

QBUSINESS.

BUSINESS TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Melbourne

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MELBOURNE HAS come a long way in a short time. The city was once an early-to-bed wowsler but its reinvention over the past couple of decades has seen it evolve into a cosmopolitan night owl. A thriving bar and restaurant culture gives it a dose of cool, while galleries and a dynamic live-music scene keep it kicking day and night.

Victoria's capital is also on track to become Australia's most populated city by 2026, with the influx of finance and tech companies to prove it. When those suited-up workers emerge from the skyscrapers of Docklands, they have a revitalised Yarra River precinct right on their doorstep. Beyond the CBD's eclectic streetscapes, where extravagant Victorian architecture rubs shoulders with Modernist statements, formerly working-class inner neighbourhoods such as Northcote, Collingwood and Windsor have become urban centres of bohemian appeal.

While the city does suffer from notorious suburban sprawl, there are wide green spaces and soft sandy beaches to explore only an hour away. Melbourne no longer has anything to prove – but it sure has plenty to offer.



Discover Melbourne's buzzing laneways



Population
+4.5 million



Average temperatures
Winter | 8°C | 15°C
Spring | 11°C | 20°C
Summer | 14°C | 25°C
Autumn | 12°C | 21°C



Local transport Melbourne's infamous traffic snarls make the public transport system an attractive proposition. A Myki card (myki.com.au) is required to access trains, trams and buses, though tram travel within the CBD is free. Early in the morning or later at night, taxis and Uber are often a better option.

Between meetings

If you have a couple of hours...

Emporium Melbourne (emporiummelbourne.com.au) bolsters the city's claim as the nation's fashion capital. This chic retail precinct houses independent Australian labels such as Camilla and Marc (camillaandmarc.com) and Gorman (gormanshop.com.au), plus international stars including Michael Kors (michaelkors.com).

If you have half a day...

Take a stroll north of the CBD through the Carlton Gardens, past the World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building, to the angular modern edifice of the Melbourne Museum (museums.victoria.com.au). Explore the city's history at the interactive *Melbourne Story* exhibition, where you have the chance to ride in a restored Luna Park roller-coaster carriage, step inside re-created slum cottages from the 1890s and see famous Depression-era racehorse Phar Lap on display.

If you have a day...

Just over an hour from the CBD, the Mornington Peninsula is the playground of the city's elite, who visit its stunning beaches, restaurants and wineries. Sample an array of award-winning wines at cellar doors including Trofeo Estate (trofeoestate.com) and Port

Phillip Estate (portphillipestate.com.au) or settle in for a leisurely lunch at Pt Leo Estate's acclaimed restaurant, Laura (ptleoestate.com.au), before a postprandial walk around the property's eight-hectare Sculpture Park overlooking the Western Port shore. Another intriguing kid on the block is the design-driven Jackalope Hotel (jackalopehotels.com), where the Rare Hare bistro's woodfired oven coaxes a kind of smoky greatness from all manner of meat and veg.

If you have a weekend...

Winding 243 kilometres from Torquay to Allansford near Warrnambool, the Great Ocean Road is one of the world's top scenic drives. Stop off at natural wonders such as the famed Bells Beach surf break and the Twelve Apostles, along with coastal towns like Lorne, Wye River and Apollo Bay, where café culture comes with a dose of relaxed seaside charm. Fancy something even more special? From Lorne, travel just 40 kilometres into the beautiful Otways hinterland for a meal at chef and owner Dan Hunter's highly acclaimed locavore fine-diner Brae (brae-restaurant.com), in a bucolic farmhouse setting. The stunning boutique accommodation, with in-room cocktail-making sets, turntables and vinyl, ought to seal the deal. ●



NEW HOTEL

On the edge of the CBD in Carlton, boutique hotel Zagame's House (zagameshouse.com.au) combines designer details, including a bold geometric façade and hallways decked out in psychedelic artworks, with 97 luxuriously appointed rooms. Lord Lygon, a wine and tapas bar on the ground floor, is the ideal place to drop in on your way out.



Hot neighbourhood Footscray is home to hidden bar Back Alley Sally's (backalley-sallys.com.au), pizza joint Harley & Rose (harleyandrose.net.au) and brunch kings Brother Nancy (brothernancy.com.au).



State government A Labor government led by Premier Daniel Andrews has been in power since 2014. The next election is due to be held in 2022.



Fun fact Melbourne's café culture is well catered for. The city's port handles an average of 30 tonnes of coffee beans daily – equal to 3 million cups of coffee – a rise of about 780 per cent in the past decade.