

Brisbane Travelodge (former)

355 Main Street, Kangaroo Point

The Brisbane Travelodge brought with it a new way to holiday for working families wanting to take an affordable break. Each unit boasted its own self-contained bathroom, which meant the days of several families sharing one washroom and toilet were a thing of the past.

Navigational hint: from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, look across the river for palm trees and the distinctive zigzag roofline of the Brisbane Travelodge.

Once the largest motel in Queensland, the Brisbane Travelodge was originally built as a small single-storey motel, but by 1961 had opened as a modern 5-storey building with 40 rooms and an iconic zigzag roofline. It is likely that the building was designed by T. H. O'Connor Pty Ltd.

The Brisbane Travelodge was revolutionary in its approach to motel holiday accommodation with luxuries such as individual kitchenettes, a generous car park for guests, a pool, verandahs for river views, and a rooftop restaurant.

Its design marked the shift in Australian tourism away from more traditional holiday and guest houses towards self-contained, individual amenities. The Postwar Modernist style also heralded the transition towards higher-density accommodation and the use of more private spaces, such as balconies and sundecks. The success of this accommodation type is reflected in the continued expansion of the Travelodge, which in 1968 added a further 51 rooms to the complex.

The Brisbane Travelodge is now individually owned units.