

Freefalling Around Melbourne

Melbourne and its neighbouring suburbs are wonderful for wandering – with loads of free activities to keep everyone amused

Day 1



Do it yourself

A serviced apartment is a good idea if you are travelling en famille, as once in a while you can do your own cooking and laundry and the rooms are generally more spacious. **Quest Hero** is a friendly hideaway in the heart of Melbourne, on the corner of Russell and Little Collins Street. There are spacious and modern one, two and three bedroom apartments, most featuring striking views of the city, and all complete with the comforts of home!

Getting Around

A good way for visitors to get a sense of the city is on the two free transport services that operate within the city - the **City Circle Tram** and the **Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle**. They are an easy way to see many of Melbourne's attractions and each service has an on-board commentary.

The City Circle Tram runs clockwise every 12 minutes around the city's boundary from 10am - 6pm Sunday to Wednesday and extended hours, 10:00am - 9:00pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You can catch the tram at any of the specially marked stops and the round trip takes about 40 minutes.

The Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle can be boarded at any one of the 11 stops at key city destinations. The shuttle runs between 9.30am and 4.30pm daily. The round trip takes about an hour.

For more details visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au.

Heritage & History

Another way to get your bearings around Melbourne is to take a self-guided walk following Melbourne's **Golden Mile Heritage Trail**. The trail includes the city's heritage precincts, city streets, arcades and laneways and some of Australia's most important buildings. You can follow the four kilometre trail on your own, starting from **Federation Square**, or walk in the opposite direction from the **Melbourne Museum**, or anywhere in between. Booklets containing details of the trail are available from museums along the route and the **Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square (MVC)**. Guided tours depart daily at 10am from Federation Square.

A Bite to Eat

Melbourne is a multicultural city and food is an integral part of its character. A must-see

destination is the open-air **Queen Victoria Market**, a great place for fresh food and produce of all kinds – and lunch. While you are here you could pick up some local delicacies for dinner 'at home'! Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the market is a great place to meet some locals – many Melburnians do their shopping here.

Gardens for Life

Melbourne is Australia's 'greenest' city, with an extensive network of **parks** and **gardens**. During your stay you can freely visit one or many of these green spaces within the city environment. The **Parliament Gardens** provides a pleasant retreat on Spring Street with views of **Parliament House** and **St Patrick's Cathedral**.

Boarded by Wellington Parade, Lansdowne Street, Clarendon Street and Albert Street, East Melbourne's **Fitzroy Gardens** contain avenues of mature elms which are of national significance. A substantial collection of 19th century buildings survive within these gardens together with attractions such as the indoor horticultural displays in the **Conservatory, the Fairies' Tree, Model Tudor Village** and **Cooks' Cottage**.

Shopping Heaven

Window-shopping is a free activity and enormous fun can be had at **Chadstone Shopping Centre**, 'the fashion capital', located about 20 minutes' drive south east from the city centre. It's home to almost 400 stores, including local and international designers, bookshops, cafés, bars and entertainment for the whole family – including bowling and 16 cinemas. You can get there from the city via a **free** bus which operates from Wednesday to Sunday with two return coach services from the city – at 9.30am and 10.30am, from the corner of Swanston and Little Bourke Streets. You can return to the city on 3pm or 4.30pm departures from Chadstone.

Remember you must book your seat on this service.

Head for the Sea

After a few hours of shopping, **St Kilda** is a great place for a sea breeze and a leisurely amble along the foreshore. **The Catani Gardens** are bordered by Beaconsfield Parade and Jacka Boulevard – approximately six hectares of landscaped gardens. Also in St Kilda you will find the **St Kilda Botanical Gardens** in Blessington Street. These gardens retain elements of their original layout and early features, and also contain the spectacular **Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden**, a giant chess board, a children's play

space, glasshouses and the Eco-centre which offers lessons on sustainable living practice. An ornamental pond has a **Rain Man** fountain which runs on solar power and recycled water from the pond below.

Alfresco Dining

There are restaurants too numerous to mention in St Kilda – **Acland** and **Fitzroy Streets** offer a vast array of dining options from the cheap and cheerful to some of Melbourne's most respected for dedicated foodies. On a balmy evening it is an enjoyable exploit to just wander along reading the menus outside each establishment and seeing what takes your fancy!

Day 2

Day 3

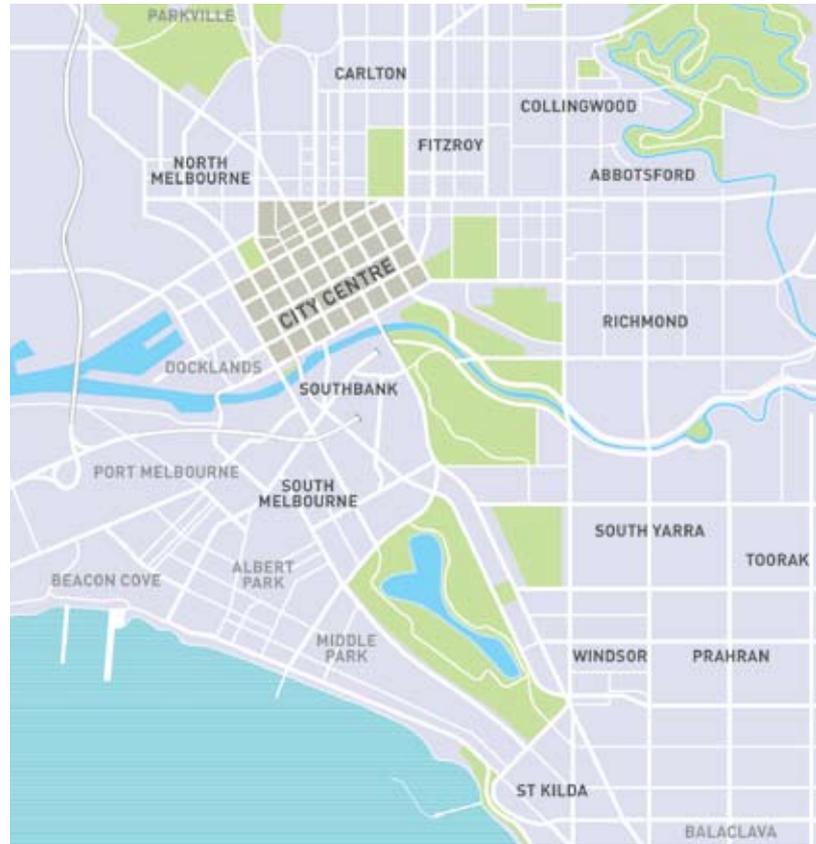


Down on the Farm

The **Collingwood Children's Farm** is only four kilometres from the centre of Melbourne in Abbotsford, nestled on a bend of the Yarra River and covering seven hectares of paddocks, gardens, orchards, rustic buildings and shady trees. Established in 1979, the Children's Farm is open every day of the year from 9am to 5pm and visitors can get involved in a variety of farming activities. There's a café serving a full breakfast menu, delicious lunches and all the good things in between! To get there from your accommodation take the Epping or Hurstbridge line train and get off at Victoria Park train station. Then it's about a 10 minute walk east along Johnston Street – follow the signs.

Horticultural Studies

The **Burnley Gardens** in Richmond have an interesting history. They were established as Australia's first school of horticulture and pioneered the admission of female students. Edna Walling, one of Australia's pre-eminent garden designers, graduated in 1917. Ownership of the Burnley Gardens was passed to the University of Melbourne in 1994. They are open daily and entry is free. Access the gardens by bus from the Children's Farm (along Johnston Street and Punt Road) to Swan Street, then take the tram along Swan Street to stop number 18.



Vietnam – in Melbourne!

On your way home, you might be interested in visiting one of Melbourne's multicultural food destinations. **Victoria Street**, Richmond is an area fondly known as 'Little Saigon'. **Pho Dzung Tan Dinh** makes great soup – there's not much else on the menu, but the excellent soup is why the crowds keep coming back.



Contacts

Quest Hero

140 Little Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Tel: +61 3 8664 8500
www.questhero.com.au

Golden Mile Heritage Trail

Bookings: Best of Victoria
Melbourne Visitor Centre
Federation Square
Tel: +61 3 9928 0000
1300 780 045 (within Australia)

Melbourne Museum

11 Nicholson Street
Carlton, Victoria 3063
Tel: 13 11 02
www.museumvictoria.com.au

Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square

Corner Flinders and Swanston Streets
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Queen Victoria Market

Corner Elizabeth and Victoria Streets
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Tel: +61 3 9320 5822
www.qvm.com.au
Open: Tue & Thu: 6am-2pm;
Fri: 6am-6pm
(general merchandise closes at 4pm); Sat: 6am-3pm; and
Sun: 9am-4pm

Chadstone Shopping Centre

1341 Dandenong Road
Chadstone, Victoria 3148
Tel: +61 3 9563 3355
www.chadstoneshopping.com.au
Bus bookings: 1300 558 686

Collingwood Children's Farm

End of St Heliers Street
Abbotsford, Victoria 3067
Tel: +61 3 9417 5806
www.farm.org.au

Burnley Gardens

500 Yarra Boulevard
Richmond, Victoria 3121
Tel: +61 3 9250 6800

Pho Dzung Tan Dinh

208 Victoria Street
Richmond, Victoria 3121
Tel: +61 3 9427 0292