

SAWASDEE

{CITY GUIDE}

THIS IS MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA



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Embrace the
great outdoors
Nature

2

From wineries
to penguins
Day Trips

3

Art, shoes and
more in Armadale
Shopping

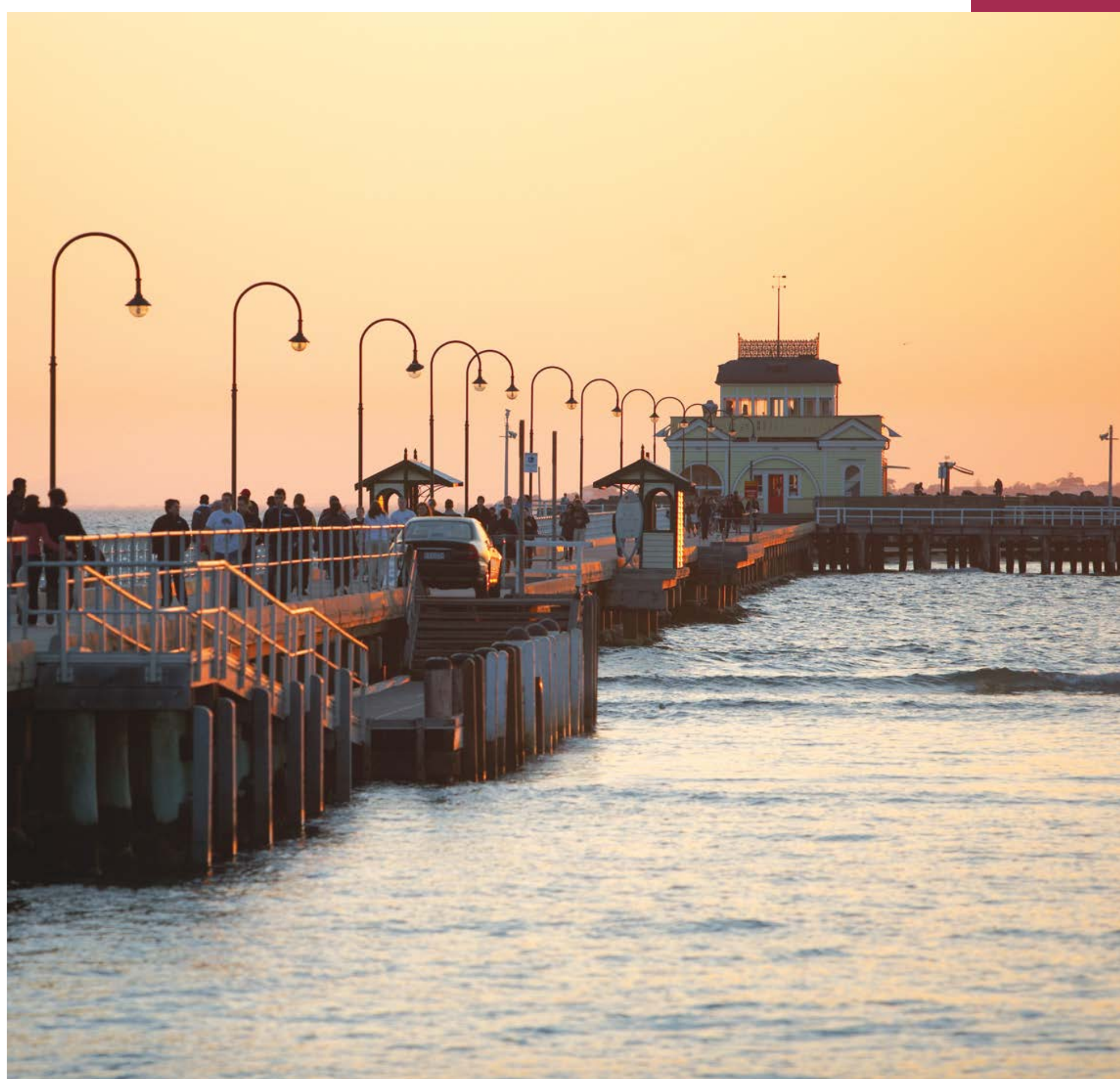
CURATOR'S NOTE

Perennially ranked among the world's most livable cities, Melbourne is just as exciting for a shorter visit. You can do it all here: feast on local food, recharge in nature, explore vibrant art and culture and find experiences for every taste and energy level.

Melbourne's relatively compact size adds to the city's charm. From Federation Square to foodie and fashion hub Flinders Lane, iconic landmarks are within reach by foot, bike or tram.

A melting pot of cultures, Melbourne is Australia's culinary powerhouse, too, with a thriving café scene to set you up for a day of roaming gritty street-art laneways, kayaking the Yarra River and going on mandatory pub crawls around a city that loves to party. Enjoy! – *Michelle Tchea*

In addition to the food and shopping scenes, don't forget to enjoy all the water-based fun in Melbourne, whether that's kayaking on the Yarra River or some beachside fun at St Kilda





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Stylish and sophisticated yet hip and gritty, Melbourne's multi-cultural heritage and diverse neighborhoods are a feast for the senses



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Spotlight on Indigenous culture

Walk among heritage trees, have an Aboriginal lunch and check out First Nations comedians



BY LAND OR BY SEA

Not an outdoorsy type? Melbourne will change that, with its rivers, beaches and jogging tracks



Melbourne's best day trips

Choose your adventure: wine tastings, penguin sightings or a three-day road trip?



Stargaze like the first astronomers

Appreciate the night sky in Southwest Gippsland, two hours from Melbourne



TASTE THE CITY

The breadth of Melbourne's dining scene presents a conundrum: how do you choose?



A Melbourne foodie's shopping list

Bring back these sweet and boozy Melburnian treats from your trip



A PERFECT DAY IN ARMADALE

Phillippa Grogan of Phillippa's Bakery shares what to eat and do in her neighborhood



Where to stay

A heritage stay at a boutique bolthole, or a splurge at a luxe brand hotel – the choice is yours





QUINTESSENTIALLY MELBOURNE

There's always something exciting happening in Melbourne's art and culture scene, from world-class museum exhibitions to guided walks exploring street art in the laneways – or just enjoying urban green spaces with the locals. Don't miss these spots on your next visit.





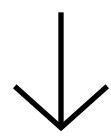
QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

Want to mingle with Melburnians? Don't miss the Queen Victoria Market. The heart and soul of Melbourne for more than 140 years, this eclectic community market is home to more than 600 vendors serving fresh seafood, running workshops, putting on live shows and selling souvenirs.

PHOTO BY VISIT VICTORIA

Curator's Note

The Winter Night Market is back at Queen Victoria Market, uniting Melbourne around crackling fires, street food, craft beers and even silent disco. Every Wednesday from 5-10pm, until Aug 30.





LANEWAY ART

Melbourne's street art is second to none. Some of the world's most celebrated artists have decorated the city's walls and nooks with incredible murals and graffiti. Start a self-guided tour at Hosier Lane – the beating heart of the street art scene – with a latte in hand, like a true local.

PHOTO BY VISIT VICTORIA



Spotted

American artist Keith Haring's iconic mural on Johnston Street in the Collingwood district remains intact today – one of about 30 of his murals still in existence globally.





NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

The city's most-visited museum, the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) boasts more than 75,000 pieces of art and hosts rotating exhibitions and events aligning with global art trends. Past standouts include a Pablo Picasso retrospective and a showcase of China's terracotta warriors.



Did you know?

The museum nearly lost its most valuable asset in 1986, when thieves stole Picasso's *The Weeping Woman*. The painting was later found undamaged in a Docklands railway station.





MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

No Melbourne trip is complete without an Aussie rules football game. The quintessential experience takes place Friday nights at the MCG and is made better with a cold beer and meat pie. You can also catch rugby, soccer and, in the summer, cricket matches here.

PHOTO BY VISIT VICTORIA



Curator's Note

Melbourne is home to the original Aussie rules football league (AFL). Games take place from autumn through spring, but in September, the Grand Final sees the city really come alive.





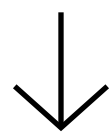
YARRA RIVER

Make sure you don't fall in, but definitely take a picture next to the Yarra River – one of Australia's most significant waterways. The river supplies Melbourne with 70 percent of its drinking water, and it has special cultural and spiritual meaning among Aboriginal communities.

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Curator's Note

Several parks along the river offer free picnic tables and barbecues. To experience the Yarra like a local, pack some grillable goodies and make use of the facilities at Studley Park Boathouse.





FEDERATION SQUARE

An eye-sore or an architectural gem? Federation Square's obscure design has stirred debate since it opened in 2002. Love it or hate it, though, it's the place for art and culture, with the ACMI (Australian Culture Moving Images Museum), Koorie Heritage Trust and more under one roof.

PHOTO BY VISIT VICTORIA



Curator's Note

From Fed Square – as the locals call it – Melbourne River Cruises offer daily boat trips down the Yarra. Make it extra special with a bottomless brunch cruise (weekends only).



Spotlight on Indigenous culture

Today, many businesses and tourism operators are seeking to pay respect to the First Nations people of Australia. Whether it's through a calming heritage walk in nature or a raucous evening out at a comedy club, here are some great ways to experience Aboriginal culture and talent when in Melbourne.



The Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne offers excellent cultural walking tours. Led by an Aboriginal guide, you'll explore the ancestral lands of the Kulin nation, who founded the gardens, and learn about edible plants still enjoyed by Indigenous communities across Australia.





If you'd rather be eating said edible plants, try Mabu Mabu Tuck Shop, just outside the city center, one of Melbourne's only Aboriginal-led eateries, which aims to promote Indigenous ingredients and food culture. Be sure to try Chef Nornie Bero's bush tucker and pick up some sauces as souvenirs.



And if you like a good laugh, plan your trip during the Melbourne Comedy Festival, held each autumn. Comedians gather for a series of shows around the city, but the top draws are always the Aboriginal All-Stars, featuring First Nations comedians.

More arts and culture coverage on
Sawasdee.thaiairways.com



BY LAND OR BY SEA

Melbourne's clean air, blue skies and greenery – plus seaside ports, beaches and botanical gardens – practically beg you to get out and be active. Lace up your sneakers and join the crowds in the great outdoors.





RUN THE BOTANIC GARDENS

Affectionately called “the Tan”, this 2.5km loop around the city’s Royal Botanic Gardens attracts runners all hours of day. Take it easy and opt for a coffee in the garden or enjoy a self-guided tour exploring the native plants.

PHOTOS BY VISIT VICTORIA



KAYAK THE YARRA RIVER

You won’t find any Aussies swimming in the Yarra, but you should definitely jump into a kayak and move your way down it for spectacular sights of the city.





GO SWIMMING AT ST. KILDA

A short tram ride from the city center leads to Melbourne's premier stretch of sand: St. Kilda Beach. If you love theme parks, check out Luna Park, but you won't go wrong simply swimming in the pristine waters either.

PHOTOS BY VISIT VICTORIA



SAIL IN PORT PHILLIP BAY

Find your sea legs and jump on a tall ship or catamaran touring Port Phillip Bay. From here, you can see the full sweep of Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula.





BIKE THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER TRAIL

Cycle this picturesque 21km bike trail and enjoy magnificent views of Melbourne’s city skyline, restored wetlands and stately river red gums.

Melbourne’s best day trips

Need a break from inner city action? The state of Victoria is packed with vineyards, scenic highways and byways, nature parks and more. You won’t have to go far from Melbourne to find one of these special experiences.



Phillip Island

Phillip Island is home to one of the largest Little Penguin colonies on Earth. Every day, hundreds of penguins waddle in from the sea at sunset on Summerland Beach. Find a spot and watch this magical parade. Bring a blanket – it gets cold.



Great Ocean Road

One of Australia’s most scenic drives, the Great Ocean Road is a three-day adventure all Melburnians do once in their lives.

Hit the road and soak up the 240km journey, which takes you to surfing capital Torquay and the 12 Apostles formation before ending at historic fishing village Port Fairy.



Pit Stop

Located in Great Otway National Park, Hopetoun Falls are one of many attractions on the drive. Hike into the fern-shrouded forest to see water plunge 30 meters into the Aire River.



Rutherglen

Located in northeast Victoria, three hours from Melbourne, Rutherglen is the ultimate getaway for wine-lovers. Known for its fortified wines, this 150-year-old wine-growing region fuses gold rush streetscapes with vineyards that plume with mist on cool mornings. It’s best explored by bike – even after a few cellar visits.



Did you know

Rutherglen’s muscat wines are world-renowned, but the region’s temperate climate also yields great white wine grapes like viognier, as well as red wine varietals like sangiovese and zinfandel.





Stargaze like the first astronomers

There are only a handful of places around the world that offer unadulterated night sky viewing. One of them is just two and a half hours from Melbourne, in Southwest Gippsland. A two-hour tour with Honeysuckles takes guests on an exciting astronomical experience, where you learn to read and appreciate the night sky like the Indigenous community did more than 65,000 years ago.

**More amazing experiences around the network at
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Stokehouse



TASTE THE CITY

The breadth of Melbourne's dining scene presents a fascinating conundrum: how do you choose when there are so many incredible places to try? Here's a start.





PELLEGRINI'S ESPRESSO BAR

A Melbourne institution, Pellegrini on Bourke Street has served legendary trattoria treats like cheesy lasagna, saucy gnocchi and watermelon granitas since 1954.

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STOKEHOUSE ST. KILDA

Stokehouse is known for two things: incredible seafood and excellent views of St. Kilda Beach. Go for oysters served on the half shell, tower-high seafood platters or roasted Aussie lamb.





HARDWARE CLUB

Occupying a space that served as a social club for hardware workers in the 1920s, the unpretentious Hardware Lane serves Italian classics with a touch of modernity to match its surroundings. Try the bone marrow toast or the wagyu steak in miso and saltbush salt.

O.MY

Sustainable and family-run restaurant O.My in Beaconsfield might be slightly outside the city, but it is worth the trek. Working with their own farm-grown produce in Gippsland, chef Blayne Bertoncello showcases the best of Melbourne with a focus on farm-first, minimal waste dining.





MAHA NORTH

Blending Middle Eastern and Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, the original Maha was a pioneer in Melbourne's dining scene. Chef Shane Delia recently opened another branch, Maha North, serving the same signature dishes with a focus on great wine pairings in an eclectic setting.

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A chef's guide to Melbourne

Shane Delia, the celebrity chef behind beloved Middle Eastern restaurants Maha and Maha North, shares a few of his favorites

Best place for lunch?

It depends on the day, who you're with, what's on and what you feel like. But I do like dumplings on a Sunday, and for that I can't go past Man Tong.

Best place to spend your afternoon?

Has to be watching the Doggies [the Western Bulldogs, an Australian rules football team] play!



Best place for cocktails?

In summer, Siglo. It's a classic bar where you can smoke a cigar, and who doesn't love a rooftop in warm weather? In winter, you can't go past Jayda, particularly the lounge. I know it's mine, but it's a winner.

Favorite Melbourne souvenirs?

Brick Lane Coffee, for its brilliant quality and solid range of beans. Flux Clothing is very Melbourne, very Northside and great for blokes. Baker Bleu's springy sourdough is world-class and worth the drive, no matter where you're staying. And St. David Dairy butter – a good slab and some salt on Baker Bleu bread is the perfect combo.



**More insider food recommendations at
[Sawasdee.thaiairways.com](https://www.sawasdee.thaiairways.com)**



A Melbourne foodie's shopping list

Whisky from Bakery Hill Distillery – Family-owned single malt whisky distillery from Kensington who pioneered Australia's whisky movement in 1999. Makes a great homemade Old Fashioned.

St. Ali's Coffee Beans – Take a piece of Melbourne's cafe culture with you from one of Melbourne's coffee pioneers.

Four Pillars Gin – Made in the Yarra Valley, Four Pillars is perfect for making a zesty gin and tonic at home.

Lamingtons – Chocolate covered sponge cakes with coconut sprinkles, Aussie lamingtons can be found in supermarkets, cafes and bakeries around Melbourne.

Vegemite – This Australian-made spread is great for breakfast and lunch – an acquired taste, sure, but emblematic of what Aussies eat.





OUT AND ABOUT

The best way to experience a city is to tag along with a local – Melburnian Phillippa Grogan shows us her favorite corner of the city.





Neighborhood watch: Armadale

Phillippa Grogan, founder and owner of Armadale favorite Phillippa's Bakery, shares her top shops and best eats in the neighborhood.

Located 7km southeast of downtown Melbourne, Armadale projects a stark contrast to the gritty and hipster vibe of most Melbourne streets. Across the neighborhood, you'll find loads of independent and locally designed items from Melbourne designers. Start your day at **Phillippa's Bakery**, with a strong latte and cardamom bun to fuel your day for some serious retail therapy.

With a coffee in hand, continue along High Street for random must-haves: art, bridal accessories, home furnishings and more. Grogan loves **Rose St. Trading Co.** for homeware and gifts, **Scanlan Theodore** for jeans and **Bared Footwear** for comfortable kicks, including high heels. "They're great for traveling. You can walk for hours in these shoes," she says.



Continue down High Street and stop by a buzzy cafe like **Moby** or **Willow Urban Retreat Cafe** for a quick lunch before exploring the district's awesome jewelry stores: **Catanach's Jewellers** is the place for pearls while **Kitte** offers the latest trending pieces. Then, take two rights and visit **Tiffany Treloar** on Wattletree Road, Grogan's favorite Melbourne designer. The shop designs its fabric prints in-house, guaranteeing you a unique take-home item.



At night, Grogan loves **Sozai** for Japanese cuisine and a drink at her two favorite wine bars: “**Auterra** for delicious wine and creative shared food plates, or **Albert's Wine Bar** on Morey Place for an interesting wine list, amazing beef tartare and lovely staff.”



Where to stay

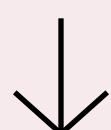
Settle in to boutique hotels occupying former heritage sites or splash out on luxe brands telling Melbourne's history at every turn

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The Royce

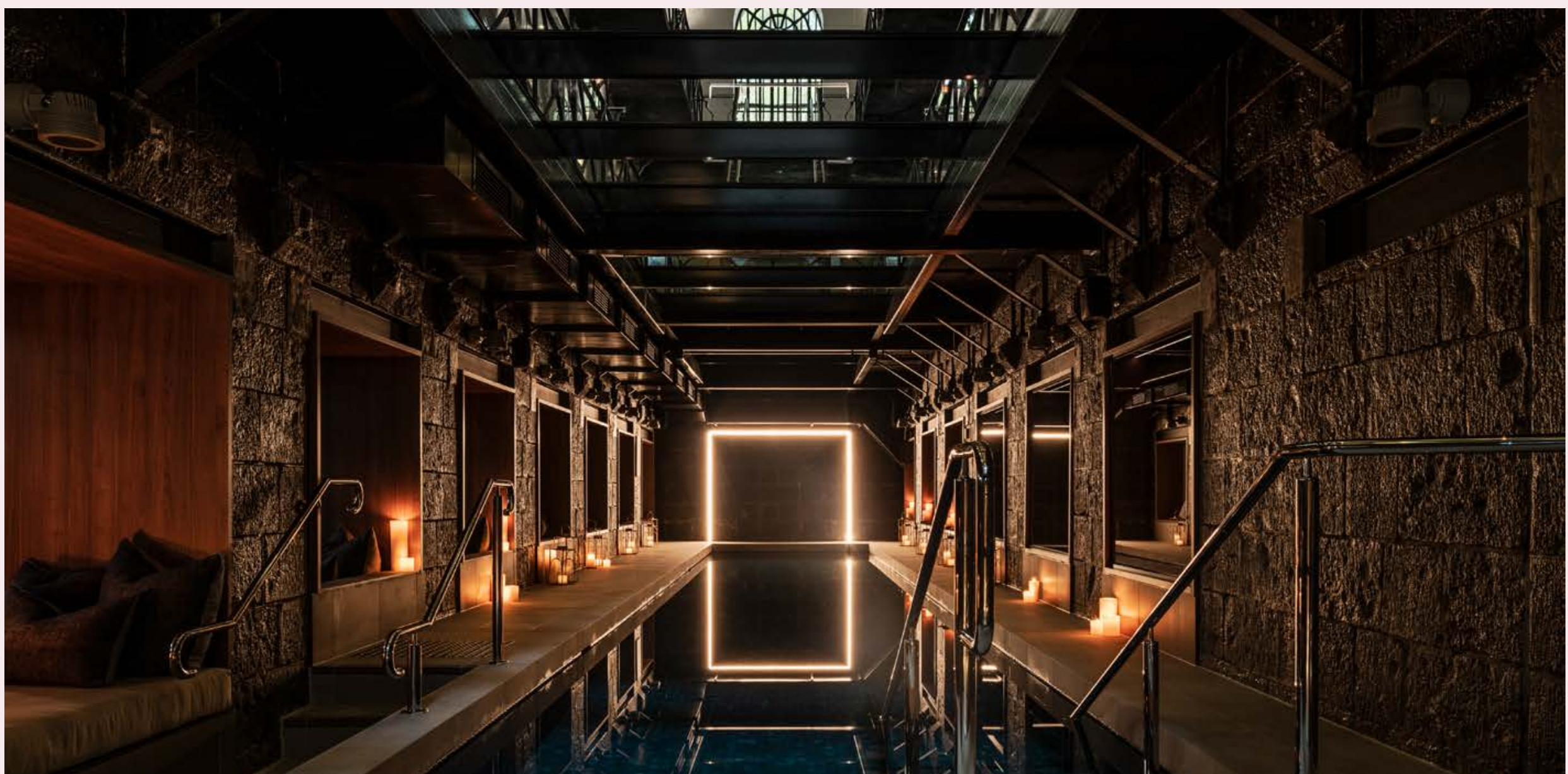
Located near the Shrine of Remembrance and the Royal Botanical Gardens, The Royce has breathed new life into the original home of Rolls-Royce in Melbourne. Art Deco touches and nods to the glamor and hedonism of the 1920s gives this posh boutique a cool vibe.





The Ritz-Carlton

Set 80 floors above the city, The Ritz-Carlton Melbourne oozes class. But the hotel has also woven in details that make Melbourne unique. Think statement pieces made by First Nations artists and gold accents reflecting the wealth that flooded into the city after the 1850s gold rush.



The Interlude

An urban retreat to match the city's hip and eclectic vibe, The Interlude boutique hotel combines world-class comfort with a unique narrative. It houses 19 heritage suites, a reflection garden and underground pool. But to top it off, it's located in Pentridge, a former prison opened in 1851.

PARTING SHOT



Pink Lake

During the summer, a combination of hot temperatures, algae, excessive natural sunlight and a little rainfall give the lake in Westgate Park, located just 15 minutes outside the city, a beautiful pink hue – hence the nickname Pink Park. Surreal to some and Instagrammable to others, the lake is unique to Melbourne alone.

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