

Experience *Cool Hunting*

Melbourne is undoubtedly Australia's cool capital and there are some unique experiences ready for exploration

Day 1



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You have Arrived!

The **Urban St Kilda** hotel is just 10 minutes from the heart of the city, and very close to the commercial district of **St Kilda Road**, the prestigious suburbs of **South Yarra** and **Toorak**, water-sport focused **Albert Park**, **Southbank** and the **Crown entertainment complex**.

Scores of fantastic restaurants, al fresco cafés and groovy bars are just outside the front door with a vast array of cuisines and styles. Live music venues are also big around here featuring both the very-well-known and the never-heard-of.

Sea and Sand

St Kilda is Melbourne's seaside playground. A 19th century holiday resort for wealthy Melburnians, it had a less salubrious reputation in the mid 20th century, but now it's a fashion and foodie favourite. You can take a walk back in time along St Kilda's foreshore by listening to colourful stories of the people and events that have made this area infamous. Check out www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/skirt_sea_audio.html and download the **Skirt By Sea** audio

tour onto your iPod so you can walk the walk in your own time.

A late breakfast and some sea air is a good start to the day –

The Vineyard sits in the shadow of **Luna Park** and is just a short walk from the Urban St Kilda.

Acland Street is a mix of old and new, with locals and tourists sharing the footpaths. And the cake shops are a total temptation – even after a late breakfast!

At the far end of Acland Street is **Barkly Street** and some exciting vintage and cutting-edge designs such as **Shuba**, home to the latest in clothing and footwear, and **Hoss** featuring upmarket Australian and overseas designer wear.

Back at the water, take a stroll along the **Upper Esplanade** towards the city skyline.

The landmark **Esplanade Hotel** or **Espy** as it's known by the locals – is arguably the centre of Melbourne's live music scene. Bands play every night of the week and lots of Australian musical talent started their careers here. The Upper Esplanade is also home to one of Melbourne's favourite arts and crafts markets, the **Esplanade Market**, which operates from 10am to 5pm every Sunday

and features almost 150 stalls of original art and handcrafts. Over the overpass and past the **Catani clock tower** is the **St Kilda Pier**. A Melbourne landmark with panoramic views of the Melbourne skyline and Port Phillip Bay, the pier is a great place for strolling and fishing. You can board a charter boat to view **the little penguin colony** at the **St Kilda Breakwater**, which provides a rocky, isolated – and safe – home for around 700 penguins. And **the Port Phillip EcoCentre** runs **'Beach Buddies'** tours on second and fourth Saturday evenings each month. These 90-minute tours explore the St Kilda coastal environment at night – with the possibility of seeing penguins.

First Night

After a day of walking and grazing and getting to know the local area, it's time to hit the town. From Urban St Kilda, take a tram into central Melbourne. Dining at the compact and cosy **Bar Lourinhã** is a great place for sharing conversation – plates of tapas and cheese, cocktails and fine wine.

Day 2



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Rejuvenate

Head to Abbotsford for a spot of wellbeing at the **Abbotsford Convent**. A stroll through the Convent grounds (guided tours operate on Sundays) uncovers the studios of individual artists, craftspeople and writers, as well as a bakery, restaurant, bar, community radio station, and glass-blowing studio. **WellBeing at the Convent** features a group of independent health practitioners with therapies on offer to heal the mind, body and spirit, including massage, yoga, aromatherapy, kinesiology, osteopathy and naturopathy. Just the thing to inspire relaxation – and build up an appetite! But make sure you book in before you go.

Lose Yourself in Laneways

Leave the Convent and take the bus along Johnston Street into central Melbourne. Along the way you will pass through **Collingwood and Carlton** – unique enclaves of exploration in their own right. Get off at Lonsdale Street outside the **Myer Department Store** and cut through Myer to Bourke Street, then through **David Jones** to Little Collins Street. Across the road, head into **Howey Place** and then left into **Presgrave Place** – check out **Pushka** which serves breakfast, lunch and beer, and has the city's smallest gallery – a 20 x 30 centimetre hole-in-the-wall which exhibits tiny new works each month. **Centre Place** is a cosy, cobblestone laneway made up of a thoroughfare

and arcade that runs between Flinders Lane and Collins Street. Crammed along both sides are all sorts of shops and cafés, which spill out onto the edges of the footpath.

Taste Temptations

Head out for a night to remember. **Chapel Street**, Windsor, is the destination, and you can get there easily by tram. **Borsch, Vodka and Tears** is a real gem – a little bit of Warsaw in Windsor. It has more than 100 European vodkas available and all of them possess their own unique twist. The kitchen serves both traditional and contemporary Polish cuisine in a unique, warm and ambient setting.

Day 3

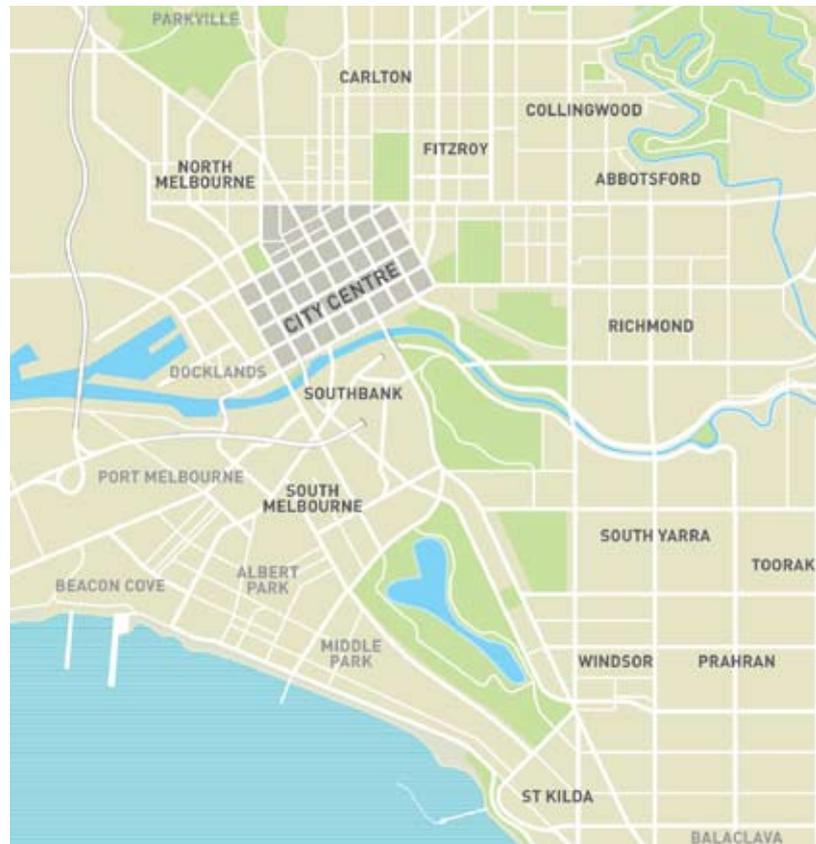


Retro Focus

After re-fuelling, head for some vintage experiences – of the retail kind. Vintage shopping in **Fitzroy** is just one excuse to explore these havens of Melbourne life. The number 96 tram to Gertrude Street will take you to **Circa Vintage Clothing**. Owner Nicole Jenkins bought her first 1950s polka dot party frock in 1980 – and she has dedicated herself to the appreciation of vintage clothing ever since. Round the corner on Brunswick Street, **Hunter Gatherer** started as an idea by Victorian welfare organisation, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and has developed its own label. It's the first fashion port of call for many visitors to Melbourne.

Open Galleries

Within **Brunswick Street's** multicultural community you can also find leading commercial galleries, contemporary arts spaces, artist-run galleries and cafés with regular exhibitions. Each gallery is distinct, catering for different audiences and clienteles. If you are after a one-off creation head for the **Rose Street Artists' Market**, open on Saturdays from 11am to 5pm, which uses a former junkyard in the back streets of Fitzroy to display the work of up to 50 artists and designers, some emerging and some more established. Featuring leather goods, stencil art, clothing, furniture, glassware, jewellery,



paintings, photography and more – you'll need a bigger suitcase!

Seaside Soujourn

Almost a local now, and on your last night take in Melbourne's seaside views with a splendid dinner upstairs at **The Stokehouse**. The beach, the glittering city skyline, a menu of the freshest seafood going and a wine list which showcases a wide range of Australian and international labels makes for a truly memorable experience.



Contacts

Urban St Kilda
35-37 Fitzroy Street
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 8530 8888
www.urbanstkilda.com.au

The Vineyard Restaurant and Bar
71a Acland Street
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 9534 1942
www.thevineyard.com.au

Shuba
190 Barkly Street
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 9534 3362
www.shuba.com.au

Hoss
208 Barkly Street
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 9537 1750
www.hoss.com.au

The Esplanade Hotel
11 Upper Esplanade
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 9534 0211
www.espy.com.au

St Kilda Esplanade Arts and Crafts Market
The Esplanade (between Cavell & Fitzroy Streets)
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
www.esplanademarket.com

Port Phillip EcoCentre Beach Buddies
The EcoCentre is located in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens. Cnr Herbert and Blessington Streets
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tour Bookings:
+ 61 3 9534 0670 or
email: info@ecocentre.com
www.ecocentre.com

Bar Lourinhã
37 Little Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Tel: +61 3 9663 7890
www.barlourinha.com.au

WellBeing at the Convent Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street
Abbotsford, Victoria 3067
Tel: +61 3 9415 3600
www.abbotsfordconvent.com.au/wellbeing

Pushka
20 Pesgrave Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Tel: +61 3 408 173 892

Borsch, Vodka and Tears
173 Chapel Street
Windsor, Victoria 3181
Tel: +61 3 9530 2694
www.borschvodkaandtears.com

Circa Vintage Clothing
Shop 1, 102 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065
Tel: +61 3 9419 8899
www.circavintageclothing.com.au

Hunter Gatherer
274 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065
Tel: +61 3 9415 7371
www.huntergatherer.com.au

Rose Street Artists' Market
60 Rose Street
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065
Tel: +61 3 9419 5529
www.rosestmarket.com.au

The Stokehouse
30 Jacka Boulevard
St Kilda, Victoria 3182
Tel: +61 3 9525 5555
www.stokehouse.com.au