

Melbourne

Eguide

Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria, is located in the south-eastern corner of Australia, and is the southernmost mainland capital city. As the capital city, Melbourne has become a large urban centre and is home to approximately 80% of the state's population. Melbourne is one of the world's most diverse and multicultural cities. Almost a quarter of Victoria's population was born overseas.

Melbourne has an extensive public transport network. It has one of the world's most extensive tram networks, one of a kind in Australia. For visitors there is a free City Circle Tram, which takes in many of Melbourne's sights.

Melbourne is referred to as the garden city, and the state of Victoria is officially known as the garden state with parks and gardens in abundance.

Melbourne is on the Yarra river and Melbourne runs inland from Port Philip Bay to the south. The central area is oblong with Flinders Street to the south, Latrobe Street to the north, Spring Street to the east and Spencer street to the west. Running north to South are Swanston and Elizabeth streets.

Melbourne Animal Attractions

Melbourne Aquarium

This is a high-technology aquarium stretching over three levels. It features a Barrier Reef exhibit and a walk through tank with sharks that you can dive with if you so feel! *Corner of Queens Wharf Road and King Street (03 9620 0999).*

Melbourne Zoo

Melbourne Zoo was established in 1862 and is the oldest zoo in the world. Most animals are housed in spacious, natural surrounds. The zoo is located only 4km from the city centre at Royal Park. Highlights are the butterfly house, the large gorilla exhibit and the new elephant enclosure. And sleepovers are also possible at Melbourne Zoo. *Elliott Ave, Parkville (03 9285 9300). Train to Royal Park Station.*

Werribee Zoo

This Zoo has a strong African feel and is only 30 minutes from Melbourne. The animals graze in wide open parklands and can be viewed from a safari bus. The zoo offers an unusual overnight



safari adventure where you can stay in a deluxe campsite. New to the zoo are the Kabu River Hippos. *K Road, Werribee (03 9731 9600). Take train from city to Werribee then bus to Werribee Zoo.*

Healesville Sanctuary

Healesville Sanctuary, opened in 1934, and is 65 kilometres east from the centre of Melbourne. Healesville Sanctuary specialises in native Australian wildlife and is one of the best places in the country to go to see such unique Australian creatures as wombats, koalas, kangaroos and, particularly, platypus. The Sanctuary

has kept platypus since the 1930s and, during the 1940s, became the first place in the world to breed a platypus in captivity, a success not repeated until 1999. Included is the Australian Wildlife Health Centre which gives a behind the scenes view of a real wildlife hospital. *Badger Creek Road, Healesville (03 5957 2800) Take train from city to Lilydale and connecting bus at Lilydale.*

Melbourne Art Galleries

Alcaston Gallery

The Alcaston Gallery specials in contemporary Australian Indigenous art with changing exhibitions. *11 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (03 9418 3065)*

Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)

ACMI is dedicated to the moving image in all its forms. Federation Square (03 8663 2200).

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

This distinctive landmark on Southbank is a rust red steel structure that houses contemporary art exhibitions. The ACCA prides itself on displaying innovative exhibitions by International and Australian artists. *111 Sturt Street, Southbank (03 9697 9999).*

City Gallery

Changing exhibitions using the City of Melbourne's Art and Heritage collection. *Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street (03 9658 9658).*

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RMIT Gallery

Changing exhibitions in the Storey Hall. 344 Swanston Street, Melbourne (03 9925 1717)

State Library of Victoria

Regular exhibitions held in the Keith Murdoch Gallery, Cowne Gallery and Dome Galleries. 328 Swanston Street, (03 8664 7000).

The Ian Potter Museum of Art

Known as The Potter, this is the University of Melbourne's Art Museum. It houses and exhibits the University of Melbourne Art Collection as well as staging temporary exhibitions ranging from classic to contemporary. Swanston Street, Parkville (03 8344 5148). Tram from city to University of Melbourne.

Melbourne Buildings

Captain Cook's Cottage

This historic cottage is the only 18th century building in Melbourne and is located in the Fitzroy Gardens in East Melbourne, close to the CBD. It was built in 1755 in Yorkshire, England and transported to Australia in 1933.

Although called Captain Cook's Cottage it was built and owned by his parents. Fitzroy Gardens, Landsdowne Street, East Melbourne (03 9419 4677). Tram 48 or 75 from Flinders Street station, stop 9.

Como Historic House and Garden

Como house is an historic mansion with antique furniture and tells the story of the early Melbourne aristocracy. Corner of Williams Road and Lechdale Avenue, South Yarra. Take tram 8, stop 34.

Eureka

View Melbourne from the highest point in the Southern Hemisphere at the 88th Floor of the Eureka tower on the banks of the Yarra river. Eureka Skydeck 88, Riverside Quay, Southbank (03 9693 8888)

Post Master Gallery

This gallery is home to the National Philatelic Collection, Australia's most significant collection of Philatelic heritage and artwork. The gallery displays nine decades of Australian stamps. 321 Exhibition Street, Melbourne (03 9204 5021) City circle tram.



Melbourne Art Rooms (MARS)

MARS is located in Port Melbourne, it was originally an old dairy but, opened as a gallery in 2005. It has a reputation for not being bound to traditional formats and its gallery space is state of the art. MARS hosts exhibitions by local, national and international artists as well as exhibiting works by un represented and emerging artists. Bay Street, Port Melbourne (03 9681 8425). Tram from city to North Port stop.

National Gallery of Victoria

The NGV has been displaying one of Australia's wealthiest and impressive art collections since 1861. The continuing growing collection out grew its home in St Kilda Road, and in 2002 was split in two. The Australian works are now displayed in the new Ian Potter Centre across the road at Federation Square. The international works are still displayed at the National Gallery of Victoria next to the the Melbourne arts centre. 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne (03 8620 2222) and the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square.



Exhibition Building

Originally constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1880, this was the home of the Victorian Parliament from 1901 until 1927. The Royal Exhibition Building was also the site of the opening of the first session of the Commonwealth Parliament, on 9th May 1901. The Royal Exhibition Buildings and its surrounds, the Carlton Gardens received a World Heritage Listing in 2004. *Victoria Parade, Carton and Nicholson Streets, Carton (13 11 02). City Circle Tram to Victoria Street or tram 86 or 96.*

Federation Square

Its unique, modern design and its size (covers an entire city block) makes Federation Square Melbourne's newest, major cultural, arts and tourism venue. The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia has the world's largest collection of Australian art. Federation Square also houses the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Champions Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, National Design Centre, Melbourne Visitor Centre, Restaurants, Cafes and

Bars, as well as hosting many events and festivals. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne (03 9655 1900). City Circle Tram*

Flinders Street Station

Flinders Street Station is an iconic Melbourne landmark, it is the oldest city station in Australia, being built in 1854. The row of clocks at the entrance to Flinders Street Station is a well-used meeting point, which coined a famous Melbourne saying "I'll meet you under the clocks". Flinders Street Station is the busiest suburban railway station in the Southern Hemisphere. *Corner of Flinders and Swanston Street, Melbourne. City Circle Tram*

Melbourne Exhibition Centre

The Exhibition Centre is Australia's largest, with 30,000 square metres of space available. *2 Clarendon Street, Southbank.*

Melbourne Town Hall

Built in 1870, the Melbourne Town Hall represents the glory days of Victoria's Gold boom. It has hosted hundreds of famous functions over many years, and houses the Town Hall Grand Organ, the largest grand organ in the Southern Hemisphere. The building is topped by Prince Alfred's Tower which includes the huge tower clock. It has ten function rooms and is a popular venue for the famous annual Melbourne Comedy Festival. *Swanston Street, Melbourne (03 9658 9779) City Circle Tram*

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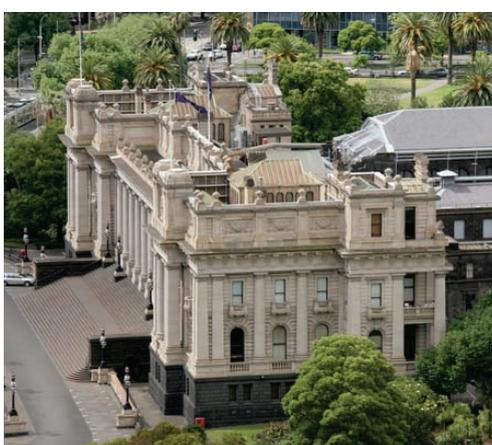
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Old Melbourne Gaol

Most famous for its holding and hanging of Australia's most infamous bushranger Ned Kelly. The Melbourne Gaol was built in 1858 and in its 90 years of operation it was the scene of 135 hangings. The scaffold on which Kelly was hanged survives, as does his original death mask. There is a collection of other death masks too. It became a Museum in 1972. After dark spooky night tours available. *Russell Street, Melbourne (03 9663 7228). City Circle Tram, stop 7.*

Parliament House

Parliament House is built of granite from the Grampians. The Legislative Chambers were constructed in a mere ten months, built in 1856 and ready in time for the first sitting of the Victorian Parliament. This building was used by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia while Melbourne was acting as the capital of Australia (1900-27). State Government sessions can be



Rippon Lea Estate

Rippon Lea is a large Victorian suburban estate with gardens about 8km from Melbourne. Built by Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood between 1863 and 1903 with numerous rooms and landscaped gardens. *192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (03 9523 6095)*

Sandridge Bridge

The Sandridge rail bridge is now a pedestrian and cycle path across the Yarra. This historic bridge was well used by the early migrants and to celebrate

the state lost in the Great War. The Shrine was opened in 1934. After the Second World War, it was extended to include those who had been lost in that conflict. The perpetual flame was lit by Queen Elizabeth on 28th February 1954. The Shrine is so designed that at 11am on 11th November each year (Remembrance Day) a single ray of sunlight will penetrate the roof and shine on the Stone of Remembrance in the Inner Sanctum. However, since Victoria has adopted daylight-saving time in the summer months, that event actually occurs at noon now. *St Kilda Road, Melbourne (03 9654 8415). Tram from city*

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Building started in 1880 and the cathedral was consecrated in 1891. It was the final masterpiece of English architect William Butterfield. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets.*

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viewed in the public gallery, sitting times do vary. During non sitting periods upper house and lower house chambers are open to the public. *Spring Street, Melbourne (03 9651 8568). City Circle Tram*

Rialto Towers

The tallest office building in the Southern Hemisphere at 253 metres high and 66 levels. There is an observation deck on the 55th Floor from where you can view all of Melbourne and surrounding landscapes. There is a lift to the top which takes forty seconds to make the journey, or you can walk the 1,450 steps! *525 Collins Street, Melbourne (03 9629 8222). Trams run along Collins and King Streets.*

the bridge has glass panels recording details of immigrant arrivals and indigenous peoples. The Sandridge bridge also has interactive touch panels with immigration data and stories of the Sandridge bridge.

St Patrick's Cathedral

A gothic Catholic Cathedral built between 1858 and 1940. *Cathedral Place (03 9662 2233)*

St Paul's Cathedral

Anglican St Paul's Cathedral was built between 1889 and 1892. *Flinders Street (03 9650 3791).*

Shrine of Remembrance

This was originally Victoria's memorial to the 18,000 men from

The Old G.P.O.

A majestic building dating from 1867 which, unfortunately, was gutted by fire in September 2001 and is used as the G.P.O. no longer. It has now been restored for use as shops, restaurants and offices. *Corner of Elizabeth and Bourke Streets.*

Young and Jackson's Hotel

This hotel (pub) is an important part of old Melbourne, dating from 1861 (then known as the Princes Bridge Hotel) and sits on the corner of one of Melbourne's well known, busiest crossroads. It is particularly famous for the painting of the naked Chloe which was purchased by Mr. Young and has graced its walls since 1909. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Street (03 9650 3884). City Circle Tram.*

Melbourne Museums

Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum

Located in the main entrance of the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), this museum is a sports lover's dream. It has three levels, all filled with sporting memorabilia. The gallery has records of the country's sporting heroes, from Olympians, to footballers and of course Sir Donald Bradman. Exhibitions include the Cricket Hall of Fame, Aussie Rules Football exhibition and the Olympic Museum. *Brunton Avenue, Jolimont (03 9415 1813). Train from city to Jolimont Station.*

Camera Museum

Michaels camera museum has about 3000 cameras with some dating back to the 1880's. You will also find movie cameras, darkroom

City Museum at Old Treasury

City Museum (also known as the Gold Treasury Museum) is in the Old Treasury Building, a most impressive edifice, generally regarded as one of the finest public buildings in Australia. It was built in 1862, having been designed by a nineteen-year-old architect. It was used as government offices until 1992, and then reopened as a museum in 1994. There are three permanent exhibitions here, entitled Built on Gold, Making Melbourne and Growing Up in the Old Treasury. *Old Treasury Building, Spring Street, Melbourne (03 9651 2233). City Circle Tram to Old Treasury Building or tram 31,42,109 and 112 along Collins Street. Admission charges apply.*



City circle tram.

Jewish Holocaust Museum

A Melbourne museum dedicated to the memory of Jews killed during the period 1933 - 1945. The museum has photographs, artifacts and models including a model of the Treblinka extermination camp. *13 - 15 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick 3185 (03 9528 1985).*

Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre

Victorian Indigenous culture all displayed in the Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre. The displays are realistic and tell it "as it was" when the Europeans arrived in 1835. *295 King Street (03 8622 2600).*

Melbourne Maritime Museum

Home of the barque Polly Woodside.

Melbourne Museum

The Melbourne Museum in the Carlton Gardens and is Australia's largest museum. It houses 9 major exhibition areas, including the mind and body gallery, dinosaur exhibits, an indoor rainforest, insect and butterfly collection including real life insects. The Bunjilaka Aboriginal Centre is a living cultural centre dedicated to Victoria's Koorie people. Bugs Alive enlarges the world of bugs to human scale. The Melbourne museum is also the resting place for Australia's most famous racehorse, Pharlap. There is also an interactive, very colourful children's museum. The complex also houses the Imax Theatre with its eight story movie screen. *11 Nicholson Street, Carlton (13 11 02 within Victoria, 03 8341 7777). City circle tram. Admission charges apply.*

Opals

The National Opal Collection is both a museum and showroom. The museum explains how opals were formed and how for example bones of prehistoric animals can become opalised. *119 Swantson Street, Melbourne (03 9662 3524).*

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Champions - Australian Racing Museum & Hall of Fame

Champions celebrates thoroughbred racing and it's role in Australian sport. *Federation Square (1300 139 407).*

Chinese Museum

The history and culture of Chinese immigrants going back to the early 1800's. *22 Cohen Place, (03 9662 2888).*

**F i r e
S e r v i c e
M u s e u m**
History of the Victorian fire

service with a collecting of fire fighting equipment. *Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (03 9662 2907).*

Immigration Museum

The Immigration Museum is housed in the Old Customs House. Construction of this building began in 1839 and it is the oldest public building in Melbourne. Immigration stories of people from all over the world are told here, from the 1800s to present day. *400 Flinders Street, Melbourne (03 9927 2700).*



RAAF Museum

More than twenty aircraft that were operated by the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force are now at Point Cook the birthplace of the Royal Australian Air Force. *Located at RAAF Base Williams. Point Cook Road Point Cook, 25 kms from Melbourne. (03 9256 1300).*

Scienceworks

Lots of hands on exhibits, live demonstrations and shows. Stretch your mind and muscles at "Sportworks", look deep inside your house at "House Secrets". See the historic Spotswood pumping station and the working steam engines or perhaps visit the Melbourne planetarium with regular shows. Located 5 kms from the CBD a 10 minute walk from Spotswood which is on the Werribee train line. *(03 9392 4800). Admission charges apply.*

The Grainger Museum

Dedicated to the life of composer and pianist Percy Grainger. *University of Melbourne, Grattan Street, Parkville.*

Melbourne Parks and Gardens

Alexandra Gardens

The Alexandra Gardens are on the edge of the Yarra River, very close to the CBD. They include the historic rowing boathouses and are host to major events including Melbourne's Moomba Waterfest every March. These gardens are also popular with Melbourne's youth because they house the Riverside Skate Park. *Access from St Kilda Road, or from Southbank, under Princes Bridge.*

Albert Park

Albert Park was established in 1864 and named after the consort of Queen Victoria. It is located 3 km from the CBD of Melbourne and is 225 hectares of sporting and recreational parklands. It has a 5km running or walking track around the lake with many picnic, barbecue and play areas. It is a popular venue for charity events and fun runs, and comes alive every March when it hosts the Australian Grand Prix. *Tram, train or bus from city.*

Australian Garden

A garden built around the arid inland landscapes of Central Australia with a Rockpool Waterway. *Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Ballarto Road, Cranbourne. (03 5990 2200).*

Birrarung Marr

Birrarung Marr means 'river of mists' and 'side of river' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who originally inhabited the area. It is Melbourne's newest Parklands in over a hundred years and opened in 2000. It is located in the heart of Melbourne on the North bank of the Yarra River. It houses the creative Artplay Gallery, a children's creative art facility and Gallery which opened in 2004. *Adjacent Federation Square, accessible from Swanston Street.*

Bundoora Park

A large park surrounding Mount Cooper which is the highest point Melbourne. There is Settlement theme park and exhibition of pioneer crafts. *Plenty Road, Bundoora (03 8470 8170).*

Carlton Gardens

The Carlton Gardens have a World Heritage Listing and contain the Exhibition Building, Melbourne Museum, lawns, lakes and trees. *City Circle Tram.*

Flagstaff Gardens

Named after the flagstaff used to communicate between the harbour and Melbourne town. Across the road from the Queen Victoria Market.

Fitzroy Gardens

The Fitzroy Gardens are within walking distance of the city centre, just beyond the Treasury Gardens. They were established in 1856 and house a Conservatory, a model Tudor village and Captain Cook's Cottage. *Tram from City, Train to Jolimont Station.*

Kings Domain

King's Domain is a huge area of parklands situated in the heart of Melbourne. It encompasses many parks, gardens and reserves. Kings Domain encircles Government House Reserve, Royal Botanical Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance. It also is home to the award winning Sidney Myer Music Bowl, a popular amphitheatre which hosts popular and classical musical events. *Access from St Kilda Road. Tram from City.*

Royal Botanic Gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens are widely regarded as the finest botanical gardens in Australia, and among the best in the world. They are comprised of 35 hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens. The famous Melbourne running track, called The Tan, is very popular with joggers and professional athletes, it runs parallel to the perimeter fence of the Botanic Gardens. *Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra (03 9252 2300). Tram or train from city.*

Royal Park

Royal Park is the largest park in Melbourne and managed as native bushland. The Australian Native Garden is good place for bird watching. Royal Park is the home to Melbourne Zoo and the Royal Park Golf Course.



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Werribee Park

About 30 minutes from Melbourne with mansion from the 1870's and ten hectares of formal gardens. *K Road Werribee (03 9741 6879)*

Melbourne Shopping

Bourke Street Mall

The Bourke Street Mall is recognised as Melbourne's shopping heart and has both the Myer and David Jones department stores.

Block Arcade

This is Melbourne's most stunning shopping arcade. Block Arcade forms a short narrow laneway connecting Collins Street to Little Collins Street, right in the heart of the CBD. Erected between 1891 and 1893 it is one of Melbourne's most richly decorated interior spaces, from the mosaic tiled flooring to the glass canopy overhead and lots of intricate detail in between. An absolutely must for window shoppers. *280-286 Collins Street Melbourne (03 9654 5244).*



Queen Victoria Gardens

These beautiful gardens are part of Domain Parklands and a short walk from the city and arts precinct. Highlights are the famous floral clock facing St Kilda Road, sculptures and monuments. *St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Tram from city.*

Treasury Gardens

Next to the Gold Treasury Museum and near Parliament house, these gardens are popular with city workers. They are also a popular venue for community events and rallies due to their proximity to the CBD. *Spring Street, Melbourne. City circle tram.*

Bridge Road, Richmond

Bargain Hunters and shopaholics can spend many hours in Bridge Road. Only a short tram ride to Richmond this historic road is chock full of fashion factory outlets where you will find designer clothes, shoes and accessories at 1/3 of the original prices. There are also plenty of trendy restaurants, cafes and bars to refresh and refuel. Bridge Road, Richmond. *Tram from city to Bridge Road*

Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Fitzroy home of Melbourne bohemian culture with many interesting shops and galleries.

Chapel Street

This famous shopping strip is Melbourne's premier retail fashion district. Over 1000 shops make up the Chapel Street precinct which stretches for two kilometres. It has established the reputation of being Melbourne's style capital and that's just not for the fashions, it is also chock full of trendy cafes, ritzy bars and excellent dining venues. *Chapel Street, Phrahan (03 9529 6331) Trams, buses and trains from city to Chapel Street*

Collins Street

A well established shopping street with many boutiques and jewelers.

Melbourne Central

Spanning almost two city blocks this huge shopping centre has a range of quality designer labels and cutting edge street wear. All housed in a contemporary space that has retained its historical features. Look up to see the heritage listed shot tower, the only feature remaining of its original home the Lead Pipe and Shot Factory. Another highlight is the hot air balloon suspended from the inner dome and a huge fob watch that entertains shoppers with Australian folk songs. It houses over 300 shops and a train station underground. *Lonsdale and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne (03 9922 1100).*

Esplanade Art and Craft Market-St Kilda

This unusual and trendy market has a stunning seaside vista and is very popular with visitors and locals. Every Sunday since 1970 the esplanade in St Kilda has come alive with brightly coloured stalls, selling an array of quality art and craft. It was established as an outlet for local artists and now there are more than 200 artists and craftspeople selling their wares here. *Upper Esplanade, St Kilda (03 9534 0066). Tram from city.*



Flinders Lane

The place to find Melbourne designers and lots of small designer shops along with furniture, books and craft shops.

Melbourne GPO

The old post office is now home for up market clothing shops, restaurants and bars.

Myer Melbourne

The largest department store in Australia and the most recognizable landmark in Melbourne's heart, Bourke Street Mall. Myer Melbourne consists of two connected buildings, known to Melbourne as the Bourke Street store and the Lonsdale Street store. With six huge floors in each building there is something to be found for everyone. One of Myer's traditional highlights are the Christmas windows. Since 1956 they have been a feature of Melbourne and continue delighting all ages every Christmas. Having a different theme every year, they draw crowds of people annually. *Bourke Street Mall and Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (1800 811 611).*

QV

QV is a acreage shopping co0mplex next to the State Library of Victoria. Corner of Swanston and Lonsdale Streets.

Queen Victoria Market

This huge market is an institution in Melbourne. More than just a shopping meca it is an historic landmark and a popular tourist attraction. It has been serving customers in Melbourne's heart for 120 years. Taking up a huge seven hectares it is the largest open air market in the Southern Hemisphere. Over one thousand traders sell almost everything! Closed every Monday and Wednesday and most public holidays. *Elizabeth and Victoria Street, Melbourne (03 9320 5822). Tram from city along Elizabeth street*

Southbank

The Southgate Arts and Leisure Precinct is a mix of bookshops, fashion, homeware, music and jewellery and close to many popular Melbourne restaurants.



Toorak Road

Australia's answer to Rodeo Drive, is located in Melbourne's ultra hip suburbs, South Yarra and Toorak. Toorak has been long known as Melbourne's most affluent suburb and its main shopping precinct testify's to this. Toorak Road has a sophisticated mix of Australian and International designers and importers. The boutiques are elegant displaying many one offs and original designs in fashion, shoes and accessories. Toorak Road, South Yarra. Tram from Swanston Street in city, train from Flinders Street alight at South Yarra station, takes approx 20 mins.

Melbourne Sporting Attractions

AFL World

An interactive multimedia experience on the history and legends of Australian Football. *QV, 292 Swanston Street, (03 8660 5555).*

Melbourne comes alive every March to the roar of Formula One engines as it hosts the Australian Grand Prix. It is the first race of the Formula One season and is raced on a 5.3km circuit course around the famous Albert Park Lake. The Grand Prix moved from Adelaide to Melbourne in in 1996, 401,000 spectators turned out, a record for the event. *Albert Road, Albert Park, South Melbourne (03 9258 7100) Tram, train or bus from City to Albert Park.*

Australian Open

Melbourne Park is home to the Australian Open every January, the first of the world's four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. This popular sporting event attracts the best tennis players in the world, with the final being held on Rod Laver Arena, which features a movable roof, making it the only Grand Slam that can be played indoors. When the two main arenas, Rod Laver and Vodafone, are not being used for tennis they host numerous

concerts, ice spectaculars, shows and exhibitions. Melbourne Park has four indoor courts and 22 outdoor courts that are available for public hire, except in January. *Batman Avenue, Melbourne (03 9286 1244). Tram from city, Train from city to Melbourne Park Station.*

Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of the most historical and famous sporting stadiums in the world. It is the home of Australian Rules Football and World Class Cricket, as well as hosting many great events, like the 1956 Olympics and the 2006 Commonwealth games. It has hosted opera and rock concerts, international soccer matches and is famous for the Boxing Day Test Match. The stadium once had a capacity of 125,000 spectators, but the installation of improved seating has reduced that figure to 97,000. On non event days, tours of the MCG are conducted. It also houses the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Musuem. Brunton Avenue, Richmond (03 9657 8867). *Trains from city to Jolimont station, tram, bus, water taxi.*

Melbourne Cup

Melbourne is home to the race that stops a nation. Melbourne Cup day is always the first Tuesday in November and is held at the beautiful Flemington Race Course. The race is recognized as one of the world's greatest handicap races and is run over 3200 metres. The first Melbourne Cup was held in 1861, with the winner Archer being the first of a long line of famous horses to win the much coveted race. The event attracts an on course crowd of over 110,000 people with the record attendance being 122,376 in 2003. The Melbourne Cup is just one racing event that makes up the famous Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival. Others include Derby Day, Cox Plate, Oaks Day, and Caulfield Cup, all held at race courses in Melbourne.

Epsom Road, Flemington (03 9258 4666). Train from city to Flemington Station, Bus, Ferry.

Rod Laver Arena

Home of the Australian Open Tennis Championship which can be visited on regular tours. Melbourne Park, *Batman Avenue (03 9286 1530).*

Telstra Dome

This very modern sporting and entertainment venue is Melbourne's, newest sporting arena. It was built in the Docklands precinct and was opened in 2000. It was designed for Australian Rules Football but is also host to many concerts, and has a seating capacity of up to 75,000. It is famous for its ultra modern retractable roof. *Tours are arranged around*

the Telsta Dome. Bourke Street West, Docklands (03 8625 7277). Tram from City

The Tan

Officially termed The Tan Track as it has a surface of tan bark, it is affectionately known to Melbourne's runners as The Tan. It is a 3.8km running track that runs parallel to the Botanic Gardens. The Tan has been used by running greats Steve Ovett, Kathy Freeman, Robert de Castella and Steve Monaggetti, just to name a few. The current record on the track was run in 2004 by Craig Mottram in 10 minutes, 12 seconds. However, it is just as popular with local and visiting joggers and known as the best place to run in Melbourne. *Numerous entrances around the Domain. Trams from city to St Kilda Road*



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