

Mackay



INSIDER TIP
Mackay Tourism holds guided **Historical Walks** around the city every Wednesday for coin donations. tel: +61 (0)7 4944 5888, www.mackayregion.com

SHOP TALK
Central Queensland is renowned for its gemstones so why not take some home with you? Stunning Queensland sapphires and rare and beautiful rubies, emeralds, opals and pearls can be purchased at **That Sapphire Place**, 20km inland along the Bruce Highway. Lot 1, Westlake Dr, The Leap, tel: +61 (0)7 4954 0011

JAVA JOLT
Coffee can be good, coffee can be decadent, but the offerings at **Sinful Coffee** are, well, downright devilish. That is to say, devilishly good. Shop 21, 26 River St, tel: +61 (0)7 4953 5330

CHEAP EATS
The meat pie is a genuine Australian icon and the mouth-watering creations of **Byrne's Pie Factory** are famous throughout Mackay. Try one fresh from the oven. 7 Brisbane St, tel: +61 (0)7 4957 4526

TOP TABLES
Do great crêpes make Mackay the "Paris of the Southern Hemisphere"? That's highly

debatable but you can still enjoy this Gallic delicacy along with a little bit of France at the **Crêperie Restaurant**. Gregory St, tel: +61 (0)7 4951 1226 **SS**

AT YOUR LEISURE
Mackay Marina Village and Shipyard is a great place to get back to the sea. Stroll the promenade, wet a line and catch some fish, or just chill out in the cafés and bars. Mulherin Dr, Mackay Harbour, tel: +61 (0)7 4955 6855, www.mackaymarina.com

LATE & LIVELY
The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre boasts a great line-up of live acts in September and October, including Powderfinger, John Butler Trio and Sarah Blasko, as well as theatre, dance, comedy and much more. Alfred St, tel: +61 (0)7 4961 9700, www.mackayecc.com.au

OVERNIGHT
Taking its name from the Septimus Primary School whose grounds it now occupies, the **Old School House** offers "sleepovers for grown-ups", or more accurately, luxury escapes. 888 Gargett Mia Mia Rd, Septimus, tel: +61 (0)7 4958 5760, www.oldschoolhouse.com.au **SSS**

Melbourne



INSIDER TIP
Melburnians love their **Aussie Rules** and on 25 Sep, the Grand Final will be played in front of 100,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. If you can't get tickets through the website, join the raucous crowd in just about any pub. www.afl.com.au

SHOP TALK
The CBD's **Howey Place** is a tiny lane under a historic glass canopy that showcases talented clothing designers like Alannah Hill and Jacqui Fernandes. Now all you have to do is find it. Off Little Collins St, between Swanston and Elizabeth Sts

JAVA JOLT
Although **Monsieur Truffe's** growing fame is founded on its decadent array of chocolates, the staff at this French-run café knows how to complement things with a rich, velvety cup of coffee. 90 Smith St, Collingwood, tel: +61 (0)3 9416 3101

CHEAP EATS
It might be hard to distinguish from the scores of other Vietnamese and Chinese eateries on the street, but rest assured that **Xiao Ting Box** has some of the juiciest dumplings in the city. The steamed pork varieties are especially good. 371 Victoria St, Abbotsford, tel: +61 (0)3 9428 9588

TOP TABLES
Hot-tempered Gordon Ramsay's latest venture is **Maze**. Behind the TV persona is a talented restaurateur who turns out scrumptious meals at surprisingly affordable prices. Crown Metropol, Cnr of Whiteman and Clarendon Sts, Southbank, tel: +61 (0)3 9292 8300, www.gordonramsay.com/mazegrillmelbourne **SS**

AT YOUR LEISURE
A great way to experience the sights and sounds of St Kilda's foreshore is to visit the **Esplanade Market**, which is open every Sunday. Upper Esplanade, St Kilda, www.stkildamarket.com

LATE & LIVELY
Once a quiet suburban pub, the **Great Northern Hotel** has emerged as a favourite meeting spot for the younger set thanks to a great craft beer list. 644 Rathdowne St, North Carlton, tel: +61 (0)3 9380 9569, www.gnh.net.au

OVERNIGHT
The Blackman is Melbourne's newest boutique hotel, ideally located for culture buffs who like to stay in style. 472 St Kilda Rd, tel: 1800 278 468, www.artserieshotels.com.au/Blackman **SS**

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