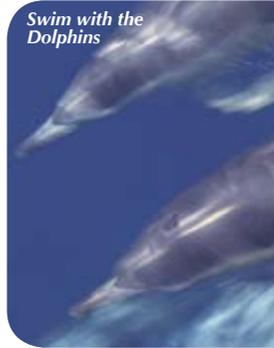




Fringe Festival



Swim with the Dolphins



Adelaide Showgrounds Farmers Market

FUN FACT
South Australia, of which Adelaide is the capital, is three times the size of Japan but has about one per cent of its population.

OUT AND ABOUT
❖ **Swim with the Dolphins (Holdfast Shores Marina, Glenelg, tel: +61 0412 811838, www.dolphinboat.com.au)**

Fans of *Flipper* would be hard-pressed to find a more rewarding activity than swimming with the ocean's most playful creatures. The dolphins and tour guides here have developed a close relationship over the years, meaning a warm welcome is guaranteed. Tours cost AU\$58 (\$\$57) to watch and it's AU\$98 (\$\$96) to swim.
❖ **Tourabout Adelaide (tel: +61 (0)8 8333 1111, www.touraboutadelaide.com.au)** A little local knowledge goes a long way and this small company offers four insightful walking tours around Adelaide, including a cultural heritage walk which explores the historic grandeur of North Terrace. Guides are enthusiastic and eager to share the locations of their favourite cafés.

TOP SHOPS
❖ **Adelaide Showgrounds Farmers Market (www.asfm.org.au)** Each Sunday, the showgrounds come alive with the buzz of stall holders offering fresh foods of every description. Skip a meal to make room for selections from a wide range of gourmet cakes, pastries and chocolates. There's also coffee, wine and honey. Open from 9am–1pm.

❖ **Barossa Brewing Company (Mill St, Greenock, tel: +61 (0)8 8563 4041)** Who said the Barossa was only about wine? The Barossa Brewing Company is a bare bones brewery, housed in an old wheat store which despite its size produces some excellent brews. A few metres away, the Greenock Creek Tavern – which stocks the beer – is a great place for lunch and a thirst-quencher. Tastings and sales available on weekends from 11am–4pm.

BEST BITES
❖ **Good Life Pizza (170 Hutt St, tel: +61 (0)8 8223 2618)** This local favourite was the first pizzeria in the country to be certified by the National Association for Sustainable

Agriculture. They offer nine delicious organic pizzas, with a few hearty vegetarian options, though the Kapunda free-range chicken pizza is a favourite (AU\$18/\$\$18).
❖ **Barton's (Caledonian Hotel, 219 O'Connell St, North Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8267 1375.)** Just because Barton's is located in a pub, doesn't mean it's not a first-rate eatery. Offering five-star service with locally sourced products to match, the menu features some old-school favourites (think steaks and pies) but gives just about everything a delectable twist. The moisture-infused pork porterhouse is outstanding (AU\$25/\$\$25). \$\$

AFTER DARK
❖ **Adelaide Fringe Festival (Until 22 March, www.adelaidefringe.com.au, tel: +61 (0)8 8100 2000)** The southern hemisphere's biggest fringe festival is too good to miss. With hundreds of shows going on in pubs and bars throughout town, a night out inevitably involves snippets of comedy, music and drama.
❖ **Supermild (182 Hindley St, West Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8212 8077)** This cavernous club has a retro

backyard-sale-type vibe. As unpretentious as they come, with big comfy couches throughout, Supermild is the ideal place to come and chill out with a group of friends. DJs do their thing from Wednesday to Sunday, spinning indie, retro and funk depending on the night.

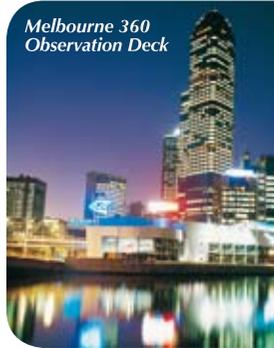
SLEEPOVER
❖ **Rendezvous Allegra Hotel (55 Waymouth St)** Centrally located and with five-star facilities, the Allegra targets those in town for either business or pleasure. Additional incentives include an indoor swimming pool, in-house gym and a restaurant known for its extensive wine list. Room rates start from AU\$200 (\$\$196). \$\$
❖ **Breakfree Director's Studios (259 Gouger St)** A great option for small families on a budget. Prices start from just AU\$110 (\$\$108) for a three-person room. Offering kitchenettes and boasting a central location, this boutique three-star hotel is real value for money. \$

BY CHRIS CANTY
More information:
www.southaustralia.com

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South Melbourne Market

Melbourne 360
Observation DeckAustralian Rules
Football**FUN FACT**

More than a quarter of Melbourne's residents were born overseas.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

❖ **Melbourne 360 Observation Deck** at Rialto (525 Collins St, tel: +61 (0)3 9629 8222, www.melbourne360rialto.com.au) This popular attraction at the top of the iconic, 253m Rialto building affords breathtaking 360-degree views of the city. But that's not all there is to see and do. Other facilities include a café and bar, souvenir shop and a theatre that screens the 20-minute film spectacular, *Melbourne the Living City* in RialtoVision.

❖ **Australian Rules Football** (www.afl.com.au) The "footy" season begins in March and nothing is more quintessentially Melbourne than heading to the city's stadiums to watch the greatest game on Earth. Crowds often reach over 80,000, creating an unparalleled atmosphere of jubilation and heartache. Tickets start at about AU\$22 (S\$23).

**TOP SHOPS**

❖ **Harbour Town** (Waterfront City,

Docklands, tel: +61 (0)3 9328 8600) Melbourne's newest shopping plaza covers over 40,000 sq m and offers an array of direct-to-public outlets and speciality stores. Its waterside location makes it the ideal detour. Explore some of the restaurants and bars along the water.

❖ **South Melbourne Market** (322-326 Coventry St, South Melbourne, tel: +61 (0)3 9209 6295) Opened in 1867, this popular covered market has around 150 stalls selling everything from fruit to bric-a-brac to vintage clothes. Not to be missed is the Dim Sum Shop on Cecil St, which many claim is the best of its kind nationwide. Open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 8am-4pm.

**BEST BITES**

❖ **Donovan's** (40 Jacka Blvd, St Kilda, tel: +61 (0)3 9534 8221) With floor-to-ceiling windows that open on to the beach, it's no wonder that Donovan's is as famous for its views as its seafood. Among selections on a menu bursting with signature dishes, the classic battered King George whiting with house chips (AU\$39/S\$38) is still the meal people drive across town for.

Bookings are advisable and, to take advantage of the view, come at sunset. \$\$\$

❖ **The Keepers Arms** (351 Queensberry St, North Melbourne, tel: +61 (0)3 9329 7081) In a town famous for its chicken parmas, one backstreet pub has been quietly offering the city's best for years. Among about 10 variations, including the Hawaiian (with pineapple) and the Italian (with bolognese sauce) the standard parmigiana (AU\$17/S\$17) remains the most popular. If you're really hungry, try the double parma (AU\$32/S\$33) with twice as much, well, everything. \$

**AFTER DARK**

❖ **The Dan** O'Connell (235 Canning St, Carlton, tel: +61 (0)3 9347 1502) Since 1884, "The Dan" has been giving Melbourne a slice of Irish living. Unlike the many faux Irish pubs around town, this old boy has a sense of authenticity with poetry readings and open jam sessions every weekend. The real highlight is St Patrick's Day on 17 March, when thousands come to party in the adjoining park, making it Melbourne's most lively

choice for that special day.

❖ **Belgian Beer Café** (557 St Kilda Rd, tel: +61 (0)3 9529 2899) Make the most of the remaining sunshine by heading to what is widely regarded as Melbourne's best beer garden. On a sprawling green lawn, you'll find plenty of locals sipping Belgian brews and, on Sunday afternoons, listening to live bands in the open air. Get together with friends, grab a table and chill.

**SLEEPOVER**

❖ **Grand Hyatt** (123 Collins St, www.melbourne.grand.hyatt.com) After completing a AU\$45 million (S\$44 million) refurbishment which added world-class restaurants and two new lobbies, the Grand Hyatt has risen even further in the ranks of Melbourne's best hotels. Situated in the French end of Collins St, close to boutiques and laneway nightlife, it's ideal for those keen to get acquainted with the city and enjoy a bit of pampering on the side. Room rates start from around AU\$300 (S\$294). \$\$\$

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More information:

www.visitvictoria.com.au

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