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Welcome to *Melbourne Precincts*. Featuring 20 precincts across the city, this book is diverse but it does not seek to be comprehensive – it's a taster of what our city and suburbs have to offer.

I've asked a prominent local from each of the precincts to share their daily routines and favourite haunts – to reveal something of the multilayered nature of being a Melburnian, so there's plenty more tips inside than the 150 or so destinations I've recommended.

For each precinct I've featured local businesses stocking local makers, using local produce, supporting their local community. This local sensibility is a central part of being a Melburnian. Use this book as a way into a place, then make like a Melburnian and go for a stickybeak down laneways and into suburban backstreets, talk to locals and ask their opinions. Melburnians are friendly people, down to earth and warm – fiercely proud of their neighbourhoods and the city at large, and keen to share it with others.

Melbourne is best explored using a mix of transport modes. As a city it's actually made up of a collection of villages, easily experienced on foot. The city's geography (almost entirely flat) has given rise to an enthusiastic bike culture. There are hundreds of kilometres of dedicated bike paths and on-road lanes, government sponsored shared-bike services, and stylish bike-hire options such as Tokyo Bike (see p. 088) and The Humble Vintage. There's also a rail network that reaches out into the distant hinterland, and a tram system that snakes its way through the CBD (where trams are free) and across the inner suburbs. Suburbs are centred around train stations, and you can use public transport for as little as \$7 a day.

So get out there and explore this town. You're guaranteed to discover something new, and I reckon you'll be back for more.

Dale Campisi

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CBD CENTRAL

Melbourne's heart is the rabbit warren of lanes and arcades between the iconic Flinders Street Station (the city's main train station) and Melbourne Central shopping centre. Just a block wide between Elizabeth and Swanston streets, you can eat, drink and shop your way for more than a kilometre without stepping onto a main road.

Boutiques and bars, restaurants and cafes all thrive in these tiny backstreets – destinations which are just as much about the adventure of finding them as they are about what they sell. So full are the laneways now, that enterprising retailers are going vertical in some of the city's most interesting buildings.

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SHOP

- 1 CURTIN HOUSE
- 2 MR WARES
- 3 LANES AND ARCADES
- 4 NICHOLAS BUILDING

17

81P3

EAT AND DRINK

- 5 MOVIDA
- 6 BAR AMERICANO
- 7 HELL'S KITCHEN

CBD CENTRAL



DOCKLANDS

3.

LORD COCONUT

Suite 3, Level 4,
289 Flinders La, Melbourne
0450 015 263

www.lordcoconut.com

Open Mon–Fri 11am–6pm,
Sat 12–4pm

Located in the gorgeous Art Deco Mitchell Building, Lord Coconut is the city's only dedicated men's jewellery store. A little bit gothic, a little bit industrial, and a lot old-world gentleman, Lord Coconut stocks a broad range of rings, cufflinks, tie bars, brooches and lapel pins for discerning gents and those looking for quality and unique flair. Look out for Fiona Griffiths' subway token rings, works in silver and gold by Ali Alexander, and Justin Siow's titanium beetle cufflinks.

4.

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

Level 1, 2 Somerset Pl,
Melbourne
9670 4405

www.captainsofindustry.com.au

Open Sat–Thurs 9am–5pm,
Fri 9am–11pm

Get a haircut, get fitted for a pair of shoes, or sit down for a coffee and a gourmet sandwich and stare across the street at the GPO. Bespoke clothing ain't cheap, nor is it easily attainable (the waiting list for shoes often exceeds six months) but, as my mother always says, you get what you pay for. There's a slick range of hair products available at the front counter, and at Christmas time you'll find jams and pickles, courtesy of some of the captains' mums.



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PATRICIA

493-495 Little Bourke St,

Melbourne

9642 2237

www.patriciacoffee.com.au

Open Mon-Fri 7am-4pm

By virtue of its tiny footprint it's standing room only at Patricia, which is just fine for morning coffees, and fine by the busy clientele who frequent this cafe in the city's legal district. Hidden down an alley, the cafe's only signage is the ceiling neon – a lovely surprise in the sleek interior. The small offering of pastries doesn't detract from the coffee by Seven Seeds, Market Lane, Small Batch and Proud Mary. Newspapers are pinned to the wall down the back, for reading French style.



6.

CUTLER & CO

55-57 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
9419 4888

www.cutlerandco.com.au
Open Mon-Thurs & Sat 6pm-late,
Fri & Sun 12pm-late

Cutler & Co is truly something special – a very fine diner by Andrew McConnell set in the very raw conversion of an old metals factory. The lighting is particularly dim, which serves to draw your attention to the dreamy fittings. Seafood features prominently on the menu, but there's variety, including the eminently shareable 1.2kg rib eye. It's pricey but memorable, so go all out and sample the entire menu with a degustation, or take in a long Sunday lunch of slow roasts.

7.

THE EVERLEIGH

Upstairs 150-156 Gertrude St,
Fitzroy

9416 2229
www.theeverleigh.com
Open Mon-Sun 5.30pm-1am

This is a bartender's bar. The list of classics is long, and the staff is confident to make variations to recipes – indeed, they make cocktails to your taste – right in front of you. Aficionados will enjoy a seat at the bar, where you can observe the mixology in action, or you can take a booth in the adjacent room for more private libation. Perhaps the most telling thing about the credentials of the Everleigh, though, is that there are no plastic straws here. But if you insist on sipping and sucking you can buy a metal one for \$3.



HOT TIP

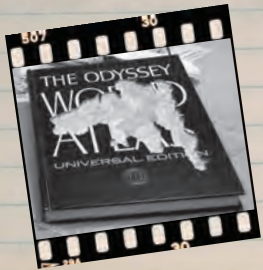
Fitzroy has always been a bastion for bohemians. Art abounds here: be sure to check out Gertrude Contemporary on Gertrude Street and the Centre for Contemporary Photography on George Street.



MEET THE MELBURNIAN
NICHOLAS JONES
BOOK SCULPTOR



Nicholas Jones is a Melbourne gent known for his sculptural work, which revolves around reworking old books. He has exhibited extensively over the past 15 years, and is always searching for the perfect book to turn into an artwork. He enjoys putting together a quirky outfit, and the weather forecast is rarely considered.



How do you define Melbourne style?

Melbourne style has changed over the past few years, with people seeming to care a little more about their choice of clothing. It has always been more reserved than cities like Sydney, where people are a little more tizzy. With the growth in population, Melbourne style has become more eclectic.

A day out?

I love walking, and there are so many things to see in the neighbourhood that a car is really not necessary. Visiting the Fitzroy Market, shopping on Smith Street, visiting Friends of the Earth, having a coffee at the Enoteca ... so much to do. A Sunday out would invariably end with a catch-up with friends at the Gem Hotel.

Where do you go to relax?

The Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy is a great example of Victorian-era town planning, something that current councils could well learn from! A great place to relax and read the paper, or run around chasing a frisbee, or a dog!

Get out of town!

We are surrounded by so many beautiful towns in Victoria. I love to visit Kyneton, Woodend and Castlemaine.