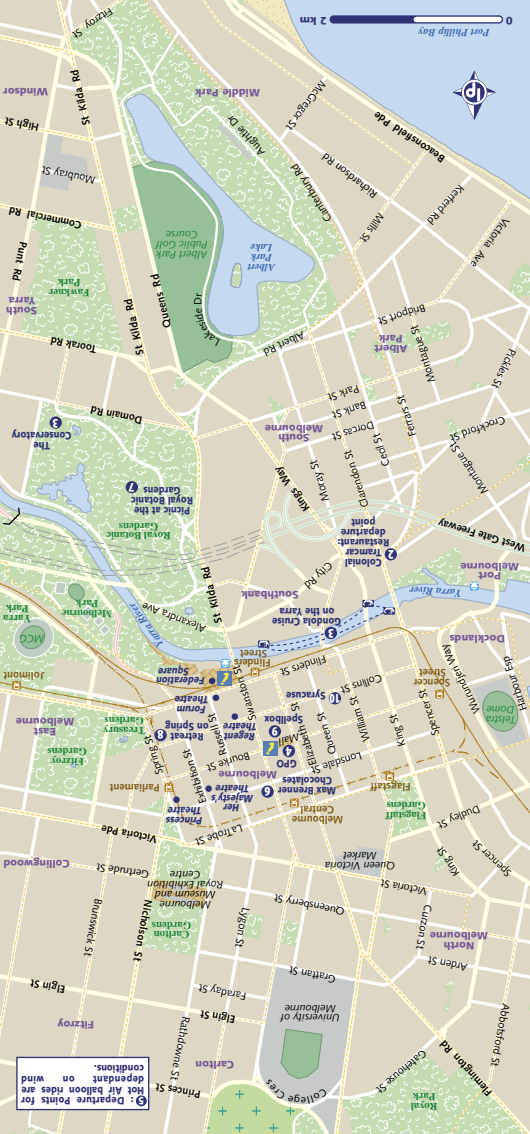




lonely planet

TopPocketGuide



Melbourne's relaxed atmosphere and sophisticated charm bring out the romantic in us all. Meander through dreamy parks and gardens, take a trip specially designed for two then dine by candlelight and you'll find yourself falling in love all over again.

me!bourne

in the mood

- 1 A Night at the Theatre** – Seeing a musical, comedy or play at one of Melbourne's bevy of beautiful and historic theatres adds immeasurably to the overall experience. Dress up to the nines and see what's playing at Her Majesty's Theatre (Exhibition St), the Regent Theatre (Collins St), the Princess Theatre (Spring St) and the Forum (Flinders St).

 - 2 Colonial Tramcar restaurant** (bookings tel 9696 4000) – The orient express of city trams offers a romantic dinner for two with a difference. The refurbished fleet of restaurant tramcars ooze old-world opulence and charm, and the fare includes a five-course dinner and drinks.

 - 3 Gondola Cruise on the Yarra** (bookings tel 9399 1991) – Wile away the early-evening in a gondola on the Yarra, whispering sweet nothings into that special someone's ear as the sun sets over the city skyline.

 - 4 GPO** (Bourke St Mall) – Shopping is a truly romantic experience at the newly revamped GPO. The ambience is exquisite, the shops are exclusive, the design is cutting-edge and the atmosphere is ripe with expectation. After you've blown your budget, retire to Juliet's Champagne Bar on level 1 for some well-earned bubbles.

 - 5 Hot Air balloon ride** (bookings tel 1800 627 661 or 1300 729 716) – Up, up and away in a beautiful balloon flight across Melbourne's CBD, parks and gardens. The early rise ensures that you'll be back down to earth in time for a champagne breakfast.

 - 6 Max Brenner Chocolates** (QV Square, off Swanston St) – Gazing into your lover's eyes can be diverting but what could be more fun than doing it while slurping gooey chocolate fondue through a straw. If fondue doesn't do it for you, then chocolate drinks, soufflés and waffles surely will.

 - 7 Picnic at Royal Botanic Gardens** (Domain Rd, South Yarra; No 8 Tram) – Pack a hamper of delicacies from David Jones Food Hall and catch a tram to the gardens' entrance on Domain Rd. The magic of the gardens will do the rest.

 - 8 Retreat on Spring** (49 Spring St; tel 9654 0909) – The key to romance is relaxation and this holistic urban retreat revives and rejuvenates new and not-so-new romantics with Aveda beauty treatments, a nail spa and organic juice and brunch bar.

 - 9 Spellbox** (Shop 17, Royal Arcade, Bourke St Mall) – spells and potions abound at this purveyor of magick wares, and there's nothing more bewitching than a love potion to get you in the mood.

 - 10 Syracuse** (Bank Place, off Little Collins St) – Tucked away in a cobbled laneway in a grand old Victorian building, Syracuse is one of Melbourne's most romantic places for excellent tapas, fine wines and European ambience.
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