BRISBANE

Brisbane is Australia's third largest city and is the capital of Queensland. It is located on the banks of the Brisbane River and enjoys hot humid summers and mild dry winters. Brisbane has all the characteristics of a big city.

From its Aboriginal and later European origins, the city has grown into a fresh, modern capital with parks and gardens both in the suburbs and in the city centre. Brisbane offers a lot for everyone, from the arts to shopping and fine dining. The city is close to the beautiful Moreton Bay, which is at the mouth of the Brisbane River and holds over 365 islands. Moreton Bay is Brisbane's water playground with plenty to see and to do. The bay is protected from the big ocean swells[1] and offers game fishing for marlin[2] in the southern part of the bay and diving in the crystal clear waters, where one can explore old wrecks[3] near Moreton Island. At the southern end of Moreton Bay is South Stradbroke. Like its sister island of North Stradbroke, this is a sand island with long ocean beaches and calm bay side areas, including a newly developed eco-resort.
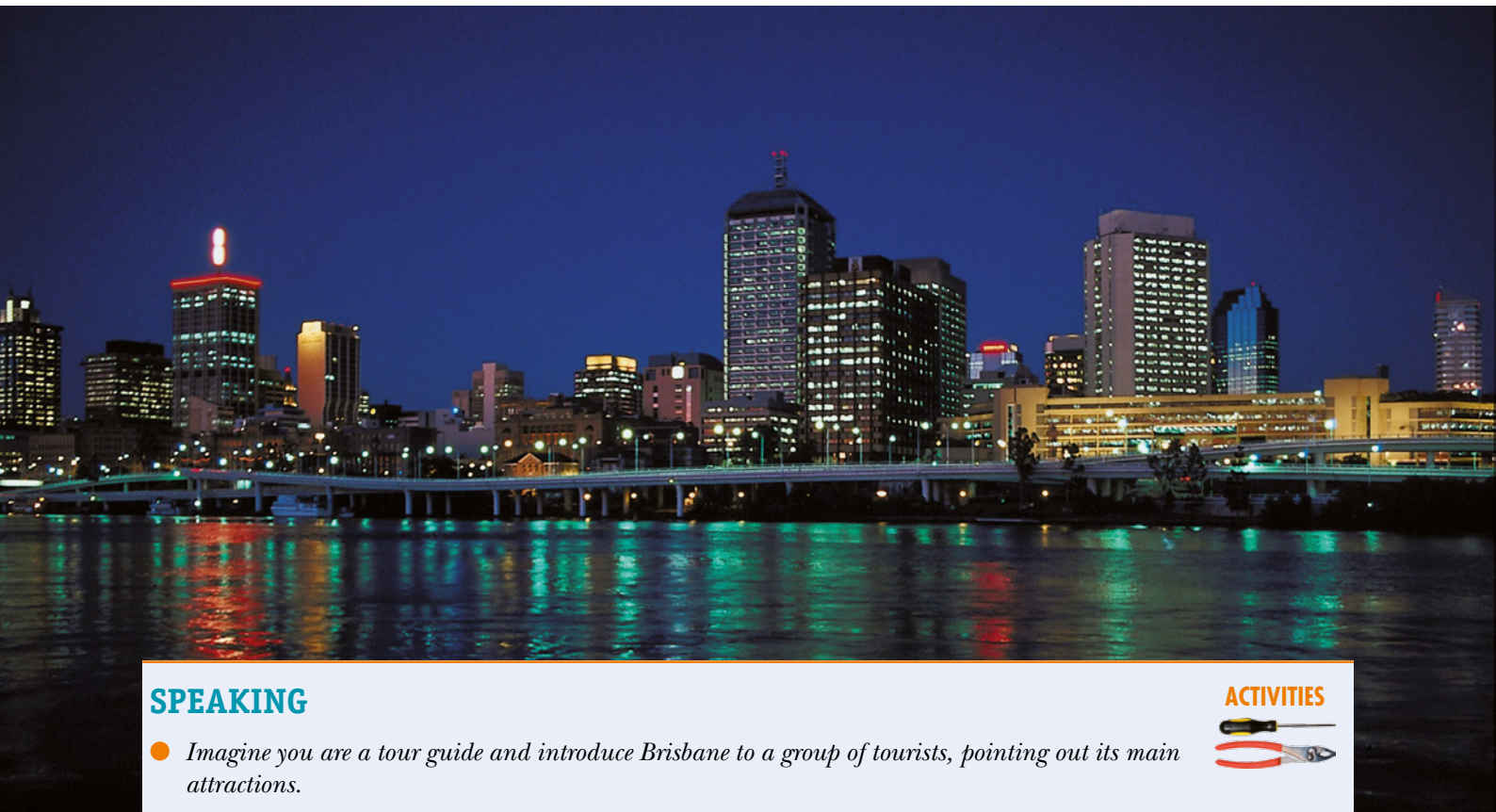
The city centre is home to many historical buildings, the most interesting being the Treasury Building as well as the City Hall and Parliament House. The city also hosts some wonderful museums such as the Sciencentre, Queensland Cultural Centre, the Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery and the Queensland Maritime Museum.

The city also offers some beautiful parks and gardens including the Botanical Gardens, Brisbane Forest Park, South Bank Parklands (with a swimming pool and Butterfly and Insect House) and Mt Coot-tha Park, which is home to some great look outs, Aboriginal Art and the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium. There are also some fantastic wildlife sanctuaries and zoos in Brisbane and the most popular are Alma Park Zoo and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.

GLOSSARY

1 waves
2 a kind of edible fish
3 sunken ships

SPEAKING

ACTIVITIES

● *Imagine you are a tour guide and introduce Brisbane to a group of tourists, pointing out its main attractions.*

WRITING

● *Write a short text about your town or village, describing the main tourist attractions.*