



TOP 10

BROOME | AUSTRALIA



Broome boasts a multicultural population of many nationalities lured here by the promise of finding their fortunes. The town is a remarkable combination of vibrant colors – red from the rust-colored dirt called pindan, the aquamarine of Roebuck Bay and the pure white of Cable Beach's sands. These fantastic colors, mixed with the town's rich history and cultural complexity, give Broome a dynamic and unique atmosphere attracting adventurers, entrepreneurs, artists and travellers. Cosmopolitan Broome has a vibrant culture, great cuisine and thriving fine art scene.

Broome was established as a pearling centre by the Japanese in the 1880s and quickly attracted Chinese and Malays who joined local Aboriginal divers in the dangerous side of the business. Pearling peaked in the early 1900s, when the town's 400 luggers supplied 80% of the world's mother-of-pearl, which was mainly used for buttons. Today, pearl farms have replaced open-sea diving and a handful of successful family-run companies continue to provide the world with exquisite Broome pearls.

During the dry season (April to October), Broome buzzes; this is the best time to visit. During the wet the opening hours are shorter, and locals breath a collective sigh of relief and get on with their lives. While some like visiting during this time, keep in mind many attractions shut and roads can close.



1. ENJOY OLD WORLD CHARM AT THE MCALPINE HOUSE

Stay at the Cable Beach Club, with its pristine white sand beach, and try and sneak into the Sydney Nolan room for peek at his amazing paintings. Alternatively, stay at the quaint boutique hotel 'McAlpine House' for some old world charm. The transformation of McAlpine House from historic Master Pearler's home to a charming boutique hotel has created a place that is fantastic and quaint. There are just eight guest rooms set amongst lush tropical gardens, lattice verandahs and a central swimming pool. The interiors and furnishings reflect the colors and textures of Broome, and there's a wonderful exotic bird aviary, as well as a fab library. One just wants to curl up in a chair, pull out a book, and relax in this tranquil oasis where time seems to stand still.

<http://www.mcalpinehouse.com.au/>



2. WATCH A MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

Watch a movie at Sun Pictures, the oldest outdoor cinema in the world and Australia's answer to Cinema Paradiso. Established in 1916, this National Trust landmark offers a fantastic schedule of films, as well as occasional free events. There's nothing better than watching a movie under the stars.

<http://www.broomemovies.com.au/>

3. WALK THROUGH BROOME'S HISTORICAL PAST

Visit the Broome Historical Society Museum, and get an understanding of the town's complex and cosmopolitan history. Take a walk through the charming 1890s former general store, now the town's museum. You'll learn about the Broome's interesting pearling history and how it has developed into a world-class export industry. You will be intrigued by Aboriginal artifacts and stories of shipwrecks, missing diamonds and Japanese bombings during WWII.

<http://www.bclibrary.info/history.htm>



4. CHECK OUT VIEWS FROM THE SKY

Take a spectacular scenic helicopter ride over rich pearling waters, hundreds of tiny islands and historic mission sites to see the vast pearl farms. Make sure to stop off and pick up some pearls for yourself!

<http://www.broomehelicopters.com/>

5. DISCOVER THE SECRET GEMS OF GANTHEAUME POINT

Check out the spectacular Gantheaume point, where the red pindan desert meets the turquoise-colored sea. Look for the dinosaur footprints embedded in the rock at low tide. Then visit Anastasia's Pool nearby. It's a basin carved by the lighthouse keeper so his arthritic wife, Anastasia, could use the waters each day without hurting herself.

http://www.discoveraustralia.com.au/western_australia/gantheaume_point.html



6. EXPLORE THE OLD JAPANESE CEMETARY

Take a stroll through the old Japanese cemetery where tombstones are more like monolithic sculptures. Reflect on the rich multicultural history of Broome as you meander through over 700 graves. The headstones are all unique, made out of colored beach rocks.

<http://www.kimberley-australia.com/kimberley-destinations/broome/>

7. RELAX AND ENJOY A HANDCRAFTED BREW

Visit world famous Matso's Brewery for a meal and sample its very own handcrafted beer. Try beer in mango and ginger or the delicious apple cider. Locals say Matso's also has the best fish and chips in town. For the best pairing with beer, try one of their curry dishes.

<http://www.matsos.com.au/>



8. VIEW SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST ABORIGINAL ART

Pop into Short Street Galleries to look at some of the best contemporary aboriginal art in Australia. The premier and longest-running gallery of its kind, Short Street Galleries is located in an old building in Chinatown. The building itself is the last remaining house with a wind tunnel. The gallery gives visitors a great perspective on the dynamic and sophisticated landscape that is Australian art.

<http://shortstgalleries.com.au/>

9. TREAT YOURSELF TO SOME PEARLS

Broome's history as a pearling town extends into the modern day with some of the best pearls in the world still coming from this corner of the Earth. Enjoy at tour at Willie Creek Pearl Farm and pick up some unique pieces at Paspaley or Linneys. These are pieces you will always cherish!

<http://www.williecrackpearls.com.au/>



10. JOIN A CAMEL TRAIN AT SUNSET

Join one of the world famous camel trains at sunset on the golden sands of Cable Beach. Take in your gorgeous surroundings as the sun hits the water and even take home a professional photo of your train against this beautiful backdrop.

<http://www.broomecamelsafaris.com.au/>