



Melbourne

MELBOURNE, Australia

Just as it begins to cool here in the Mid-Atlantic, spring is ushering in summer in this cosmopolitan seaside city Down Under.

STAY

From Douglas Fairbanks to Lauren Bacall to Helena Bonham Carter, when Hollywood luminaries have visited Melbourne, they've settled into the historic 1883 **Hotel Windsor**. Named Australasia's Leading Hotel at the 2014 World Travel Awards, the five-star Hotel Windsor is located in the heart of Melbourne, across from Victoria's Parliament House. The atmosphere is more uniquely artsy at the four Melbourne-area boutique hotels and residences run by the **Art Series Hotel Group**. Each location is named for the Australian artist whose original artwork adorns the walls and halls, and each boasts its own art library. Art supplies are available should you feel creative.

EAT

If you have a culinary bucket list, add to it **Attica**, just named one of **The World's 50 Best Restaurants** by The Diners Club World's 50 Best Restaurants Academy. Chef Ben Shewry's menu is known for featuring native Australian ingredients such as red kangaroo with bunya nuts. New and hot on Melbourne's dining scene is **Supernormal**, with food inspired by the cuisine of Tokyo, Shanghai, Seoul and Hong Kong. Discover the range of dining available in Melbourne on one of **Queenie's Food Tours**. The City Foodie Lunch Tour will have you eating your way through the cafés and food shops of the central business district, while the Sweet Dreams Walking Tour explores the South Yarra suburb for some exquisite desserts.

SEE

Immerse yourself in culture at the free **National Gallery of Victoria**. Its two facilities in Melbourne showcase a range of worldwide art, including indigenous Australian works. Enjoy Mother Nature in all her spring finery at the **Royal Botanic Gardens**, an oasis of greenery and lakes in the middle of the city, where you can book the **Aboriginal Heritage Walk** to learn about the culture of the Koolin nation. Take a guided tour on two wheels with **Real Melbourne Bike Tours** to learn some quirky facts about this multicultural city, or use your own two feet on the **Hidden Secrets Walking Tour**, during which you'll discover the hidden arcades and laneways of Melbourne.

DO

You're Down Under to extend your summer, so be sure to hit one of the Melbourne-area beaches. Nearest the city, **St. Kilda Beach** features palm-lined beaches, Luna Park with its amusement rides, and a host of restaurants and shops. Journey a little farther south to **Brighton Beach** to snap photos of the colorful seaside bathing boxes. Australia is well known for its wines, so take a day trip to tour the **wineries of nearby Mornington Peninsula**. You can even see the wineries from up in the saddle on a **Horseback Winery Tour**. While on the peninsula, explore the **Ashcombe Maze and Lavender Gardens**, with bulbs and trees abloom in spring and fragrant lavender in summer.



Royal Botanic Gardens



One of Queenie's Food Tours stops at Le Croissant



Brighton Beach