

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE WALK

The Eastern Kulin, an alliance of the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, and Wadawurrung peoples, spans from Port Phillip and Western Port to the Great Dividing Range and Loddon and Goulburn River valleys. The groups share spiritual, cultural, political, and economic ties through their shared creator, Bunjil.

Start at **Parliament Gardens** where statues commemorate Aboriginal activists **Pastor Sir Doug Nichols and his wife Lady Gladys 91**, who dedicated their lives to community service. Their great-granddaughter Ngarrá Murray etched totems into the blue stone paving here signifying the emu – Bigarrumdja (Yorta Yorta) – and the Crow – Waa (Boon Wurrung/Woi Wurrung).

Continue towards Parliament House to discover a **mosaic artwork in the pavement 92**, an interpretation of William Barak's painting 'Ceremony'. It references this site as a former traditional ceremonial ground and meeting place.

Head to Fed Square to explore **The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia 93**, a showcasing indigenous art from the NGV Collection, including works by Emily Kam Ngwararray and Rover Thomas, as well as contemporary pieces by Brook Andrew and Destiny Deacon. Also, check out Hosier Lane for Adnate's 23-meter mural of an Indigenous boy, which overlooks the significant Aboriginal site of **Birrarung Marr**.

Visit **Big Esso by Mabu Mabu 94**, a bar and kitchen bringing First Nations' food to Fed Square by Torres Strait Islander chef, Normie Bero. Get comfy at communal tables and tune into 'Island Radio' highlighting blak performers. Drinks feature native ingredients and are supplied by Indigenous owned and social impact businesses.

Next door is the **Koorie Heritage Trust 95**, a First Nations arts and cultural organisation with a program of events, exhibitions, tours and a shop for design pieces by Indigenous makers and creatives.

The steps near Transport Hotel lead to the river terrace and **Birrarung Marr park 96**. In the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people, birrarung means 'river of mists' and 'marr' relates to the edge. It's a place for community and celebrations

Spend some time with the engaging **Birrarung Wilam sculpture and audio installation 97**, celebrating the cultural and spiritual connections between Aboriginal people and rivers.

Nearby is the **Eel Trap sculpture 98**, a reminder that eels were once an abundant food source close to this site. Made from weaving basket grass, eel traps were set near the shallow waterfalls that used to exist downstream, separating the freshwater of the river from the salty water of the bay.

Follow the river to **Speakers Corner 99**. Communities gathered here between the 1890s to the 1960s for regular forums and debates with renowned Aboriginal thinkers and activists like Bill Onus and Gary Foley. A sculpture and commemorative plaque marks the site.

Return through Birrarung Marr to the William Barak Bridge, connecting the city to **Yarra Park** and **the MCG 910**. A traditional gathering place for the Eastern Kulin, scarred – or culturally modified – trees can still be found in Yarra Park. Football games at the MCG are a tangible connection for the Eastern Kulin to this area. They played marngrook here, an early version of football, elements of which still feature in Australian Rules Football today.





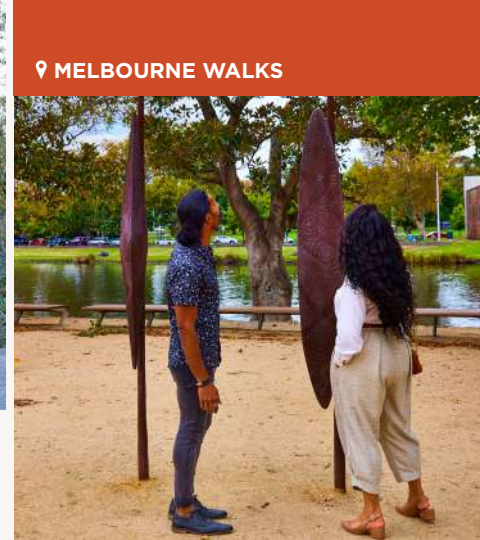
📍 Birrarung Wilam



📍 Birrarung Marr



📍 Parliament Gardens



📍 MELBOURNE WALKS

ADDITIONAL PLACES

BONUS Bunjilaka (Melbourne Museum)

Located at Melbourne Museum, Bunjilaka celebrates thousands of years of continuous culture through multimedia experiences, artworks, and a garden trail. The First Peoples permanent exhibition narrates the story of Aboriginal Victoria from Creation to today.

📍 Iuk bagurk gunga 'eel women catch' (National Gallery of Victoria)

Visit aunty kim wandin's eight-meter bronze sculpture, iuk bagurk gunga ("eel women catch"), at ngv international. this tribute to wurundjeri weaving traditions celebrates short-finned eels and traditional fishing tools, showcasing cultural heritage in modern melbourne's waterways.

📍 Kings Domain Resting Place

On 22 November 1985, the Museum of Victoria repatriated the remains of 38 Victorian Aboriginal people for reburial at King's Domain. The site, marked by a granite boulder with a memorial plaque, was chosen in the absence of being able to identify their origins.

BONUS Tromgin Billabong (now site of ornamental lake) Royal Botanic Gardens

Tromgin Billabong, once part of a river system, now exists in the Botanic Gardens. It served as a traditional fishing spot, providing eels for the Eastern Kulin people.

To further explore places of Aboriginal significance within the city visit **aboriginal-map.melbourne.vic.gov.au**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For opening hours contact City of Melbourne on **03 9658 9658**

or visit the WhatsOn Melbourne website, **whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au**

Head to our Visitor Centres located on the map 📍 or ask our City Ambassadors 🗣️ on the streets for help planning your Melbourne visit.



For more walks and itineraries ideas scan this QR code.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Find artifacts of Aboriginal history and culture like scarred trees, historical meeting places and monuments



2.0
HOURS



4.0
KILOMETRES

Opening hours for all venues and attractions may vary. Please check with the venue before arriving.

Scan the QR code for the online version and additional information.

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CityofMelb
#MelbMoment



📍 The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia



📍 Koorie Heritage Trust



📍 Ornamental Lake