



History continued

In 1851 Victoria won separation from New South Wales. The colony of Victoria was proclaimed with Melbourne as its capital. That same year massive gold strikes were made within Victoria. The subsequent gold-rush brought a huge influx of immigrants from all around the world. About 1,800 hopeful diggers disembarked at Melbourne every week. Melbourne

became a chaotic mess. Workers abandoned their jobs to join the goldfields. The gold-rush wealth was used to build major towns to house the sudden massive increase in the population. This period of prosperity lasted for 40 years. The 1880s were boom times for Melbourne but there was an air of recklessness about the place. In 1889 the property market collapsed under

the increasing weight of speculation. The 1890s was a period of severe economic depression. In Melbourne, many buildings that were incomplete at the time of the collapse were never finished, and it was many years before the city recovered. The city began taking on a distinctly Victorian air. Culture and conservatism became the order of the day amongst the respectable classes. As a result, when Australia became a commonwealth in 1901, respectable Melbourne was chosen as the nation's first capital. Not until 1927 did it lose this title to Canberra.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Rialto Towers Observation Deck The tallest building in the southern hemisphere, the observation deck features majestic 360 degree views of Melbourne and offers a birdseye look at the Albert Park Grand Prix circuit.

2 Melbourne Cricket Ground The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is one of the greatest sporting arenas in the world and is mecca to Australia's sports fans. Take a guided tour of the stadium, a must see for any tourist to the city.

3 The Old Melbourne Gaol provides a chilling example of 19th century prison life. It was the scene of 135 hangings, the most notorious being that of Ned Kelly.

4 The Royal Botanic Gardens have been acclaimed as one of the most outstanding public gardens anywhere in the world. The 871/2 acres (35.4 hectares) boast a living exhibition of some 60,000 species of plant life.

5 The National Gallery of Victoria has the most comprehensive selection of Australian art in the country. The paintings range from early colonial to the latest contemporary.

Outside Melbourne

Melbourne Zoo Established in 1861, this is the oldest zoo in Australia and the third oldest in the world. Set in spacious land attractively landscaped gardens, the zoo's enclosures are simulations of the animals' natural habitats. The walkways pass through the enclosures – you walk through the bird aviary, cross a bridge over the lions' park, enter a tropical hothouse full of colorful butterflies and walk around the gorillas' very own rainforest. There is also a collection of native animals in a bush setting, a platypus aquarium, fur seals, lions and tigers, plenty of reptiles and more.

The Great Ocean Road and the Twelve Apostles The Great Ocean Road is an unforgettable journey along the edge of the world's most inspiring coastal drive – featuring the Twelve Apostles at Port Campbell, a major coastal landmark, and London Bridge.

Phillip Island Fairy Penguin Reserve Each night at sunset, the little penguins can be seen coming ashore to visit their burrows in the surrounding sand dunes. Visitors can view the penguins in their natural habitat, from elevated boardwalks and stands.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Melbourne and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: While tipping is still optional in Australia it is increasingly seen at better hotels, restaurants and in taxis. As a general rule in restaurants add 5%-10% of the bill depending on service and in taxis add 5%-10% depending on the length of the trip.

Local Cuisine: Melbourne is a marvellous place to have an appetite. Everywhere you go, there are restaurants, cafés, delicatessens, markets, bistros, brasseries and takeaways. Melbourne's multiculturalism is reflected in the inexhaustible variety of its cuisines and restaurants. Food is something of a local obsession, and Melbourne is considered to be the country's eating capital.

Local drink: Australia boasts a vibrant spirits industry, and samples of the country's renowned beer or local wines are widely available at bars and restaurants.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Melbourne claims to be the shopping capital of Australia, where the number and variety of its stores are renowned. Melbourne's specialty is designer clothing. Australia's top designers all operate boutiques in the Victorian capital, many of which are on Toorak Road in South Yarra.

6 Queen Victoria Market Located on the corner of Victoria and Elizabeth streets, it is open mornings Tuesday through Thursday, and all day Friday. This market has been held on this spot since the 1870s, and nowadays it remains as busy as it ever was, with more than a thousand stalls selling everything from fruit and vegetables to delicatessen products and cheeses. The wide-ranging produce reflects the city's varied ethnic mix – with ingredients for everything from Greek to Vietnamese cooking. On Sundays it becomes more of a flea market.

7 City Centre Major department stores, clothing and fashion shops along Bourke St., exclusive boutiques in Collins St., the lively and colorful Chinatown, stylish and sophisticated arcades like The Block and theme arcades like The Walk. Other areas include:

Aceland Street, in St. Kilda Cheap clothing, good bookshops and gift shops, cafés, restaurants, cake shops, fish shops, delicatessens and the feel of Eastern Europe may be found here.

Chapel Street, in South Yarra - the cutting-edge and ultra-hip strip of fashion boutiques and import shops, with lots of interesting bars and cafés.

Toorak Road, in South Yarra - shop in style and rub shoulders with the rich and famous.