Brunswick Street, in Fitzroy - for brick-a-brack and offbeat clothing, great cafés and restaurants.

Bridge Road & Swan Street, in Richmond - for fabulous fashion bargains from factory outlets and small boutiques.

8 Lygon Street, in Carlton - is Melbourne's Italian quarter, and Lygon St. its backbone. Many of the thousands of Italian immigrants who came to Melbourne after WWII settled in Carlton, and Lygon St. became the focal point of their community. This lively street is filled with people promenading, dining, sipping cappuccinos, shopping and generally soaking up the atmosphere.

● Bourke Street - the area in and around the center of Bourke St. is the shopping heart of the city, and the mall section between Swanston Walk and Elizabeth St. is closed to traffic, with the exception of trams.

Victoria Street, Richmond Known as Little Saigon, for excellent Asian groceries, supermarkets, discount stores, restaurants and the flavors and feel of Vietnam and South-East Asia.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar, Denominations include \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills and \$.10, \$.20, \$.50 \$1 and \$2 coins. Foreign exchange rates fluctuate. There is also a slight variation for cash or traveler's checks.

POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Melbourne General Post Office (GPO) is located on the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth Streets. To call the U.S. from Melbourne, dial 00 (International access) + 11 (U.S. country code) + area code + local number. Dial the following access numbers to place a call with your personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.881.011 MCI: 1.800.881.100 SPRINT: 1.800.881.877

TOURIST INFORMATION In the city, the best places for information are the city council's information booths. They have a lot of free information as well as maps and monthly calendars of events. An information booth is located in the terminal near the ship. In town, the Bourke St. Mall and City Square booths are open on weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Friday until 7:00 pm), Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Rialto Observation Deck booth is open on weekdays from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and on weekends from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

TRANSPORTATION Melbourne's public transportation system, the Met, incorporates busses, trains and the famous trams. There are about 750 trams and they operate as far as 121/2 miles (20 km) out from the city center. They're frequent and a fun way to get around. Busses take routes where the trams do not go and replace them at quiet weekend periods. Trains radiate out from the city center to the outer suburbs.

Taxis in Melbourne have a large dome light on their roof (lit up when available for hire) and a narrow strip of checkered yellow and green running along their sides. There are plenty of taxi stands in and around the city. The main ones in town are outside the major hotels, outside Flinders and Southern Cross Station railway stations, on the corner of William and Bourke Streets, and on the corner of Elizabth and Bourke Streets.

USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES The language spoken is English; however, it is spiced with a vocabulary and some pronunciations bound to confuse non-native speakers. For example:

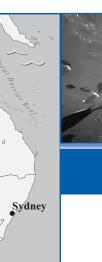
Are you right? • Do you need help? Good on ya • Good for you. Good day • G'day Good afternoon • Arvo Woman • Sheila That's OK • No worries General store • Milk bar Evening meal • Tea

N	O	T	E	S
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GENERAL INFORMATION Melbourne is Australia's second largest city with only three-quarters of the population of its rival Sydney. Melbourne still retains a Victorian air and there's still a distinctly conservative feel to the place, compared with the rest of Australia. Many Victorian bluestone buildings may be found amongst brand-new high-rise blocks and English-style parks and gardens, contribute to the air of stability, reserve and tradition. Melbourne was given a much-needed influx of life after the Second World War, with the arrival of large numbers of southern European immigrants. This brought in a colorful multi-ethnic mix, with a particularly high proportion of Italians and Greeks. Indeed, Melbourne now contains more Greeks than any city outside Athens. But Melbourne also contains thriving communities of Serbs, Turks, and Lebanese, Vietnamese, Indian, African as well as a large Chinese community whose origins date back to the gold-rush era. Melbourne is the sports, art and culture capital of Australia. The city also enjoys the reputation as a "Fashion Capital" with many streets being lined with rows of modern and trendy boutiques. This incongruous mix of old and new, conservative and colorful, makes Melbourne a fascinating place to visit.







PORT EXPLORER

Melbourne

AUSTRALIA

HISTORY It is thought that Aborigines journeyed from South-East Asia to the Australian mainland at least 50,000 years ago. The Victorian Aboriginal people lived in some 38 different dialect groups. Their semi-nomadic existence was a defining feature of their adaptation to the Australian landscape. Apart from a few whalers' huts along the coastline, Victoria remained unoccupied by the White settlers for years. Individual Aborigines resisted the encroachment of White settlers and were generally regarded as savages and a hindrance to the European settlement of Victoria. The Aborigines were massacred in the thousands - first by introduced diseases like smallpox, dysentery and measles, and later by guns and poison. Estimates suggest that around 15,000 Aborigines were living in Victoria in 1834, but by 1860 there were only around 2,000 survivors. Without any legal right to the lands they once lived on, many Aborigines were driven from their lands by force, while others voluntarily left to travel to the fringes of settled areas.

Two Tasmanian men, John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner, are widely acknowledged as the founders of Melbourne. In 1835 a group of Launceston businessmen formed the Port Phillip Association with the intention of establishing a new settlement on Port Phillip Bay. Their representative, John Batman, purchased about 590,000 acres (240,000 hectares) of land form the Aborigines. Once the treaty was signed the settlement of Melbourne was established on the north side of the Yarra River. In October of 1835 John Pascoe Fawkner and a group of Tasmanian settlers joined them. By 1840 there were 10,000 people settled in the area around Melbourne.

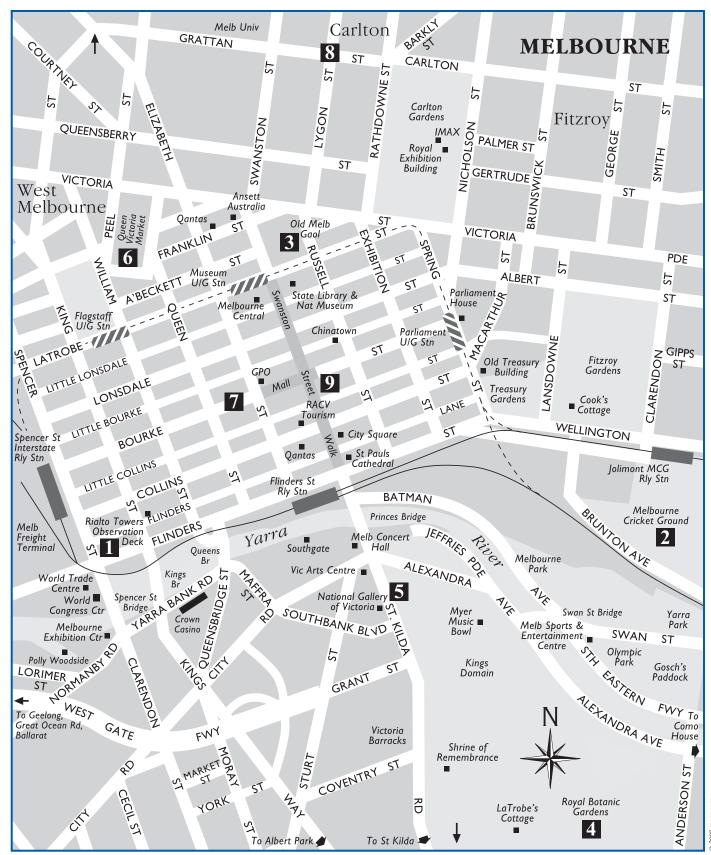
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History continued

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 the place. In 1889 the property market collapsed under

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 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

Rialto Towers Observation Deck The tallest building **I** 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.

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.

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.

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.

The National Gallery of Victoria has the most omprehensive 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.

Queen Victoria Market Located on the corner of Victoria **U** 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.

City Centre Major department stores, clothing and fashion I 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:

Acland 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 ultrahip 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.