

CULTURE AND IDEAS

The city's northern quarter is a hub of universities and institutions known as the Melbourne Innovation District. Find libraries, museums and sites of Aboriginal significance before heading to Lygon Street's Little Italy.

Start at the **State Library of Victoria** [1](#), Melbourne's UNESCO City of Literature hub, dating from 1856. Visit the octagonal domed La Trobe Reading Room, exhibition spaces and **Readings** bookshop.

Find **RMIT University** [2](#) on the adjacent Swanston and La Trobe streets block. Founded in 1887, it's known for design and technology. See **Storey Hall's** geometric facade, pop into **RMIT Gallery** and admire the glass disc-covered **RMIT Design Hub**, on the corner.

Towering above is the black and white **Swanston Square apartment tower** [3](#). A portrait of Woi Wurrung ngurungaeta (leader) **William Barak** (1823-1903) wraps around the facade. Known as King of the Yarra, Barak was an activist, artist and educator.

Behind the Melbourne City Baths on Victoria Street is **Standing by Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner** [4](#) by Brook Andrew and Trent Walter (2016), commissioned to honour the two Aboriginal men who were hanged here in 1842.

On the corner of Lygon Street is the **Victorian Trades Hall** [5](#), commemorating the 1856 Eight Hour Day victory.

Continue to the **Carlton Gardens** and the domed 1880 **Royal Exhibition Building** [6](#). The **Moreton Bay Fig Trees** [7](#) are a historical meeting place for Aboriginal communities and the site of addresses by leaders including Pastor Doug Nicholls.

Behind you is the **Melbourne Museum** [8](#). See the stunning

possum skin cloaks in the **Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre** and the legendary Melbourne Cup racehorse **Phar Lap**.

Head past the mammoth **IMAX Theatre** to Rathdowne Street, cross at the Pelham Street intersection, then rest awhile in Lygon Street's **Argyle Square** [9](#).

Stroll north along **Lygon Street** [10](#), Melbourne's Little Italy, beloved for its authentic pizzerias. If the rumours are true, **The University Cafe** (257 Lygon Street) was the first to install an espresso machine in 1952, kicking off Melbourne's cafe culture love affair.

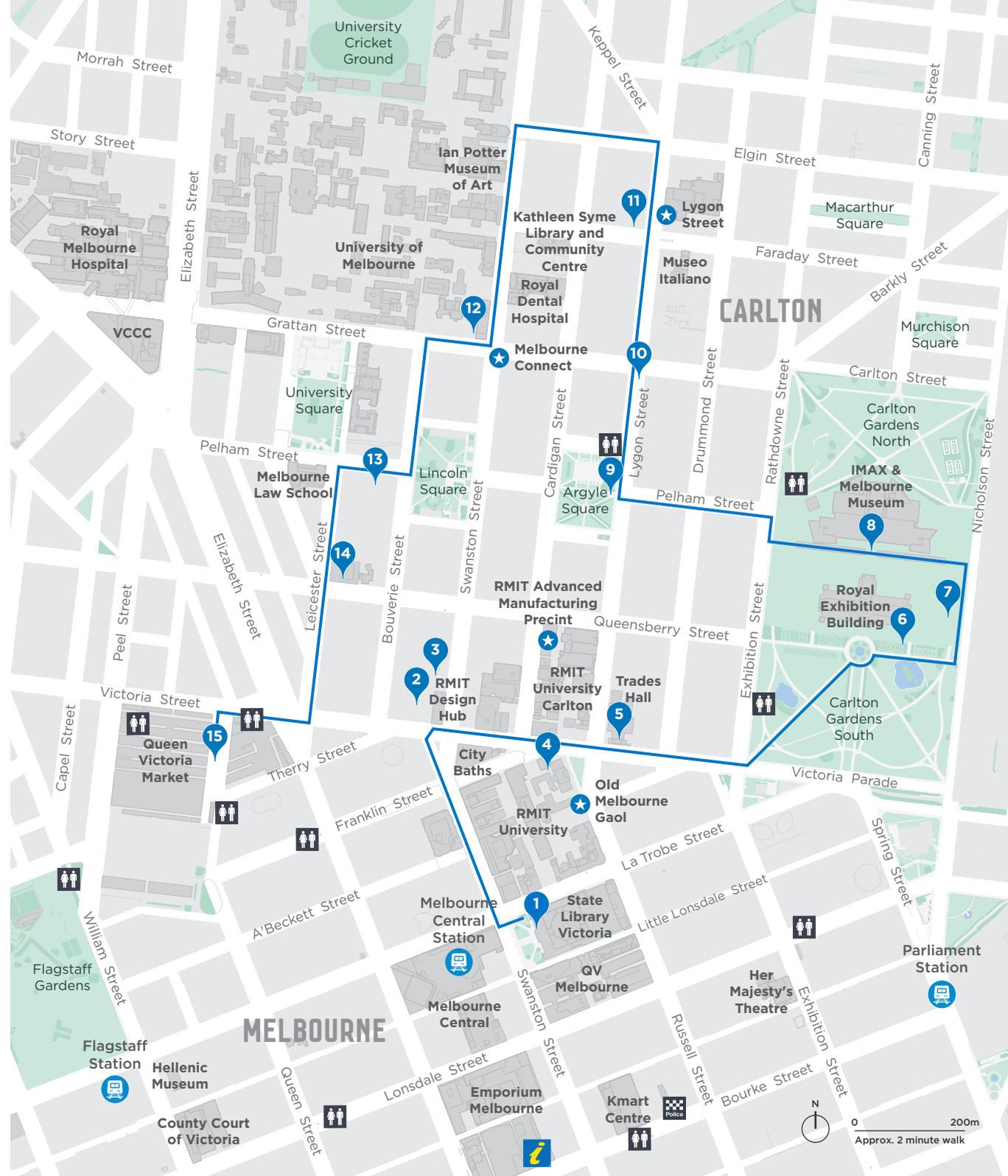
Stop in at **King & Godfree** [11](#) on the corner of Faraday Street. Originally a 1884 grocer, it's now a deli, restaurant and rooftop bar. Grab a gelato next door at **Pidapipo**.

Turn left at Elgin Street until you reach the **University of Melbourne's** [12](#) 1853 campus. The underground gothic South Lawn Carpark was a filming location in *Mad Max* (1979). Nearby, find the four ancient **River Red Gums**, essential to the Woi Wurrung people for shelter, canoes and tools.

Turn right into Grattan Street for views from the **Prince Alfred Hotel's** rooftop bar. Then left onto Bouverie Street and right into Pelham Street to the **RMIT Social Innovation Hub** [13](#). A unique model of health, design and education services.

Turn left at Leicester Street for the **NGO precinct** [14](#). See the award-winning **60L Green Building**, home to green tenants like the Australian Conservation Foundation. Take a tour or visit the **Going Solar** shop for sustainable tech.

Walk to the end of Leicester Street towards the **Queen Victoria Market** [15](#), open since 1878. Up until 1854 however, much of the area was the Old Melbourne Cemetery. Today, shop the sheds for cheese, fresh produce and handmade crafts.





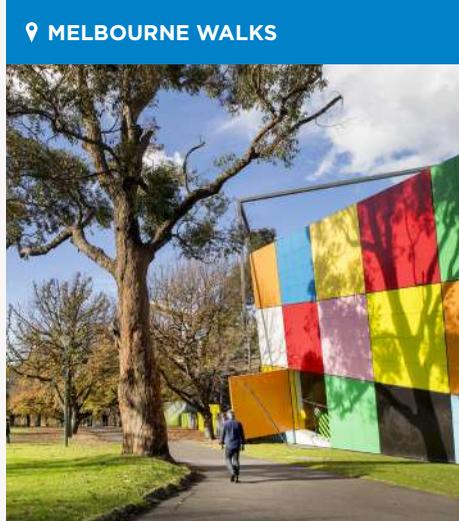
King and Godfree



Melbourne Museum



Pidapipo



CULTURE AND IDEAS



MORE TO EXPLORE

Innovation and new ideas share street blocks with historical sites. Go on a fact-finding tour for bushranger tales, 3D printing hubs and arthouse cinema.

Old Melbourne Gaol

This group of Romanesque buildings includes the former **City Watch House**, the **Magistrates Court** and adjoining **Old Melbourne Gaol** where bushranger Ned Kelly was convicted and hanged in 1880. Find out more on a spooky ghost tour.

RMIT Advanced Manufacturing Precinct

Here at the RMIT Advanced Manufacturing Precinct, researchers and practitioners are designing, engineering and manufacturing 3D printing technology for bio-engineering, aerospace and defence industries.

Melbourne Connect

At new innovation precinct **Melbourne Connect**, industry and University of Melbourne researchers use digital technology to develop socially responsible and sustainable solutions.

Lyon Street

Catch an arthouse film at **Cinema Nova**, and have coffee and cake at **Brunetti's**. Spend an afternoon in **Readings** bookshop before heading to **Jimmy Watson's** wine bar or to **Heartattack and Vine** for cocktails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For opening hours contact City of Melbourne on 03 9658 9658 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information head to whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Melbourne Visitor Hub at Town Hall

Melbourne Visitor Booth in Bourke Street Mall

Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre

City Ambassadors

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

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 Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

Explore the city's northern quarter, where history, innovation and culture connect.



2.0 HOURS



5.0 KILOMETRES



Queen Victoria Market



Lyon Street



RMIT University

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