



# About Melbourne

Known for its great sport events, and its reputation as Australia's dining and shopping capital, Melbourne is a city of contrasts and diversity. At its heart are famous landmarks like the Yarra River and Federation Square. In its soul are bars and boutiques hidden in historic arcades and cobblestone laneways.

While Melbourne is internationally recognised as one of the world's most liveable cities, people often say that the real Melbourne lies just below the surface. Dozens of cool bars, pubs, nightclubs and cafes are waiting to be discovered. Local fashionistas know the city's historic arcades reveal many boutiques featuring our hottest young designers, while those in search of a bargain head for Bridge Road, Richmond.

## Getting around

Melbourne is very easy to explore on foot, by bus or train or on our famous trams. The free maroon-coloured City Circle Tram runs regularly around the city, and provides information for tourists about the landmarks it passes. All Melbourne's Taxis are painted Yellow – so they're easy to spot. You can hail a taxi one from a street corner, if their sign is illuminated - Orange lights indicate the taxi is not available for hire. Or you can go to the many taxi-ranks around the city, including the main taxi rank at Flinders Street station.

## Multicultural Melbourne

Victorians are justifiably proud of their culture-soaked capital. Its rich European heritage gives the city a strong sense of identity and community. Melbourne is arguably the most multicultural of all Australian cities. They say we have the largest Greek population outside of Athens! And you'll find many other cultures well represented too –the English, Scots, Welsh and Irish who came here during the 1800's for the Gold Rush – the Italians, Poles and Yugoslavs who came later to build our infrastructure, through to our more recent immigrants like Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans, Indians and Thais. Visit our Immigration Museum for more information about Melbourne's varied past. [www.immigration.museum.vic.gov.au](http://www.immigration.museum.vic.gov.au).

## Great Dining

With 3000 restaurants and 70 world cuisines represented here you could stay for a year and never dine in the same place twice. We have lots of expensive restaurants here, but there are many places you can eat well for under \$20.00:



In **Victoria St Richmond**, choose from many **Vietnamese** restaurants.

**Little Bourke Street** is home to **Chinatown**, with many popular Chinese restaurants.

**Lonsdale Street** is our **Greek** precinct with some restaurants open 24/7.

**Lygon Street** Carlton is Melbourne's "Little Italy" – with many friendly Italian restaurants.

**Acland Street** St Kilda has the best range of **European cake shops**.

**Brunswick Street** Fitzroy has many trendy **vegetarian** cafes.

## Cool Bars & Lounges



The best bars in Melbourne are the ones that are hardest to find. Scattered throughout the city, they are tucked away in narrow lanes and alleys, behind obscure doors, or at the top or bottom of staircases. There are some bars that even Melburnians have trouble finding. The Croft Institute is hidden away at the end of an alley, Tony Starr's Kitten Club is upstairs from an easy-to-miss doorway and there is a bar in Meyers Place that is known only by the street name.

**Chaise Lounge** *Basement, 105 Queen St, Melbourne* A jumble of boudoir chic mingled with Melbourne kitsch – but it works.

**Champagne Lounge** *41 Little Collins St, Melbourne* Upmarket, contemporary chic décor.

**Double Happiness** *21 Liverpool St., Melbourne* Blends Chinese pop-culture, communist icons and traditional herbal remedies!

**Gin Palace** *190 Little Collins St. Melbourne* Seductive & sexy with low lighting & cool Jazz.

**Hairy Canary** *212 Little Collins St. Melbourne* Gazing voyeuristically on pedestrians below, enjoy killer cocktails & great food too!

**Melbourne Supper Club Bar** *Lvl 1/161 Queen St., Melbourne* A late night venue, smoothly sophisticated vibe and great finger-food.

**Meyers Place** *20 Meyers Place, Melbourne* Hide away in this relaxing tiny bar with no door sign!

**The Croft Institute** *21-25 Croft Alley, Melbourne* Different! Displays a large collection of laboratory apparatus, all neatly catalogued!

**Tony Starr's Kitten Club** *Level 1/267 Collins St. Melbourne* 50s & 60s inspired décor, Sex in the City style with live cabaret & karaoke.

## Music venues

Melbourne has the biggest concentration of late night music venues in Australia. For any music style, top 40, rock, retro, commercial dance, RnB or Jazz – you'll find it all!

### Nightclubs

**Amber Lounge** Basement, 388 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne A late night bar & club. Fridays (RnB & hip hop) Saturdays (European)

**Bond Lounge Bar** 24 Bond Street, Melbourne Swanky stylish & sophisticated. House music Thursday; DJs Friday & Saturday nights.

**Spy Lounge** 22 King Street, Melbourne Commercial dance, Top 40, RnB, retro, till late Fridays & Saturdays.

**Hugo Lounge** Suite 8/402 Chapel Street, South Yarra Friday RnB & House; Saturday Commercial house and progressive.

**Viper Room** 373 Chapel Street, South Yarra Thursday RnB; Friday Progressive & trance; Sat & Sun House.

### Jazz

**Bennetts Lane Jazz Club** 25 Bennetts Lane, Melbourne This is the jazz club you thought only existed in New York and Chicago. Local interstate & international performers nightly.

**Dizzy's Jazz Club** 90-92 Swan Street, Richmond Live shows Tues – Sat – traditional, blues, contemporary.

**Manchester Lane** 36 Manchester Lane, Melbourne Dinner & supper club Mon-Sat – Classic Jazz, swing, blues, soul.



## Hotels & Pubs

There are times when a cool beer is the only thing that really hits the spot on a hot day. And with lots of great pubs, many offering live entertainment too – Melbourne's pub scene is absolutely spot-on.

**All Nations Bar** 64 Lennox Street., Richmond Good pub food & covered beer garden.

**Belgian Beer Café** 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Great food, 27 Belgian beers & 3 Australian brews.

**Cookie** 252 Swanston Street, Melbourne Something for everyone. Beer Hall, cocktail bar, thai food.

**Coopers Inn** 282 Exhibition Street, Melbourne A great range of Beers – traditional pub meals

**Esplanade Hotel** 11 The Esplanade, St Kilda Famous old pub with a great view – The 'Espy' has nightly live entertainment.

**Imperial Hotel** 288 Bourke Street., Melbourne Established in 1864 & still going strong! Imported beers, Bistro & pub food.

**JB's Sportz Bar** 26 King Street., Melbourne Big Space, Good music – next to Crown Casino.

**Melbourne Central Lion Hotel** Level 3/211 La Trobe Street, Melbourne Sports on big screen, English pub food & beer garden.

**Molly Blooms** 39 Bay Street, Port Melbourne More Irish than Guinness. Nightly Celtic music.

**PJ O'Brien's** Shop G14, Southgate Plaza, Southbank A jumping Irish pub, Guinness, Irish food, nightly live music.

**The Fiddler** 577 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Another great Irish pub, Irish & European beers, cider, good pub food.

**Transport Hotel** Federation Square, Melbourne Spectacular glass & steel building, over 100 beers & wines.

**Young & Jackson's Hotel** 1 Swanston Street, Melbourne Historic pub opposite train station. Melbourne's most famous nude painting hangs upstairs in the restaurant

## Annual Sporting Events



January - Australian Open Tennis - Two weeks of explosive action. The champs battle it out for the first Grand Slam event of the year.

April - The Formula One Foster's Australian Grand Prix. Four days of action on and off the track.

September - Attend the exciting Australian Motor Cycle Grand Prix held at Phillip Island in Victoria.

November - On the first Tuesday in November, the world stops to watch the Melbourne Cup, one of the most widely known horse races in the world.



## Shop till you drop

### CBD

**Block Arcade** One of Australia's finest 19<sup>th</sup> century shopping arcades, with a soaring etched glass roof and Italian mosaic floors. But shopping is contemporary and elegant.

**Melbourne Central** Recently received a major facelift and has around 300 stores and dozens of coveted Australian and international designers.



**GPO** This magnificent building was formerly Melbourne's General Post Office but has been reborn as a seriously sophisticated shopping arcade with

over 60 fashion and food stores.

**QV** A whole new city block dedicated to fashion. Includes laneways with everything from young designers to high-end labels.

**Royal Arcade** Melbourne's oldest arcade. Lots of fashion, vintage clothes and accessories. Chocolate worshippers should stop at Koko Black, where they use the finest Belgian couverture in handmade chocolates.

**Flinders Quarter** The area around Flinders Lane was once the home of Melbourne's rag trade, but now breathes design, fashion, retro gear, jewellery, accessories, furniture crafts and excellent art galleries.

**Little Collins Street** Australia's younger fashion names have taken over this area. Labels including Anna Thomas, Scanlan & Theodore, Bettina Liano, Calibre Clothing for men and Alannah Hill (in nearby Howey Place).

**Southbank** Cross the Yarra River and explore the galleries, gift & designer stores at Southgate. Then head down to Crown Entertainment Complex where international boutiques include Burberry, Louise Vuitton, Prada and Versace.

**Queen Victoria Market** Head to the oldest and largest market in the southern hemisphere to see buskers, find a unique souvenir, a new outfit, gourmet goods, fresh fish and organic produce, or just about anything else!

### Inner Suburban

**Bridge Road Richmond** Bargain lovers unite! Factory outlets, clearance stores, heavily discounted fashion and excellent coffee to keep you going! (Catch Tram 48 or 75.)

**Brunswick St & Smith St Fitzroy** Funky gear, edgy fashion, all-day breakfasts. (Tram 112)

**Chapel Street South Yarra** The place to be seen! Upmarket Australian & international labels, trendy cafes. Voted Australia's Best Shopping Strip in recent retail awards. (Tram 8 or 72).

### Other things to do



**Phillip Island** An easy 90 minute drive from Melbourne and you'll find yourself standing nose to nose with koalas, sharing a beach with hungry pelicans, watching a colony of fur seals splashing in the sun, and of course, walking with our famous penguins.

**Luna Park Lower Esplanade, St Kilda South.** There are few more recognisable landmarks in Melbourne than the giant grinning face that greets visitors to Luna Park. The stately 90 yr old theme park harks back to the glory days of amusement fairs, with classic rides like the ferris wheel alongside more daring trips like the rollercoaster. It's enough to bring out the big kid in everyone! Open 11am – 7 pm Sat 11am-11pm Sun 11am – 6 pm and everyday during school holidays.



**Melbourne Observation Deck Level 55 Rialto Towers, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne**

Enjoy a coffee while you take in the magnificent 360 degree panoramic views at the top of the tallest office building in the Southern Hemisphere. From the view over Port Phillip Bay, the City and to the Dandenong Ranges in the east, you'll get a better idea of Melbourne's wonderful assets.

### For More Information

You can find out all kinds of information about Victoria and Melbourne by viewing our tourism website: [www.visitvictoria.com.au](http://www.visitvictoria.com.au)

When you're here, visit the Melbourne Visitor Centre for information about Melbourne and regional Victoria. Corner of Swanston & Flinders Street, opposite Flinders Street Station. Phone 03 9658 9658.