

# 4 Arcades and Lanes

Lanes, alleyways, little streets, arcades, café society and fascinating shops.

Walking time 1.5 hours  
Distance 2.5 Kilometres



Melbourne's little laneways began life as rear access to properties facing big streets. Many were later roofed as 'arcades' to provide refuge from the weather and crowds and to provide more space for shops. Today, some lanes have been reborn and hum to the rhythm of daily city life. Others are still waiting to be discovered.

Begin your walk by crossing from **Federation Square** ① to a traditional meeting place 'Under the Clocks' ② at **Flinders Street Station** ③. Cross Flinders Street, turn left and continue on. Turn right into Degraeves Street where William Degraeves' steam flourmill pumped away in the 1850s. Nowadays, it's espresso.

**Degraeves Street** ④ is a mecca for Melbourne's café society. Check out the healthy delights at the organic shop or the juice bar. Order a coffee at Degraeves Espresso Bar, where the seats are recycled cinema seats and benches from a former magistrates court.

At the end of Degraeves Street, on the other side of Flinders Lane, is the **Majorca Building** ⑤ - still as stylish as in its 1920s heyday. The building's terracotta has Spanish or Moorish influences, reflecting the exotic destinations that captured imaginations at that time.

**Centre Place** ⑥ is a breeding ground for cafes - some so small you can barely stretch to stir your coffee. Ask for the delicious soup of the day at pocket sized Jungle Juice Bar, squat on the box seats and enjoy noodles at Yen or retreat upstairs to dimly lit Hell's Kitchen and look down on the passing throng. This area is also a must see for those interested in street art.

Step up to **Centre Way** ⑦ (1913) - an early steel-framed building with a post-modern makeover - then cross Collins Street and turn left before entering the exquisite 19th century **Block Arcade** ⑧. The arcade was named after the fashionable Collins Street block between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets where 19th century Melburnians liked to promenade or 'do the block'. Today, it is still a hive of activity, with its mosaic floors and fascinating shops to explore.



Under the clocks at Flinders Street Station

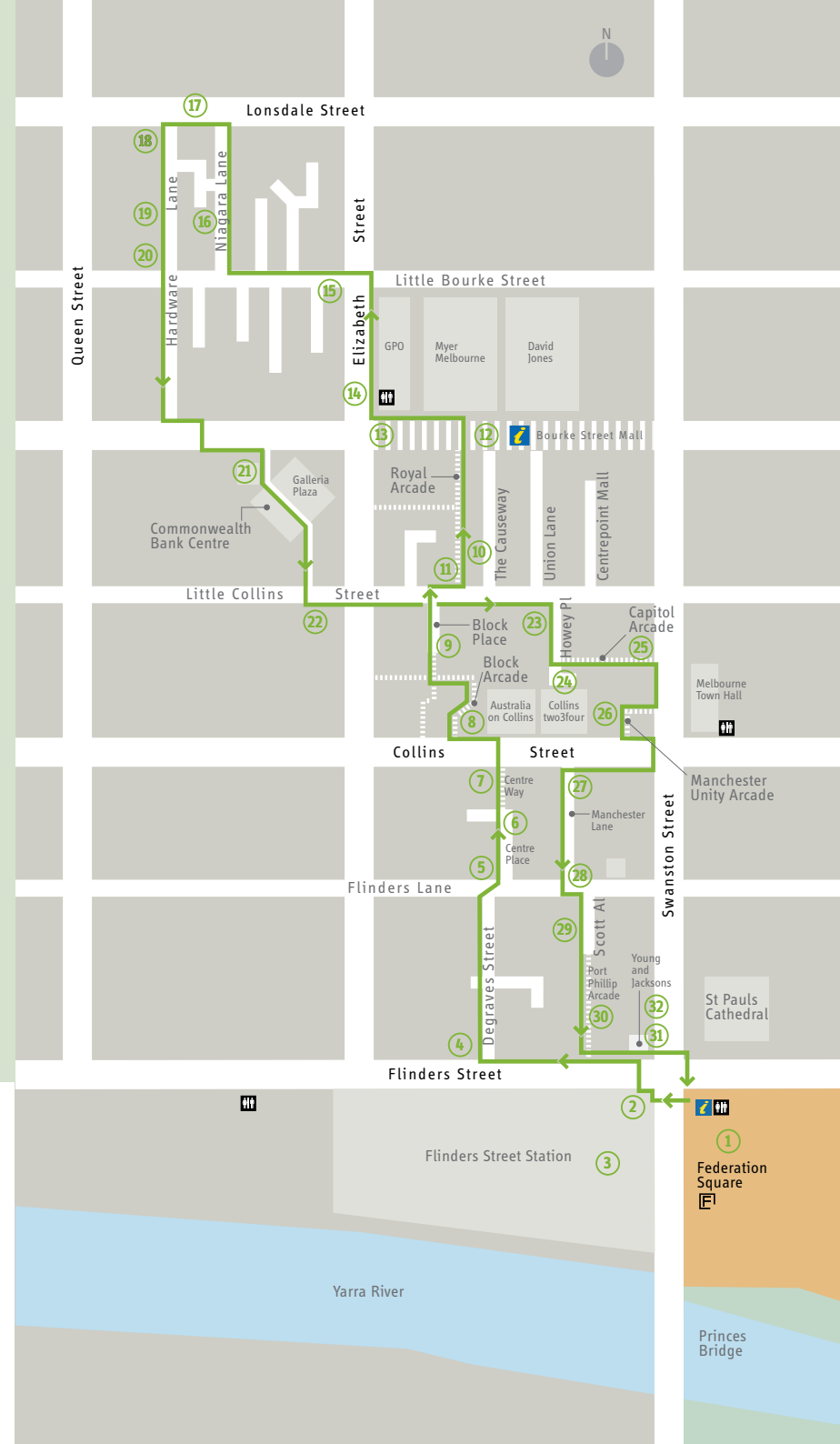


Gog and Magog



Howey Place

Pick a table at **Block Place** ⑨ and grab a bite to eat before you cross over Little Collins Street to the elegant **Royal Arcade** ⑩ (1869) - the oldest shopping arcade in Australia. Don't forget to look back up to **Gog and Magog** ⑪, the two legendary giants of the ancient Britons who have struck on the hour since 1892.





Niagara Lane



The famous Block Arcade

Reaching Melbourne's shopping heart at **Bourke Street Mall** (12), turn left and cross the Bourke Street Mall, pass the sculpture the **Public Purse** (13) outside **Melbourne's GPO**, then continue along Elizabeth Street. The **Underground Public Toilets** (14) are historic: the men's were built in 1910, while the ladies waited longer, until 1927.

Go left up **Little Bourke Street** (15) and cross two laneways before you discover a superb group of 1880s warehouses at **23-31 Niagara Lane** (16).

Look for the picturesque barrel hoists. The lane was named in the 1860s after the Niagara Hotel in **Lonsdale Street** (17).

Round the corner, after a short walk up Lonsdale Street, bustling **Hardware Lane** (18) epitomises Melbourne's laneway renaissance. With cobbled stones underfoot and café umbrellas overhead, stay awhile and enjoy the lane's alfresco seating, fascinating façades and small specialty shops.

At 63-73 Hardware Lane, look up through the café umbrellas to check the date of **Dynon's Building** (19), a set of four (originally five) warehouses designed by William Pitt, the celebrated architect of Princess Theatre and some of the finest gothic revival buildings in Collins Street. Named after **Hardware House** (20) in the 1920s, Hardware Lane was built on land formerly occupied by Kirk's Horse Bazaar.

Stroll back down to Bourke Street, cross over and take a short cut through **Galleria Plaza** (21) - then turn left onto **Little Collins Street** (22) where the serious fashion begins. Pass a dozen lanes and arcades before reaching the delightful **Howey Place** (23). Between the 1890s and 1920s, the western side of Howey Place was part of Cole's Book Arcade, which stretched from Collins to Bourke Streets and was probably the 'biggest bookshop in the world' with over two million books.

Continue on through **Capitol Arcade** (24) to Capitol House, opened in 1924 and designed by Walter Burley Griffin (architect of Canberra) and Marion Mahony Griffin. Upstairs, the **Capitol Theatre** (25) was once an extraordinary 'picture palace'. These days during term-time, you may see students from RMIT University, attending lectures in the impressive auditorium.

Walk through historic **Manchester Unity Arcade** (26) and then cross Collins Street to **Manchester Lane** (27) and Flinders Lane. Once the centre of the city's rag trade, **Flinders Lane** (28) is now a unique shopping destination for the hip and happening, as well as home to some of the best galleries and bars in the city.

As you head back to Federation Square, stroll down **Scott Alley** (29) and pass through **Port Phillip Arcade** (30) and turn left at Flinders Street. Your final stop is **Young & Jackson's** (31) where the beer has flowed for over a century. Upstairs is the nude portrait **Chloe** (32) that shocked conservative Melbourne and made the hotel famous. Enjoy one last drink here as you take in the grand view of **Federation Square** (1).

# Federation Square



The Ian Potter Centre NGV Australia



Australian Centre for the Moving Image

## Arts and Culture

**ArtPlay**  
Bookings essential,  
artplay.com.au  
Tel: 9664 7900

**Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)**  
Mon to Sun  
10am to 5pm

**NGV Studio**  
Sun to Wed  
10am to 5pm  
Thurs to Sat  
10am to 10pm

**No Vacancy Project Space**  
Tue to Sat  
11am to 5pm  
Sun 12pm to 5pm

**The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia**  
Tue to Sun  
10am to 5pm

## Restaurants, Cafes and Bars

**Optic Kitchen & Bar**  
Mon, Tues and Sun  
8.30am to 6pm  
Wed to Sat  
8.30am to 10pm

**Arintji**  
Mon to Fri  
10am to late  
Sat & Sun  
9am to late

**Beer Deluxe**  
Mon to Sun  
7am to late

**Bokchoy Tang**  
Mon to Sun  
11.30am to late

**Café Chinotto**  
Mon to Sun  
10am to late

**Chocolate Buddha**  
Mon to Sun  
noon to late

**Feddish**  
Mon to Sun  
noon to late

**Il Pomodoro Italian**  
Mon to Sun  
11am to late

**In a Rush Espresso**  
Mon to Sun  
7am to 5pm

**Riverland Bar and Café**  
Mon to Sun  
7am to late

**Time Out Café**  
Mon to Sun  
8am to late

**Transport**  
Mon to Sun  
11am to late

**Taxi Dining Room**  
Mon to Sun noon to 3pm and 6pm to late

**Transit Cocktail Lounge**  
Sun, Wed & Thurs  
from 5pm  
Fri to Sat from 4pm  
Mon to Tue closed

## Shops and Retail

**Best of Victoria**  
**Best of Souvenirs**  
Open same hours  
as Melbourne Visitor  
Centre

**Kirra Galleries**  
Mon to Sun  
10am to 6pm

**7-Eleven**  
Mon to Sun  
Early to late

## Tourist Information

**Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square**  
Open seven days a week 9am to 6pm  
(excluding Christmas Day)

**Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall**

Open seven days a week 9am to 5pm  
(excluding Good Friday and Christmas Day)

### City Ambassadors

Keep an eye out for the City Ambassadors dressed in their distinctive red uniforms in the central city.

Mon to Sat 10am to 4pm, Sun noon to 3pm

### Melbourne Greeter Service

Discover from a local what locals love about Melbourne. English orientations available seven days per week. Other languages on request. Bookings are essential.

### Melbourne Visitor Shuttle

Hop on and off at any of the 13 stops along the route at key city destinations, guided by an informative on-board commentary. The complete trip takes approximately an hour and a half. The bus runs every 30 minutes between 9.30am and 4.30pm daily excluding Christmas Day.

For further information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/touristinformation](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/touristinformation)

## Useful Numbers

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Victorian Tourist Information            | 13 2842      |
| Best of Victoria Booking Service         | 9928 0000    |
| Public transport queries                 | 1800 800 007 |
| Travellers' Aid - City Village Bourke St | 9654 2600    |
| Travellers' Aid - Flinders St Station    | 9610 2030    |
| Travellers' Aid - Southern Cross Station | 9670 2072    |
| Airport Bus - Skybus                     | 9335 2811    |
| Ticketmaster                             | 13 6100      |
| Ticketek                                 | 13 2849      |
| Directory Assistance                     | 1223         |
| Emergency - police, fire and ambulance   | 000          |

There are a number of self-guided walks in this series. These walks were developed by Federation Square and the City of Melbourne.

For more information, call the City of Melbourne Hotline 03 9658 9658, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbournebrochures](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbournebrochures) or go to the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square

