

A guide to Melbourne

Our picks for eating, drinking, exploring and more

forvis mazars



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Foreword

Wominjeka - welcome to Naarm (Melbourne)

Whether you are visiting for business, relocating to Melbourne or joining our local team, this guide has been created to help you navigate life in Melbourne and make the most of your time here.

Wominjeka, a word from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language, means "welcome". Melbourne, or Naarm, is situated on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Eastern Kulin Nation. Their enduring connection to Country, culture and community remains an important part of Melbourne's identity today. At Forvis Mazars, we acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work, and the continuing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Melbourne's story is also one of diversity. Over generations, people from across Australia and around the world have chosen to make this city home, bringing with them their cultures, traditions, experiences and ambitions. Their contributions continue to shape the multicultural, inclusive and globally connected city Melbourne is today. This rich mix of backgrounds, perspectives and communities is one of Melbourne's greatest strengths and a large part of what makes the city such a welcoming place to live and work.

We may be a little biased, but we think Melbourne is the best city in the world.



Forvis Mazars Australia

Foreword

Set on Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne combines the energy of a global business centre with a strong sense of community, an internationally recognised food and cultural scene, world-class sporting events, a thriving arts, music and entertainment scene, and easy access to some of Australia's most spectacular regional destinations. From hidden laneways and historic arcades to modern architecture, beaches, parks and vibrant neighbourhoods, there is always something new to discover.

Melbourne is widely regarded as Australia's sporting capital. Events such as the Australian Open, Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne Cup, AFL Grand Final and Boxing Day Test form part of the rhythm of the city, while galleries, theatres, festivals and live music contribute to a rich cultural life. It is also home to a coffee culture that Melburnians defend with the same passion they reserve for their football teams.

This guide reflects the experiences, recommendations and favourite discoveries of our Melbourne team. Inside, you'll find practical information and local insights covering everything from living and working in Melbourne to dining, entertainment, sport, transport, neighbourhoods and weekend adventures across Victoria. Think of it as a head start from people who live here, work here and genuinely enjoy sharing what makes Melbourne special.

Whether your time here is measured in days, months or years, we hope this guide helps you settle in quickly, discover your own favourite corners of the city and get the most out of your Melbourne experience.

Welcome to Melbourne, welcome to Forvis Mazars, and welcome to a city that we are proud to call home.

Wominjeka.

Christopher Cicutto
Partner, Forvis Mazars in Australia

Forvis Mazars Australia

In numbers

3
Offices

36
Partners

310+
Professionals

$63.9m
revenue (AUD)



Discover Melbourne

Forvis Mazars Australia

Melbourne office

Our Melbourne office is located in the heart of Melbourne CBD at Bourke Place, one of the city's major business precincts. With excellent public transport connections and a wide range of dining, retail and wellness facilities nearby, the office offers convenient access to everything you may need during your stay.

Address

Forvis Mazars
Level 5, 600 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000, Australia
Tel: +61 3 9252 0800
@forvismazars.com

Building access

The office is located on Level 5 of Bourke Place. Visitors can access the building via the main Bourke Street entrance and proceed to the lift lobby. Building concierge is available during business hours to assist with access and wayfinding.

Our opening hours

Monday – Friday: 08:30 - 17:00

Information on arrival

By train: The easiest way to reach the office is via Southern Cross Station, Melbourne's main transport hub, located approximately 5 minutes' walk from Bourke Place. Alternatively, Flagstaff Station is approximately 10 minutes' walk from the office.
By tram: Bourke Place is conveniently located near Melbourne's Bourke Street tram corridor, serviced by Routes 86, 96 and 58.
By car: Limited public parking is available throughout the Melbourne CBD. We recommend using nearby commercial parking facilities if travelling by car.



01 Melbourne essentials



Modes of transportation

Melbourne is home to the world's largest operational tram network, making trams one of the city's most iconic ways to get around. Together with trains and buses, they connect the CBD with neighbourhoods across Melbourne. Here's what you need to know before hopping on.

Trams

Melbourne's tram network makes it easy to travel across the CBD and surrounding suburbs. Outside the Free Tram Zone, tap on with a physical myki (from train stations, convenience stores or 7-Eleven), a digital myki in Google Wallet or, for full-fare travel, a contactless Visa or Mastercard via card, phone or smartwatch. No need to tap off. Travel within the Free Tram Zone is free, with no ticket or tap-on required. More information: www.transport.vic.gov.au/

City Circle Tram

The City Circle Tram (Route 35) is a free and easy way to sightsee around central Melbourne. The heritage tram passes many of the city's main landmarks as it loops around the CBD and Docklands, with onboard commentary sharing stories along the way. No myki, tap-on or tap-off is required.

Trains

Southern Cross Station is Melbourne's main rail hub, connecting to various parts of Melbourne and regional Victoria. Tap on before entering the platform and tap off when you leave your destination station.

Buses

The bus network complements the train and tram system providing convenient access to suburbs, shopping centres and destinations not directly serviced by rail. Tap on when boarding and tap off as you leave the bus.

Taxis and rideshare

For convenient door-to-door travel, Uber and DiDi being the most cost-effective options, are widely available throughout Melbourne. You'll need to download their apps to book a ride.

Lime bikes

Hiring a Lime e-bike is a great way to explore Melbourne at your own pace and see more of the city between stops. Bikes can be found and unlocked through the Lime app. Helmets are compulsory in Victoria, so always wear one when riding.

Melbourne essentials

Practical information

- **Melbourne's traditional Aboriginal name** - Naarm comes from the Woi-wurrung, the language spoken by the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, on whose land Melbourne is located.

Melbourne was formerly known as **Batmania**.

- **Emergency number:** Dial 000 for Police, Fire or Ambulance services.
- **Drinking water**: Tap water in Melbourne is safe to drink and is considered some of the highest quality drinking water in the world.
- **Driving in Australia:** Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road and the driver's seat is on the right-hand side of the vehicle. Kindly refrain from opening the wrong door in a taxi. Be prepared for Melbourne's hook turns - at some CBD intersections, drivers must turn right from the left lane to avoid blocking the trams.
- **The sun is stronger than you think:** Even on days that seem cloudy and cool, UV levels can be high. Sunscreen is most essential.
- **Card payments are the norm:** Most businesses prefer card payments, and many operate cashless. Having a credit or debit card handy is recommended.
- **Power points**: Australia uses Type I electrical plugs with a standard voltage of 230V. International visitors may need a travel adaptor.





Melbourne essentials

Newcomer mistakes

- **Not dressing for "four seasons in one day":** Melbourne is cooler than much of Australia, and morning sunshine does not mean there will be no rain later. Dress in layers and carry a jacket, sunglasses and possibly an umbrella.
- **Skipping quiet laneways**: Melbourne's best cafes and street art are often hidden there.
- **Getting coffee from coffee chains** as opposed to any local coffee shop.
- **Tram etiquette:** Let people off first. A small rule but most polite.
- **Assuming there is an airport train:** Melbourne Airport does not connect to the city by rail, so plan to use SkyBus, a taxi or rideshare service.
- **Tipping culture:** Australia does not have a strong tipping culture. It is appreciated but never expected.
- **Prepare for weekend and public holiday surcharges:** You will be charged a surcharge to cover high operational costs on weekends and public holidays. It's perfectly normal - Expect your brunch to cost a little higher than usual.
- **Thinking Melbourne is just the Central Business District (CBD):** Amazing beaches, wineries and drives are just a tram or car ride away.

Practical tips

Language and Communication

English is the official language in Australia, but sometimes it doesn't feel like it. Australians are masters of shortening words and creating expressions that can be confusing for our guests. The good news is that you don't need to learn them all. Pick up a few favourites, throw in the occasional "mate" or "no worries", and you'll fit right in.

Arvo	Afternoon
Brekkie	Breakfast
Cheers	Thanks
G'Day	Hello
Good on ya	Well done / good for you
Grouse	Excellent, terrific, awesome
Have a sticky beak	Having a close look at something
Heaps	A lot / very
Howyagan	How are you doing?
I reckon	I think
Mate	Friend
No worries	No problem
Old mate	A third person whose name is unknown, forgotten, intentionally omitted
She'll be right	It will be okay
Thongs	Flip-flops
Yeah nah	I disagree

Practical tips

Payments in Melbourne

Australia's currency is the Australian dollar (AUD), divided into 100 cents. Prices are usually shown simply with a dollar sign ($), while A$ or AUD may be used to distinguish it from other currencies. Here's what you need to know when exchanging money and making payments in Melbourne.

Exchange offices

There are several options for exchanging money in Melbourne, including banks, exchange offices, and ATMs. Banks typically offer competitive exchange rates, and ATMs are widely available throughout the city. Be aware that some ATMs may charge additional fees for foreign card transactions.

Cash payments

While cards are commonly used, it's a good idea to have some cash on hand for smaller transactions, as some smaller shops, markets, and cafes may not accept cards. ATMs can be found throughout the city, allowing you to withdraw cash in AUD using your preferred card.

Credit and debit cards

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in Melbourne, especially in larger establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and shops. Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted cards. Contactless payment methods are also popular in Melbourne.

Tipping etiquette

Tipping is not required in Melbourne and is generally not expected. Some payment terminals may prompt you to leave a tip, but this is entirely optional. Keep in mind that restaurants and cafés may apply a surcharge on weekends and public holidays.

02 Explore Melbourne



Explore Melbourne

Beaches

Victoria’s coastline is home to everything from long sandy beaches and sheltered bays to rugged cliffs and surf spots. Whether you’re after a swim, a coastal walk, or simply a place to relax by the water, there are plenty of beautiful beaches to explore across the state.



Brighton Beach

Best known for its colourful bathing boxes, Brighton Beach is one of Melbourne's most photographed beaches. With city skyline views, calm waters and a relaxed coastal atmosphere, it's an easy beach escape. Early mornings and sunset are especially popular for photos.

Getting there: Sandringham line to Brighton Beach Station



St. Kilda Beach

Melbourne's most iconic beach offers city views, waterfront dining and a vibrant atmosphere.
Stroll along St. Kilda Pier, visit the famous Luna Park, explore the nearby cafés and shops, and in the evening, watch the famous little penguins return to shore for free.

Getting there: Tram 16 or 96 from Melbourne CBD

Beaches

Always swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches, as this is the safest area and is monitored by trained lifeguards. Conditions can change quickly, so keep an eye on the water, follow safety signs and never underestimate currents or rips, even when the ocean looks calm.



Half Moon Bay

A calm bay popular with locals, known for its clear water and sandy beach. It's a great spot for swimming, snorkelling or spending a sunny afternoon by the sea. The coastal walk nearby offers beautiful views across the bay. You can also spot the historic HMVS Cerberus shipwreck just offshore.

Getting there: Around 30 minutes by car from Melbourne CBD, or take the Sandringham train line and a short bus ride to the beach.



Ocean Grove & Torquay

Both are classic Victorian beach towns known for their surf culture, cafés and long stretches of coastline. They're ideal for a day of swimming, walking or simply enjoying the ocean views. Torquay is considered the birthplace of Australian surfing and is home to several well-known surf brands.

Getting there: Approximately 1.5 hours by car from Melbourne, or via V/Line to Geelong and a connecting bus.

Beaches

The Australian sun can be surprisingly strong, even on cloudy or cooler days, so make sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses part of your beach essentials. Apply sunscreen before heading outside and remember to reapply regularly throughout the day, particularly after swimming or spending extended time in the sun.



Aspendale Beach

A quieter alternative to some of Melbourne's busier beaches. The long sandy shoreline is perfect for a walk or a peaceful afternoon by the water. It's a favourite with locals looking for a more relaxed beach experience without the crowds.

Getting there: Around 30 minutes by car from Melbourne CBD. Alternatively, take the Frankston train line to Aspendale Station, followed by a short walk to the beach.



Mount Martha Beach

This Mornington Peninsula favourite has clear water, colourful beach boxes and a relaxed coastal feel. It's particularly popular in summer. The nearby clifftop walking tracks offer fantastic views across Port Phillip Bay. Mount Martha village is close by.

Getting there: Approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes by car from Melbourne CBD via the Mornington Peninsula Freeway. Public transport is available via Frankston Station, with a connecting bus to Mount Martha.

Beaches

Think twice before swimming after heavy rain, particularly at Melbourne's bay beaches, as stormwater can affect water quality. EPA Victoria recommends avoiding the water for up to 48 hours after rain and checking the latest beach water quality before going for a swim.



Bushrangers Bay

A hidden gem reached via a scenic coastal walk near Cape Schanck. The effort is rewarded with stunning views and a beautiful secluded beach. The walk is as much a draw as the beach itself, which is unpatrolled and not recommended for swimming.

Getting there: Around 2 hours and 15 minutes by car from Melbourne CBD, followed by a scenic walk from Cape Schanck Lighthouse.



Sandringham

A gorgeous 2.5km coastline, perfect for an afternoon stroll or a whole day of beach fun. Only a short trip from the CBD, Sandringham beach offers dog-friendly areas, popular picnic spots and a perfect bayside trail for a bike ride all in the same sunny place. Located conveniently near public transport.

Getting there: Around 20 minutes south from the CBD by car, and a 40 minute train ride directly to the beach from the city loop.

Parks and gardens

Our parks are part of everyday city life, whether it's a lunchtime walk, a weekend picnic, a run along the Yarra or relaxing under the trees. Many also have free public BBQs, perfect for an Aussie barbecue. From historic gardens near the CBD to native bushland and bayside lookouts, each offers a different way to enjoy the outdoors.



Birrarung Marr

A riverside park in the heart of the city with excellent views of Melbourne's skyline. It's a pleasant spot to walk, relax, plan picnics with the available communal BBQs, or attend major events. The location also makes it a great starting point for a walk along the Yarra River.



Carlton Gardens

Home to the Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens combines historic architecture with landscaped lawns and tree-lined avenues. Its open spaces and ornamental gardens make it a popular spot close to the city.

The City of Melbourne has nearly 480 hectares of parks and gardens. Together, that's around 1.4 times the size of Central Park in New York.

Parks and gardens



Edinburgh Gardens

Located in Fitzroy North, this park is known for its relaxed atmosphere and community vibe. On warm weekends, you'll find people playing sport, having picnics or simply enjoying the sunshine.



Fitzroy Gardens

One of Melbourne's most charming heritage gardens, Fitzroy Gardens has tree-lined paths, colourful flower displays and peaceful atmosphere. It's perfect for a stroll, with historic landmarks and open green spaces.



Flagstaff Gardens

A popular CBD park where office workers and locals gather for lunch and afternoon walks. On sunny days it's one of the city's best picnic spots. Grab a takeaway coffee and you'll fit right in.



Point Ormond Lookout

One of the best places in Melbourne to watch the sunset. On a clear evening you'll get beautiful views over Port Phillip Bay. It's a popular local spot for an evening walk or takeaway coffee.

Parks and gardens



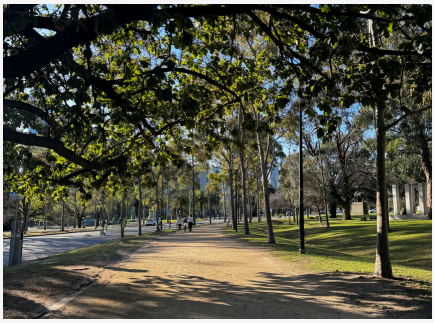
Royal Botanic Gardens

One of Melbourne’s most loved green spaces, perfect for walks, picnics and escaping the city buzz. Beautiful year-round, the gardens are also home to the popular Lightscape winter light show, making them worth a visit day or night.



Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Named one of the world’s 25 must-see gardens by The New York Times, this award-winning garden showcases Australian plants and landscapes. Explore native bushland, walking trails and local wildlife.



The Tan

Melbourne's most famous walking and running track circles the Royal Botanic Gardens. If you're looking for an authentic local fitness experience, this is it. Early mornings and evenings are when it's at its busiest.



Studley Park Boathouse

Set beside the Yarra River in Kew, Melbourne’s oldest public boathouse is ideal for a relaxed day out. Hire a rowboat, enjoy a coffee or explore the surrounding trails.

Explore Melbourne

Markets

Melbourne’s markets are part shopping trip, part local ritual. They are the place to pick up fresh produce, try local favourites, browse vintage finds and spend a relaxed weekend morning among the stalls. Grab a coffee, chat with the traders and take your time discovering what each market has to offer.



Queen Victoria Market

An iconic Melbourne institution with fresh produce, food stalls, souvenirs and specialty shops. The seasonal night markets are particularly popular with locals and visitors alike. Even if you're not shopping, it's worth visiting for the atmosphere and food alone.



South Melbourne Market

Known for its food offering and local atmosphere, this market is smaller than Queen Vic but equally loved. Don't leave without trying a famous South Melbourne Market dim sim. It's one of those food experiences that locals still swear by.

Established in 1867, South Melbourne Market is Melbourne’s oldest continually operating market.

Markets



Prahran Market

One of Melbourne's oldest markets and a favourite among food lovers. It's the place to go for quality produce, specialty ingredients and gourmet treats. Many of Melbourne's best chefs source ingredients here.



Point Nepean Market

Held on selected dates at the historic Quarantine Station, this coastal market features local food, handmade goods, flowers and produce. Leave time to explore the surrounding national park while you're there.



Preston Market

Come hungry to this lively market in Melbourne's north. Browse fresh produce and specialty food stalls, then stay for lunch and explore the mix of traders beyond the food.



Rose Street Artist Market

Fitzroy's weekend market brings together independent artists, designers and makers. Browse handmade jewellery, prints, clothing, homewares and other original pieces, then stop at one of the nearby cafés.

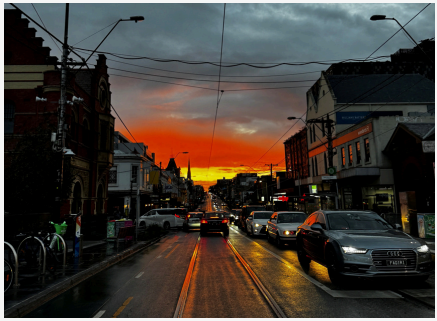
Iconic lanes and streets

Melbourne's lively streets and iconic laneways each reveal a different side of the city, with their own atmosphere, food scene and local favourites.



Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Brunswick Street is the heart of Fitzroy, lined with independent shops, vintage stores, cafés and lively bars. Known for its street art and creative character, it's a great spot to explore day or night.



Chapel Street, South Yarra

Chapel Street is a Melbourne favourite for shopping, dining and nightlife. Browse South Yarra's boutiques, stop for lunch in Prahran or head to Windsor for vintage stores and bars.



Hosier Lane, CBD

Melbourne's best-known street art laneway is covered in colourful murals, stencils and paste-ups by local and international artists. The artwork changes regularly, so there is always something new to see.



Degraves Street, CBD

Just across from Flinders Street Station, Degraves Street is one of Melbourne's best-known laneways. Its small cafés, outdoor tables and constant buzz make it a popular stop for coffee, breakfast or lunch.

Explore Melbourne

Iconic lanes and streets

> Sydney Road, Brunswick

Sydney Road reflects Brunswick's multicultural character, with Middle Eastern bakeries, Mediterranean grocers, vintage shops and live music venues lining the strip. Come for lunch, stay for a gig or browse the shops along the way.

> Hardware Lane, CBD

With outdoor tables, historic buildings and plenty of restaurants, Hardware Lane has a distinctly European feel. Visit for breakfast or lunch, then return in the evening for dinner, drinks and live music.

> High Street, Armadale

High Street is one of Melbourne's most stylish shopping strips, known for fashion boutiques, antique stores and beautiful interiors. Stop for coffee, browse the shops or settle in at one of its wine bars.

> Lygon Street, Carlton

Known as Melbourne's Little Italy, Lygon Street is packed with Italian restaurants, cafés and gelaterias. You'll also find independent shops, Readings bookstore and Cinema Nova along this lively Carlton strip.



03 Cultural highlights



Cultural highlights

Memorable entertainment

Melbourne is renowned for its vibrant year-round events calendar, bringing together major sporting events, cultural festivals, live music and entertainment.
From iconic venues to diverse performers, these experiences showcase the energy, creativity and community spirit that define the city.



Australian Open

The Australian Open is Australia's premier tennis tournament and one of the four Grand Slam events, attracting the world's best players and fans to Melbourne each year.

When? January



Australian Grand Prix

The Australian Grand Prix transforms Melbourne into the centre of Formula 1, with high-speed racing, unrivalled atmosphere, and city-wide excitement.

When? March or April

Melbourne hosted the 1956 Olympic Games, becoming the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to host the event.

Cultural highlights

Memorable entertainment



Melbourne Cup

The Melbourne Cup is such a big part of Melbourne's calendar that it's a public holiday in Victoria, bringing together elite racing, fashion and a vibrant social atmosphere.
When? First Tuesday in November



Queen Vic Night Markets

The Queen Victoria Summer and Winter Night Markets transform the historic market into a vibrant destination for food, entertainment, and unique local finds.
When? Wednesday nights, November - March and June - August



AFL

The AFL is Australia's professional Australian rules football league. Born in Melbourne, the sport is now played nationwide, drawing crowds with competitive matches and iconic clubs.

When? March - September



Moomba Festival

Moomba celebrates the city's culture and diversity with live entertainment, carnival rides, water sports, parades, and family-friendly activities along the Yarra River.

When? Labour Day weekend in March

Cultural highlights

Memorable entertainment



Beyond the Valley

Beyond the Valley is one of Australia's most iconic music festivals, delivering world-class performances, unforgettable moments, and a uniquely vibrant New Year's experience.

When? Late December - New Year's Day



Sidney Myer Music Bowl

For generations, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl has been central to Melbourne's live music scene, hosting memorable concerts, festivals and cultural celebrations.

When? Varies by event



Olympic Park Arena

A major entertainment venue in Melbourne, hosting concerts, live events and sporting competitions in a world-class indoor arena setting.

When? Varies by event



Int. Comedy Festival

One of Melbourne's biggest cultural events, bringing local and international comedians to stages across the city for stand-up, sketch shows and more.

When? March - April

Memorable entertainment



Melbourne Royal Show

The Melbourne Royal Show is a family favourite, bringing together agriculture, entertainment, food, and attractions for all ages.

When? Late September - early October



Carols by Candlelight

One of Melbourne's most beloved Christmas events, celebrating the festive season through music, entertainment, and community spirit.

When? Christmas Eve



National Gallery of Victoria

The NGV brings art and design from Australia and around the world to Melbourne, with exhibitions across its two city galleries.

When? Year-round (exhibitions vary)



Theatres

Melbourne's historic theatres, including the Regent and Princess, host spectacular musicals and captivating plays. Catching a show is a must.

When? Year-round (show dates vary)

Memorable entertainment



The Funky Farm

A boutique zoo in Hastings offering guided tours and close animal encounters, with small groups for a more personal wildlife experience.

When? Year-round



Moonlit Sanctuary

A wildlife conservation park offering close encounters with native Australian animals, plus lantern-lit evening tours to discover their nocturnal world.

When? Year-round



Melbourne Zoo

Close to the CBD, Melbourne Zoo brings together Australian wildlife and animals from around the world among leafy walking trails.

When? Year-round



Werribee Zoo

A safari bus takes you across open plains to see giraffes, zebras and other wildlife, with walking trails to explore afterwards.

When? Year-round

04 Culinary journey



Culinary journey

Melbourne's iconic beverage: coffee

Coffee has been part of Melbourne's culture since the 1880s, when coffee palaces opened as alcohol-free alternatives during the temperance movement.

Italian migration later introduced espresso culture to the city. Pellegrini's Espresso Bar opened on Bourke Street in 1954 and remains one of Melbourne's best-known cafés.

Today, ordering "just a coffee" is a sure way to reveal that you are new here. Learn the essentials: latte, cappuccino, flat white and long black, then try a local favourite, the Magic.

Once you have mastered your order, congratulations, you are officially a local in Australia's coffee capital.

Melbourne cafés tend to start and finish early. When in doubt, get your coffee fix before mid-afternoon - it is the Melbourne way.

"If you're living here, this is where the coffee ends. Every other country wants to be Melbourne."

Agnieszka Rojewska
World barista champion, Amsterdam



Culinary journey

Melbourne's iconic beverage: coffee

Now that you know what to order, it is time to find your go-to spot. From hidden CBD laneway cafés to neighbourhood favourites across the suburbs, there are plenty of places to try.

Our staff's recommendations for the perfect brew in Melbourne:

CBD top picks

- **Patricia Coffee Brewers:** Rear of 493-495 Little Bourke Street, CBD
- **Project Zero Coffee:** 140 King Street or 276 Flinders Street , CBD
- **Culpa Espresso:** 91 William Street, CBD
- **Little Nooky Café:** 62 A'Beckett Street, CBD
- **Fiord:** 11 Gallaghers Place, CBD
- **Puzzle Coffee** (Multiple locations)
- **Hopetoun Tea Rooms est. 1892 (TM):** 421 Bourke Street, CBD

Suburbs' best

- **Campos Coffee:** 572 Chapel St, South Yarra
- **Cheeky Monkey:** 101/103 Swan St, Richmond
- **Core Roasters:** 14 Barkley Street, Brunswick East
- **D.O.C. Delicatessen & Espresso:** 330 Lygon Street, Carlton
- **Market Lane** (Multiple locations)
- **The Bench** (Multiple locations)
- **Wall Two 80:** 280 Carlisle Street, Balaclava



Culinary journey

Melbourne's iconic beverage: coffee



Project Zero Coffee

For a coffee beyond the usual flat white, Project Zero serves locally roasted beans and inventive brews in the heart of the CBD.

140 King Street, CBD



Campos Coffee

This Chapel Street café serves Campos' signature blend and rotating single-origin coffees, alongside pastries and sandwiches.

572 Chapel Street, South Yarra



Little Nooky Cafe

Hidden away in the heart of the CBD, this little café is the perfect place to catch a quiet coffee to escape the bustle of the inner city.

62 A'Beckett Street, CBD



The Lawson Grove Shop

A charming, hidden gem; The Lawson Grove Shop is the perfect place for a quiet coffee and conversation with the locals.

1 Lawson Grove, South Yarra

Culinary journey

Restaurants

Melbourne's culinary scene is very diverse, with an endless list of restaurants, cafés and pubs to explore.

If we wanted to impress a visitor, the list starts here:

- B'Churrasco Brazilian BBQ
- Caffè e Cucina
- Carlton Wine Room
- Charrd
- Chin Chin
- Chotto Motto
- Corniche
- Donovans
- Entrecôte
- Farmer's Daughters
- Geppetto's
- Gimlet
- Grill Americano
- Kisumé
- L'Hôtel Gitan
- Lucy Liu Kitchen & Bar
- Meatmaiden
- MoVida Aqui
- Oriental Teahouse
- Pepe's Italian & Liquor
- Reine & La Rue
- Rockpool Bar & Grill
- Rosa's Canteen
- Rossi Bar
- Rumi
- Saké Restaurant & Bar
- San Telmo
- Shusai Mijo
- Siglo
- Stokehouse
- Supernormal
- The European
- Tipo 00
- Vue de monde
- WoodsYard
- Yan



Culinary journey

Restaurants



MoVida AQUI

Tucked into Bourke Street's business precinct, MoVida AQUI's old-world charm offers modern Spanish cuisine and tapas.

Level 1, 500 Bourke Street, CBD



Oriental Teahouse

Serving dumplings and dim sum to satisfy the hungry locals, Oriental Teahouse is a lively and modern Chinese restaurant.

455 Chapel Street, South Yarra



Supernormal

This Asian-inspired restaurant is known for its vibe and fusion cuisine. With a window to watch the chefs at work and a secret karaoke room; it's an electric experience.

180 Flinders Lane, CBD



Gimlet

A high-end cocktail bar and dining room known for its ambiance and eclectic design, Gimlet is a great place to get a taste of Melbourne.

33 Russell Street, CBD

Culinary journey

Cheap eats / lunch spots

Melbourne's café culture doesn't start and stop with coffee. Scattered around the CBD and beyond, hidden in small shops, or even parked across your favourite public park, are places to grab a bite and relax during the day.

- Bowery to Williamsburg
- FOC
- Göz City
- Luke's Bánh Mì
- Merricks Store
- Nico's Sandwich Deli
- Number 12 Thai
- Pacific House
- Portsea Hotel
- Rice Paper Scissors
- Rock the Wok
- Schmucks Bagels
- Shanghai Shifu Dumpling
- Shark Fin Inn
- SSAM Korean BBQ
- Studley Park Boathouse



Schmucks Bagels



Nico's Sandwich Deli



Rock the Wok



Portsea Hotel



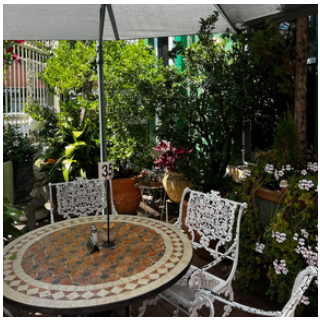
Merricks Store



Studley Park Boathouse

Culinary journey

Best brunch spots



Old Man Drew



Higher Ground



Tarts Anon



Baker Bleu



Operator 25



North Point Cafe

Melbourne brunch is a vibrant and well-loved ritual where long weekend queues form for inventive plates like chilli scrambles and flawless flat whites. It transforms a lazy morning meal into a stylish, social art for locals and visitors alike.

- Baker Bleu
- Dish & Spoon
- Farmer's Daughters
- Higher Ground
- Jake & the Beans Talk
- Joe Frank
- North Point Cafe
- Old Man Drew
- Ondo
- Operator 25
- Tarts Anon
- The Kettle Black

Culinary journey

Best bars and rooftops

Nightlife in Melbourne can be enjoyed at the local pubs and bars you find outside the city, or it can be enjoyed above it all on the rooftops with beautiful views and top tier service. From iconic themed pubs, to jazzy relaxed bars, here's a list of where you might like to begin:

- All Nations Hotel
- Beermash
- Rooftop Bar at Curtin House
- Gin Palace
- Goldilocks Bar
- Good Heavens Rooftop Bar
- HER Bar/ HER Rooftop
- Imperial Hotel Bourke Street
- Kirk's Wine Bar
- Leonard's House of Love
- Loop Roof
- Myrtle Wine Bar
- Naked For Satan
- Parkside Wine
- Runner Up Rooftop Bar
- Rooftop at QT
- Siglo Bar
- State of Grace
- The Provincial Hotel
- Yarra Botanica





Culinary journey

Live sports and a parma

A large part of Melbourne's culture is tucking into a nice parma and watching live sports with mates. Both a great way to meet new people and fill your stomachs, here are some of the best places to take part:

Best spots for parma

- Great Northern Hotel
- Panton Hill Hotel
- Skinny Dog Hotel
- The Birmingham Hotel
- The Grand Hotel Warrandyte
- The Napier Hotel
- The Peacock Inn
- The Royston

Best pubs to watch live sports

- BrewDog Brewery
- Cricketers Bar
- Great Northern Hotel
- Harlow Bar
- Imperial Hotel
- London Tavern
- Mt View Hotel
- Richmond Club Hotel
- Sports Bar at Crown
- Spread Eagle Hotel
- The Peacock Inn
- The Precinct Hotel

05 Active Melbourne



Sport & fitness

Melbourne makes it easy to stay active, with plenty of ways to exercise both indoors and outdoors. Running and cycling are particularly popular, while tennis, swimming, Pilates, gym classes and increasingly padel are great options for staying active and meeting new people.

Social sport is also a great way to get involved when you're new to the city. Look out for local run clubs, social tennis and padel sessions, group fitness classes or community sports leagues; many cater to different levels and don't require you to join a club long-term.

Running

Melbourne is a great city for running, with popular routes including The Tan, Albert Park Lake and the Yarra River trails. For a coastal run, follow the Bay Trail along the foreshore through St Kilda, Elwood and Brighton – it's flat, scenic and easy to adapt to different distances. Melbourne also has a thriving social running scene, with clubs such as EveryRun, Alive Minds, Tanaka Running Club and AM.RC offering a great way to meet other runners.

Tennis & padel

Tennis is easy to play without joining a club, with courts available for casual hire across Melbourne. Central options include Australian Open Tennis Courts, Albert Reserve Tennis World and Flagstaff Gardens Tennis Courts. For padel, try Game4Padel Docklands or Recess Padel Club; many Melbourne padel venues also use Playtomic, where you can join open games if you don't have a group.



Sport & fitness

Pilates

Reformer Pilates is extremely popular in Melbourne, with many popular studio brands offering multiple locations across different suburbs. KX Pilates, CorePlus, Upstate, Strong Pilates and Love Athletica are great options, offering everything from traditional reformer to more athletic, high-intensity classes.
Tip: Take advantage of introductory offers for new clients before committing to a membership. Many studios offer discounted trial periods, making it easy to try different classes and find the style that suits you best.

Golf

Golf is hugely popular in Melbourne, with plenty of public courses across the city. Albert Park Golf Course and Yarra Bend Golf are convenient options close to the CBD, while the famous Sandbelt region is home to some of Australia's best courses. Many venues offer club hire and casual bookings.

Surfing

Victoria is known for its surf culture, with popular spots along the Surf Coast, including Torquay and Ocean Grove. Closer to the city, URBNSURF Melbourne offers consistent waves, equipment hire and lessons for all experience levels, making it an easy option for beginners.

ClassPass

ClassPass is a great option when you're new to Melbourne and want to explore the city's fitness scene. Use your credits to try Pilates, yoga, boxing, cycling, strength training, HIIT, gyms and more at participating venues across the city.



You don't always need a gym membership. Melbourne has plenty of public sports facilities, outdoor fitness stations, running tracks and courts, with many venues offering casual bookings or pay-as-you-go access.

06 Beyond Melbourne



Day trips

Melbourne is a great starting point for exploring Victoria's diverse landscapes, with national parks, coastal trails, forests and mountain ranges all within easy reach of the city. From relaxed walks through native bushland to challenging day hikes and scenic coastal routes, there are plenty of options for every experience level.



Cape Schanck

Known for rugged cliffs and coastal walking tracks, Cape Schanck offers some of the best scenery on the Mornington Peninsula. Keep an eye out for spectacular ocean views along the way. The lighthouse and boardwalk are among the most photographed spots in the region.

Getting there: Around a 1.5-hour drive from Melbourne; driving is the easiest option.



Point Nepean National Park

A mix of history and nature, with walking tracks, beaches and old military fortifications.
It's one of the most scenic destinations at the tip of the peninsula.
Many visitors spend a whole day exploring the coastal trails and historic sites.

Getting there: Best reached by car, an 1.5-2-hour drive from Melbourne, with parking near the entrance.

Day trips

Before heading out, check the weather forecast, trail conditions and any park or road closures, particularly when visiting more remote areas. Conditions can change quickly, so bring enough water, sun protection, suitable footwear and an extra layer, and let someone know where you're going if you're tackling a longer or more isolated trail.



You Yangs

A favourite with hikers and mountain bikers thanks to its network of trails and panoramic views. It's close to Melbourne but feels surprisingly remote. On a clear day, you can even spot the city skyline in the distance.

Getting there: Just over an hour's drive from Melbourne, with several car parks providing easy access to the trails.



Werribee Gorge

One of the state's best day hikes, featuring rocky terrain, river crossings and impressive views. You might even spot kangaroos along the trail. It's a little more challenging than many first-time visitors expect, so come prepared.

Getting there: Roughly an hour from Melbourne by car; public transport options are limited.

Day trips

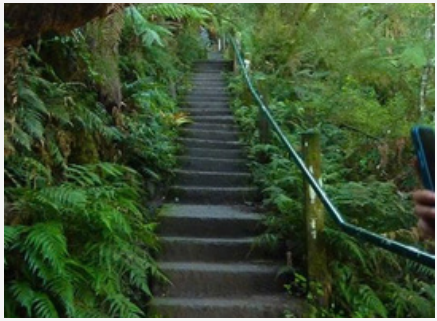
Bushfire risk is part of exploring Victoria's outdoors, particularly during the warmer and drier months. Always check the Fire Danger Rating and local warnings before you leave, and reconsider your plans on high-risk days as parks and trails may close at short notice.



Plenty Gorge

A beautiful natural reserve on Melbourne's northern fringe, with walking trails, native wildlife and a surprising sense of wilderness close to the city. Early mornings are often best for spotting kangaroos and birdlife.

Getting there: Around a 40-minute drive from Melbourne, with several access points and car parks throughout the park.



1000 Steps

A popular fitness trail through the Dandenong Ranges. It's steep in places, but the forest surroundings make the climb worthwhile. Arriving early helps avoid the crowds, particularly on weekends.

Getting there: Easily reached in about an hour from Melbourne by car, or by train to Upper Ferntree Gully followed by a short walk.

Day trips

Not every place on this list makes a comfortable same-day return. Daylesford and Trentham are easy to combine, but the Grampians deserve an overnight stay if time allows. Fuel up before entering remote areas, check park conditions and avoid long country drives after dark.



Daylesford & Trentham

Daylesford is made for a slower day, with mineral baths, good food, galleries and a walk around the lake. Nearby Trentham adds a small country town, forest trails and a 32-metre waterfall that is strongest after winter rain.

Getting there: The drive takes about 90 minutes. V/Line connections are available, but your own transport makes it easier to combine both towns.



Grampians

The Grampians are worth the early start for mountain views, waterfalls, wildlife and Aboriginal cultural sites. Use Halls Gap as your base and choose walks that suit the weather and your fitness rather than squeezing in every lookout.

Getting there: Halls Gap is approximately three hours from the city. Public transport is limited, and staying overnight makes the journey far less rushed.

Day trips

Coastal kilometres take longer than they look. Allow time for viewpoints, beach stops and weekend traffic, and download your route before reception becomes patchy. If the Twelve Apostles are the goal, leave early. The full Great Ocean Road is better explored over several days.



Bellarine Peninsula

Less busy than the Mornington Peninsula, the Bellarine mixes coastal towns, wineries and excellent local produce. Base your day around Queenscliff, Portarlington or Barwon Heads, with beaches and cellar doors nearby.

Getting there: Around 90 minutes from Melbourne, or take the 80-minute ferry from Docklands to Portarlington for a car-free escape.



Great Ocean Road

The road is part of the experience, not just a route to the Twelve Apostles. Expect surf towns, rainforest, clifftop lookouts and plenty of places to pull over.
For one day, choose either Torquay and Lorne or continue to the Apostles.

Getting there: Torquay is around 90 minutes away; the Twelve Apostles about four hours via the coast. Drive or join an organised tour.

Day trips

Some trips are better with one clear plan than ten saved pins. Choose a walk, winery or lunch as the anchor for your day, then add nearby stops. Reserve hot springs and cellar doors ahead, especially on weekends, and expect bigger crowds in the Macedon Ranges during autumn.



Macedon Ranges

Cooler weather, forest walks and country towns make the Macedon Ranges an easy change of pace. Climb Hanging Rock, visit Mount Macedon or plan a long lunch at a local winery. Autumn is especially popular.

Getting there: Roughly one hour via the Calder Freeway. Trains run to Macedon and Woodend.



Mornington Peninsula

Pick a side of the peninsula: calm bay beaches around Sorrento and Dromana, wilder ocean scenery near Cape Schanck, or wineries and farm gates around Red Hill. The hot springs are worth booking well ahead.

Getting there: Travel time ranges from 60 to 90 minutes, depending on your destination.

Day trips

Work backwards from when you want to be home. The Penguin Parade finishes after sunset, while Wilsons Prom is three hours away before you even reach Tidal River. Book popular experiences early and avoid driving at dusk, when wildlife is most active.



Phillip Island

Best known for little penguins returning to shore at sunset, Phillip Island also has rugged coastlines, beaches and wildlife experiences.
Spend the afternoon at The Nobbies or Koala Conservation Reserve before the evening parade.

Getting there: About 90 minutes from the CBD by car. Without one, take an organised tour. Penguin Parade tickets often sell out, so book ahead.



Wilsons Promontory

Wilsons Prom combines white-sand beaches, granite mountains and some of Victoria's best bushwalks. Squeaky Beach is an easy stop, while Mount Oberon offers sweeping coastal views. Pick one area rather than trying to cover the entire park.

Getting there: Allow three hours to reach the park entrance, followed by another 30 minutes to Tidal River. A car is essential.

Day trips

Leave time for spontaneous stops. Small towns, roadside cafés and coastal lookouts can be just as memorable as the main attraction.



French Island

French Island feels surprisingly remote despite being close to Melbourne. Walk or cycle through wetlands, woodland and quiet coastline, with a chance of spotting koalas and native birds. Bring supplies, as facilities are limited.

Getting there: Travel to Stony Point, then take the 10-minute passenger ferry to Tankerton Jetty. Check the timetable before leaving, as services may change with the weather.



Yarra Valley

Victoria's oldest wine region is known for cool-climate wines, cellar doors and long lunches among the vineyards. Healesville Sanctuary, local produce and hot-air balloon flights offer plenty to do beyond wine tasting.

Getting there: Allow around one hour from the CBD by car. Public transport reaches the main towns, but a tour or designated driver is the easiest option for visiting several wineries.

Wineries

Melbourne is surrounded by world-class, cool-climate wine regions offering cellar-door tastings, vineyard dining and beautiful landscapes. From the Yarra Valley to the Mornington Peninsula, there's plenty to explore over a leisurely day trip.



Stonier Wines

A pioneering cool-climate winery in Merricks on the Mornington Peninsula, globally celebrated for its premium chardonnay and pinot noir. Its range spans regional wines and specialised single-vineyard releases.



Dominique Portet Winery

A family-owned estate in Coldstream in the Yarra Valley, this winery blends 300 years of French winemaking heritage with Australian terroir. Visitors can enjoy guided tastings at the cellar door or simply take in the breathtaking views.

Victoria has more individual wineries than any other Australian state, with over 800 wineries and around 600 cellar doors.

Wineries

From boutique family-owned vineyards to award-winning wine estates, Victoria's wineries offer a diverse range of tasting experiences. Whether you're looking for premium cool-climate wines, gourmet dining, or picturesque scenery, there's a winery to suit every taste.



Mitchelton Wines

Set on the banks of the Goulburn River in Nagambie, Mitchelton has been crafting wines since 1969. Known for its shiraz and riesling, the estate offers relaxed cellar door tastings surrounded by vineyards, with its distinctive Ashton Tower overlooking the grounds.



Zonzo Estate

A family-owned winery, as well as a traditional Italian restaurant; Zonzo Estate is an award-winning venue and working farm. A beautiful place to enjoy relaxing wine tastings and authentic delicately curated food.

Other notable wineries

- Brown Brothers
- De Bortoli Yarra Valley Estate
- Domaine Chandon
- Helen & Joey Estate
- Jackalope Rare Hare
- Levantine Hill
- Montalto
- Oakridge Wines
- Pt. Leo Estate
- Seppelt Wines
- Soumah Wines
- TarraWarra Estate
- Tokar Estate
- Yering Station

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