

# Bribie Island

Located 70 km north of Brisbane and 2 m above sea-level, Bribie Island is an interesting combination of retirement centre, day-trippers' paradise, family-holiday retreat and haven for anglers, sunlovers and sporting people (there's an excellent golf course on the island). Separated from the mainland by Pumicestone Passage, the island is 34 km long and up to 8 km wide. It sits at the north-western edge of Moreton Bay and the population is around 15,000. Bribie is the only offshore island in Queensland to be joined to the mainland by bridge.

The first European to make contact with Bribie Island was Matthew Flinders who landed in 1799, where he reputedly saw his first dugong and also make contact with some distinctly unfriendly local Aborigines. It is said that the island township of Bongaree was named after Flinders' Aboriginal companion. In 1823 John Oxley landed on the island and met a shipwrecked convict named Thomas Pamphlett who showed him the entrance to the Brisbane River thus leading to the subsequent settlement of the area. The island's name derives from a convict named Bribie from the Moreton Bay Penal Colony who became the first European to settle on the cay. Apparently he had been successful catching mud crabs for the officers at Moreton Bay and, when rewarded with his freedom, departed for the island with an Aboriginal woman. They both lived there until Bribie's death.



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