

3 On the Waterfront

Spectacular bridges, Indigenous history, sculptures, Southbank Promenade, Melbourne Aquarium and the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre feature on this walk of discovery along the north and south banks of the Yarra River.

Walking time 2 hours

Distance 4.75 Kilometres



Federation Square ① is a centre of cultural activity for Melbourne. Positioned on the city's busiest intersection across the road from **Flinders Street Station** ② and the most prominent section of the city's busy tram network, it brings together several creative institutions, cafes, bars and is home to the **Melbourne Visitor Centre**.

From Federation Square, walk south along **Princes Bridge** ③ over the **Yarra River** and follow the ramp down to the riverside in **Alexandra Gardens** ④ and then walk under the bridge. There have been three bridges on this site, each larger than the last. The first was built of timber and named after the Prince of Wales in 1845.

You will pass the giant steel sculpture **'Dervish'** ⑤ the 1981 work of Melbourne-born sculptor Clement Meadmore, which has a current market value of around \$500,000.

If you have time, take a boat's eye view of the city with a leisurely scenic cruise, romantic gondola or water taxi ride. Ask

for tickets and information at one of the information booths along the riverside.

Walk past Southgate Restaurant and Shopping Centre along Melbourne's **Southbank Promenade** ⑥. Before European settlement, this area was a lush wetland teeming with fish and birdlife, extending from the banks of the Yarra to what is now Albert Park and supporting the Indigenous peoples of the Woiwurung and Bunurong communities. But in the 1850s it became 'Canvas Town', where migrants and gold seekers first pitched their tents. Today, it's a booming stretch of apartments, offices, hotels, shops, restaurants, squares, visitor attractions and urban art – once again a meeting and socialising place as it was for the original inhabitants of the area for thousands of generations. And a great place to view the contemporary city skyline.

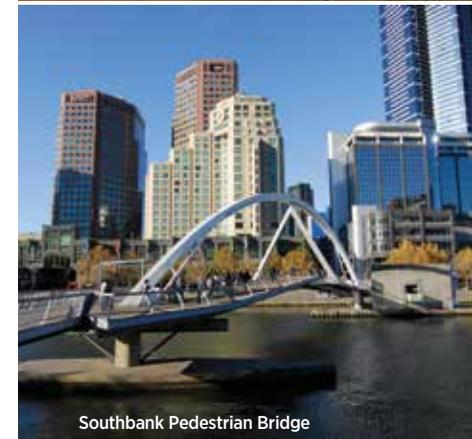
Cross the **Southbank Pedestrian Bridge** ⑦ which marks where a significant creek, or tributary into the Yarra River once flowed. Elizabeth Street now covers where the creek originally ran, and still flows underground.

Heading west along **Flinders Walk** ⑧, pass under **Sandridge Railway Bridge** ⑨ and you come to **Queen's Bridge** ⑩ just beyond the Banana Alley Vaults. In 1910, some 20,000 people watched Houdini dive into the river from this bridge, locked in chains. After 25 seconds, he came up laughing. Houdini's spot was well chosen. The river is shallow here, where a three-metre waterfall originally prevented saltwater from entering the river. It was also the only place for miles where Aboriginal people could cross the river over a reef of rocks. They believed the falls were created by Bunjil (the eagle hawk), and in its original form the area was a habitat for animals and resources that weren't found anywhere else.

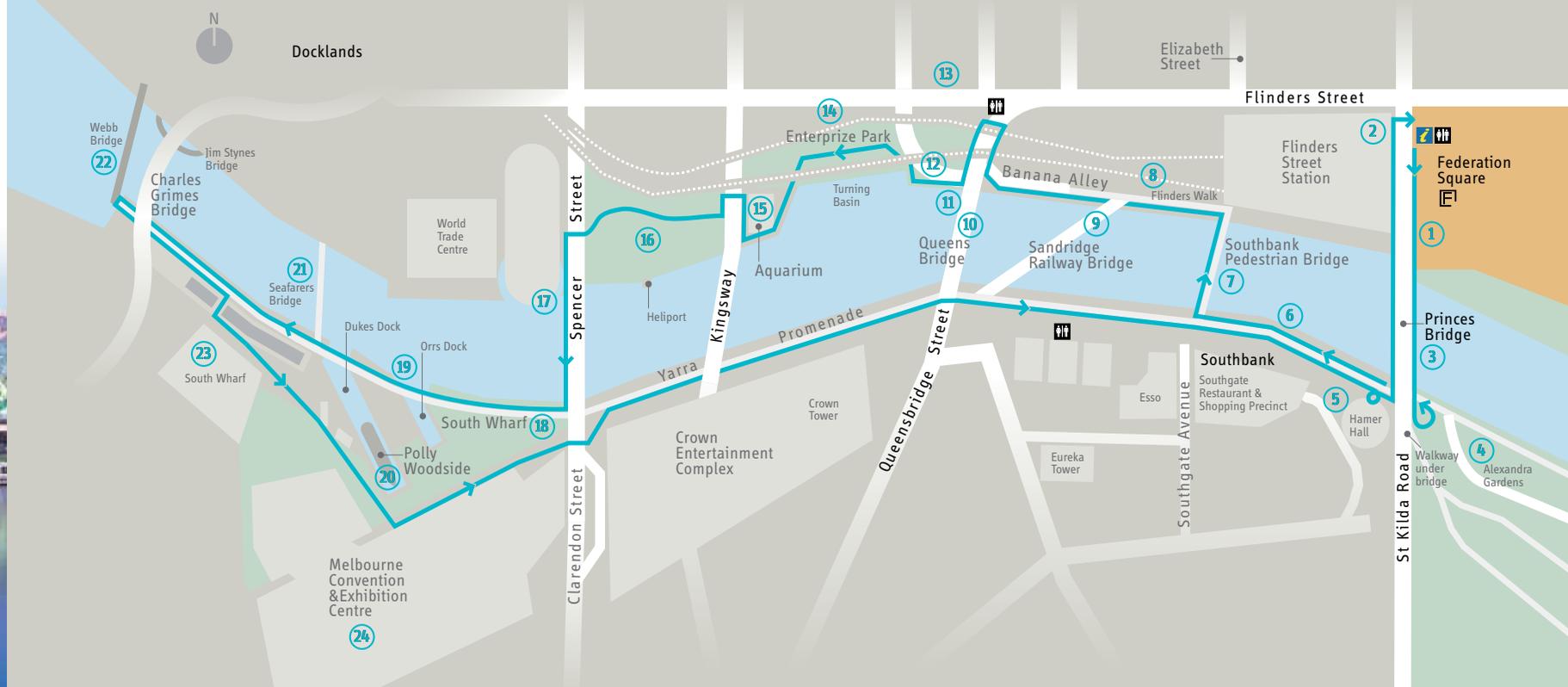
In 1835 John Pascoe Fawkner's 'Enterprize' sailed up the Yarra from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) to create a commercial settlement. For the Indigenous people who had lived along the river for thousands of years, the landscape would change forever.



Southbank



Southbank Pedestrian Bridge





City Skyline from Princes Bridge

The Yarra's waterfall was destroyed in the mid-19th century to allow the tall ships access to the wide basin or 'pool' of the Yarra, now recreated near **Enterprize Wharf** (11). Five carved figureheads titled **Constellation** (12) evoke the spirit of these ships. However, the destruction of the waterfall also ruined the ecology of the area with salt water now flowing into the freshwater wetlands.

Early port facilities were also located here, as well as bond stores and the **Customs House** (13), now the **Immigration Museum**. After gold was discovered in 1850 in Warrandyte, north east from Melbourne, thousands of people from all over the world descended on the city in their quest for fortune, and this natural harbour was their first port of call. The impact on the local Kulin population was devastating - the destruction of natural food sources and the introduction of diseases meant that the 1839 population of 1225 Indigenous people was reduced to just 181 by 1863.

Enterprize Park (14) is the site of the 'Scar Project'. Traditionally, Indigenous people would take pieces of bark from some trees to make canoes, shields or baby cradles, and these 'scar trees' would serve as a signpost for other clans to know they had entered the land of another community. These trees are rare today, but for Aboriginal people they are very precious. The 'Scar Project', located here on the 'pool' of Melbourne, is representative of these scar trees and was constructed by

Indigenous artists who used original wharf poles from Queens Bridge.

Walk past the popular **SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium** (15) that features a breathtaking underwater wonderland where children and adults can enjoy 'fish-eye' views of sea life and its many different creatures.

Then cross to **Batman Park** (16) and take **Spencer Street Footbridge** (17) to **South Wharf** (18), and follow the river concourse to **Dukes and Orrs docks** (1875) (19), now home to **Polly Woodside** (20).

The **Seafarers Bridge** (21) next to Dukes Dock will take you across the Yarra to the southern end of **Docklands**, Melbourne's newest community, now home to thousands of residents and headquarters for several of Australia's most successful companies. There's a fantastic collection of outdoor public art throughout Docklands, and a growing number of restaurants and bars, events and parks and gardens.

On South Wharf, continue to the spectacular **Webb Bridge** (22) - a snaking pedestrian and cycle link between the Southbank promenade at Yarra's Edge and the Docklands. Designed by Melbourne artist Robert Owen with Architects Denton Corker Marshall, the design is an analogy of Koorie fishing traps, drums, baskets and the gestural flow of the river below.

Walk back along the river past the many retail outlets and restaurants located in **South Wharf** (23). The **Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre** (24), made up of convention and meeting spaces and a huge exhibition hall, it is the first '6 Star Green Star' convention centre in the world and is a technological marvel designed with the environment in mind using fresh air, natural light and solar power. The entry-level foyer has an 18-metre-high glass wall façade overlooking the Yarra River. Every angle and level provide spectacular views of the city.

Take a leisurely stroll along the river as you walk back to Fed Square.

Federation Square



The Ian Potter Centre: Australian Centre for the Moving Image

Arts 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, Tues and Sun 8.30am to 6pm
Wed to Sat 8.30am to 10pm
- Arintji**
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 Pom Italian**
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 Kitchen**
Mon to Sun noon to 3pm and 6pm to late
- Transit Rooftop Bar**
Sun, Wed & Thurs from 5pm
Fri to Sat from 4pm
Mon to Tue closed

Shops and Retail

- Best of Victoria**
Best of Souvenirs
Open same hours as Melbourne Visitor Centre
- Kirra Galleries**
Mon to Sun 10am to 6pm
- 7-Eleven**
Mon to Sun
Early to late

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 Cooks' 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 an hour and a half. The bus runs 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	9610 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.

For more information, call the City of Melbourne Hotline 03 9658 9658, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/visitor or go to the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square

MelbourneVisitorCentre
 @MelbVisitor

