

NEIGHBOURHOODS

top picks

- **NGVA (p50) and NGVI (p63)**
Arguably the best collection of art in Australia.
- **Chinatown (p55)**
Discover the 1850s city-within-a-city.
- **Royal Botanic Gardens (p55)**
A range of plantings grace beautifully designed gardens.
- **Federation Square (p50)**
Melbourne's piazza, surrounded by cultural heavyweights.
- **Queen Victoria Market (p57)**
Historic market, fresh produce.
- **Melbourne Cricket Ground (p67)**
Iconic sporting amphitheatre.
- **Collingwood Children's Farm (p72)**
Bucolic charm just minutes from town.
- **Melbourne Museum (p77)**
Slice of local life packed in a postmodern shell.
- **St Kilda foreshore (p89)**
Palms, a pier and seaside strolls.

What's your recommendation? www.lonelyplanet.com/melbourne

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Melbourne is split in two by the turbid, winding Yarra. This divide was once more than a physical one, but blanket gentrification of inner-city neighbourhoods has made north-south class and lifestyle distinctions moot, if not entirely indiscernible.

Melbourne's city centre lies just to the north of the Yarra river, around 5km inland from Port Phillip Bay. Locals do bang on about 'the grid', and the city is indeed a strict matrix of wide, ramrod-straight streets, oriented at an angle to the river. Of course, these are dissected by a tangle of laneways that add an organic dimension to the grand vision and intended order. The city is used by a broad sweep of citizens to work, shop and socialise. There's an ever-changing mix of moods, crowds and venues.

Docklands, a new millennial extension of the city, sits west of the city, beyond the flowing-roofed Southern Cross Station and Telstra Dome. On Docklands' far side are a series of still-working docks and the western suburbs. South of the river, Southbank is home to the city's arts big guns (including the sprawling campus of the Victorian College of the Arts) and a string of hotels, residential apartments, offices and the Crown Casino.

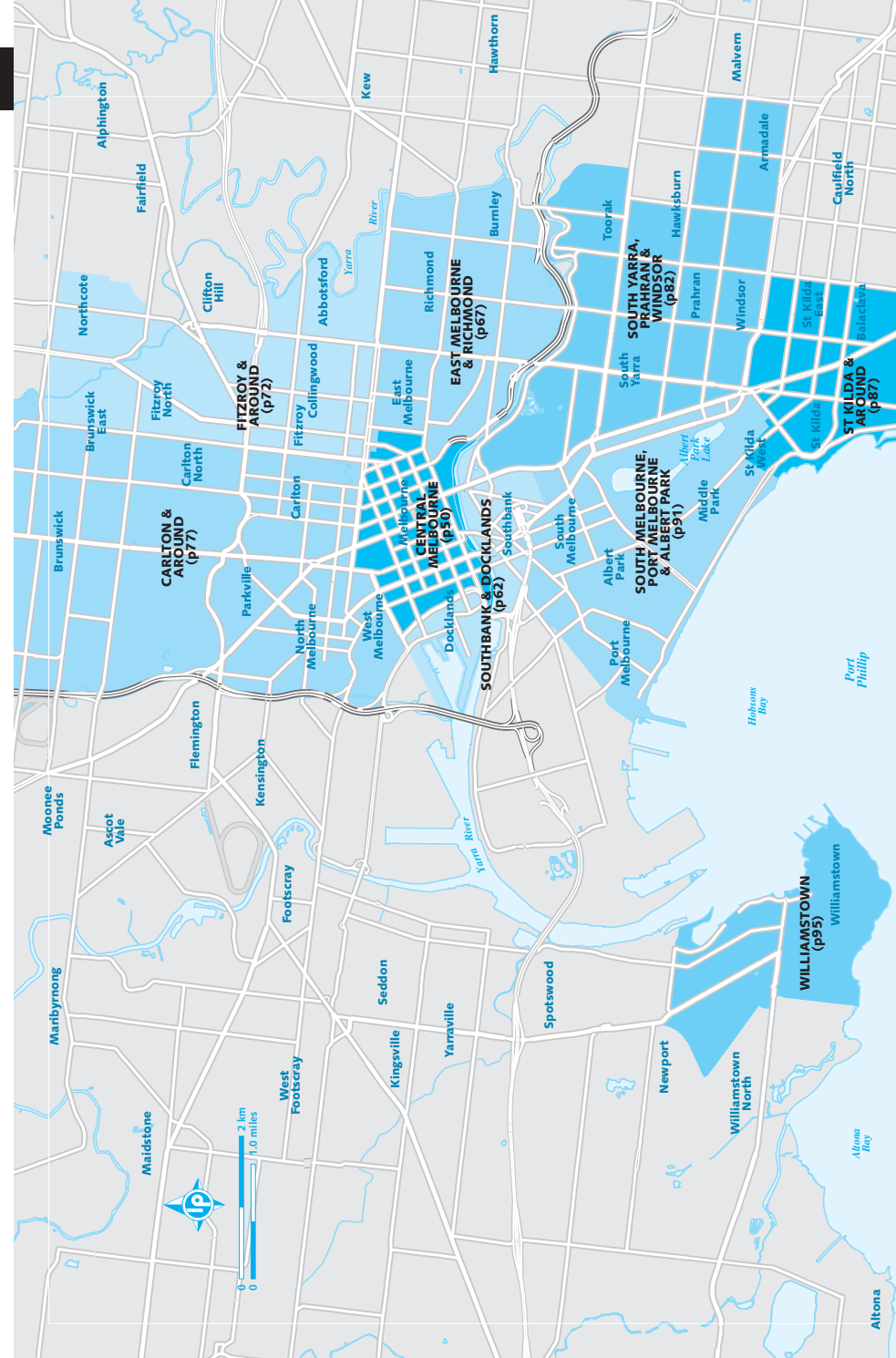
Despite the city's bevy of attractions, and its perpetual pace, Melbourne's character relies just as much upon its collection of inner-city villages. These slices of Melbourne life have distinct and diverse personalities. Sampling at least one of their thriving scenes is a must.

To the east, beyond Fitzroy Gardens, is the sedate residential neighbourhood of East Melbourne, then the outlet strips, Vietnamese restaurants and providores of Richmond. The inner northern suburbs of Carlton, North Melbourne, Parkville and Brunswick blur out from the city fringe, with a laid-back mix of university culture, parklands, shops, cafés and restaurants, many within walking distance of the city. On the northeastern side, right-on but indefatigably fashionable Fitzroy and Collingwood offer a mix of unique shops and cafés, as well as gently bohemian pubs and bars.

The grand tree-lined boulevard of St Kilda Rd is now fringed with office blocks as it stretches its way from the city to the bay. Parkland extends from the Yarra's edge through the Domain, the Royal Botanical Gardens and Fawkner Park to the streets of leafy, upmarket South Yarra and Toorak and their younger, hipper neighbours Prahran and Windsor. Further south, bayside St Kilda is a busy, hedonistic hub. Chi-chi Albert Park, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne share a slice of Port Phillip Bay further to the west. Williamstown, southwest of the city at the mouth of the Yarra River, is an historic maritime town with stunning views of the Westgate Bridge and back to the city.

These are the areas we've chosen to highlight, broken down into nine neighbourhoods. Beyond these, suburbs sprawl down the bay to meet the Mornington Peninsula, to the south-east to meet the Dandenongs, the west to almost meet Geelong and to the north petering out around the airport.

Melbourne's streets are dissected by a tangle of laneways that add an organic dimension to the grand vision and intended order. There's an ever-changing mix of moods, crowds and venues.



ITINERARY BUILDER

Melbourne's compact city centre and straightforward public transport system make discovering its delights easy in just a couple of days. Do get familiar with a tram map and get your walking shoes on, but resist the urge to overschedule. Melbourne is at its best when you take it nice and slow and leave space for serendipity.

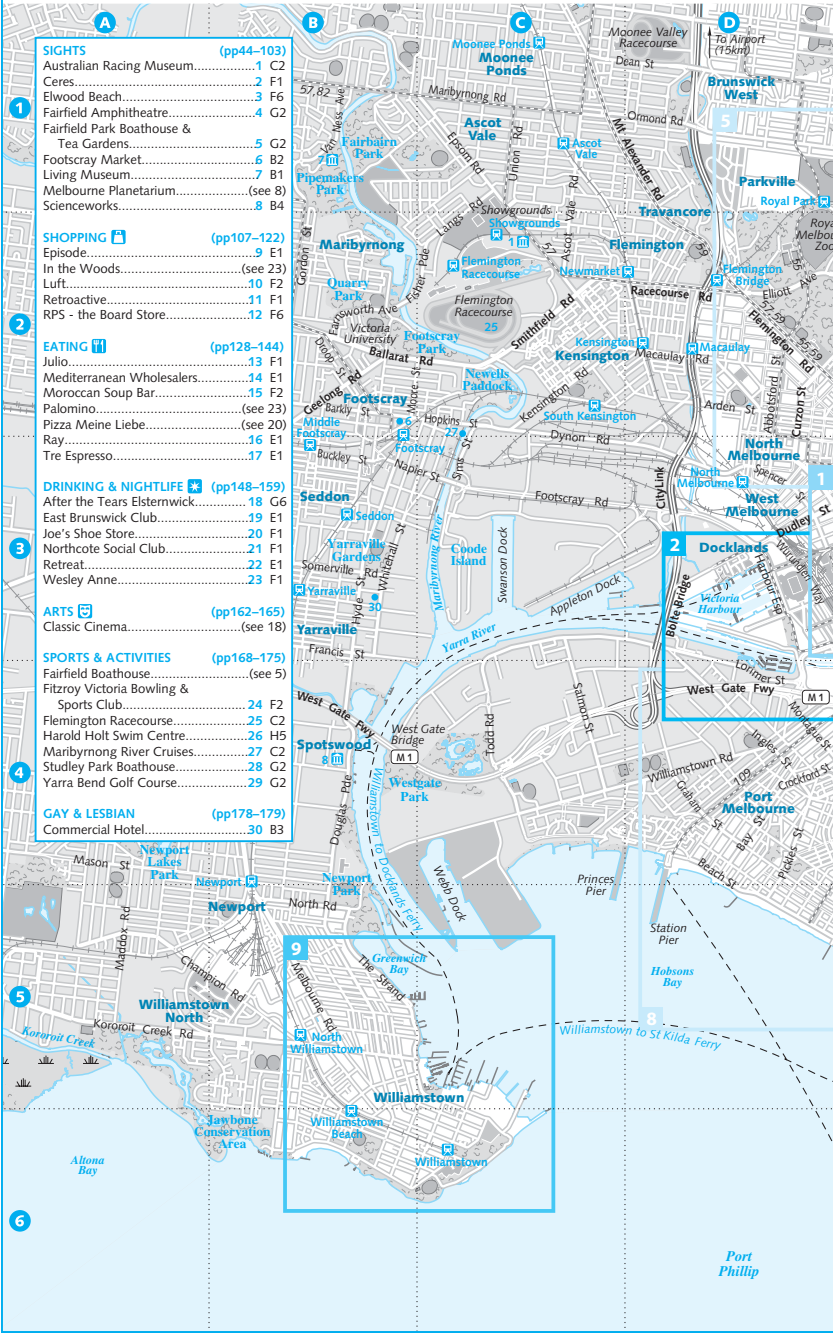
HOW TO USE THIS TABLE

The table below allows you to plan a day's worth of activities in any area of the city. Simply select which area you wish to explore, and then mix and match from the corresponding listings to build your day. The first item in each cell represents a well-known highlight of the area, while the other items are more off-the-beaten-track gems.

AREA	ACTIVITIES	SIGHTS	OUTDOORS	SHOPPING	EATING	DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE									
Central Melbourne	Federation Square (p50)	National Gallery of Victoria Australia (p50)	Chinatown (p55)	Birrarung Marr (p51)	Queen Victoria Market (p57)	GPO (p58)	Christine (p108)	The Press Club (p129)	Bar Lourinhã (p131)	Cookie (p131)	City Wine Shop (p152)	Recorded Music Salon (p150)	Transport (p150)		
	Southbank & Docklands	Eureka Tower & Skydeck 88 (p62)	Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (p62)	National Gallery of Victoria Australia (p63)	Docklands (p65)	NGV Shop (p110)	Guisepppe, Arnaldo & Sons (p133)	Tutto Bene (p134)	Bhoj (p134)	Alumbra (p152)	Bearbrass (p152)	James Squire Brewery (p152)			
	East Melbourne & Richmond	Melbourne Cricket Ground (p67)	National Sports Museum (p70)	Fitzroy Gardens (p70)	Melbourne & Olympic Parks (p67)	Dimmey's (p111)	Minh Minh (p135)	Pacific Seafood BBQ House (p135)	Pearl (p134)	Der Raum (p153)	The Corner Hotel (p153)				
	Fitzroy & Around	Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces (p73)	Collingwood Children's Farm (p72)	Carlton & United Breweries (p73)	Abbotsford Convent (p73)	Yarra Bend Park (p73)	Douglas & Hope (p112)	Vixen (p113)	Title (p114)	Ladro (p136)	St Jude's (p135)	Cavallero (p136)	Gertrude St Enoteca (p155)	Caz Reitop's Dirty Secret (p153)	Labour in Vain (p153)
	Carlton & Around	Melbourne Museum (p77)	Royal Exhibition Building (p77)	Royal Melbourne Zoo (p80)	Royal Park (p80)	Readings (p116)	Poppy Shop (p117)	King & Godfree (p116)	D.O.C. (p138)	Abla's (p138)	Brunetti (p139)	Jimmy Watson's (p156)	Gerald's Bar (p156)	Rose Bar (p155)	
	South Yarra, Prahran & Windsor	Royal Botanic Gardens (p82)	Como House (p83)	Herring Island (p86)	Fawkner Park (p86)	American Apparel (p117)	Chapel St Bazaar (p117)	TL Wood (p118)	Borsch, Vodka & Tears (p142)	Oriental Tea House (p142)	Café Veloce (p142)	Blue Bar 330 (p156)	Windsor Castle (p157)	Revolver Upstairs (p157)	
	St Kilda & Around	Luna Park (p87)	Linden Arts Centre Gallery (p87)	St Kilda Foreshore (p89)	St Kilda Botanic Gardens (p89)	Elwood Beach (p90)	St Kilda Esplanade Sunday Market (p120)	Third Drawer Down (p120)	Monarch Cake Shop (p120)	Mirka's at Tolarno (p139)	Lau's Family Kitchen (p140)	Baker Di Chirico (p141)	George Lane Bar (p157)	Prince Bandroom (p158)	Pause Bar (p158)
	South Melbourne, Port Melbourne & Albert Park			Albert Park Lake (p91)	Station Pier (p94)	Avenue Books (p121)	Empire Vintage (p122)	Nest (p121)	Tempura Hajime (p143)	Montague Hotel (p143)	St Ali (p143)	Hotel Nest (p159)	Lina's Bistro a Vin (p159)	London (p159)	

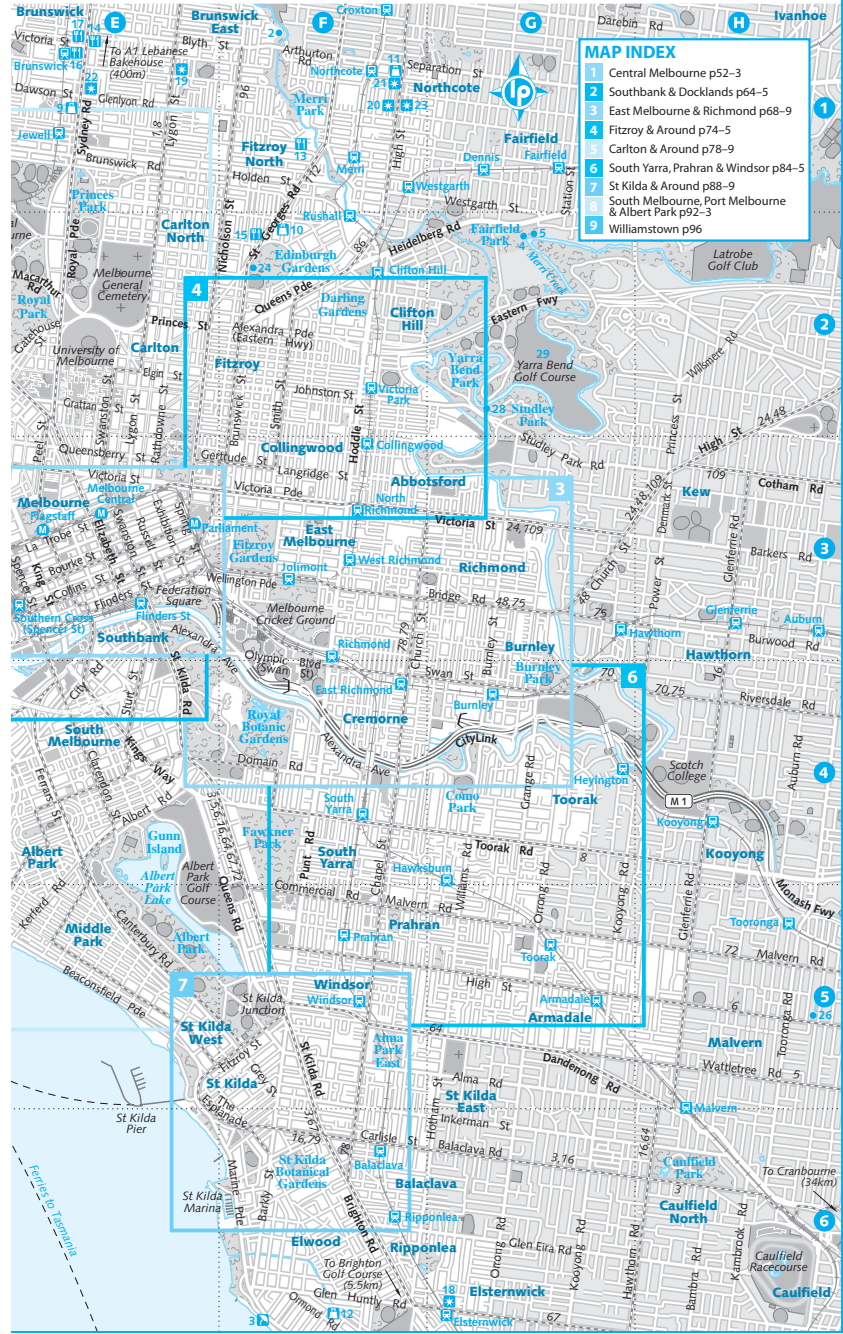
GREATER MELBOURNE

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0 1 mile 2 km

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CENTRAL MELBOURNE

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Melbourne's city centre is unlike any other in Australia. Its wide main streets and legion of laneways pop and fizz day and night, seven days a week. The city's little streets have attracted residents and businesses from as far back as the 1850s, a decade in which Melbourne's population quadrupled. Cheap rents allowed people to build in back lanes, which took on a life of their own with the subsequent sale and subdivision of spacious blocks. Over time, lanes sprouted smaller alleys to provide access for the collection of 'night soil'. The network spread, with alleys bumping into laneways and other thoroughfares, giving rise to bridges and covered arcades. This unplanned labyrinth not only corrupted the city grid but also attracted the seedier side of the 19th-century, prim Victorian city. Romeo Lane (now Crossley St), and Juliet Tce (now Liverpool St) were bursting with brothels, and Vengeance Alley (now Kirks Lane) confirmed the existence of a criminal class. One hundred years on, they are some of the city's most loved, and hyped, attractions.

While many Melbournians still make their home in the suburbs, the city centre has an increasingly large residential population; last estimates were at around 82,000 people. The buildings at the city's heart remain relatively low-rise, lending the main shopping and entertainment areas a human scale and a gentle old-fashioned feel. There are two big ends of town; skyscrapers cluster on the east and west ends of the grid and this is where the city does business. Southern Cross Station sits to the west, with Telstra Dome and Docklands beyond. Opposite the central Flinders Street Station, Federation Square, known to one and all as Fed Square, squats beside the Yarra, and has become Melbournians' favourite gathering place.

FEDERATION SQUARE Map pp52-3

Fed Sq; ☎ 9655 1900; www.federationsquare.com.au; cnr Flinders & Swanston Sts

Striking Federation Square, despite never-ending debate of its architectural merits, has become the place to celebrate, protest or party. Squatting by the Yarra and occupying a prominent city block, the 'square' is far from square. Its undulating forecourt of inscribed Kimberley stone echoes the town squares of Europe.

The surrounding buildings sport a reptilian skin that takes its cue from the endlessly dissecting lines of the city's grid; within are cultural heavyweights like the National Gallery of Victoria Australia (NGVA) and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). There's also restaurants, the thrumming **Transport** (p150) pub, and a few select retail outlets. At the square's edge is the subterranean Melbourne **Visitor Information Centre** (☎ 9am-6pm), a jam-packed resource for travellers. Fed Sq **tours** depart from here daily, except Sunday, at 11am and 2pm. Bookings are essential and can be made at the information centre gift shop (☎ 9928 0096).

IAN POTTER CENTRE: NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

Map pp52-3

NGVA; ☎ 8620 2222; www.ngv.vic.gov.au/ngvaustralia; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia was designed as a showcase of the NGV's extensive collection of Australian paintings, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, sculpture, fashion, textiles and jewellery.

The gallery's indigenous collection dominates the ground floor; it's given a central position often denied to Aboriginal art in institutions, and seeks to challenge ideas of the 'authentic'. There are some particularly fine examples of Papunya painting, such as the epic *Napperby Death Spirit Dreaming* (1980) by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri and Tim Leura Tjapaltjarri.

Upstairs there are permanent displays of colonial paintings and drawings by 19th-century Aboriginal artists. There's also the work of Heidelberg School impressionists and an extensive collection of the work of the modernist 'Angry Penguins', including Sir Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd, Joy Hester and Albert Tucker. The permanent collection also has some fabulous examples of the work of local midcareer artists such as Jenny Watson, Bill Henson, Howard Arkley, Tony Clark and Gordon Bennett.

Don't miss the fashion gallery, which highlights both historical and contemporary designers, usually dramatically displayed.

There is also a museum shop located here.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE Map pp52-3

ACMI; ☎ 8663 2200; www.acmi.net.au;

☎ 10am-6pm

Innovative ACMI is devoted entirely to screen-based culture and houses a screen gallery and two cinemas. Exhibitions range from blockbuster shows that highlight the work of global stars like Pixar to the latest in cutting-edge game and digital design. A new permanent gallery is set to open in early 2009 that will be dedicated to the history and future of the moving image, with a particular interest in the contributions of Australians, as well as how Australians consume and experience screen culture in all its diverse forms.

Cinephiles should look out for great minifestivals of cinema classics that run throughout the year as well as the **Melbourne Cinéma-thèque** (www.melbournecinematheque.org) screenings. ACMI's programs for young people, both film screenings and workshops, are also excellent.

BIRRARUNG MARR Map pp52-3

btwn Federation Sq & the Yarra River

Featuring grassy knolls, river promenades and a thoughtful planting of indigenous flora, Birrarung Marr ('River of Mists' in Wurundjeri) is a welcome addition to Melbourne's patchwork of parks and gardens. It's also a scenic route to the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) via the William Barak Bridge; the promenade runs further along to the Melbourne and Olympic Parks sporting precinct. The sculptural **Federation Bells** perch on the park's upper level and ring out daily (8am to 9am, 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 5pm to 6pm) with specially commissioned contemporary compositions. An old railway building in the park now hosts creative workshops for five- to 12-year-olds: **ArtPlay** (☎ 9664 7900; www.artplay.com.au) gets the kids sewing, singing, painting and puppeteering on weekends and during school holidays.

COLLINS STREET Map pp52-3

btwn Spring & Swanston Sts

The top end of Collins St has long been associated with that most romanticised of European cities, Paris. Lined with plane trees, grand buildings and luxe boutiques (including Bally, Prada and Hermès), the 'Paris end' of Collins St has a certain splen-

top picks

FOR CHILDREN

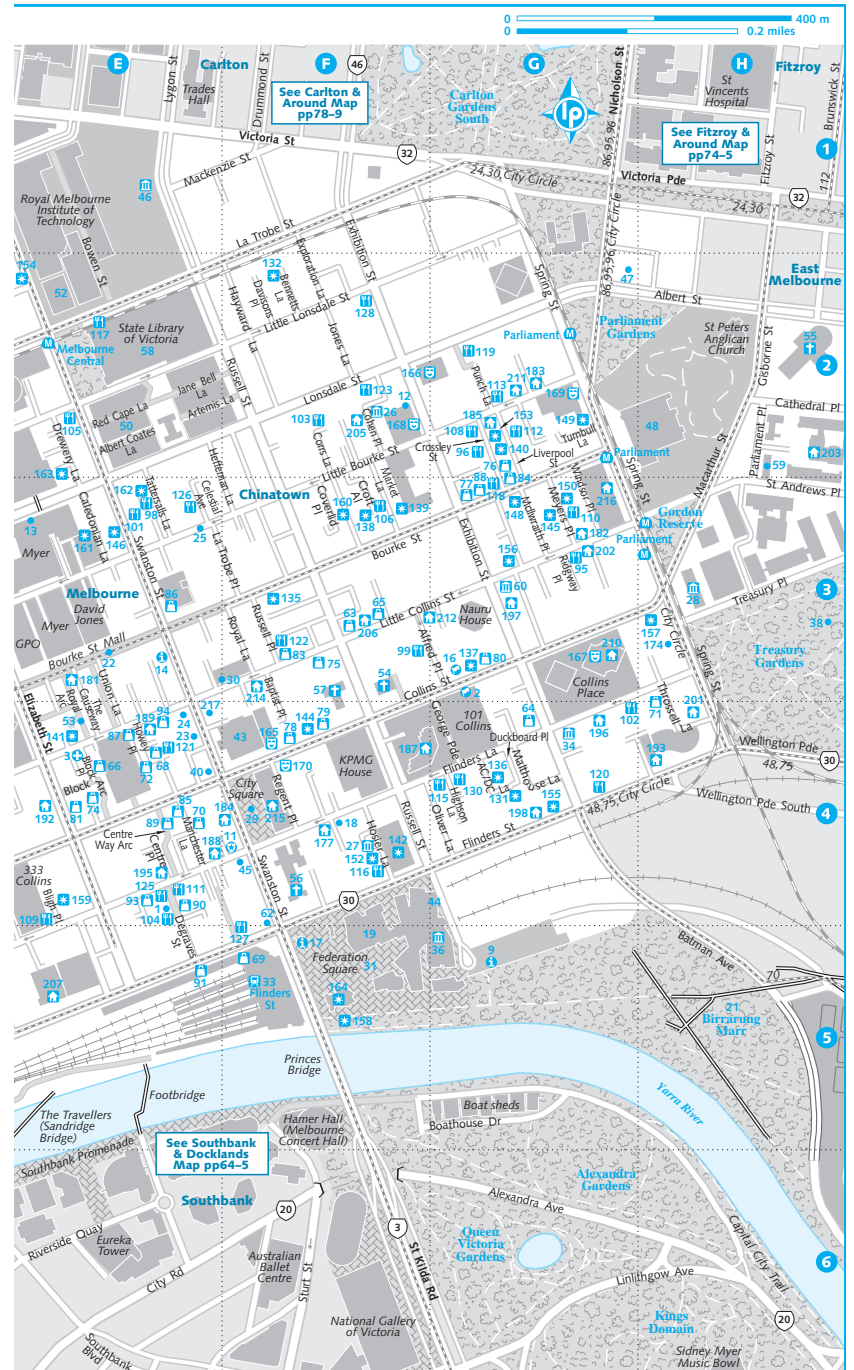
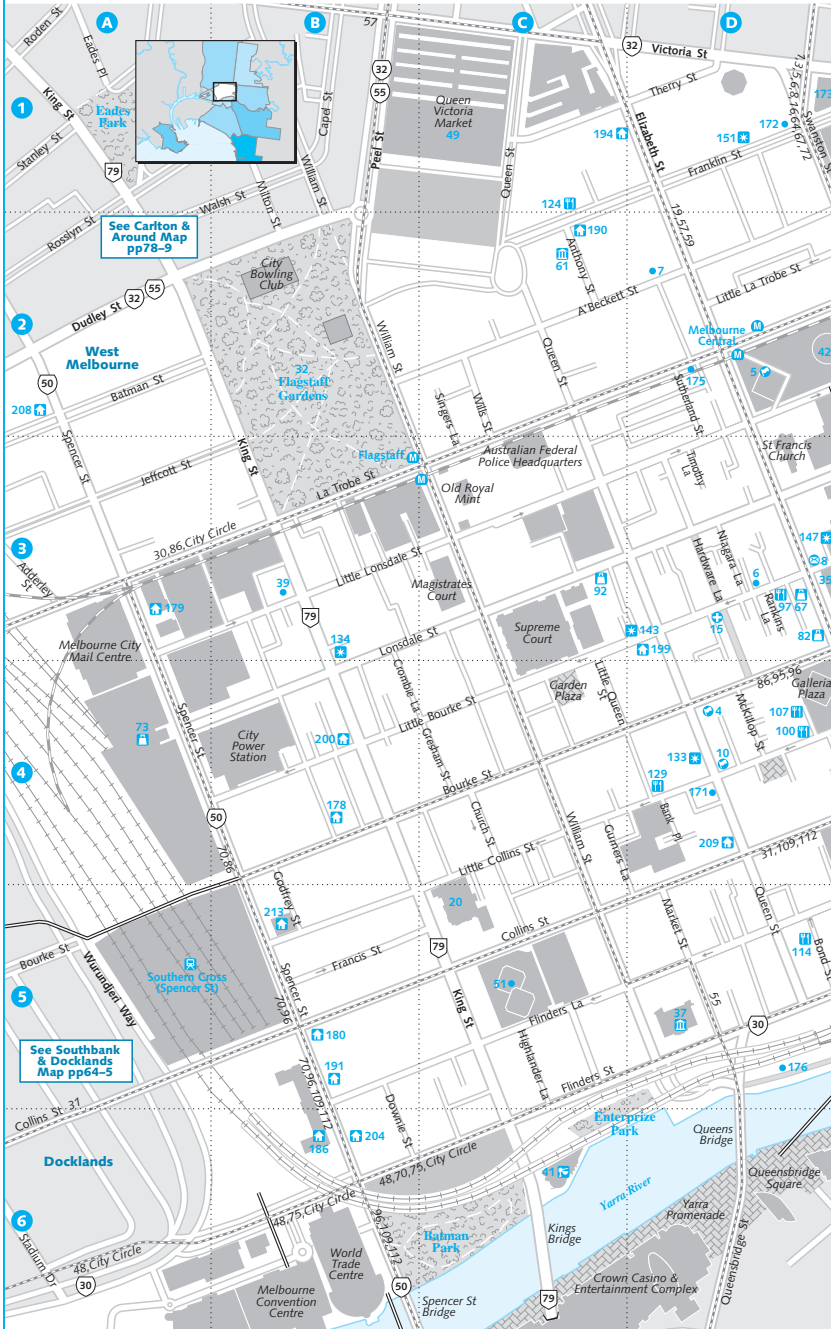
- **Children's Garden** (p83) With tunnels in the rainforest, a kitchen garden and water-play area, kids and parents love this garden.
- **Eastern Hill Fire Services Museum** (p70) So they want to grow up to be firefighters? If they don't yet, they will after a visit to this museum.
- **Collingwood Children's Farm** (p72) Old MacDonald has nothing on this farm.
- **Luna Park** (p87) Fairy floss will fuel the hysteria of the Ferris wheel and scenic railway.
- **Scienceworks** (p96) Explains the mysteries of the physical world through interactive displays.
- **Melbourne Zoo** (p80) Sleepovers in the historic Elephants' Enclosure are offered. Roar 'n' Snore packages include three meals (BYO tent, sleeping bag and pillow) and take you behind the scenes.
- **ArtPlay** (left) and **National Gallery of Victoria Australia** (NGVA; opposite) Have art programs that often take their cues from the current show if you can't get them interested in that iconic piece of modern art.
- **National Sports Museum** (p70) Just walking in will get your junior champion's heart rate up.
- **Ceres** (p80) Kids are encouraged to participate in their environment, either through playing with the animals or via the interactive education programs on offer.
- **Melbourne Museum** (p77) The Children's Museum has hands-on exhibits that makes kids squeal (especially the creepy-crawly 'Bugs Alive!' exhibit).

dour, but is as much a mini 5th Avenue as a *grand boulevard*.

Straddling Russell St are two of Melbourne's historic churches. **Scots' Church** (www.scotschurch.com; 140 Collins St), the first Presbyterian church in Victoria, was built in the decorative Gothic style (1873); opposite is **St Michael's Uniting Church** (p59).

At 188 Collins St, the **Athenaeum** (p165), dating back to 1886, has undergone many a face-lift. The Greek goddess of wisdom, Athena, sits atop the façade, imbuing the theatre with classical gravitas. Across the road, the opulent **Regent Theatre** (p165) was considered one of the most lavish theatres of its kind when it was built in 1929 with the advent of the talkies. Destroyed by fire and then restored in 1945, the Regent had fallen into disrepair by the 1990s. After a

CENTRAL MELBOURNE



CENTRAL MELBOURNE

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CENTRAL MELBOURNE

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major refurbishment it reopened in late 1996 and is now used mainly for block-buster stage shows.

A number of Melbourne's ornate arcades lead off from Collins St. The Block network, comprising Block Pl, Block Arcade and Block Ct, was named after the 19th-century pastime of 'doing the block', which referred to walking the city's fashionable area. The **Block Arcade**, which runs between Collins and Elizabeth Sts, was built in 1891 and features etched-glass ceilings and mosaic floors. It houses an interesting mix of old-school and

contemporary retailers. Nestled between Block Arcade and Little Collins St, **Block Place** keeps city kids fuelled with coffee and café food. Weave your way further south through **Centre Way Arcade** and **Centre Place**, pausing to take in the street art, maybe some noodles, a drink, or a browse through a boutique.

It's down to business along the western end of Collins St. The city's financial sector begins across Elizabeth St, but the area also has some of Melbourne's best-preserved old buildings. Bankers and stockbrokers call this area home, and it's where you'll find the **Australian Stock Exchange** (530 Collins St).

TRANSPORT

Flinders Street Station is the main metro train station connecting the city and suburbs. The City Loop runs under the city, linking the four corners of town.

An extensive network of tram lines covers every corner of the city, running north-south and east-west along all major roads. Trams run roughly every three minutes Monday to Friday, every 10 minutes on Saturday, and every 20 minutes on Sunday. Also worth considering is the free City Circle tram (see the boxed text, p94), which loops around town.

If you're driving and you don't luck out on a metered parking space, there are plenty of public lots available (see p345), with good after-5pm and weekend deals usually available.

CHINATOWN

Map pp52-3
Little Bourke St, btwn Spring & Swanston Sts
Chinese miners arrived in search of the 'new gold mountain' in the 1850s and settled in this strip of Little Bourke St, now flanked by traditional red archways. Many of the original 19th-century shops and warehouses remain, and you'll find an interesting mix of discount shops, streetwear retailers, bars and restaurants, including one of Melbourne's best (see **Flower Drum**, p129). Come here for *yum cha* (dim sum) or explore its attendant laneways for late-night dumplings or cocktails. The **Chinese Museum** (☎ 9662 2888; www.chinesemuseum.com.au;

22 Cohen Pl; adult/child \$7.50/5.50; ☎ 10am-5pm) has a temple in the basement and displays of artefacts from the gold-rush era. Chinatown hosts the city's vibrant Chinese New Year celebrations (see p13).

PARLIAMENT HOUSE Map pp52-3

☎ 9651 8911; www.parliament.vic.gov.au; Spring St This government building's beautiful classical lines and exuberant use of ornamental plasterwork, stencilling and gilt are full of gold-rush era pride and optimism. Building began here in 1856 with the two main chambers: the lower house (now the Legislative Assembly) and the upper house (now the Legislative Council). The library was added in 1860 and Queen's Hall in 1879. The original plans for Parliament House included an enormous dome, which was deemed too costly. Plans to 'finish' the building by adding the dome in 2000 were scrapped when it was estimated that it could cost around \$4 billion to build. Despite the creative compromise, this structure is one of the city's most impressive public buildings. Australia's first federal parliament sat here from 1901, before moving to Canberra in 1927. Though they've never been used, gun slits are visible just below the roof, and a dungeon is now the cleaners' tearoom.

Free half-hour tours (☎ weekday 10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm, 3.45pm), held when parliament is in recess (bookings required), take you through both houses and the library. Fascinating design features and the symbolism underlying much of the ornamentation are illuminated by the knowledgeable guides. Ask about the mystery of the stolen ceremonial mace that disappeared from the lower house in 1891 – rumour has it that it ended up in a brothel. Another way to see the houses is to visit when parliament is sitting; phone or visit the website to find out when it's in session.

MELBOURNE TOWN HALL Map pp52-3

☎ 9658 9658; www.melbourne.vic.gov.au; cnr Collins & Swanston Sts The Melbourne Town Hall has been used as a civic and entertainment venue since 1870. Queen Elizabeth II took tea there in 1954, and the Beatles waved to thousands of screaming fans from the balcony in 1964. In 2001 the town hall's Grand Organ (built in 1929) was given an overhaul; you may want to take the free one-hour tour (☎ 11am & 1pm Mon-Fri) to find out exactly what having

the 'largest grand romantic organ in the southern hemisphere' actually means.

COUNCIL HOUSE 2 Map pp52-3

CH2; ☎ 9658 9658; www.melbourne.vic.gov.au; 218-242 Little Collins St Melbourneans weren't sure what to think about the new council building as it rose from what was a carpark: was this to be yet another grey corporate box? Slowly, it was revealed, and it turned out to be iridescently, award-winningly green.

Officially opened in August 2006, CH2's design is based on 'biomimicry', reflecting the complex ecosystem of the planet. The building uses the sun, water and wind in combination with a slew of sustainable technologies. These include a basement water-mining plant, a façade of richly toned wooden louvres that track the sun (powered by photovoltaic cells), and light and dark air-circulation ducts that either absorb heat or draw in fresh air from the roof. The foyer includes a collection of specially commissioned art works, including an arresting installation by Janet Laurence, evoking the hydrology at work beneath the floor.

CH2 was built in response to meeting the council's own targets for zero carbon emissions by 2020. It's also an elegantly simple example of a building that's healthier for occupants, financially viable for owners and a lot less hungry for finite resources. Tours (☎ 2pm Tue & Thu) of the building leave from reception. Bookings required.

OLD MELBOURNE GAOL Map pp52-3

☎ 8663 7228; www.oldmelbournegaol.com.au; Russell St; adult/child/family \$18/9.50/44; ☎ 9.30am-5pm This forbidding monument to 19th-century justice is now a museum. It was built of bluestone in 1841, and prisoners were locked up here until 1929. The tiny, bleak cells display plaster casts of some of the 130-plus people who were hanged here, a chilling 'byproduct' of the era's obsession with phrenology. The dire social conditions that motivated criminals in 19th-century Melbourne are also highlighted.

The last sound that legendary bush-ranger Ned Kelly (p24) heard was the clang of the trap here in 1880. His death mask, armour and history are on display.

For extra frisson, take a night tour by candlelight, or even stay overnight. Book-

ings need to be made through Ticketek (☎ 13 28 49; http://premier.ticketek.com.au; adult/under 15 \$30/22.50). Evening events are not recommended for children under 12.

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET Map pp52-3

☎ 9320 5822; www.qvm.com.au; 513 Elizabeth St; ☎ 6am-2pm Tue & Thu, 6am-6pm Fri, 6am-3pm Sat, 9am-4pm Sun

With over 600 traders, it's the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere and attracts thousands of shoppers. The market has been on the site for more than 130 years, prior to which it was a burial ground (see p98).

Melburnians love to shop at the 'Vic'. Fresh produce includes organics and Asian specialties, plus there are deli, meat and fish halls. Saturday mornings are particularly buzzing, with marketgoers breakfasting to the sounds and shows of buskers. Clothing and knick-knack stalls dominate on Sundays; while big on variety, don't come looking for style. If you're in the market for sheepskin moccasins you'll be in luck.

In summer the market is open on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm to 10pm, when it features hawker-style food stalls, and music and dance performances. It also runs a variety of tours and cooking classes (see p127). Phone for details or visit the website.

ROYAL ARCADE Map pp52-3

☎ 9670 7777; www.royalarcade.com.au; 335 Bourke St Mall

This Parisian-style arcade was built between 1869 and 1870 and is Melbourne's oldest; the upper walls retain much of the original 19th-century detail. The black-and-white chequered path leads to the mythological figures of giant brothers Gog and Magog, perched with hammers atop the arched exit to Little Collins St. They've been striking the hour here since 1892. The businesses within are a fascinating mix of the classy and the quotidian.

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Map pp52-3

☎ 8664 7000; www.slv.vic.gov.au; 328 Swanston St; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri-Sun

When the library opened in 1856, people entering were required to sign the visitors' book, be over 14 years old and have clean hands. The only requirements today are

that you leave your bags in the locker room and maintain a bit of shush.

When the octagonal La Trobe Reading Room was completed in 1913, the reinforced-concrete dome was the largest of its kind in the world. Since 1959 the copper sheeting installed over the skylights had kept the room endearingly fusty. The sheeting was removed during the last round of renovations and natural light now illuminates the ornate plasterwork and suitably heavy oak desks and chairs.

The library's vast collections include hundreds of thousands of historical pictures, maps and manuscripts, and almost two million books, newspapers and serials. There are permanent and rotating exhibitions of its rare and unusual treasures, and a beautiful collection of portraits of writers and artists from throughout the 20th century (in the Cowen Gallery's south rotunda). Bookworm-chic café, Mr Tulk (☎ 8660 5700; cnr La Trobe St & Swanston St) serves coffee, wine, meals and treats every day except Sunday.

MELBOURNE AQUARIUM Map pp52-3

☎ 1300 882 392; www.melbourneaquarium.com.au; cnr Queenswharf Rd & King St; adult/child/family \$25/15/70; ☎ 9.30am-9pm Jan, to 6pm Feb-Dec Rays, gropers and sharks cruise around a 2.2-million-litre tank, watched closely by visitors from a see-through tunnel that traverses the aquarium floor. You can also get inside the tanks with the aid of scuba equipment, so occasionally you'll see a troupe of brave souls walking by on the other side of the glass. Spread over three levels, the complex also features jellies and coral-atoll displays, as well as a billabong display that rains intermittently. There's a theatre that hosts educational talks, and kids activities run all weekend.

BOURKE STREET MALL Map pp52-3

btwn Swanston & Elizabeth Sts West of Swanston St marks the beginning of the Bourke St Mall. This pedestrian mall unusually includes two tram tracks; don't worry, they'll ding if you get in the way. The mall is thick with the sounds of Peruvian bands busking, shop-front spruikers and the general hubbub from shoppers. The expansive entrances of the mall's main department stores, Myer and David Jones, consume waves of eager shoppers, regurgitating them some time later with signature shopping bags.

QV Map pp52–3

www.qv.com.au; **cnr Lonsdale & Russell Sts**

Taking up a whole city block, this development is on the site of the old Queen Victoria Women's Hospital. It's a medley of apartments, and commercial and retail space designed by three different architects to give the impression that the block was built up over time. It's both parody and homage to the city itself, with artificial laneways and arcades. The complex's retail residents comprise supermarkets, restaurants (including chocolate-maker **Max Brenner**), a food court and some interesting, edgy stores such as **TL Wood**, **Cactus Jam** (p108), **Christensen Copenhagen** and **Aesop**.

GPO Map pp52–3

☎ 9663 0066; www.melbournesgpo.com; **cnr Bourke & Elizabeth Sts; 10am–6pm Mon–Thu & Sat, 10am–8pm Fri, 11am–5pm Sun**

This was once simply somewhere you went to buy a stamp, but a postfire restoration and subsequent reinvention has made for an airy, atmospheric place to window shop along its galleries. The top floor houses fashion heavyweights, while the mid- and lower floors have a smattering of interesting Melbourne designers as well as some global chains. There is also a collection of casual eating options in the side alley, and on the top floor, a rather over-the-top bar.

MELBOURNE CENTRAL Map pp52–3

www.melbournecentral.com.au; **La Trobe St**

This shopping centre complex (with 300 stores, a cinema complex, bars and eateries) subsumed a number of Melbourne's arcades and alleyways when it was built. It also houses a lead **shot tower** dating from 1889. The old brick chimney props incongruously beneath a great glass pyramid, a staid structure in a fast-moving retail environment. Ironically, the centre's most recent redevelopment re-created the alleyways and arcades over which it was built only a decade or so before. New lanes, made to look old with bluestones, create café and retail precincts. It can be fiendishly noisy, confusing and characterless, but the scores of students who shop, eat and socialise here don't seem to mind.

CITY LIGHTS Map pp52–3

☎ 9663 0442; www.citylightsproject.com; **Centre Place & Hosier Lane**

Melbourne's rep for street art is not just a recent thing. The City Lights Project has been shining away for over a decade. Lightboxes are installed in a small alcove off Centre Place (look for the creperie, then down the alley opposite) and along Hosier Lane (also famous for its densely applied stencil work). Local and international artists make use of the illuminated minigalleries; view them 24/7. The project's main man Andrew Mac has also opened a more traditional gallery space, **Until Never** (2nd fl, 3–5 Hosier Lane, enter from Rutledge Lane; ☎ noon–6pm Wed–Sat); it highlights underground artists and is an interesting bridge between the two scenes.

RIALTO TOWERS OBSERVATION DECK Map pp52–3

☎ 9629 8222; www.melbournedeck.com.au; **525 Collins St; adult/child/family \$14.50/8/39.50; ☎ 10am–10pm**

The Rialto was once the highest building in the southern hemisphere and, until recently, the city's highest building – pipped in 2006 by the Eureka Tower (which also has an observation floor; see p62). The tower's most distinctive feature is its semi-reflective glass exterior, which changes colour as the sun tracks across the sky. The observation deck is on the 55th floor. There's 1254 steps or 25km/h lifts. The look-out platform provides a spectacular 360-degree view of Melbourne's surrounds – a great way to get your bearings. The entry fee includes a 20-minute video screening.

CITY MUSEUM AT OLD TREASURY Map pp52–3

☎ 9651 2233; www.citymuseummelbourne.org; **Spring St; adult/concession/family \$8.50/5/18; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm Sat & Sun**

The fine neo-classical architecture of the Old Treasury, built in 1862, is a telling mix of hubris and functionality. Remarkably, the designer, JJ Clark, was an 19-year-old government draftsman who also designed the **City Baths** (p175). The huge basement vaults were built to house the millions of pounds worth of loot that came from the Victorian goldfields. Now home to the City Museum, the Treasury features three permanent exhibitions. *Making Melbourne* brings together a collection of objects arranged in a chronological fashion to tell Melbourne's story. *Built on Gold* offers up some rather sketchy interpretive multi-

media in the vaults themselves. *Growing Up in the Old Treasury* is a straightforward but charmingly redolent reconstruction of the 1920s' caretaker's residence. It beautifully reveals what life in Melbourne was like in the early part of last century. Particularly telling is one of the children's recollections that they were forbidden to go into Fitzroy Gardens because it was full of drunks, and that the city was deathly quiet at night and on a Sunday.

The adjacent **Treasury Gardens** to the south contain the **John F Kennedy Memorial**. It's a relaxing place for a break from sightseeing.

IMMIGRATION MUSEUM Map pp52–3

☎ 9927 2700; <http://immigration.museum.vic.gov.au>; **400 Flinders St; adult/child \$6/free; ☎ 10am–5pm** The Immigration Museum uses personal and community voices, images and memorabilia to tell the many stories of immigration. Symbolically housed in the old Customs House (1858–70), the restored building alone is worth the visit; its most important space, the **Long Room**, is a magnificent piece of Renaissance revival architecture. The 2nd-floor galleries host a range of excellent temporary exhibitions exploring social and cultural issues, such as various multiethnic rituals surrounding death or preparing food.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL Map pp52–3

☎ 9662 2233; www.melbourne.catholic.org.au/cathedral; **cnr Gisborne St & Cathedral Pl; ☎ 8am–6pm, closes at noon on public holidays**

One of the world's largest and finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture, St Patrick's Cathedral was designed by William Wardell. It was named after the patron saint of Ireland, reflecting the local Catholic community's main origin. Building began in 1863 and continued until the spires were added in 1939. The imposing bluestone exterior and grounds are but a preview of its contents: inside are several tonnes of bells, an organ with 4500 pipes, ornate stained-glass windows and the remains of former archbishops. It has been visited by two popes, Paul VI in 1970 and John Paul II in 1986.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL Map pp52–3

☎ 9653 4333; www.stpaulscathedral.org.au; **cnr Flinders & Swanston Sts; ☎ 8am–6pm Sun–Fri, to 5pm Sat**

Opposite Federation Square stands the Anglican St Paul's Cathedral. Services were

celebrated on this site from the city's first days. Built between 1880 and 1891, the present church is the work of distinguished ecclesiastical architect William Butterfield. It was a case of architecture by proxy, as he did not condescend to visit Melbourne, instead sending drawings from England. It features ornate stained-glass windows (made between 1887 and 1890) and holds excellent music programs. In summer it's open to 6pm daily.

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

Map pp52–3

☎ 9654 5120; www.stmichaels.org.au; **120 Collins St; ☎ 10.30am–1.30pm Mon–Sat**

St Michael's was designed by Joseph Reed (who also designed the Melbourne Town Hall and the Royal Exhibition Building) in 1866. He chose an unusual Lombardic style, with intricate polychrome brickwork exteriors, open cloisters and sequences of Romanesque arches. The interior is no less striking; it's a theatrelike space with sloping floors and a semicircular gallery. Despite its heritage pedigree, the church's current community is known for its ultraprogressive theology, inclusiveness and positive psychology programs.

On the Russell St side of the church is **Mingary** (☎ 8am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sun), a striking and serene nondenominational 'quiet space' for meditation or contemplation.

KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST Map pp52–3

☎ 8622 2600; www.koorieheritagetrust.com; **295 King St; entry by gold-coin donation, tours \$6; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Sun**

This cultural centre is devoted to south-eastern Aboriginal culture. There are gallery spaces showing a variety of contemporary and traditional work, a model scar tree at the centre's heart, as well as a permanent chronological display of Victorian Koorie history that is as moving as it is informative.

Behind the scenes, significant objects are carefully preserved; replicas that can be touched by visitors are used in the displays. There's also a shop with books, CDs, crafts and bush-food supplies.

FLINDERS STREET STATION Map pp52–3

Cnr Flinders & Swanston Sts Melbourne's first railway station, Flinders Street was built in 1854. Two railway workers won the design tender. This

might explain why the station contained such fabulous facilities for railway workers, now, sadly, in disrepair. In its heyday the building buzzed with a concert hall, a library, a crêche, meeting rooms, even a ballroom.

Stretching along the Yarra for a block, the station is a city landmark. You'd be hard pressed to find a Melbourne who hasn't uttered 'meet me under the clocks' at one time. On any weekday, well over 100,000 people weave through the station's underpasses, escalators, stairs and platforms. The grand old dame's underground tendrils connect the city's north with its south, with art-filled underpasses (such as Campbell Arcade) linked to Southbank via a pedestrian bridge.

YOUNG & JACKSON'S Map pp52-3

☎ 9650 3884; www.youngandjacksons.com.au;
cnr Flinders & Swanston Sts

Across the street from Flinders Street Station you'll find the city's most iconic pub. Apart from the fact that it's been continuously serving beer here since 1861, it's known for the painting that graces the wall upstairs. *Chloe*, painted by Jules Joseph Lefebvre, is an academic-style painting of a naked young woman with luminous skin and dark hair. Her yearning gaze, cast over her shoulder and out of the frame, was a hit at the Paris Salon of 1875. The painting caused an outcry in the pursed-lipped provincial Melbourne, however, and was removed from display at the National Gallery of Victoria. Eventually bought by publican and 'art lover'

WORTH A TRIP: FOOTSCRAY & YARRAVILLE

The city's remaining working docklands divide the western suburbs from the city. Although the distance is not great, the interstitial landscape of containers and their attendant machinery is otherworldly enough to create a strong sense of separateness. The suburbs beyond here have long been proudly working class, though this has changed in the last 10 years, with many young professional families taking advantage of the area's cute cottages and community feel.

The area's 'capital' is the fabulously unfussy Footscray. Over 40% of Footscray's resident population was born outside Australia, the majority in Vietnam, Africa, China, Italy and Greece. The areas around Barkly St bring those in search of Vietnamese and East African cooking and produce. The [Footscray Market](#) (Map pp48-9; ☎ 9687 1205; cnr Hopkins & Leeds St; ☎ 7am-4pm Tue, Wed & Sat, to 6pm Thu, to 8pm Fri) is testament to the area's diversity.

Heading south from Footscray, are the newly fashionable residential neighbourhoods of Seddon and Yarraville. Yarraville centres on its train station, with a beautifully well-preserved heritage shopping area around Anderson St; it also boasts some great restaurants, bars and cafés.

For those interested in the west's unique history, head to the [Living Museum](#) (Map pp48-9; ☎ 9318 3544; www.livingmuseum.org.au; Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Ave, Maribyrnong; admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sun), set in the grounds of Pipemakers Park, featuring a wetlands area and indigenous gardens.

Henry Figsby Young in 1909, *Chloe* found an appreciative audience and permanent home at the pub. She was worshipped by the soldiers and sailors who frequented the pub during both world wars. The pub literature poignantly notes that Chloe was often the last (or only) naked woman many saw before meeting death on the battlefield.

AUSTRALIAN RACING MUSEUM

Map pp48-9

☎ 1300 139 407; www.racingmuseum.com.au;
400 Epsom Rd, Flemington; adult/child/concession
\$9/free/5; ☎ 10am-6pm

Not November? Never mind; trackgoers can sample some Spring Racing fervour at this museum dedicated to thoroughbred horses, jockeys and trainers. Exhibits cover the history of racing and reverently trumpet the social and cultural importance of the sport in Australia. The line up of Melbourne Cups is a fascinating look at changing tastes.

NATIONAL DESIGN CENTRE Map pp52-3

NDC; ☎ 9654 6335; www.nationaldesigncentre.com;
Federation Sq, cnr Russell & Flinders Sts; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun

The rather ambitiously named NDC (it's actually a privately run affair) comprises a retail shop and the ShowBox gallery space, and showcases excellent work from local and international designers. The centre also hosts workshops and events, including the annual Melbourne Design Festival, held in July.

TASMA TERRACE Map pp52-3

Parliament Pl

The three-storey, grey-stuccoed terraces comprising Tasma Terrace were built in 1879 and designed by Charles Webb, who also designed the famous [Windsor Hotel](#) (p183). These are one of Melbourne's finest Victorian terrace rows, with exquisite cast-iron verandas and a restrained ecclesiastical air. They are owned by the [National Trust](#) (☎ 9656 9800; www.nationaltrust.org.au) – an organisation dedicated to preserving historically significant buildings across the state – which has its offices here.

FLAGSTAFF GARDENS Map pp52-3

btwn La Trobe, William, Dudley & King Sts

These small gardens with open lawn are popular with workers taking a lunchtime break. There's a rose garden, children's playground, barbecues and a lawn-bowling green.

First known as Burial Hill, this is where most of the city's early settlers ended up. The hill once provided one of the best views out to the bay, so a signalling station was set up here; when a ship was sighted arriving from Britain, a flag was raised on the flagstaff to notify the settlers (it was also significant for the Wurundjeri for the same useful vista). The gardens contain many trees that are well over 100 years old. These include Moreton Bay fig trees, and a variety of eucalypts, including spotted and sugar gums and at least one river red gum.

ANNA SCHWARTZ GALLERY

Map pp52-3

☎ 9654 6131; www.annaschwartzgallery.com;
185 Flinders Lane; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, 1-5pm Sat
Redoubtable Anna Schwartz keeps some of the city's most respected contemporary artists in her stable, as well as representing midcareer names from around the country. The gallery is your standard white cube – the work is often fiercely conceptual.

HELLO POSSUMS

You're certain to spot possums at night in the Fitzroy and Treasury Gardens. Possums are protected and theoretically wild, so shouldn't be fed. They're usually too busy scavenging through all the lunch rubbish discarded by the day's office workers anyway. If you look up, you might also see a flying fox ducking and weaving through the noise and light pollution.

GALLERY GABRIELLE PIZZI Map pp52-3

☎ 9654 2944; www.gabriellepizzi.com.au; 3rd fl,
75-77 Flinders Lane; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Tue-Fri,
1-5pm Sat

Gabrielle Pizzi, one of Australia's most respected dealers of indigenous art, ran this Flinders Lane stalwart from the 1980s until her death in 2004. Her daughter has continued her work and shows contemporary city-based artists such as Julie Gough and Leah King-Smith, as well as traditional artists from the communities of Balgo Hills, Papunya, Utopia, Maningrida, Haasts Bluff, and the Tiwi Islands.

TOLARNO GALLERY Map pp52-3

☎ 9654 6000; www.tolarnogalleries.com; 4th fl,
104 Exhibition St; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 1-5pm Sat

Tolarno was an integral player in Melbourne's most famous midcentury marriage between Georges and Mirka Mora. Once raucously bohemian, now many years and several sites later, it's a serious, cerebral contemporary space with a very diverse and well-regarded stable of artists. The location, on the corner of Flinders Lane, is quite special.

WESTSPACE Map pp52-3

☎ 9328 8712; www.westspace.org.au; 15-19
Anthony St; admission free; ☎ noon-6pm Wed-Fri,
to 5pm Sat

One of Melbourne's oldest artist-run galleries, Westspace has a varied exhibition program. It's on the 1st floor of a 1940s' light-industrial building and features young and emerging artists working in a range of mediums from traditional forms to digital technologies and installation.

SOUTHBANK & DOCKLANDS

Drinking & Nightlife [p152](#); Eating [p133](#); Shopping [p110](#); Sleeping [p188](#)

These riverside locales were once gritty industrial areas but they've now taken up the hard yakka of leisure. Southbank sits directly across the Yarra from Flinders St. Southgate, the first cab off the redevelopment rank, is an airy shopping mall with fabulous views and an eclectic mix of shops, bars and restaurants. Behind here you'll find the city's major arts precinct; the NGV International, Arts Centre and various other arts bodies such as the Australian Ballet. Back down by the river, the promenade stretches to the Crown Casino & Entertainment Complex, a self-proclaimed 'world of entertainment', where the bread and circuses pull in visitors 24/7. To the city's west lies Docklands. The once working wharves of Victoria Harbour have given birth to a new minicity of apartment buildings and smart-offices, restaurant plazas, public art and parkland. It's early days, but its manufactured sameness has yet to be overwritten with the organic cadences and colour of neighbourhood life. But the views are quite something.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Map [pp64-5](#)
ACCA; ☎ 9697 9999; [www.accaonline.org.au](#);
111 Sturt St; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Fri,
11am-6pm Sat & Sun

The ACCA is one of Australia's most exciting and challenging contemporary galleries. Shows include work specially commissioned for the space. The gallery shows a range of local and international artists. The building is fittingly sculptural, with a deeply rusted exterior evoking the factories that once stood on the site, and a slick, soaring, ever-adapting interior designed to house often massive installations.

CROWN CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

Map [pp64-5](#)
☎ 9292 8888; [www.crowncasino.com.au](#);
Southbank

The Crown Entertainment Complex sprawls across two city blocks and includes the enormous luxury [Crown Towers](#) ([p188](#)), the four-star [Crown Promenade](#) ([p188](#)) and [Crown Casino](#), with over 300 tables and 2500 gaming machines open 24/7. Time is apparently irrelevant at the casino, which has no clocks and no natural light.

TRANSPORT

Train Southern Cross Station

Tram Any tram running south across the river from Swanston St will drop you off at Southbank attractions. The 1 to South Melbourne turns right at NGVI and is handy for ACCA and the Malthouse Theatre. The 86 tram down Bourke St runs to Docklands and Telstra Dome.

Thrown in for good measure are waterfalls, fireballs, a giant cinema complex, a bowling alley, a variety of nightclubs and a 900-seat showroom. The complex is also home to a handful of luxury retailers, chain stores and specialty shops, as well as bars, cafés and a food hall. Restaurants here range from the perfunctory to the sublime, with several major culinary players stretched out along the river (see the boxed text, [p134](#)).

EUREKA TOWER & SKYDECK 88

Map [pp64-5](#)
☎ 9693 8888; [www.eurekaskydeck.com.au](#);
Riverside Quay, Southbank; adult/child/family
\$16.50/9/39, The Edge extra \$12/8/29;
🕒 10am-10pm (last entry 9.30pm)

Eureka Tower, built in 2006, is currently the world's tallest apartment building. The stats? Ninety-two storeys over 300m. Take a wild elevator ride to the top: 88 floors in less than 40 seconds. If you still haven't found what you're looking for, more vertiginous views are to be had. 'The Edge' – not a member of U2, but a slightly sadistic glass cube – propels you out of the building; you've got no choice but to look down.

POLLY WOODSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

Map [pp64-5](#)
☎ 9656 9800; [www.pollywoodside.com.au](#);
Lorimer St E, Southbank

At the time of writing, the museum was temporarily closed as part of the refurbishment of the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre precinct. The revamped visitors centre is due to reopen in early 2009. The *Polly Woodside* herself, a restored iron-hulled merchant ship dating from 1885, is still on view from the river and beyond.

Once described as the 'prettiest barque ever built in Belfast', a glimpse of her rigging makes for a tiny reminder of what the Yarra would have looked like in the 19th century, dense with ships at anchor.

MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE

Map [pp64-5](#)
☎ 9235 8000; [www.mecc.com.au](#); 2 Clarendon St
This multipurpose venue hosts conventions, trade shows and public events from bridal shows to Sexpo. Check the calendar on its website for upcoming events. New 5000-seat convention facilities are set to open early in 2009.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL

Map [pp64-5](#)
NGVI; ☎ 8620 2222; [www.ngv.vic.gov.au](#); 180 St Kilda Rd; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm Wed-Mon
Beyond the water wall you'll find international art that runs from the ancient to the contemporary. Given Australia's size and isolation, don't expect the collection to rival its European or North American counterparts. But it does have some wonderful pieces and you won't be fighting crowds to see them. Key works include a Rembrandt, a Tiepolo and a Bonnard. You might also bump into a Monet and a Modigliani, a Bacon or a Rubens. The gallery also has an excellent decorative arts collection, with pieces from the late Middle Ages to the present day.

Apart from a range of temporary shows highlighting the collection, this is also the place where visiting international blockbuster shows are hung; crowds for these are huge and the queues long. As well as talks and film screenings, the gallery usually has weekly late-night viewings for these major shows; the mood can be quite festive.

Completed in 1967, the original NGV building – Roy Grounds' 'cranky icon' – was one of Australia's most controversial but ultimately respected Modernist masterpieces. It was designed with a strict geometry and clear circulation patterns, and made extensive use of wood, glass and blue stone. To deal with 30-odd years of wear and tear and the need for more flexible exhibition spaces, interior remodelling was undertaken from 1996 to 2003, overseen by Mario Bellini. The new labyrinthine design does away with the stark simplicity of the

BUNJIL

As you drive on one of many roads surrounding Docklands, or catch a train to or from Southern Cross Station, you can't miss Eagle. Let's just say this bird has presence. Local sculptor Bruce Armstrong was inspired by the figure of Bunjil, the Wurundjeri creator spirit. The cast aluminium bird contentedly rests on a mammoth jarrah perch, confidently surveying all around with a serene glassy gaze. He's a reminder of the wordless natural world, scaled to provide a gentle parody of the surrounding cityscape's attempted domination. Upon unveiling, a journalist did have the cheek to call him 'a bulked-up budgerigar' but most Melburnians now see him as the city's true mascot.

original but retains key features such as the water wall, Leonard French's stained-glass ceiling of the Great Hall and the austere exterior.

The Australian art collection is on display at the [Ian Potter Centre: NGVA](#) ([p50](#)) at nearby Federation Square.

SOUTHGATE

Map [pp64-5](#)
[www.southgate-melbourne.com.au](#); Southbank
Southgate was the first shopping and dining complex built along the south bank of the Yarra, replacing billowing chimney-stacks and saw-toothed factories. The complex joined its illustrious Southbank neighbours (the Arts Centre, Australian Ballet and Opera Australia) in the early '90s. Southgate is well connected to the city via an arched footbridge, and riverside promenades run all the way west to the [casino complex](#) ([opposite](#)).

You'll find restaurants and cafés among the three levels of dining rooms that all enjoy a stellar outlook over the river and city. (Quality ranges from some of the city's best to those simply after the tourist dollar.) Night transforms the skyline, with spotlights, coloured neons and grids of illuminated office-block windows beyond the inky Yarra; it's a view for hopeless romantics and cityphiles alike. There's an international food hall on the ground floor, as well as boutiques and a collection of specially commissioned sculptures and other artworks. Nearby, check out the the [Travellers](#) along the Sandridge Bridge, a series of sculptures depicting the story of arrival that belongs to the many Melburnians of immigrant background.

A number of boat operators are stationed outside Southgate should you want to hail a water taxi (p344) to take you to the sporting precinct or cruise over to Williamstown (p95).

VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE Map pp64–5

☎ 9281 8000; www.theartscentre.com.au;
100 St Kilda Rd

The Arts Centre is made up of two separate buildings: the concert hall and the theatres building, linked by a series of landscaped walkways.

Hamer Hall is the circular building closest to the Yarra. It's a favoured performance venue for symphonic concerts, choirs and chamber music. Most of the hall is below ground (resting in Yarra mud so corrosive that a system of electrified

cables is needed to prevent deterioration). The **Theatres Building** wears the distinctive spire and houses the State Theatre, the Playhouse and the George Fairfax Studio. Both buildings feature works by prominent Australian artists, and in the Theatres Building the **George Adams Gallery** and **St Kilda Road Foyer Gallery** are free gallery spaces with changing exhibitions. The **Famous Spiegelent** occupies the Theatres Building forecourt each summer. One of the last of the great Belgian mirror tents, the Spiegel comes to town for the International Arts Festival, staging cabaret, live music and afternoon talks.

There are one-hour **tours** of the complex (adult/concession/family \$11/7.50/27.50) at 11am on Monday to Saturday. On Sunday you can visit backstage at 12.15pm

(\$13.50, 1½ hours). Children under 12 years are not allowed in the backstage area.

The Arts Centre undercroft shelters an **arts and crafts market** every Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Around 150 stalls peddle everything from kaleidoscopes to soaps. Across the way in the Kings Domain is the **Sidney Myer Music Bowl**, a summer venue with a stage that's been graced by everyone from Dame Kiri to the Asian Dub Foundation.

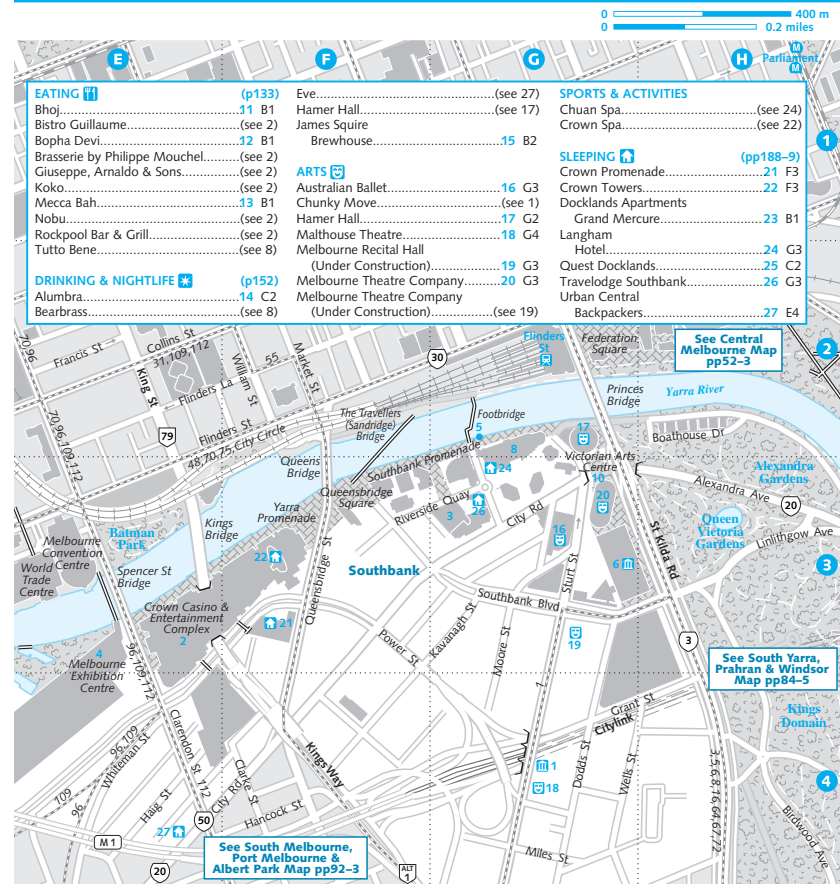
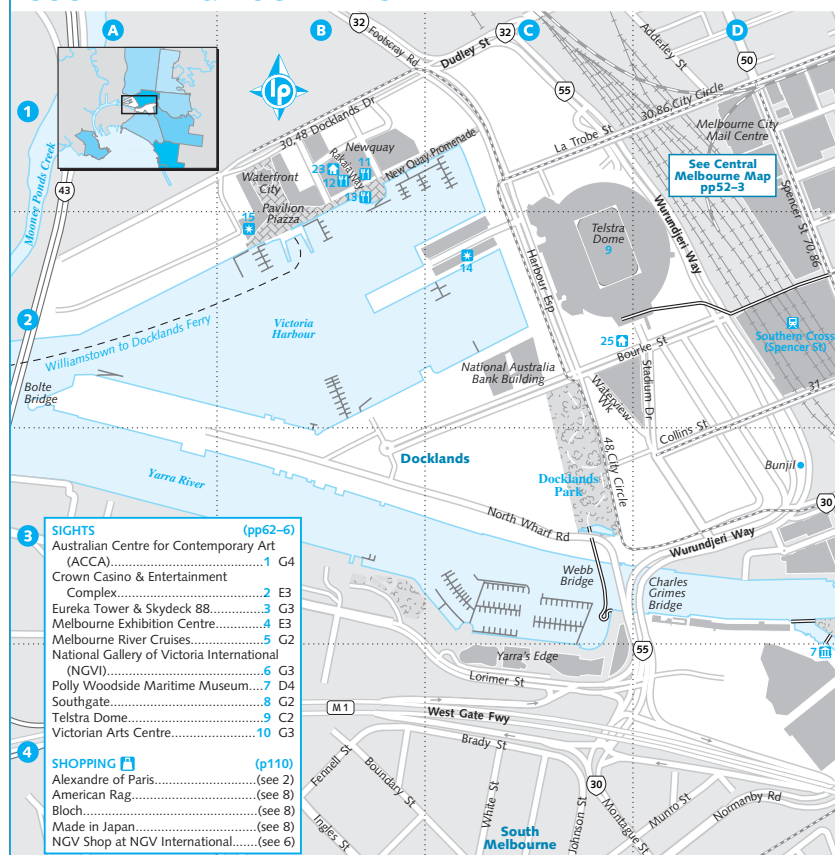
The small section of park across St Kilda Rd from the Victorian Arts Centre is the rather endearingly retro **Queen Victoria Gardens**, which contain a memorial statue of the good queen herself, a statue of Edward VII astride his horse, and a huge floral clock.

DOCKLANDS Map pp64–5

☎ 1300 663 008; www.docklands.vic.gov.au

This waterfront area was the city's main industrial and docking area until the mid-1960s. Demand for larger berths to accommodate modern cargo vessels necessitated a move, leaving the former docklands high and (almost) dry. Its redevelopment as Docklands began in 1996. It's the latest of Melbourne's cities within the city, designed with 'precincts' for certain types of activity. Among them are film and TV studios, a technology-based company hub, and residential, retail and entertainment areas. Of most interest to travellers is the first-born, **New Quay**, with public art, promenades and a wide variety of cafés and restaurants. **Waterfront City** also has restaurants, bars, a yacht club and will

SOUTHBANK & DOCKLANDS



THE YARRA *Kristin Otto*

Australia's breakfast, Australia's beer, Australia's cars and Australia's art all came from the banks of the Yarra. Weet-bix were made with Yarra catchment hydropower upstream in Warburton, Foster's Lager is brewed at Abbotsford, General Motors Holdens are made at Fishermans Bend, and what's known as the Heidelberg School of painters brilliantly captured Australia's colours. A gold rush ran by the Yarra River in Warrandyte and Warburton. Nineteenth-century water diversions can still be seen; the biggest is the Pound Bend tunnel, in suburban Warrandyte. Some of Melbourne's most famous lunatics and criminals have 'gone round the bend' of it. This phrase refers to someone going mad: Melbourne's mental asylums were around the bend of the river in Kew, and Fairfield. The occasional body and guns have been dumped in it.

The Yarra has given Melbourne some of the best drinking water on the planet, and also the worst, concurrently at times. The locked-up headwater catchments of the city's water supply contained the tallest trees in the world and still produce pristine water. Way downstream in the late 19th century, Marvellous Melbourne was renamed Marvellous Smellbourne. The Yarra was one of the filthiest rivers in the world, receiving the outfall of abattoirs and tanneries, as well as the unsewered city's human waste. Even in the 20th century the public utility responsible for the river saw it as the number-one drain. The changes have been dramatic, with people now living by the river in apartments on what were once such factory sites.

Melbourne was founded exactly where it was because of the Yarra. The Turning Basin, opposite the Casino and Southbank, is an urban design reinstatement of what was once a natural pool or widening of the river below a shallow set of falls. The falls separated the saltwater below from the freshwater above with its constant supply of drinking water. In 1835 the north bank of the pool was an ideal spot to moor and settle. The falls were blown away in the 1880s when Queens Bridge was built, making the saltwater barrier Dights Falls, upstream in Kew/Collingwood.

Once there were billabongs all along the river from the mountains to the sea, with saltwater wetlands below the falls. A billabong is a naturally cut-off bend of the river that fills and empties with the floods and droughts. The largest, where Docklands is now, was as big as the central city grid of Melbourne itself. Most have been filled in, though you can still in high-water times see a few in the suburban area, such as Willsmere, Kew. Particularly important sites were those used by the Wurundjeri, the original inhabitants of Melbourne, for large gatherings. 'Yarra' is derived from the word for 'Flow'. The billabong that became part of the Botanic Gardens ornamental lake was described as a 'veritable Garden of Eden'. The Yarra has been shifted in several locations, such as there. In the early 20th century, several kilometres were rerouted right near Lonely Planet's present offices.

Extract from Yarra: a Diverting History of Melbourne's Murky River © Kristin Otto, 2005. Used by permission of Text Publishing.

be the site of a London Eye-style observation wheel. **Yarra's Edge** also has a growing number of retailers and restaurants.

The docks boast world-class marinas, and several boat tours ply the waters around here shuttling up the Yarra to Southbank; check the website for a full listing.

TELSTRA DOME *Map pp64-5*

☎ 8625 7700; Bourke St, Docklands; www.telstradome.com.au

Upstart Telstra Dome is never going to live up to the MCG in terms of atmosphere or classic design, but it's a well-used, comfortable and easy-to-access sports arena, seating 52,000 for a range of Australian Rules Football games, Melbourne Victory soccer matches and the odd Rugby Union test. Behind-the-scenes **tours** (☎ 8625 7277; adult/child/concession/family \$14/7/11/37) of the venue are available Monday to Friday at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, subject to events.

EAST MELBOURNE & RICHMOND

Drinking & Nightlife **p152**; Eating **p134**; Shopping **p111**; Sleeping **p189**

Beyond its Wellington St artery, East Melbourne's sedate wide streets are lined with grand double-fronted Victorian terraces, Italianate mansions and Art Deco apartment blocks. Locals here commute to the city by foot, across the Fitzroy Gardens. During the footy season or when a cricket match is played, the roar of the crowd shatters the calm; you're in lobbing distance of the MCG.

Sports fans will become pretty cosy with Yarra Park – Melbourne's main sporting precinct, attracting thousands of adoring fans every year to its many world-class arenas and ovals. A footbridge over the railway line links the granddaddy of 'em all, the MCG, with Melbourne and Olympic Parks.

This area swarms at weekends when people come from far and wide to watch everything from Australian Rules football, cricket, athletics and cycling to marathon dance championships. Various arenas also host weekend-long dance parties and big-name international concerts. That said, the area offers little to a visitor unless you are here for some kind of event.

Across the perpetually clogged arterial of Punt Rd/Hoddle St is the suburb of Richmond, which stretches all the way to the Yarra. It was once a raggle-taggle collection of workers' cottages inhabited by generations of labourers, who toiled in the tanneries, clothing-manufacturing and food-processing industries. It is now rather genteel, although it retains a fair swag of solid, regular pubs and is home to a thriving Vietnamese community along the Victoria St strip. Here you'll find restaurants and grocers, herbalists and karaoke bars. Bridge Rd and Swan St are known for their outlet stores; see the shoppers swarm seven days a week. Richmond's main south-north thoroughfare is Church St, with furniture stores and other associated businesses. Northwards, past the former Bryant & May matchstick factory, and over the railway, it ascends to Richmond Hill, which boasts some of Melbourne's finest Victorian terraces. Swan St is a jumble of food outlets, shops and pubs. Its proximity to the MCG sees thousands trekking along here on match days seeking a postgame ale and a sympathetic ear as the day's play is dissected.

MELBOURNE & OLYMPIC PARKS

Map pp68-9

☎ 9286 1600; www.mopt.com.au; Batman Ave; ☎ Jolimont, ☎ 48, 75

Stages at these big-event stadiums morph to accommodate everything from rockgods to cyclists to comedy galas. Melbourne Park comprises **Hisense Arena**, the multipurpose venue with a retractable roof, and **Rod Laver Arena**. The Australian Open Tennis takes over the whole complex in January. Daily **tours** of the Rod Laver Arena (adult/child/family \$13/6/30) take you to the dressing rooms, VIP areas and Superboxes.

Olympic Park includes **Olympic Stadium**, hosting athletics and home to local rugby league team the Melbourne Storm, as well as the **Lexus Centre**, home to the Collingwood Football Club and Victorian Institute of Sport.

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

Map pp68-9

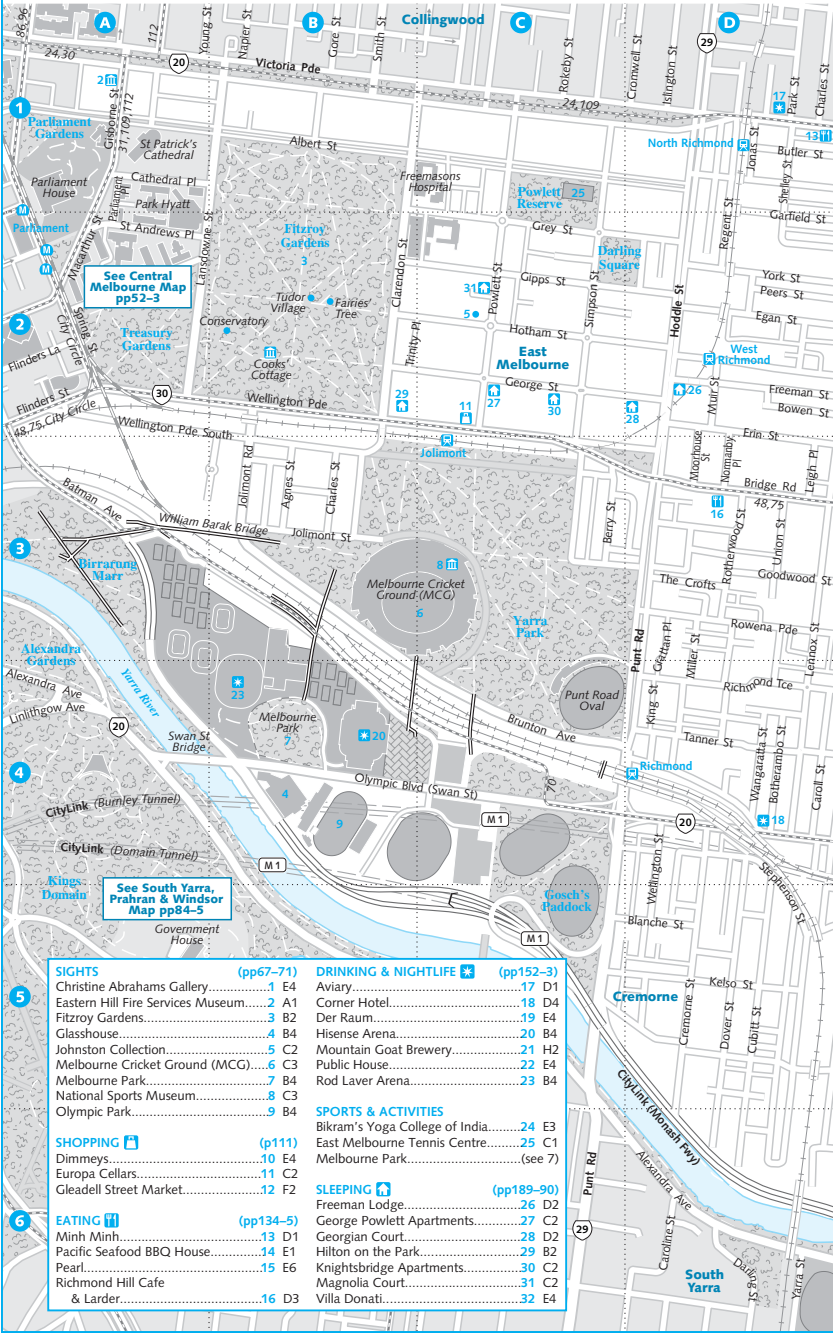
MCG; ☎ 9657 8888; www.mcg.org.au; Brunton Ave; ☎ Jolimont, ☎ 48, 75

It's one of the world's great sporting venues, and for many Australians the 'G' is considered hallowed ground.

In 1858 the first game of Aussie Rules football was played where the MCG and its car parks now stand, and in 1877 it was the venue for the first Test cricket match between Australia and England. The MCG was also the central stadium for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and the 2006 Commonwealth Games. It recently underwent the biggest building works in its 150-year history, with the William Barak Bridge now linking it to the CBD, as well as creating a new members' stand. MCG membership is a badge of honour for Melburnians of a particular class. It involves having two members propose and second your nomination and a wait of around 20 years.

If you want to make a pilgrimage, **tours** (☎ 9657 8879; adult/child/concession/family \$15/8/11/45) take you through the stands, corporate and coaches' areas, the Long Room and (subject to availability) the players change rooms and out onto the ground. They run every half-hour (on non-match days) from 10am to 3pm. Bookings are not essential but recommended. The MCG is now also home to the **National Sports Museum** (p70), and you can buy tickets that

EAST MELBOURNE & RICHMOND



SIGHTS		DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE	
Christine Abrahams Gallery	1 E4	Aviary	17 D1
Eastern Hill Fire Services Museum	2 A1	Corner Hotel	18 D4
Fitzroy Gardens	3 B2	Der Raum	19 E4
Glasshouse	4 B4	Hisense Arena	20 B4
Johnston Collection	5 C2	Mountain Goat Brewery	21 H2
Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)	6 C3	Public House	22 E4
Melbourne Park	7 B4	Rod Laver Arena	23 B4
National Sports Museum	8 C3		
Olympic Park	9 B4		
SHOPPING		SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	
Dimmys	10 E4	Bikram's Yoga College of India	24 E3
Europa Cellars	11 C2	East Melbourne Tennis Centre	25 C1
Gleadell Street Market	12 F2	Melbourne Park	(see 7)
EATING		SLEEPING	
Minh Minh	13 D1	Freeman Lodge	26 D2
Pacific Seafood BBQ House	14 E1	George Powlett Apartments	27 C2
Pearl	15 E6	Georgian Court	28 D2
Richmond Hill Cafe & Larder	16 D3	Hilton on the Park	29 B2
		Knightsbridge Apartments	30 C2
		Magnolia Court	31 C2
		Villa Donati	32 E4



TRANSPORT

Train Richmond Station is a stop on most southern and eastern suburban routes. For Abbotsford, take either an Epping-line train or a Hurstbridge-line train to Collingwood Station.

Tram The 48 and 75 trams along Flinders St will take you through East Melbourne to Bridge Rd, Richmond. Tram 70, also along Flinders St, will take you along Swan St, Richmond. Swan St intersects Church St, which is serviced by trams 78 and 79. Tram 109 from Collins St heads down to Victoria St, Richmond.

incorporate both the tour and entrance to the museum.

For information on AFL matches, see p168.

NATIONAL SPORTS MUSEUM

Map pp68–9

☎ 9657 8856; www.nsm.org.au; Olympic Stand, Gate 3, MCG; adult/concession/family \$15/11/45, with MCG tour \$22/15/50; 🕒 10am–5pm; 📍 Jolimont, 🗺 48, 75

The new National Sports Museum features five permanent exhibitions focusing on Australia's favourite sports and celebrating historic sporting moments. There are some choice sports fetish objects on display: the handwritten notes used to define the rules of Australian Rules Football in 1859; Bradman's baggy green cap; olive branches awarded to Edwin Flack, Australia's first Olympian in 1886; and our Cathy's infamous Sydney Olympics swift suit. There's also an interactive area that gets kids trying out their skills.

EASTERN HILL FIRE SERVICES MUSEUM

Map pp68–9

☎ 9662 2907; <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~fsmvic>; 39 Gisborne St, East Melbourne; adult/child \$5/2; 🕒 9am–3pm Fri, 10am–4pm Sun; 🗺 112 Built on the highest point of the city in 1891, the old fire station's tower provided the necessary vantage point to spot fires across the metropolis. Its ground floor now houses the Eastern Hill Fire Services Museum, which is especially great for kids. Clamber on a fire truck or pour over the collection of historic firefighting equipment, including fire engines, helmets, grand brass-buttoned uniforms, medals and photographs. Guides are often ex-firefighters who are happy to

augment the displays with stories of their craft. Adults will appreciate the elegant engineering of many of the early machines. Facing Albert St is a five-storey **mosaic mural** designed by Harold Freedman (1915–99), the only person to have been state artist of Victoria, a position he held for 11 years from 1972.

FITZROY GARDENS

Map pp68–9

btwn Wellington Pde, Clarendon, Lansdowne & Albert Sts; 🗺 Parliament, 🗺 City Circle, 48, 75

The city drops away suddenly just east of Spring St, giving way to Melbourne's beautiful backyard, the Fitzroy Gardens. The stately avenues lined with English elms, flowerbeds, expansive lawns, strange fountains and a creek (both now often empty) are a short stroll from town.

The design of the path system 'accidentally' resembles a Union Jack. While there's no red, white and blue flowerbeds, the gardens do have a pervasive English nostalgia.

Cooks' Cottage (☎ 9419 4677; www.cookscottage.com.au; adult/child/family \$4/2/11; 🕒 9am–5.30pm) was shipped from Yorkshire in 253 packing cases and reconstructed in 1934 (the cottage actually belonged to the navigator's parents). It's decorated in mid-18th-century style and there is also an exhibition about Cook's eventful, if controversial, voyages to the Southern Ocean.

In the centre of the gardens is a 'model' **Tudor village**. This well-meaning gift was a way of saying thanks for sending food to Britain during WWII, though we wonder why it's still here. Nearby is writer Ola Cohn's equally kooky carved **Fairies' Tree**. Efforts to preserve the 300-year-old stump, embellished in 1932 with fairies, pixies, kangaroos, emus and possums, include dissuading true believers from leaving notes to the fairies in the tree's hollows.

In the northwestern corner of the gardens is the **People's Path**, a circular path paved with 10,000 individually engraved bricks. The delightful 1930s **Conservatory** (🕒 9am–5pm) features a range of different floral displays each year.

JOHNSTON COLLECTION

Map pp68–9

☎ 9416 2515; www.johnstoncollection.org; East Melbourne; adult/concession \$20/16.50 The collection of sharp-eyed antique dealer William Johnston is on show in this characteristic East Melbourne mansion. Rooms are decorated in an English

NOW'S THE TIME

Atop the stark malt silos rising beside the banks of the Yarra is one of Melbourne's more unlikely, and heart-tuggingly sentimental, landmarks. The Nylex Clock – a neon sign advertising a plastics factory with an accompanying digital time panel – can be seen from miles around, including the MCG. This quotidian beacon not only tells the time; it lets weather-obsessed Melburnians know exactly just how hot or cold it is. It was immortalised in the 1986 Paul Kelly song 'Leaps and Bounds'. According to Kelly, it was a chilly 11°C.

country-house style, and also highlight specific interior-decorating fashions from last century – almost as fascinating as the pieces themselves. Visits come with a sense of mystique; for privacy reasons, you need to book a tour and be picked up from the

nearby **Hilton on the Park** (p189) rather than just rocking up to the door. Tours depart three times daily; phone to reserve a place.

CHRISTINE ABRAHAMS GALLERY

Map pp68–9

☎ 9428 6099; www.christineabrahamsgallery.com.au; 27 Gipps St, Richmond; 🕒 10.30am–5pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5pm Sat; 🗺 East Richmond, 🗺 70, 78, 79

This airy commercial gallery shows a mix of well-established, interesting local and national artists. These include iconic photographer Wolfgang Sievers and ceramicist Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, as well as midcareer sculptor Bronwyn Oliver and painter Matthew Johnson. There is a works on paper and ceramics room, and a large stockroom with a rack storage system that allows additional works to be viewed by visitors.

FITZROY & AROUND

Drinking & Nightlife p153; Eating p135; Shopping p111; Sleeping p190

Fitzroy was Melbourne's first suburb and has a long history of mixed fortune. One thing it's never been is boring. Its streets were once a byword for vice and squalor. Albert Tucker's rendering of Fitzroy nights during WWII are unremitting in their bleakness. A laid-back, rough-around-the-edges feel persists despite rapid gentrification in the 1980s and the ongoing onus of perpetual coolness. Brunswick St, the neighbourhood's main thoroughfare, sports a straggle of cafés, bars, restaurants and shops that veer from the tacky to the genuinely intriguing, and its backstreet pubs have managed to stay one step ahead of the developers. Although most of the artists have moved on in search of cheap studio space, you'll still find a number of galleries and arts-related businesses dotted throughout the suburb.

Gertrude St's rise and rise continues apace; it's flush with decidedly upmarket though passionately individual new shops, bars and restaurants. Spliced among the peddlers of deconstructed Belgian frocks, rare vinyl 12 inches and mandarin-scented hand cream, stalwarts remain: a secondhand fridge shop, the Aboriginal gym that trained boxing great Lionel Rose, habit-clad nuns and residents of rooming houses and tower blocks.

Around the corner, the *jolie-laide* charms of Smith St are also being noticed, particularly by Gen Ys, who come to trawl vintage shops, sip soy lattes or kick back with beers and *gyoza* (Japanese dumplings). It too is far from being a homogenous high street, with Aboriginal groups gathering to drink on prominent corners and a large population of new immigrants busy finding their feet. The stark contrasts of affluence (even in a stealth-wealth guise) and disadvantage can unsettle, but there's a mitigating energy and a genuine community spirit prevails.

The streets behind Smith are home to what were the southern hemisphere's largest industrial complexes. These satanic mills are now packed with million-dollar apartments. Down the hill beyond Smith St is the 'Collingwood flat'. This was once one of the city's most notorious slums. Many houses were cleared in the 1960s to make way for public-housing tower blocks, though many cottages also remain.

Abbotsford, across Hoddle St, is similarly made up of regenerated workers' cottages and converted factories, and its streets stretch down to the river. Here the sacred and the profane face off along the Yarra's banks: the Abbotsford Convent, now a community centre, and the still functioning CUB brewery.

To the north is the leafy residential area of North Fitzroy, which centres around the Edinburgh Gardens. Locals love their park with a fierce devotion. Weekends see it full of picnics, soccer games, children's parties and tennis.

Beyond Merri Creek is Northcote, a sprawling neighbourhood of wooden Federation cottages and big backyards. Its sleepy demeanour shifts once the sun goes down, when High St hums to the sound of a thousand Converse One Stars hitting the pavement in search of fun.

COLLINGWOOD CHILDREN'S FARM

Map pp74-5

☎ 9417 5806; www.farm.org.au; 1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford; adult/child/family \$8/4/16; ☎ 9am-5pm; 📍 Victoria Park, 🚗 203

The inner city melts away at this rustic riverside retreat that's not only loved by children. There's a range of frolicking farm animals that children can participate in feeding, as well as rambling gardens and grounds for picnicking on warm days. The farm café is open early and can be visited without entering the farm itself. The monthly **farmers market** (www.mfm.com.au); ☎ 8am-1pm, second Saturday of the month; adult/child \$2/free, held right by the river, is a local highlight, with everything from

rabbit to roses to organic milk hoisted into baskets.

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Map pp74-5
CCP; ☎ 9417 1549; www.ccp.org.au;
404 George St, Fitzroy; admission by donation;
☎ 11am-6pm Wed-Sat; 📍 86

This not-for-profit centre has a changing schedule of exhibitions across a couple of galleries. Shows traverse traditional technique and the highly conceptual. There's a particular fascination with work involving video projection, including a nightly after-hours screening in a window. It's a nice space and it also sells a range of Lomo cameras and a small selection of books.

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES

Map pp74-5
☎ 9419 3406; www.gertrude.org.au; 200 Gertrude St, Fitzroy; ☎ 11am-5.30pm Tue-Fri, 1-5.30pm Sat; 📍 86

This nonprofit gallery and studio complex has been going strong for over twenty years; many of its alumni are now certified famous artists. The monthly openings are refreshingly come-as-you-are, with crowds often spilling onto the street, two-buck wine in hand. The studio open days, where you get to wander around upstairs and talk to the recipients of the much-sought-after residencies about their work, are worth watching out for.

ABBOTSFORD CONVENT

Map pp74-5
☎ 9415 3600; www.abbotsfordconvent.com.au;
1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford; ☎ 7.30am-10pm; 📍 Victoria Park, 🚗 203

The convent, which dates back to 1861, is spread over nearly seven hectares of riverside land. The nuns are long gone – no-one is going to ask you if you've been to mass lately – and there's now a rambling collection of creative studios and community offices. The **Convent Bakery** (☎ 9419 9426; www.conventbakery.com) supplies impromptu picnic provisions, or the reimagined 'wog bar' **Handsome Steve's House of Refreshment** (<http://houseofrefreshment.com>; 1st fl) will mix you up a Campari soda to sip on the balcony while you're overlooking the ecclesiastic architecture and listening to the footy on the radio. There's a **Slow Food Market** (www.mfm.com.au); ☎ 8am-1pm) every fourth Saturday.

UTOPIAN SLUMPS

Map pp74-5
www.utopianslumps.org; 25 Easey St, Collingwood;
☎ noon-6pm Fri & Sat; 📍 86

One of the newest nonprofit art spaces, the Slumps has a *recherché* backstreet location and loads of attitude. Installation is king here, plus the gallery hosts dance parties and other events; check the website for details.

ALCASTON GALLERY

Map pp74-5
☎ 9418 6444; www.alcastongallery.com.au;
11 Brunswick St, Fitzroy; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri,
11am-5pm Sat; 📍 112

Set in an imposing boom-style terrace, the Alcaston's focus is on living indigenous artists. The gallery works directly with communities and is particularly attentive

TRANSPORT

Tram From Collins St, tram 112 runs along Brunswick St, Fitzroy. From Bourke St, tram 86 runs along Gertrude St, Fitzroy and Smith Sts, Collingwood. It continues on through Clifton Hill to High St, Northcote. For North Fitzroy, tram 112 from Collins St runs along Brunswick St and St Georges Rd.

to cultural sensitivities; it shows a wide range of styles from traditional work to contemporary artists. There's also a space dedicated to works on paper.

SUTTON GALLERY

Map pp74-5
☎ 9416 0727; www.suttongallery.com.au;
254 Brunswick St, Fitzroy; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sat;
📍 112

This gallery is housed in a simple, unassuming warehouse space entered off Greeves St. It's known for championing challenging new work and represents artists such as Nick Mangan, Helga Groves, Gordon Bennett and Lindy Lee.

CARLTON & UNITED BREWERIES

Map pp74-5
☎ 9420 6800; www.carltonbrewhouse.com.au;
cnr Nelson & Thompson Sts, Abbotsford; tours
adult/child/concession \$25/15/20; 📍 109

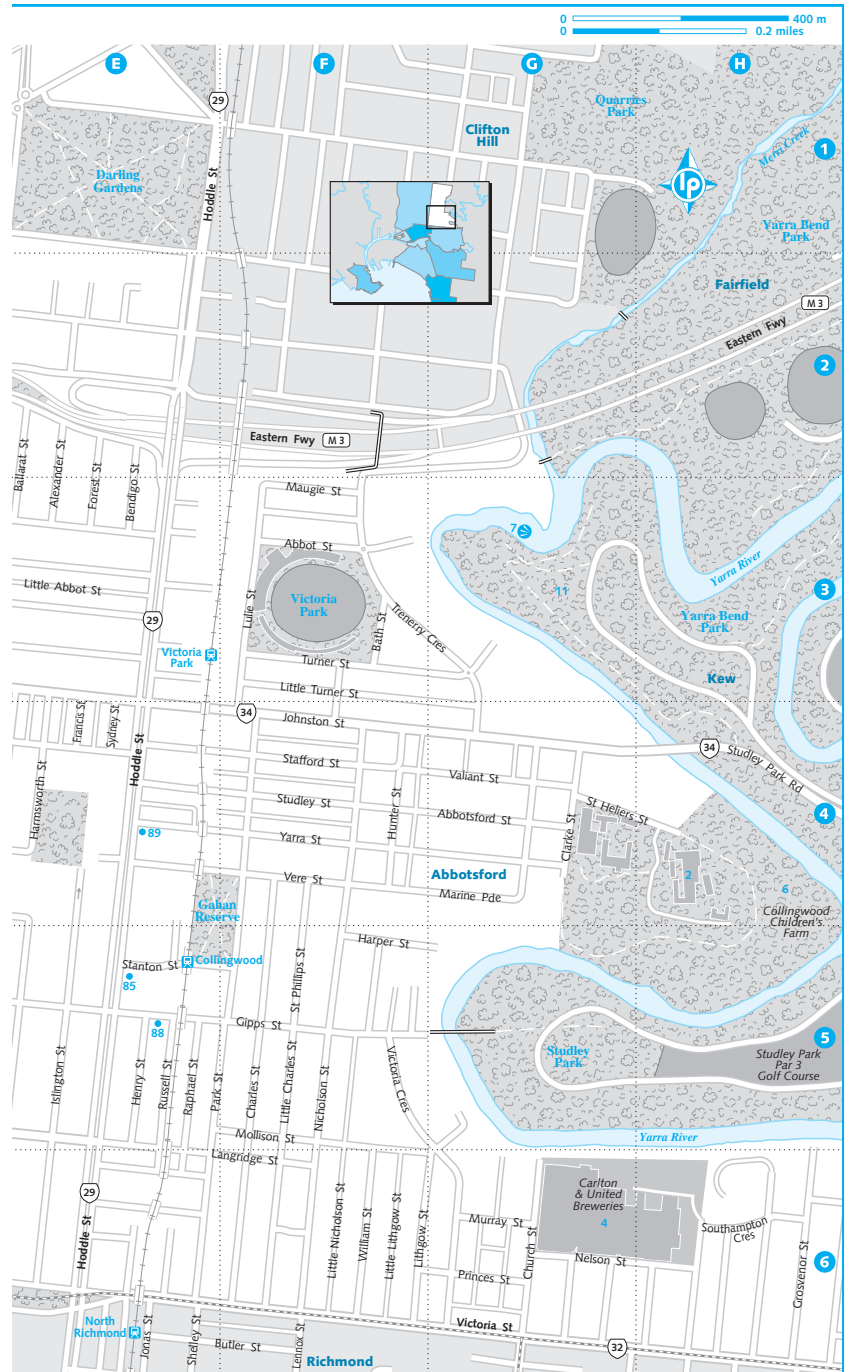
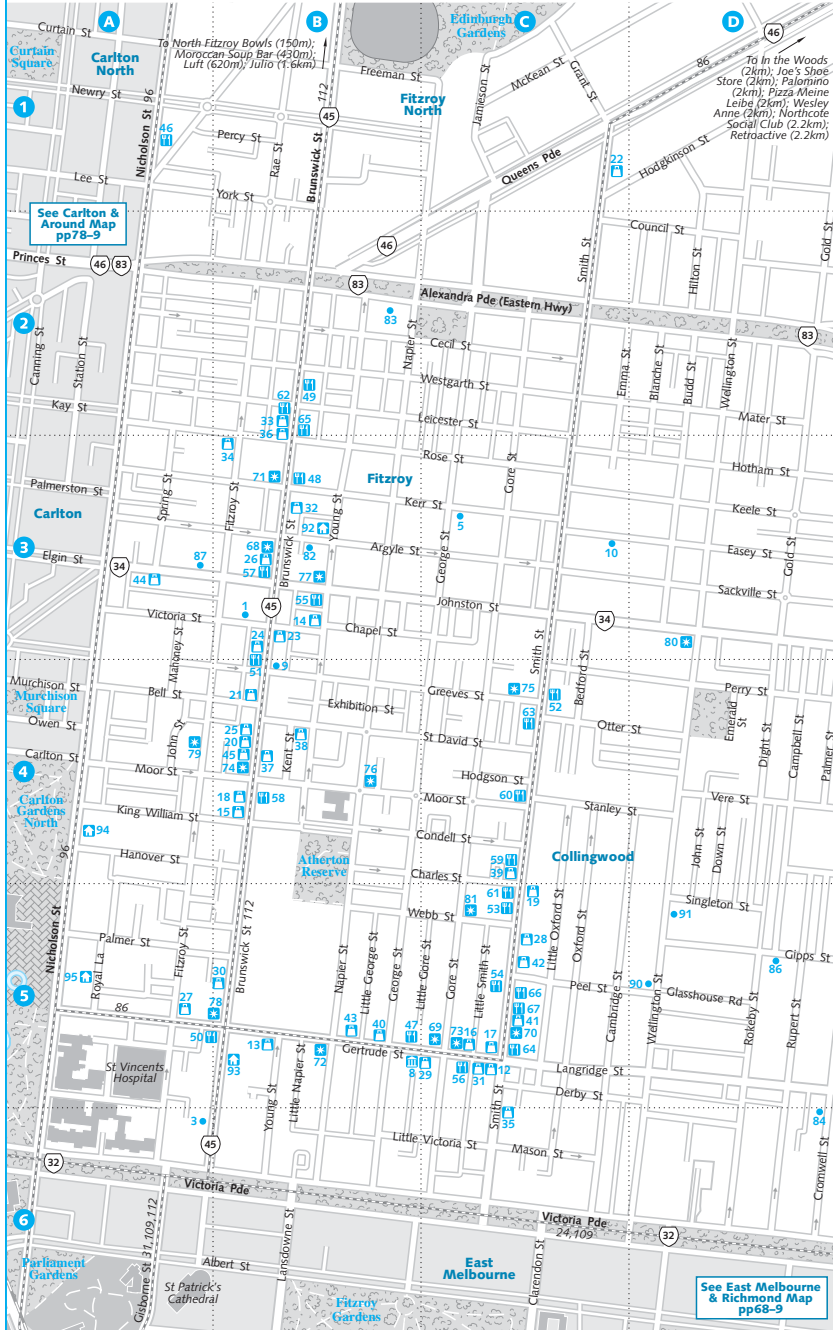
Just in case Homer Simpson ever makes it to Melbourne, Foster's beer-brewing empire runs two-hour **tours** of its Abbotsford operations. Enormous 30m-wide vats of beer and the superfast bottling operation give a whole new meaning to the term 'beer-goggles'. And yes, samples are included in the price. Tours run Monday to Friday; children under 10 and those in open-toed shoes are not admitted. Bookings essential.

YARRA BEND PARK

Map pp74-5
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Escape the city without leaving town. About 5km northeast of the city centre, the Yarra River flows through bushland, an area cherished by runners, rowers, cyclists, picnickers and strollers.

Yarra Bend Park has huge tracts of densely treed land (not to mention two golf courses and numerous sports grounds) that are great for walking. Cockatoos screech by the banks and grey-headed flying foxes roost in the trees: it's hard to believe you're 10 minutes from office towers and industry.

FITZROY & AROUND



FITZROY & AROUND

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Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces.....8 B5
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Royal Gardens Apartments.....95 A5

At the end of Boathouse Rd is the 1860s **Studley Park Boathouse** (Map pp48-9; ☎ 9853 1972; www.studleyparkboathouse.com.au), which has a kiosk and restaurant, flocks of ducks, and boats and canoes for hire (see p171). Kanes suspension footbridge takes you across the river, from where it's about a 20-minute walk to **Dights Falls**, at the meeting of the Yarra River and Merri Creek. You can also walk to the falls along the southern riverbank.

Further around the river in Fairfield Park is the site of the **Fairfield Amphitheatre** (Map pp48-9), a great open-air venue used to stage concerts and film screenings during summer. The **Fairfield Park Boathouse & Tea Gardens** (Map pp48-9; ☎ 9486 1501; Fairfield Park Dr; h10.30am-5pm Mon-Fri Sept-May, 8.30am-dusk Sat & Sun year-round) is a restored early-20th-century boathouse with broad verandas and an outdoor garden restaurant. You can hire boats, canoes and kayaks (see p171).

CARLTON & AROUND

Drinking & Nightlife p155; Eating p137; Shopping p115; Sleeping p190

The Carlton Gardens, which house both the Royal Exhibition Buildings and the Melbourne Museum, mark the border between the neighbourhoods of Carlton and Fitzroy to the east and the city to the south.

The sprawling University of Melbourne, and its large residential colleges, takes up Carlton's western edge. Carlton is also the traditional home of Melbourne's Italian community and you'll see the *tricolori* unfurled with characteristic passion come soccer finals and the Grand Prix. The heady mix of intellectual activity, espresso and phenomenal food lured bohemians to the area in the 1950s; by the 1970s it was the centre of the city's burgeoning counterculture scene and has produced some of the city's most legendary theatre, music and literature. Carlton has now well and truly grown up, and despite its public housing and student population, it is a privileged address. That said, its residents still do tend towards the liberal and literary.

Lygon St starts just north of the city and reaches out through leafy North Carlton to booming Brunswick. Here you'll find a vibrant mix of students, long-established families, renovators and newly arrived migrants. The central Brunswick artery, Sydney Rd, is perpetually clogged with traffic and is packed with Middle Eastern restaurants and grocers. Lygon St, East Brunswick just keeps getting more fashionable; it has a cluster of restaurants, music venues and bars.

Residential North Melbourne lies northwest of Victoria Market. Its wide streets have also recently seen a flurry of new bars and restaurants servicing the area's laid-back locals. In between them all is the expanse of Royal Park and the small collection of pretty residential streets that make up Parkville.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM Map pp78-9

☎ 13 11 02; <http://melbourne.museum.vic.gov.au>;
11 Nicholson St, Carlton; adult/concession \$6/free;
🕒 10am-5pm; 🏠 Parliament, 📍 City Circle, 86, 96, 🚗 250, 251, 402

This confident postmodern exhibition space mixes old-style object displays with themed interactive display areas. The museum's reach is almost too broad to be cohesive but provides a grand sweep of Victoria's natural and cultural histories. Walk through the 1950s, potter in the kitchen from *Neighbours*, or become immersed in the legend of champion racehorse and national hero Phar Lap. Bunjilaka presents indigenous stories and history told through objects and Aboriginal voices. An open-air forest atrium features Victorian plants and animals and there's some traditional (and nonetheless fascinating) displays of pinned insects. There's a hands-on children's area with weekend activities, as well as an **imax cinema** (p162) next door.

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING

Map pp78-9
☎ 9270 5000; www.museum.vic.gov.au/reb;
Nicholson St, Carlton; 🏠 Parliament, 📍 City Circle,
86, 96, 🚗 250, 251, 402

Built for the International Exhibition in 1880, and winning Unesco World Heritage status in 2004, this beautiful Victorian edifice symbolises the glory days of the Industrial Revolution, Empire and 19th-century Melbourne's economic supremacy. Inside it's equally impressive, with extensive decorative paintwork throughout. Australia's first parliament was held here in 1901; more than a hundred years later everything from trade fairs to designer sales to dance parties take place. It's also the home of the biennale Melbourne Art Fair. **Tours** (☎ bookings 1300 130 152; adult/child \$5/3.50) leave from the **Melbourne Museum** (p77) daily at 2pm.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Map pp78-9
☎ 8344 4000; www.unimelb.edu.au; Grattan St,
Carlton; 🏠 6, 8, 72

The esteemed University of Melbourne was established in 1853 and remains one of Australia's most prestigious universities. Its blend of Victorian Gothic stone buildings, midcentury international-style towers and postmodern showpieces provide a snapshot of changing architectural aspirations. The campus sprawls from Carlton through to the neighbouring suburb of

CARLTON & AROUND

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Rathdowne Tavern.....	39 F6
Rose Bar.....	40 B8
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GAY & LESBIAN

169 Drummond.....	48 E7
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TRANSPORT

Train Upfield-line train to Royal Park or Brunswick Station.

Tram From Swanston St, tram 1 runs to Lygon St, Carlton. Nicholson St, which links Carlton and Fitzroy, is serviced by tram 96 from Bourke St. For North Carlton, take tram 96 from Bourke St, which runs along Nicholson St, or tram 1 from Swanston St along Lygon St. From Elizabeth St, tram 19 runs along Royal Pde through Parkville. This service continues up Sydney Rd, Brunswick. Trams 55 and 68 run from William St through North Melbourne to Parkville.

Parkville, and its extensive grounds house the university colleges. Most notable of these is the Walter Burley Griffin designed **Newman College**. The **Ian Potter Museum of Art** (☎ 8344 5148; www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun) manages the university's extensive art collection, which ranges from antiquities to contemporary Australian work. It's a thoughtfully designed space and always has an exciting exhibition program, plus there's an adjoining Italian café.

ROYAL MELBOURNE ZOO Map pp78-9

☎ 9285 9300; www.zoo.org.au; Elliott Ave, Parkville; adult/child/family \$23/\$11.50/\$3; 🕒 9am-5pm; 📍 Royal Park; 🚶 55 Melbourne's zoo is one of the city's most popular attractions. Established in 1861, this is the oldest zoo in Australia and the third oldest in the world. Set in spacious, prettily landscaped gardens, the zoo's enclosures aim to simulate the animals' natural habitats. Walkways pass through the enclosures; you can stroll through the bird aviary, cross a bridge over the lions' park or enter a tropical hothouse full of colourful butterflies. There's also a large collection of native animals in natural bush settings, a platypus aquarium, fur seals, lions and tigers, plenty of reptiles, and a handsome elephant enclosure. Allow at least half a day for your visit. In summer, the zoo hosts a **twilight music program**. Roar 'n' Snore allows you to camp at the zoo and join the keepers on their morning feeding rounds.

ROYAL PARK Map pp78-9

btwn Royal Pde & Flemington Rd, Parkville; 🚶 55 Royal Park's vast open spaces are perfect for a run or powerwalk and there are sports ovals, netball and hockey stadiums, a golf course and tennis courts. The ever-popular **Royal Melbourne Zoo** (left) is tucked away here too. **Trin Warren Tam-boore**, a recently established wetlands area with boardwalks and interpretive signage, is good for spotting native plants and animals and is in the northwestern section of the park.

MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

Map pp78-9
☎ 9349 3014; www.necropolis.com.au/old/MGC/MGCindex.htm; College Cres, North Carlton; 🕒 9am-5pm; 📍 1, 8 Melbourne has been burying its dead in this cemetery since 1852; it's the final resting place of three Australian prime ministers and the ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills. Close to a million other people are interred here, mostly along sectarian lines. Dig up the dirt on the city's history on a **White Hat tour** (☎ 0500 500 655; www.whitehat.com.au; tour \$15) on Wednesday and Sunday at 1pm. For spook-seekers, two-hour guided night tours are led by the **National Trust of Victoria** (☎ 9656 9800; www.nationaltrust.org.au; adult/child/concession \$24/15/22) twice a year, full-moon tours in April and a Halloween outing on October 31. Bookings are essential.

PRINCES PARK Map pp78-9

Princes Park Dr, North Carlton; 🚶 19 Joggers and walkers make early morning sorties to pound the 3.2km gravel path around the perimeter of the park. Former home to the Carlton football club, the ground is known as **MC Labour Park**; the sprawling park has a number of other sporting ovals, a children's playground and barbecues.

CERES Map pp48-9

☎ 9387 2609; www.ceres.org.au; 8 Lee St, East Brunswick; 🕒 9am-5pm, market 9am-1pm Wed & Sat; 📍 96 Ceres (which is known solely by its double-meaning acronym, though it does stand for Centre for Education & Research in En-

vironmental Strategies) is a 20-something-year-old community environment project. Stroll around the permaculture and bush-food nursery before refuelling with an organic coffee and cake at the pretty (and extremely popular) café. There are playgrounds and plenty of natural miniworlds

to keep children amused. Or better still, come for the community market where you can buy organic and backyard-produced goodies, and have your tarot read while the kids marvel at the chooks and sheep.

SOUTH YARRA, PRAHRAN & WINDSOR

Drinking & Nightlife p156; Eating p141; Shopping p117; Sleeping p191

This neighbourhood has always been synonymous with glitz and glamour; it might be south but it's commonly referred to as the 'right' side of the river. Access to South Yarra was by boat or punt – hence Punt Rd – before Princes Bridge was built in 1850. Its elevated aspect and large allotments were always considered prestigious. Demand for housing led to many large blocks being subdivided in the 1920s and '30s for the construction of apartments, which are now highly sought after. This predominance of apartment living gives the area a metropolitan feel while parkland is never far away; the Royal Botanic Gardens and Fawkner Park bookmark the suburb's most favoured streets. The Como Centre at the corner of Toorak Rd and Chapel St is a local landmark; it houses upmarket boutiques and shops, offices, cafés, cinemas and the five-star hotel, Como (p191). Chapel St's South Yarra strip still parades itself as a must-do fashion destination, but has seen better days; it's been taken over by chain stores, tacky bars and, come sunset, doof-doof cars.

Chapel St continues south into everyman Prahran, where designer stores mash it up with open shops, cafés, bars and some refreshingly eclectic businesses. Running off Chapel St by Prahran Town Hall, Greville St is a longtime alternative favourite, though it too is gradually losing its edge, but still has some noteworthy clothing shops, a great bookstore, as well as bars, cafés and restaurants. Commercial Rd is Melbourne's pumping pink zone, and has a diverse collection of nightclubs, bars, pubs, bookshops and cafés. It is also home of the Prahran Market, where the locals shop for fruit, veg and upmarket deli delights.

Hawksburn Village, up the Malvern Rd hill, and High St, Armadale make for stylish shopping sorties but, pleasant residential streets and small parks aside, there's little to tempt a visitor. Windsor, along Chapel St's southern strip, is a favourite student haunt, with bars, vintage shopping and a laid-back local vibe.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS Map pp84–5

☎ 9252 2300; www.rbg.vic.gov.au; admission free; ☎ 7.30am–8.30pm Nov–Mar, to 5.30pm Apr–Oct; 🗺 8

One of the finest botanic gardens in the world, the RBG is one of Melbourne's most glorious attractions. Sprawling beside the Yarra River, the beautifully designed gardens feature a global selection of plantings as well as specific Australian gardens. Mini-ecosystems, such as a cacti and succulents area, herb garden and an indigenous rainforest, are set amid vast lawns. Take a book, picnic or Frisbee; most importantly, take your time.

Along with the abundance of plant species there's a surprising amount of wildlife, including waterfowl, ducks, swans and child-scaring eels in and around the ornamental lake, as well as cockatoos and possums.

The gardens are encircled by the Tan, a 4km-long former horse-exercising track, and now Melbourne's favourite venue for joggers. During the summer months, the gardens play host to the **Moonlight Cinema** (p163) and theatre performances (see Fridays' EG section of the *Age* newspaper for details).

You can pick up guide-yourself leaflets at the park entrances; these leaflets change with the seasons and tell you what to look out for at the different times of year.

The **visitors centre** (☎ 9252 2429; 🗺 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 9.30am–5.30pm Sat & Sun) is at the former centre for stargazers, Observatory Gate, Birdwood Ave. A range of tours departs from here. Choose from a variety of guided walks through assorted horticultural pockets to learn a bit about history, botany and wildlife. Other features include the Observatory for tours of the night sky and the **Children's Garden** (opposite). Next to the visitors centre, the **National Herbarium**, established in 1853, contains 1.2 million dried botanical specimens used for identification purposes.

For visitors who can't get enough of gardens, the Royal Botanic Gardens has a recently developed **Australian Garden** in the outlying suburb of Cranbourne (off map pp48–9). Explore 63 hectares of untouched heathlands, wetlands and woodlands, as well as talk to staff about growing indigenous plants in a domestic setting. The award-winning **visitor centre** was designed by local architect Kerstin Thompson. See the RBG website for location and opening hours.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE Map pp84–5
☎ 9654 8415; www.shrine.org.au; Birdwood Ave, South Yarra; 🗺 10am–5pm; 🗺 5, 6, 8, 16, 64, 67, 72
Beside St Kilda Rd stands the massive Shrine of Remembrance, built as a memorial to Victorians killed in WWI. It was built between 1928 and 1934, much of it with depression-relief or 'susso' labour. Its bombastic classical design is partly based on the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. Visible from the other end of town, planning regulations continue to restrict any building that would obstruct the view of the shrine from Swanston St as far back as Lonsdale St.

Thousands attend the moving Anzac Day (25 April) dawn service, one of over 120 annual ceremonies hosted at the Shrine. The Remembrance Day service at 11am on the 11th of November commemorates the signing of the Armistice in 1918 marking the formal end to WWI. At this precise moment a shaft of light shines through an opening in the ceiling passing over the Stone of Remembrance and illuminating the word 'love'. The forecourt, with its cenotaph and eternal flame, was built as a memorial to those who died in WWII, and there are several other specific memorials that surround the shrine. The complex is under 24-hour police guard; during opening hours the police are quaintly required to wear uniforms resembling those worn by WWI light-horsemen.

GOVERNOR LA TROBE'S COTTAGE & GOVERNMENT HOUSE Map pp84–5

Kings Domain; 🗺 48, 75
East of the **Shrine of Remembrance** (above), near the intersection of Birdwood Ave and Dallas Brooks Dr, is **Governor La Trobe's Cottage** (www.nationaltrust.org.au), the original government house building that was sent out in prefabricated form from the mother country in 1840. Inside, you can see many of the original furnishings, and the servants' quarters out the back.

This modest cottage sits in stark contrast to the Italianate pile of **Government House** (☎ 9654 4711; Government House Dr; adult/concession \$15/10). Built in 1872, it's been the residence of all serving Victorian governors since, and is a replica of Queen Victoria's palace on England's Isle of Wight. As well as being the regal pied-à-terre, the house and gardens

are also used for an array of state functions and celebrations. Book well in advance to take the National Trust **tour**, which includes both houses. Tours run Monday and Wednesday. There are no tours from mid-December to the end of January.

IAN POTTER FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S GARDEN Map pp84–5

☎ 9252 2300; www.rbg.vic.gov.au; Observatory Precinct, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra; 🗺 10am–4pm Wed–Sun, daily during Victorian school holidays; 🗺 8

This whimsical and child-scaled place invites kids and their parents to explore, discover and imagine. The various mini-environments are often directed by the seasons and many plants have been chosen to delight kids with their intrinsic weirdness or strong colours. Programs run in the school holidays; see website for details and book ahead. Note that it is closed for two months each winter.

COMO HOUSE Map pp84–5

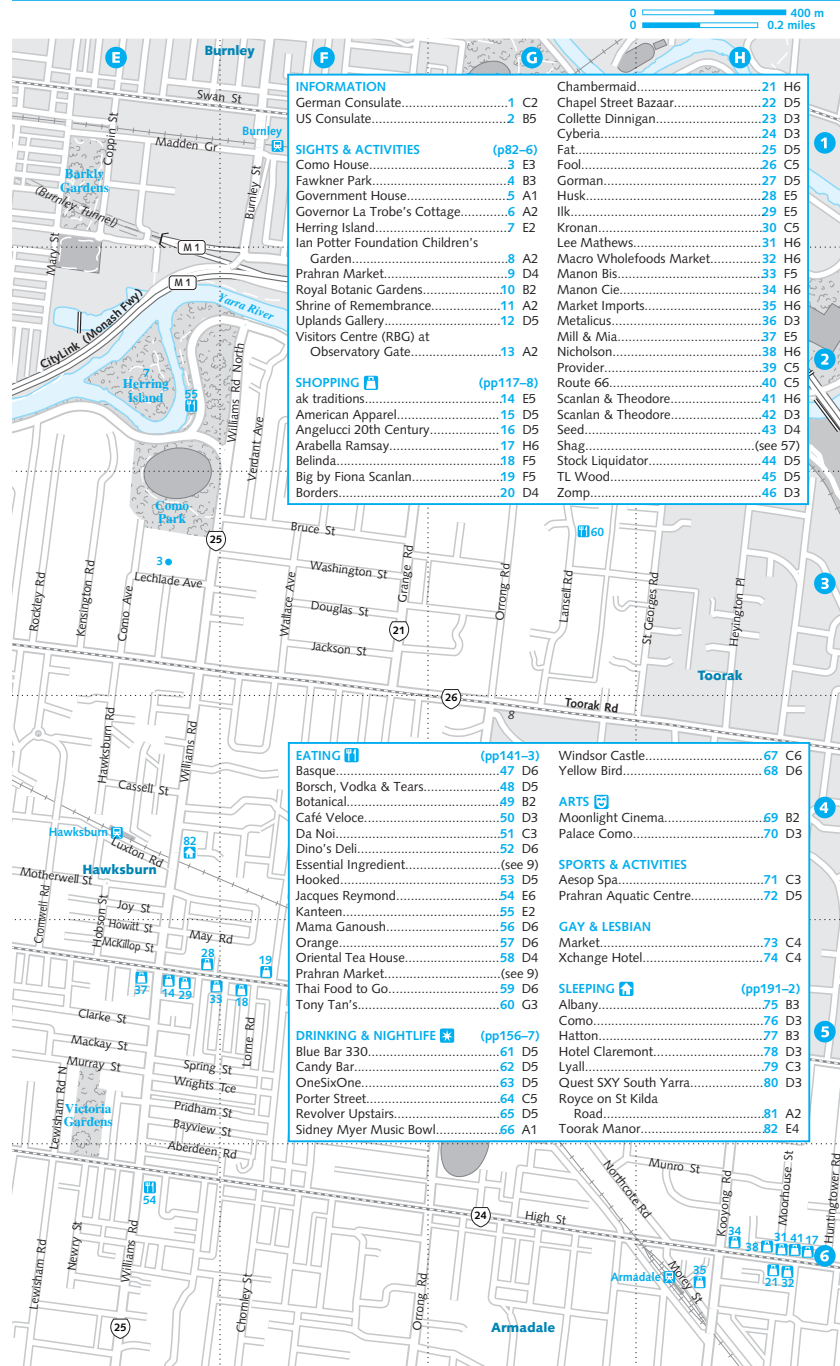
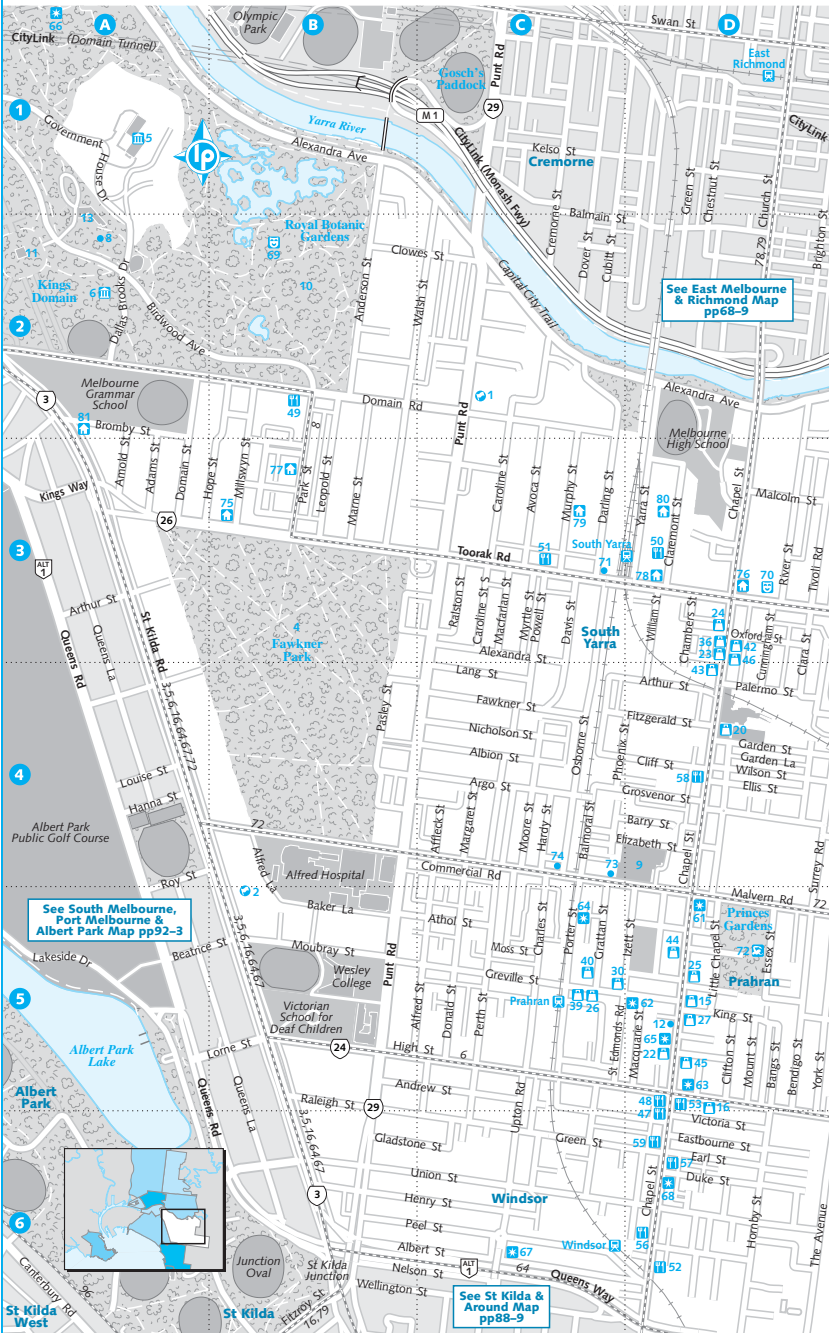
☎ 9827 2500; www.comohouse.com.au; cnr Williams Rd & Lechlade Ave, South Yarra; adult/child/family \$12/6.50/30; 🗺 10am–5pm; 🗺 8
This grand colonial residence overlooking the Yarra was begun in 1840, and underwent renovations up till 1959. The building has been faithfully restored by the National Trust and contains some of the Armytage family's belongings, the last and longest owners. (Of course it's all a matter of taste, but their period-furnishing style can seem more hysterical than stately.) The extensive well-tended grounds are faithful to 19th-century landscaping principles and include a croquet lawn and magnificent flower walks. **Tours** take around an hour: the first is at 10.30am, and then half-hourly until 3.30pm.

TRANSPORT

Train On the Sandringham line several stations put you within easy walking distance of Chapel St: South Yarra Station on Toorak Rd, Prahran Station on Greville St, and Windsor Station at the end of Chapel St.

Tram From Swanston St and St Kilda Rd, tram 8 runs down Toorak Rd, tram 72 runs down Commercial Rd (which then becomes Malvern Rd) and tram 6 runs down High St, all crossing Chapel St. From here, trams 78 and 79 run along Chapel St.

SOUTH YARRA, PRAHRAN & WINDSOR



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Cyberia.....	24 D3
Fat.....	25 D5
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Ilk.....	29 E5
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HERRING ISLAND Map pp84–5

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~herring>

Once an unloved dumping ground for silt, Herring Island is now a prelapsarian garden that seeks to preserve the original trees, shrubs and grasses of the Yarra and provide a home for indigenous animals such as parrots, possums and lizards.

Hidden within is an impressive collection of environmental sculpture including work by Brit Andy Goldsworthy and locals Julie Collins, Robert Jacks, Robert Bridgewater and architectural photographer John Gollings.

Designated picnic areas, with barbecues, make for a rare retreat just 3km from the city centre. The island is theoretically open to visitors all year round but can only be reached by boat. A **Parks Victoria punt** (☎ 13 19 63; per person \$2; 🕒 noon–5pm Sat & Sun during daylight saving period from Oct–Mar only) operates from Como Landing on Alexandra Ave in South Yarra.

PRAHRAN MARKET Map pp84–5

www.prahranmarket.com.au; 163 Commercial Rd, South Yarra; 🕒 to 5pm Tue, to 6pm Thu & Fri, dawn–5pm Sat, 10am–3pm Sun; 📍 Prahran, 📏 72, 78, 79 The Prahran Market has been an institution for over a century and is one of the finest produce markets in the city. It goes

without saying that there are numerous stalls stocking fresh seafood, deli items, meats, fruits and vegetables. The market is also home to the **Essential Ingredient** (☎ 9827 9047; www.theessentialingredient.com.au) a specialty culinary store. Check its website for details of its cooking school, featuring workshops with Melbourne's most lauded chefs and restaurateurs.

FAWKNER PARK Map pp84–5

btwn Toorak & Commercial Rds, South Yarra; 📍 72

This huge expanse of green is loved and used by the area's sport folk and lapdogs alike. Walkways lined with elms, oaks and Moreton Bay fig trees provide structure to the otherwise open fields. Barbecues and charming little pavilions are available for public use.

UPLANDS GALLERY Map pp84–5

☎ 9510 2374; www.uplandsgallery.com; Studio 2/3, 249–251 Chapel St, Prahran; 🕒 11am–5.30pm Tue–Sat; 📍 Prahran, 📏 78, 79

Uplands space is hard to find, but that's part of the appeal. The gallery shows both emerging and established artists, and while being taken increasingly seriously by collectors, loves to push boundaries. With past shows entitled *Big Dirty Love* and *The Fucking Weird Show*, you get the picture.

ST KILDA & AROUND

Drinking & Nightlife **p157**; Eating **p139**; Shopping **p119**; Sleeping **p192**

St Kilda, on the bay directly south of the city, was once the city's favoured 19th-century playground. The introduction of public transport brought day-trippers to its dance halls, funpark, ice-skating rink, theatres, sea baths and gardens. The construction of apartments began in the 1930s, with the area's grand old mansions either demolished or divided up. Today St Kilda has the highest number of 25- to 35-year-olds living alone due to the suburb's unusual amount of high-density housing. Postwar migration gave the area an Eastern European Jewish community, which still exists today in the neighbouring suburbs of Balaclava, Caulfield and Elsternwick.

By the 1960s and '70s St Kilda had developed a reputation for drugs and prostitution. Its seediness, as well as its low-rent mansions and dilapidated concert halls, was a beacon to students, artists and musicians. Many of Melbourne's acclaimed punk bands, such as the Boys Next Door, fronted by Nick Cave, were based here and played gloriously chaotic gigs at the George Hotel (then known as the Crystal or Seaview Ballroom). Although still affecting the louchness it was known for in the '80s, St Kilda has become something of a spoiled brat. Its real-estate prices are astronomical and development has been piecemeal and often misguided. That's not to say it's entirely lost its appeal. The halcyon days live on via the grand George Hotel and Palais Theatre. Its palm trees, bay vistas, briny breezes and pink-stained sunsets are heartbreakingly beautiful. Come the weekend, the volume is turned up, the traffic crawls and the street-party atmosphere sets in. It's still a neighbourhood of extremes, and often exhilarating contrast: backpacker hostels sit aside fine-dining restaurants, souvlaki bars next to designer shops. Nowhere is this more evident than Fitzroy St, which runs straight from St Kilda Junction to the water's edge. On the western side, the Catani Gardens provide a calm slice of green behind the beach. To the east, it curves into the Esplanade, which runs parallel with the beach and Jacka Blvd. At the time of writing, a large section of the foreshore is being fought over by developers and locals. A large-scale complex of apartments, shops and a hotel is set to be built on the site of the old Palace complex, to the horror of those that treasure the area's original character (others believe that was lost long ago). Acland St runs parallel to the Esplanade, from Fitzroy St's Prince Hotel. Its western strip is pleasantly leafy and nostalgically residential. Beyond Carlisle St, crowds jostle for footpath space at weekends and on summer evenings; restaurants, bars and the strip's famous cake shops are the draw. Many longtime locals have found respite from the relentless pace in Carlisle St's eastern reach, traditionally a devout Jewish neighbourhood but now known for its wine bars, all-day breakfast cafés and quirky shops as much as its kosher butchers and bagel stores. Southeast along the bay is the mainly residential area of Elwood. It too provides a respite from the St Kilda crowds, though on a hot summers day its beach can be as packed as Acland St.

JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Map pp88–9

☎ 9534 0083; www.jewishmuseum.com.au; 26 Alma Rd, St Kilda; adult/child/family \$10/5/20; 🕒 10am–4pm Tue–Thu, 11am–5pm Sun; 📍 Balaclava

Interactive displays tell the history of Australia's Jewish community from the earliest days of European settlement, while permanent exhibitions celebrate Judaism's rich cycle of festivals and holy days. The museum also has a good curatorial reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions.

LINDEN ARTS CENTRE & GALLERY

Map pp88–9

☎ 9209 6794; www.lindenarts.org; 26 Acland St, St Kilda; 🕒 1–6pm Tue–Sun; 📍 16, 96

Housed in a wrought-iron clad 1870s mansion, Linden champions the work of emerg-

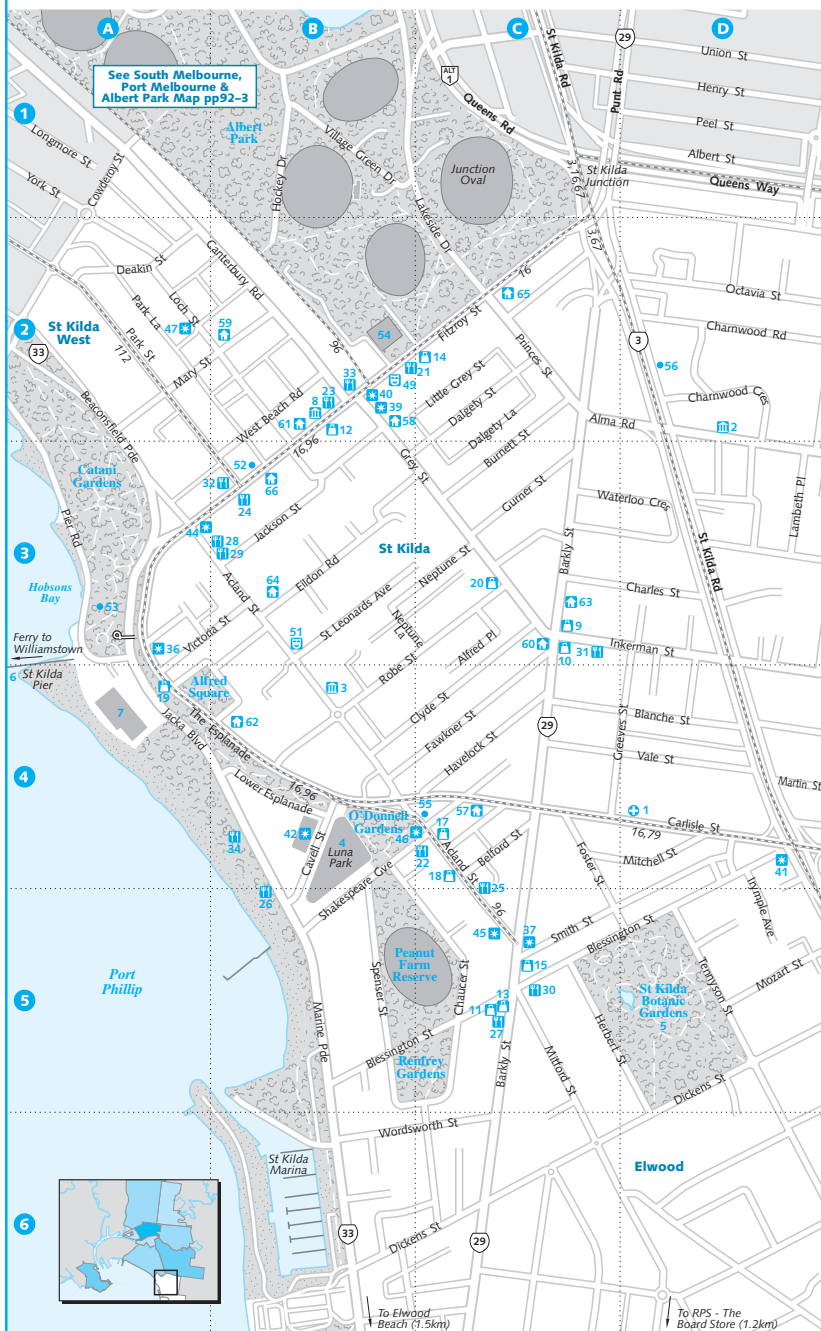
ing artists. There's a diverting children's sculpture garden and a peaceful front lawn for postshow lolling. The annual postcard show, which coincides with the St Kilda festival in February/March is a highlight.

LUNA PARK Map pp88–9

☎ 9525 5033; www.lunapark.com.au; Lower Esplanade, St Kilda; adult/child 1-ride ticket \$7/5.50, unlimited-ride ticket \$36/26; 🕒 check website for seasonal opening hours; 📍 16, 96

It opened in 1912 and still retains the feel of an old-style amusement park with creepy Mr Moon's gaping mouth swallowing you up whole on entering. There's a heritage-listed scenic railway and a beautifully baroque carousel with hand-painted horses, swans and chariots. There is also the full complement of gut-churning

ST KILDA & AROUND



modern rides. For grown-ups, the noise and lack of greenery or shade can pull all too fast.

ST KILDA BOTANIC GARDENS

Map pp88-9

☎ 9209 6777; www.port Phillip.vic.gov.au/stkilda-botanic.html; cnr Blessington & Tennyson Sts, St Kilda; ☀ sunrise-sunset; 🚗 96

Only a few blocks from Acland St, the Botanic Gardens are an unexpected haven from the St Kilda hustle. Wide gravel paths invite a leisurely stroll, and there are plenty of shady spots to sprawl on the open lawns. There are local indigenous plants and a subtropical rainforest conservatory to ponder, as well as the springtime splendour of the Alister Clarke Rose Garden. The duck pond is a favourite for children.

ST KILDA FORESHORE Map pp88-9

Jacka Blvd, St Kilda; 🚗 16, 96

There are palm-fringed promenades, a parkland strand and a long stretch of sand. Still, don't expect Bondi or Noosa. St Kilda's seaside appeal is more Brighton, England than *Baywatch*, despite 20-odd years of glitzy development. And that's the way Melburnians like it; a certain depth of character and an all-weather charm, with wild days on the bay providing for spectacular cloudscapes and terse little waves, as well as the more predictable sparkling blue of summer. Two popular St Kilda restaurants are superbly located in historic foreshore buildings: the stylish *Donovans* (p140), once a bathing pavilion, and the *Stokehouse* (p140), originally an Edwardian tea-house.

The kiosk at the end of *St Kilda Pier* (an exact replica of the original, which burnt down in 2003, a year short of its centenary) is as much about the journey as the destination. Piers have always made good fodder for music videos (Elton John, Elvis Costello et al) and this one is no different. The clip for Paul Kelly's melancholic '80s hit 'From St Kilda to Kings Cross' was shot here. You can book a *ferry* (☎ 9682 9555; www.williamstownferries.com.au) to make the voyage across the bay to Williamstown but regular scheduled passenger services no longer run.

The breakwater near the pier was built in the '50s as a safe harbour for boats competing in the Olympic Games. It's

ST KILDA & AROUND

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SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT MELBOURNE & ALBERT PARK

Drinking & Nightlife p159; Eating p143; Shopping p121; Sleeping p194

Bordered by the sweep of Port Phillip Bay, each of these residential neighbourhoods has its own personality. Streets are quiet and densely packed with single-fronted Victorian and Federation houses. When you do make your way out into the open, it's to a sweeping waterfront broken by a number of weatherworn piers. South Melbourne's humble beginnings as a shantytown of canvas and bark huts belie its current status as a suburb for moneyed professionals. The area was originally called Emerald Hill, after the grassy knoll of high ground that rose above the muddy flatlands. Its Victorian-era town hall still stands on this vantage point. The suburb's pretty residential streets are also home to ad agencies and film-related companies, as well as a small number of public-housing towers. Its main thoroughfare, Clarendon St, is dissected by laid-back but upmarket shopping streets Coventry and Park.

West from South Melbourne, Albert Park is a villagelike suburb that you can miss if you limit your strolling to the waterfront. Albert Park's Bridport St runs into Victoria, or 'Vic', Ave. Lined with cute cafés, restaurants and shops, there's a casual weekend bustle. Like its neighbour, many residents are well-to-do, fashionable young families, and its gracious streets are full of cottages and terrace houses renovated to within an inch of their lives.

The waterfront continues northwest to Port Melbourne and Station Pier, the passenger terminal for the ferry service between Melbourne and Tasmania (see p344). Port Melbourne's regeneration has come more slowly than its leafy neighbours but its cottages and converted factories are now populated with professionals too. Beacon Cove, the area directly inland from Station Pier, is a surreal but sublimely comfortable new housing estate (referred to by longtime locals as Legoland), mixing town houses with view-seeking apartment buildings. This end of the bay's Garden City, modelled on workers' garden housing in Britain, still faintly hints at what was once a rollicking, working-class port.

The common thread to these neighbourhoods is Canterbury Rd. It's permanent peak hour on the beachfront footpath here as joggers, dog-walkers, Rollerbladers and cyclists take in the sea air.

ALBERT PARK LAKE Map pp92–3
btwn Queens Rd, Fitzroy St, Aughtie Dr & Albert Rd,
Albert Park; ☎ 96, 112

Elegant black swans give their inimitable bottoms-up salute as you circumnavigate the 5km perimeter of this man-made lake. Jogging, cycling, walking or clamouring over play equipment is the appropriate human equivalent. Lakeside Dr was used as an international motor-racing circuit in the 1950s, and since 1996 the revamped track has been the venue for the **Australian Formula One Grand Prix** (p14) each March. Also on the periphery is the **Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre** (p175), with an Olympic-size pool and child-munching wave machine.

SEE YUP TEMPLE Map pp92–3

☎ 9699 7388; 76-80 Raglan St, South Melbourne;
entrance by gold coin donation; ☎ 9am-4pm;
☎ 112

Prayers have floated heavenward here since 1866 and it's still a working place of worship. The high-Victorian architecture

is infused with many traditional Chinese elements and the space is embellished with exquisite hand-carved artefacts from Guangzhou. Three memorial halls off the main temple space hold the only existing records of the lives of around 13,000 early Chinese immigrants who died in Australia.

SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET

Map pp92–3

☎ 9209 6295; cnr Coventry & Cecil Sts, South Melbourne; ☎ 8am-4pm Wed, to 6pm Fri, to 4pm Sat & Sun; ☎ 96

The market's labyrinthine interior is packed to overflowing with an eccentric collection of stalls selling everything from carpets to

TRANSPORT

Tram There's tram 1, which trundles along St Kilda Rd to South Melbourne and Albert Park. Alternatively, take tram 112 from Collins St, which then goes down Clarendon St.

now home to a colony of little penguins that have, incredibly, chosen the city's most crowded suburb in which to reside. **Penguin Waters** (☎ 9386 8488; www.penguinwaters.com.au; Berth 1; adult/child \$55/30) offers a two-hour scenic tour, which passes the penguins. Tours depart every evening from Southbank and include a barbecue and beverage. During summer, the **Port Phillip Eco Centre** (www.eco-centre.com) also runs family tours of the St Kilda coastal environment, which end up at the penguin colony. They can't guarantee a sighting but will do their best, and all

TRANSPORT

Train The Sandringham line has stations at Balclava, handy for Carlisle St, and Esternwick, which is close to some parts of Elwood.

Tram The 16 tram runs down St Kilda Rd from the city to Fitzroy and Acland Sts. Tram 96 also goes to Fitzroy and Acland Sts but from Bourke St via a light-rail track from South Melbourne. Alternatively, take the slower but more scenic tram 112 from Collins St, which terminates at Park and Fitzroy Sts. Tram 67 runs down St Kilda Rd and will take you to St Kilda Junction or to Carlisle St, a little further on.

tour proceeds go towards keeping the local penguin outpost flourishing.

On the foreshore south of the pier, the Moorish-style **St Kilda Sea Baths** (☎ 9525 3011; www.stkildaseabaths.com.au; 10-18 Jacka Blvd) is a spectacular public folly. The complex contains a health club, shops and food outlets, but is markedly lacking in atmosphere and visitors, a hard call in this location. There's an indoor saltwater pool, but at \$11 a dip, it's really only attractive on frosty days.

ÜBER GALLERY Map pp88–9

☎ 8598 9915; www.ubergallery.com; 52 Fitzroy St, St Kilda; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-6pm Sat & Sun; ☎ 16, 96

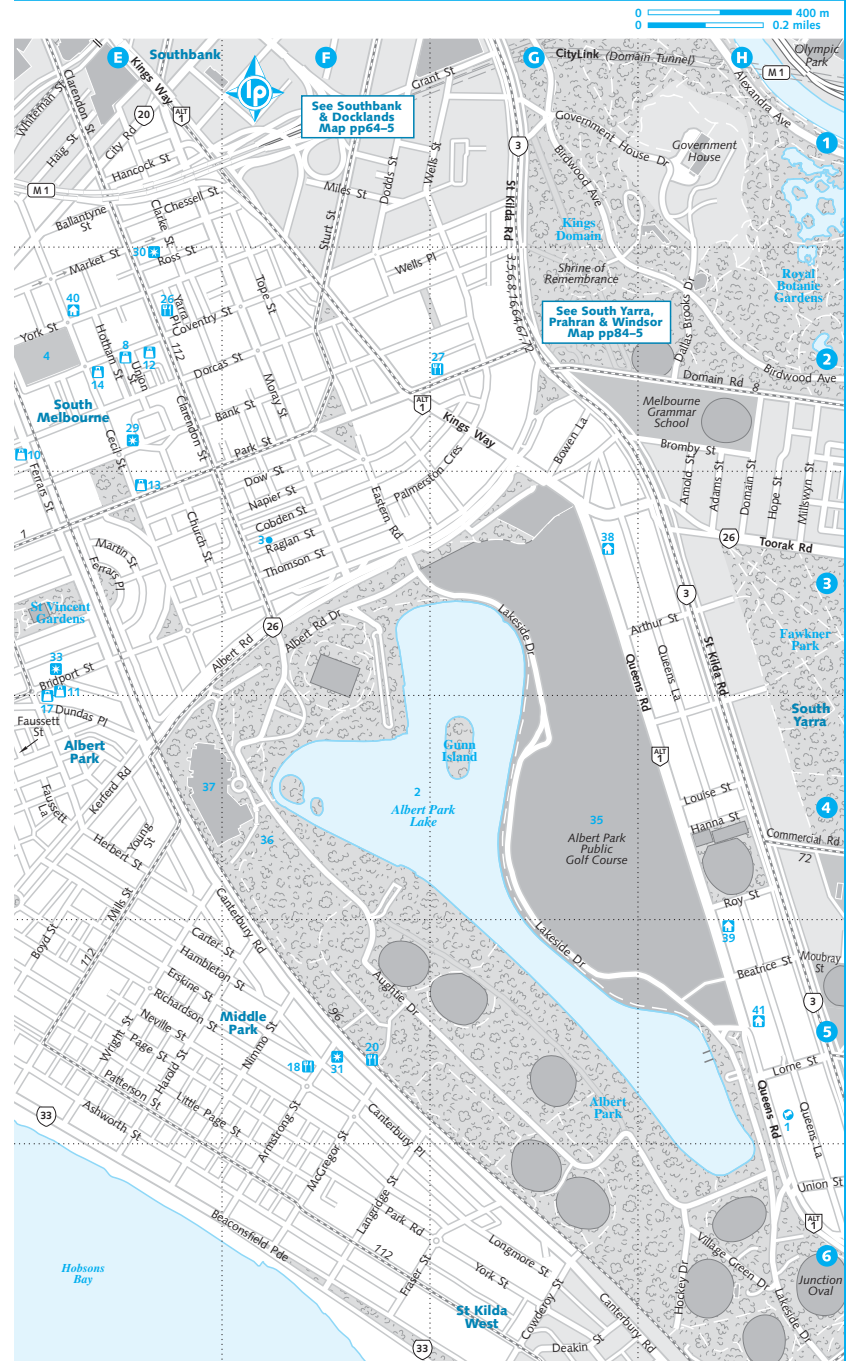
This commercial contemporary gallery exhibits work in a variety of mediums. A cerebral pit stop on the hedonist's highway that is Fitzroy St.

ELWOOD BEACH off Map pp48–9

Ormond Esplanade, Elwood

A short drive or concerted foreshore walk will take you to this swimming beach. It tends to be less windswept, though often no less crowded, than St Kilda and is surrounded by leafy Elwood Park and Point Ormond Reserve. There are playgrounds and kiosks.

SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT MELBOURNE & ALBERT PARK



FREE FOR ALL

- Throw a Frisbee, read a book, sprawl on the lawn or smell the flowers at one of Melbourne's parks and gardens. Try the **Royal Botanic Gardens** (p82), **St Kilda Botanic Gardens** (p89) and **Birrarung Marr** (p51).
- Catch a free ride on the City Circle tram. The wine-coloured tram, with recorded commentary, loops along Flinders St, Harbour Esplanade (Docklands), La Trobe and Spring Sts before heading back along Flinders St. It runs every 10 minutes or so between 10am and 6pm (to 9pm Thursday to Saturday during summer), and you can jump on and off at any of the frequent stops.
- Jump on and off the free **Tourist Shuttle** (see p344) at key sights: from the **Melbourne Museum** (p77) to the **Shrine of Remembrance** (p83).
- Gallery hop: start with some conceptual art at the **Australian Centre for Contemporary Art** (ACCA; p62), Australian art at the **Ian Potter Centre: NGVA** (p50) and the permanent collection of the **NGVI** (p63).
- Browse around the **Queen Victoria Market** (p57) and soak up the atmosphere.
- Read to your heart's content at the **State Library of Victoria** (p57), play chess in the Chessroom (especially good for a rainy day), or attend one of their fascinating talks.
- Wander into an AFL game at the **MCG** (p67) at three-quarter time; you'll see the best part of the action and get to sing the winner's theme song at the end.

bok choy (Chinese greens). It's been on this site since 1864 and is a neighbourhood institution. The surrounding streets are conveniently dotted with decent cafés and other interesting specialty shops.

STATION PIER Map pp92–3

☎ 1300 85 7662; www.portofmelbourne.com;
🕒 6am–9pm pedestrians only, closed during some ship visits; 🚫 109

Station Pier is Melbourne's main sea passenger terminal, and is where the *Spirit of*

Tasmania, cruise ships and navy vessels dock. It has been in operation since 1854, and the first major railway in Australia ran from here to the city. It has great sentimental associations for many migrants who arrived by ship in the 1950s and '60s, and for servicemen who used it during WWII. There has been significant development of the area over the last 10 years and there is now a gaggle of restaurants built on and around the pier, as well as a marina.

WILLIAMSTOWN

Eating p144; Sleeping p194

Williamstown is a historic seafaring town that can turn on the seaside charm or wrap you in windswept melancholy depending on the day and the season.

Back in 1837, two townships were laid out simultaneously at the top of Port Phillip Bay: Melbourne, the main settlement, and Williamstown, the seaport. With the advantage of the natural harbour of Hobsons Bay, Williamstown thrived and government services such as customs and immigration were based here. Many early buildings were built from locally quarried bluestone.

When the Yarra River was deepened and the Port of Melbourne developed in the 1880s, Williamstown's role became less important. Tucked away in a corner of the bay, it was bypassed and forgotten for years. Its rediscovery was inevitable and it's become a very desirable Melbourne address. Weekends see crowds of day-trippers promenade along the Esplanade. 'Willy' also has a quaint little beach on the other side of Gellibrand Point.

Nelson Pl is Williamstown's main waterfront street. It's lined with gracious historic buildings blessed with exceptional views of the city, many of which are now restaurants and cafés. Between Nelson Pl and the bay are Commonwealth Reserve and Gem Pier, the main departure point for ferries. Past the café strip, Nelson Pl changes name to Battery Rd, which was made from bluestone that was extracted by convict labour; it's believed that Ned Kelly (p24) contributed to building the retaining wall in 1873. Battery Rd leads to the historic Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park, and turns into the Esplanade and the Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Williamstown Beach. Beyond the touristy waterfront is Ferguson St, Williamstown's local shopping precinct and well worth a wander for its cafés, restaurants and shops.

The **Williamstown Information Centre** (☎ 9399 8641; www.williamstowninfo.com.au; Commonwealth Reserve; 🕒 9am–5pm) is between Nelson Pl and the waterfront. A series of self-guided heritage-walk brochures are available covering the waterfront and seaside areas. Commonwealth Reserve is also the site of the **craft market** (🕒 10am–4pm), held on the third Sunday of every month.

GEM PIER Map p96

Syme St

Gem Pier is where passenger ferries dock to drop off and collect those who visit Williamstown by boat. It's a fitting way to arrive, given the area's maritime ambience. **Williamstown Ferries** (☎ 9517 9444; www.williamstownferries.com.au) plies Hobsons Bay daily, stopping at Southgate and visiting a number of sites along the way, including **Scienceworks** (p96) and **Docklands** (p65). **Melbourne River Cruises** (☎ 9629 7233; www.melbcrui.com.au) also docks

at Gem Pier, travelling up the Yarra River to Southgate. Ticket prices vary according to your destination. Pick up a timetable from the visitors centre in Williamstown or at Federation Square, or contact the companies directly; bookings are advised.

Also on Gem Pier, visit the lovingly refurbished WWII minesweeper **HMAS Castlemaine** (☎ 9397 2363; www.hmascastlemaine.com; adult/child/family \$5/2.50/12.50; 🕒 noon–5pm Sat & Sun) for an interesting look at life at sea. The bridge is complete with wheel, compasses and radar screen.

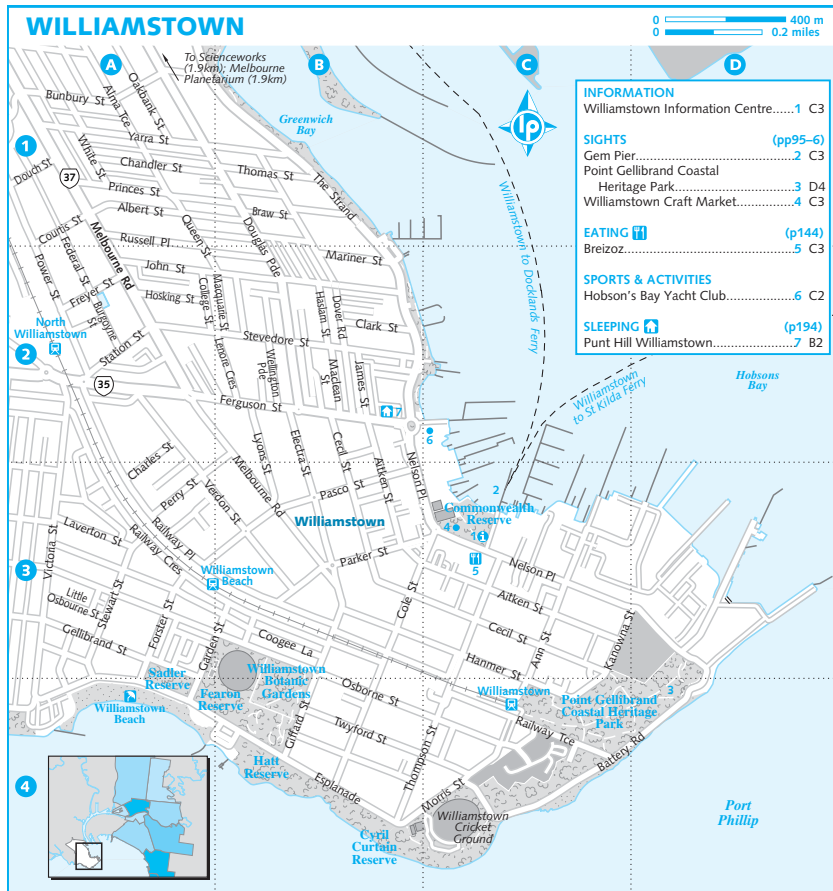
TRANSPORT

Melbourne Water Taxis (☎ 9686 0914; www.melbournewater taxis.com.au) pick up from most destinations along the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, from Richmond to Williamstown. You can book the **ferry** (☎ 9682 9555; www.williamstownferries.com.au; adult/child return \$12/6) from St Kilda Pier across the bay to Williamstown, but regular scheduled passenger services no longer run.

Train Williamstown–line train to Williamstown Station.

POINT GELLIBRAND COASTAL HERITAGE PARK Map p96

🕒 13 19 63; 🕒 dawn–dusk; 🚫 Williamstown
Along the waterfront of this expansive stretch of parkland, the roadway has intermittent information panels. These explain the area's significance as the first disembarkation point for early Victorian settlers. Historic buildings also dot the area, such as the convict-built Timeball Tower, once used to calibrate ships' gauges, and the remains of Fort Gellibrand, which staged many a mock battle. Access to the park is via Nelson Pl.



SCIENCEWORKS & MELBOURNE PLANETARIUM

Map pp48–9

☎ 9392 4800; <http://scienceworks.museum.vic.gov.au>; 2 Booker St, Spotswood; Scienceworks adult/child \$6/free, Planetarium adult/child/concession \$5/3.50/4; ☎ 10am–4.30pm Scienceworks wants you to push buttons, lift flaps and pull levers. Built on the site of the Spotswood pumping station, Melbourne's first sewerage works, Scienceworks' range of permanent interactive displays includes the science of sport, household items and the human body.

Additional temporary exhibitions are usually scheduled for the school holidays. Scienceworks is very popular with school groups; the quietest times are weekday afternoons during school terms and Saturday morning. The museum is a 10-minute signposted walk from Spotswood train station.

The Melbourne Planetarium re-creates the night sky on a 16m-domed ceiling using a hi-tech computer and projection system. Several shows suitable for children of all ages also screen.

WALKING TOURS

Exploring Melbourne on foot isn't at all taxing. The city's central grid of straight intersecting streets makes it easy to navigate, and its inclines are gentle. It's also almost entirely encircled by parks and gardens, rivers and the bay, which means you're never far from a pleasant place to rest. If you want to speed things up a bit, jump on a tram for a couple of stops.

NEW MELBOURNE *David Burnett*

This walk traverses several kilometres of Melbourne's old docks and waterfront, much of which is now flanked by striking buildings constructed in the last couple of decades – symbols of the latest of the city's periodic great booms.

1 Waterfront City One of the newer developments on the north side of Victoria Harbour in the expanding Docklands precinct. Waterfront City (2005, development ongoing; p65) has restaurants, bars and a yacht club.

2 New Quay Catch a Docklands-bound ferry or water-taxi from anywhere along the city-fringe stretch of the Yarra to New Quay (2002; p65). Pass the excellent eateries lining the northern edge of Victoria Harbour until you reach Harbour Esplanade.

3 Central Pier Head south along the waterfront to Central Pier (redeveloped 2007), where the peeling woodwork of old goods sheds whistle and creak. To the left towers the giant retractable roof of Docklands Stadium, aka *Telstra Dome* (2000; p66). Across the harbour is the distant *Bolte Bridge* (1999).

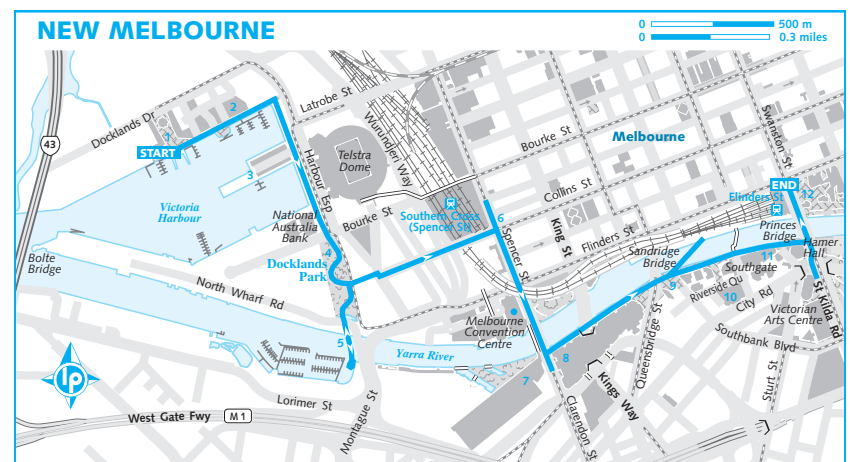
4 Docklands Park Continue south past the award-winning *National Australia Bank building* (2004) to Docklands Park. This park is home to some of the precinct's excellent public art, including the contemplative *Reed Vessel* and whimsical *Blowhole* sculptures, next to a terrific children's playground.

5 Webb Bridge (2004) Sinuous Webb Bridge includes the architectural motif of an Aboriginal eel trap in its design.

6 Spencer St First is *Southern Cross Station* (2006), where trains clatter and hoot beneath the spectacular wavelike roof. Walk down the hill past a contrasting landmark of the 1880s railway network, the former *Victorian Railways headquarters* (1888), now the *Grand Hotel* (p184). Then walk beneath the railway overpasses and past the brutalist (current/former) *Melbourne Convention Centre* (1990).

7 Melbourne Exhibition Centre Across the river is the aerodynamic *Melbourne Exhibition Centre* (1996; p63) and its emerging companion *convention centre* (due to open in 2009).

8 Crown Casino & Entertainment Complex Traverse the river frontage of the controversial *Crown Casino & Entertainment Complex*



(1994; p62), described by the planning minister who approved it as something Mussolini might have built. Briefly the world's largest casino, it's so enormous that a major arterial bridge must tunnel through the heart of the building. Only 20 years ago most of this riverbank was taken up with derelict industrial buildings and car yards.

9 Queensbridge Square Beyond the casino is Queensbridge Square (2005), a public square with a bold red amphitheatre. Angling across the river is the historic **Sandridge Bridge** (1888), once part of Melbourne's first railway line and now reborn as a pedestrian bridge over which the kinetic sculpture *The Travellers* marches, a tribute to Melbourne's immigrant history.

10 Eureka Tower One hundred metres east and a block back from the river is Australia's tallest building, **Eureka Tower** (2006; p62). Its eclectic façade of blue-and-white panels, shimmering crown and splash of red evokes the flag, gold and spilled blood of the Eureka Stockade (p23), one of the country's few citizens' rebellions.

11 Southbank In Eureka Tower's shadow is **Southgate** (1992; p63), the first (and best) Southbank project, with a range of restaurants bustling with crowds fresh from a performance at the adjacent **Victorian Arts Centre** (1984; p64). Climb to the podium of **Hamer Hall** (1982; p64) to reach the magnificent boulevard of St Kilda Rd.

12 Federation Square Cross the river via stately **Princes Bridge** (1888) to finish the walk at the stone-and-glass riot of **Federation Square** (2002; p50), increasingly embraced as the dynamic heart of 'New Melbourne'.

RADICAL MELBOURNE *Jeff Sparrow*

There are two sides to Melbourne. Traditionally seen as stuffy and respectable, the city also has a long-standing radical tradition. This walk gives you a glimpse into Melbourne's unruly past.

1 Flagstaff Gardens The **gardens** (p50) played a dual role in early Melbourne: the flagpole served to communicate with Williamstown as ships arrived, and the lower area was Melbourne's earliest cemetery. Interred here is settler Charles Franks, whose death in 1836

was thought to have been at the hands of indigenous Australians. The leaders of the colony killed perhaps 10 Aboriginal people in a reprisal raid.

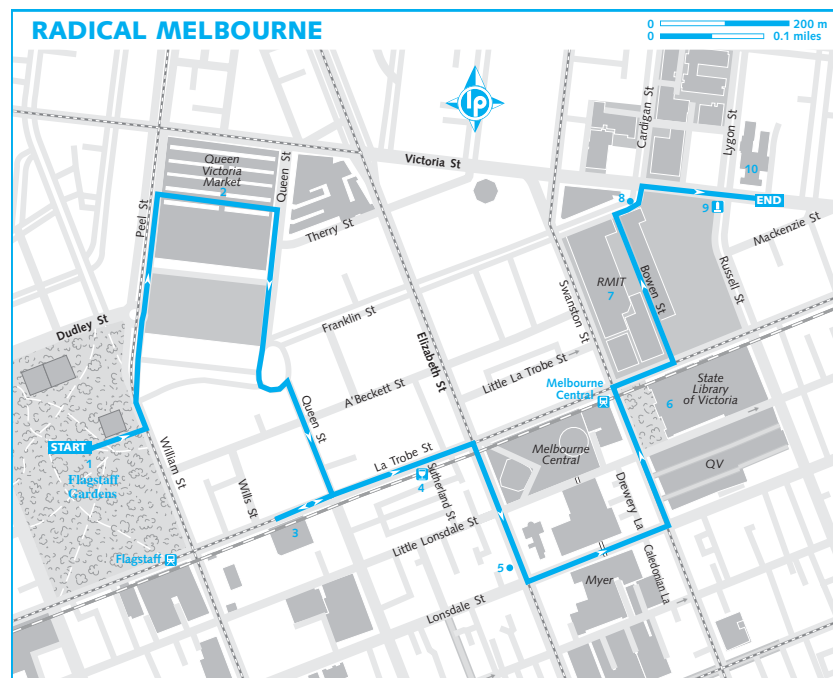
2 Queen Victoria Market Now Melbourne's largest open-air **market** (p57), this was the city's biggest cemetery from 1838–1920. Commercial demands saw the area ceded to local traders. Identifiable graves were disinterred but some 9000 corpses remain buried under what is now the carpark. They include the bodies of the first people executed in the city, Aboriginal resistance fighters Robert Smallboy and Jack Napoleon Tunningerpareway. Most of the cemetery wall remains intact – a brown and cream arched brick wall running through the middle of the market.

3 Australian Federal Police Head to 383 La Trobe St – the headquarters of the **Australian Federal Police**. In the late '80s Melbourne was the centre of a thriving computer-hacker scene. When a computer worm originating from Melbourne disrupted a controversial plutonium-powered NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration) launch in 1989, police established one of the world's first computer-crime teams in this building.

4 Duke of Kent Hotel At 293 La Trobe St, you'll find the Duke of Kent Hotel. The room that is now a beer garden was in 1937 the home of the New Theatre, a left-wing drama society affiliated to the Communist Party. It established its own theatre after the government banned its antifascist plays on the grounds that they might be offensive to a friendly government – that is, Nazi Germany.

5 Socialist Hall The Aussie Disposals store at 283 Elizabeth St used to be the office of the Victorian Socialist Party (VSP). Founded in 1906 by famous English agitator Tom Mann, the VSP ran political meetings, a socialist Sunday school and a choir, and campaigned for free speech and against unemployment. Some of its members went on to found the Communist Party of Australia.

6 State Library of Victoria During the 19th century the strict enforcement of the Presbyterian Sabbath meant the **library** (p57) was closed on Sunday, the only day working people could use its facilities. Anarchists, socialists and sundry other agitators ran a long-running cam-



paign against Sunday closing, and rallies saw a number of activists imprisoned on charges of 'insulting behaviour', 'loitering' and 'taking part in a procession'. The library eventually relented in 1904.

7 RMIT University Among the postmodern architecture at RMIT University, you'll see the columns of a much older building, now called Storey Hall. In 1916 it was Guild Hall, and provided the base for the Women's Political Association (WPA), founded by Vida Goldstein, the first woman in the British Empire to stand for parliament. WPA campaigned for equal pay and divorce rights, and international female suffrage. During WWI it agitated against conscription and militarism, and supported the Russian Revolution.

8 Public execution site In 1842 a 6000-strong crowd stood on this site to witness the hangings of Jack Napoleon Tunningerpareway and Robert Smallboy, who had led a guerrilla campaign against settlers near Bass River. The sentencing judge stated that the punishment was to 'deter similar transgressions'. The same year, an Aboriginal man was hanged for killing a white man in western Victoria, possibly

in reprisal for the molestation of Aboriginal women. Three white bushrangers were also executed here.

9 Eight Hour Day monument. Unveiled by the veteran socialist Tom Mann, the **statue's** (1803) three '8s' represent the slogans of working-class agitation of the 1850s – eight hours' work, eight hours' rest and eight hours' recreation. In 1856 stonemasons working at Melbourne University led a march through the city and Victorian workers became some of the first in the world to enjoy the eight-hour day.

10 Trades Hall One of the oldest purpose-built union buildings still in use, unionists raised a substantial amount of money to construct this 'working-class parliament'. The building functioned as an educational centre for workers, providing classes on everything from mathematics to landscape painting, and the tower at the top once housed a radio station in an attempt to provide a union response to right-wing electronic media. The building today houses community and activist groups, union meetings and alternative theatre. Check out the **New International Bookshop**, specialising

in radical books and magazines. Or head up the stone stairs (worn down by generations of workers' boots) for a well-earned drink in the **Trades Hall Bar** (p155).

ST KILDA STROLL

Sea air, palm trees and picturesque pier scream 'relax' like nothing else. St Kilda's nostalgic pleasure palace feel combines with a thumping very-now scene to enchant a wide variety of visitors. Fun park, lively watering holes, stellar restaurants? Check.

1 Albert Park Lake From the top of Fitzroy St head down towards the waterfront. Just past Lakeside Dr to your right is the palm-fringed **Albert Park Lake** (p91). Take a detour and join the powerwalkers around its 5km circumference if you're in your trainers.

2 St Kilda Bowling Club Lawn bowls have become a popular Sunday activity for the St Kilda set; pop in to this **bowling club** (p172) for a pot and some petanque.

3 George Hotel Many of the buildings along Fitzroy St recall its heady past as the Victorian daytripper's destination of choice. The **George**, built in 1857, was known as the Seaview; it has seen St Kilda's status rise and fall, and rise again. As with most of the buildings along here, the George now houses a restaurant, the **Melbourne Wine Room**, and several bars, including the **George Public Bar** (p157).

4 Esplanade If it's a Sunday, when you reach the waterfront take the Esplanade and browse at the **Esplanade Sunday Market** (p120). Also on the Esplanade is the **Esplanade Hotel** (Espy; p158). This rock-and-roll institution has managed to survive the developers and still serves up loud and live music seven days a week.

5 St Kilda Beach No matter what day it is, take a stroll along the beach; it's enthralling for its sparkle in summer and its deep wintry hues in the colder months.

6 Palais Theatre On Cavell St you'll soon come to the gracious **Palais** (p147). Built in 1927, it was one of the largest and best picture palaces in the country; it seats over 3000 and is still used as a venue for live music.

7 Luna Park To the right of the Palais, the scenic railway rises and dips above the fence



line of **Luna Park** (p87), which was opened in 1912 by the founder of Warner Bros Pictures.

8 National Theatre Turn right and take a turn down frenetic Acland St. Take a left at Barkly St, past its collection of shops, then on to the **National Theatre** on the corner of Barkly and Carlisle Sts.

9 Linden Arts Centre & Gallery From the theatre, turn left at Carlisle St, which will lead you back to Acland St. Take a right and stroll up the leafy, residential section of Acland St, flanked with apartment buildings from the 1920s and 30s. Stop in at the **gallery** (p87) at No 26, set in one of St Kilda's remaining grand terraces, before popping back out at Fitzroy St.

10 Coffee Grab a coffee at **Il Fornaio** (p140) or a Moscow mule at **Mink** (in the Prince; p157) if you've worked up a thirst. Trams 16 and 96 run along here and into the city.

WHITE CUBE FEVER

Melbourne's art world revolves around innovation and experimentation and collections reflect both the youth and isolation of the

city. The National Gallery Victoria Australia (NGVA) is strong on indigenous art and Australian impressionism, as well as championing contemporary work by a broad range of artist and designers. But to really feel the creative pulse, get ready for some white cube fever at the city's best commercial and artist-run spaces. The following galleries are generally open from 11am to 5.30pm Tuesday to Friday and between 1pm and 5pm Saturday.

1 Australian Centre for Contemporary Art Start at **ACCA** (p62), then walk up Grant St past the **Vault** sculpture, sadly once known as the **Yellow Peril**, now finally given the respect it deserves.

2 National Gallery of Victoria International Along St Kilda Rd is the National Gallery of Victoria International (p63) From here, cross the Yarra River at Princes Bridge, then make your way over to Federation Square.

3 Federation Square Here you'll find two iconic venues: the **Australian Centre for the Moving Image** (ACMI; p51) and the **Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria Australia** (p50).

4 Flinders Lane Duck into Flinders Lane, home to a number of commercial galleries. Don't miss **Anna Schwartz Gallery** (p61), **Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi** (p61) for indigenous art, **Tolamo** (p61) and **Fortyfivedownstairs** (☎ 9662 9233; www.fortyfivedownstairs.com; 45 Flinders Lane). For design and craft, visit **Craft Victoria** (☎ 9650 7775; www.craftvic.asn.au; 31 Flinders Lane).

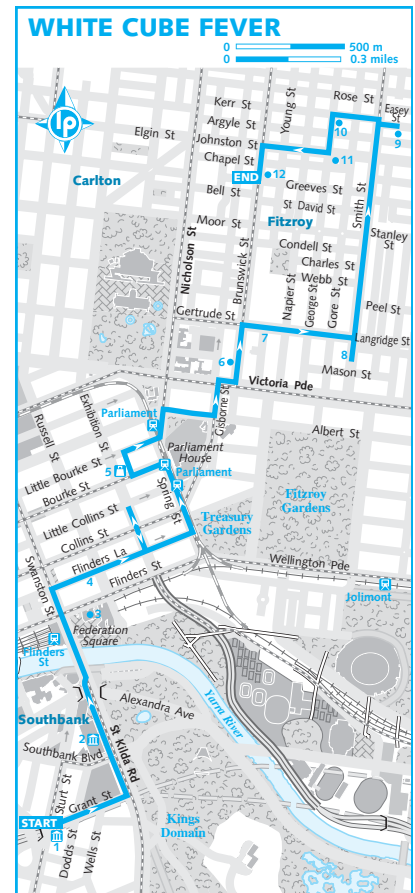
5 Self Preservation Turn left up Spring St, then left down Bourke St for around 200m to **Self Preservation** (p109), which will provide refreshments while not taking you too far off-topic. There's a small gallery at the back and the cabinets in the store itself house both estate jewellery and the work of local artisans.

6 Alcaston With renewed energy, turn right at the top end of Little Bourke St and navigate your way to **Alcaston** (p73) to explore its shows of contemporary Aboriginal art (they have one gallery devoted to small works on paper if you're looking to buy but aren't up for shipping a canvas home).

7 Gertrude St This stretch is an artist's delight, lined with galleries and art suppliers. Start at **Dianne Tanzer Gallery** (☎ 416 3956; www.diannetanzergallery.net.au; 108 Gertrude St). Her small

side space has some particularly interesting shows from emerging artists. Next up is **Intrude** (☎ 9417 6033; www.intrudegallery.com.au; 122 Gertrude St). **Seventh** (☎ 0407 112 482; 155 Gertrude St), across the road, is an artist-run space with a new, and often very good, show every two weeks. Cross back to the seminal **Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces** (p73). **Australian Print Workshop** (☎ 9419 5466; www.austrianprintworkshop.com; 210 Gertrude St) is the longest-running public-access print workshop in Victoria, and presents individually edited prints by local artists.

8 Smith St Turn right at Smith St to the artist-run **69 Smith** (☎ 9432 0795; www.vicnet.net.au/~smith69; 69 Smith St). Across the road is **Australian Galleries: Works on Paper** (☎ 9417 0800; 50 Smith St), representing established artists including



luminaries such as Lloyd Rees. A little further along is the exquisite **St Luke Artist Colourmen** (p111), an artist's supply shop stocking the finest of materials. Talk pigment and glaze then head back down Smith St.

9 Utopian Slumps Keeping walking all the way up Smith St, cross Johnston St and turn right into Easey St. Not many artists get to live on easy street, but some get to show here; about half a block down on your right is Utopian Slumps (p73).

10 Centre for Contemporary Photography Head back up to Smith St and cross the road over into Kerr St. On the corner of George St you'll find the **CCP** (p72), where exhibitions include a nightly after-hours video projection screening in the window.

11 Conical Inc Walk up to Johnston St and cross over, then take the first on your left for artist-run **Conical Inc** (☎ 9415 6958; www.conical.org.au; 3 Rochester St), which exhibits a range of disciplines.

12 Sutton Gallery Head up to Brunswick St and take a left for some challenging new art at the **Sutton Gallery** (p73). Time to celebrate your cerebral stamina; beer and coffee flow freely round these parts; otherwise take tram 96 or 112 back into the city where you started.

LANEWAY LABYRINTH

Between Melbourne's grid of wide, dignified main streets lies an enticing network of lanes, passageways and arcades. These laneways and 'little' streets were a happy accident. Not part of city designer John Hoddle's grand vision, they came into being as service lanes. The hunger for real estate then saw them fronted with shops, warehouses and residences and the tale of two cities began. Although they've always bustled with commerce (and in some cases, vice), it's been within the last twenty years that the laneways have taken on a life of their own. Join the constant eddy of crowds who come to shop, sup, sip and stroll.

1 Flinders Lane Start at the top of Flinders Lane, temporarily farewelling nature as you turn your back on Treasury Gardens. This is one of Melbourne's busiest laneways, and has always been so. It was once the centre of the city's 'schmate business', the Jewish rag

trade. The former warehouses, now occupied with galleries, shops and apartments, give it a Soho-like feel.

2 Duckboard Place There's not much to see by day, but do a lap of Duckboard Place. This street boasted the city's famous Honkytonks club, now the bar **3rd Class** (☎ 9662 4555; Level 2, 96 Flinders St), nothing but an unmarked back door but once the scene of the some of city's most talked-of nightlife. Swing by the basement bar **Cherry** (p148) on AC/DC Lane; this street was renamed in honour of some of Melbourne's most famous rock-and-roll sons.

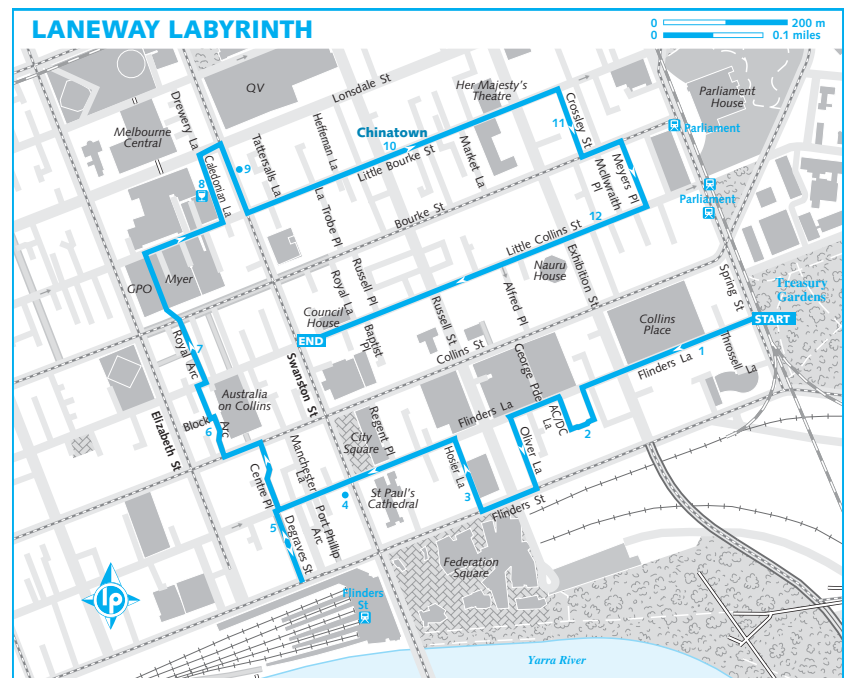
3 Hosier Lane Head down **Oliver Lane** for a stencil and graffiti preview, then briefly onto Flinders St before turning right into Hosier Lane. This is street-art central, and its cobbled length draws camera-wielding crowds. You'll also find **MoVida** (p131) and **City Lights** (p58) projections here.

4 Nicholas Building Turn left on Flinders Lane and head over Swanston St to the **Nicholson Building** (37 Swanston St), an example of Beaux Arts-style architecture and home to an eclectic array of shops and creative studios. You can take a detour up the **Port Phillip Arcade** or stop for lunch at **Journal Canteen** (p131), hidden up a short flight of stairs in the CAE building foyer.

5 Degraives St and Centre Place Wander down Degraives St to **Platform** (<http://platformartistsgroup.blogspot.com/>), a small gallery in the bowels of the railway underpass (the entry is beside the waffle stand). Go back across Flinders Lane to Centre Place, taking in the shops and making note of where you might eat later. **City Lights** (p58) also displays artwork at the northern end.

6 Block Arcade Cross Collins St and take a stately stroll through the Block Arcade. You might want to grab a chocolate frog from **Haighs** (☎ 9654 7673; www.haighschocolates.com.au) while you're there.

7 Royal Arcade Wander through the oddly workaday but very Parisian **Royal Arcade** (p57), stopping to see the Gaunt's Clock and the fearsome Gog and Magog, who do their thing on the hour. Emerging into Bourke St mall, you'll be in a big open space – don't panic, just duck into the restaurant-stuffed laneway that runs beside the **GPO** (p58).



8 Caledonian Lane Past the dumpsters you'll find plenty of street art as well as the legendary **St Jerome's** (p150), where you can grab a good, super cheap coffee if you're not intimidated by people whose main form of communication is Myspace.

9 Curtin House One of the city's new breed of 'vertical villages'. Browse in the shops or head to the roof for a Manhattan-esque view.

10 Chinatown Go off-map and try your luck in as many **Chinatown** (p55) lanes as you can handle. Some are dead-ends; others secret bars, live venues, conceptual art, the city's best Chinese restaurant, and maybe someone taking a quick leak.

11 Crossley St If a sense of exploration evades you, continue up through Chinatown to Crossley St, which boasts a wonderful selection of shops and restaurants. Say *ciao bello* to the barista as you pass the city's most enduring café, **Pellegrini's** (p132).

12 Little Collins St On your way here pay your respects at **Meyers Place** (p149), one of the city's first bars-in-laneways. You'll see the **Naval & Military Club** (☎ 9650 4741; 27 Little Collins St) to your left and the walls of the garden belonging to the proud establishment Melbourne Club. End your tour here with a glass of wine at **Bar Lourinhã** (p131), or head back down Little Collins for some more shopping and a tour of the eco-licious **Council House 2** (p56).

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