The Art of Sport

An exploration of Melbourne’s sporting and creative achievements.

Walking time 2.5 hours
Distance 6 Kilometres

Standing in the midst of Federation Square, often referred to as ‘Fed Square’, turn full circle and take in the atmosphere of one of Melbourne’s most significant meeting places. With your back to St Kilda Road, you are facing the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, totally dedicated to Australian art. To your left is ACMI, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, a celebration of the moving image in film, television and digital culture. Turn to your right and head down the steps to the River Terrace, Federation Wharf and the Yarra River. The Yarra’s banks have barbecue and picnic spots, fishing platforms and jetties, and there are trails and paths to cycle, walk and jog. The Yarra also hosts spectacular events and festivals.

Continue on towards Artplay, a children’s art centre and gallery which then leads into Birrarung Marr, a beautiful 8-hectare (20-acre) urban public park. In the language of the Wurundjeri, the Indigenous inhabitants of the area at the time of European settlement, ‘Birrarung’ means ‘river of mists’ and ‘Marr’ is ‘side of the river’. Other features of the park include Deborah Halpem’s two-headed Angel sculpture and the magnificent Federation Bells, a set of 39 upturned brass bells of various sizes and sounds which play compositions three times each day.

From the bells head to the William Barak Bridge on your right. At its highest point, there is an expansive seating area to take in the beautiful views. Over the bridge, you are in Yarra Park, set aside as parklands in 1856, and in front of the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground – the MCG, or just ‘the G’. One hundred years later, Yarra Park and the MCG were the focal point for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Now the G is home to Australian Rules Football and cricket’s famous Boxing Day Test.

From the end of the William Barak Bridge, go straight ahead towards Gate 3 and the National Sports Museum incorporating the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum, the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, the Australian Football Exhibition, Champions Thoroughbred Racing Gallery, and temporary exhibition areas. The Museum also manages daily MCG Tours which take 75 minutes.

Around the ground, the Tattersall’s Parade of the Champions are 10 larger-than-life-sized statues of elite sports men and women by Melbourne sculptor Louis Laumen. Cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman, outside Gate 5, was the first to be unveiled in May 2002.
Back at Gate 1, with the practice nets for the Victoria cricket team, the Bushrangers, in sight, head up the steps to the left to the pedestrian bridge across Brunton Avenue. Over the bridge veer right down the steps – and you will see Rod Laver Arena (1) right down the steps – and you will see Brunton Avenue. Over the bridge veer to the left to the pedestrian bridge across Bushrangers, in sight, head up the steps.

From the VCA, continue along Sturt Street towards the city. On the corner of Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard is the acoustically perfect and architecturally significant Melbourne Recital Centre (2), with two world-class performance spaces for the best musicians and ensembles. Next door, on Southbank Boulevard, is the Southbank Theatre (3), home to the Melbourne Theatre Company, the oldest professional theatre company in Australia. On the corner of Southbank Boulevard and St Kilda Road is the National Gallery of Victoria (4), established in 1861 and Australia’s oldest public art gallery. It has an extensive collection from Europe, Asia, America, and Oceania. Next door on St Kilda Road is Arts Centre Melbourne (5), and its Theatres Building, over which presides a Melbourne landmark – the 162-metre Arts Centre Spire – with its bellerina’s tutu at the base. Within this arts precinct, take a class or a tour of the headquarters for one of Australia’s flagship arts companies, The Australian Ballet (6), founded in 1962. The Arts Centre Melbourne Lawn features a range of outdoor activities and performances, as well as Inga King’s magnificent 1974 sculpture, Forward Surge (7). Adjacent to the Yarra is Hamer Hall (8), Melbourne’s main concert hall, seating almost 2,500 people, with performances across all musical styles.

From Hamer Hall cross over the 1888 heritage-listed Princes Bridge (9). Turning right at the first set of traffic lights you are back at your starting point, Federation Square (10).

**Art and Culture**

**ArtPlay**
Bookings essential, artplay.com.au
Tel: 9664 7900

**Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)**
Mon to Sun 10am to 5pm

**NGV Studio**
Sun to Wed 10am to 5pm, Thurs to Sat 10am to 10pm

**No Vacancy**
Project Space
Tue to Sat 11am to 5pm
Sun 12pm to 5pm

**The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia**
Tue to Sun 10am to 5pm

**Restaurants, Cafes and Bars**

- **Optic Kitchen & Bar**
  Mon to Tues and Sun 8.30am to 6pm
  Wed to Sat 8.30am to 10pm

- **Arntjii**
  Mon to Fri 10am to late
  Sat & Sun 9am to late

- **Beer Deluxe**
  Mon to Sun 7am to late

- **Bokchoy Tang**
  Mon to Sun 11.30am to late

- **Café Chinotto**
  Mon to Sun 10am to late

- **Chocolate Buddha**
  Mon to Sun noon to late

- **Feddish**
  Mon to Sun noon to late

**Il Pomodoro Italiano**
Mon to Sun 11am to late

In a Rush Espresso
Mon to Sun 7am to 5pm

Riverland Bar and Café
Mon to Sun 7am to late

Time Out Café
Mon to Sun 8am to late

Transport
Mon to Sun 11am to late

Taxi Dining Room
Mon to Sun noon to 3pm and 6pm to 9pm

Transit Rooftop Bar
Sun, Wed & Thurs from 5pm
Fri to Sat from 4pm
Mon to Tue closed

**Shops and Retail**

Best of Victoria
Open same hours as Melbourne Visitor Centre

Kirra Galleries
Mon to Sun 10am to 6pm
7-Eleven
Mon to Sun 7am to late

** visitor or go to the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square.**

**Visitor Information**

Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square
Open seven days a week 9am to 6pm (excluding Christmas Day)

Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall
Open seven days a week 9am to 5pm (excluding Good Friday and Christmas Day)

Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre
Open seven days a week 9am to 5pm (excluding Christmas Day)

This centre provides information services, touch displays, and free Wi-Fi and café facilities. Purchase your Coop’s Cottage tickets and merchandise, or take part in the free guided garden walk which departs from the centre every Saturday at 10am.

City Ambassadors
Keep an eye out for the City Ambassadors dressed in their distinctive red uniforms in the central city. Mon to Sat 10am to 4pm, Sun noon to 3pm (excluding Good Friday and Christmas Day).

Melbourne Greeter Service
Discover from a local what locals love about Melbourne. English orientations available seven days per week. Other languages on request. Bookings are essential. 03 9658 9658 (M-F only)

Melbourne Visitor Shuttle
Hop on and off at any of the 13 stops along the route at key city destinations, guided by an informative on-board commentary. The complete trip takes approximately one hour and a half. The buses run every 30 minutes with the first service leaving Stop 1 at 9.30am and the last at 3.45pm daily excluding Christmas Day.

**Useful Numbers**

Best of Victoria Booking Service 9928 0000
Public transport queries 1800 800 007
Travellers’ Aid – Flinders St Station 9600 2030
Travellers’ Aid – Southern Cross Station 9670 2072
Airport Bus – Skybus 9335 2811
Ticketmaster 13 6100
Ticketek 13 2849
Directory Assistance 1223

Emergency – police, fire and ambulance 000

There are a number of self-guided walks in this series. These walks were developed by Federation Square and the City of Melbourne.