

## Information for visitors to Melbourne

Melbourne, one of the world's "most liveable cities," is famous for its food and coffee culture, its "hard-to-find" bars, its lively music and arts scene and its love of sport. Rest assured, there is plenty to do in Melbourne, even in the middle of Winter!

This little leaflet can only offer a tiny snippet of information about what there is to do in Melbourne and surrounds. Please visit the official information site for Victoria, Visit Victoria (<http://www.visitvictoria.com/>) for more detailed information.

### Food and drink:

Melbournians take their food seriously, and the food scene can be very trend driven—the hottest restaurants can be difficult to get into (and many don't take bookings). There are numerous restaurants to choose from in the Melbourne CBD area, and close to the University of Melbourne in the inner-suburbs of Carlton and Fitzroy. If you are a vegetarian, you will find that most (if not all) restaurants will cater to your needs. You should also find it *very* easy to get a good coffee pretty much anywhere in Melbourne!

Many Melbournians use Urbanspoon to guide them when choosing where to eat--the ratings are usually pretty spot-on: <http://www.urbanspoon.com/c/71/Melbourne-restaurants.html>

If you are planning on spending a bit of time in the city, it might be worth investing in a Good Food Guide. This guide is produced annually by Melbourne's broadsheet (well, it's now tabloid in format but its still a broadsheet in style!) *The Age*. It lists everything from local cafes, to destination restaurants in regional Victoria.

<http://www.goodfood.com.au/good-food/good-food-guide/aggregate/the-age-good-food-guide-2015-20140826-3ebk5.html>

Some good areas for food near the University are:

**Melbourne CBD.** There is just so much food available in the city that it's almost impossible to list recommendations. Here are a few places that remain consistently popular:

Movida: Simply fantastic Spanish tapas bar. Definitely worth a visit.

<http://movida.com.au/>

Mamasita: Melbourne's most popular Mexican restaurant. Great food and atmosphere but get there early as there's no bookings.

<http://www.mamasita.com.au/>

Hutong Dumpling Bar: Amazing dumplings in China town.

<http://www.hutong.com.au/>

Cami Shanghai Dumpling and Noodle Restaurant: cheap and delicious dumplings in China town.

<http://www.au.timeout.com/melbourne/restaurants/venues/470/camy-shanghai-dumpling-and-noodle-restaurant>

Curtin House: a “vertical laneway” hosting a number of great bars and restaurants, including a rooftop bar with great views of the city.

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Melbourne/Destinations/Laneways/Vertical-laneways>

**Lygon St, Carlton.** Lygon St is famous for its Italian food, although many of the more touristy restaurants are not fantastic.

The magazine, *Broadsheet* has compiled this useful list of Carlton cafes- they are also worth checking out for reviews and information on other Melbourne eateries:

<http://www.broadsheet.com.au/melbourne/guides/best-cafes-carlton>

Some of our recommendations are:

Brunetti’s: a proper Italian-style café, with food and drinks. It can be a bit difficult to figure out how to order, but it has true Italian ambiance.

<http://brunetti.com.au/>

Jimmy Watson’s bar: This bar is a Carlton institution.

<http://jimmywatsons.com/>

Ablas: another institution, serving home-style Lebanese food. Make sure you go on an empty stomach!

<http://ablas.com.au/>

Heart Attack and Vine: A new coffee-shop and bar, established by a University of Melbourne English graduate.

<http://www.heartattackandvine.com.au/>

Shakahari, just around the corner from Lygon St on Faraday St: This is one of Melbourne’s first-ever vegetarian restaurants, and it is still going strong.

<http://www.shakahari.com.au/>

**Gertrude St, Fitzroy.** Home of many galleries and art spaces, Gertrude St has some great places to eat. Just take a walk down the street and see what takes your fancy. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Cutler and Co: a fine dining restaurant that consistently wins prizes for its food.

<http://cutlerandco.com.au/>

The Builder’s Arms: Old Fitzroy pub that serves gastro-pub food in the front, and has a fancier restaurant, Moon Under Water, at the back.

<http://www.buildersarmshotel.com.au/>

Charcoal Lane: a restaurant that focuses on local and indigenous food, and is a social enterprise business, working on improving the skills of disadvantaged youth.

<http://www.charcoallane.com.au/>

**Brunswick St, Fitzroy.** Once the bohemian epicentre of Melbourne, Brunswick St has gentrified in the last decade or so. There are, however, still many wonderful places to eat and drink.

Smith and Daughters: very trendy, but apparently quite amazing vegan restaurant.

<http://www.smithanddaughters.com/>

Naked for Satan: Bar that serves pintzos (food on toothpicks). It also has a roof top bar with great views of the city.

<http://www.nakedforsatan.com.au/>

The Commoner, just around the corner from Brunswick St on Johnston St: Locally sourced food in a nice setting.

<http://www.thecommoner.com.au/>

The Standard Hotel: Great local pub in the backstreets between Brunswick and Nicholson Sts. It is a ten-minute walk from Melbourne University and serves good food and drinks for a reasonable price.

<http://www.thestandardhotel.com.au/>

**Other inner-city areas with great food only a short train or tram ride from the University include:**

Smith St, Collingwood: another bohemian street, with everything from pubs to upmarket bars and souvlaki shops.

Sydney Rd, Brunswick: rapidly gentrifying street with great cafes. It is one of the centres for Melbourne's middle-eastern community, and has fantastic middle-eastern food.

High St, Northcote: trendy street, with a number of nice pubs and restaurants.

Victoria St, Abbotsford: famous for its cheap Vietnamese (and increasingly Thai) food. Victoria Street is a great place to eat well on a budget.

**Things to do in the city:**

- Winter is AFL (Australian Rules Football) season in Melbourne. If you haven't seen one before, catching an AFL game is a must for any visitor. If you're really lucky, you might get tickets to a game held at the MCG.  
<http://www.afl.com.au/tickets>
- Visit the Melbourne Museum.  
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/>
- Grab lunch or some souvenirs at the Queen Victoria Market.  
<http://www.qvm.com.au/>
- Catch a play or concert at the Arts Centre.

<http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/>

- Check out the amazing street art at Hosier Lane (right near MoVida!)
- Visit the National Gallery of Victoria. The NGV has an amazing collection of art. It is divided into two “campuses.” The NGV International focuses on the Gallery’s international collection of art and is on St Kilda Rd. The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia focuses on Australian and Indigenous art and is situated in the centre of the city at Federation Square.  
<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/>
- See the beautiful domed reading room at the State Library of Victoria. For those of you who are keen to do some research, the State Library also has a reasonably good collection of nineteenth-century literature.  
[www.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/)
- Talk to the animals at the Melbourne Zoo. The Melbourne Zoo is a short walk from Melbourne University and is a state-of-the-art facility that is well worth a visit.  
<http://www.zoo.org.au/melbourne>
- Walk along the beach, check out Luna Park, and eat some fabulous European cakes in St Kilda (catch the tram down Swanston St/St. Kilda Rd and you will soon find yourself there)

### **Daytrips:**

If you are willing to hire a car, or jump on the regional railway, V-Line, there are plenty of things to do outside of Melbourne. NB: most V-line trains leave from Southern Cross Station.

- Take the train to see one of Victoria’s beautiful nineteenth-century gold-mining towns. Bendigo and Ballarat are regional centres with vibrant art galleries, and Castlemaine is a lovely small town on the way to Bendigo.

[www.bendigotourism.com/](http://www.bendigotourism.com/)

[visitballarat.com.au/](http://visitballarat.com.au/)

<http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au/>

- Drive a car, or jump on a tourist bus, to tour the spectacular Great Ocean Road. The Twelve Apostles are well worth the drive!  
<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/twelve-apostles-marine-national-park>
- Go wine tasting in the Yarra Valley. Only one-hour’s drive from Melbourne, the Yarra Valley is famous for its wineries and for the Healesville Sanctuary, zoo containing only Australian native animals.

<http://www.visitmelbourne.com/Regions/Yarra-Valley-and-Dandenong-Ranges.aspx>

[www.zoo.org.au/healesville](http://www.zoo.org.au/healesville)

- Another popular wine-tasting destination is the Mornington Peninsula, which is about an hour's drive from Melbourne. There are plenty of wineries to visit on the Peninsula, but you can also visit a cheese-maker and a chocolatier!

<http://www.redhillcheese.com.au/main.html>

<http://www.mpchocolates.com.au>