



St Peters Cathedral



National Wine Centre



Biplane Tours

FUN FACT

South Australia, of which Adelaide is the capital, is the opal capital of the world and has adopted the jewel as its official gemstone.

**OUT AND ABOUT**
National Wine Centre

(Cnr of Botanic and Hackney Rds, tel: +61 (0)8 8303 3355, www.wineaustralia.com.au)

Lovers of wine wanting to learn more about its creation will get a kick out of this place. The Wine Discovery Journey is an award-winning interactive experience that showcases one of Australia's leading exports. Best of all, there is an array of wines for visitors to try on site.

Adelaide Biplane Tours (Aldinga Airfield, Colville Rd, Aldinga, tel: +61 (0)8 8556 5404, www.adelaidebiplanes.com.au)

Just an hour south of Adelaide, feel the wind in your face as you swoop through the sky, overlooking the surrounding vineyards and coastal towns below. There are 10 types of World War I-style biplanes to choose from for your action-packed flight. Prices start from AU\$270/S\$291 for two people for 30 minutes.

**TOP SHOPS**
April in Paris

(95A Prospect Rd, Prospect, tel: +61 (0)8 8342 0000) Relatively new on the scene but a throwback to simpler times, this tiny old-school children's store makes quality clothes and toys from yesteryear. Items such as cloth hobby horses, tin tea sets and pedal cars offer an alternative to today's mass-produced playthings. Located in Prospect, 55km out of town, it's the perfect excuse for a day in the country.

Balhannah By Design (The Junction, Balhannah, tel: +61 (0)8 8388 4213) Situated in the Adelaide hills and a firm favourite for day trippers in search of quality products for the home, this shop displays the fruits of store owner Mon Bowring's worldwide search for provincial furniture, clothing and other creations. Most products have a touch of France about them.

**BEST BITES**
Sparrow Kitchen & Bar

(10 O'Connell St, North Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8267 2444) The latest offering from local restaurateurs Matthew and Olivia Trim, the Sparrow has

won over Adelaide residents with its Spanish- and Italian-inspired cuisine. The tapas menu is ideal for groups and provides some unique and delicious flavours. Try the octopus carpaccio, potato foam and paprika (AU\$9/S\$9) or for a quick snack, the duck popcorn (AU\$6/S\$6). \$\$
Hotel Tivoli (265 Pirie St, tel: +61 (0)8 8223 4790) This recently renovated gastro-pub has a funky, retro-inspired feel, most notable is its enormous, gold-painted domed roof. There're a range of pub classics and bar snacks available as well as a generous selection of mains. The peppered kangaroo with fennel risotto cake, rocket and chevre salad (AU\$21/S\$23) is a popular choice. Choose from a great range of South Australian wines. \$\$

**AFTER DARK**
La Boheme

(34 Grote St, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 8884) Come at sunset to find out why this gold-tinted, French-inspired bar draws the cocktail crowd. An intimate place to meet friends, La Boheme boasts a relaxed European-style feel that other bars in the area haven't quite mastered.

King's (357 King William Rd, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 6657) The former Kings Head Hotel has just had a major facelift and the crowds are back in full force. With a menu whose selections are made entirely with locally produced ingredients as well as a range of homegrown beers on tap, this comfy pub proves that you needn't venture far from home to find the best.

**SLEEPOVER**
Clarion Hotel Soho

(264 Flinders St, www.clarionhotel.com) This ultra chic, five-star hotel oozes style and sophistication and is located in the heart of the city's cosmopolitan Soho district. The 30 designer rooms come with that little extra something, including Italian marble bathrooms, king-size beds with Missoni linens, Australian-made Natio Spa products and 42-inch LCD TVs. Walls are adorned with paintings by Australian artists and are available for sale. Prices start from AU\$160/S\$172 for a studio. \$\$\$

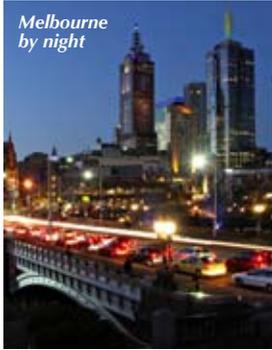
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Harness Racing



Melbourne by night



Block Place

MELBOURNE

FUN FACT

Melbourne's famous beer, Foster's Lager, was first manufactured in 1888 by two Irish-Americans who were in Australia to found a brewery.

**OUT AND ABOUT Golden Mile****Heritage Trail (tel:**

+61 (0)3 9928 0000) Buy a booklet from the tourist office and explore the streets and laneways of Melbourne's Central Business District. Highlights include the Block Arcade, St Paul's Cathedral and a host of hidden gems that even many city residents may be unaware of.

Moonee Valley Night Harness Racing (tel: +61 (0)3 9373 2222, www.mvrc.net.au)

Spend a Friday or Saturday night watching the "trots", old-school style. Mooney Valley Racing Club is just 20 minutes from the CBD, and is a great place for a meal or a drink while playing the ponies. Odds are good you'll have a memorable night.

**TOP SHOPS****Chadstone Shopping Centre**

(1341 Dandenong Rd, Chadstone, tel: +61 (0)3 9328 8600) Melbourne's

goliath of shopping, Chadstone or "Chaddy" as it's known to the locals, has more than 422 retailers under one roof. Browse everything from designer clothing to housewares, then take a trip to the cinemas or try one of the restaurants. Free shuttle buses run to and from the city and store discounts are available to shoppers from outside of Melbourne.

Camberwell Market (www.sundaymarket.com.au) Every Sunday morning a vacant car park behind the Bourke St shopping strip is turned into a bargain hunter's paradise. Shoppers from across Melbourne come to set up stalls (over 350 at last count) displaying a treasure trove of second-hand goods. Hidden gems abound.

**BEST BITES****Hotel Lincoln**

(91 Cardigan St, Carlton, tel: +61 (0)3 9347 4666) If only every backstreet corner pub had chefs like those at the Lincoln. Anything but pretentious, yet up to the standards of an award-winning restaurant, both the bar and dining menus are full to bursting with mouth-watering selections. Join the

throng of locals who come in for their beef and Guinness pie with mash and greens (AU\$18/\$\$19). \$\$

Tandoori Times (199**Gertrude St, Fitzroy, tel:**

+61 (0)3 9419 5930) This great-value Indian restaurant features an array of classics along with some fresh fusion creations. The casual setting is ideal for groups, especially with the giant screen out the back showing Bollywood films. If you like your food with a bit of kick, try Bombay's bhayankar bakra (AU\$14/\$\$15), a lamb curry so hot that the menu reads: "If you can manage this one, we'll recommend that the Indian Government offer you citizenship". \$

**AFTER DARK****The Empress of India (714**

Nicholson St, Fitzroy North, tel: +61 (0)3 9489 8605) The Empress is among the last of a fading breed: a small corner pub that showcases local musicians every night of the week. Out back, the restaurant serves pub grub in huge portions, and out front the horseshoe bar plays host to punters with a weakness for ice-cold pints.

Workshop (Level 1, 413**Elizabeth St, tel: +61 (0)3**

9326 4365) This university student favourite was once an old motorcycle workshop but has been resurrected as a chill-out paradise. With a large covered outdoor deck and frequent visits from DJs (Wednesday to Sunday), Workshop is equal parts after-work pub and late-night club. Arrive early to make the most of happy hours.

**SLEEPOVER****Royce Hotel**

(379 St Kilda Rd, www.roycehotels.com.au)

Regarded as one of the best five-star boutique hotels in the city, the Royce prides itself on its attention to detail. Rooms are luxuriously furnished, as are the hotel's restaurant (Dish) and bar (The Amberoom), which have become favourite hotspots for Melburnians. Located within walking distance of downtown and opposite the Botanical Gardens, the Royce is the perfect base for exploring. Room rates start from AU\$179/\$\$193. \$\$

BY CHRIS CANTY
More information:
www.visitvictoria.com.au

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