



TRAVEL GUIDE
MELBURNE

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Introduction



Today Melbourne is the second-largest city in Australia and the capital of the state of Victoria. Melbourne is built on a coastal plain at the top of the giant horseshoe shaped Port Phillip Bay, which also serves as the mouth of the mighty Yarra River. Located on the southern coast of Australia's eastern seaboard, Melbourne is perhaps Australia's most cultured and politically conservative city. Melbourne features include Victorian-era architecture, bounteous cultural institutions museums, art galleries, theatres and spaciouly landscaped parks and gardens. Its 3.5 million population is multicultural and entirely sports-mad.

A city that prides itself on being a great city. It's hardly surprising, with its spectacular combination of old and new architecture, elegant streetscapes, harmonious ethnic communities and lavish parks & gardens. Include Australia's best dining; an efficient transit system and a packed events calendar and you have all the ingredients for one of the most enlightened and liveable cities in the world.

A lively passion for social eating and drinking, which is reflected in the thousands of restaurants serving up gastro-nomic experiences from around the world. Everywhere you look you will uncover a vast array of fashionable cafes, where you can enjoy Melbourne's existential coffee culture to the fullest.

Melbourne is a style-setter with some of the best shopping and nightlife in Australia. Whether you are searching for haute couture or vintage clothing, sparkling chardonnay, über-chic bars, clubs or jazz venues, Melbourne has it all.

Melbourne's standing as the cultural capital of Australia is authenticated in a non-stop program of festivals, major art exhibitions and musical extravaganzas. The city boasts many sporting spectacles and a range of crowd-pleasing events, from the high-octane excitement of the Australian Grand Prix to the beautiful floral displays of the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

When you venture outside Melbourne, diverse regional areas and attractions proffer dramatic coastal vistas, ski slopes, outback wilderness, vineyards, rugged mountain peaks and enthralling wildlife. Attracting visitors from all four corners of the globe. All attractions are easily accessible, ensuring your Melbourne experience is even more rich and rewarding.



Climate

Melbourne enjoys a temperate climate with warm-hot summers, spring and autumn are balmy and mild, the winters cool. Melbourne is seldom unbearably cold or unbearably hot, temperature extremes when they do occur see the hotter realms of the thermometer causing more problems than the colder.

Voltage

220-240 volts AC

Currency

Australian dollar (AUD) A\$1 = 100 cents

Visa

All visitors, except New Zealand nationals, require a visa before arriving in Australia. For peace of mind, discuss your visa application with your travel agent when planning your trip. Your visa is linked to the passport number in your visa application, so you must use the same passport to travel to Australia. Application forms for several visa types are available from travel agents, online at the Department of Immigration, or from Australian embassies and consulates. The Department of Immigration has an easy to use Find a Visa tool on its website. This will help you check which visa you will need before you arrive in Australia and show you how to apply. The Australian Visitor visa (Subclass 600) is for people travelling to Australia as tourists, for business or to visit family. It is a temporary visa, usually for a three month stay. The estimated time required to process this visa is a minimum of 15 working days, or three weeks. Depending on their travel circumstances, visitors can apply for a single or multiple entry Visitor visa for up to 12 months. Travellers holding a Visitor visa cannot work while they are in Australia, and Visitor visas cannot be used to establish ongoing residence in Australia. The Visitor visa has four streams: Tourist Stream, Approved Destination Status Stream, Business Visitor Stream, and Sponsored Family Stream. For stays of up to three months convenient visa options are an Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601) or eVisitor (subclass 651). Only certain passport holders are eligible for these visas. Check your eligibility at the Department of Immigration's website. There are also student visas for people who want to study. For young people who want to holiday and work in Australia for up to a year, there are two visas - the Working Holiday (subclass 417) and the Work and Holiday (subclass 462). The Department of Immigration's website has more information on these visas.



Shopping

So many people come to Melbourne just for the shopping. This city is known for its fashion style, from the funky to the more conservative chic in the Paris end of town. The city shopping precinct forms a grid, bordered by Flinders St., Exhibition St., La Trobe St. and Queen St., in which the majority of the stores reside. The section of Bourke St. between Swanston St. and Elizabeth St. forms the Bourke St. mall. Two of the Major department stores front doors are located here. This is basically the centre of the shopping district and a great place to start your Melbourne shopping experience. Walk down the lanes and through the arcades, explore the quaint and quirky shops and try the food in the tiny cafes dotted through the cities alleys and shopping centres. Melbourne really has a wonderful coffee culture, which its residents are very proud of. So if you do nothing else relax a couple of times and enjoy a perfect coffee from the abundance of very experienced baristas serving the best quality coffee. You will not have to look far for a quaint coffee shop with a wafting coffee aroma and a comfy seat beckoning you to rest you're shopped out feet. Below is a short list of some areas you may like to visit in the city.

Shopping Centers & Streets

Melbourne has many large shopping centres in its suburbs. These all include supermarkets, fashion, department stores and entertainment all under the one roof. Below is a list with addresses. Included in this section also are several shopping precincts which are very popular. All these are easily accessible by public transport.

Knox Shopping Centre

425 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South

Eastland Shopping Centre

171-175 Maroondah Hwy

Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre

620 Victoria St, Richmond

The Jam Factory

4a/500 Chapel St, South Yarra

Chapel Street Precinct Shopping

Chapel Street, Prahran

Docklands Waterfront City

This area is relatively new and is fast becoming a popular place to shop in a relaxed atmosphere beside the docks. There is a large range of fashion outlets to browse.

Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre

270 Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill

West Field Doncaster

Doncaster Rd.

Northland Shopping Centre

2-50 Murry Rd, Preston

Chadstone Shopping Centre

1341 Dandenong Rd, Chadstone

Brunswick St.

Brunswick St. Fitzroy.

MELBOURNE

Restaurants & Dining



Melbourne will delight the connoisseur, for the culinary traveller Melbourne is one of the best destinations in the world. Melbourne caters to all palates and bestows a smorgasbord of choices upon diners. There is an abundance of affordable, high quality restaurants representing every known cuisine. Delight in Melbourne's local fare always cooked and served with both flair and panache. A thriving café society exists, from early morning; join the locals for brekkie, a gossip or to debate world affairs. Eating out in Melbourne remains noticeably less expensive than in Western Europe, the U.K or the United States. Excellent eateries can be found sprinkled throughout all of the inner suburbs and most of the outer suburbs of Melbourne.

Want a taste of Melbourne? How long have you got! This is a city where there are as many styles as there are chefs, with a culinary diversity as rich as anywhere on the planet. Melbourne's food is a mix of European, Asian and the modern Australian concept; perfectly prepared local ingredients with a hint of traditional techniques. The city is famous for al fresco and sidewalk dining plus its café culture.

Many of Melbourne's precincts have a culinary character all of their own, from the Greek atmosphere of Lonsdale Street or Carlton's 'Little Italy', to the vast choices presented by Chinatown located around Little Bourke Street. Take a stroll over the Yarra River to the Southgate complex, where you can enjoy striking night views of the city while you dine.

You will find something for every palate and price range in Melbourne from fine dining to fast noodles, from focaccia to swordfish. To truly discover Melbourne is to embark on an odyssey of the tastebuds.

