

WELCOME TO MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE
Convention
Bureau



MELBOURNE

Set on the shores of picturesque Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria, the southern-most state of mainland Australia. The city is rich in aesthetics, with its beauty enhanced by the meandering Yarra River, immaculate parks and gardens, public art, classical buildings and innovative design.

Melbourne is a vibrant and multicultural destination bursting with galleries, theatres, exceptional food and wine, hidden laneways and with an impressive year-round calendar of major events and festivals. If you have time, take a trip to regional Victoria to explore the many highlights of our state.

A Haven for Food Lovers

From hip waterfront cafes to internationally acclaimed restaurants and chic rooftop bars, Melbourne has an incredible array of dining and wining experiences. Renowned as a world class gastronomic destination, the city boasts more than 3,000 restaurants and eateries representing 75 different ethnic cuisines.

**FEELING INSPIRED?
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Destinations After Dark

Melbourne's bar culture is an adventure in discovery; as with the retail outlets during the day, some of the best bars and live music venues can be found down an unassuming laneway or on the city's rooftops.

Fashion Forward

Melbourne is a shopper's paradise for those with a passion for fashion. From high end fashion brands in Collins Street and luxe boutique stores in city laneways to large department stores, shopping centres and local artisan markets, you are sure to find something special in Melbourne.

Inspiring Arts and Culture

From grand theatres, museums and over 100 galleries to laneway street art and vibrant cultural festivals, Melbourne is alive year-round with world class art, design, screen, music and live shows.

The Home of Major Events

Melbourne plays host to an array of world class food, wine, sports, fashion, culture and music events year-round. As the 'sporting capital' of Australia, get close to the action at high profile international events including the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Formula 1® Australian Grand Prix and the Spring Racing Carnival. For a unique sporting experience, head to a game of Australian Rules Football.

The Great Outdoors

Take to the outdoors to explore the city's beautiful gardens and public parks. Head to Port Phillip Bay's sheltered beaches for an array of water activities, take a boat cruise along the Yarra River or follow one of the many walking or cycling trails along the water's edge.

KEY TRAVEL FACTS

Easy International Travel

Travel to Melbourne is easy, with Melbourne Airport operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This curfew-free airport offers 420 direct international flights per week from over 30 destinations. Melbourne Airport is a 20-minute drive via freeway from the city centre.

Temperate Climate

Melbourne's climate is characterised by low humidity and little rainfall, with four distinct seasons to enjoy. Average temperatures are listed below.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Summer - 25°C/78°F | December - February |
| Autumn - 21°C/69°F | March - May |
| Winter - 16°C/58°F | June - August |
| Spring - 20°C/67°F | September - November |

Easy Access in the City

Melbourne is set in a compact grid layout, making it very easy to navigate by foot. Alternatively, jump on a tram offering free travel within the city centre year-round.

Accommodation

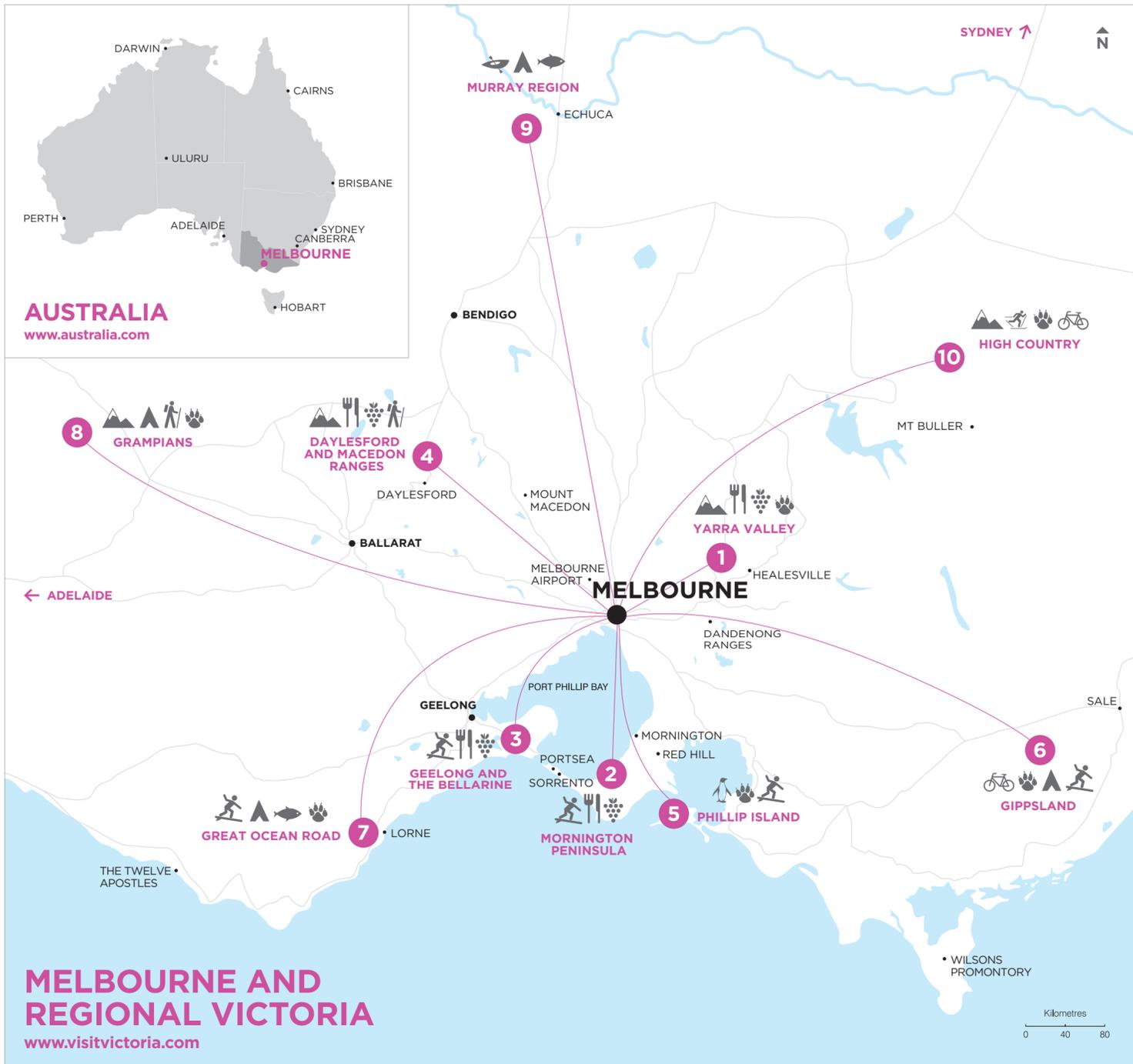
There's plenty of choice for accommodation from luxury to budget, with over 5,600 rooms available within a 5-minute walk of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Free Connectivity

Free Wi-Fi is provided in the city centre to ensure you can access the best of Melbourne.

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Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges

1 hour from Melbourne

Take an early morning balloon flight, meet passionate food and wine producers, and encounter a platypus at Healesville Sanctuary in the Yarra Valley. Wander the walking trails, meander the villages and discover the hidden delights of the Dandenong Ranges among its scenic winding roads, abundant artist studios, craft stores and renowned gardens.

Highlights:

- **William Ricketts Sanctuary** - Discover evocative sculptures set in the trees, rocks and undergrowth of the native forest.
- **Puffing Billy Steam Train** - Ride one of world's finest preserved steam railways running through the beautiful forests and fern gullies of the Dandenong Ranges.
- **Healesville Sanctuary** - Experience Australian wildlife in a native setting with unique close-up encounters with koalas, kangaroos, wombats and platypus.
- **Hot Air Ballooning** - Set off at sunrise on a scenic hot air balloon flight to experience the wonders of the landscape followed by a gourmet breakfast at a Yarra Valley winery.



Mornington Peninsula

1 hour from Melbourne

Breathe in the fresh sea air, sample innovative local cuisine and soak up the relaxed alfresco lifestyle of the Mornington Peninsula. Explore coastal villages, meander hedge mazes and relax at hot springs. For more activity, play on a championship golf course, swim with the dolphins, cool off at the beach or indulge in gourmet delights at boutique wineries.

Highlights:

- **McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery** - Stroll through bush and native gardens to discover artworks and sculptures by major Australian artists.
- **Peninsula Hot Springs** - Pamper yourself at this tranquil coastal oasis of health and wellbeing with thermal mineral pools, private bathing pavilions, saunas and a Hammam.
- **The Enchanted Adventure Garden** - Lose yourself in hedge and 3D mazes, explore theme gardens and a sculpture park or up the adrenalin with giant tube slides and tree surfing.
- **Arthurs Seat Eagle** - Take a gondola ride over the state forest and enjoy spectacular vistas across the bay to the city or along the peninsula.



Geelong and the Bellarine

1 hour from Melbourne

Take time to explore Geelong's vibrant waterfront precinct and tranquil seaside villages on the Bellarine Peninsula. Meet local makers and growers along the Bellarine Taste Trail. Wander historic streetscapes, swim at one of the ocean beaches and get close to local wildlife in Port Phillip Bay.

Highlights:

- **Bellarine Taste Trail** - Treat your taste buds to the best of the Bellarine Peninsula. Savour the local flavours at wineries, breweries, farmgates, providers, restaurants and more.
- **Swim with the dolphins** - Watch from the shore or join an organized expedition to swim with or cruise alongside Port Phillip Bay's playful dolphins and seals.
- **Tee off at Barwon Heads** - Put your golfing skills to the test on one of the renowned courses at Barwon Heads, home to three of the top 50 Australian public access courses.
- **Open Cockpit Scenic Flights** - Dress up like the aces of yesteryear and soar in an open cockpit biplane to enjoy uninterrupted views of Australia's most spectacular coastline.



Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges

1 hour 20 mins from Melbourne

Invigorate body and mind, and reignite your imagination amid the spectacular forests, natural mineral waters and historic villages of the Daylesford and Macedon Ranges region. Find balance and harmony at mineral spas, sample exquisite food and wine at restaurants, wineries and country pubs, and visit historic towns, local markets and boutiques brimming with art, craft and antique treasures.

Highlights:

- **Convent Gallery** - Located in a grand Victorian manor, browse the Convent's seven galleries exhibiting works by over 100 local and international artists.
- **Daylesford Day Spa** - Indulge in the spas and health treatments offered to rejuvenated your body in tranquil surroundings.
- **Macedon Ranges wine region** - Tour some of Australia's finest boutique wineries in the region for an authentic, intimate tasting journey.
- **Hanging Rock** - Visit this stunning natural rock formation and learn about the local history, mystery and geology or join a guided tour at the Hanging Rock interpretative centre.



Phillip Island

1 hour 50 mins from Melbourne

For endless fun, Australian wildlife, pristine beaches, stunning coastal scenery and hi-octane motor sport, you'll find it all at Phillip Island. Experience iconic wildlife including the little penguins at the world-famous Penguin Parade, up-close encounters with koalas and seals in their natural setting.

Highlights:

- **Phillip Island Nature Parks** - See the little penguins emerge from the sea and koalas in their natural environment, visit the Nobbies and enjoy yesteryear at the Churchill Island Heritage Farm.
- **Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit Visitor Centre** - Take an adrenaline-filled Hot Lap and race a go-kart, enjoy a Guided Circuit Tour and walk through the History of Motorsport Display.
- **Cape Woolamai** - Visit one of Victoria's most popular surf beaches and Phillip Island's highest point. Walk along the long golden beach or follow the coastal walking trails with stunning views.
- **Panny's Amazing World of Chocolate** - Taste, try and buy more than 190 different varieties of chocolate including a café and art gallery celebrating all things chocolate.



Gippsland

2 hours 10 mins from Melbourne

Escape to the eastern corner of Victoria and be rewarded with natural landscapes of unparalleled beauty. Visit quaint seaside villages and alpine towns, fill up on farm-fresh produce, get active on the region's lakes, rivers and mountain ranges, or simply relax on the pristine beaches.

Highlights:

- **Wilson's Promontory National Park** - At the southern-most tip of mainland Australia, discover spectacular coastal scenery, sweeping beaches and wildlife, plus many great bushwalks.
- **Buchan Caves** - Discover an underground wonderland of spectacular limestone formations at caves created over 400 million years ago, with professionally guided tours available.
- **Ninety Mile Beach** - Enjoy one of the longest and most beautiful stretches of sand in the world offering a wealth of activities including beach fishing, surfing and whale watching.
- **Tarra Bulga National Park** - With its lush gullies and giant tree ferns, experience this cool temperate rainforest with walking tracks, wildlife, waterfalls and famous suspension bridge.



Great Ocean Road

2 hours 40 mins from Melbourne

Follow the 243-kilometre / 150-mile Great Ocean Road to experience one of world's most scenic coastal drives. See the towering Twelve Apostles, iconic surf breaks, pristine rainforest and waterfalls. Get outdoors to bushwalk, surf or mountain bike or take the cultural route through galleries, museums and heritage attractions.

Highlights:

- **The Twelve Apostles** - Witness the rugged splendour of the famous Twelve Apostles, magnificent rock stacks that rise from the Southern Ocean from the ground or the sky.
- **Great Otway National Park** - Immerse yourself in some of Australia's best rainforest scenery including waterfalls, giant trees and lush ferns and experience the Otway Fly tree top walk.
- **Australian National Surfing Museum** - Learn about the history of surfing and beach culture in Australia including interactive displays, exhibits and vintage surf memorabilia.
- **Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village and Shipwrecked Sound and Light Show** - Experience this maritime village and museum by day and take in a theatrical multimedia show at night.



Grampians

2 hours 50 mins from Melbourne

Inhale the fresh air in the Grampians as you soak up the diverse natural attractions and their history. Experience the walking tracks, wildlife, lookouts and waterfalls in the beautiful rugged landscape. Savour local wines at cellar doors and relax at restaurants with spectacular views. Learn about Aboriginal heritage and see Victoria's largest collection of rock art.

Highlights:

- **Grampians National Park** - Discover grand rugged mountain ranges, stunning views, spectacular wildflowers, Aboriginal rock art and a wide range of outdoor activities.
- **Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre** - Learn about the region's flora, fauna and culture of its Aboriginal communities through talks, multimedia shows and activities.
- **Best's Great Western** - Visit one of Australia's oldest continually family owned and operated wineries with a reputation for producing exceptional shiraz.
- **Silo Art Trail** - Celebrate the rich heritage of western Victoria with a 200km journey along the Silo Art Trail, with innovative giant art, soon to become the country's biggest outdoor gallery.



Murray Region

3 hours from Melbourne

Enjoy the sunny climate and stunning scenery of the Murray River region. Relax on sandy river beaches, wander through forests, savour the food and wine, stroll the fairways of country golf courses and delve into the past at open-air museums and Indigenous cultural sites.

Highlights:

- **Port of Echuca Discovery Centre** - Walk the path of our river pioneers and learn about the paddle steamer history with sawmill display, interactive exhibits, museum and tours.
- **Murray River Paddlesteamers, Echuca** - Take to the water aboard the PS Emmylou for an unforgettable river cruise to enjoy the tranquil beauty of the majestic Murray River.
- **Murray Darling and Swan Hill wine regions** - Embark on a self-guided tasting tour of the Mildura region's cellar doors and local providers.
- **Mungo National Park** - See native fauna, plants and birdlife, Aboriginal heritage and the spectacular lunar-landscape in this ancient national park.



High Country

3 hours from Melbourne

Head for the spectacular scenery and high altitude of Victoria's High Country. The region is renowned for its welcoming villages, long traditions of wine making, fine local produce, adventure and outdoor activities in the breath-taking alpine scenery. Take to the slopes for skiing in winter, or in the warmer months explore the mountains on horseback or mountain bike.

Highlights:

- **Mt Buller** - Visit Australia's most accessible snow resort year-round featuring 22 lifts, world-class ski and snowboard school, terrain and toboggan parks and a beautiful alpine village.
- **Horse riding** - Gallop through stunning alpine scenery on the tracks and trails traversed by Victoria's pioneering mountain cattlemen.
- **Pedal to Produce** - Cycle through some of Victoria's most spectacular landscapes while stopping to visit farmgates, wineries, cafes and gourmet stores in historic towns.
- **Bright Brewery** - Relax on the terrace amidst the stunning scenery of the Ovens River and choose from six mountain crafted beers along with seasonal varieties.