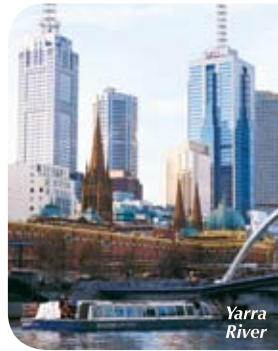
Healesville
SanctuaryYarra
River

Queen Victoria Market

**FUN FACT**

In 1983, Melbourne introduced the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant, the world's first, where passengers dine while on a sightseeing tour by tram.

**OUT AND ABOUT**❖ **Melbourne River**

Cruises (Vault 11, Banana Alley, Flinders St, tel: +61 (0)3 8610 2600, www.melcruises.com.au)

Enjoy the summer weather while slowly drifting down the Yarra River. Sport lovers will enjoy the "river gardens" cruise, which glides past the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Olympic Park and Melbourne Park. Prices start at AU\$22 (\$22) per person for a 75-minute tour.

❖ **Healesville Sanctuary (Badger Creek Rd, Healesville, tel: +61 (0)3 5957 2800)** Spend a day in a tranquil setting, viewing more than 200 species of Australian wildlife. Most were injured or orphaned at one point, so those that can't be returned to the wild call Healesville home. Be sure to catch the "meet the keeper" presentations. Admission is AU\$24 (\$24) for adults and AU\$12 (\$12) for kids. Open 9am-5pm daily.

**TOP SHOPS**❖ **Queen Victoria Night Market (Cnr**

Elizabeth and Victoria Sts, tel: +61 (0)3 9320 5822)

Every Wednesday from November to February, the Queen Victoria Market comes alive with a range of exciting attractions for residents and visitors alike. Over 30 food vendors dish out local produce, while 150 others sell everything from plants to jewellery. Add free entertainment and four licensed bars showcasing the state's best wines and beers and you've got the recipe for a great night out.

❖ **Mag Nation (88 Elizabeth St, tel: +61 (0)3 9663 6559)**

With over 4,000 magazine titles, many of them slightly offbeat, this store should be a second home for anyone with a hobby. With a comfortable lounge upstairs, free wifi, knowledgeable staff and coffee on the premises, it's tempting to spend the day here.

**BEST BITES**❖ **Ladro (224 Gertrude St,**

Fitzroy, tel: +61 (0)3 9415 7575) For years, Ladro has been widely regarded as the maker of Melbourne's best pizzas and it's not hard

to understand why. Fresh, top-quality ingredients and a strict attention to detail are constants. Bookings are advised but takeaway is available. Pizzas cost around AU\$18 (\$18). \$

❖ **Thai City (124 Lygon St, Carlton, tel: +61 (0)3 9663**

2028) Lygon Street might be Melbourne's Italian district, but that doesn't rule out other culinary options. For those in search of some authentic Malaysian and Thai cuisine, Thai City with its elegant surroundings is the place to go. Their chicken Penang curry at AU\$13 (\$13) is a winner. \$\$

**AFTER DARK**❖ **Corner Hotel (57 Swan St, Richmond,**

tel: +61 (0)3 9427 9198) The Corner Hotel boasts a huge rooftop beer garden that is widely considered to be the city's best. Moreover, their band room plays host to great music by top acts nearly every night of the week. Throw in a great pub grub menu and you've got the quintessential Melbourne pub.

❖ **Section 8, (27 Tattersalls Lane)** What once was a carpark hidden in the back laneways of the city has emerged as one of the

liveliest outdoor bars in town. Highlights include impromptu DJ sessions, crates used for seating and, well, the ship container toilets.

**SLEEPOVER**❖ **Jasper Hotel (489 Elizabeth St, City)**

After completing a multi-million dollar refurbishment last year, this former budget hotel was reborn as a stylish boutique property. For an added bonus, the Queen Victoria Market is just minutes away. Rates start from AU\$174 (\$171) for a double. \$\$

❖ **Eco Beach YHA (5 Pascoe St, Apollo Bay)** Situated on the Great Ocean Road in the town of Apollo Bay, the Eco Beach YHA is widely regarded as one of Australia's best hostels. Millions were spent on its construction and it shows, with a range of amenities typically found in five-star hotels: rooftop decks overlooking the sea, plasma TVs and kitchenettes. Dorm rooms start at AU\$32 (\$32), while doubles and twins start at AU\$88 (\$87). Early bookings are essential. \$

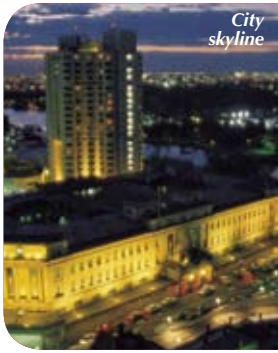
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City skyline



Adelaide Oval



Botanic Gardens

**FUN FACT**

Adelaide has more restaurants per capita than any other Australian city.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

❖ **Botanic Gardens Bush Food Trail**

(Bookabee Tours, tel: +61 (0)8 8235 9954) Just minutes from the CBD is an unexpected smorgasbord of bush food. But it takes the keen eye and expertise of an indigenous guide to fully explain the habits, beliefs and culinary skills of Australia's indigenous communities. Two-hour tours cost AU\$42 (\$\$42).

❖ **Adelaide Oval Tours (North Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8300 3800)** One of the world's most eye-catching sports venues, the Adelaide Oval offers daily tours showcasing a range of memorabilia including that of legendary cricketer Don Bradman. There's also an insider's look into the historic scoreboard, which is still operated via ropes and levers. Tours begin at 10am and cost AU\$10 (\$\$10).

**TOP SHOPS**

❖ **Barossa Valley Resort (66-68**

Murray Street, Tanund, tel: +61 (0)8 8563 0600) Head

straight to the Endota Spa to sample the new trend called "vinotherapy", where patrons not only drink red wine, they actually bathe in it. Wine is said to contain anti-oxidants that reduce the effects of aging. The cost is AU\$45 (\$\$45) for 30 mins.

❖ **Jam Factory Contemporary Craft & Design (19 Morphett St, City, tel: +61 (0)8 8410 0727)** This is a unique space that focuses on the production, design, exhibition and sale of works by up-and-coming Australian designers. A retail shop on the premises gives the public a chance to take home some of the creations inside, including glassware and ceramics. Open Monday to Saturday from 10am-5pm.

**BEST BITES**

❖ **Concubine (132**

Gouger St, City, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 8288) Blending Chinese cuisine with South Australia's finest produce, Concubine's refined setting and modern décor offer visitors the chance to experience the best of South Australia. Concubine's South Australian prawns in a coconut curry with kaffir lime leaf (AU\$24/\$\$24) is excellent though set menu dishes are

also available. Open Tues-Fri and Sun from noon-2pm and 6pm-10pm. Sat from 6pm-10pm. \$\$

❖ **Willunga Farmers Market (Willunga Village Square, Willunga, tel: +61 (0)8 8556 4297)** Just 30 minutes from the city, Willunga plays host every Saturday to farmers from across the Fleurieu Peninsula. Start with a honey-infused hot chocolate and take a stroll around the stalls, which offer everything from freshly caught oysters to homemade egg and bacon pies. Open 8am-12.30pm. \$

**AFTER DARK**

❖ **Apothecary 1878 (118 Hindley St,**

City, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 9099) Named after the 125-year-old pharmacy cabinets found in the front bar, this heritage-listed wine bar is classically European in design. Rich mahogany furnishings, large chandeliers, and what many believe is the best wine list in town, make it the ideal place to raise a glass.

❖ **Gilbert St Hotel (88 Gilbert St, City, tel: +61 (0)8 8231 9909)** By day, this grand old corner pub is the ideal place for a few beers. After dark, it becomes a buzzing nightclub specialising in

imaginative cocktails. And don't miss their beer garden out back when the sun is shining. On Tuesdays, happy hour prices last all day.

**SLEEPOVER**

❖ **Majestic Minima Hotel (46 Melbourne**

St, North Adelaide) Effortlessly chic, the Majestic in this trendy city suburb is an architectural triumph and a great value for guests. Rooms are compact but offer all the expected amenities including king-size beds and plasma TVs. The guest terrace on the top floor is the ideal place to enjoy a glass of wine at sunset. Room rates start from AU\$99 (\$\$99) for double occupancy. \$

❖ **The Hilton Adelaide (233 Victoria Square, City)** One of state's premier hotels, the Hilton is centrally located in Victoria Square, right next to the Central Markets. Its well-appointed rooms offer great views of the city and are furnished to the standard one would expect of the Hilton brand name. Room rates start from AU\$175 (\$\$175). \$\$\$ 🍷

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