Take a stroll from the city to East Melbourne and discover elaborate ironwork, classic columns and lofty verandas from the Victorian era.

**Walking time** 1.5 hours  
**Distance** 3 Kilometres

**Melbourne Walks**

**Elegant Enclave**

From Flinders Street Station, walk or catch a free City Circle tram in an easterly direction from tram stop 5 to the corner of Spring Street and Treasury Gardens. Enter Treasury Gardens opposite Flinders Lane. Cross Lansdowne Street and continue straight ahead into the Fitzroy Gardens.

Pass the 1930 conservatory and Cooks’ Cottage on your left. The cottage, shipped from England, was the home of explorer James Cook’s parents. Visit the Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre for information services, merchandise and to speak with our friendly team.

Emerge from the gardens, cross Clarendon Street and continue east into George Street. Hepburn Terrace (No. 193-209) was built in 1874 and is a fine example of the Victorian homes that define inner Melbourne. Two mansions opposite each other (No. 193 and 188) have been beautifully restored.

One of East Melbourne’s oldest homes is the 1856 terrace (No. 182), while behind the hedge is gracious Braemar (No. 178), dating to 1865 and nearly demolished in the 1970s.

On the corner of George and Powlett streets is a grand house that is now four apartments. Built in the 1860s and extended in the 1930s, it was home to Sir Benjamin Benjamin, Mayor of Melbourne in the 1880s.

Divert briefly left at Powlett Street for two neighbouring homes from the 1880s. Foynes (No. 52) and Eastcourt have masses of iron lacework. Back on George Street, the house (No. 125b) at the end of a drive was part of an early farm, while the Art Deco flats (No. 109) were built in 1930.

When you see the George Street café, continue straight ahead on the street’s left side before returning to the café via the other side. Along here are a converted 1920s post office; and Georgian Court (No. 21), built as apartments in 1860; and the 1865 home of Melbourne’s first surveyor, Robert Russell (No. 49).

Turn right into Simpson Street to view magnificent Queen Bess Row (cnr Simpson and Hotham streets). Built in 1886, it is three private homes.

Turn left into Hotham Street. Next to Queen Bess Row is Sydenham House, built in 1856 as a girls’ school, while Dorset Terrace (No. 114-120) has front doors unusually placed diagonally to the gates. Opposite is the former 1880s Cairns Memorial Presbyterian Church, converted into apartments after a fire in the 1980s.

Turn right into the lane next to Dorset Terrace. It is the back of magnificent Canterbury Terrace (seen later). Cross Gipps Street and continue into Nunn Lane, noting the Victorian home on the lane’s right side with its contemporary addition.

Turn left into Grey Street and left again into Powlett Street. The 1868 home (No. 139) has an unusual opera-box-style balcony. Like other houses along...
here, it looks two storied but, because of a slope, is three storeys at the rear. A few doors down, the house at No. 130 was built in 1867. The 1873 mansion with the arched veranda, Crathre (corner Gipps and Powlett Streets), has been a private hospital and rooming house. Saved from demolition, it is a restored private home. Divert right into Gipps Street for notable homes. No. 128-132 is Nepean Terrace designed to look like two grand houses but is actually four homes. Look down Hotham Place to view the canopied entrance of a mews house. Back on Powlett Street, the terrace house at No. 85 was home to Peter Lalor, who led miners in the Eureka Stockade uprising at Ballarat in 1854.

Turn right into Hotham Street for the 1861 bluestone home (No. 157) dubbed The Gothic House. It was designed by architect Joseph Reed (who designed Melbourne Town Hall, State Library and Royal Exhibition Building) for deputy surveyor-general Clement Hodgkinson (who designed the Fitzroy and Treasury gardens). Opposite is Fairhall, an elegant 1860 townhouse that is home to The Johnston Collection, an antique dealer’s legacy of English and French antiques. Cyprus Terrace (No. 158-164) was designed to look like two grand houses but is actually four homes. Look down Hotham Place to view the canopied front door of the same mews house of Magnolia Place.

Continuing on Hotham Street, hidden behind the long black fence is Bishopscourt, home to Anglican archbishops since built in 1853. Head into the Fitzroy Gardens. Out front are the Fairies’ Tree with one-time East Melbourne sculptor Ola Cohn and the Model Tudor Village. Continue into Treasury Gardens before heading to Federation Square, a centre of cultural activity for Melbourne.

*The Johnston Collection*

The Johnston Collection is visited by appointment only. For tours, contact 03 9416 2515 or johnstoncollection.org.