

MELBOURNE MUSIC WALK

Historical venues, rock routes, sticky carpets and music laneways.

Walking time 1.5 hours
Distance 3.5 kilometres



For more information

- Visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au
- Visit the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square, Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall, Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre or keep an eye out for the City Ambassadors in the city centre
- Call City of Melbourne on 9658 9658

Interpreter services
We cater for people of all backgrounds
Please call 03 9280 0726

f /WhatsOnMelb
t @WhatsOnMelb
@WhatsOnMelb

TM 06/2017

A great place to start your walk around Melbourne's music highlights is underneath the soaring white spire of the **Arts Centre Melbourne** ①. This building houses the State Theatre, the Playhouse Theatre and the Fairfax Studio. The Performing Arts Collection is also housed in the Arts Centre (with frequent exhibitions from their collection on show in the foyer). Nick Cave's personal archives, Kylie Minogue's costume collection, AC/DC memorabilia and much more are included in the collection's extensive archive that dates back to the early days of Melbourne. You can head in through the glass doors where concierge can direct you to the collection or book you in for a guided backstage tour.

Head towards the Yarra River. The round building on your left is **Hamer Hall** ②, which hosts a broad range of local and international concerts from rock, pop and jazz through to classical and chamber music. As you cross the river, on your right you'll pass Birrarung Marr, a public space which is a significant site for Aboriginal artists and communities. Feel free to explore the area, where you will also find the Federation Bells, a set of 39 bronze bells, which were created as part of celebrations for the centenary of Australia's 1901 federation. You can compose music for the Federation Bells using its online composer.

Continue past **Flinders Street Station** ③ and turn right along Flinders Street, towards Russell Street. **The Forum** ④, on the corner of Flinders Street and Russell Street, was originally built in 1929 as a grand picture palace with a multi-coloured, star-lit ceiling and plaster reproductions of Greco-Roman statues. After a time as a Christian revival centre (during which the statues were discreetly clothed), it was redesigned as a music venue. The Forum's sloping floor and a plush seated area at the back make it one of the best places in Australia to see live music, regardless of where you're seated. Motorhead, Nick Cave, The Drones, Paul Kelly, Archie Roach, The Church, The Saints, Sonic Youth, Beck, The Beastie Boys, Gillian Welch and countless others have performed here.



Turn left up Russell Street and right at Flinders Lane. The third narrow street on your right is **AC/DC Lane** ⑤, the first street in Australia named after a rock band. Street-naming rules don't permit the use of a forward-slash, so diehard fans used to graffiti one in themselves. As a result, City of Melbourne retrofitted the giant lightning bolt you see today as a permanent solution to honour the band. Fittingly, the lane has become the home of the iconic **Cherry Bar** ⑥. Cherry operates as a live music venue every night of the year. Its late-night license also makes it a favourite hangout for local and international musicians after their shows; just ask Lady Gaga, who famously danced on the bar!

Keep walking along Flinders Lane, turn left at Exhibition Street and right onto Little Collins Street. All of Melbourne's "little" streets have existed since the city "Hoddle" grid was laid out in 1837. From these little streets sprouted Melbourne's famous laneways. On the left you will pass **Boney** ⑦, which has become something of an institution in Melbourne due to its seven day, late-night programming of live music and DJs. Turn left at Meyers Place, and on your left you will find **Loop Project Space & Bar** ⑧. Drop into this venue any time after 4pm and you're bound to be mesmerised by its ever-changing program of live audio-visual performances and workshops.

Turn right on Bourke Street and walk uphill towards Parliament House. Support for the musical heritage of Melbourne is increasing as the gentrification of the dusty corners of the city rolls on and venues close down.



In early 2010, the Save Live Australia's Music (SLAM) rally finished with an impromptu concert on the steps of **Parliament House 9**. SLAM was the biggest cultural rally in Australia's history. 20,000 people marched to protest rules and regulations that were forcing the closure of inner-city music venues.

Turn left at Spring Street and walk to the **Princess Theatre 10**. This site has been used for entertainment since 1854, and is still in operation today. In 1951, an Aboriginal 'Moomba' show was held at the Princess featuring Georgia Lee, Harold Blair, Allan and Joan Saunders, Joyce Johnson and other Aboriginal performers. Moomba has since evolved into Australia's largest community festival, drawing over one million people and is held every year over the Labour Day long-weekend in March, featuring a diverse program of musical and cultural activities.

Turn left at Little Bourke Street. Just behind the Princess Theatre is **Amphlett Lane 11**. Chrissy Amphlett was the charismatic singer for the Divinyls but sadly died of breast cancer in 2013. A petition by her friends, family and fans, supported by City of Melbourne, resulted in the naming of the lane in early 2015. Later that year it was baptised by an all-Australian Chrissy Amphlett tribute concert held as part of Melbourne Music Week, an annual event held in November dedicated to celebrating and supporting Melbourne's music industry.

Turn right onto Exhibition Street where you can check out the season's offering at **Her Majesty's Theatre 12** on your left and the **Comedy Theatre 13** on your right. Turn left into Little Lonsdale Street and right into Bennett's Lane. Once described by Lonely Planet as "the world's best jazz club", **Bennett's Lane Jazz Club 14** features live jazz every night of the week. In 2003, Prince performed an intimate secret concert here to just 100 people.

Keep on Little Lonsdale Street and turn left at Swanston Street. AC/DC's film-clip for "*It's A Long Way To The Top*" (1976) was filmed along Swanston Street, from the corner of Bourke Street down past the corner of Collins Street. Whilst much has changed along this stretch of Swanston Street, landmarks such as the Melbourne Town Hall and the Manchester Unity building are easily recognisable. The "vertical laneway" known as **Curtin House 15** includes a number of bars and restaurants along with **The Toff in Town 16**. The Toff is a small, intimate performance space that has featured artists such as Ed Kuepper, Bill Callaghan, Pete Murray, Paul Kelly, Martha Wainwright, Tony Joe White, Holly Throsby, Rowland S. Howard and Robert Forster.

Bourke Street Mall 17 is a popular spot for some of our local music talent busking on the street, and is where some of Melbourne's musicians started their careers, including The Pierce Brothers and Tash Sultana.

On the corner of Swanston and Collins streets is the grand **Melbourne Town Hall 18**. In June 1964, on the portico above the entrance, The Beatles were welcomed to Melbourne by the Lord Mayor, Edward Curtis. The city was brought to a standstill as 100,000 people clambered for a look at the Fab Four. In 1968, a similar number gathered to welcome Aboriginal boxer Lionel Rose after he won the world bantamweight boxing title in Japan. Amongst his many accomplishments, Lionel also recorded a few hit country records. In 1977, ABBA was also



Benny Walker at The Toff in Town

welcomed to Melbourne on the iconic portico.

Melbourne Town Hall has often been used as a venue for large overseas and local acts. Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs' 1971 album "*Live*" was recorded here. It hosts the largest grand organ in the Southern Hemisphere, which is often utilised by the contemporary bands performing here. Learn more about the grand organ, as well as the architectural, social and political significance of this impressive building on a free one hour tour, every weekday at 11am and 1pm from Town Hall concierge desk (bookings essential, call 9658 9658).

Opposite the Melbourne Town Hall, is another iconic venue - **Max Watt's 19**, at 125 Swanston Street. Australian artists such as Paul Kelly, Powderfinger, Hunters & Collectors, Birds of Tokyo, Hoodoo Gurus and You Am I have filled the room along with international artists including the New York Dolls, Muse, Foo Fighters, No Doubt and The Strokes.

The venues you have encountered on this tour are but a fraction of Melbourne's immense music scene. We hope you feel inspired to catch a show or visit one of Melbourne's many music stores.

View Melbourne's full gig guide on the Melbourne Music City App musicvictoria.com.au/melbourne_music_city_app



Tash Sultana at The Age Music Victoria Awards

Other significant sites

Festival Hall, West Melbourne

In the early 1960s, the Stadium, a boxing and wrestling venue, was redesigned to allow for music concerts and renamed Festival Hall. For many years it has hosted some of the biggest acts to come to Melbourne.

Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Kings Domain

Surrounded by parklands, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl opened in 1959. 2,000 people can be seated and a further 10,000 can comfortably sit on the grass. Philharmonic orchestras, heavy metal bands, Christmas carollers and House DJs – the Myer Music Bowl caters for all tastes.

Melbourne Recital Centre

Melbourne Recital Centre is an acclaimed music destination combining architectural innovation and acoustic perfection within its two world-class performance spaces to showcase the best music, artists and ensembles from around the world.

Melbourne in music clips

Melbourne has featured in many music clips over the years including:

AC/DC

It's A Long Way To The Top (1975)

Skyhooks

This Is My City (1976)

John Paul Young

Yesterday's Hero (1975)

The Mixtures

The Pushbike Song (1970)

Elvis Costello

I Wanna Be Loved (1984)

The Meanies

It's A Long Way To The Top (1995)

The Cat Empire

Steal The Light (2013)

Courtney Barnett

Elevator Operator (2016)

Record stores

Basement Discs
Central Station
Cry Baby
JB Hi-Fi
Missing Link/Record Collectors Corner
Off The Hip
Rocksteady
Thomas' Music
Wax Museum

For a list of music businesses and venues in Melbourne, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au