

15. What to do in Melbourne?



Whatever the day, time or season, Melbourne is always alive with action.

The city revels in a whirlwind of activity from intimate gatherings to international events embracing sport, comedy, fashion, culture, art, entertainment and more...

Melbourne is a city with something for everyone - sports fans, fashionists, theatregoers, art lovers, writers and history buffs.

A melting pot with endless options, the city sweeps you up into laneways and libraries, art galleries, parks, shops, theatres and a vibrant waterfront atmosphere.

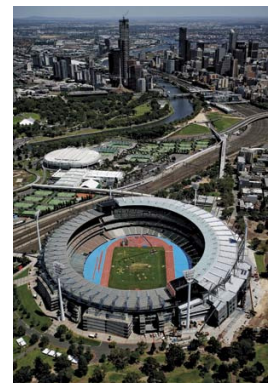
There is much to love about Melbourne. Just ask the locals. This sophisticated world city in the south-east corner of mainland Australia inspires a deep passion in those lucky enough to live here. Melburnians love the city's vibrant energy, staggering choice of restaurants, funky boutiques, café-filled laneways, cool bars, unbeatable galleries, luscious parks and village-like inner suburbs, each with its own special character.

Melbourne is the capital of Victoria and is a relatively modern city which is less than 200 years old and never sits still. New futuristic designs add to the fascinating mix of architecture and ensure the skyline is constantly changing. Melbourne is very much about lifestyle. It is no huge surprise to residents that their city has been ranked as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Melburnians embrace three things in particular:

- Sport (Australian Rules football is almost a religion);
- Fashion (the look is chic with a dash of quirky); and
- Festivals (the calendar is packed year round).

They even embrace their notoriously changeable weather. A standing joke in Australia is that Melbourne can experience four seasons in a day. But, really, it's just another example of how they have it all!



Sometimes, the best part of visiting a new city is when you unexpectedly depart from the tourist trail and glimpse the city's "real" side. While the big attractions can be great fun, often it's the more subtle "insider" experiences that leave you feeling really satisfied.

Warning: you might never want to go home.

Sport



Lace up your sneakers and practice your cheer, because Melbourne's sporting calendar is jam-packed with electrifying events. From the Australian Open to the Melbourne Cup, 3 mobile Boxing Day Test Match and ING Formula 1™ Australian Grand Prix, sports fans' diaries are always filled with exciting match and race dates.

References:

That's Melbourne – <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Pages/Home.aspx>

When in Melbourne it is also wise to pick a footy team – as the Toyota Australian Football League Premiership Season kicks into gear, the battle lines are drawn. To find out what's on in Melbourne view the city's full calendar of sporting events.

Dining and Night Life

Clubs, pubs, bistros, bars and cafes are always buzzing in Melbourne as part of the city's famous culinary and nightlife culture.

An eclectic range of cuisine is on offer at dining spots across town - hidden down laneways, high above street level or overlooking the waterfront.

From cosy pubs to cocktail lounges, the city is the ultimate destination for night owls. Dance the night away, recline on a couch in a retro/kitsch bar, or enjoy a pot in a pub.

Shopping

From the cutting edge to classic, boutique to big-time, Melbourne's vibrant retail scene is alive with alluring labels, products and shopping experiences – some home grown, some world-renowned.

It's an eclectic mix of high-end fashion and emerging designers, day spas and beauty stores, chocolate shops and delicatessens, jewellers and produce markets. All have a home in the city's laneways, retail centres and tree-lined streets.

Major Events

Major events take centre stage in Melbourne, from the Australian Open in January to the Melbourne Cup Carnival in November.

In between and whatever the month, there's always a major event taking centre stage in the city. Whether it's for arts, culture, fashion or sports, Melbourne is Australia's events capital.

Highlights include the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Formula 1™ ING Australian Grand Prix, L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival, Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, Moomba Waterfest, Melbourne International Arts Festival, and Melbourne Spring Fashion Week.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions of every kind are always on show in Melbourne highlighting design, craft, indigenous art, visual arts, fashion and more.

Enticing and entertaining, exhibitions in Melbourne can be found on the street, in museums and galleries and in purpose-built centres.

Check out what's on in Melbourne at the stunning Royal Exhibition Centre, Melbourne Museum, NGV Australia and Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Scratch the city's surface and you'll also discover a host of exhibits at contemporary galleries sprinkled throughout town.

References:

That's Melbourne – <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Pages/Home.aspx>