



Introduction to Melbourne

Melbourne offers new students an amazing range of living choices. Suburbs are quite varied in character, so it is well worth doing some research, and thinking about what which area would best suit your own personal style, needs and budget.

Carlton and Parkville are within short walking distance of the University and are home to a mix of students, academic staff, professionals and long-term residents. Cafés, restaurants, cinemas and grocery stores are located in Carlton and students often stroll to Lygon Street for a coffee between lectures. In a time of increasing rental prices, however, many students are living further out and in the process, discovering new and interesting parts of Melbourne which themselves are undergoing rapid change and transformation. What follows is not an exhaustive account of the suburbs of Melbourne, but rather a description of the areas often selected for residence by students.

Northern suburbs

North Melbourne

North Melbourne is very close to the city and the Queen Victoria Market where you can get fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce. North Melbourne is also close to the major hospitals, parklands, good shopping and cafes. Rental properties can be reasonably priced. Approximately 2 – 3 kilometres (km) from the University and Central Business District (CBD).

Fitzroy

Fitzroy offers proximity to campus and a modern bohemian atmosphere. Brunswick Street cafes, restaurants and bars are plentiful, as are bookshops and eclectic clothing and furniture stores. Rental prices are variable. Around 2km from the University and CBD.

North Fitzroy

North Fitzroy has interesting cafes, bars and restaurants, two excellent video stores and an excellent supermarket, along with the Edinburgh Gardens. Rental prices are variable and slightly cheaper for further out. The St Georges Road tram takes you to Johnston Street where you can walk a few blocks to Uni. Around 2 km from the University and 3 - 4 km from the CBD.

Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill has plenty of gardens, parklands, shopping and cafes. It is more obviously an affluent area than its neighbour North Fitzroy, though rental prices are similar. It offers access to gardens, parklands, shopping and cafes. A tram and a bus away from Uni, it is located approximately 3km from the University and 4km from the CBD.

Collingwood

Collingwood offers bargain shopping at outlet stores along Smith Street, along with diverse cheap eats. Further out, the Collingwood Children's Farm is not just for kids – monthly farmers' markets provide a chance to sample local produce. Walk or bus down Johnston Street to Uni. Around 1km from the University and 2 - 3km from the CBD.

Northcote

Northcote offers reasonably-priced larger houses. High Street is a great night spot, with eclectic bars and restaurants, independent movies at the Westgarth Cinema, and excellent live music venues. There is cheap grocery shopping north of Separation Street, with an Aldi and wholesale fruit and vegetable outlets. Trams run along High Street and St Georges Road, and two train lines connect Northcote to the city. Around 4km from the University and 5km from the CBD.

Brunswick

Brunswick has a huge variety of shops and cafés, and a relaxed live music scene. Buying in bulk at the Mediterranean Wholesalers can stretch your food budget further. Delicious Lebanese pastries abound on Sydney Road, along with halal food. Rental prices are reasonable, with larger and cheaper houses in West Brunswick. Brunswick is well connected to the University by the Sydney Road, Lygon Street and Melville Road trams. Around 4 – 6km from the University and 6 - 8km from the CBD.

Coburg

Just north of Brunswick, rental prices for larger houses in Coburg are cheaper again. Coburg is a fascinating historical suburb of Melbourne: the most famous, or infamous, of its sites is the old Pentridge Prison, now developed into housing. Well-served by public transport, including the Sydney Road and Lygon Street trams and the Upfield train line, Coburg has an excellent bike path terminating the Lake Reserve near the Merri Creek. Around 6 - 8km from the University and 8 - 9km from the CBD.

Preston

East of Coburg, and offering larger houses for similar rental prices, Preston is a thriving community-oriented suburb. Preston Market is famous for its good value fresh produce and lively atmosphere. Many new cafés and restaurants are opening along High Street. Served by tram, train (the Epping line) and bus, and situated around 7-9km from the University and 9 - 10km from CBD.

Thornbury

Just south of Preston, Thornbury offers parks and gardens, a busy shopping strip along High Street, and a growing alternative music scene. Rental prices are reasonable, though slightly higher than Coburg or Preston. Served by the Epping train line, two trams along High Street and St Georges Road and various buses, and situated around 7 - 9km from the University and 9km CBD.

Fairfield & Alphington

Fairfield and Alphington offer native parkland along the Yarra Bend, where you can rent boats or picnic, and interesting historical buildings, such as the Grandview Hotel, a coffee palace built in 1888. New shops and cafés are springing up along Station Street. Rental prices for larger houses with gardens are reasonable. Served by the Hurstbridge train line, and various buses, and situated around 8-10km from the University and 8km from the CBD.

Ivanhoe

In spite of its affluence, Ivanhoe has reasonably priced rental properties. The suburb's centre, Upper Heidelberg Road, features various shops, restaurants and cafés. A new supermarket was built in 2008. The annual Christmas lights display along The Boulevard is becoming a Melbourne institution. Served by the Hurstbridge train line and various buses, it is situated around 12km from University and the CBD.

Heidelberg

Heidelberg lies along the banks of the Yarra River and the Darebin Creek, offering lively shops and cafes in Burgundy Street, a new supermarket and proximity to the Austin Hospital. West Heidelberg was the site of the athletes' village for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Rental prices are reasonable, with cheaper prices in West Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights. Served by the Hurstbridge train line, and situated around 14km from the University and the CBD.

Moonee Ponds

Moonee Ponds offers a mix of tranquillity and bustle, with period architecture along tree-lined streets, Queens Park, the Moonee Valley Race Course and good cafés and cake shops along Puckle Street. Rental properties are reasonably priced. Moonee Ponds is a transport hub, with a train station along the Craigieburn line, two trams, and various buses. Catch the Mt Alexander Road tram to Uni. Situated around 6km from the University, and 8 - 10km from the CBD.

Essendon

A large pleasant suburb with tree-lined streets, Essendon has slightly more expensive rental properties, though with some variability. Shops and cafés are plentiful. Served by the Craigieburn train line, you can catch the tram down Mt Alexander Road to Uni. Situated around 8km from the University and 10km from the CBD.

Parkville, Carlton & North Carlton

Close to everything. Apartments are generally plentiful but can be expensive. Easy access to the city for shopping, close to the Royal Melbourne and Children's Hospitals and the University. A mix of students, academics and professionals reside in Parkville. Carlton is becoming an increasingly expensive suburb in which to live. Rental stock is generally in short supply and average rent for a room in a share house is now around \$165 a week. Be warned, competition for housing is tough. Good coffee and food are found in the vicinity of Lygon and Rathdowne Streets. Parkville, Carlton and North Carlton are all within walking distance of the University and less than 2km from the CBD.

Southern suburbs

St Kilda

Cosmopolitan St Kilda is home to Luna Park, Acland Street cafés and shops and the Esplanade. A wide variety of people choose to live in this suburb. Located close to the beach and with lots of art deco apartments, rents can be quite expensive. There is good transport to the University by tram, but this trip can take up to one hour in peak times. Around 10km from the University and 8km from the CBD.

Elwood

Similar to St Kilda, although transport can be more difficult. You may have to catch an extra bus. Distances are roughly the same as for St Kilda.

Eastern suburbs

Richmond

Richmond offers reasonably priced rental properties within 30 minutes of the University by public transport. Victoria Street is renowned for its Vietnamese Restaurants and grocery stores, along with plenty of Greek restaurants.. There is good access to the Yarra River and the city by bike or public transport. Richmond is a bargain-hunters paradise for clothing, furniture and household items. Approximately 4km from the University and 2km from the CBD.

Abbotsford

Abbotsford is close to the Yarra River and its picturesque bike paths, and to a wealth of Vietnamese restaurants and shops along Victoria Street, known informally as Little Saigon. Victoria Street is overlooked by the famous Skipping Girl Vinegar sign, just near a giant IKEA store. The Abbotsford Convent is a peaceful arts, educational and cultural precinct and is also home to a great bakery and a Lentil as Anything café. Rental prices in the area are reasonable. Ride, bus or tram into Uni. Around 3km from the University and 4 km from the CBD.

Hawthorn

An established, leafy suburb offering a range of apartments and older style houses at a median rate. A mix of students, professionals and families reside here. There is decent access to public transport, with a tram ride to the Parkville campus taking approximately 30 minutes. Glenferrie Road provides a range of cafés, clothes and other stores. Close to the Melbourne University Private Hawthorn campus and Swinburne University. Easy access to gardens and parklands. Around 5km from the Parkville campus and 4km from the CBD.

Western suburbs

Flemington

Flemington is home to a world-famous horse race, the Melbourne Cup, the Spring Racing Carnival and Australia's biggest touring music festival, the Big Day Out. Day-to-day, Flemington offers a mixed bag of cafés and restaurants, including excellent Asian and Ethiopian restaurants. Rental prices are reasonable. The 402 bus from Footscray drops you off just outside the University on Grattan Street. Around 2km from the University and 3 – 4km from the CBD.

Kensington

Offering similar rental prices and proximity to the University, Kensington has become a popular suburb with students, young professionals and families, creating a village feel. The lively main strip along Bellair Street and Macauley Road has cafés, restaurants, pubs and local supermarkets. Transport is as for Flemington.

Footscray

People say you love it, or you hate it. Either way, Footscray is a fascinating mix of cultures and it's quite cheap on all fronts. Excellent fresh produce is available from the market. Close to the city centre, with good public transport and plenty of Vietnamese restaurants, Asian grocery stores and a small selection of Halal food outlets. Housing is very reasonably priced. Around 4km from the University and 6km from the CBD.

Maidstone & West Footscray

Maidstone and West Footscray offer a similar long history of multiculturalism, along with generally cheaper rental prices. Barkly Village has excellent Asian, Indian and Italian grocery stores. The Western Hospital is located on the border of Footscray. Public transport to the Uni is slightly trickier with various buses taking you nearby areas, such as the Queen Victoria Market (bus 220) and the North Melbourne train station (bus 216). Serviced by the Sydenham train line, and situated around 6km from the University and 8km from the CBD.

Yarraville & Seddon

Yarraville and Seddon offer a village atmosphere not far from the city centre. Rental ranges are slightly higher in both suburbs than in nearby Footscray. Yarraville Village is known for its nineteenth-century architecture, including an art deco cinema, the Sun Theatre, eclectic shopping and excellent restaurants and cafés. Served by the Werribee and Williamstown train lines, travel to Uni might involve more than one bus. Around 4km from the University and 6km from the CBD.

Melbourne city

Melbourne City is a bustling central shopping, business and entertainment precinct. The city has superior access to public transport and is only a short tram ride or walk to the University. Substantially home to professionals, wide ranges of apartments are available but are moderately to highly-priced. The Bourke Street Mall houses department stores and the Melbourne Post Office. The eastern end of Little Bourke Street is home to colourful Chinatown, with great Asian restaurants, grocery and gift stores. Flinders Lane is teeming with funky clothes stores and cafés. Galleries, museums, theatres and a stack of classical and modern architecture will satisfy all artistic tastes! For a whole range of additional information about Melbourne city, check out www.melbourne.citysearch.com.au or www.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Getting around

Melbourne is well-served by public transport. Trams, trains and buses are available. A daily Zone One travel ticket provides unlimited travel around the city and many inner Melbourne suburbs. Weekly and monthly tickets are also available (plus others). Fare prices, concession card applications, timetables and route information can be found at www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au.

Riding a bicycle is a great way to save money and keep fit. Cyclists find the Bicycle Victoria website useful for information on rules and regulations, purchasing bikes and accessories, safety and path maps. Visit www.bv.com.au.

Further Information

Further information about Melbourne is available at the following websites:

www.cityhobo.com

www.streetadvisor.com

www.schmap.com/melbourne/home/

www.railpage.org.au/railmaps/melbourn.htm

Information in this brochure was correct at the time of printing (V3/May08/ekc).