



# A food and music day in Fitzroy

## **Fitzroy, Melbourne, 7 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Fitzroy is the bohemian center of Melbourne and a hotbed of activity. Filled with a myriad of bars, pubs and restaurants, there is always something on, guaranteed to fill the senses. This tour is for those that want to experience the real Fitzroy, from tiny cafes that have recently opened to old school backstreet pubs that serve enormous meals.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Melbourne, Fitzroy

**DAY NOTE:** Start the day off right with a grand breakfast at Babka Bakery Cafe which is a Fitzroy institution serving up Eastern European fare. For lunch head to Sonido and enjoy some Colombian arepas but don't forget to try the hot chocolate. For dinner, there is no better old school option than heading to the Napier Hotel and ordering one of their mammoth Bogan Burgers (yes you can share it with two). The Rose Hotel is ideal to catch a game of Aussie Rules Football on TV with the locals, before heading to Bar Open which has an electric mix of live music every night of the week. End the day at the nearby Fitzroy Bed and Breakfast for a comfy night sleep.



### Babka Bakery Cafe

A real delight



### Sonido

Lively Colombian Cafe



### Napier Hotel

Backstreet pub known for its huge portions of food and easy going atmosphere. One of Fitzroy's most historic and well loved pubs.



### Rose Hotel

Great pub to watch AFL Football.



### Bar Open

Great little place to see some bands



### Fitzroy Bed and Breakfast

Backstreet living

## Day 3 - Fitzroy



### Napier Hotel

Backstreet pub known for its huge portions of food and easy going atmosphere. One of Fitzroy's most historic and well loved pubs.

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**contact:**  
tel: 61 3 9416 0091

**location:**  
358 Brunswick Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3065

**hours:**  
Tu-Su 7a-6p

## 1 Babka Bakery Cafe

**DESCRIPTION:** Babka means Grandmother in Russian, and you'd be forgiven judging by the smells of the bakery out the back upon entering that you'd stepped into a kitchen full of delicacies. Everyone has their favorite dish, from the delectable pastries straight from Eastern Europe to the mammoth sandwiches that provide excellent hamper options if picnicking in the nearby Edinburgh Gardens. The standout however has to be the corn beef option which is a weekly ritual to many. The exotic pies come out around lunchtime and sell out extremely fast so expect a line around midday. Not sure if it's on purpose and I'm sure it wouldn't hurt sales, but the mostly female staff seem to be young, slim and attractive. It's best to get takeaway on Sundays morning as locals ease their sore heads by the bucket load. © NileGuide



avlxz

**contact:**  
tel: 0404 621 946  
<http://www.sonido.com.au>

**location:**  
69 Gertrude Street  
Fitzroy VIC 3065

## 2 Sonido

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The arepas are great, but the empanadas are just as good.

**DESCRIPTION:** Not to be confused with "noise" the English translation of Sonido is "sound", which is fitting because this effortlessly cool café is about chilling out to the soft tunes of South America. Owned and operated by a young Colombian couple, the café primarily serves arepas, which are round corn breads that can be stuffed with a myriad of ingredients including cheese, beans, and shredded beef. The beef and olive empanadas are also a house special. Perhaps the shining light is the Colombian hot chocolate, which can be ordered by the jug. Sticky and sweet, it's the best conclusion to a meal. The café itself is full of retro furniture and old Latino album covers, which suits the no fuss surrounds. © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: (03) 9419 4240  
http://www.thenapierhotel.com

**location:**

210 Napier St  
Fitzroy VIC 3065

**hours:**

Open Mon-Thu 3pm-11pm;  
Fri-Sat 12pm-1am; Sun  
1pm-11pm

**3 Napier Hotel**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Order the cult like Bogan Burger and see if you can finish it.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Napier Hotel is a Fitzroy institution, hidden within the backstreets though opposite the grandiose Town Hall. Covered with Fitzroy Football Club memorabilia, the small beer garden is perfect for those summer nights, and the range of craft beer on tap is impressive (try the 3 ravens made nearby in Thornbury). But most will come for the huge portions of food, namely the Bogan Burger which consists of a chicken schnitzel, sirloin steak, potato cake, egg, pineapple, bacon, cheese, beetroot, tomatoes, onions, egg in Turkish bread with a side of wedges and salad. Diners have traveled from interstate just to taste one. Never pretentious and always welcoming, the Napier should be the first port of call in Fitzroy. © NileGuide



David Jackmanson

**contact:**

tel: (03) 9417 3626

**location:**

406 Napier Street  
Fitzroy VIC 3065

**4 Rose Hotel**

**DESCRIPTION:** The quintessential Fitzroy footy pub. When people ask what did Fitzroy used to be like, simply direct them to this absolute backstreet gem. The kitchen, which is open all day, is known for offering incredibly cheap (most meals are around \$12) but hearty meals, including a great pork roast though the lambs fry is just as good. Many will fight just to sit outside on the street as the sun begins to fade though when AFL football starts on the TV, the Rose will be packed. It's also the unofficial home to Western Australian supporters living in Melbourne so check the fixture for a guaranteed great night out. © NileGuide



editor

**contact:**

tel: +61 3 9417 2326  
http://www.baropen.com.au

**location:**

317 Brunswick Street  
Melbourne VIC 3065

**5 Bar Open**

**DESCRIPTION:** This funky little bar is especially popular with the university student crowd wishing to see bands upstairs. Usually free, the different assortment of performances on offer is incredible diverse. From avant-garde improvised music to 1960's surf tunes, you'll be sure to experience something different. The front bar is great to prop up and have an ale, while the tiny beer garden is a refuge for those that want a bit of fresh air, though it might be overrun with smokers. On Mondays, cult movies are often shown. There is also a gallery space that has permanent collections, offering supporting local artists. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Bar Open

**contact:**

tel: (03) 9489 9661  
<http://www.fitzroybedandbreakfast.com.au/>

**location:**

45 St Georges Road South  
Fitzroy VIC 3068



## Fitzroy Bed and Breakfast

**DESCRIPTION:** This property is ideal for those that want to experience the best of Melbourne's inner northern suburbs. Fitzroy, Carlton and Collingwood are known as the lifeblood of the town's art, food and nightlife scene, and with easy walking distance to everything guests can sample the relaxed life that the locals enjoy. Situated in a beautiful tree lined street, the property consists of a delux queen size 3 roomed suite, relaxed back garden and private court yard area. There is also a state of the art kitchen, wifi and a computer is supplied. A light or banquet breakfast can be provided, as can dinner with the hosts. A great option if tourists want to envelope around Melbourne's bohemian center. © NileGuide



Courtesy of Fitzroy B&B

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David Jackmanson

# Melbourne Snapshot

## Local Info

Melbourne is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, and visiting certain suburbs often leads to discovering its migrant history as well their beliefs and culinary talent. Melbourne might not be as glitzy as other destinations but as the cultural center of Australia, one could easily spend a few months, joining the locals in their laid back, food conscious, coffee addicted, sports crazy lifestyle.

### The Central Business District

At first glance the CBD might look a little sterile, but those who venture down the many alleyways and hidden nooks will discover a treasure trove of interesting spaces. Boutique stores, artists hubs, unmarked bars, and comfy little restaurants are just some of the things on offer, away from the crowds. The "Paris end" of town, at the top of Collins street, has many grand buildings including the majestic Windsor Hotel, and is the home to major fashion brands. Chinatown on little Bourke st, is one of the oldest in the world, and is lined with cheap dumpling houses and Peking duck stores. Nearby the David Jones and Myer stores offer a huge range of clothing and accessories, as does the budget friendly Queen Victoria Market. Near the picturesque Flinders St Station is Federation Square, the unofficial center of the city, which plays hosts to festivals and exhibits throughout the year. On the CBD's eastern border the Fitzroy Gardens are an ideal respite, and the Melbourne Cricket Ground is just moments further.

### Southbank

In the last ten years Southbank has become Melbourne's entertainment hub due to the huge and glitzy Crown Entertainment Complex. Whether you love it or hate it (many do both) it's hard not to be impressed with its non-stop action including bars, nightclubs, cinemas, world renowned restaurants and of course, the casino that never sleeps. For something a little more tranquil, the Melbourne Aquarium has thousands of creatures and the Victorian Arts Center is close by for those that crave some higher art.

### Prahran & South Yarra

Bring your wallet, especially on Chapel St which is lined with designer boutique

clothing stores and is full of Melbourne's beautiful set. The area also has many nightclubs though a common occurrence when the sun goes down is to get into a "doof doof" car and circle the streets for hours, advertising mobile numbers on "for sale" signs attached to back windows. The Commercial Rd area is a popular gay district with many bars and nightclubs.

### St Kilda

St Kilda is a backpacker favorite due to its bay-side location, but in all fairness, the beach is average at best. What really attracts is the sidewalk culture of cafes, pubs and cheap food on Acland and Fitzroy Streets. It is also a prostitution hub, though this mostly occurs down backstreets.

The Esplanade Hotel is one of the country's best live music venues, and Luna Park is a historic funfair that is still popular with new generations of children. The weekend craft market is also worth a visit.

### Docklands

This newly developed area has yet to win over the Melbourne public so it may seem quite dead, except for when the footy is on at the Etihad Stadium, when thousands suddenly swarm to it. With improving transport connections, and array of new restaurants being built, especially on the World Trade Center district, the area does show promise. The jury is still out on this one.

### Carlton

As the chosen suburb for thousands of Italian immigrants last century, Carlton is the home of Melbourne's Mediterranean cuisine. Most can be found on Lygon st, with its delicatessens, gelati shops and old school pasta places dotted amongst elegant terrace houses. The suburb also has a very active student scene with the state's most prestigious university, University of Melbourne located here. This means that during semester cafes, pub and parklands will be buzzing with life. It also means cheap Asian fare is available, mostly on Swanston St. The Carlton Gardens sits next to the Royal Exhibition Building and the Melbourne Museum which are all worthy of a visit.

### Fitzroy & Collingwood

These two working class suburbs have emerged in recent times to become the

bohemian center of Melbourne. With their array of classic back street pubs, trendy bars, cosmopolitan restaurants, and live music haunts, the area is incredibly popular with those that like to socialize. Shopping is also a highlight as while Fitzroy has many designer clothing stores, Collingwood has an excellent array of direct to the public shopping warehouses and vintage clothing shops. It is also the unofficial Lesbian hub with a few great pubs, that cater to all people. The Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy is a great place to see some greenery and have a picnic. Take note: Collingwood Football Club is the most popular (and hated) in the country.

### Williamstown

This suburb resembles a picturesque English seaside town with its grand buildings, quaint port and slow pace. At weekends many tourists take the ferry from Southbank for a day (train is also available), undoubtedly enjoying fresh oysters from the pier at lunchtime.

### Richmond

This suburb is extremely diverse with a multitude of cultures. Victoria Street is known as "Little Saigon" with its many Vietnamese Pho (soup) stores and duck restaurants. Bridge Rd is a shopping hotspot with factory outlets dotted with a few boutique stores along the way. Swan St and surrounds has some great pubs, due to its close proximity to the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Main Yarra Trail Bike Path also borders the suburb.

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## History

Melbourne's story is one of a bayside settlement that grew beside a river to become one of the world's most exciting cosmopolitan cities. From the humble beginnings of a few tents and bark huts, the city has experienced boom and bust periods, gold fever, two world wars and an influx of immigrants. It is today a vibrant cultural melting pot loved dearly by all who live there.

### Beginnings

Melbourne today is a major seaport located midway along the state of Victoria's

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

southern coast at the top of Port Phillip Bay, and at the mouth of the Yarra River. Prior to European settlement, the Kooris of south-eastern Australia had lived a semi-nomadic life in the area for at least 40,000 years. The oldest site of continuous occupation yet found in Australia lies in the Melbourne suburb of Keilor.

For more than two decades after the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney in 1788, colonial settlers ignored the region around Port Phillip Bay. Only sealers and whalers worked the coast but rumors of good pasture land eventually caused land seekers from other colonies to try their luck. In the spring of 1835, John Batman and John Pascoe-Fawkner established rival camps on opposite banks of the Yarra River. Other settlers soon followed with sheep and cattle, and the district grew rapidly. The government based in Sydney accepted they could not stop the influx, so in September 1836 they officially declared the Port Phillip district open to settlement. Lord Melbourne, the Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time, gave his name to the infant city.

By 1837 the distinctive grid pattern of the streets was established with wide roads and grand boulevards leading out of the city. Unusually for the times, land was reserved for the the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Fitzroy, Flagstaff and Treasury Gardens, and today's inhabitants are grateful for such foresight.

In contrast to most other Australian cities, this was no penal colony and free men, not convicts, were the first settlers. The growth from frontier town to colonial metropolis was rapid. Settlers already had businesses or property elsewhere, and many merchants and professional men were able to bring capital for investments, but artisans and laborers also chanced their luck. The busy port became the center of activities—Melbourne was a commercial city from its inception. Businesses clustered around the wharves where ships brought mail, bank drafts, immigrants and goods. By the 1860s Melbourne's population rivaled that of Chicago.

Market gardens and orchards, fields of wheat and oats, and small dairy farms ringed rural early Melbourne. Areas such as Fitzroy and St Kilda supported grazing, farming and horticulture.

### Gold and Prosperity

When gold was discovered nearby in 1851, Melbourne's population halved as people left to seek their fortunes on the Victorian goldfields. The regional towns of Bendigo and Ballarat saw an influx of immigrants from Britain, Europe, China and America. Although some intermarriage with the Chinese occurred, ethnically Australia remained predominantly British. Irish, Scots, Welsh and English all mixed without enmity on the goldfields, in contrast to the political tensions they had left behind. Despite the decline in population, Melbourne remained the major city of the colony and here life was far more open and egalitarian than in class-ridden Britain.

Between 1851 and 1861 one third of the world's gold was produced in the state of Victoria. Such wealth led to the growth of cultural institutions such as the University of Melbourne(1854), the National Gallery of Victoria(1861), the State Library(1864) and many professional societies. The city offered churches, theaters(such as the Princess Theatre built in 1854), clubs and sports—notably horse racing, cricket, and football. The arts flourished. The fledgling government believed in conservation and education and in 1872 the historic Victorian Education Act made schooling compulsory and tuition free.

When a visiting journalist coined the phrase "Marvellous Melbourne" in 1885, it was in recognition of the stature of the city. Here was the center of Australian colonial administration, manufacturing and commercial activity. People enjoyed the excitement of Melbourne—its busy streets, the rapid development and entertainment. Between 1880 and 1890 Victoria boomed. An increase in immigration led to suburbs spreading east of the city. Soaring land values did not prevent the erection of mansions or the building of lavish theaters.

The thriving wheat, dairy and wool industries helped keep the state afloat when economic depression hit Australia in the 1890s.

### The Twentieth Century

The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed in 1901, and until a decision was made about a capital city for the Federation and a fitting Parliament House erected, parliament met in Melbourne until 1927. The state sent 112,000 people to World War One and Melburnians later struggled through the Great Depression and the Second World War.

The need for a population increase and a labor force saw many British, Yugoslav, Dutch, German, Arab and Maltese migrants arrive after 1945. Seeking a new life after the ravages of the war, such immigrants were encouraged by government incentives to journey to the end of the earth. The cultural life of Melbourne was changed forever. People from Italy and Greece arrived in the 1950s and 1960s. Throughout the world, only Athens and Salonika now have larger Greek populations! Refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam made Melbourne their home in the 1970s and 1980s and were joined by people from India, the Philippines and Malaysia. Our latest wave of immigrants comes from North Africa.

Melbourne thrives on the gifts these people have brought—eating habits, religions, cultures, races and languages. It is this culture of diverse backgrounds that gives 21st century Melbourne its unique and endearing character.

©

### Hotel Insights

Melbourne was founded less than 170 years ago with the declaration "this will be the place for a village." These were humble beginnings for a city now populated by over three million, and which has accommodation choices as rich as any city twice the size. Melbourne has long been Australia's intellectual and arts capital and has recently become the continent's

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

major "event" city- this unique position has given her hoteliers an understanding of the varied needs of the traveler. Melbourne is a city of extremes and contrasts, full of obvious delights and hidden treasures. Her accommodation is no different, ranging from five-star flash to hole in the wall surprises.

The best approach to visiting Melbourne is to know what you want from your stay, then locate yourself appropriately. For a corporate business trip, or if you just want to be in the living heart of the city, Melbourne's central business district is the place to be. If you are in search of nightlife, glamor or a more Hollywood approach to business, South Yarra and Toorak in the city's east will serve you well. For affordable accommodation with access to pubs and live music, or more expensive beachside hotels, St Kilda may be the best choice.

### Central Business District

Melbourne is a bay side city that does not always feel like a bay side city! Unless you are actually in a seaside or riverside locale, the general impression is of an inland metropolis. The proximity of the city center to the Yarra River is not readily apparent until you suddenly realize you are standing on a bridge or the view from your window includes a water taxi. The city is an exciting mix of old and new- its architecturally exciting aquarium sits next to a tram line that still runs 80 year old cars. The Rialto Building (until recently the tallest building in the hemisphere) towers over a number of 100-year-old churches. Internet-connected information kiosks sit beside National Trust classified horse troughs.

Melbourne's central business district is home to numerous theaters, two universities, dozens of bars and restaurants and a diverse range of shops and department stores. In the two square kilometers of Melbourne's city center there are over 50 establishments offering accommodation. If your needs tend to a more traditional business setting, the modern high-rise of the Grand Hyatt at the other end of Collins Street will undoubtedly suit. For a hipper, cutting edge hotel where all rooms are suites, the boutique Adelphi

Hotel, with its glass bottomed rooftop pool jutting out over the street, is the one.

On the eastern city fringe, surrounded by gorgeous parkland and close to the Cricket Ground, Melbourne's favorite sporting venue, is the Hilton on the Park.

On the city's southern fringe, just over the Yarra River, is the recently developed Southbank. The jewel in the crown (or the fly in the ointment depending on who you talk to) is the city's Crown Entertainment Complex, home to the Crown Towers.

Swanston Street runs through Melbourne's heart. When it crosses the Yarra it becomes St Kilda Road, a massively wide, tree-lined boulevard, peppered with a number of solid four-star hotels such as the St Kilda Road Parkview Hotel and Sebel on its four-kilometer journey to...

### St Kilda Seaside

St Kilda is an enigma. Is it an upmarket, gentrified haven for the upwardly mobile? Is it a Mecca for groovy artistic types with more taste than budget? Is it a sleazy hangout for the thriving local music scene? Of course it is all these things and whatever else you can imagine. Some feel St Kilda is a little grungy, others prefer to think of it as earthy and vibrant. There are almost 200 restaurants and cafés within walking distance of each other.

St Kilda is the home of affordable backpacker hostels, two of the most famous being Coffee Palace Backpackers and Enfield House. At the other end of the scale are the boutique hotels. The Prince has an enviable location at the corner of St Kilda's two main streets, Acland and Fitzroy, and spectacular views of the ocean and the city skyline. If the Phillippe Starck fittings and commissioned artworks are not to your taste you could always try the retro styling of Tolarno's.

Running parallel to St Kilda Road is Kings Way, featuring Eden on the Park. Nearby is Albert Park Lake, home of the Australian Grand Prix. Even outside race time this is a beautiful area to stay, surrounded by parkland, lakes and golf courses, and with

easy access to both the city proper and St Kilda.

### South Yarra & Toorak

Decidedly international in flavor, the leafy, bustling streets of South Yarra and Toorak are renowned for shopping, dining and real estate prices. It is in the heart of South Yarra that the seemingly never-ending shopping strip that is Chapel Street intersects Toorak Road. Here you will find the Hotel Como, plus a number of short term apartment complexes- you could try Punt Hill Serviced Apartments.

### Alternatives Elsewhere

In addition to these more frequented visitor districts, Melbourne has a wide selection of hotels and motels scattered across its hilly suburbs. For example the Glenferrie Hotel has easy access to the shopping districts of Burke Road and Kew Junction. If the bohemian atmosphere of the inner northern suburbs of Fitzroy and Carlton appeals, you might consider Elizabeth Tower, close to the fantastic dining and nightlife of Brunswick and Lygon Streets.

Melbourne's accommodation is spread right across her districts and available in all varieties and at a range of budgets. Location is important and with a little investigation into the different areas of the city, you will end up right where you want to be. Enjoy your stay!

©

### Restaurants Insights

Melburnians love food. If one thing sets Melbourne apart from almost all other cities in the world, it is the outstanding quality, variety and affordability of its food and drink. Melbourne's thousands of restaurants and cafés feed the city's millions with nearly every cuisine imaginable.

While some of the best places can be tucked away in the nooks and crannies of the city, it is not particularly difficult to find good food anywhere. It is actually harder to find a bad meal than it is to stumble upon a great find! Just walk down the street and take your pick of cafés, restaurants, bars and takeaway outlets. Ambiance is as important as the food, and style is simply

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

a way of life in Melbourne, so expect to find the most popular places in the city's famous streets and districts, each known for a specific approach to lifestyle, fashion or food.

### Brunswick Street

In the north of the city, Brunswick Street has become a weekend favorite for long, languid brunches enjoyed in a distinctly inner city, urban environment. The best cafés have been established for years—such as Marios and The Fitz. Newer arrivals such as Retro Cafe and Umago are sneaking up the popularity stakes. These eateries are well patronized and serve up huge, hearty delectable brunches (all day and all night) using the local fresh produce to its best advantage. Brunswick Street is a sanctuary for Melbourne's fringe dwellers and arts community, so be prepared to meet street performers, joke tellers, fire twirlers and many other colorful locals.

### Lygon Street

The first wave of Italian immigrants claimed this area as their domain and it remains so today. Any celebration of Italian culture takes place here—festivals, food, fashion and the Italian sense of fun. Many of the eateries are without pretense, simply serving good wholesome Italian food the way mama used to cook it. Places like Tiamo and Brunetti have remained the same since the day they opened and can be relied on for quality at a reasonable price. Santinos Terrace is ideal for that extra special treat.

### Victoria Street

If you are traveling to the east of Brunswick Street, chances are you will stumble into Victoria Street and wonder if you are still in Australia. A wonderful example of Melbourne's cultural diversity, Victoria Street is a hectic and exciting strip of Vietnamese restaurants, businesses and street traders. People scurry to and fro and locals flock here to enjoy incredibly quick, cheap eats which are guaranteed to fill the belly. Restaurants such as Tho Tho's, Thy Thy I and The Huong have thrived in this area on quick turnaround and word of mouth.

### Central Business District

With abandoned warehouses being turned into slick, modern apartments, the city of Melbourne is no longer a place just

for weekday business lunches. Groovy cocktail bars, such as the Gin Palace, Hairy Canary and Melbourne Supper Club are springing up in the back alleyways to accommodate the chic set who call the city center their home. There are numerous examples of fine dining in the city center that cater specifically for the Melbourne professional—Grossi Florentino, Marchetti's Latin and Tuscan Grill are all celebrated establishments.

### Chinatown

Where would any hungry city be without a Chinatown? Situated on Little Bourke Street in central Melbourne, Chinatown is a significant attraction of Melbourne, seeing little change over the years since the first Chinese came to make their fortunes on the goldfields. Traditionally, Chinatown is Sundayyum cha, yet Melbourne's Chinatown reflects the city's all day, all night eating attitude. The choice is wide, from restaurants that are a treat to the pocket as well as the tastebuds, to Chinese dining at its most magnificent—Flower Drum. Along with the restaurants, Chinatown also has many grocers and specialty shops, as well as a Chinese Museum.

### Southbank

While Southbank may exude commercialism in a way that is quite unusual for Melbourne, the food and entertainment in this area have proved to be very successful. Visitors can choose from classy and more costly to fast, funky and affordable (Blue Train). The Crown Entertainment Centre, with its many offerings, is hugely popular. Southbank also acts as a gateway to many tourist attractions such as the Melbourne Aquarium, Victorian Arts Centre and Polly Woodside.

### Chapel Street

Fashion is the key when heading to Chapel Street. Be seen (and make sure you have reason for people to look) on this trendy strip of designer clothes and all-that-is-hip. Expensive cars cruise Chapel Street at night but it is just as popular during the day when the beautiful people shop and enjoy long lunches over wine and coffee. The eateries are specially designed to complement the clientele with attitude and accouterments to match. Try out Caffe Sienna, Caffe e Cucina and Kush.

### Acland Street

St Kilda exudes the relaxed, kickback culture of the seaside all year round and has grown as another arts center within Melbourne. Acland Street is at the heart of this culture—a place where you can savor the best coffees and eat the most delicious, kilojoule-laden, continental cakes in town. Many of these cafés are without presence (La Roche Cafe), but others are tailored for a more groovy crowd (Big Mouth). On Sundays, enjoy the shopping on Acland Street then peruse the crafts at the Esplanade Market.

### Fitzroy Street

Just around the corner from Acland Street, Fitzroy Street could be considered the main drag of St Kilda with its broad avenue leading down towards the beach. In the past Fitzroy Street gained a reputation as one of the seedier areas of Melbourne, but has now been claimed by the young arty set. Restaurants, cafés and bars, such as Sapore, Mink and Leo's Spaghetti Bar, make Fitzroy Street the place to eat, while still retaining its old street life charm.

Restaurants may come and go in this culinary crazed city, but the hospitality industry is thriving. Enjoy!

©

## Nightlife Insights

With a lively cultural life, a wide selection of clubs and bars, a restaurant for every cuisine, one of the world's biggest casinos, a multitude of festivals and events and a rich theater tradition, there is no excuse to be bored in Melbourne! The city that was once noted as a somewhat dour after-hours town has quietly transformed itself into an entertainment hub, with a nightlife that many larger cities would envy.

To keep abreast of what is going on, check the free street press—Beat magazine and Inpress which come out every Wednesday. Both are available from many music stores, cafés and pubs, and contain comprehensive listings for the week's entertainment. Alternatives are the daily newspaper The Age's green guide (Thursday) or the Victoria Visitor Information Centre.

### Bars & Pubs

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

English-style pubs have traditionally been the bedrock of Melbourne's entertainment scene, and the city is blessed with a multitude. Every area will have one, and they range from the grungy Punter's Club to more elegant venues. There are traditional watering holes—Old Colonial Inn or the quirky Builder's Arms—and Melbourne institutions such as The Esplanade. Usually opening in the afternoon and shutting around midnight or later, many serve food as well as providing beer gardens, satellite television, pool tables or live music.

Recently, a slew of stylish, intimate bars have evolved in the lanes and alleyways of the central business district. They draw an eager crowd of after-work drinkers and stay open until late. Try Spleen on Bourke Street, or just head off and find one of your own—they seem to pop up in little recesses of the city overnight!

### Live Music

Melbourne is widely regarded as the live music capital of Australia. Everyone who is anyone in the Australian music scene plays here regularly, and almost-legendary venues such as the Punter's Club and The Espy are packed every night with band-goers looking for old favorites or the next big thing. The favored style is grungy alternative rock, but there is also a fledgling funk/jazz/hip hop community. International touring acts, from obscure cult artists to superstars, regularly visit. Tickets are usually handled by the main agencies, Ticketek and Ticketmaster.

Those with more discerning musical tastes will enjoy the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Opera Australia, the brilliant 85-piece Australian Pops Orchestra or the delightful Australian Boys Choir.

### Nightlife

Melbourne's club scene is large and varied but concentrated in a few different districts. King Street, in the city center, is home to several large and well-known establishments. South Yarra, around Chapel Street, attracts a hipper crowd to venues such as Revolver, The Viper Room, while Brunswick and Smith Streets

in Fitzroy cater to a more bohemian, alternative crowd with smaller venue—the Night Cat and Planet Afrik for jazz, African and Latin music. St Kilda, home to Monkey, Twister and the Prince of Wales, is also a lively part of town. The Crown Entertainment Complex is home to a variety of establishments, from cabaret to wine bars, a jazz club and the popular Heat discotheque. Its casino is one of the largest in the world, and it also houses a five-star hotel and a plethora of shops and restaurants on the southern bank of the Yarra River.

### Gay Scene

Melbourne's thriving gay scene is mostly centered around slick Commercial Road in South Yarra, near the corner of Chapel Street. There is also a gay patch around Smith Street in Fitzroy and Collingwood, home to establishments like the cruisy Peel, the Laird leather bar, alternative rock venue Q&A and the Glasshouse pub. Unfortunately, as in most cities, men are much better catered for than women. Detailed listings as well as news, personal ads and the like can be found in the free gay press, the weekly Melbourne Star Observer and the fortnightly Brother Sister, which can be picked up at venues and also in many bookshops and cafés. Keep an eye out for various events held throughout the year such as Midsumma Festival, Queer Film and Video Festival and the ALSO dance parties.

### Theater and Cinema

Melbourne's lively theater scene offers everything from experimental works to mainstream Broadway-style blockbusters like Miss Saigon or Phantom of the Opera. What is more, the city can offer them in truly beautiful and historic theaters such as Her Majesty's and the Princess Theatre.

Ballet and dance are as good as any in the world and The Australian Ballet performs 160 shows a year to packed houses. For something a bit more funky, Chunky Move discards traditional theater venues, performing bold works in club-type settings. OzOpera similarly abandons tradition and takes its own version of opera to everyday

people in both Melbourne and across regional Victoria.

There is a full range of cinemas from Hoyts and Village blockbuster multiplexes to arthouse such as the Astor or the Lumiere. An International Film Festival is held in winter while summer in the city would not be the same without the Moonlight Cinema set in the beautiful surrounds of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

### Events

Melbourne has a packed events calendar. A major International Arts Festival has its attendant Fringe Festival and the family-oriented Moomba Waterfest is fun. There are separate celebrations of comedy, contemporary visual art, gardening, writing, fashion and food. There are also Italian, Greek, Vietnamese and Chinese festivals, and happenings in St Kilda, Chapel Street, Williamstown and Brunswick Street. Summer sees regular seasons of outdoor cinema, classical music and jazz, and year-round the city hosts trade fairs for industries as diverse as holidays, motoring, aeronautics and sex!

The city is renowned for major international sporting events including the Australian Open Grand Slam tennis tournament, the Grand Prix motor race, marathons, cricket tests and major golf tournaments. But perhaps its biggest sporting events are its most unique—the AFL Grand Final, which decides the champion of the national football code and the famous Melbourne Cup horse race, held like clockwork on the second Tuesday of November—and stops the nation.

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### Things to Do Insights

Melbourne is a cosmopolitan city sprawled around a wide beach-lined bay. Yet its center is very walkable. Many of the city's most famous attractions are within a short stroll of each other, or you can hop on one of the city's historic trams and trundle between them.

Federation Square

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

Federation Square is the new focal point of Melbourne and home to some of the city's most interesting museums. The National Gallery of Victoria's Australian collection is housed here at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. There's also the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the Australian Racing Museum, dedicated to horseracing. Pick up a bowl of noodles at the popular and funky Chocolate Buddha on the northern side of the central square. Federation Square comes alive with festivals, performances and exhibitions year round. Inquire at the Melbourne Visitor Centre on the eastern corner about what's going on. From here, you can catch the free City Circle Tram on Flinders Street for a circuit of the CBD or head down to the river, directly below Federation Square, where you can rent a bike at Hire a Bike to explore the riverside Main Yarra Trail.

### National Gallery of Victoria

Across the Yarra, The NGV: International showcases art from around the world, including collections from Asia and the Pacific. Next door is The Arts Centre, home to the Melbourne Theatre Company. Tours of the centre leave at 11am on Monday to Saturday and 12:15pm on Sundays. In the afternoon or evening, take in a play. Students, under 27-year-olds and seniors can buy half-price tickets from the box-office from two hours before performances begin. From October to December, The Famous Spiegeltent sets up in The Arts Centre forecourt. Recreating the world of traveling European theaters, the mirror-lined tent hosts musical and theatrical performances. Within the Arts Centre, Curve Bar offers drinks, meals and interesting canapés, while Café Vic serves up quick meals before the show. On Sundays, the Arts Centre Sunday Market lines the footpath from the concert hall to the river's edge, selling quality Australian crafts.

### Eureka Skydeck 88

Just along the Southbank Promenade from here is Eureka Tower. At 92 floors, it's the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere, and the viewing platform at

Eureka Skydeck 88 affords views all across Melbourne. Choose from the community of eateries in nearby Crown Entertainment Complex or watch the street performers at the Southgate Leisure Precinct while licking ice-cream from Trampoline. Boat tours of the Yarra leave from the lower promenade below Southbank Promenade. From here, you can also take the Williamstown Ferry across the bay to Scienceworks museum, with its hands-on exhibits for kids. Alternatively, you can head across Kings Way Bridge to Melbourne Aquarium. Its walk-through shark exhibit provides a close-up encounter with Australia's famous razor-toothed predators.

### The Royal Botanic Gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens is one of the finest in the world and a hub for Melbourne's outdoor life. Tours of its sweeping lawns, conservatories and giant trees are available through the gardens' Visitors Center. In the summer months, watch a movie relaxing on beanbags under the stars at the Moonlight Cinema or take in a play by the Australian Shakespeare Company on the gardens' lawns. The Terrace restaurant offers relaxed dining and Devonshire teas by the gardens' Ornamental Lake, while Observatory Café near the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden serves fresh, casual meals. On the lawns by the café is the historic Melbourne Observatory. Across the road, one of Melbourne's most prominent landmarks, The Shrine of Remembrance, commemorates the sacrifices made by service men and women.

### Melbourne Museum

Set in gracious Carlton Gardens, Melbourne Museum is one of the best places to learn about Melbourne and its surroundings. Don't miss the Melbourne Story exhibit about the city's history, or Bunjilaka, the Australian Aboriginal Centre. The museum has an extensive shop with quality Australian crafts and educational toys. In the same building is an IMAX cinema, and just across the courtyard is the World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Buildings, built in 1880 for Melbourne's

first International Exhibition. Tours of the Exhibition Buildings depart most days at 2pm from Melbourne Museum. For a bite to eat, head to the Italian and university heartland of Lygon Street, just two blocks west down Grattan Street, or one stop on the free Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle. Nearby, Thresherman's Bakehouse has huge, hearty, meals for a tiny price, while Brunetti serves up authentic Italian coffees, extravagant pastries and rich hot chocolates.

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## Travel Tips

### Getting There

#### Air

Melbourne Airport(MLB)(+61 3 9297 1600/ <http://www.melair.com.au/>) is located 13 mi/ 22 km northwest of the suburb Tullamarine. Even though the airport consists of four terminals, only Terminal 2 handles international passengers.

Jetstar(+61 3 8341 4901/ <http://airlines.ws/jetstar.htm/>) O'Connor Airlines(+61 8 8723 0666/ <http://www.oconnor-airlines.com.au/>) Qantas Airways(+1 604 279 6611/ <http://www.qantas.com/>) Regional Express(+61 2 6393 5550/ <http://www.regionalexpress.com.au/>) Air New Zealand(+1 800 262 1234/ <http://www.airnewzealand.com/>) Air Pacific(+679 672 0888/ <http://www.airpacific.com/>) American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300/ <http://www.aa.com/>) Australian Airlines(+1 300 799 798/ <http://www.australianairlines.com.au/>) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/ <http://www.british-airways.com/>) Japan Airlines(+1 800 525 3663/ <http://www.japanair.com/>) Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/ <http://www.lufthansa.com/>) Qantas(+1 604 279 6611/ <http://www.qantas.com/>) Thai Airways(+1 800 426 5204/ <http://www.thaiair.com/>) United(+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com/>) Virgin Atlantic(+1 800 862 8621/ <http://www.virgin-atlantic.com/>)

### From the Airport

Bus: SkyBus(+ 61 3 9335 2811/ [www.Skybus.com.au/](http://www.Skybus.com.au/)) offers a shuttle bus

## Melbourne Snapshot continued

service from the airport to Melbourne CBD and city hotels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The buses run every 15 minutes during the day and every 30-60 minutes at night. Airport Bus Eastside(+61 3 9729 7622/ <http://www.airportbus.cm.au/>) also offers transportation to Melbourne.

Taxi: A taxi ride to the city center is about AUD\$35-AUD\$40 and is a 30 minute trip. Arrow(+61 3 13 2211) Embassy(+61 3 13 1755) North Suburban(+61 3 13 1119) Silver Top Taxi Silver Top Taxi Melbourne Cabs

Car Rentals: Avis(+ 61 3 9338 1800/ <http://www.avis.com.au/>) Budget(+ 61 3 9338 6955/ <http://www.budget.com.au/>) Europcar(+ 61 3 9241 6800/ <http://www.europcar.com.au/>) Hertz(+ 61 3 9338 4044/ <http://www.hertz.com.au/>) Thrifty(+61 3 9241 6100/ <http://www.thrifty.com.au/>)

### Train

Flinders Street Station, a historical landmark, is one of the city's busiest railway stations. Regional trains to Victorian cities, Sydney, and Adelaide all depart from Southern Cross Station.

### Getting Around

#### Public Transport

Metlink(+61 3 9619 2727/ <http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au/>) is Melbourne's public transport company. The tram network is the largest network

in the world. They are not only means of transport, but also a major tourist attraction. Melbourne's bus network consists of almost 300 routes that are mostly used to reach the suburbs. They serve as means to fill the gaps between rail and light rail services. Other transport companies include:

Frankston& Peninsula(+61 3 9783 119/ <http://www.fapas.com.au/>) Tullamarine Bus Lines(+61 3 9338 3817) Melbourne Metropolitan Bus Lines(+61 3 9311 1228)

### Train

Connex trains operate around metropolitan Melbourne. (<http://www.connexmelbourne.com.au/>) ©

## Fun Facts

**Melbourne State/Province:** Victoria  
**Country:** Australia

### Melbourne by the Numbers:

Population: 3.4 million(city); 3.6 million(metropolitan)

Elevation: 433 ft/ 131 m

Average Annual Rainfall: 22.3 in/ 566 mm

Average January Temperature: 20°C/ 68°F

Average July Temperature: 9°C/ 48°F

Business district pubs in the early 20th century: over 1,000

### Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Tourism, Mining, Food Processing, Chemicals, Steel, Industrial and transport equipment

Electricity: 240 volts, 50Hz, angled two and three pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT+10

Country Dialing Code:+61

Area Code: 03

### Did You Know?

The Melbourne Cup is the most exciting Australian sporting event. Every November an unofficial holiday draws hundreds of thousands to Flemington or to their local bar to watch the big stakes races, when millions of dollars change hands as everyone bets their favorite nag. You'll be sure to see the most outrageous fashions in hats on the women at this event.

Melbourne is home to the world's first gay and lesbian radio station. It went on air in 1993.

Before Melbourne acquired its current name, it was called Batmania(after one of the co-founders John Batman), Bearbrass, Bearport, Bareheap and Bearbury(some derived from Aboriginal vocabulary: Berren and Bararing).

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