

## Art: visual, film, music, theatre and more

Melbourne has a fantastic reputation as a city for art, and you'll soon understand why. Art is a part of our city. It's on our walls, in our parks, in shops and down side streets. Our galleries and arts venues cater to all tastes and interests.

## Major institutions

Melbourne's major arts institutions are all a short walk from the central city. At NGV International and The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia you'll see classic and contemporary visual art by international and local artists. The adventurous will love the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), while film buffs will find much happiness at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

## Noteworthy art venues

Melbourne's city centre is home to many noteworthy galleries. For a more detailed list, look for the *Arts and Culture* brochure in this series. In the meantime, here are a couple of spots to get you started.

Block Projects is a gallery space for artists teetering on the edge of fame.

Visit the Nicholas Building with artists in their studios plus galleries, the Collected Works poetry bookshop and more.

The artist-run West Space gallery pushes art boundaries. Works by emerging artists abound in this fascinating space.

ArtPlay, Australia's first arts centre established specifically for children, features a creative playground, a café and free and affordable art workshops for children and families.

## Music and theatre

Melburnians have been going to the theatre since the 1800s, and the quality of shows (and venues) on offer means we've never had a reason to stop.

Historic theatres include the Comedy, Princess, Her Majesty's, Athenaeum, Regent and Forum. Staging everything from international blockbuster musicals to rock bands, our theatre programs truly reflect the diversity of our arts audiences, and their enthusiasm for live performances.

Fortyfive Downstairs is an alternative-style venue with a strong inclination towards burlesque and cabaret.

For a bargain-price ticket, drop into Halftix (Melbourne Town Hall, 9650 9591), offering discounts on many of the city's theatrical productions.

For live music, try Bennetts Lane (25 Bennetts Lane) for jazz, blues and folk, Paris Cat (6 Goldie Place) for jazz, Roxanne Parlour for everything other than commercial rock or Ding Dong and Cherry Bar for underground, retro and alternative rock 'n' roll.



## Public Art

The city is filled with quirky, creative, and innovative public art that makes a walk around the city an ever-changing experience. Look out for an annual program of temporary Laneway Commissions, adding unexpected beauty, interest and intrigue to unassuming city lanes.

Sculptures gracing Melbourne's streets and squares provide many photo opportunities and include:

- The Travellers, stainless steel sculptures on Sandridge Bridge over the Yarra which reflect the story of Victorian migration
- Larry Latrobe, a dingo-like dog and popular City Square feature
- The Three Businessmen carrying their lunches through the city on the corner of Swanston and Bourke Streets
- and the Architectural Fragment emerging from the pavement in front of the State Library on Swanston Street.

## Street art

To see some of the city's best street art locations, head to Hosier and Rutledge lanes opposite Federation Square, Caledonian Lane off Little Bourke Street, and Union Lane off the Bourke Street Mall.

Find out more about street art and city laneways in the *Laneways* brochure in this series.

## Culture and history

### Immigration and cultural precincts

Melbourne's population comprises people from more than 100 different countries. Our city's cultural precincts are a great way to experience different aspects of Melbourne's multicultural history, from Chinatown on Little Bourke Street to Lygon Street's Italian precinct in Carlton and the Greek precinct on Lonsdale Street.

Find out more about Melbourne's history at the Immigration Museum on Flinders Street or the Chinese Museum in the heart of Chinatown. The Melbourne Museum, a short walk from the city centre, is another excellent stop for history buffs.

### Architecture and laneways

Melbourne's architecture is a mix of old and new – from the world's first six-star green office building to glorious art deco icons. Find out more in the *Design and Innovation* brochure in this series.

### Indigenous Melbourne

Find out more about Melbourne's Indigenous culture and people at the Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre (295 King St, (03) 8622 2600). Book yourself on a walking tour of the Yarra River and see Melbourne from a different perspective.



## Getting here

Find out more about the central city and its many attractions, events and activities.

Other brochures in this series include: Bars; Dining; Shopping; Arts and Culture; Design and Innovation; Laneways; Attractions; and Outdoors. Find them at the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square and at the Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall information booth.

## For more information:

- visit [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson)
- visit the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square, located on the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets
- visit the Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall
- call City of Melbourne on (03) 9658 9658



# City centre

As you enter Melbourne's city centre, switch your curiosity to 'high'. Look up, look down, follow that tune down that laneway and venture up those stairs. Melbourne's city streets are a mosaic of high style, buried treasure, graceful elegance and quirky character.

Whether you're looking for the perfect Melbourne memory to take home; wanting to learn more about our history, art and culture; or hoping to sample our famous cafés and restaurants – you'll find everything you need in Melbourne's city centre.

### City shopping

Wide and tree-lined Collins Street has a distinctive elegance. Many of the world's most-loved international designers (such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton, and Hermès) and boutiques such as Miss Louise are located along the well-heeled Collins Street boulevard.

The Bourke Street Mall is home to many of Australia's popular retail chain stores, plus Myer and David Jones, the city's two largest department stores as well as Melbourne's GPO for Australian and international luxury labels.

The Australia on Collins, Collins Place and Collins Two3Four shopping centres combine chain and small business retail with food court convenience. QV and Melbourne Central are popular shopping destinations, attracting youthful lovers of contemporary fashion.

### Local flavour

Look local, or at least take home something with a real Melbourne flavour. These stores sell goods made in Melbourne and its environs.

Little Salon stocks locally made goods including brooches inspired by story-book characters and reconstructed scarves. In the Campbell Arcade, Muff Clothing sells a treasure trove of near new and vintage fashion and accessories, while The Cat's Meow carries women's fashion with a distinctly Melbourne look.

Craft Victoria showcases local artists and sells ceramics, soft furnishings and accessories you won't find anywhere else, Alice Euphemia is unapologetically original, carrying limited ranges by more than 80 emerging designers.

Koko Black's chocolate comes from Belgium and is then crafted into wonderful creations here in Melbourne.

Kay Craddock Antiquarian Bookseller has been selling rare and beautiful books for more than 44 years and the Ken Gray Alister Reid Galleries nearby provide exquisite jewellery and objet d'art.

Little Collins Street is a great spot to discover some unique local designers including Anna Thomas (tailored luxury womenswear), Sarti (tailored Italian-style suits), Chiodo (casual style), e.g. etal (artisan jewellery) and Verve Boutique (the fashion of 'now' served up alongside great coffee). Howey Place, off Little Collins Street, is home to some of Melbourne's most famous designers, with Bettina Liano and Scanlan and Theodore nearby.

### Quirky and cool

The Paperback Book Shop is a city institution, selling travel-friendly paperbacks in all genres. Curtin House is a 'vertical laneway', home to bookstores, bars, fashion stores and studios. Wunderkammer brings the museum to you, selling butterflies, microscopes, test tubes and many other wonders.

The Block Arcade features stunning, heritage-listed mosaics and stores selling everything from dollhouse miniatures to Haighs chocolates.

The equally fascinating Royal Arcade is home to Gog and Magog, as well as Anonymous Posh and its fabulous array of vintage fashions, and Babushkas selling bright and brilliant matryoshki (Russian nesting dolls) and more. Check out mag nation, the land of mags, nearby on Elizabeth Street. At Manchester Lane you'll find 70 independent Australian Designers at the Design a Space Retail Gallery.

Scott Alley caters to hip young things with stores including Lady and Miss Lau selling frivolous frocks.

Route 66 is where you can get your rockabilly on, and the Mid City Arcade attracts many of the city's international students looking for *kawaii* (cute) goodies, directional fashions from Asia and cheap eats.

For more information about city shopping, look for the *Shopping* brochure in this series.

### Dining

City dining options range from the award-winning to the budget-friendly – sometimes both at the same time! Our city centre attracts all kinds of diners and all kinds of dining experiences.

Some of Australia's finest dining institutions are located in the central city, including: Vue De Monde (modern French); MoMo (contemporary Middle Eastern); Taxi Dining Room (Japanese/Australian fusion), Grossi Florentino (quintessential Italian) and Flower Drum (impeccable Cantonese).

For a dining adventure, try one of these unique eating experiences. Von Haus serves up rustic European food in what was once painter Von Guerard's lounge room. At Bismi's Gold an Fork, a popular Indian and Malaysian eatery, ordering is just part of the adventure. Fo Guang Yuan is an art gallery and Buddhist restaurant serving all kinds of mock meat – and amazing cumquat tea.

For more information about city dining, look for the *Dining* brochure in this series.

### Bars

Melbourne's bar scene is as diverse as it is diverting. Our city serves up everything from European wines to unique cocktails, often amid extraordinary – and novel – surrounds.

The Money Order Office is an award-winning bar serving more than 900 wines. The Croft Institute has a science lab vibe while The Carlton Hotel is uber-saloon in style. The multi-level Seamstress draws inspiration from 1800s Chinatown, and the historic Young and Jackson is an old-school pub.

Collins Quarter caters to those with discerning tastes, and Madame Brussels serves jugs of Pimms to fine and fancy folk. Go natural at Riverland Bar and Café, with its river views and friendly vibe, or take it to the top at the Rooftop Bar. The Emerald Peacock is a well designed lounge-style bar, and Spice Market is quite the experience, mixing ancient spice route stylings with great food and drinks.

For more information about city bars, look for the *Bars* brochure in this series.

