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Historical Overview

Capital of the State of Victoria, Melbourne is home to nearly 4 million people. The city was founded in 1835 on the banks of the River Yarra after an aborted attempt 22 years earlier to establish a settlement at Port Philip Bay. The latter is now part of greater Melbourne.

With its mix of modern and Victorian buildings, the city offers a great many things to do and see, including museums, art galleries, theatres, and spaciouly landscaped parks and gardens. There are also many hotels in Melbourne.

Events

Melbourne hosts many events throughout the year. Annual events include the Moomba Festival, which takes over a weekend in March. It's basically a family fun festival. Moomba's aboriginal meaning is "let's get together and have some fun".

March, in fact, is packed with many end of summer festivals including the Melbourne food and wine festival, the Australian Grand Prix, and the International Flower and Garden festival. The latter lasts for several weeks.

Events later in the year include the Melbourne Fringe Festival and the International Arts Festival. Hotels in Melbourne are likely to have details of events.

Sightseeing

If visiting the city for the first time, you should take a trip to Federation Square, which is the main centre of downtown Melbourne. As well as the numerous shops and restaurants in Melbourne, you will find the Visitor's Centre, the Ian Potter Centre, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, and the Australian Racing Museum.

Other attractions are the Melbourne Zoo and the Eureka Skydeck located on the 88th floor of the Eureka Tower, where you can see a 360 degree view of the city.

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