



BRICK BY BRICK

The Fitzroy Heritage Walk showcases some of Melbourne's most interesting architecture.

With an assortment of art boutiques, student restaurants and gritty pubs, Fitzroy is known for its bohemian culture. But as you wind through the tree-lined backstreets, far removed from the popular Brunswick St., you'll discover a different side to Melbourne's first suburb.

The Fitzroy Heritage Walk begins at the imposing Fitzroy Towns Hall, and taking about an hour depending on your pace, focuses on a mixture of working class history spiced with the occasional gold rush gladiator.

The hall itself is a great example of the Free Classical style of Victorian architecture and while the clock tower can be seen from miles away, the building itself remains hidden down a backstreet, unknown to many.

The walk continues east on Moor St which is lined with small workers' cottages dating back to the gold rush period. At no. 192, two bluestone cottages give evidence of simple design and materials available at the time.

The walk then makes its way to Greaves St where at 126-132, three double story houses have been described as "one of the best colonial style streetscapes in Melbourne". To start the interior of one of the old cottages nearby go across the road to the Lambi Go Bar at no. 135 (open from 4pm), which is a bluestone building and has one of city's best assortments of beer.

The walk then heads north to Gore St where a number of houses have large front gardens, which is uncommon for the area, before heading to the tiny Chapel St. Here old warehouses mingle with incredibly small workers cottages, including one on 322 George St which is just 4m wide.

Nearby at 101 Groves St is an out-of-place freestanding house that looks like it should be part of a long terrace. Across the road at no. 118 is an imposing building which once was the Fitzroy United Friendly Societies Dispensary.



The walk then heads south on Gore St again, before entering the distinctly more upper-class section of Victoria Parade. Of note, no. 179 was the birthplace of famous female author Ethel Florence Richardson (known as Henry Handel) in order to get published.



As you continue north on Nagler St, turning west on Gertrude St, you'll notice the very distinctive three storey building at no. 158-164, which was built in 1887 for a local politician.

Another building of note is the Ace Billiards factory at 33 Charles St. Now converted apartments, the original red brickwork blends in effortlessly with the houses around it.

The walk ends back at the Town Hall, which is ideally located opposite the Napier Hotel. This beloved backstreet pub built in 1856 is known for its huge food portions and assortment of memorabilia from the now-defunct Fitzroy Football Club, and is the perfect way to finish the day.



Walk Notes MELBOURNE, VIC

Time: 1hr | Degree: Easy



NEED TO KNOW

The Fitzroy Heritage Walk pamphlet is available from the Fitzroy Library situated at the Fitzroy Town Hall (128 Moor Street, Fitzroy 3065, phone: 03 92011540).

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