

12. Transportation



Public Transport

Victoria's public transport system is unique among Australian states. Not only does it offer a state-wide train and bus network, but in Melbourne a tram and light rail system operates as well. For information about public transport in Melbourne and Victoria, visit the [Metlink](#) website.

To travel using the public transport system, you need to purchase a ticket (Metcard) which will allow you to move freely between the trains, trams and buses of Melbourne's metropolitan network. You can purchase Metcard tickets from the cashier or vending machines at the train stations, on board the trams and buses or online through Metlink. For convenience, many newsagencies also sell the tickets. Tickets need to be validated - i.e. marked with an expiry date and time - by placing them in slot machines found at the entry to the platform on train stations, and on board trams and buses.

There are two-hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and yearly tickets available for purchase. Concession fares are available for students, senior citizens and on health grounds.

Trams

There are 28 tram routes that take commuters from the city to various parts of Melbourne.

The City Circle Tram is a free tourist city tram circling the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD), leaving from a central stop every 10 minutes. The complete journey takes about 30 minutes.

Trains

Melbourne's main train station is Flinders Street Station, located on the corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets in the city. The City has an underground rail link, known as the 'City Loop' that circulates around the CBD. The City Loop stations are Flinders Street, Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Melbourne Central and Parliament. Not all trains travel via the City Loop.

The redeveloped Southern Cross Station on Spencer Street is the connecting station between Melbourne and Regional Victorian trains. [V/Line](#) provides rail services to Geelong in the southwest, Ballarat in the west, Bendigo, Swan Hill and Echuca in the north, Seymour and Wodonga in the northeast, and Traralgon and Sale in the east.

Buses and Coaches

Metropolitan Melbourne has extensive bus services. There is also a private bus system in place, involving a number of different companies. [V/Line Coach](#) provides a bus network linking most cities and towns for the remainder of regional Victoria.

Taxis

In Melbourne there are many taxi companies to choose from. You can hail a taxi in the street if the taxi sign on its roof is illuminated; however small orange lights indicate the taxi is not for hire. Or you can make a telephone booking for a taxi to ensure service when you need it. Taxi cabs are also available throughout regional Victoria. Refer to the White Pages or the Yellow Pages directories for telephone numbers.

Taxi companies in metropolitan Melbourne:

Arrow
132 211
Black Cabs
132 227
Embassy
131 755



References:

Metlink – <http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au/>

Living in Melbourne - <http://www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au>

North Suburban
131 119
Silver Top
131 008
Dandenong Taxis
9791 2111
Frankston Cabs
9786 3322
West Suburban
9689 1144



The best place to view Melbourne’s public transport system is Metlink Melbourne. This website includes timetables, fares, maps and stations and has lots of details about how to use the public transport system.

Please click on the link below for more information:

<http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au/>

Purchasing a Car

There are many ways of purchasing a car in Melbourne. You can either go directly to a manufacturer for a brand new car or find a second hand car via private selling and second hand car yards.

The main car retailers in Melbourne are:

Holden	Audi	Jeep	Nissan
Ford	Toyota	Peugeot	BMW
Mitsubishi	Suzuki	Hyundai	Lexus



For purchasing second hand cars the best places to look are:

Trading Post Yellow Pages	Car Sales	Cars Guide	Car City
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This data is sourced from the September 2007 Cost of Living Survey conducted by Mercer. All prices displayed are from the medium pricing level reported in the survey.

Automobiles	AUD \$
Economy car (up to 1800 cc, 4 door)	37,105.00
Mid-range sedan/wagon (up to 2500 cc)	85,000.00
Auto parts and running costs	AUD \$
Annual registration fee/road tax	496.50
Third-party and collision insurance	2525.00
Price of 4 new summer radial tyres	1100.00
Engine oil (1 L)	8.25
Petrol, gasoline (1 L)	1.34
Taxi fares	AUD \$
Initial meter charge	3.10
Rate per kilometre	1.55
Bus ride or subway in city centre	3.20



References:

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