



### What to do



**1** Take a **Real Melbourne Bike Tour** ([rentabike.net.au/biketours](http://rentabike.net.au/biketours)). Starting by the river, you'll explore parks, markets and bohemian backstreets in the company of ex-journo Murray Johnson. The queue for Turkish borks in the Victoria St market must be seen to be believed!



**2** The **MCG** ([mcg.org.au/tours](http://mcg.org.au/tours)) is the world's sixth biggest ground. Tours are conducted by volunteers – our guide was Alan Joyce, who coached Hawthorn to two national AFL titles! The sports museum has a large interactive zone and Shane Warne hologram



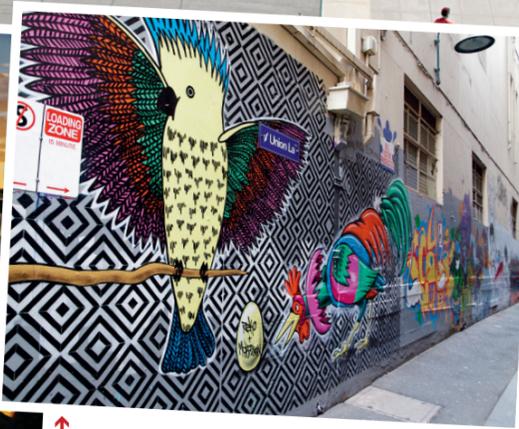
**3** Saunter down **Brunswick Street**, in Fitzroy. It's known for its live music, alternative fashion shops and cafés and bars, such as Little Creatures and Naked for Satan. Buskers must perform for the Mayor to get a licence. Moon Under Water in Gertrude St offers quality food



**Landmark:** the city skyline makes a jagged backdrop to the Shrine of Remembrance



**Don't miss** Got a head for heights? Then go to **The Edge**, a glass-floored cube overhanging the city's tallest building ([eurekaskydeck.com.au](http://eurekaskydeck.com.au)). The cube starts opaque and then clears – to the sound of shattering glass! – to provide a stunning view



**Artistic licence:** street art is a strong feature of the city's lanes and alleys

**A world beneath:** view the city from 285m up – in a cube that 'buckles' and 'shatters'!



# MELBOURNE

You'll never tire of exploring Victoria's hip capital – and this vibrant city is also a sports lover's delight



**T**HE time of the gold rush, in the 1880s, Melbourne was the richest city in the world. Today it's a mix of English

genteel and cosmopolitan, the HopeToun tea rooms to the coffee hub of Degraves Street.

Fitzroy Gardens, with its Captain Cook's cottage and paths shaped like the Union Jack, is a reminder of Victorian splendour, yet wider European and African influences abound, such as the Italian stronghold of Lygon Street, where in 2006 more than 20,000 people were up at 4am to watch an Australia-Italy soccer match.

Melbourne blends old-world charm with new-world cool. It's the culinary capital of Australia, a beating heart of the fashion industry, an artistic city with Tolerated Graffiti Areas, and – Lions fans note – one of the most sporty cities to be found on the planet. The **Ultimate Sports Lovers Tour** ([melbournesportstours.com.au](http://melbournesportstours.com.au)) takes in the MCG, Etihad Stadium, Rod Laver Arena, Flemington Racecourse and Grand Prix circuit, and is a super sightseeing experience.

Those in a hurry can whiz round the city's outskirts on the back of a **Harley Davidson** ([hride.com.au](http://hride.com.au)), but better to walk or cycle through Melbourne's grid-like streets. The



### ETIHAD STADIUM

Built in 2000 to attract people to the docklands, the 55,000-capacity Etihad Stadium hosts the second Test on 29 June

**Hidden Secrets Lanes and Arcades tour** ([hiddensecretstours.com](http://hiddensecretstours.com)) starts in

**Federation Square**, which sits on 4,000 springs to absorb the vibrations of nearby trains. It's the world's biggest trampoline!

The square includes Beer DeLuxe – with beers from all around the world – and will be a major gathering point for Lions fans.

Across the way is **Flinders Street Station**, where during the 1956 Melbourne

Olympics the Russians slept and trained on the station roof to stay hidden from prying eyes.

In years gone by, the 'diggers' (servicemen) who piled out of the station would go straight to the Young & Jackson pub opposite and

fall in love with **Chloe**, a portrait of a nude 19th-century French prostitute that hung above the bar for over 100 years. The pub was inundated by so many love letters that it even had a postmaster!

The painting of Chloe, who killed herself by drinking sulphur, is now displayed on the second floor

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Melbourne is where the Murdoch empire began. Rupert Murdoch's dad built Newspaper House in Collins St and it has an Art Deco mosaic that reads 'I'll put a girdle around the earth', a line penned by Shakespeare**

and visitors are encouraged to raise a glass to her.

For somewhere more snug, seek out **Bar Americano** in Presgrave Place – it's Melbourne's smallest bar and

has a liquor licence for just 11 people. Standing room only...

Bike hire is cheap and there's a free tourist shuttle bus service and City Circle tram. Tram is a great way to get to **St Kilda** beachfront, though it can be parky in June.

### Don't miss

Aussie Rules is a religion in Victoria, so try to catch an **AFL** game at the MCG ([mcg.org.au](http://mcg.org.au)), where crowds of 70,000 are common. The stadium stages 58 AFL games a year, with Melbourne, Richmond, Hawthorn and Collingwood (below) tenants

