Begin your walk by taking the 10-minute tour of St Paul’s Cathedral. Pick up a brochure inside the entrance to guide you.

Near the Swanston Street entrance, notice the statue of Matthew Flinders who bravely circumnavigated the continent from 1801-03.

Continue back along Flinders Street to Hosier Lane. As you walk up the cobbled stones to Flinders Lane, take in the dramatic street art and funky bars. Once the home of the city’s rag trade, today the old warehouses and factories hide apartments, artisans and galleries and some of the city’s grooviest bars.

At 129-131 Flinders Lane, look out for Levy and Robinson’s Warehouse that dates back to 1857. Near Spring Street you’ll pass Milton House, built as a hospital in 1901.

At the top of Spring Street the view widens to an expanse of green. Cross Spring Street and enter the Treasury Gardens. With their beautiful avenues of Moreton Bay Figs, the gardens are full of history - dating back to the early period of European settlement. As you stroll through them, look for the monuments to Scottish poet Robert Burns and the assassinated American president John F. Kennedy.

Cross Lansdowne Street into Fitzroy Gardens, and discover more historic and botanic treasures. Fitzroy Gardens was laid out in the 1850s and named after Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, Governor of New South Wales and Governor General of the Australian Colonies. Today, more than two million local, interstate and international visitors come to enjoy the gardens every year.

Follow the green signs to the graceful Conservatory built in 1930. Go in and see what’s in bloom (it’s free!) and walk around to admire the statues outside.

Five major flower displays are staged each year, attracting large crowds of garden lovers.

Head to the Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre for information services, merchandise and to speak with our friendly team.

Your next stop is Cooks’ Cottage, which was shipped from Great Ayton in Yorkshire and re-erected in Fitzroy Gardens in 1934 as a Victorian centenary gift. The cottage was the home of Captain James Cook’s parents, though the famous explorer never lived there himself. For a small fee, you can go inside the cottage and see the reconstruction of a modest English home of the mid 1700s. Tickets are available from the Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre.

Just up the small path to the east, a Scarred Tree is a reminder that Aboriginal people were here long before Europeans arrived.

You continue this walk past Sinclair’s Cottage. Built in 1866, it was the home to James Sinclair and his family. Sinclair was a renowned horticulturalist who established the Fitzroy Gardens in the 1860s.

Magnificent cathedrals, lush parklands and delightful Flinders Lane.

Walking time 2 hours
Distance 3.75 Kilometres
The nearby carved Fairies’ Tree and Model Tudor Village are popular with young children, while adults enjoy the elegant fountains and rotundas. Don’t miss the children’s playground – slide down the dragon’s tail, swing on the giraffe’s ears, see how the dragon glows in the dark!

If you look carefully, maybe you’ll spot a possum or two in the trees overhead. The English Elms in Fitzroy Gardens are among the oldest and finest in the world. Along a glorious avenue, climb to the River God fountain and walk west towards the cathedral spires at Lansdowne Street. Cross Lansdowne Street to Cathedral Place, where a lonely tower is all that remains of St Patrick’s College. Then take the serene Pilgrim Path to St Patrick’s Cathedral, the architectural triumph of William Wardell. The cathedral was built between 1858 and 1859, with spires added in the 1930s. During restoration work in the 1990s, a stonemason secretly carved a gargoyle in the image of recent Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett. You can spot ‘Jeff’ on high, to the right of the South Transept Door.

From the forecourt, where Aboriginal and Christian spiritual symbols are depicted in the Stone Inlay, enter the Great West Doors and walk through to the seven beautiful chapels surrounding the sanctuary.

Leaving the cathedral, walk down Macarthur Street, towards the towering city buildings, passing the Lutheran Church built in 1853.

Cut through Treasury Reserve to see John Cain, Sir Henry Bolte and other premiers of Victoria at the end of Premiers’ Way. The Kennett State Government introduced Premiers’ Statues for premiers serving 3000 days or more in office.

Look along Treasury Place to some of Victoria’s finest Government Buildings. The current Premiere’s Office is 1 Treasury Place.

Cross Treasury Gardens and turn right into Flinders Street. Stop for coffee or a snack at the Hotel Lindrum, formerly the Lindrum Billiard Rooms. All-time billiards champion Walter Lindrum made a world record break of 4157 on an English tour in 1932!

Walk past the old Herald Building built in the 1920s, and turn left into Batman Avenue that leads down to Birrarung Marr, the city’s newest park by the river. It’s also an important meeting place for the Aboriginal community and celebrates their connection to the land and the Yarra River. ‘Birrarung’ (river of mists) is the Wurrundjeri name for the river and ‘Marr’ relates to ‘side of the river’. The 21st century parkscape is a popular outdoor venue for Melbourne’s many festivals and performances.

Cross the bridge to the Federation Bells sound sculpture where 39 electronic bells chime three times daily (currently 8am to 9am, 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 5pm to 6pm). The bells range in sizes from a small handbell, to a bell that stands 1.8 metres high and weighs 3.5 tonnes. Go down the steps and follow the river to Federation Square, enjoying fabulous city views on the way.