WHAT’S ON MELBOURNE

Your insider’s guide to the city

What’s On Melbourne
COFFEE THAT DOESN’T COST THE EARTH

Your morning coffee is non-negotiable, and these days, so is reducing waste. Pop a BYO coffee cup in your bag and score a discount with your caffeine fix. Savings will fund a Friday arvo sweet treat.

KING AND KNAVES ESPRESSO

277 William Street
Start your day like royalty at this espresso and toast bar dedicated to the history of coffee. There’s also Masala chai, Mörk chocolate and delicious specialty toasts on the constantly changing menu.

KINFOLK CAFE

673 Bourke Street
Kinfolk serves ethically sourced and locally roasted Small Batch coffee and a deliciously good-for-you seasonal menu. Staffed by volunteers, 100% of profits are distributed to partner charities.
SEEDLING CAFE
275 Flinders Lane and 349 Little Collins Street
Using organic coffee beans for a hand-crafted signature blend, Seedling Cafe’s paleo, gluten free, vego and vegan menu is market-fresh and nutrient-dense.

DUKES COFFEE ROASTERS
247 Flinders Lane
Don’t be put off by the peak-time queues out the door; brews from this tiny coffee kingdom are worth the short wait. Premium flavour is delivered with environmental and social sustainability.

STREAT
Melbourne Central, RACV Bourke Street and RMIT
A hospitality-based social enterprise success story, STREAT doesn’t scrimp on quality. Cafes are supplied from their own award-winning boutique coffee roastery and artisan bakery.

SWITCH BOARD CAFE
Ground floor, Manchester Unity Building
Melbourne is great at transforming the tiniest spaces, like this hole-in-the-wall cafe that used to be a switchboard. If a seat is free, grab it and get more than a coffee to go.
LUNCH FOR $10 OR LESS

If you know where to look, there are still high quality lunch bargains to be had in the city, all for a tenner or less. Grab a hot and spicy Thai noodle soup from Soi 38 or load up on a pillowy plate of goodness and a pot of tea from Shanghai Dumpling House. Buttery, flaky pastry stuffed with premium ingredients await at Princes Pies. At Coppe Pan Japanese Bakery, a chicken katsu sandwich is $6 and Wonderbao’s parcels of savoury delight for less than $3 a pop can’t be beat.

WONDERBAO 1
4/19-37 A’Beckett Street

PRINCES PIES
10 Howey Place

SOI 38
38 McIlwraith Place

SHANGHAI DUMPLING HOUSE
23 Tattersalls Lane

COPPE PAN JAPANESE BAKERY
Melbourne Central

ALSO TRY
Asado To Go 2
6 Riverside Quay, Southbank
Le Charme
178 Little Bourke Street
In the mood to stretch the budget, but still stretched for time? Take an express option.

**UNCLE**

Level 1/15 Collins Street

A ‘lunchtime quickie’ at this sizzling Vietnamese joint will set you back $29 including starter nibbles, a curry, rice and roti. Add a house wine or beer for $6, or try a refreshingly fruity iced tea.

**COMMON MAN**

39 Dukes Walk, South Wharf

Sit riverside and lap up the magnificent Yarra views as you tuck into Common Man’s workers lunch. A main and drink are just $19.

**RENZO’S BAR**

46 NewQuay Promenade, Docklands

Lunchtime deals are not just for weekday workers. Renzo’s offers two courses and a vino at lunchtime for $24.99, seven days a week.

**ALSO TRY**

- Bincho Boss
  383-385 Little Bourke Street

- Daughter In Law
  37 Little Bourke Street

- Gazi
  2 Exhibition Street
LUNCHTIME ME-TIME

Life gets busy, and motivation is hard to muster when it’s cold and grey. Shake off that winter rut and schedule a lunchtime date with yourself to breathe and reconnect.

WELLBEING GARDENS

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Embrace forest bathing at the gardens for a welcome dose of nature’s healing intimacy. Discover the three new meditative spaces along the enchanting Fern Gully boardwalk – The Bird’s Nest, The Grotto and The Moss Garden.

THE NOOK

Fed Square

A cosy pop-up space under the stairs at Fed Square, kitted out in mid-century retro lounge comfort. Catch up with a friend or get lost in a book. It’s also a little lending library.
FREE MIND, BODY AND SOUL CLASSES

Fed Square
Try a lunchtime meditation with Buddhist monk Gen Kelsang Dornyng, held every Tuesday 12.30pm to 1pm. Rejuvenating Tai Chi is on Tuesday 7.30am to 8.30am, or you can improve energy flow with QiGong on Fridays from 8am to 9am.

STRETCH OUT WITH A YOGA SESSION

Vinyasa flow or Yin yoga plus meditation will create the zen you seek at Estuary Yoga in Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Or try aerial yoga at Little Mandarin Yoga in the Nicholas Building. It builds core strength and promotes deep relaxation.

MINGARY - THE QUIET PLACE

St Michael’s Uniting Church
120 Collins Street
This peaceful sanctuary created in a former chapel at St Michael’s Uniting Church welcomes people of all beliefs to find contemplation and restoration.

WALK THE WALK

Clear your head and bump up your daily step count with a walk in the park. Find serenity amongst the water features of Queen Victoria Gardens or wander the picturesque paths lined with English elm trees at Fitzroy Gardens.
RETAIL THERAPY

Melbourne’s credentials as a style capital are without question. Seek wardrobe inspo from directional local designers, boutiques with an ethical aesthetic and unique artisan pieces.

**ALPHA60 CHAPTER HOUSE**

Level 2, Chapter House
195 Flinders Lane

Lovers of chic black layers rejoice at the Alpha60 concept store and art space. The vaulted ceilings make a stunning backdrop for the designer siblings’ distinctive silhouettes and primary coloured accents.

**ELK**

182 Little Collins Street

The contemporary fashion, footwear, accessories and leather goods at Elk have a tactile, feel-good quality to them. Their sustainable and socially conscious operations will make you feel good on the inside too.

**CRAFT**

2 Watson Place

A beacon for Melbourne’s designers, Craft showcases jewellery, ceramics, textiles, books, prints and glass. Come for the curated gallery, stay to browse the stunning maker’s store.
QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET
Cnr Elizabeth and Victoria streets
It is the most visited attraction in Melbourne and not just for the fresh fruit, veg, specialty produce and delicious lunch options. Iconic Melbourne made silhouettes meet modern African prints in forever pieces at Collective Closets. Find original prints, t-shirts and accessories at Annie’s Creation and Collection, while at Spotty Dot there’s high quality heirloom dolls and knitted soft toys. Be sure to visit String Bean Alley, now home to a colourful collection of Melbourne’s best independent makers, creators, designers and artists.

LORD COCONUT
Level 5, Mitchell House
358 Lonsdale Street
Fellas, up your accessories game at Lord Coconut where a wide variety of precious metal pieces and eclectic accessories await, from elaborate lobster tie pins to minimalist cuff links.

ALSO TRY
Pieces of Eight
28 Russell Place
Melbournalia
5/50 Bourke Street
Stranger Than Paradise Gifts
101 Errol Street, North Melbourne
They say a change is as good as a holiday. Break your routine and seek out these hidden wonders. You’ll see your city from a whole new angle.

WATERSLIDE BAR 1
Shop MR3 Mid Level East End Southgate Avenue
This roomy Southbank river’s edge bar is bathed in glittering city views. Pose with a cocktail on the enclosed, heated balcony, or slide into an intimate nook indoors.

MANCHESTER UNITY BUILDING 2
220 Collins Street
Is this one of the treasures of the city you’ve never been inside? Tour this art deco landmark to peep at the secret wood-panelled boardroom and rooftop terrace. Stop for coffee at the 1932 Cafe & Restaurant in the ground floor marble arcade.
FARMERS’ MARKET AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Union Lawn, University of Melbourne
Wednesday, 10.30am to 2.30pm

Wednesday is Farmers’ Market day (during term-time) at the University of Melbourne. Shop for in-season fruit and veg, artisanal pastries and cheese plus delicious, ready-to-eat delights for your lunch. BYO bags and reusable cup.

BLINDSIDE GALLERY

Room 14, Level 7, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston Street

Discover new works and provocative cultural critiques from our thriving independent arts community at Blindside Gallery. And yep, the views from the seventh level of the Nicholas Building are a knockout.

MELINA ON THE ROOFTOP

Rooftop, 168 Lonsdale Street

Perched on the 13th floor of the Greek Centre is Melbourne’s highest rooftop restaurant, Melina on the Rooftop. Tasty mezze and mixed grill await from Thursday to Sunday, lunch or dinner. The lights of the city are almost close enough to touch.

ALSO TRY

Strangers Corridor restaurant in Parliament House, Level 1/160 Spring Street
The Trust restaurant in the Port Authority Building, 405 Flinders Lane
Berlin Bar East and West Germany in a bar, top floor, 16 Corrs Lane
DATE NIGHT

Winter date night calls for intimate tables, a glass of red and a bit of sumptuous luxury to warm those cockles. At handmade pasta bar Tipo 00, a shared spaghetti with Moreton Bay bug could inspire a romantic Lady and the Tramp moment. Zingy contemporary flavours and Indian family recipes from the Tandoor make Tonka a stand out, while the modern Australian menu at Carlton Wine Room is designed to pair well with vino. But when all your other half wants is a Parma, art deco Hardimans Hotel in Kensington and The Leveson in North Melbourne are well worth a visit.

TIPO 00
361 Little Bourke Street

TONKA
20 Duckboard Place

CARLTON WINE ROOM
172-174 Faraday Street

HARDIMANS HOTEL
521 Macauley Road

THE LEVESON
46 Leveson Street

ALSO TRY
Supernormal
180 Flinders Lane

City Wine Shop
159 Spring Street

Syracuse
23 Bank Place
Why so serious? Grab your partner and kick up your heels at some of Melbourne’s most fun and unexpected amusements.

**ARCHIE BROTHERS CIRQUE ELECTRIQ**

The District, 120 Pearl River Road, Docklands

This funky arcade parlour sports six bowling lanes, more than 65 arcade and ticket games, an XD Theatre plus dodgem cars. And a full service cocktail bar. Go nuts!

**HOLEY MOLEY**

590 Little Bourke Street and Level 1, 27 Whiteman Street, Southbank

Get ready for the craziest round of mini golf you’ve ever played, with pop-culture themed holes, cocktails and a whole lot more. It’s like golf, but fun!

**NOCTURNAL AT MELBOURNE MUSEUM**

11 Nicholson Street

Spend a (date) night at the museum. Roam the exhibitions after hours and boogie by the giant whale to a cracking line up of live music. Get Nocturnal at White Night Reimagined on 23 August, celebrate Blak & Bright Festival on 6 September and groove to Byron tunesters, Tora on 4 October.
**FIVE REASONS TO LEAVE YOUR DESK ON TIME**

You work hard, don’t forget to play hard, too. Leave your desk on time once in a while and get amongst the good stuff in the city.

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**L’APERITIVO AT BRUNETTI**

250 Flinders Lane

Every Friday from 5pm to 8pm Brunetti hosts L’Aperitivo in the Campari Bar. Find fresh flavours of spritzes or try a mulled Negroni, and there’s complimentary food bites from the winter menu. Yes, free snacks.

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**BODHI AND RIDE**

8 Goldie Place

It’s not a spin class, it’s a ride chamber, pulsing like a nightclub dancefloor, complete with banging tunes. Feel the endorphin rush and turbo charge your cardio fitness. Class starts at 6.15pm, don’t be late.
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

You work hard to earn it, so enjoy spending it, too. Myer, David Jones, Emporium, The Strand and Melbourne Central are open until 7pm weeknights, and 9pm on Thursday and Friday. Ditto QV (but only Fridays until 9pm).

HAPPY HOUR AT ENTRECôTE

133 Domain Road, South Yarra

Happy hour happens daily from 4pm to 6pm at the très Parisian steakhouse and café, Entrecôte. Champagne and house wine specials help the $2.50 oysters with mignonette or charcuterie and fromage platters go down.

TIXATSIX

Arts Centre Melbourne
100 St Kilda Road

Here’s the deal: 5pm show announcement, 6pm the $30 discount tickets are released. Get yourself into the box office queue ahead of time and see a world class performance for peanuts!

CINEMA NOVA MONDAY NIGHTS

380 Lygon Street

Cheap Monday tickets at the Nova are $7 before 4pm and $10 after. With select drinks $7 in the Nova Bar’s happy hour from 4pm to 6pm, you can still spring for a post-movie dinner.
It’s tough keeping up with all the new bar and restaurant openings in town, but someone’s gotta do it. Here’s some insider tips on where to go next.

Leonardo’s Pizza Palace is a hearty Italian that rocks a thin crust, sizzling pizza menu with dependable staples like pepperoni and more left field choices including Chinese Bolognese.

Call off the search – the deeply satisfying nine-hour broth and homemade noodles for Tonkotsu Ramen and Tsukemen is here at Hakata Gensuke Carlton.

Live your poshest party life at upmarket basement bar The George on Collins, now bringing the Vietnamese menu heat from ex-Masterchef, Khanh Ong.
Bar Clara’s Banoffee Special cocktail (banana-infused whisky, nitro-whipped meringue) is the talk of the town.

The gorgeous Peaches matches music-themed cocktails and slinky dancefloor tunes with $10 fried chicken (or tofu) on brioche, and a 3am weekend license.

Gangster theming rules at spritz and salumi aperitivo bar Floyd’s, and partner Pretty Boy, the New York-style steakhouse.

PEACHES 1
Upstairs, 301 Swanston Street

LEONARDO’S PIZZA PALACE 2
29 Grattan Street

HAKATA GENSUKE CARLTON
126 Lygon Street

KHANH ONG AT THE GEORGE ON COLLINS
Basement, 162 Collins Street

BAR CLARA
Basement, 87 Little Bourke Street

PRETTY BOY & FLOYD’S
Level 1, 399 Little Lonsdale Street

DI STASIO CITTA
45 Spring Street
The city doesn’t stop! On the weekend there’s even more events, arts and non-stop festivals to come back for as the capital of culture gears up for spring.

**REASONS TO RETURN (ON THE WEEKEND)**

**AUGUST**

- **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**, Princess Theatre
  Until March 2020
- **Terracotta Warriors and Ca Guo-Qiang**
  Until 13 Oct
- **Melbourne International Film Festival**
  1–18 Aug
- **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne**
  8–17 Aug
- **White Night Reimagined**
  22–24 Aug
- **Melbourne Fashion Week**
  28 Aug–5 Sep
- **Melbourne Writers Festival**
  30 Aug–8 Sep
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<td>12–29 Sep</td>
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<td>Circus Oz - Aurora</td>
<td>18 Sep–6 Oct</td>
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<td>2–20 Oct</td>
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<td>Melbourne Music Week</td>
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<td>SalamFest Muslim Arts Festival</td>
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<td>Mazda Opera in the Bowl</td>
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PLAN AHEAD

If you’re coming into the city, don’t forget to check for planned works that may cause delays. Construction and upgrades are rolling out across Melbourne’s public transport and road network.

Make sure to plan ahead as it might be necessary to use a different train line, take a bus or tram, or choose to cycle or drive.

Check for the latest updates at bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions

Front cover (left to right): Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Princess Theatre, dumplings in Chinatown

Information correct at the time of printing

Please do not litter