



# MELBOURNE

## Highlights



Melbourne: Australia's coffee and cultural capital, a city of architecture, art amongst the infamous laneways, a city thriving with fantastic restaurants, quirky cafes and charming little side streets that'll keep you busy exploring for days!

Melbourne is a city of choices and it's been hard for us to list the Top 5 must-do's in this vibrant city. However, we have shortlisted the Top 5 and we have also provided a few other options too that follow closely behind them!

### 1. Royal Botanic Gardens

Attracting over 1.8m visitors annually, these gardens are a treasured part of cultural life and boast tranquil lakes, stunning vistas and are home to amazing and diverse plant collections and is a natural sanctuary for native wildlife.



Here you can run, walk, cycle or just relax in the stunning scenery and meander along the Aboriginal Heritage Walk, wander the Garden Discovery Tour or even ride on the Garden Explorer. There's even a Children's Garden with plant tunnels, a bamboo forest in which to hide and explore with rocks to climb – these gardens have everything a child could want to help them discover the natural world!

There are two cafes situated in the Botanical Gardens and if you find yourself here in the summer months, the lawns come alive with an outdoor cinema, theatre performances and exhibitions.

**Entrance is free**, and the gates are open from 07:30 to sunset every day of the year.

**Location** is on Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, 3004.

If you are interested in finding out more, you can contact the Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre on +61 3 9252 2429 or visit their website <https://www.rbv.vic.gov.au/visit-melbourne>

## 2. Shrine of Remembrance

Opened in 1934, the Shrine of Remembrance is the Victorian state memorial to Australians who served in global conflicts throughout the nation's history. The Shrine is renowned for its architecture, and you should head to the balcony for incredible panoramic views of Melbourne and the sprawling parklands.

Within the inner sanctum of the building are a labyrinth of galleries featuring over 80 artworks, personal effects and historical artefacts of Australians at war. Special events, exhibitions, talks and events happen here throughout the year providing an ever-changing experience. For a unique insight to this place, tours are run daily from the Visitor Centre at 11:00 and 12:45, admission is free, however the Shrine welcomes donations.



**Opening hours** 10:00 – 17:00 daily; closed Good Friday and Christmas Day.

**Last entry** to the Galleries and Balcony is 16:30.

Location Birdwood Avenue and St Kilda Road. Contact: +61 3 9661 8100 or visit their site <http://www.shrine.org.au/home>

## 3. Laneways

From roof top bars to basement boutiques – Melbourne's laneways are filled with eclectic one-of-a-kind mixed bag of outlets! The laneways have an Alice in Wonderland feel and you just never know what lies around the next corner!



You'll notice that some of the laneways are so busy you could mistake it as a main street, however our golden tip is to head to Union Lane as this is one of the most unique. You'll find yourself in a different world yet its smack bang in the middle of a shopping precinct just off Bourke Street Mall. Union Lane is around 550m long and while it doesn't have the same hustle and bustle of bars and cafes as some laneways, its main attraction is the artwork that covers pretty much every inch. You may even be lucky enough to see something being freshly painted!

You'll probably also stumble across Hosier Lane (opposite Federation Square) which is the central point of this city's street art scene. The history goes back to the city's early days, with heritage Council Victoria listing No.3-5 Hosier Lane as having the "potential to contain historical archaeological remains associated with the settlement and growth of early Melbourne".

There's always so much to discover in the city's hive of bustling, creative laneways, with their covert boutiques, famed restaurants, hole in the wall cafes and astonishing bars!

If you'd like to explore the laneways of Melbourne, you can either take a tour with one of the several tour companies operating, otherwise, if you have time, the best way is to just wander and see where you end up!

#### 4. National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

The place to come and discover art, classic and contemporary, local and international art! This place has two impressive galleries conveniently situated at the heart of Melbourne city centre and are just a short stroll from each other.

Here you'll be able to meander through the collections of European, Asian, Oceanic and American art and situated in the Ian Potter Centre just over the river you'll find the majority of Australian art on permanent display than anywhere else in the world – this is a must visit for its Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous art as well as touring exhibitions!



The Australian collection of art at the NGV comprises of more than 20,000 pieces of work with approximately 800 works being displayed in the new building at one time. Many of these are rotated frequently to show the full breadth and diversity and provide visitors with fresh insights! Admission to the permanent collection is free, however some fees may apply to special exhibitions and are advertised on the day.

##### Locations:

**NGV International**, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Free entry, open daily 10:00 to 17:00, closed Christmas Day.

**The Ian Potter Centre**, Federation Square, Melbourne. Free entry, open daily 10:00 to 17:00 daily, closed Christmas Day.

**Contact:** +61 (0)3 8620 2222

**Website:** <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/>

### Interesting Fact!

Five of the six tallest buildings in Australia are in Melbourne's CBD!

#### 5. Eureka Skydeck

Tower over the city on the 88<sup>th</sup> floor of the Eureka Skydeck – at 285m high, this building houses 'The Edge' a switchable glass cube 88 floors up. Extending three metres out from the building this offers the highest public vantage point in the Southern hemisphere! If you venture out into the moving glass cube, you'll be in a six-tonne horizontal elevator that starts from inside the walls of the Skydeck and moves outwards to jut out of the east side of Eureka's Tower. You have been warned...it's not for the faint hearted as the glass box plays a soundtrack of creaking, groaning and smashing glass which all adds to the (somewhat sadistic) atmosphere and provides terror for concerned occupants! However, you will be rewarded with the most astonishing panorama of Melbourne.



If seeing through a floor to the ground, 285m up doesn't do it for you, then we suggest you plant both feet on the Skydeck – its just as high but without the extreme fear factor!

Located at Riverside Quay, Southbank, this building and its views will change the way you look at Melbourne and beyond.

**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 22:00 daily (Christmas Day and NY Eve 10:00 to 17:30 – last entry 17:00)

Cost of entry to the Skydeck only – prices start from \$15.50 for concessions, \$20 for adult ticket and \$11.50 for children (4 – 16 years).

On top of that you can pay extra for 'The Edge' experience which starts at \$10 for concessions, \$12 for adults and children \$8 (children 4-16 years).

You can check out more information on their site at <https://www.eurekaskydeck.com.au/>

As we suggested at the start, we can't possibly just limit this to the Top 5 highlights of Melbourne as there really is so much to see and do in this wonderful city. Therefore, we have provided a few extras to consider during your stay in this city.

**City Circle Tram** - One of the easiest ways to get around the city are the infamous City Circle Trams – a free and convenient way to get around central Melbourne. You'll even be privy to audio commentary that provides details of city landmarks and major attractions as you hop about on this public mode of transport.

It's possible to spend all day on a City Circle Tram and there are plenty of information leaflets including an easy to understand map of the city, which are usually available on board each of the City Circle Trams.

To catch one of the free City Circle Trams (route number 35) simply board the tram at any one of the marked stop on the route.



Trams operate on both directions every 12 minutes between 10:00 and 18:00 from Sunday to Wednesday and between 10:00 and 21:00 every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The City Circle Trams do not run on Christmas Day and Good Friday.

**Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** – For sport lovers and cricket fans - then this is a must. It's much more than a cricket stadium though as nothing quite matches the tradition and heritage of this iconic location. Situated in Yarra Park, the MCG is also steeped in history, after being established in 1853, it has been the home of Australian football since 1859 and was the birthplace of test cricket in 1877 and one-day international cricket 1971.



It was home to the 1956 Olympic Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games along with other sporting spectacles held there including soccer and rugby over the years.

The MCG tour is an absolute must for the sporting fans and the guided tours on offer gives you an opportunity to get exclusive behind the scenes peek at one of the worlds most iconic sports venues in the world.

We suggest getting in touch with them directly as scheduled events will dictate their opening times. For more information on what's on and what time the tours are, contact: +61 (0)3 9657 8888 or visit their website <http://www.mcg.org.au/> for more information.

**Walking Tours** - If you are spending time in Melbourne and fancy trekking around this city on foot, then we suggest hooking up with one of the many walking tours on offer in this city. These tours can offer personalised and highly researched walks which bring the city and its history to life. Many offer unique tours specifically tailored to your interests or you can tag along on a combined tour and see the main sights.



There are a number of walking tours to choose from and we suggest checking out TripAdvisor and searching for the best walking tours in Melbourne or Melbourne's Visitor Information Centre on <http://www.visitvictoria.com/regions/Melbourne/Travel-information/Visitor-information-centres/Melbourne-Visitor-Centre>

**Melbourne Zoo** - No trip to Melbourne is complete without a visit to Australia's oldest zoo. It contains a huge array of both native and exotic animals with over 320 species from around the world.

From the butterfly room you can watch the world flutter by, peek at the colourful residents of the aviary and follow in the footsteps of the Elephants with their close-knit family of big-eared beauties. In the summer months, the Zoo runs Twilights programs of concerts which is always a summer highlight. Be sure to pack yourself a picnic dinner and enjoy a balmy evening listening to some of your favourite local and international acts, backed by a lion's roar. We recommend you get there as early as possible to secure the best seating position as it can get busy!



If you are travelling with children under 16 years of age, they receive free entry every weekend during Victorian Government school holidays and on Victorian Public holidays.

Location: Elliott Avenue, Parkville, Vic 3052. Open: 09:00 to 17:00 daily, Tel: 1300 966 784. Hop online and order tickets to skip the queue.

**Music and the Performing Arts** - You can pretty much head out any night in Melbourne and find opera, ballet, comedy or live music taking place. Considered the cultural capital of Australia, you'll find a diverse range of offerings with both local and international acts frequenting the scene. You can find some of the events on when you're in town online at Melbourne's What's On Guide.

### Getting around Melbourne

If you have already picked up your motorhome and are looking for somewhere to set up camp for the night, you could try the Melbourne Big4 Holiday Park on 265 Elizabeth St, Coburg, Melbourne. This campsite is conveniently located to nearby public transport into the city.

*We recommend that you avoid driving around the city if you can help it, parking is tricky at the best of times and with a large vehicle, it'll be next to impossible!*

Once in Melbourne, grab yourself a 'myki' card as this is Melbourne's public transport ticket to travel on the city's trains, trams and buses. International and interstate visitors heading to Melbourne can buy a myki Explorer pack which combines the myki card, visitor information and special offers all-in-one. Head to 'Public Transport Victoria' website <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/getting-around/visiting-melbourne/> for more information.

### Useful Information

Melbourne Visitor Centre in the CBD at Federation Square is a one-stop shop and offers all the usual brochures and maps, guides on 'What's On' as well as providing more information on public transport.

**Address:** Swanston Street and Flinders Street, Federation Square, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004.

**Tel:** (03) 9658 9658



