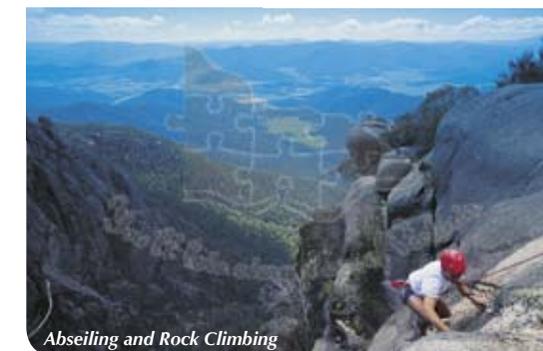


Chinatown



Scienceworks



Abseiling and Rock Climbing

MELBOURNE

FUN FACT

One of the world's earliest feature-length films, *Soldiers of the Cross*, was made in Melbourne in 1900.

**OUT AND ABOUT**
Abseiling and Rock Climbing

(tel: 1300 791 793, www.adrenalin.com.au) Forty minutes west of Melbourne stand the You Yangs, which at a height of 352m, dominate the surrounds. Get your adrenaline pumping by climbing its steep cliff face, before whizzing down on an abseil. Day trips cost AU\$166/S\$175 per person. **Scienceworks** (2 Booker St, Spotswood, tel: +61 (0)3 9392 4800) This science and technology museum boasts an array of interactive attractions, including the first digital planetarium in the southern hemisphere. From June to November there is a special *Wars* exhibition, featuring authentic costumes, models and props.

**TOP SHOPS**
Provider (11

Manchester Ln, tel: +61 (0)3 9654 4055) The go-to place for street-wear type trainers, Provider has

a multi-coloured range of options including some great specials starting from just AU\$40/S\$45. Also sells shirts and accessories.

Chinatown (Little Bourke St between Swanston and Spring Sts) Take in the sounds and aromas of Melbourne's own slice of Asia, which is dotted with supermarkets, bustling restaurants and karaoke parlours. Be sure to venture down the tiny alleyways to your left and right, which are home to art galleries, late-night bars and sumptuous dumpling houses.

**BEST BITES**
Richmond Hill Café & Larder (48-50

Bridge Rd, Richmond, tel: +61 (0)3 9421 2808) A Melbourne institution, this eatery is known for its vast array of cheeses, but don't overlook its delicious relishes and chutneys. Their famous grilled cheesy toast (AU\$11/S\$12) is a popular favourite and you can also choose from a wide variety of custom-made hampers. \$\$ **The Park Hotel** (191 Nicholson St, Abbotsford, tel: +61 (0)3 9419 4352) Deep in the heart of Abbotsford, just 10 minutes from the CBD,

stands one of Melbourne's true hidden gems. For a winter respite, choose a table next to the fireplace, order boutique beer and warm up. In a menu heavy on pub classics, the huge chicken schnitzel and decadent chocolate brownies are among the top choices. \$

**AFTER DARK**
European Bier Café

120 Exhibition St, City, tel: +61 (0)3 9663 1222) With its thick wooden interior and a beer list that rivals any in town, the European wouldn't look out of place in Bruges or Paris. Popular with office workers wanting a taste of the good stuff, its range of European beers, especially the super-strong abbey-type brews, is perfect for a cold Melbourne night.

Northcote Social Club (301 High St, Northcote, tel: +61 (0)3 9489 3917, www.northcotesocialclub.com)

In the centre of trendy Northcote stands this undeniable institution. World-renowned bands are attracted to its intimate band room, just as footy lovers are drawn to the TVs at the front bar. Check its website for upcoming gigs and book early.

**SLEEPOVER**
Mantra Tullamarine Hotel (Cnr of

Melrose and Trade Park Dr, Tullamarine Airport, www.mantra.com.au) Just five minutes from the airport, this newly opened 277-room hotel is Melbourne's latest 4.5-star property. Targeted at both business and leisure travellers, the hotel's rooms start at AU\$125/S\$141 per night or AU\$65/S\$73) for the Day Delegate package, which includes buffet lunch or platter. \$\$

Hilton South Wharf Hotel (2 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, www.hilton.com) To experience what's new in Melbourne, stay at one of the city's newest hotels, just minutes from the CBD. The South Wharf has all the amenities you'd expect of the Hilton brand and is steps from top attractions such as the Melbourne Aquarium, Melbourne Casino, South Bank Promenade and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center. Room rates start from AU\$230/S\$260. \$\$\$

BY CHRIS CANTY
More information:
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Adelaide Zoo



Adelaide Tram



Port Adelaide

FUN FACT

The Adelaide suburb of Glenelg was the beachhead for the establishment of South Australia in the 1800s.

**OUT AND ABOUT**
Naracoorte Caves Fossil Site (www.naracoortecaves.sa.gov.au)

Said to be one of only four true fossil deposits in the world, this World Heritage-listed site offers a startling picture of earth's creatures over the past half-million years. There are many caves to explore, and bats to dodge, but for the truly brave try the adventure caving tour.

Adelaide Zoo (tel: +61 (0)8 8267 3255, www.adelaidezoo.com.au)

Home to nearly 2,000 animals and 300 species, the Adelaide Zoo is regarded as one of Australia's finest. Take one of the behind-the-scenes tours, which range from feeding the bears (AU\$80/S\$86) to serving as zookeeper for a day (AU\$350/S\$395).

**TOP SHOPS**
Raw Space, (Parc Arcade, 7-17 Gawler Pl, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 5654)

If you are after something undeniably

quirky, there is no other retail selection in Adelaide quite like this mish-mash of items. Whether you're in the market for a horse-shaped lamp or coat hooks in the shape of outstretched hands, you'll find what you're after.

Gilles Street Market

(91 Gilles St, www.gillesstreetmarket.com.au)

A treasure-trove of new and second-hand fashion items, from the creations of up-and-coming designers to leading-brand clearance stock. DJs often perform here, and there is also a range of food and beverage stalls. Open on the third Sunday of each month.

**BEST BITES**
Top of the World Revolving Restaurant (760 Anzac Hwy, Glenelg, tel: +61 (0)8 8376 0050)

As the name suggests, here it's all about fantastic 360-degree views as you dine. Situated in the seaside suburb of Glenelg, Top of the World specialises in seafood, so be sure to try the South Australian oysters. Open for dinner from Tuesday to Sunday and for lunch on Sundays. \$\$

Martini Ristorante (59a The Parade, Norwood, tel:

+61 (0)8 8362 7822) This Italian eatery blends the best local produce with traditional ingredients from the old country, to create scrumptious dishes served in a family-friendly setting. Don't miss the *spaghetti allo scoglio* (AU\$26/S\$29) with prawns, mussels, cockles, squid and blue swimmer crab meat. Open Tuesday to Friday for lunch and dinner, and Saturdays for dinner. \$\$

**AFTER DARK**
The Port Dock Brewery Hotel

(10 Todd St, Port Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8240 0187) Beer lovers and history buffs alike will enjoy the "Dock". Built in 1855, it is one of the oldest pubs in Australia, and with six craft beers brewed on the premises, it's a great way to get acquainted with the best that Port Adelaide has to offer.

Electric Light Hotel (235 Grenfell St, tel: +61 (0)8 8232 2666) If you're in the mood for some tunes, do what the locals do and "walk towards the light". The band room holds more than 240 people and is often overflowing with punters in search of good punk, rock or dance tunes. Tuesdays

are especially popular, as pizza and beer sells for under AU\$10/S\$11. Also has a covered beer garden equipped with gas heaters.

**SLEEPOVER**
Adelaide Parisienne Apts (Unit 305, 39 Grenfell St)

A luxurious Parisian-style oasis in the city centre, featuring mood-enhancing high ceilings and a balcony overlooking the Old Stock Exchange. With two bedrooms, two bathrooms, antique furniture and a host of edible goodies, this is a great option for groups seeking someplace special. Room rates start from AU\$700/S\$790 for two nights. \$\$\$

Franklin Central Apartments, (36 Franklin St, www.franklinapartments.com.au)

Featuring full-size, fully equipped kitchens, the apartments here are the closest thing to a second home that you're likely to find. It's also within easy reach of the Central Market. Room rates start from AU\$118/S\$133. \$\$

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