaide Street past ...

### 6. St Paul's Memorial Hall

Designed by P.O.E. Hawkes, this hall was completed in 1921 and dedicated to those who died in the First World War. Continue down Adelaide Street noting the interesting façades on some of the older buildings. Every Thursday, this section of Adelaide Street from Ellena to Kent Streets is closed off to traffic as the city centre is transformed into a bustling outdoor market. Continue down Adelaide Street to Kent Street. On your left is ...

### 7. Town Hall Green

It was here at the site of the first court house, police station and jail, that in 1877, gallows and a hangman were brought from Brisbane and two felons were publicly hung. For many decades this has been a place for residents

and visitors to meet. Note the four large etchings adjacent to the Alowishus Delicious Café titled "Five O'Clock Whistle" which represents a time when hundreds of workers from the various factories of lower Kent Street would cycle home at 5pm. Towards City Hall note Chifley Place which provides a venue for freedom of speech. Five characters inspired by the Mary Poppins books are etched on the brick plinths on the green closer to Kent Street and five more are in the footpath at the foot of the ramp. These may be reproduced by placing a sheet of paper on each and rubbing with a pencil. Cross Kent Street to the ...

### 8. Maryborough School of Arts

This School of Arts was constructed in the classic revival style in 1887 and contained a library, museum, reading room, technical college and a billiard room. It replaced the first school of arts built in 1861. In 1958, it housed the first Ringrose Library in Queensland where books were available to external students of the University of Queensland. The library features a timber mezzanine gallery and is now home to the Maryborough and Wide Bay Burnett Historical Society. The keystone above the doorway features Minerva the goddess of wisdom. Proceed along to corner of Kent and Adelaide Street noting the façades which comprise a unique nineteenth century townscape ...

### 9. Former Queen's Hotel

The Queen's Hotel was rebuilt in 1883 after the 1876 fire. The Goodwin family opened the first hotel here in 1864. In 1866, the proprietor, a young single woman saved the life of a baby who was accidentally dropped into a cesspool. Cross Adelaide Street and continue to the corner of Kent & Bazaar Streets ...

### 10. Former Stupart's Building

Purchasing a business in Maryborough in 1871, Mr Stupart lost all in the 1876 fire. He soon rebuilt the two-storey building facing Kent Street (Est 1871 on façade). Then the two-storey building on the Bazaar Street corner was completed in 1883 which he called The Drapery Palace. The business expanded along Bazaar Street in 1914 and a third storey was added to this extension in 1921. The firm of David Jones traded here from 1977-1981. Across Kent Street to the right is the ...

### 11. Former Royal Hotel

Completed in 1902 just prior to owner R.M. Hyne's death, this building replaced the earlier Bush Inn built in 1858 for E.T. Aldridge. The name was changed in 1863 to the Royal Hotel. The Bazaar Street end of the building was built in 1892 as a drapery shop and later converted to become a bar while the rest of the hotel building was completed. The Royal, with its grand foyer and staircase was always a focus for gala occasions in the life of the city. The licence granted in 1849 was cancelled in 2009. Continue along Kent Street. On the corner of Kent and Richmond Streets see ...



### 12. Former Australian Joint Stock Bank

The Australian Joint Stock Bank first purchased the building in 1866; this rendered brick building did not open until January 1884. The Union Bank occupied the building from 1906. The classic revival style includes an arched entrance and upper level Corinthian pillars. In 1899 during the time her father was the manager of this bank, Helen Lyndon Goff was born in the residence above. Later using the pseudonym P.L. Travers, she wrote the Mary Poppins series of books. Note the statue ... also see the public art story columns down Richmond Street that include children's illustrations relating to Mary Poppins stories.

### 13. Mary Poppins Statue

Located on the corner of Kent and Richmond streets, a statue of Mary Poppins stands proudly in recognition of Maryborough's link with the famous nanny, as a tribute to the literary skills of P.L. Travers and the amazing worldwide success of the stories. Mary Poppins has universal appeal. The novels have been translated into more than a dozen languages and 'supercalifragilistic' is a word known to millions. The bronze statue of the much-loved nanny was erected through community involvement and donations in August 2005. Don't forget to check out the Mary Poppins pedestrian traffic lights. On the opposite corner to the right is ...



#### 14. Former Hotel Francis

This is the site of the first hotel built in the new Maryborough township in 1853, the Maryborough Inn. The current building erected as a single storey in 1878 was the third hotel to occupy this site. It features an attractive verandah. It was known as the Metropolitan Hotel until 1935 when the name changed to Hotel Francis. [Directly opposite the statue is ...](#)

#### 15. Woodstock House

Built in 1915 for the National Bank this classical building replaced a two-storey store built in 1863. It was given the name Woodstock House in the 1980s while being used as a doctor's surgery. The building was restored in 1997. [Continue along Kent Street. About half way along on the left is ...](#)

#### 16. Gataker's Building

Built for Robert Travis in 1868, this building became a warehouse for wine and spirit merchants Graham and Gataker in 1885. This building and the warehouse behind are the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Maryborough. The building behind was built in 1869 and is home to Maryborough's art gallery, Gatakers Artspace which opened in March 2010. [Proceed to 297 Kent Street ...](#)

#### 17. Former Royal Bank of Queensland

This building features the baroque revival style with broken curved pediments atop the façade and above the entrance. It was erected in 1888 for the Royal Bank of Queensland, which later became the Bank of Queensland, then the National Bank. [On the other side you will find ...](#)

#### 18. 264 Kent Street

This building was erected in 1875 and occupied by J.H. Bliss, a watchmaker and jeweller, who specialised in the supply and repair of maritime chronometers, barometers, sextants and navigational instruments. This business served the busy port of Maryborough during the 1880s. Visitors to the port may even have availed of Bliss' skills as a maker of artificial teeth. [Continue to the corner of Kent and March Streets, and look across to ...](#)

#### 19. Engineer's Arms

Built in 1889 to replace the original 1870 building, the former hotel was designed to fit the wedge-shaped block. It is reminiscent of early pubs in Sydney associated with the waterfront. [Turn left into March Street and follow the road down to Wharf Street. Turning left again you will see ...](#)

#### 20. Riverside Apartments

In 1853, Edmund Uhr built a home for his family on this site, however the house was destroyed by fire in 1889. During rebuilding, a headstone marking the grave of two of the Uhr children was unearthed. Completed in 1891 this building was, for many years, a boarding house but has now been converted into apartments. [Next ...](#)

#### 21. Waterside Workers' Hall

This heritage-listed timber building with its unusual recessed doorway was used as a meeting place and centre for members of the Maryborough branch of the Waterside Workers Federation. [Next ...](#)

#### 22. Criterion Hotel

A single-storey boarding house, the Prince of Wales, first occupied this site. This was licensed as the Melbourne Hotel in 1864 but was destroyed by fire in 1878. A two-storey building was rebuilt and the third storey was added in 1882. The name was changed to Riverview in 1915 and to the Criterion in 1941. Neil Blue, a proprietor for many years, died in 1893 after helping many people during the township's largest recorded flood of that year. [Next ...](#)

#### 23. J.E. Brown Warehouse

J.E. Brown commenced business as a provisions and victuals merchant in 1857 in Richmond Street. He built this solid brick warehouse in 1879. In later years, the premises were used for dances, balls, boxing tournaments and a restaurant. It currently houses the Military and Colonial Museum. This museum provides a testament not only to those heroes who fought in distant lands, but also those courageous and determined people who pioneered and progressed the Maryborough area for nearly two centuries. [Next ...](#)

#### 24. Former Customs House Hotel

Built in 1868 it was extended in 1871 and 1883. Its past elegance reflects the rapid growth of the port at the time of the 1867 Gympie gold rush. In 1989, the hotel was used as a setting for filming the movie "The Delinquents" starring Kylie Minogue.

[Cross Richmond Street to the ...](#)

#### 25. Maryborough Heritage Centre

Built for the Bank of New South Wales in 1878, iron columns support the verandahs which are decorated with fine iron lace balustrades upstairs and wrought iron on the lower level. During the Gympie gold rush, four million ounces of gold passed through the major banks in Maryborough. Community groups involved with family and local history now occupy this building. [Continue along Wharf Street to Bazaar Street. On the corner is the ...](#)

#### 26. Post Office Hotel

This hotel was built in 1889 and designed by Italian architect, Carandini. During the Second World War it was a popular meeting place for navy personnel. [On the opposite corner is ...](#)



#### 27. Post Office

The Post Office opened in 1866 and is the oldest surviving masonry Post Office in Queensland. In those early days, attached to the top of the tower, was a wooden pole holding a time ball which was lowered each day at 1pm. The tower was extended in 1879 for better visibility and to house a clock with four faces. Adjacent to the Post Office, the site of the first Telephone Exchange in country Queensland was established in 1882 with 32 subscribers. [Across the pedestrian crossing ...](#)

#### 28. Church Museum

This Museum, located at the rear entry of St Mary's Catholic Church is open to the public every Thursday or by special request. Follow the churchyard around to the right to see the Grotto, built in 1951 as a tribute to Martin Jordan, a US Army Lieutenant who was killed in Korea. His uncle, Monsignor Martin Jordan was Parish Priest in Maryborough at the time.

#### 29. St Mary's Catholic Church

Father Paul Tissot consecrated St Mary's in 1872. It replaced an earlier wooden church built in 1858 which was then used for the first day school. The church was extended in 1885 and the majestic pipe organ installed in 1912. The church was again extended in 1936 and altered to face Adelaide Street. [Follow the steps down to Adelaide Street and turn right, then walk straight ahead and cross the road to the memorial.](#)

#### 30. Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial

An interactive Military trail telling the story of the Anzacs in the first World War. [Proceed along the top of Queens Park to...](#)



#### 31. Cenotaph and Memorial Gates

This structure was erected in 1922 with funds obtained by public subscription for a memorial to the fallen of the First World War. The memorial includes five Italian Carrara marble statues which portray the army, navy, airforce and the nursing profession, and Nike, the goddess of victory standing above them. The memorial gates and plaques were cast by the local Croydon Foundry. [Enter Queens Park ...](#)

#### 32. Queens Park

The pathway leading from Bazaar Street to Wharf Street is known as the Judges or Barristers Walk. Judges alighted from their carriages in Bazaar Street in full court regalia and, accompanied by court officials, proceeded along this path to the Court House. Heritage-listed Queens Park overlooks the Mary River and features a waterfall, lily pond and band rotunda. The park was vested as a Botanical Gardens Reserve in 1866 and gazetted in 1873. Earlier the park was the location of various industries such as boiling-down works and sawpits. Note the many fine trees including the magnificent Banyan Fig planted circa 1900. [On your left ...](#)

#### 33. MELSA

The miniature railway tracks running through the park beside the band rotunda installed in

1976 are used by MELSA (Model Engineers and Live Steamers Association) as part of the activities celebrated in the park on the last Sunday of the month.

#### 34. Band Rotunda and Fairy Fountain

Miss Janet Melville bequeathed the fairy fountain and band rotunda in memory of her brother Andrew who was Mayor of Maryborough in 1863. The entire structure was imported from Scotland in 1899 after the Hon. A.H. Wilson MLA saw it at the Glasgow exhibition and acquired it as a suitable memorial. In 1905, the fountain was moved from under the ornate roof of the rotunda to its present site to allow the rotunda to be used as a performance area. Local brass bands perform here the last Sunday of each month.

#### 35. Guns

At the beginning of World War I the Royal Australian Navy began to update its armoury and presented the guns on the riverbank as a gift to the City of Maryborough.

#### 36. Mary River

The Mary River was formerly known as the Wide Bay River. It was renamed in September 1847 by Governor Fitzroy in honour of his wife, Lady Mary Fitzroy.

#### 37. Excelsior Band Hall

This modern building replaces the earlier hall destroyed by fire in 1987. Directly in front of the band hall is the George Ambrose White carpark, which was the site of the city's first in-ground public baths opened in 1906.

[Walk through the carpark where you will see...](#)

#### 38. Court House

Maryborough Court House was built in 1877 on the site of the former Immigration Barracks. It is reputedly the oldest operational courthouse in Queensland. Colonial architect F.D.G. Stanley designed the building and completed it for the sum of £7345. The slate roof has gone but the cross-braced balustrade of the verandah remains. The original unlit and unventilated lock-up is located at the rear of the building. Near the lock-up is a former Second World War bomb shelter which now houses MELSA's miniature steam trains. [Cross the street and enter the Parklands by following the path down to the ...](#)



#### 39. Kanaka Memorial and Bollards

The Kanaka Memorial commemorates the unique contribution made by the Kanakas in the early years of the sugar industry in Queensland and how they helped build a multi-million dollar industry. The main memorial is a three dimensional walk through a series of structures with written text to complete the story.

Between 1863 and 1904 some 50,000 Kanakas were "blackbirded" from the Polynesian Islands to labour in Queensland cane fields. Approximately 14,800 people were located between Bundaberg and Maryborough. They were harshly treated, suffered disease and were poorly fed. Death rates were 400% higher than white Australian workers. Despite these terrible conditions, they helped forge the Australian sugar industry which has, since its inception, played a major role in the economic development of Australia.

Seven colourful bollards overlook the Mary River. They represent a sea captain welcoming a family of immigrants landing at the Port of Maryborough in the 1860s.

#### 40. Walkers Ship Memorial

Walkers built its first ships for the Government in 1877. This memorial was built to represent the bow of a ship and was dedicated in 1993. It features the names of ships built for The Royal Australian Navy by Walkers Shipyards from 1940 to 1974. [Walk back through the carpark. In front of you is the ...](#)

#### 41. Mary River Parklands

Built on the site of the historic Port of Maryborough, the Parklands is a recreational space in the heart of the city, with winding riverside pathways, gardens, community forecourts and stunning public artwork which reflects Maryborough's days as a thriving river port and celebrates the contribution of South-Sea Islander, Chinese and Aboriginal cultures to its character. Queens Wharf, overlooking

the Mary River, was built to represent the original Queens Wharf which was one of many that stretched from the Brolga Theatre to beyond the Granville Bridge. At the marina you can see the last remnants of the original wharves. [Continue to Macalister Station ...](#)

#### 42. Mary Ann

The *Mary Ann* is a replica (built in 1999) of the first steam engine built at John Walker & Co's Union Foundry in Queensland in 1873. It steams through the parklands along the rail tracks which were laid to service the wharves and Walker's Foundry. These lines are still in use today to transfer the trains built by EDI Rail to the main line at Maryborough West. The *Mary Ann* operates on Thursdays and the last Sunday of the month.

#### 43. Port of Maryborough

In 1859 Maryborough was declared an official Port of Entry and in 1901, more than 22,000 immigrants from Great Britain and Europe entered Australia through the port. Ships also brought Kanakas from the South Sea Islands to assist with local sugar plantations. Supplies such as wool, tallow, hides and timber were delivered through the busy port during its liveliest era. A number of businesses were established to cater for the needs and entertainment of the maritime industry and flourished in the Wharf Street precinct. The derelict sheds behind the marina are remnants from the site of the Walker Shipyards which closed in 1974. [Make your way through the Parklands and up the steps to Wharf St where you will find ...](#)

#### 44. Bond Store

This brick building on a sandstone base was built in three stages in 1864, 1870 and 1883. It was part of the Customs complex to provide storage for goods which attracted a tax for Her Majesty's Custom Service. Imports included items such as opium, cigars, tobacco, rum, wine, beer and spirits. This building became a museum in 1993. [Across the road at 106 Wharf Street is ...](#)



#### 45. The Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum

Opened on 24 July 2005, the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum is the best place outside the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to connect with the nation's military past. It recognises 132 service personnel and 71 officers with their original medals for gallantry at Gallipoli, more than any other museum including the AWM and the Imperial War Museum in London. It covers all conflicts involving Australians from the Boer War to Afghanistan, with special emphasis on Vietnam's Battle of Long Tan. Since opening, the collection has grown to more than 10,000 items and is valued at \$16m and focuses on the personal stories, sacrifice and memorabilia of war rather than weaponry. Take a look at the murals on the side wall of the museum building, saluting the battle of Long Tan during the Vietnam conflict and Maryborough-born Rev Philip Thomas Byard 'Tubby' Clayton, who co-founded Talbot House (known as Toc H). [Across the road on the footpath find the ...](#)

#### 46. Walk of Achievers

The plaques in the footpath in Richmond and Wharf Streets honour our pioneers and Maryborough people who, through their achievements, have gone on to become extraordinary Australians in fields of education, government, culture and sport. [Next door is ...](#)

#### 47. Customs House Residence

This federation-style building and the original Customs House (now known as the Portside Centre) were constructed in 1900 to replace an 1860s timber building which was damaged in the 1893 flood. [Next door is ...](#)

#### 48. The Customs House

Features a large central hall which is naturally ventilated with high-level windows and arches. The British Coat of Arms features on its fine façade. The building remained a Customs House until 1987 and opened as an interpretive centre in 2001.

[Your walk ends here in the heart of Portside. To return to City Hall follow Richmond Street back to the Mary Poppins statue and turn right into Kent Street. City Hall is three blocks from this point.](#)