

# IPSWICH

Queensland's Oldest Provincial City

Ipswich, Queensland's oldest provincial city, was established in 1827 as a convict out-station for farming and quarrying limestone, both essential to the development of the Moreton Bay penal colony in Brisbane.

Goods and passengers were transported between Brisbane and Ipswich by boat along the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers. Later coach companies operated mail and passenger services between Brisbane and Ipswich, the most famous being Cobb & Co.

Many coal mines were developed around the region, contributing to the growth of the railway workshops in North Ipswich and the expansion of the Queensland rail network.

Ipswich developed into a prosperous and confident city, as is apparent from its many imposing public buildings, fine mansions, historic homes and several of the oldest churches in Queensland.

### Stop & Visit...

#### The Workshops Rail Museum

(North Street, North Ipswich) The Workshops Rail Museum is a wholly interactive, authentic heritage and cultural museum located at the birth place of rail in Queensland. Hands-on exhibits, multi-media displays and behind-the-scenes tours, coupled with huge steam locomotives, massive industrial machinery and over 140 years of history, make for a visitor experience second to none. Open daily 9.30am – 5pm.



#### Ipswich Art Gallery

(d'Arcy Doyle Place, Nicholas Street) Housed in the old Town Hall, built in 1861 and the oldest in Queensland, this is one of the most visited regional galleries in Australia. The Town Hall was completely renovated and extended to present an interactive, multimedia history of Ipswich, a program of international standard visual arts exhibitions and Australia's first dedicated, permanent children's art space. Open daily 10am – 5pm.



#### St Paul's Anglican Church

(d'Arcy Doyle Place, Nicholas Street) Built in 1859, this is the oldest Anglican Church in Queensland. It has the first pipe organ installed in Queensland, which is still in use. There are several interesting memorials inside the church.



# WALLOON

First Stop on Queensland's First Railway

This area was once known as 'Ten Mile Peg', its approximate distance by the old track from Ipswich. The name Walloon derives from a region in Belgium and was adopted by the Railways Department when the station was completed in July 1865.

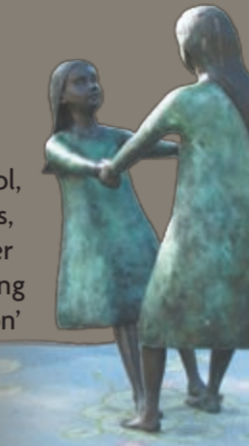
Reminders of the town's beginnings include the Walloon Saloon, where the first Walloon Hotel was built in 1877 as a watering hole for parched travellers, and the former public school, also built in 1877, which is now the town's community centre.

The tragic drowning of two young sisters in the town in 1891 was commemorated by Australian bush poet, Henry Lawson, in his poignant poem "Babies of Walloon".

### Stop & Visit...

#### Henry Lawson Bicentennial Park

(533 Karrabin-Rosewood Road) Located opposite Walloon State School, the park has electric barbecue facilities, a children's playground and under-cover picnic tables. Here you'll find the striking memorial to the lost 'Babies of Walloon' and the text of Henry Lawson's haunting poem carved in railway sleepers.



# ROSEWOOD

From Rough Scrub to Rose Mahogany

The township of Rosewood developed from the 1870s, taking its name from the rose mahogany, or rosewood, trees that grew in the area prior to the widespread felling for their valuable timber.

### Stop & Visit...

#### Three Historic Hotels

The **Royal George Hotel** (24 John Street) dates from the 1890s. Damaged by fire in 1933 it still has many original features including hitching rings on its verandah posts.

The original **Rising Sun Hotel** (27 School Street) was built about 1878 but burned down and was rebuilt. In 1908 the hotel was moved sideways and this two-storey hotel was built next to it.

The first **Rosewood Hotel** (6 John Street) and eight other buildings were destroyed by fire in 1914. This fine two-storey hotel was built soon after and has many interesting features including its double verandah and its famous 'Water Ghost'.

#### St Brigid's Catholic Church

(John Street) Opened in 1910, St Brigid's is the largest timber church in Queensland. The exceptional interior includes murals, a pressed metal ceiling and stained glass windows. The timber altar has been painted to resemble marble.



The **Rosewood Staging Post** is in **Rosewood Town Square** (61 John Street). Here you will find **barbecue and toilet facilities and a large supermarket across the road.**



# GRANDCHESTER

First Terminus on Queensland's First Railway

Known before settlement as Googabilla, the town was later called "Bigge's Camp", named after the pastoralist and parliamentarian, Francis Edward Bigge. In August 1865 it became Grandchester, the terminus of Queensland's first railway line. Nearby is Queensland's first and oldest railway dam, built in 1894 to ensure a reliable water supply for the steam locomotives.

### Stop & Visit...

#### Grandchester Steam Sawmill

This steam-operated sawmill established in 1940 is powered by an old locomotive boiler and a steam engine. Visitors welcome Monday to Saturday, 9am to 3pm. Enclosed footwear required. Phone 5465 5264 to confirm your visit.

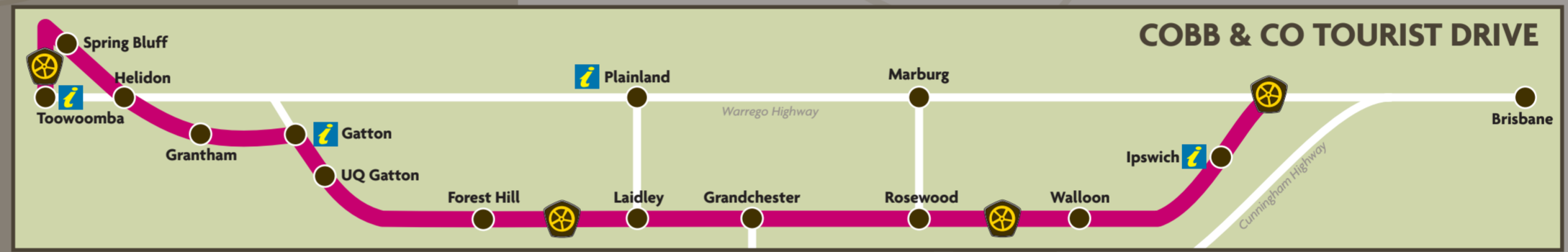
#### Grandchester Railway Station

Queensland's oldest surviving railway station was built in 1865 as the first terminus on Queensland's first railway line. Cobb & Co services ran from here to Toowoomba in 1866-67. Visitors are advised that freight trains still use the railway track.



#### Grandchester Stage Coach Company

Step back in time and take a one-hour tour to the sound of hooves and the rattle of chains on a Cobb & Co coach. Bookings are essential. Phone (07) 5465 5375.



# LIDLAY

Queensland's Country Garden

In June 1829, a year after discovering the Darling Downs, explorer Allan Cunningham discovered Laidley Plains, entering the valley from what is now called Cunningham's Crest Lookout. He named the area after John Laidley.

Laidley became a convenient resting place for teamsters and wagon drivers en route between Ipswich and the Darling Downs.

Many German migrants settled in and around Laidley and their cultural influence is acknowledged by the town's popular annual German Heritage Day.

### Stop & Visit...

#### Das Neumann Haus Museum

(Patrick Street) The museum portrays the lifestyle, hobbies and business interests of the Neumann family circa 1930. Entry is free to the museum, Annie's Place Coffee Shoppe and Arts and Crafts. Open daily 10am to 3pm.



# FOREST HILL

A Glimpse of Yesteryear

This unspoiled hamlet has been spared over-development, so many of its early buildings are still in use, including the heritage-listed Lockyer Hotel built about 1910, the Forest Hill Hotel and the former National Bank. A popular destination for those wanting to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.



The **Forest Hill Staging Post** is in **Victoria Street** opposite the **Lockyer Hotel**. There's an **electric BBQ, picnic table, historic railway station shelter, toilets and nearby shops.**

# UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND GATTON CAMPUS

### Stop & Visit...

#### Historic Foundation Building

Built in 1896, this heritage-listed building was the Queensland Agricultural College's administration centre. It is now part of the University of Queensland Gatton Campus and is used for functions and conferences.



# GATTON

Australia's Famous Salad Bowl

This area was settled in the 1840s after land was opened up to free settlers. In 1855 the village of Gatton was gazetted. After the railway line from Ipswich reached Gatton in June 1866 the town became a changeover point for Cobb & Co coaches to the Darling Downs.

The Lockyer Valley is one of the most fertile regions in the world and has Australia's largest concentration of organic farms and specialist 'soft leaf' market gardens.

### Stop & Visit...



**Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre** (Lake Apex Drive) The district's state-of-the-art cultural hub contains many "must-see" contemporary and historic displays and exhibits. The centre is open 7 days, 9am to 4pm. Listed below are some of its attractions.

#### Queensland Transport Museum

The museum pays tribute to the history of the transportation industry and features vehicles from many different eras, including a display of Western Transport vehicles.



#### Art Gallery

Here you'll find a wide variety of paintings, sculptures and other creative works from talented local artists as well as travelling exhibitions.



#### Staging Post Café-Restaurant

Renowned for its authentic "paddock-to-plate" dining, the menu showcases the best produce the Lockyer Valley has to offer. Relax in air conditioned comfort overlooking picturesque Lake Apex while enjoying one of our fabulous coffees.



The **Gatton Staging Post** is in **Lake Apex Drive** at the entrance to the **Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre** carpark. The centre is open 7 days a week.

# HELIDON

Famous for Sandstone and Spa Water

When the railway reached the small agricultural settlement of Helidon in 1866, passengers for Toowoomba were transferred to Cobb & Co coaches to complete their journey.

Sandstone mined at Helidon from the 1880s has been used in buildings across Australia and around the world. Its quality and durability now set the international benchmark for grading sandstone.

Once known and enjoyed throughout Australia, Helidon mineral spa water was first bottled in 1879.

# SPRING BLUFF

### Stop & Visit...

#### Spring Bluff Railway Station

The station was first known as Main Ridge, then Highfields, before being named Spring Bluff in 1890.

It was the principal watering station for steam locomotives because of its suitable gradient and abundant water supply from a spring. It also served as an outlet for timber and dairy produce from the area.

The historic station was listed on Queensland's Heritage Register in 1994. The gardens are beautifully maintained by a Trust and the grounds are open to visitors all year round.



# TOOWOOMBA

'Capital' of the Darling Downs

Toowoomba's origins date from 1827 when English botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham discovered a vast expanse of rich farming land which he named the 'Darling Downs' after then Governor of New South Wales, Sir Ralph Darling. 'Toowoomba' derives from the local Aboriginal word for swamp.

With a population now over 100,000 people, Toowoomba is Australia's largest inland regional city. Its major industries include manufacturing, wholesale, agriculture and education.

### Stop & Visit...

#### Cobb & Co Museum

(27 Lindsay Street) Here is the National Carriage Collection, Australia's finest collection of horse-drawn vehicles that includes Cobb & Co coaches, farm wagons, hawkers' barrows, delivery carts, buggies and an elegant landau.

There are also history displays of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. Open 7 days, 10am to 4pm.





**CELEBRATING THE FIRST MAIL ROUTE  
AWARDED TO COBB & CO IN QUEENSLAND**

**COBB & CO**

**TOURIST DRIVE**

**BETWEEN IPSWICH AND TOOWOOMBA  
VIA THE LOCKYER VALLEY**

**BOLTERS, BREAKDOWNS AND BUSHRANGERS**

Travel by Cobb & Co coach sounds romantic but the reality was very different. Typically up to 20 people or more sat on unpadding wooden seats, on the box seat with the driver or on the roof, crammed together with luggage, freight and the mail.

Most country routes were just rough bush tracks - rock hard and dusty in summer, water-logged and frequently flooded in winter. Gear failures, breakdowns and bolting horses could lead to accidents, sometimes resulting in serious injuries or deaths.

Coaches were also vulnerable to being "baited-up" by bushrangers, particularly on routes serving the goldfields. Most hold-ups happened in Victoria and New South Wales, but there were also several coaches robbed on routes between Brisbane, the Gympie goldfields and Maryborough.



**Lights on the Hill Trucking Memorial**

Lake Apex Drive, Gatton

This memorial is dedicated to truck, rig and coach drivers who passed away while driving. It is a sacred place for their families and fellow drivers to pay their respects.

**Lockyer Legends Wall of Fame**

Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre, Lake Apex Drive, Gatton

Lockyer Legends is a triumphant celebration of the most significant contributors in our community over the past 150 years. The beautifully presented albums depict the stories of each of the individuals' contribution to the Lockyer Valley.

**Gatton Historical Museum**

Freeman's Road, Gatton

The village complex boasts many early buildings and authentic historical activities, like traditional blacksmithing, and over 20,000 heritage items and old machines, many restored to working order.

For opening hours phone (07) 5466 3425.



**Laidley Pioneer Village**

cnr Dryton & Pioneer Streets, Laidley

Started in 1972 as the state's first historic village, it now includes an old school, blacksmith shop, country store, post office, slab hut, police cells, country church and over 100,000 heritage artifacts.

Open 7 days, 9am to 3 pm.

**The Gazebo**

Railway Street, Helidon

This open-air pictorial museum built in 2004 displays the interesting history of Helidon, from the 1860s to today.



**Court House and Police Station**

John Street, Rosewood

Built in 1862, this building is a reminder of the time when country towns were more self-contained. The Police Station and adjacent Court House are state heritage listed.

**Incinerator Theatre**

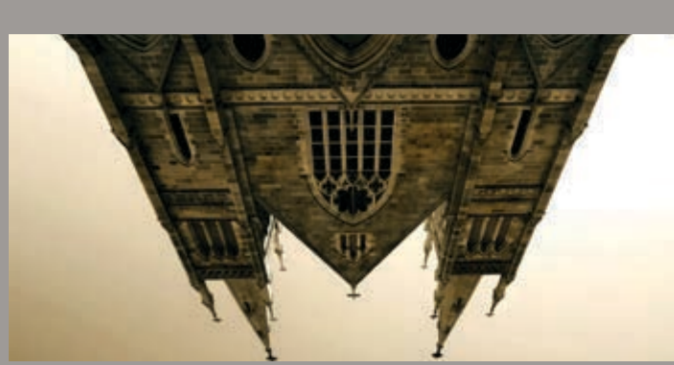
Burley Griffin Drive, Ipswich

Now home to Ipswich Little Theatre, it was built in 1936 as an incinerator for burning the city's garbage. It is the only building in Queensland designed by Walter Burley Griffin who designed Canberra, the Australian National Capital.

**Queens Park**

Millford Street, Ipswich

Surveyed in 1842 and set out in 1862, Queens Park was the first park established in Queensland and it grows more beautiful every year. Discover the Environmental Centre wildlife habitat, the Japanese-inspired Nerima Gardens, the park's many monuments and Queens Park Cafe.



**St Mary's Catholic Church**

Elizabeth Street, Ipswich

This local landmark was built in 1904 of Helidon sandstone. The adjacent Presbytery was completed in 1876. The church's impressive interior rewards a visit.

Locations that are well worth a visit.

Cobb & Co Tourist Drive.

There are numerous attractions to be found close to the

**ADDITIONAL CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS**

**LOCKYER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**City of Ipswich**

**www.toowoomba.qld.gov.au**

Email: [info@toowoomba.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@toowoomba.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 1800 331 155

86 James Street, (Warrego Highway), Toowoomba Centre

**Toowoomba Visitor Information**

**www.lockyer valley.qld.gov.au**

Email: [tourism@lvic.qld.gov.au](mailto:tourism@lvic.qld.gov.au)

Phone: (07) 5411 4291

Warrego Highway, Plainland

Plainland Travel Centre

**Lockyer Valley Visitor Information**

**www.luvvalockyer.com.au**

Email: [info@luvvalockyer.com.au](mailto:info@luvvalockyer.com.au)

Phone: (07) 5466 3425

34 Lake Apex Drive, Gatton

Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre

**Lake Apex Visitor Information Centre**

**www.discoveripswich.com.au**

Email: [info@discoveripswich.com.au](mailto:info@discoveripswich.com.au)

Phone: (07) 3281 0555

14 Queen Victoria Parade (Brisbane Road), Ipswich

Queens Park

**Ipswich Visitor Information Centre**

**VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES**

**ABOUT COBB & CO**

The Victorian gold rushes of the 1850s created a need for fast, reliable transport to carry people, eager to make their fortunes, to and from the newly discovered gold fields.

In 1854 Australia's first Cobb & Co service was introduced from Melbourne to the "diggings" at Castlemaine. Coaches carried freight and the Royal Mail, as well as passengers and their possessions. In 1862 Cobb & Co services were expanded into New South Wales.

On January 1 1866 the first Cobb & Co mail service in Queensland commenced, from Brisbane to Ipswich. Passengers and mail heading further west were taken from Ipswich to Grandchester by train and then by another Cobb & Co coach for the rest of the journey to Toowoomba.

After the railway line from Brisbane to the Darling Downs was completed in 1875, Cobb & Co operated from the western railheads, carrying passengers and mail to many distant, dusty outback towns and settlements.

Up to 40 horses and six staff were needed for an average day's journey of about 80 kilometres. Teams of horses were changed at depots spaced every 25 to 40 kilometres along the routes.

At its peak Cobb & Co owned thousands of horses and numerous coaches, workshops, offices and stables and employed hundreds of drivers, grooms, coach builders and office staff.

Cobb & Co completed its last coach run on August 14 1924, from Surat to Yuleba in south-west Queensland. The company was wound up in 1929, closing a unique 75 year chapter in Australian transportation history.

**COBB & CO TOURIST DRIVE**

The Cobb & Co Tourist Drive celebrates the early days of stage coach transportation in south-east Queensland. The drive follows the railway line and the original road from Ipswich to Gatton.



**ALONG THE WAY**

**Follow the Signs**

The Cobb & Co Tourist Drive is easy to follow by referring to the special map in this brochure.

Whether you start your journey at either end of the route or somewhere in between, these distinctive "wagon wheel" directional signs will show you the way to go.

For safety reasons it's always best to designate someone other than the driver to be "the navigator".

**STAGING POSTS**

Just as Cobb & Co's passengers needed occasional stops during their journey, so do modern-day travellers.

So along the Cobb & Co Tourist Drive three convenient locations in Rosewood, Forest Hill and Gatton have been designated 'Staging Posts'. Each location is identified with these easy-to-spot signs.

All Staging Posts are situated where services, such as public toilets and the availability of food and drinks, are accessible seven days a week.

**COBB & CO TOURIST DRIVE DISTANCES**

From	To	Distance
Brisbane CBD	Ipswich CBD	40 kms
Ipswich	Walloon	12 kms
Walloon	Rosewood	9 kms
Rosewood	Grandchester	16 kms
Grandchester	Laidley	10 kms
Laidley	Forest Hill	7 kms
Forest Hill	Gatton	11 kms
Gatton	Helidon	18 kms
Helidon	Spring Bluff	33 kms
Spring Bluff	Toowoomba	14 kms

