

Explore the City

City Sights

On this half-day tour we explore some of the wonderful picturesque and historical areas round the City of Melbourne.

After picking you up from your hotel, clubrooms, or other agreed convenient venue we travel to the Eastern edge of Melbourne's central business district (CBD). This area is rich with examples of the lavish buildings from an era when Victoria was very prosperous as a result of the large deposits of alluvial gold found in our State.

Our first stop is the Royal Exhibition Building in the Carlton Gardens. This building is the first Australian building to have a World Heritage listing. The foundation stone was laid in 1879 and completed in 1880. It was the venue for the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament in 1901. It was used again recently (2001) for a special sitting of Parliament to celebrate the centenary of the first sitting. Behind the Exhibition Building is the newly constructed Museum of Victoria.



Next stop is Parliament House in Spring Street. This magnificent neo Classical building with lavish interiors. Built between 1856 and 1892. It was the first home of Australian Parliament from 1901 until 1926, when it reverted to the Parliament of Victoria.



Across the road is the recently restored Windsor Hotel. Built in 1883 by well-known architect Charles Webb, The Windsor (originally The Grand Hotel and then The Grand Coffee Palace) is Australia's only remaining grand hotel.



Then onto St Patrick's Cathedral. The Cathedral is the mother church of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Centenary of its official opening and Consecration was marked in 1997; however, the first Mass was celebrated on the site in February 1858 in a former partially completed church.



Designed by William Wardell, St Patrick's is regarded internationally as the finest ecclesiastical building in Australia and a pre-eminent example of the Gothic Revival style.

Around the corner from St Pat's is the Fitzroy Gardens site of Captain Cook's Cottage. The cottage, which had belonged to Captain Cook's parents in Yorkshire, was dismantled, transported to Melbourne and re-assembled in the Fitzroy Gardens in 1934. It was a gift to Victoria from a local scientist, businessman and philanthropist named Russell Grimwade. Over one of the doorways is the inscription "JGC 1755" (James and Grace Cook - the parents of Captain James Cook).



INCLUDES:

Bus or Coach Travel

FARES

From \$20.00 per passenger
(conditions apply)