



February 2010

## Wheels - things that go round!

*There are many ways to experience Queensland on wheels. Take your pick from hire bikes of all types and sizes, horse drawn coach gallops through the Outback, riverside adventures on rollerblades and even the thrills of high speed laps in a race car.*

### **Spyder Riding on the Gold Coast**

The Gold Coast is the only place in the world people can ride the unusual and stylish Can Am Spyder Roadster Motorbike. The unusual looking set of wheels offers riders and passengers the speed and thrills of a motorbike with the safety and stability of a car including traction control, stability control, power steering and ABS. The half day 'You-Ryde' tag-along and 'We-Ryde' pillion passenger tours visit places including Springbrook, Mount Tamborine and Surfers Paradise. A valid motorcycle licence and a minimum age of 23 years is required for the You-Ride tour and both include gear hire (helmet, jacket and gloves), morning or afternoon tea, fuel, insurance and guide/s. Thrill Rydes also available. The Spyder can accelerate faster than a Porsche 911. You-Ryde and We-Ryde tours take four hours and Thrill Rides range from 30 minutes to two hours. The Spyders are also available for private hire for up to five days. [www.spyderryder.com.au](http://www.spyderryder.com.au)

### **Harley rides around Southern Queensland**

Chauffeured Harley Davidson® Motorcycle and Trike Tours offer a fun and exciting way to explore the sights of Southern Queensland. There are a selection of tours available including the popular one hour City Sights Tour starting at the Brisbane CBD and travelling to Mount Coot-tha with its fantastic view of the city and surrounds. A longer six and a half hour Num Bum Lunch Ride includes morning tea and lunch at Mount Glorious and Fernvale and the return trip home to Brisbane follows the old Cobb & Co trail back to the city. Guided tours to other regions are also available and rentals can be arranged for experienced riders. [www.triketours.net](http://www.triketours.net)

### **Hot Laps at Driver Training Centre**

An exhilarating experience called 'Hot Laps' awaits car racing enthusiasts at the Holden Driving Centre located between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Guests strap themselves into a V8 SS Commodore and enjoy the ride of their life as an experienced instructor steers the car around four thrilling laps. And after the adrenalin rush they tour the Supercheap Auto Racing V8 Supercar Race Team Workshop to see what happens behind the scenes in getting these remarkable racing machines ready. The rides operate seven days a week and guests must be 10 years old and older. [www.thedrivingcentre.com.au](http://www.thedrivingcentre.com.au)

### **Explore the rainforest on an ATV**

Zoom through the rainforest on your own four wheeled motorbike on a Blazing Saddles ATV (all-terrain vehicle) tour near Kuranda. Riders enjoy a safety and introductory lesson, are placed into a group with similar skill levels and the head out on the half day tour with experienced guides. Free transfer services are available from Cairns and the Northern Beaches. The morning tour includes a BBQ lunch at the conclusion of the tour, and the afternoon tour includes light refreshments. Novice riders are welcome. [www.blazingsaddles.com.au](http://www.blazingsaddles.com.au)

### **Pedalling in Port Douglas**

Combine fun and exercise and hire a bike from Port Douglas Bike Hire during your stay in Tropical North Queensland. There are more than 350 bikes to choose from including family options with baby seats, tag-alongs, trailers and tandems. Helmets, locks, visitor and tour information and cycling advice are included and all bikes are adjusted to personally fit customers. Half, full day and longer periods are available. Port Douglas has a number of bike tracks including Macrossan Street and Port Douglas Road, or take your beach gear and head down to Four Mile Beach for ride along the sand. The famous Bump Track, an historic six kilometre track is also a popular destination for mountain bikers. Join the ranks of some of the more famous hirers including Sean Penn, Cher, Axle Rose and Elle McPherson.

[www.portdouglasbikehire.com](http://www.portdouglasbikehire.com)

### **Wheely wonderful ways to see Brisbane City**

Riverlife is based on the Brisbane River under the Kangaroo Point cliffs and offers some great ways to see the city on wheels. Hire some rollerblades for a few hours, or the whole day, and skate along the river to South Bank. Skate hire includes all equipment including a helmet, K2 rollerblades, and protective knee, elbow and wrist pads. Cycles are also available, and for something different try a Kick Bike, a bicycle-scooter hybrid which is a great alternative for those a little unstable on a traditional bike. Think of it as the ultimate adult's scooter. [www.riverlife.com.au](http://www.riverlife.com.au). When the exercise is over consider a more relaxed way of seeing the city – from the comfort of a gondola on the Wheel of Brisbane at South Bank Parklands. It stands 60 metres tall and has 42 air-conditioned capsules, each with seating for up to six adults and two children. Each ride lasts 12-15 minutes and offers unique panoramic 360 degree views of the river and the city. The Wheel of Brisbane is open seven days a week, 10am-10pm. [www.worldtouristattractions.com.au](http://www.worldtouristattractions.com.au)

### **Motorsport legend remembered in Yeppoon**

Champions Brock Experience at Yeppoon near Rockhampton is a tribute to Australian icon, the late Peter Brock. Displayed in a unique setting and featuring some 38 vehicles and a vast array of personal and professional memorabilia, the Experience is a fitting tribute to motorsport legend Peter Brock who died tragically in 2006. The collection has come together over 15 years and the museum was nearly five years in the making. Visitors can also participate in a sound and light show which runs once daily and features unique audio and video footage not seen anywhere else in the world. Entry is by pre-booked guided tours and the museum is open from Thursday to Monday.

[www.championsbrockexperience.com.au](http://www.championsbrockexperience.com.au)

### **Segway tours in Southern Queensland**

Two Southern Queensland beach resorts have added Segway tours to their guest activity line-up. Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke Island off the Gold Coast and Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast are offering guests the chance to experience the fun of these two-wheeled electric personal transporters that can reach off-road speeds of up to 20kmh. Couran's Segway tours travel through the resort and island's bushland, rainforests and then on to the boardwalk through the sand dunes to 22km of pristine white beach. During the tour resort guests have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the island's amazing wildlife, fauna and flora. [www.couran.com](http://www.couran.com) Twin Water's Segway Xperience is a two hour travelling through the beautiful eucalyptus forests, unspoilt beaches, boardwalks and paths surrounding the resort. The tours are available Tuesday to Saturday and minimum age is 14 when accompanied by an adult. There are also minimum and maximum weight requirements. [www.twinwatersresort.com.au](http://www.twinwatersresort.com.au)

### **Mini Moking around Magnetic**

The cute, four-wheel drives known as “mini mokes” are as much a feature of beautiful Magnetic Island as the bays, beaches and headlands of this scenic destination. Magnetic is an easy 25 minute cruise across the bay from Townsville and the mokes are an ideal way for visitors to explore the island. Moke Magnetic have been hiring these vehicles on the island since 1986 and now run a fleet of 65 vehicles. The year round sunshine and laid-back atmosphere of the island means the mokes are perfect way to get around, and hirers can travel at their own pace. The mokes are hired by the day or for longer periods. Baby seats and sunroofs can also be fitted. [www.mokemagnetic.com](http://www.mokemagnetic.com)

### **Explore the Outback by horse-drawn wagon**

Experience the history of Australia’s famous Cobb & Co stagecoaches in Longreach in Queensland’s Outback. Back in the 19th century Cobb & Co transported passengers, parcels and mail on their coaches to every mainland colony and Longreach was a major hub in Queensland. The half day Gallop Thru the Scrub tour begins when the driver blows his bugle to mark the departure of the stagecoach. As you gallop along seeing local wildlife including kangaroos and beautiful Brolga birds, he will tell you the history of Cobb and Co and Longreach. The overnight tour, Clancy’s Campoput, includes riverside camping under the stars in a luxury swag, three course Silver Service camp oven dinner by candlelight, bush yarns, poetry and ballads by the camp fire. [www.kinnonandco.com.au](http://www.kinnonandco.com.au)

### **Eco-Bikes offer new way to explore the Gold Coast**

JTB Tours have introduced an eco-friendly, fun and inexpensive way for visitors to explore the Gold Coast with their new Eco-Bikes. The bikes are powered by a 250w, rechargeable motor which can travel at a maximum speed of 25kmh. They have throttle and pedelec system allowing the rider to rely entirely on the motor for propulsion or they can pedal at the same time as the motor helps them along. The six gear bikes will travel up to 40km on a single battery depending on the terrain and how much the rider pedals. The bikes can be hired for two, four or eight hours and riders must be 13 years old or over. A helmet, bike lock, map of the 40km of bike pathways on the Gold Coast Oceanway, road rules and user manual are included in the hire. Bookings are essential and there are currently 40 eco-bikes in the fleet. [www.jtb.com.au](http://www.jtb.com.au)