

# Freefalling Around Melbourne

Melbourne and its neighbouring suburbs are wonderful for wandering – with loads of free activities to keep everyone amused.

## Day 1



### Do it yourself

A serviced apartment is a good idea if you are travelling en famille, as once in a while you can do your own cooking and laundry and the rooms are generally more spacious. One example is **Quest Hero**, a friendly hideaway in the heart of Melbourne, on the corner of Russell and Little Collins Street. There are spacious and modern one, two and three bedroom apartments, most featuring striking views of the city, and all complete with the comforts of home!

### Getting Around

A good way to get an overview of the city is a trip on the **free City Circle Tram** which travels around the city's boundary every 12 minutes or so in each direction, from 10am to 6pm daily (except Christmas Day & Good Friday) and during Daylight Saving's extended hours, from 10am-9pm, Thursday to Saturday. A recorded commentary tells you what to look for as the tram passes through the landscape. To catch it wait at any of the specially marked stops on the route which travels along **Flinders, Spring and Latrobe Streets** and **Harbour Esplanade**

### Shopping Heaven

Window-shopping is a free activity and enormous fun can be had at **Chadstone Shopping Centre**, 'the fashion capital', located about 20 minutes' drive south east from the city centre. It's home to almost 400 stores, including local and international designers, bookshops, cafés, bars and entertainment for the whole family – including bowling and 16 cinemas. You can get there from the city via a **free bus** which operates from Wednesday to Sunday with two return coach services from the city – at 9.30am and 10.30am, from the corner of Swanston and Little Bourke Streets. You can return to the city on 3pm or 4.30pm departures from Chadstone.

in the **Docklands**. The round trip takes about 40 minutes.

### Heritage & History

Another way to get your bearings around Melbourne is to take a self-guided walk following Melbourne's **Golden Mile Heritage Trail**. The trail includes the city's heritage precincts, city streets, arcades and laneways and some of Australia's most important buildings. You can follow the four kilometre trail on your own, starting from **Federation Square**, or walk in the opposite direction from the **Melbourne Museum**, or anywhere in between. Booklets containing details of the trail are available from visitor outlets and museums along the route. Guided tours depart daily at 10am from Federation Square.

### A Bite to Eat

Melbourne is a multicultural city and food is an integral part of its character. A must-see destination is the open-air **Queen Victoria Market**, a great place for fresh food and produce of all kinds – and lunch. While you are here you could pick up some local delicacies for dinner 'at home'! Open Tuesdays, Thursdays,

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the market is a great place to meet some locals – many Melburnians do their shopping here.

### Gardens for Life

Melbourne is Australia's 'greenest' city, with an extensive network of **parks and gardens**. During your stay you can freely visit one or many of these green spaces within the city environment. The Parliament Gardens provides a pleasant retreat on Spring Street with views of Parliament House and St Patrick's Cathedral. Enjoy the Coles Fountain where you can walk inside the curtains of cascading water – a pleasant experience on a hot Melbourne day.

Boarded by Wellington Parade, Lansdowne Street, Clarendon Street and Albert Street, East Melbourne's **Fitzroy Gardens** contain avenues of mature elms which are of national significance. A substantial collection of 19th century buildings survive within these gardens together with attractions such as the indoor horticultural displays in the **Conservatory, the Fairies' Tree, Model Tudor Village** and **Cooks' Cottage**.

Remember you must book your seat on this service.

### Head for the Sea

After a few hours of shopping, **St Kilda** is a great place for a sea breeze and a leisurely amble along the foreshore. **The Catani Gardens** are bordered by Beaconsfield Parade and Jacka Boulevard – approximately six hectares of landscaped gardens. Also in St Kilda you will find the **St Kilda Botanical Gardens** in Blessington Street. These gardens retain elements of their original layout and early features, and also contain the spectacular **Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden**, a giant chess board, a children's play space, glasshouses and the

Eco-centre which offers lessons on sustainable living practice. An ornamental pond has a **Rain Man** fountain which runs on solar power and recycled water from the pond below.

### Alfresco Dining

There are restaurants too numerous to mention in St Kilda – **Acland** and **Fitzroy Streets** offer a vast array of dining options from the cheap and cheerful to some of Melbourne's most respected for dedicated foodies. On a balmy evening it is an enjoyable exploit to just wander along reading the menus outside each establishment and seeing what takes your fancy!

## Day 2

# Day 3

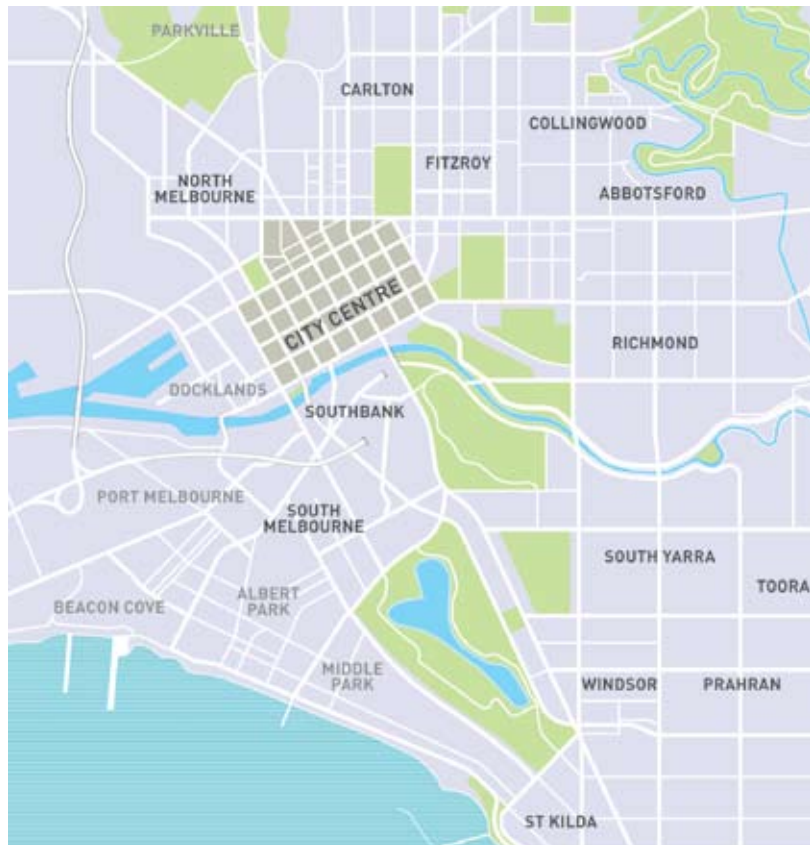


## Down on the Farm

The **Collingwood Children's Farm** is only four kilometres from the centre of Melbourne in Abbotsford, nestled on a bend of the Yarra River and covering seven hectares of paddocks, gardens, orchards, rustic buildings and shady trees. Established in 1979, the Children's Farm is open every day of the year from 9am to 5pm and visitors can get involved in a variety of farming activities. There's a café serving a full breakfast menu, delicious lunches and all the good things in between! To get there from your accommodation take the Epping or Hurstbridge line train and get off at Victoria Park train station. Then it's about a 10 minute walk east along Johnston Street – follow the signs.

## Horticultural Studies

The **Burnley Gardens** in Richmond have an interesting history. They were established as Australia's first school of horticulture and pioneered the admission of female students. Edna Walling, one of Australia's pre-eminent garden designers, graduated in 1917. Ownership of the Burnley Gardens was passed to the University of Melbourne in 1994. They are open daily and entry is free. Access the gardens by bus from the Children's Farm (along Johnston Street and Punt Road) to Swan Street, then take the tram along Swan Street to stop number 18.



## Vietnam – in Melbourne!

On your way home, you might be interested in visiting one of Melbourne's multicultural food destinations. **Victoria Street**, Richmond is an area fondly known as 'Little Saigon'. **Pho Dzung Tan Dinh** makes great soup – there's not much else on the menu, but the excellent soup is why the crowds keep coming back.



# Contacts

### Quest Hero

140 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
Tel: +61 3 8664 8500  
Email: questhero@questapartments.com.au  
www.questhero.com.au

### Golden Mile Heritage Trail

Bookings: Best of Victoria  
Melbourne Visitor Centre  
Federation Square  
Tel: +61 3 9928 0000 /  
1300 780 045 (within Australia)

### Melbourne Museum

11 Nicholson Street  
Carlton, Victoria 3063  
Tel: 13 11 02  
www.museumvictoria.com.au

### Queen Victoria Market

Corner Elizabeth and  
Victoria Streets  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
Tel: +61 3 9320 5822  
www.qvm.com.au  
Open: Tue & Thu: 6am-2pm;  
Fri: 6am-6pm  
(general merchandise closes  
at 4pm); Sat: 6am-3pm; and  
Sun: 9am-4pm

### Chadstone Shopping Centre

1341 Dandenong Road  
Chadstone, Victoria 3148  
Tel: +61 3 9563 3355  
www.chadstoneshopping.com.au  
Bus bookings: 1300 558 686

### Collingwood Children's Farm

End of St Heliers Street  
Abbotsford, Victoria 3067  
Tel: +61 3 9417 5806

### Burnley Gardens

500 Yarra Boulevard  
Richmond, Victoria 3121  
Tel: +61 3 9250 6800

### Pho Dzung Tan Dinh

208 Victoria Street  
Richmond, Victoria 3121  
Tel: +61 3 9427 0292