Welcome to Melbourne!

Guide Melbourne is your guide to the city and beyond, created by other RMIT students just for you. Discover the best places to eat, relax and explore and make Melbourne your home away from home.

Guide Melbourne

Explore the city!
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Guide Melbourne

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WELCOME

Welcome to Guide Melbourne—a guidebook written by students for students. We’re sharing our favourite places around town so you too can fall in love with this great city.

In Feed Me, you’ll find all things food and drink—from cool cafes and food vans to donuts and great coffee.

Fancy a night out? Entertain Me has some of the best spots to meet up with friends after class for a quick drink, or catch a band and enjoy some live music.

For uniquely Melbourne attractions, Visit Me has you covered. Browse the shelves of our best-loved bookstores or learn about Aboriginal history at Bunjilaka.

In Tour Me, there’s a guide to Melbourne’s inner-city neighbourhoods and a list of activities run by RMIT Link. From ice-skating and progressive dinners to day trips along the Victorian coast, discover Melbourne and beyond while making new friends!

And, of course, there are the essentials—check out Assist Me for all the official stuff like university student services, health and transport.

Melbourne is a place of hidden surprises—there are rooftop bars with cinemas and pubs with poetry. To make things simple, we’ve included icons with each listing. Use the key below to find out exactly what your chosen venue has on offer. There’s also a handy price guide to help you budget!

So get out and explore—you will feel like a local in no time.

KEY TO LISTINGS

- Food
- Drink
- Coffee/Tea
- Entertainment
- Sightseeing
- Leisure
- Accessible*

*Venues with an accessibility icon marked with an asterisk may not offer full accessibility.
Feed Me
1000 £ BEND
361 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Mon–Fri 11am–late
Sat–Sun 9am–late

Painted in bold blues and yellows, 1000 £ Bend is located on Little Lonsdale Street, right near the corner of Elizabeth Street. This is a small cafe with extra spaces behind and upstairs, including the addition of a bar on the top level called The Unknown Union, and a chapel and events space called The Church of Bang Bang Boogaloo.

Morning coffee is only $3 before 10am on weekdays—perfect for a quick pick-me-up before class—and breakfast is served until midday. After 12pm, there is a delicious lunch and dinner menu, which includes burgers, hotdogs and wings, and healthy salads. Every Tuesday afternoon, burgers, pizzas and jugs of house beer are all $10.

Slice Girls pizza operates on-site, so you can grab your ‘Scary slice’ (Sicilian white anchovies, tomato, mozzarella, oregano and baby capers) or ‘Who do you think you are’ (prosciutto, provolone, artichoke hearts and basil) pizzas.

When you need to wind down after a long day, house wine, beer and basic spirits are only $5 each between 5pm and 7pm. With free wi-fi for customers, you can catch up on some study in a relaxed space, with cheap food and drinks at your fingertips.

1000 £ Bend also supports local creatives with the Bend and Snap Market, Craft Hatch and the Trunk Dive Market—see website for dates.

1000 £ Bend is a re-imagining of iconic Melbourne bar St. Jerome’s, the birthplace of St. Jerome’s Laneway Festival. The popular music festival lives on in capital cities across Australia every year.
With generous servings and student-friendly prices, this little gem of a cafe is ideal for a quick lunch in town. Piping hot crepes are super popular—enclosing everything from mixed berries or tandoori chicken to Vegemite and Swiss cheese—thankfully not together. And if crepes aren’t enough, who could say non to a baguette stuffed with fresh sliced ham, brie cheese and caramelised onion for $7.50? If that’s not fancy enough, try a prosciutto, rocket and zucchini crepe for $9.

If you are still hungry, top up with the gooey goodness of a banana and Nutella crepe and add an espresso coffee (bien sur!) or choose from a wacky selection of herbal teas.

The tables are small, but it’s a fashionable squeeze. Take a seat and enjoy the backdrop of street art and genuine ‘Melbourne laneway’ atmosphere—it’s all part of the fun.

‘Paris to Provence’ is Melbourne’s own French-themed festival. Held in November, the three-day event takes place within a replica French pop-up village and features a traditional marketplace, as well as French bulldogs in fancy dress.
Walking into Brunetti you have a sense of stepping into a cafe in Italy. It’s all hustle and bustle—Italian baristas are fitted out in crisp white shirts, black vests and bow ties. They serve coffee from an imposing marble-topped, circular coffee bar. On the wall behind the baristas is a large mural of black and white images of Rome in the 1940s. Marble mosaics throughout the interior complete the Italian theme.

The Italian-style coffee served here is well regarded in this town of coffee experts. Take it the Italian way—standing at the coffee bar—or take a seat and enjoy one of the many delicious cakes on offer. For those with more time and larger appetites, there is traditional Italian fare of pasta, pizza, calzone, filled panini and more. The food is freshly prepared and presented in glass-fronted cabinets, making selection easy.

Prices here are reasonable, with most meals around $20. For students, Brunetti may not become a regular eating house, but a memorable place for the special occasion. It is a favourite coffee stop for early birds, night owls and moviegoers—the popular Nova cinema complex is close by.

Brunetti is a short walk from RMIT, north along Lygon Street. It’s just far enough to give you an appetite for one or more of the glorious cakes on display. And the return journey will help you walk off some of the calories consumed! Buon appetito!

FACT: The founder of Brunetti, Mr Giorgio Angelé, came to Australia as a pastry chef with the Italian Olympic team in 1956.
Hare Krishna devotees often take part in joyous public chanting, which is a special type of meditation called sankirtana.
The Melbourne Japanese Summer Festival is staged in Federation Square in late February each year.

Don Don might not be rich in atmosphere, but the high-quality food definitely makes up for it. It’s just a short walk from RMIT and suited to budget-conscious students, with prices ranging from $6 to $9 for mains. Serves are more than generous and the food is delicious.

Try the Beef Curry Don ($7.70) for a meal that never disappoints or the Don Don Box ($9.40) if you feel like a bit of variety. The Sashi Don ($9.80) is a great choice if raw fish is your thing, and vegetarians won’t go hungry with the Soba Salad ($8.30). You can always add on a cup of Miso Soup ($1.50) or Japanese tea ($1.20) on those cold, grey Melbourne days. Soft drinks are $1.80 a can.

There are a couple of large round tables out the back if you want to come with friends, or grab a stool if you’re getting a quick lunch on your own between classes. Don Don bento boxes are also one of the main take-away options for students enjoying a picnic spot in front of the State Library.
Forget the dusty, faded caravans of family camping holidays, the Grand Trailer Park Taverna is a haven of shiny retro trailers where deliciousness awaits. Pick a trailer-shell booth and enjoy a cosy space for four, or opt for the indoor–outdoor picnic area.

Once seated, you have a couple of dilemmas—which burger to choose, and should you have a milkshake or a cocktail? Of course, the bar is stocked with a range of local and international beers and a couple of wines. There are slushy options too, but try a milkshake. These are the adult versions of warm childhood memories with flavours that include Kinder Surprise with Frangelico and Baileys.

The burger menu looks small, but the deliciousness is large, so choose carefully to avoid food envy when your neighbour’s burger comes out—and don’t skip the fries. Not for the health-conscious, sweet crunchy brioche buns encase all manner of meaty, cheesy goodness. The burgers don’t come dripping with condiments, but they pack in flavour that lasts until the last bite. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available. And don’t get us started on the desserts. This place is perfect for rewarding yourself—just make up a reason.
In the 1920s, the Block Arcade was home to a larrikin gang called the Barcade Boys who sold drugs and hired sex workers.

Hopetoun Tea Rooms is located in the Block Arcade in the heart of Melbourne’s business district. The charming late 19th-century style facade and window display of divine cakes stop the majority of passers-by and encourage them to either take photos or take a spot in the waiting queue—or both. Choices can be expensive, but that doesn’t stop people waiting up to half an hour every day, just to get a table.

There’s almost every tea flavour you can think of and the cake selection seems endless. The warm scones with cream and jam are a favourite. Enjoy breakfast, lunch or brunch, or satisfy those sweet cravings with morning or afternoon tea. Great coffee is also on offer.

Hopetoun Tea Rooms offers a High Tea option if you want more than a slice of lemon meringue pie or three-tiered sponge. Bookings are advisable and gift certificates are also available. Don’t just salivate with your nose pressed to the glass outside—make this Melbourne institution a must-do activity.
Nestled in the same building as the City Library, Journal Cafe is the perfect place to escape and relax with a cup of great coffee or a pot of Journal chai latte. In summer, it’s worth trying the freshly squeezed granita with the option to add a splash of vodka for an extra kick. After dark, Journal takes on the ambience of a cosy bar where you can enjoy a glass of wine and share a platter of antipasto.

Journal does all-day bruschetta with a variety of toppings, most for under $10. For something sweet, the home-made cake is a winner for $9. Prices are reasonable and you can expect to pay just under $20 if you choose one of their mains for lunch or dinner.

There are two large communal tables where you can spread yourself out and get some work done if the cafe is not too busy. If you’re lucky enough to score one of the seats overlooking Flinders Lane, it’s the perfect spot to people watch, or simply sit back and enjoy a good read.

Flinders Lane is a fascinating and bustling street. It’s a short walk from Flinders Street station, or you can catch any tram along Swanston or Elizabeth streets.

The Centre for Adult Education (CAE) is in the same building as the Journal Cafe. If you are interested in extra learning—from flower arranging to cheese making—have a look at the course options via cae.edu.au
LOUNGE

243 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Mon–Fri 12pm–12am
Tue–Thu 12pm–2am
Sat–Sun 12pm–late

lounge.com.au

Lounge is a kitchen by day and a heaving live-music venue by night. This shape-shifting place offers a bargain lunch, a more elaborate dinner, a social weeknight drink, or an all-night dance party on the weekend.

Weekdays, from 12pm to 3pm, you'll find 9 things for $9: pasta, burgers, a pie or a curry, and other essential foods. Don’t be put off by the measly price—each dish packs a punch to both the taste buds and the tummy grumbles. After 3pm, add a house wine for $6 or, if you’re feeling sparkly, a spritzer for $10.

Lounge is on Swanston Street, between Little Bourke and Lonsdale streets, opposite Curtin House. Head up the dark staircase behind the hanging ‘Lounge’ sign. Once there, retire to a dark corner booth, share a bar table with a group, or laze on the balcony above the bustling masses. The licensed open-air balcony also lends itself to budding romances, bromances, and all things that bloom under low lighting.

Weekends at Lounge can be a mixed bag of live music, from techno and house on a Saturday, to acoustic or funk nights from Thursday through to Sunday, so it’s worth checking out the roster.

The video for the AC/DC song ‘It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock ‘n' Roll)’ was filmed on Swanston Street in 1976.
LYGON STREET PIZZA

Just a short walk from RMIT, Lygon Street in Carlton is one of Melbourne’s most iconic restaurant strips—home to some of the first and best Italian pizzerias and cafes. Enjoy a range of pizzas and hearty Italian cuisine in a lively, relaxed atmosphere either inside or as part of the crowded pavement dining areas.

**Tiamo** is a showcase for Lygon Street’s rich Italian heritage, serving fabulous food bistro-style and with a fine dining option upstairs. The menu includes a range of delicious pizza and pasta dishes, as well as vegetarian options, such as eggplant parmigiana. It’s an ideal space for larger groups and can be booked for special occasions.

Down the street you’ll find **Papa Gino’s**, where authentic Italian dishes have been served for over 40 years. Papa Gino’s is known for generous serving sizes, so bring your friends along for a great time in this busy, buzzy cafe. If you can’t get a table here, try the equally popular **University Cafe** or **Cafe Corretto**—both havens for student groups and families.

Another student favourite is **Toto’s Pizza House**, the oldest pizzeria in Melbourne. Toto’s offers a much larger variety of gourmet pizzas than Tiamo and Papa Gino’s, and is famous for being inducted into the World Pizza Hall of Fame in 2007.

**FACT**
Toto’s Pizza House is credited with making pizza a staple of the Australian diet.
Refugees from the Vietnam War were the first large group of Asian immigrants to settle in Australia.

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<th>MISSCHU</th>
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<td><strong>Thu–Fri</strong> 11am–9.30pm</td>
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Designed for the modern eater on the go, Misschu offers high-end Vietnamese-inspired take-away food at low prices. The founder and creative director of Misschu is Nahji Chu, aka ‘The Queen of Rice Paper Rolls’.

Everything from the menu to the interior design and decoration reflects the rich and complex history of Nahji’s life. Her early experiences of struggling to learn a new language and culture at school have become a central focus of the interior and service design of Misschu. The menus resemble school food-ordering forms and the language is simple and playful, like schoolyard banter.

Located a short stroll from the RMIT campus, you can walk in and get a beautiful banh mi (Vietnamese baguette) for $9. Take a seat and order a delicious curry, a crunchy salad, the Peking duck pancakes or some dumplings and enjoy it all with a frozen coconut crushie. Vietnamese food is largely gluten-free and very tasty.

Try this place in your lunch break for a quick take-away or treat yourself at the end of a hard study slog.
Melburnians are caffeine addicts. Every day, Melbourne imports 30 tonnes of coffee beans, which equates to about 3 million cups of coffee daily (factor in Melbourne’s population of about 4 million).

Melbourne is world famous for coffee. There is no shortage of restaurants and cafes serving a quality latte. Seven Seeds is another special find for coffee addicts.

The Berkeley Street converted warehouse is totally Melbourne-style—exposed brick walls and polished concrete floors, vertical bike racks, and a coffee menu longer and denser than your barista’s beard.

The trick with Seven Seeds is to get in early. If you beat the morning rush you’ll get your caffeine fix in a flash, but arrive anytime after 10am and you’ll find yourself waiting in a line of heavy-limbed students, or squashed between a stranger and a wall while the wait staff struggle to notice you.

But the wait is worth it. Seven Seeds really does serve a quality coffee. And the food isn’t bad either—the toasted Bircher muesli and gluten-free brownies are crowd favourites—with an all-day menu offering food to please every palate.

SEVEN SEEDS

114 Berkeley Street, Carlton
Mon–Sat 7am–5pm
Sun 8am–5pm

sevenseeds.com.au

$
Chinese settlers first rushed to Victoria in large numbers hoping to find gold. By 1861, the Chinese community was already thriving, making up nearly 7 per cent of the Victorian population.

ShanDong MaMa is located in an unassuming arcade just off Bourke Street and serves traditional dishes from the fishing town of Yantai, on the Shandong Peninsula of China. Decked out in the style of a simple diner, this little restaurant is owned by a Shandong mama and her daughter. There is no alcohol, only soft drinks and tea, but the food is so good there is often a line out the door for lunch and dinner.

Seafood is a key ingredient in Yantai cuisine and one of the signature dishes at ShanDong MaMa is the mackerel dumplings ($16.80). These delicate little parcels of smooth mackerel are seasoned with ginger, chives, coriander and spring onions. Order them steamed or fried—both taste great. Another favourite is the Daryl noodles for $12.80. It may sound humble, but it’s one of the best things you’ll ever eat. Many choices on the menu are named after Mama’s children and grandchildren and this dish features thick house-made noodles in a vegetable broth, with pork, prawns, vegetables and egg.

There is a huge variety of Chinese food in Melbourne, but ShanDong MaMa is one of the best and offers great value. Taste it once and you’ll find yourself going back to try the rest of the menu.
What makes Shortstop so good? Donuts—made on-site with fresh ingredients.

It’s a stripped back, minimalist affair with a selection of five to six donuts and that’s it. But the donuts change regularly—one week there might be chocolate and caramel flakes with peanut butter filling, and the next, Earl Grey with rose-flavoured icing, or Australian honey and sea salt—you’ll always be tasting something different. Glazed pretzels and crullers also make a surprise appearance and these exotic treats are just as good.

Coffee is usually a simple choice as well—black or white with full-cream milk. No messing about with your milk alternatives. The black coffee is highly recommended though for that real Boston or New York kind of feeling.

The price is what you’d expect for a donut of this quality—ranging from $4 to $5 per sweet treat. You can also buy boxes of 10 or order online ahead of time for next day pick-up. Go with friends and grab a box for a lunch break unlike any other.
Woodside Green cafe is a home away from home—great coffee and home-made food served by a merry band of helpers directed by the ever cheerful Dot and Albert. From their early start at 5.30am, the cafe is full of office workers, tradies and students who can’t get enough of barista John’s fabulous coffee, Albert’s hamburgers and Dot’s home-made cakes and savoury pies.

Dot and Albert have been cafe owners most of their working lives and it shows. Regulars only have to walk in the door before John starts to make their usual coffee order or Albert enquires about work or family news. The counter is covered in cakes and breakfast food ready to go—Dot can be seen busy in the kitchen making her next batch of rosemary and chicken pies or spicy beef and veg—a treat at $7. Breakfast options range from a three-egg omelette at $12, to the big breakfast that smothers the plate at $20. Customers clamour for the dim sims and potato cakes or Albert’s famous burger. There’s also a separate lunch menu.

Dot’s cakes or muffins rarely last after midday—hunks of sweetness for $4. And if you want to eat in, there are plenty of tables inside and outside of this bustling business. Enjoy great food in a friendly spot just a block from RMIT’s main campus.

‘Tradies’ is the slang word for anyone working on a construction site. Tradies wear orange vests and they still wear shorts in the middle of winter.
Entertain Me
Brunswick Street is one of Melbourne’s great tourist attractions. People watching in Brunswick Street is as much fun as scouring the fabulous shops. Look out for the weekend Rose Street Artists’ Market nearby.

With its windows covered by deep purple curtains, you may miss what The Alchemist has to offer if you walk by in the daylight. However, the gothic-style bar is a magnet for students looking for some downtime at the end of a fact-filled day.

The enchanting atmosphere of The Alchemist is partly due to the restoration of the existing century-old pharmacy cabinets to create the bar. French provincial couches and chairs furnish the candlelit interior, and the chandeliers and candelabras provide a soft light to help you study your drink, or read one of the old books stacked on the antique coffee tables.

A selection of premium spirits is available, as well as complex cocktails that infuse decadent and indulgent ingredients like chocolate, butter and honey to create unforgettable potions. Various nibbles and tapas add to The Alchemist experience, such as the Alchemy Burger and Fries, which has a vegetarian option. The music is low, mixing classic hits of almost all genres. The Alchemist offers a relaxing vibe, a welcome contrast to the usual hustle and bustle of Fitzroy’s nightlife.
The shot tower in Melbourne Central produced six tonnes of shot bullets or pellets weekly between 1888 and 1961. Lead was heated until molten, then dropped from high in the tower.

Asian Beer Cafe

Level 3, Melbourne Central
211 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Mon–Sun 11am–1am

asianbeercafe.com.au

The Asian Beer Cafe is a quirky bar and eatery on the third level of the Melbourne Central complex. It’s a popular spot with students and post-work drinkers and evenings are always crowded. If you arrive early, you can usually get one of the cushioned couches inside or a table outside. The music is loud and the atmosphere cheerful, with old kung fu films and anime playing on large wall-mounted television screens.

Some of the most popular menu items are the cheap pizzas, but there are also delicious Asian-inspired nibbles such as chicken katsu curry and crispy pork belly. There is a nice variety of cocktails on offer too—the signature A Very Long Island is $14—or if you want to share, the cocktail jugs are only $20.

With its central location and reasonable prices, Asian Beer Cafe is a great spot for after-class drinks or pre-party celebrations.
Just a short walk from Flinders Street train station, Bartronica is a magnet for people who love 80s and 90s pop culture. Embrace and indulge your inner child with the nostalgia of retro arcade games and classic consoles, which include Segas and Nintendo 64s. This is a basement bar that exists out of time.

From the street it’s just a door in a wall, and very easy to walk past unless you’re looking for it. The bar has stools, couches and a small outside area—perfect if you want a reprieve from the low lighting of the bar, or the rough and tumble of Bartronica’s occasional ‘Super Smash Bros’ tournaments.

You may want to just sit and watch the action while sipping on one of Bartronica’s retro pop culture themed drinks, which include the DeLorean, the Shredder, and the Fatal Attraction. Some of these even come with Tetris-shaped ice!

Whether you’re playing with mates, celebrating a team victory or fighting over who gets to be Yoshi, Bartronica means that everyone leaves the best of ‘frenemies’.

FACT

Melbourne is home to almost half of Australia’s digital games industry, including over 100 game development studios.
Belleville Melbourne brings barbecue chicken and Asian fusion to a whole new level. Tucked away in Globe Alley, the restaurant-bar boasts a huge Brazilian-style rotisserie, one of four in Australia, and serves free range, slow-roasted chicken until 1am every night of the week. But the menu is much more than just chook and chips. You can also dig into a bowl of green papaya and coconut slaw or a serve of finger-licking sticky pork hock. And if you’re after a bit of a tipple, Belleville offers a selection of menu-matched cocktails.

With the food sorted, and with a packed program of cultural events, Belleville is fast becoming a hub for artists and performers across the city. On any night you can expect to walk in and see everything from performance poetry through to African drumming. Even when the venue is quiet and the perfect lunchtime study hangout, the space oozes culture. There are one-of-a-kind murals created by local graffiti artists, handcrafted furniture built from recycled timber and bubbly staff who are nearly all artists themselves. So if you’re hunting for a new study haunt in the CBD and free wi-fi—or desperate for a late night snack—Belleville is your answer.

The Globe Hotel is a significant Melbourne historical site. In the 1840s, it was an animal pound and later the home of a traditional Chinese joss house or place of worship.
Captain Francis Melville was a convict who became a bushranger. He was transported from Scotland to Tasmania’s Port Arthur penal colony at age 15. When released, he adopted the title ‘Captain’ and roamed Victoria, robbing travellers.
If you’re a student, the Carlton Wine Room may not become your 'local', but who says just because we’re students we can’t have a swanky night out every now and then?

Conveniently located on Faraday Street, the Carlton Wine Room has a wide variety of wines to accompany a cheese platter or a few nibbles. The helpful sommeliers are knowledgeable and without pretension. They’ll tell you colourful stories about each of the wines—which will only make your choice harder. The Carlton Wine Room is a great choice before seeing a show at La Mama theatre, which is only a short walk away. Or indulge in a couple of wines then cross the road for a slice of Italy at DOC Pizzeria. Perfection.

You could also enjoy a drink and nibbles at this Carlton landmark before a movie at the Nova Cinema, or a browse in the Readings bookshop—both a quick walk into Lygon Street. The Carlton Wine Room oozes Melbourne culture and has a range of function rooms too—useful for events with visiting family.

**FACT**

Melbourne’s first Italian eateries originated from the boarding houses of Carlton in the 1950s when newly arrived Italian migrants began cooking home-style meals for their friends.
Noel Gallagher of the rock band Oasis enjoyed his night at Cherry Bar so much that he offered to buy the business.

Located in famous AC/DC lane among walls of street art, Cherry Bar is one of Melbourne’s favourite live-music venues and a must for all music lovers. The bar has hosted a huge number of after-party shows for big international acts, such as Oasis, The Black Keys, Jack Black and Queens of the Stone Age.

But it’s not just big names at Cherry. Local acts appear onstage every day and co-owner James Young is passionate about quality Aussie talent. Memorably, he once said no to Lady Gaga because a local band had already been booked.

While Cherry is first and foremost a rock’n’roll venue, it’s also a great place for music from different genres and eras. So, if metal or grunge isn’t your thing, Thursday is Soul Night and on Sundays they play the blues.

Remember, if you’re going to Cherry for a live act, bands finish at 11.30pm. After that a DJ rocks the house until the small hours. Monday nights are open mic so you can jam onstage with your own band. If you dare!
Curtin House was once the headquarters for the Communist Party, but was raided and shut down in 1940 after communism was outlawed in Australia.

Curtin House, a seven-storey 1920s building on Swanston Street, is home to some of Melbourne’s most popular bars and funkiest shops.

On level one, Cookie offers an Asian menu of small bites or big meals, and boasts 85 imported beers, 350 wines and dozens of cocktails. Enjoy the mood in this bustling bar and eating house, with its elegant French doors and Juliet balconies.

The Toff in Town, on level two, features a boutique performance space, a cool vibe and great music. Chill out with a cocktail in the club area or dine late from the Thai-themed menu. The carriage room—a train carriage running down the centre of the bar—offers a private dining booth with a buzzer for service.

Culture and fashion meet on level three. Browse in specialist arts bookshop Metropolis; hunt for European and Japanese designer labels at dot Comme or cutting edge streetwear at Perks and Mini (PAM).

Take your friends to Mexican bar and restaurant Mesa Verde on level six. The margaritas, tacos and cocktail jugs are made for sharing, and the bartenders are happy to recommend the perfect tequila.

The Rooftop Bar is just as heavenly as it sounds. In summer, after sunset, the Rooftop Cinema screens indie films and art documentaries. It’s a blissful end to a day of eating, drinking and shopping.
The Drunken Poet snagged a spot in the ‘10 Best Irish Pubs In The World (Outside Ireland)’ in 2015.

The Drunken Poet is a quaint Irish pub located over the road from Queen Victoria Market. In keeping with its name, the pub frequently holds events related to literature and music. When there isn’t live music, there’s a retro jukebox with plenty of pub classics to take advantage of—everything from Dexys Midnight Runners to Madonna. Plus, every Friday from 6pm, the bar hosts a traditional Irish music session.

The bar staff are incredibly friendly, so you can feel comfortable sitting at the bar on your own. If you’re looking for a snack, there are toasted sandwiches and pickled onions with cheddar, or grab something from the market and bring it in.

The Drunken Poet has a lengthy drinks list, including a huge selection of Irish whiskeys. Everything is reasonably priced, making for an affordable day or night of drinks, music and laughter. On top of that, the pub boasts the best pint of Guinness in Melbourne. Cheers!
The city of Melbourne was almost named ‘Batmania’ after European settler John Batman. Other names considered were Bearbrass, Bearport, Bareheap and Bearbury.

Good Games is only two minutes’ walk from Melbourne Central and easily accessible by tram. It is located inside an inconspicuous building with advertisements for cheap flights written in Chinese.

Good Games is the hub of the board game, card game and role-playing community. It regularly hosts public and sanctioned Magic the Gathering, Pokemon, Yu-gi-oh, Dragon Ball Z and Fantasy Flight Living Card Game (LCG) tournaments, as well as dedicated Dungeons & Dragons nights. Good Games is a central and fundamental meet-up location for those who want a safe space for private Dungeons & Dragons, or other board and role-playing meet-ups where screaming about slaying bugbears will not cause lifted eyebrows and judgmental whispers.

The prices at Good Games are reasonable and it’s often cheaper than its competitors. Booster packs can be purchased from $3.50 to $6. Board game, LCG chapter packs and card games range from $30 to $180. Good Games also stocks card sleeves, dice, clothing, other gaming merchandise and accessories at competitive prices.
The John Curtin is a pumping local music venue with a huge upstairs area that features Melbourne and interstate bands. Known as The Curtin or JC, this hotel is famous for supporting new bands, new music launches and music mentoring of emerging and professional musicians from refugee and asylum-seeker communities.

If you’re looking for something a little more relaxed than the upstairs band room, the equally spacious downstairs area is spotted with booths and corner tables. Hide away with your friends while the DJ spins a mix of rock classics (think The Stones) and more contemporary tunes from local bands (The Twerps, Dick Diver).

JC has a seated area out front and a delicious range of food styles and specials that change with different kitchen residencies. Currently, Bickle Carribean Canteen are serving up Jamaican-inspired brunch and dinner, with vegetarian and vegan options as well.

Jugs of beer are $13 and there’s also a great collection of craft brews, cocktails, wines and spirits. You cannot beat the JC for good tucker and a comfortable atmosphere.

**FACT**
Brunch is breakfast and lunch together, which is usually around 11am. Tucker is Aussie slang for food.
La Mama Theatre is nationally and internationally acknowledged as a centre of cutting edge, contemporary theatre.

For over 45 years, La Mama has been nurturing and presenting plays and performances by local artists. The two theatre spaces are cosy and intimate and the program is always full of quirky, thought-provoking, edgy events, not to mention a Melbourne favourite—the book launch. The Faraday Street venue has a lovely courtyard that features an outside bar and an open fire (great for the cooler months).

La Mama also hosts a variety of workshops and developmental performances ranging from plays, puppetry and poetry to experimental soundscapes. In keeping with the intention to showcase new talent, La Mama invites submissions from emerging writers and performers and loves fostering creative collaborations. There are opportunities for volunteering and an internship program that’s open to university and international students.

Check out La Mama for some cultural stimulation. It’s more than a theatre, it’s a Melbourne institution.
Loop Project Space & Bar is one of the city’s most stunning event spaces—the place to go for indie film screenings, DJ events, experimental art projects and exhibitions. Located in one of Melbourne’s favourite laneways, Meyers Place, Loop is a destination to excite your senses and feed your imagination.

On weekends you may catch a dance party with guest DJ/VJs and avant-garde artists, or enjoy one of the bar’s themed nights. The menu is simple, but classy—bar food is under $10 and pizzas are $8. The cocktail menu will have your mouth watering, and award-winning bartenders deliver drinks to die for—fancy a Liquid Baklava, Jammy Pom or Nectorious Pique?

If you’re visiting Loop Bar during summer, enjoy your cocktail at the atmospheric Loop Roof, located upstairs. The menu includes food designed to mop up the cocktails; sliders and tacos are favourites. Loop Roof offers a designer-cool garden setting and a dramatic view of the city lights.

Meyers Place is part of Melbourne’s ‘Green Your Laneway’ program, which transforms selected city laneways into leafy, green urban spaces.
The Queensberry Hotel is one of Melbourne’s favourite pubs and has everything students need: cheap beer, wine and meals—and some super weekly specials.

Famous for its ‘parmas’, or variations on the Italian parmigiana, the Queensberry Hotel has seven different variations to choose from. If parmas aren’t your thing, try a Thai beef salad or some bruschetta. There’s a large beer garden with a pool table and heaters to combat the chilly evening air. It’s the perfect place to take the edge off after a long day at uni—or even before your next class.

The Queensberry can also host large functions and staff are more than happy to assist with decorations, DJs, cakes, invitations and more to make your event as memorable as possible. There are regular open mic nights and trivia nights every Wednesday.

The Queensberry Hotel offers great discounts for university students—just show your student card—or become a Student VIP for $10 and get a free welcome beer.

**FACT**

Pubs often have a ‘parma’ on the menu, which can be anything bread-crumbed and layered with cheese or special sauces and served with chips and salad.
WORKSHOP BAR

Level 1, 413 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
Mon 11am–1.30am
Tue–Thu 11am–2am
Fri 11am–3am
Sat 2pm–3am
Sun 3pm–2am

workshopbar.com.au

From the outside you may assume the Workshop Bar attracts a somewhat questionable clientele. A deep red light emanates from the upper floor, basking the concrete below in a scarlet haze, and flaking posters line the external walls, half rotten with damp and mould. Even the inner staircase leaves much to be desired, with the poster-plastered walls almost entirely scrawled over with crude graffiti. But should you make it all the way upstairs to the landing area, you’ll be pleasantly surprised to find a rather trendy and entirely mellow crowd. Well known for its cocktails, Workshop is a great place to have a mid-week drink or spend a quietish evening with friends.

The house specialties rely largely upon seasonal produce, and patrons will be delighted by fresh summer cocktails or more wintry indulgences laced with whisky and gin. The food is good as well, and served till late. If you’re not sure what to have, the best bet is to let the bartender tell you what you feel like—and mix it with dip platters or the pizza specials.

Workshop Bar was once a motorcycle workshop. This end of Elizabeth Street is a haven for motorbike businesses. Indulge your Ducati or Harley cravings and then head to Workshop to enjoy a drink.
The Aboriginal heritage of the land around Melbourne and the Yarra River isn’t just about the past; the story continues in the present. If you’d like to learn more about the city’s Aboriginal history, consider these guided and self-guided walks:

The **Fitzroy Aboriginal Heritage Walking Trail** is a free self-guided tour that begins in the Carlton Gardens and winds through the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood. Post-settlement, these suburbs became the social and political hub for many displaced Indigenous people—and they still are today. Download the walking map from aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com.au. There’s also an interactive history of the Wurundjeri people, from the time of white settlement to the present day.

The **Royal Botanic Gardens Aboriginal Heritage Walk** takes visitors on a journey through the ancestral lands of the Kulin nation, on which the Gardens are located. Led by an Indigenous guide, this walk focuses on the local Aboriginal culture of the area and the connection to the land. Experience a traditional ‘Welcome to Country’ smoking ceremony and discover Indigenous uses of plants for food, tools and healing. The walk is on every day, except Saturdays, from 11am to 12.30pm and is wheelchair accessible. Bookings are required. Visit rbg.vic.gov.au/whats-on for more information.

**FACT**

In Aboriginal culture, Bunjil the eagle is the creator and spiritual being of the lands of the Kulin nation. His legend inspired the 25-metre eagle sculpture on Wurundjeri Way that has become a Docklands landmark.
In 2015, the Arts Centre hosted over 4000 performances for more than 2.7 million people.
CARLTON GARDENS

Corner Rathdowne and Victoria streets, Carlton

Head east from RMIT along Queensberry or Victoria streets, cross Rathdowne Street and you will be greeted by a green oasis. Carlton Gardens and the magnificent Royal Exhibition Building were created for the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880, and in 2004 they were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The award-winning Melbourne Museum is also located in Carlton Gardens and is a must-see for any newbie to Melbourne.

Before you venture indoors for a history or culture overload, visit the gardens—fill your lungs with fresh air, feed the ducks, sit and enjoy a picnic or stroll along the paths lined with tall gracious trees. You may find yourself in front of a spectacular flowerbed, an ornamental lake or a grand fountain. Sit and watch a game of tennis, children in the playground, a wedding party or a bustling group of tourists taking in the sights of Melbourne.

From the moment you walk into these stunning gardens you will forget you are on the edge of the city and the stress of study will drop away.

FACT

The Royal Exhibition Building showcases a wide variety of exhibitions and festivals and has hosted everything from Olympic events to pet shows.
Melbourne hosts one of the world’s biggest LGBTIQ celebrations, Midsumma Festival. The festival is held in January and February.

Located off Brunswick Street in the heart of Fitzroy, Hares & Hyenas is Melbourne’s only dedicated queer bookstore, and has been operating for 25 years.

Aside from being a bookstore stocking fiction, non-fiction, magazines, DVDs, tickets, CDs and LGBTIQ merchandise and memorabilia, it also operates as a cafe and bar, serving organic coffee and sweet treats.

At night, Hares & Hyenas transforms into a performance venue seating up to 75 people. It hosts regular LGBTIQ performances, poetry readings, book launches and other events.

Hares & Hyenas is considered a community hub where Melbourne’s LGBTIQ literary crowd enjoy shopping for all queer-related reading and entertainment.

Hares & Hyenas is a short walk from the 96 and 11 trams.
The Wurundjeri people, part of the Kulin nation, lived on the land as hunters and gatherers for tens of thousands of years before European settlement.
Melbourne is famous for its culture, especially in the iconic maze of laneways and arcades that run from block to block throughout the city. Street art, designer boutiques, vintage stores, restaurants and bars all thrive away from the main streets, but look closely and you can still see hints of Melbourne’s past mixed among the honeypot of creativity, energy and innovation.

**Bank Place** is home to the Mitre Tavern, Melbourne’s oldest pub, established in 1867, while **Hardware Lane**—once filled with blacksmiths and horses—is now lined with restaurants that retain the original warehouse facades. **Hosier Lane**, with its old-world bluestone pavers, has some of the best street and stencil art in town.

In **Market Lane** and **Crossley Street** (yes, it’s a lane!), take your pick of the international cuisine on offer from Malaysian to Italian, Cantonese to Japanese. Explore the tiny cafes along **Degraves Street** and **Centre Place**.

The **Block Arcade**, a favourite of wealthy 19th-century residents who paraded in their finery—called ‘doing the Block’—and the **Royal Arcade**, Australia’s oldest shopping arcade, are both fine examples of Victorian-era architecture featuring beautiful tiled floors and light-filled canopies.
A must-see for those visiting the city, the Melbourne Aquarium is the perfect place to spend a swimmingly good day of wonder and education.

Located opposite the Crown Entertainment Complex, the aquarium is a short walk from both Southern Cross and Flinders Street stations, and is accessible from the free City Circle tram, or routes 70 and 75.

Concession entry starts from $29.25 and will get you into the 12 habitat zones of the aquarium. Get your hands wet in the rock pools, count the teeth on the saltwater crocodiles, gush over the fluffy penguins or be mesmerised by the vibrant coral caves.

For the thrillseekers, the Melbourne Aquarium offers additional experiences such as the daring Shark Dive Xtreme or the Glass Bottom Boat Tour. For something a little more comfortable, step onto the ice with the penguins, go behind the scenes of the aquarium or check out the other educational experiences on offer.

FACT
Melbourne Aquarium is involved in conservation initiatives, including turtle rescue and penguin breeding.
You may have noticed the blue stations dotted around the CBD, with bikes lined up, begging to be ridden. Melbourne Bike Share was established to help support a more sustainable lifestyle and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is essentially a hire system: punch in a code, unlock a bike, ride to another station that’s near your destination, and lock the bike up there (no need to return it to its original place).

The bikes are heavy, but they ride smoothly and have three gears. They feature a chain, mud and skirt guard to protect your clothes and a front rack with an elastic strap for a medium-sized bag or briefcase.

To hire a bike, simply purchase a ticket at the bike station kiosk using a Visa or MasterCard. Costs depend on how long the ride takes, but if your travel time is under 30 minutes, your trip is free. Stations are located throughout the CBD and surrounding suburbs. Download the Spotcycle app, plot your route with the online map and get peddling!

Bike helmets are required to be worn by law—you can find them at bike stores or any 7-Eleven.
As an officially recognised UNESCO City of Literature, Melbourne is home to world-class bookstores that are treasured by readers of all kinds. At the top of the list is Readings, an independent bookseller and a cornerstone of the literary landscape. Readings has stores in Carlton, Doncaster, Hawthorn, Malvern, St Kilda, and the State Library. It champions local writers and holds regular panel events, author signings, in-store performances and book launches.

Near the Spring Street end of Bourke Street are two great bookstores, stocking a selection of Australian and international titles and journals. The Paperback Bookshop is perfect to help with finishing that last-minute essay—it closes late! Two doors down on Bourke Street, the Hill of Content offers specialist, contemporary non-fiction titles and unique literary fiction.

Dymocks Melbourne offers a large variety of genres including popular fiction and an extensive range of children’s titles—and it has a coffee shop. Embiggen Books, across the road from the State Library, has a strong focus on popular science and philosophy titles.

Finally, the go-to store for graphic novels, comics and memorabilia is All Star Comics, which is also highly regarded for promoting the comic-creating community.

FACT

Melburnians love books! We consume more books, magazines and newspapers than anywhere else in Australia.
In Melbourne’s earlier years, most homes did not have a bathroom. Bathing involved a swim in the Yarra River or Port Phillip Bay. The Melbourne City Baths was built initially to provide a public bathing facility.
The Melbourne Cricket Ground (known to locals as the MCG, or just the ‘G) is one of the most iconic landmarks in Melbourne. It was the ground used for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, the 2006 Commonwealth Games, every Australian Rules Football Grand Final, the Ashes Test cricket series and the 2015 Cricket World Cup Final.

Between late October and late March the ‘G is home to cricket, including the Boxing Day Test. From late March, the cricket pitches are replaced with turf and the footy season starts. The MCG also hosts other sports and events, including State of Origin rugby.

Apart from attending sporting matches, you can also do tours of its facilities and history. There is the 75-minute MCG guided tour of the stadium, or the National Sports Museums Tour, which visits the Olympic Museum, the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, as well as other exhibitions. Both tours run regularly throughout the day with the first at 10am and the last at 3pm. You can enjoy one tour ($23 adult and $18.50 concession), or both tours ($31.50 adult and $25 concession). International students who purchase an MCG Tour are able to visit the National Sports Museum for free if they present their international student card at the time of purchase.

**FACT**

The MCG is the largest sporting stadium in the southern hemisphere. Don't miss a game of footy at the ‘G.
The Melbourne Museum is just one of many museums with free entry for students—also visit the Immigration Museum on Flinders Street and Scienceworks in the suburb of Spotswood.

Wander into the midst of the lush Carlton Gardens to find the largest museum in the southern hemisphere. The Melbourne Museum is a place to learn, discover and explore the richness of the world. The building itself is a post-modernist structural composition, with mind-boggling concrete ramps extending skywards.

It’s a great spot to bring kids, but just as interesting for curious adults fascinated by natural and cultural history. The museum hosts exhibitions from around the world, from Ancient Egyptian mummies to dinosaurs from China. It houses permanent feature exhibits like the skeleton of a pygmy blue whale, and five permanent galleries including one exploring the mind and body. The site also features a cafe and souvenir shop, and borders an IMAX cinema that screens 3D films.

Within the museum building, don’t miss the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, which is a treasure trove of Aboriginal history and installations. It documents Victorian Aboriginal history in the First Peoples exhibit and showcases hundreds of artefacts. A bright gallery space has changing art exhibitions overlooking the Milarri Garden, where daily talks and eel feeding take place.
Discover the delights of Melbourne by taking a tram from RMIT down Swanston Street to Federation Square and using the Melbourne Visitor Shuttle. This fascinating tour of the city includes stories of its colourful past and distinctive present, and gives a good understanding of how Melbourne works. A $10 ticket will get you two consecutive days of unlimited travel and you can jump on or off at any of the 13 stops along the way.

First stop after Federation Square is Melbourne’s sporting hub and the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Up next are Chinatown and the theatre district, followed by the Melbourne Museum and Carlton Gardens. At Lygon Street, you can immerse yourself in the city’s Italian heritage and grab a bowl of excellent pasta.

En route to the Royal Botanic Gardens, the bus stops at Melbourne University, Queen Victoria Market, Docklands and Etihad Stadium. After a cool stroll around the glorious gardens, jump back on the bus to visit the arts precinct. At this end of St Kilda Road you can walk back to Federation Square or along the river via Southbank. It’s guaranteed you won’t be alone!

FACT

The deck of Federation Square is supported by over 4000 vibration-absorbing spring coils and rubber padding. You can feel it bounce under your feet when a tram rolls by.
The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is the oldest and most visited gallery in Australia, with over 70,000 works of art—the most significant collection in the region. It spans two major sites within walking distance of each other: NGV International on St Kilda Road, and NGV Australia including the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square.

At NGV International you can dip your fingers in the water wall at the entrance, then make your way towards the back of the building to gaze up at the world’s largest stained glass ceiling. The gallery spaces host a celebrated program of international touring exhibitions—from modernist masters to classical greats. Of particular note is the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces, an annual series of touring exhibitions from prestigious international galleries.

The permanent collection is home to an extensive range of European, Oceanic, American and Asian masterpieces, including paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, furniture and fashion.

The Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square is the first major gallery in the world dedicated exclusively to Australian art. Explore a diverse range of Australian art, including Aboriginal art and artefacts, colonial, impressionist, modern and contemporary Australian paintings, as well as drawings, sculpture and textiles.

NGV Garden, the gallery’s leafy outdoor sculpture park, has free entertainment on Sunday afternoons in February, with music from bands and DJs, and a pop-up bar and barbecue.
Known affectionately as the ‘Vic Market’ or ‘Queen Vic’, this fresh food market has been the heart and soul of Melbourne for more than 135 years. Partly constructed over the old Melbourne Cemetery, the site is a vibrant and bustling inner-city market.

Shop at more than 700 stalls for good quality fruit and vegetables and gourmet foods, handmade cosmetics, clothing, leather goods, jewellery, arts and crafts. As well as delighting in variety and affordability, you may be impressed with the market’s sustainable practices, which include water harvesting, waste reduction, recycling and worm farms. The market is plastic-bag free, it has more than 1300 solar panels installed on the shed roofs and is a member of the Fair Trade Association. So grab a coffee with a clear conscience and indulge in the awesome bakery treats at one of the dozens of cafes, or pick up some deli cheeses and organic fruit juice and head to nearby Flagstaff Gardens for a picnic.

Live music on a Sunday afternoon adds to the atmosphere. During the summer months, the Night Market is open on Wednesdays from 5pm to 10pm and attracts thousands of visitors. Whenever you go, allow several hours to explore, indulge and relax!

**FACT**

Melbourne's first major cemetery was on the market site. There are still more than 7000 bodies buried under the market sheds and car park.
The Sanctuary within the Shrine of Remembrance is specifically designed so that a ray of light illuminates the word ‘love’ at 11am each 11 November, to commemorate the Armistice of 11 November 1918, which ended World War I.

The Shrine of Remembrance, Victoria’s most significant war memorial, is located in the Kings Domain parkland next to the Royal Botanic Gardens. It is an historic and beautiful place to visit.

Dedicated in 1934, the Shrine honours those who have served in war and peacekeeping operations throughout Australia’s history. While the Shrine was originally erected to commemorate the devastating losses of life that Victoria suffered in World War I, it has now become a symbol for all Australians killed in combat.

The Shrine is home to a comprehensive Visitor and Education Centre, the Galleries of Remembrance and Medals, a below ground Crypt, memorial gardens, and balcony promenades that offer spectacular views of Melbourne. There are numerous events and exhibitions to visit, and significant sculptures and architecture to see. On Anzac Day, 25 April, the Dawn Service and Anzac Day March take place—a special day in the Shrine’s calendar.

Admission is free, although donations are encouraged, and there are daily tours starting at 11am and 2pm. Self-guided tours are available in English and Chinese.

The Shrine is easily accessible via public transport—simply hop on any tram heading along St Kilda Road (except Route 1) and disembark at Stop 19.
Established in 1854 as ‘the people’s university’, State Library Victoria (SLV) is the oldest public library in Australia. More than just a book repository, it is a museum, art gallery and cultural hub. Several galleries host permanent displays as well as many different exhibitions, talks and tours—not to mention Ned Kelly’s famous armour.

The building itself is reason alone to visit. Start in the garden, a favourite place for lunching locals and discover the storybook-inspired statues. Inside, discover quiet art alcoves and walk through historical architecture in the La Trobe reading room, where quiet shoes are recommended! Look up to view the impressive dome and then head to the viewing deck on level six.

The SLV is a functioning library but you can’t take books out of the building. You do have access though to an overwhelming array of books, music, newspaper archives and other resources. Just ask for help at the information desk or check out the website. Food is not allowed in the library (although there is a cafe if you get hungry) and large bags must be stored in lockers.

The SLV grounds have always been a mecca for public gatherings, protests, buskers and free events. Even if you don’t venture inside, the atmosphere in front of this grand Melbourne landmark is a must for any Melbourne visitor.
Tour
Me
MELBOURNE AND BEYOND

There’s so much to discover and experience in Melbourne outside of the city centre. So we’ve compiled a selection of things to see and do beyond the CBD, from the inner suburbs of Brunswick and St Kilda, right down to the Victorian coast.

In Neighbourhoods, we provide an overview of Melbourne’s north, south, east and west, and share what makes each of these areas unique. Explore historic streetscapes, shop at a bustling market or relax in a quiet park—there’s something for everyone in these inner-city areas of Melbourne, all of which are easily accessible by public transport from RMIT.

If group activities are more your thing, check out RMIT Link Trips. We’ve listed the top five most popular experiences for discovering Melbourne as well as a collection of day trips for exploring Victoria. From city dinners and coffee experiences to pristine beaches and rural coastlines, these trips are a great way to connect with other students and make new friends while settling into university life in Melbourne. RMIT Link also offers a huge range of sports, arts and recreation programs for all students to participate in.

Whether you’re looking for a place to live while you call Melbourne home, or just wanting to escape the city with other students for an out-of-town adventure, we have you covered.
Melbourne’s inner north was once a mix of workers’ cottages, industry and farmland. Today the factories have given way to coffee-roasters, cafes and live-music venues. With plentiful public transport—six tram lines, three train lines and countless buses—the inner north is a convenient home base for those who work or study in the city.

Take the number 11 tram into Fitzroy and visit Melbourne’s famous Brunswick Street for a day of fashion, food and fun. Across Alexandra Parade, North Fitzroy has a quieter village feel. Enjoy a picnic in Edinburgh Gardens or feast on vegetarian comfort food at the Moroccan Soup Bar—bring your own container for take-aways!

High Street in Northcote is a mecca of cool with plenty of quirky bars and shops. Check out Open Studio for crepes, music and spoken word—the crowd is friendly and always keen for a dance. And don’t miss the view of the city from the top of Ruckers Hill.

Sydney Road, Brunswick, is an eclectic mix of food choices and fashion design. Scrumptious kebabs and gozleme are a feature of many shops along the way. In March, the Sydney Road Street Party becomes a seething mass of locals feasting on middle-eastern delights, showing off their tattoos and enjoying their multicultural neighbours. It’s part of the Brunswick Music Festival, which celebrates cultural diversity and artistic expression.

Need a nature fix? East Brunswick is home to a rural oasis in the middle of the city. Walk or ride your bike along the Merri Creek Trail then stop off at CERES Community Environment Park to learn about urban agriculture and sustainability.

EXPLORE THE NORTH

Moroccan Soup Bar
183 St Georges Road, North Fitzroy

Open Studio
204 High Street, Northcote

Sydney Road Street Party
Sunday 5 March 2017
12pm-7pm
Sydney Road, Brunswick

Merri Creek Trail
bit.ly/MerriCreek

CERES
Corner Stewart and Roberts streets, East Brunswick
Historically considered the more affluent side of the river, Melbourne’s inner south features an excellent bar and restaurant scene. The fashion, entertainment and trendy vibe make this area a popular destination for the young-at-heart.

Some of Melbourne’s best Victorian-era architecture can be found in one of the city’s oldest suburbs, South Melbourne, which is also a great place to shop. Stop by the South Melbourne Market for fresh produce, unique gifts and delicious food—the dim sims are world famous.

Bordered by the Yarra River, South Yarra is the epicentre of Melbourne fashion. The ever-fashionable Chapel Street begins here with its designer clothing stores and beautiful shop fronts. Explore the Jam Factory—an old brewery turned shopping and entertainment complex—or detour down Alexandra Avenue and visit Herring Island, a hidden sculpture park accessible only by boat.

Further along Chapel Street, Prahran has an edgier vibe with many eclectic shops and cafes. Wander down Greville Street and browse the classic vinyls at Greville Records, or continue along Chapel Street to Windsor for more cafe culture. Hungry? Stop in at Hawker Hall, a bustling eatery and beer hall with a south-east Asian focus.

A suburb with a colourful history, St Kilda has always been a magnet for artists, musicians and travellers. At its heart, the famous Acland and Fitzroy streets are the perfect place to grab a coffee. Visit the iconic ‘Espy’ Hotel, or get your fill of fun and thrills at Luna Park and ride the historic Scenic Railway. Built in 1912, it is the world’s oldest operating wooden-framed rollercoaster. At the end of the day, watch the sun go down at St Kilda Beach, one of the city’s most popular bayside beaches.
NEIGHBOURHOODS—EAST
COLLINGWOOD, ABBOTSFORD, KEW, HAWTHORN, RICHMOND

Defined by leafy green streets and a mix of trendy and traditional homes, Melbourne’s east is where you’ll find vibrant cafes, restaurants and nightlife, as well as quiet neighbourhoods, parks and gardens. A number of train lines, tram routes and bike paths weave their way through these suburbs, making the east easily accessible from the city.

Collingwood radiates a strong sense of community and urban cool. Stroll along Smith Street and check out any number of bars or eateries; the Grace Darling hotel has a great vibe and a long history. Smith Street is also a haven for factory outlets with popular brands and even more popular prices.

For some inner-city relaxation by the water, Dights Falls in Abbotsford is perfect. Nearby, Abbotsford Convent is Australia’s largest multi-arts precinct. Home to over 100 studios, galleries, cafes and even a radio station, the Convent hosts year-round workshops, exhibitions, markets, events and festivals.

Across the Yarra River in Kew, hire a rowboat or canoe at Studley Park Boat House and explore the river, then enjoy a meal or a picnic in beautiful natural parkland.

Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, is a bustling shopping strip filled with specialty stores and places to eat. Drop into Dumpling King for excellent yum cha.

Richmond is also home to some great restaurants, including I Love Pho on Victoria Street and Bouzy Rouge on Bridge Road. For a sweet treat, try Gelato Messina on Swan Street. For a world-class sporting experience, don’t miss a visit to Melbourne’s sports and entertainment precinct where you’ll find the historically and culturally significant Melbourne Cricket Ground, AAMI Park, Rod Laver Arena, Hisense Arena, Yarra Park and Olympic Park.

EXPLORE THE EAST

| Abbotsford Convent | 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford |
| Study Park Boat House | 1 Boathouse Road, Kew |
| I Love Pho | 264 Victoria Street, Richmond |
| Gelato Messina | 164 Swan Street, Richmond |
| Yarra Park | Brunton Avenue, Richmond |

Tour Me
Formerly Melbourne’s industrial heartland, the inner west is now a mix of apartments and cottages with everything from markets and music venues to keep you busy. Once a working class area, these suburbs are being transformed as young families move in to take advantage of the locale’s affordability and proximity to the city.

A short ride from town on either the Williamstown or Werribee train lines, Footscray is one of Melbourne’s most culturally diverse areas, best known for its vibrant Asian and African communities. Pick up a cheap meal at one of the multitude of Vietnamese restaurants, or satisfy your sugar cravings with some authentic Italian cannoli at T. Cavallaro & Sons. Fancy some entertainment? The Reverence Hotel has bands playing most nights of the week, and a regular trivia night every Wednesday.

Located in picturesque Yarraville, the Sun Theatre screens all the latest releases in a beautiful art deco setting. Stop by for a movie and popcorn then browse the Sun Bookshop next door for some entertainment of the literary kind.

Further down the line in Spotswood, Scienceworks is the museum for all things scientific. Visit the Planetarium for some stargazing, the Sportsworks for a fitness check-up and the Lightning Room for a live demonstration of the powers of electricity. Best of all, it’s free for students.

For a day of leisure, take a trip to historic Williamstown, home of Melbourne’s first sea port. Discover the area’s maritime and military history, or grab an ice-cream and take a relaxing stroll along the foreshore reserve. Gem Pier offers stunning views of Melbourne’s skyline and cruises of the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay depart from here.

**EXPLORE THE WEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Cavallaro &amp; Sons</td>
<td>98 Hopkins Street, Footscray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reverence Hotel</td>
<td>28 Napier Street, Footscray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Theatre</td>
<td>8 Ballarat Street, Yarraville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scienceworks</td>
<td>2 Booker Street, Spotswood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gem Pier</td>
<td>1 Syme Street, Williamstown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RMIT LINK: Discover Melbourne

RMIT's Discover Melbourne trips are designed for both international and local students to connect with each other, while experiencing the best food, culture and events—all at a subsidised cost to suit the student budget! Explore Melbourne and make some new mates with one of the many trips in and around the city.

**EUREKA TOWER**
Visit the tallest tower in Melbourne, perfectly positioned for a 360-degree view of the city. Spend time with RMIT students on a trip that will leave you suspended almost 300 metres above the ground!

**DOCKLANDS ICE SKATING**
Whether you’re stepping onto the ice for the first time or you’re a champion on skates, master your skills with this 90-minute experience.

**COFFEE CLUB AND DISCOVER MELBOURNE CLUB REWARDS**
The Rewards Clubs are a great way to embrace uni life and make new friends. For an annual fee of only $20, you can enjoy one activity or a free coffee at different locations across Melbourne, every month between February and October.

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**
RMIT’s Progressive Dinner takes you on a social food journey. From delectable entrees to mouth-watering mains and indulgent desserts, this activity is ideal for filling your belly on a student budget.

**FOOD AND COFFEE EXPERIENCE**
Sample some of the best coffee and food in and around town. Discover Melbourne’s suburbs and experience the city’s unique coffee culture.

**CONNECT ONLINE**

RMIT Trips | rmit_trips

Book your spot by visiting the RMIT Link Trips page: rmitlink.rmit.edu.au
RMIT LINK:
Explore Victoria

Starting at only $50, Explore Victoria trips are designed with the student in mind. Whether you’re an international student wanting to see Victoria’s sights or a local student who wants to get out of the city, these chartered day trips offer RMIT students the chance to connect and create unforgettable memories.

GREAT OCEAN ROAD
Follow the twists and turns through one of the world’s most stunning coastal drives! Visit popular destinations along the way including Torquay, Apollo Bay, Otway National Park, Port Campbell National Park, Loch Ard Gorge, Gibson Steps and the Twelve Apostles.

PHILLIP ISLAND
Connect with RMIT students as you explore the sandy beaches and rocky coastlines of Phillip Island. Witness the famous Penguin Parade, or get up close with koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and emus at one of the island’s nature parks.

WILSONS PROMONTORY
Take a day trip with fellow students to Victoria’s nature wonderland. Explore Pillar Point and Mount Bishop by bushwalking through the wilderness, and finish with a stroll along Squeaky Beach.

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK
One of the world’s oldest mountain ranges, the Grampians are awe-inspiring. Led by experienced guides, travel from the heart of the national park to the delightful town of Halls Gap.

LEARN TO SURF
The best way to get started with surfing is to get in the water with other RMIT students! Grab a board and receive two lessons from highly qualified instructors at Ocean Grove’s main beach.

More information about trips, events and opportunities offered by RMIT Link can be found online.

rmitlink.rmit.edu.au
Access for all is very important to Link so please discuss your needs with organisers.

trips@rmit.edu.au
Phone +61 3 9925 3751

Guide Melbourne
Assist Me
MY ESSENTIALS

ACCOMMODATION

Shared accommodation
flatmatefinders.com.au

Private rental accommodation
realestate.com.au/rent

Tenants rights
Information, advice, assistance and advocacy for tenants in public and private rental accommodation
tuv.org.au

TRANSPORT

Public transport timetables and maps
ptv.vic.gov.au

Myki
Myki cards are electronic smartcards used for travel on all trains, trams and buses in Victoria, except within the Free Tram Zone (see map, page 6).
Cards can be purchased from retail outlets identified by the Myki logo, including all 7–11 convenience stores. Myki cards need to be activated before use by adding money to the card balance. At the start of each journey, touch your Myki card onto a Myki reader. Touch off at the end of each trip so you are charged the lowest fare for your journey.

There are fines for travelling without a valid Myki card and ticket inspectors are active on all tram and train routes.
ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki

Getting to other RMIT campuses

Brunswick campus: 25 Dawson Street
1 Upfield train from Melbourne Central station to Jewel station
2 Route 19 tram from Elizabeth Street to Glenlyon Road, stop 21

Bundoora campus: Plenty Road
1 Route 86 tram from Bourke Street to stop 70 (west side) or stop 71 (east side)

SOCIAL

All things Melbourne
broadsheet.com.au/melbourne

Melbourne entertainment and culture
timeout.com/melbourne

Meet people who share your interests
meetup.com

Find out what’s on in Melbourne
thatsmelbourne.com.au

COMMUNICATIONS

Australia has four main telecommunication service providers—Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and Virgin Mobile. Information on current plans and pricing is available online.
telstra.com.au
optus.com.au
vodafone.com.au
virginmobile.com.au
SUPPLIES

General
Advertisements for jobs, housing, second-hand furnishings and more
gumtree.com.au

Supermarkets close to RMIT
Aldi
8 Franklin Street, Melbourne
Mon–Sun 8.30am–8pm

Woolworths
QV, corner Swanston and Lonsdale streets, Melbourne
Mon–Sun 8am–11pm

Op-shops
Salvos
19 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Mon–Fri 9am–5.30pm
Sat 9am–5pm, Sun closed

Savers
330 Sydney Road, Brunswick
Mon–Wed, Sat–Sun 9am–7pm
Thu–Fri 9am–9pm

FINANCES

General information on banking while studying in Australia
studiesinaustralia.com/studying-in-australia/banking-in-australia

Commonwealth Bank
RMIT city campus
Building 80, Level 2, Room 16
445 Swanston Street
Mon–Fri 9.30am–4pm
commbank.com.au/personal/can/student-banking/overseas-students

WORK

Fair Work Ombudsman
Information and advice about your workplace rights and obligations, available in many languages
fairwork.gov.au
ombudsman.gov.au/about/overseas-students

Australian Taxation Office
Everything you need to know about your tax obligations if working in Australia
ato.gov.au/individuals/international-tax-for-individuals/coming-to-australia

LEGAL

Evidence of identity
You will need valid photo ID to do many things—from opening a bank account or getting a Victorian drivers licence, to signing a mobile phone contract or going to the pub.

Your passport is the best form of ID, but must be accompanied by an approved English translation if it’s in a language other than English. Alternatively, you can get an Australian Proof of Age card, which costs $10 and allows you to enter licensed premises and buy alcohol.
bity/Proof-of-Age
MY ESSENTIALS

Consumer Affairs Victoria
Information about consumer rights and information and advice about housing
Phone 1300 558 181
Mon–Fri 9am–5pm, except public holidays
consumer.vic.gov.au

Victoria Legal Aid
Free legal advice and information, available in many languages
legalaid.vic.gov.au

HEALTH

EMERGENCY—DIAL 000
For life-threatening or emergency situations, call 000 (triple zero) from any landline, mobile or public pay phone.

Hospitals and clinics
Royal Melbourne Hospital
300 Grattan Street, Parkville
thermh.org.au

The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne
720 Swanston Street, Carlton
dhsv.org.au/home

Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic
580 Swanston Street, Carlton
mshc.org.au

For more information about health services near RMIT campuses
rmit.edu.au/students/health/clinics

Pharmacies
Melbourne Central Pharmacy
Corner La Trobe and Swanston streets, Melbourne
Mon–Wed 8am–7pm
Thu–Fri 8am–8pm
Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–6pm

Chemist Warehouse
345 Bourke Street
Mon–Fri 7.30am–9pm
Sat–Sun 9am–9pm

Counselling services
RMIT Counselling Service
Professional counselling for all RMIT students
Phone +61 3 9925 4365
rmit.edu.au/counselling

Beyondblue
Support for anyone struggling with depression and anxiety
24-hour phone service 1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

Lifeline
Crisis support and suicide prevention services
24-hour phone service 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au
RMIT STUFF

RMIT GLOBAL EXPERIENCES OFFICE
For general enquiries relating to global experience programs and opportunities
global.mobility@rmit.edu.au
bit.ly/studyabroadandexchange
You can also find us on social media:
facebook.com/exploRMIT
bit.ly/inboundgoogleplus
instagram.com/explormit
or visit RMIT Connect.

RMIT CONNECT
RMIT Connect is where you access student administration and support, plus work and study opportunities.
Phone +61 3 9925 5000
Mon–Thu 9am–5pm,
Fri 10am–5pm
City campus
New Academic Street
Brunswick campus
Building 514, Level 1, Room 15
Bundoora campus
Building 202, Level 2, Room 10
rmit.edu.au/students/connect

STUDY AND LEARNING CENTRE
Free study and learning advice around English, writing, study skills, and mathematics and physics
studyandlearningcentre@rmit.edu.au
rmit.edu.au/studyandlearningcentre

JOB SHOP
Your drop-in service centre for all things career related, including job skills workshops, career events, resume tips and assistance with a range of online career resources.
City campus
Building 8, Level 3, Room 38
Mon–Fri 9am–5pm
rmit.edu.au/careers/jobshop

PRAYER ROOMS
RMIT is committed to supporting the religious practices of staff and students from a diverse range of faiths. Prayer rooms are available on every campus.
bit.ly/prayerrooms

RMIT LINK
RMIT LINK runs trips in and out of Melbourne, and engages with a huge range of student creative and sporting clubs. See pages 65–66 of this guide for more information.
rmitlink.rmit.edu.au

RUSU
The RMIT University Student Union has your rights on campus covered—whether it’s your right to party, your right to free food and drinks, your right to fair assessment or your right to be who you want to be.
su.rmit.edu.au
facebook.com/RUSUpage
SPEAK TO ME
A GUIDE TO AUSSIE LINGO

Anzac
WWI soldier from Australia or New Zealand

Arvo
afternoon

Bathers
swim costume

BBQ
barbecue

Bottle-o
liquor store

Brekkie
breakfast

Cactus
broken

Chemist
pharmacist

Chockas
completely full

Cops
police officers

Esky
ice cooler

Footy
Aussie rules football (AFL)

Flat white
white coffee with thin layer of foam

Larrikin
a rebellious but kind-hearted person

Lingo
local language or speech

Macca's
McDonald's restaurant

Mate
friend

Mozzie
mosquito

No worries
everything’s fine

Op-shop
sells cheap, pre-owned items

Parma
parmigiana (Italian dish)

Potato cake
a thin slice of potato, battered and deep fried

Shout a drink
to buy someone a drink

Snag
a sausage

Stoked
very pleased

Ta
thank you

Tradie
any person who works on a building site

Thongs
a rubber sandal or flip-flop

U-ey
u-turn

Uni
university

Wag
take a day off school

Yeah nah or nah yeah
no or yes, respectively
Welcome to Melbourne!

Guide Melbourne is your guide to the city and beyond, created by other RMIT students just for you. Discover the best places to eat, relax and explore and make Melbourne your home away from home.