

Bars and dining

North Melbourne offers dining options from the sumptuous gourmet experience to the speedy but sublime espresso on the go.

The Libertine French Dining Room (Victoria Street) and The French Quarter Patisserie on Queensberry Street will have you thinking you're standing on a Parisian boulevard. North Melbourne also has a great reputation for coffee. Try the Hot Poppy Café Bar, Auction House, Padre Artisan Espresso, Rubicon Bar or Di Pettas – all on Errol Street, or the Acquum Café, Via Victoria, Java Bar, Torrisi Italian Espresso and Don Camillo on Victoria Street. Di Bella's Coffee Roast House at 19 Leveson Street is for serious coffee lovers, offering machines, beans and workshops.

While you're in the neighbourhood

Sports fans may like to note that the North Melbourne Football Club, an AFL Australian Rules football club, is based at the Arden Street Oval. For those looking to connect with the local community, The Centre at 58 Errol Street offers courses and activities for people of all ages and interests.

Every spring, look out for the Spring Fling Festival. Held in the heart of North Melbourne, this festival celebrates the area's community diversity, with music, performances, stalls, kids activities and more.

The Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall and Meat Market, host performance seasons, concerts, festivals and events and are among the go-to spots for quality and independent multi-disciplinary performances in Melbourne.

For more information on things to see and do in Melbourne visit: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson



Kensington

A visit to Kensington is a visit to a different kind of Melbourne. Think leafy streets, friendly neighbours and small village-style shopping and you'll have a sense of this beloved slice of inner city community life.

Kensington is largely residential, with houses ranging from small period dwellings and public housing flats to new townhouses. The area is also an industrial area – with a twist. Artists use an old flour mill as studio space and businesses such as Ironside Studios and Ink and Spindle are adding much to Kensington's reputation for creative industry.

The Macaulay Road shopping strip makes a great spot to go shopping for homewares or to browse the selection of funky cafes and delicatessens. There's even a homestead-style pub, Hardiman's. Nearby leafy Bellair Street is a great spot for a quiet outdoor meal. Obscura Cafe's coffee is sourced from a fair trade organic co-op in Laos, while Blush and The White Rabbit Record Bar are doing their bit for contemporary Australian cuisine. The Corner on Bellair offers a great brekkie in a pan or takeaway thai food by night. If you're hungry for more after your meal, check out the crafts and gifts store, florist and bookstore in the street.

Stay for a while and you'll find shopkeepers start greeting you by name. It's that kind of place.

How to get there:

North Melbourne is 20 minutes walk from the central city. Walk to the Queen Victoria Market along Elizabeth Street and then along Victoria Street to Errol Street.

Tram:

- Route 59 (Airport West): travels along Elizabeth Street and Flemington Road.
- Route 57 (West Maribyrnong): travels along Elizabeth, Victoria, Errol, Queensberry and Abbotsford Streets and then along Flemington Road.

Bus:

- Route 402 (Footscray – East Melbourne) travels from Footscray Station along Dynon, Kensington and Macaulay roads, Vaughan Terrace, Canning, Shiel, Haines, Errol, Arden, Wreckyn, Grattan, Rathdowne and Victoria Streets, and then along Victoria Parade to St Vincent's Hospital

Train:

- Train stations are located at North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington Bridge.

Kensington is well serviced by public transport, with three railway stations (Kensington, South Kensington and Newmarket) plus the 402 bus and the 57 tram.

For more information:

- visit 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

North Melbourne

- Queen Victoria Market
- Kensington



North Melbourne

The City of Melbourne's northern suburbs, North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington offer a different city experience. Located within a few kilometres of the busy central city, Melbourne's inner northern suburbs are a charming way to experience a more 'local' version of city life.

Visit North Melbourne's urban villages along Errol and Victoria Streets (great for food and shopping), absorb the bustle and bounty on offer at the historic Queen Victoria Market, experience Melbourne's contemporary arts scene at North Melbourne's Arts House Meat Market, enjoy local community life in leafy Kensington or the bustle of Flemington's busy Racecourse Road strip.

History and architecture

Melbourne's inner north has played a huge role in the making and shaping of our city. A cattle yard was among the first structures built in the area by 1840s white settlers. By 1861, the borough of Hotham (as it was known then) had 7,000 residents and by 1887, the area had an imposing town hall and a new name: North Melbourne.

Today the area's striking and historic streetscapes and buildings have been recognised for their architectural and heritage significance, and the area retains a distinct 'village' atmosphere.

Architectural highlights include the: North Melbourne Town Hall and Meat Market (both now operating as contemporary arts spaces); Curzon Street Church; and Howard Street Anglican Church. The ornate Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, built in 1963, is also definitely worth seeking out.

North Melbourne is less than three kilometres from the city and during the past few decades the area has attracted more and more young residents seeking the benefits of the inner city lifestyle.

Arts enclave and design

Melbourne's inner northern suburbs have become a new stomping ground for a huge range of university intellectuals, literati types and practising artists in all genres. Some of the city's most exciting contemporary art can be seen at the two Arts House spaces in North Melbourne: the North Melbourne Town Hall and the Meat Market Arts complex. The area also offers a library, book stores, antique stores and galleries.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne initiative and is a great example of Melbourne's strong support for its own arts community. The Arts House at the North Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Errol and Queensberry Streets, hosts a diverse range of performances, exhibitions and activities, generally focusing on contemporary and emerging arts.

The recently refurbished Arts House Meat Market is home to creative development spaces, two galleries, a conference centre and office spaces. This centre is operated/funded by the City of Melbourne in partnership with Arts Victoria.

Shop in Melbourne's inner north

Queen Victoria Market

The Queen Victoria Market is a lively meeting point for Melbourne's community. It's a great spot for people watching, exploring the city's cultural diversity, or for picking up the makings of a memorable gourmet meal.

The market has been operating since 1878 and today is one of Melbourne's most beloved landmarks. Its colourful (sometimes controversial) past includes periods as a school, a livestock market, a drill hall and a cemetery.

Make sure you visit the market's food halls. The copious amounts of fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood on offer include top quality locally grown produce as well as delicious gourmet ingredients from around the world. While you're there, get lost among the many rows of stalls selling affordable fashion, gifts and souvenirs, as well as some fantastic 'upmarket' boutiques and delicatessens.

Errol and Victoria Streets

Venture along North Melbourne's village-style shopping strips and discover quality and quirkiness that truly reflects Melbourne's style.

Stops along your way could include: Call Me Madam Boutique (women's clothing) at 347 Victoria Street; Memoirs (new and recycled fashion) at 502 Victoria Street; the Jason Grech Style Office (contemporary fashion) at 29 Little Leveson Street; CLAD (men and women's clothing) at 10 Errol Street; Meek and Folly and Mini Meek Kids' Clothing in Queensberry Street and Kids in Berlin (local designers, homewares and accessories) at 472 Victoria Street.

For retro homewares, try Ace Antiques and Collectables at 557 Queensberry Street or Ray Walters Furniture at 544 Queensberry Street. While you're in town, check out the cool Aesop store (beauty products) on the corner of Victoria and Errol Streets.

North Melbourne



Kensington

