

Sights
Dining
Entertainment
Hotels
Fast facts
LUXE City Guides recommend

Melbourne

Melbourne's suburbs extend around the huge Port Phillip Bay, into the plains to the west and east and out to the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. This huge area of settlement has been necessitated by the dying but intractable goal of the Great Australian Dream - a detached home on a quarter-acre block, 2.5 children and a couple of cars in the driveway. The city centre is about situated about 3km (1.8mi) inland, on the north bank of the Yarra River and is a neat grid of elegant (and kitsch) 19th-century architecture and self-important skyscrapers. The main north-south artery is Swanston St, running north from Federation Square and Flinders Street Station, while Bourke (a pedestrian mall for part of its extent) and Collins Sts, which cross it, are the city's other two main thoroughfares. A series of village districts circle the city centre.

SIGHTS

Melbourne Museum

This confident postmodern exhibition space mixes old-style object displays with themed interactive display areas. The museum's reach is almost too broad to be cohesive but provides a grand sweep of Vic's natural and cultural histories. Walk through the 1950s, or become immersed in the legend of champion racehorse and national hero Phar Lap. Bunjilaka presents indigenous stories and history told through objects and Aboriginal voices. An open-air forest atrium features Victorian plants and animals and there's some traditional (and nonetheless fascinating) displays of pinned insects. There's a hands-on children's area with weekend activities, as well as an Imax cinema next door.

11 Nicholson St, Carlton Gdns
tel: 13 11 02
10:00 - 17:00

Queen Victoria Market

With over 600 traders, it's the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere and attracts thousands of shoppers. The market has been on the site for more than 130 years, prior to which it was a burial ground. Melbournians love to shop at the 'Vic'. Fresh produce includes organics and Asian specialties plus there are deli, meat and fish halls. Saturday mornings are particularly buzzing, with marketgoers breakfasting to buskers before or after the big shop. Clothing and knick-knack stalls dominate on Sundays. In summer the market is open on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm to 10pm, when it features hawker-style food stalls, music and dance performances.

cnr Victoria St & Elizabeth Sts, North Melbourne
tel: 9320 5822

Eureka Tower

Eureka Tower, built in 2006, is currently the world's tallest apartment building. The stats? Ninety-two storeys over 300m. Take a wild elevator ride to the top: 88 floors in less than 40 seconds. If you still haven't found what you're looking for, more vertiginous views are to be had. 'The Edge' - a glass cube - propels you out of the building; you've got no choice but to look down.

City Rd



© David Peevers. Lonely Planet Images.

Federation Square

Striking Federation Square, despite never-ending debate of its architectural merits, has become the place to celebrate, protest or party (or just watch sport on the giant telly). Squatting by the Yarra and occupying a prominent city block, the 'square' is far from square. Its undulating forecourt of inscribed Kimberly stone echoes the town squares of Europe. The surrounding buildings sport a reptilian skin that takes its cue from the endlessly dissecting lines of the city's grid; within are cultural heavyweights like NGV Australia and ACMI. There's also restaurants, the thrumming Transport pub, and a few select retail outlets.

Cnr Flinders & Swanston Sts
tel: 9655 1900

St Kilda Foreshore

There's palm-fringed promenades, a parkland strand and a long stretch of sand. St Kilda's seaside appeal is more Brighton, England than Baywatch, despite 20-odd years of glitzy development. And that's the way Melbournians like it; a certain depth of character and an all-weather charm, with wild days on the bay providing for spectacular cloudscapes and terse little waves as well as the more predictable sparkling blue of summer. Two popular St Kilda restaurants are superbly located in historic foreshore buildings: the stylish Donovan and the Stokehouse.

Jacka Blvd, St Kilda

DINING

Cumulus Inc

Pascale Gomes-McNabb, Andrew McConnell and new partner Jayden Ong have created a casual, ever-changing city space to hang out in. The focus is on beautiful produce and simple but artful cooking, from a breakfast of sardines and smoked tomato on toast at the marble bar to suppers of freshly shucked Clair de Lune oysters tucked away on the leather banquettes.

45 Flinders Lane

breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon-Sat



Melbourne

Press Club

Melbourne's mod-Greek scene is thriving, and George Calombaris' grand city space gives it the glamour it deserves. There's no fusion-fussing, rather a respect for the basics and a very 'now' sensibility. Think dolmades stuffed with roast quail, salmon cooked slow in tzatziki and served with almond skordalia (potato and garlic purée), or the 'Santorini breakfast' dessert (honey sorbet, yogurt jelly, walnut biscuit).

72 Flinders St
tel: 9677 9677

lunch Sun-Fri, dinner daily



© Greg Elms. Lonely Planet Images.

Bar Lourinhã

Matt McConnell's wonderful northern Spanish-Portuguese specialities have the swagger and honesty of an Iberian shepherd but with a cluey, metropolitan touch. There's an intriguing wine list sourced from the region too. Come Friday night, the sardines are not just on the plate. However, a lone spoonful of the Arabesque crema is worth the squeeze.

37 Little Collins St
tel: 9663 7890
lunch & dinner Mon-Fri

Maha

This is a sexy subterranean space that's great for lunch or dinner but even better for a late-night supper (the kitchen stays open until 3am Thursday to Saturday). It's a homage to the richness and complexity of Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean cooking, but done with a light, modern touch. Chef Shane Delia's Maltese heritage gets a look in too - rabbit is seldom off the menu.

21 Bond St
tel: 9629 5900

Ginger Boy

Brave the aggressively trendy surrounds and weekend party scene, as talented Teague Ezard does a fine turn in flash hawker cooking. Flavours pop in dishes such as scallops with green chilli jam or coconut kingfish with peanut and tamarind dressing. There are two dinner sittings, and bookings are required. Otherwise nab a seat and the bar and get eating. Don't overlook the sublime desserts: coconut tapioca topped with paw paw and lime salad or five spice ice cream will make for fond food memories.

27-29 Crossley St
tel: 9662 4200
lunch & dinner Mon-Fri

ENTERTAINMENT

Royal Botanic Gardens

One of the finest botanic gardens in the world, the RBG is one of Melbourne's most glorious attractions. Sprawling beside the Yarra River, the beautifully designed gardens feature a global selection of plantings as well as specific Australian gardens. Take a book, picnic or Frisbee; most importantly, take your time. Along with the abundance of plant species there's a surprising amount of wildlife, including waterfowl, ducks, swans and child-scaring eels in and around the ornamental lake, and cockatoos and possums. The gardens are encircled by the Tan, a 4km-long former horse-exercising track, and now Melbourne's favourite venue for joggers. During the summer months, the gardens play host to the Moonlight Cinema and theatre performances.

Birdwood Ave, South Yarra
tel: 9252 2300

07:30 - 20:30 Nov-Mar, 07:30 - 17:30 Apr-Oct



© Jason Edwards. Lonely Planet Images.

M.O.O.

This sumptuous hideaway has the air of an exclusive gentlemen's club. Overstuffed leather couches, private booths lining the walls and excellent service complete the picture. It's the perfect place to hold an important conference with friends over several bottles of fine wine - you can also taste your way through a tantalising tapas menu.

Driver Lane
tel: 9639 3020
17:00 -late Mon, 12:00 -late Tue-Fri, 18:00 -late Sat

Melbourne Aquarium

Rays, gropers and sharks cruise around a 2.2-million-litre tank, watched closely by visitors from a see-through tunnel that traverses the aquarium floor. You can also get inside the tanks with the aid of scuba equipment, so occasionally you'll see a troupe of brave souls walking by on the other side of the glass. Spread over three levels, the complex also features jellies and coral-atoll displays, as well as a billabong display that rains intermittently. There's a theatre that hosts educational talks, and kids activities run all weekend.

cnr Queenswharf Rd & King St
tel: 9620 0999
09:30 - 21:00 Jan, 09:30 - 18:00 Feb-Dec

Southgate

Southgate was the first shopping and dining complex built along the south bank of the Yarra. The complex joined its illustrious Southbank neighbours (the Arts Centre, Australian Ballet and Opera Australia) in the early '90s. Southgate is well connected to the city via an arched footbridge, and riverside promenades run all the way west to the casino complex. You'll find restaurants and cafés among the three levels of dining rooms that all enjoy a stellar outlook over the river and city. Night transforms the skyline, with spotlights, coloured neons and grids of illuminated office-block windows beyond the inky Yarra; it's a view for hopeless romantics and cityphiles alike. There's an international food hall on the ground floor, as well as boutiques and a collection of specially commissioned sculptures and other artworks.

Southbank



Melbourne

HOTELS

Adelphi Hotel

This discreet Flinders Lane property, designed by Denton Corker Marshall in the early 90s, was one of Australia's first boutique hotels. It helped establish Melbourne's reputation as a design-conscious town, as well as sparking the laneway revolution. Rooms have a warehouse quality, despite spatial limitations. Its fabulous cantilevered rooftop pool juts out above the street and the rooftop club bar has wonderful river views. Its rigid aesthetic can be polarising. The new Hepburn Spa wellness retreat will, on the other hand, please all.

187 Flinders Ln
tel: 8080-8888

Westin Melbourne

An odd mix of ocean liner meets Haussmann-era apartment building design from the outside, inside the Westin gets timeless luxury hotel style right. The any-city lobby, with its high ceilings and sweeping central staircase, is humanised with work by artists such as Bill Henson. Standard rooms feature Country Road furniture and signature (and trademarked) 'heavenly beds'. Not all rooms have spire or treetop views; ask when booking.

205 Collins St
tel: 1800 656 535



© Jason Edwards. Lonely Planet Images.

Windsor Hotel

One of Australia's most famous and self-consciously grand hotels, this five-star example of Marvellous Melbourne-era opulence exudes old-fashioned luxury. Beware those whose Victorian tat meter is set to high; if you don't mind a plump, swagged pelmet or two, you'll love the walk-in robes, large marble bathrooms and the old wing's original high ceilings. Service is exemplary while being refreshingly down to earth.

111 Spring St
tel: 1800 033 100

Majorca Apartment

This is the ultimate in like-a-local living. The Majorca, a single apartment, is one of the city's loveliest Art Deco buildings and watches over a bustling vortex of laneways. It's stylishly furnished, has timber floorboards and the windows are huge. Who needs a concierge when you're right in the centre of things already? There's a two-night minimum and sliding scale according to length of stay; the owners can arrange transfers and provisions if you so desire.

258 Flinders Lane
tel: 9428 8104

Park Hyatt

Resembling a Californian shopping mall from the outside, the interior understands luxury to be about wood panelling, shiny surfaces and miles of marble. Rooms are elegantly subdued, and most come complete with super-sized baths, clever layouts that maximise your chance of seeing natural light and lovely treetop-level views. There's a lavish indoor pool, plus a great tennis court and whiz-bang business facilities. Perfect if you want to be super-close to the city but also have some park-fuelled peace and quiet too.

1 Parliament Sq

FAST FACTS

Population

3800000

Language

English

Currency

Australian dollar
AUD

Money & cost

Australia is relatively affordable; travel will be your biggest expense. Credit cards are widely accepted, and ATMs all over the country accept credit and Cirrus cards. Tipping is common.

When to go

The shoulder seasons are the gems. While Melbourne's spring is glorious, with multitudes of gardens in bloom, any local will tell you that mid-autumn sees the city at its most resplendent.

Electricity

240V
50Hz

Phone

country dialling code: 61
mobile network: GSM 900/1800

Local Cathay Pacific contact information

Reservation numbers: 131747
Check-in counters: Melbourne International Airport,
Central Island Check-in Counters 55-66



Melbourne

LUXE CITY GUIDES RECOMMEND

The following suggestions are selected exclusively for Cathay Pacific by LUXE City Guides, the consummately stylish pocket travel guide, packed with astute, opinionated information for the busy and sophisticated visitor.

Accommodation

The Prince. This compact, pared-back, contempo-minimalist seaside babe houses foodie fave **Circa**, terrace pool, **Aurora** spa and **Mink** bar to keep punters happy. Do note however that that streetside rooms can be a little noisy.

2 Acland St / St Kilda / 9536 1111 / theprince.com.au

Restaurants

The Botanical. Airy and spacious blond wood style space with a fabulous wine wall plus bottle shop (from which you can BYO simply by whacking on \$15). The open kitchen dishes smart, fresh mod Oz fare and **Bubble Bar** at the back is jaunty.

169 Domain Rd South / South Yarra / 9820 7888 / [all day / thebotanical.com.au](http://allday/thebotanical.com.au)

Gill's Diner. Wholesome, mod Euro eats, good wine, soaring ceilings and communal timber tables at this tucked away refectory for city slickers, perfect for mid-retail fuelling.

Gills Alley / off 360 Little Collins St / City / 9670 7214 / lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat / closed Sun

Giuseppe, Arnaldo & Sons. Sexy, low-lit, deconstructed trattoria lined with Sicilian tiles, with a dramatic salumi display and hearty plates. No reservations, but that's the perfect excuse to join the stylistas for pre-prandial tipples at the buzzy front bar or at the alfresco lounge facing the Yarra River.

Crown Complex / 8 Whiteman St / Southbank / 9694 7400 / lunch Tue-Sat, dinner daily / no res / idrb.com

Bar

Seamstress. Once a Chinatown sweatshop, this sliver of a building is now a multi-storey sip n' sup playpen with a pair of bars and a mod Asian restaurant. This savvy, bijou dolly on the second floor filled with jewel-toned silk cheongsams is the cocktail savant's pick.

2/F / 113 Lonsdale St / City / 9663 6363 / Mon-Sat / seamstress.com.au

Spa

Spa @ Adelphi. Keep your chakras and muscles aligned with this slickster's quickies or half-day rituals inspired by local indigenous healing traditions, plus there's a Vichy shower, Turkish Rasul and see-through rooftop pool. Spa-aah...

Adelphi Hotel / 187 Flinders Lane / City / 8080 8888 / adelphi.com.au

Shop

GPO. Pile into this renovated landmark for great Aussie fashion: **Lisa Ho** has vampy outfits; **Akiradoes** floaty Nippon-tinged womenswear; style gals love the funky, colourful bags and chunky jewels by **Mimco**; **Fat** has stocked biggies like Ksubi and Sass & Bide since the early days and continues to give emerging labels lots of lovin'. **Belinda** is a fave of the fash forward for her eclectic imported labels.

350 Bourke St (corner Elizabeth) / City / 9663 0066 / daily / melbournesgpo.com

Activities

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. This campus of the National Gallery of Victoria is home to over 20,000 works by Australian artists in all media. While at Fed. Square, pop into The National Design Centre to scope out the Oz design landscape and sneak in some retail. You'll be dry as Skippy's bum by now, so stay in the Square and take a sip or a snack at Arintji.

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia / Federation Square / City / 8662 1553 / ngv.vic.gov.au

The National Design Centre / Federation Square / City / 9654 6335 / nationaldesigncentre.com
Arintji / Federation Square / City / 9663 9900

Flemington Racecourse. It would be rather churlish not to have a lil' flutter at the races. Melbourne Cup's the biggest event (Nov) but there are plenty of chances for the hats to go on, gals... and they're off!

400 Epsom Rd / Flemington / 1300 727 575 / vrc.net.au

Balloon Sunrise. Start the day drifting over the city in a bladder filled with gas and then chow down on a champagne breakfast. Float n' float, Lo.

Call 1800 992 105 / balloonsunrise.com.au

