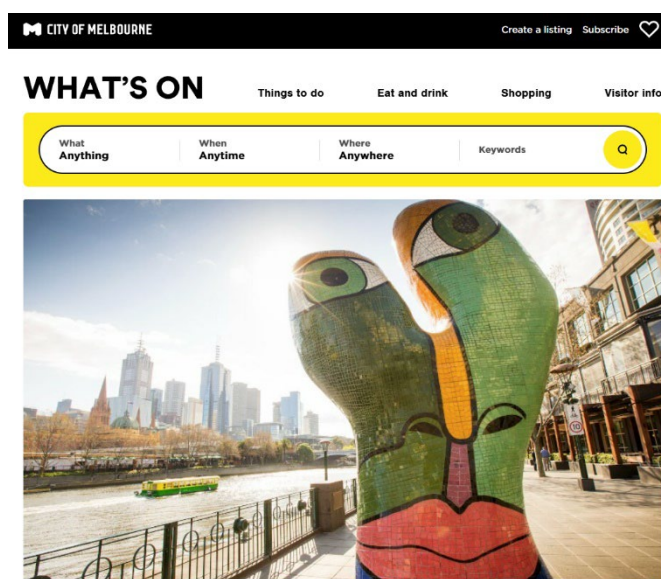




## Self-guided walking itinerary

### Walk 2 — Yarra River Discovery Walk

Known by the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people as the Birrarung, 'river of mists', Melbourne's waterfront is a vibrant mix of hospitality, arts and recreation. From gold rush boom buildings to Gothic gargoyles and modernist art hubs, this walk will take you on a tour of the best of Melbourne's Yarra River attractions. This walk is approximately 2km and takes around 1 hour.



Yarra River discovery walk

This Melbourne Street Art Walk self-guided walking itinerary is provided courtesy of the City Of Melbourne's 'What's On' website:

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/walks/yarra-river-discovery>



For more self-guided walking itineraries or to find out more about what's on in Melbourne, see the City of Melbourne's 'What's On' website

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/walks>

#### Important information for participants:

*All participants acknowledge and agree that they participate at their own risk in the Self-guided Walking Itineraries made available as part of the Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) 2025 National Conference. All participants are required to take reasonable steps to ensure their own personal safety on public and private land, and comply with applicable laws. Please practise common sense, prudence and diligence. Participants are advised to hold appropriate insurance, as participation in this activity does not provide any insurance coverage. Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) has no control over these activities and accepts no responsibility for any loss in this regard.*

## YARRA RIVER DISCOVERY

Known by the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people as the Birrarung, 'river of mists', and long a cultural meeting place for the Eastern Kulin, Melbourne and its waterfront is a vibrant mix of hospitality, the arts and recreation.

You can't miss the striking visage of Deborah Halpern's mosaic sculpture, **Ophelia** **91** (1992). Inspired by the character from Shakespeare's Hamlet, it is a cousin to Halpern's two-headed Angel, now at Birrarung Marr.

Continue West on Southbank Promenade. On your left is **Southgate** **92**, three levels of restaurants and boutique shopping.

Take **Evan Walker Bridge** **93** and cross over the river. It's named after Professor Walker, Melbourne's former planning minister and architect, who drove the transformation of the Southbank precinct. Keep your eyes peeled to your left for a gate, leading to a hidden stairway down to **Ponyfish Island** **94**. This tiny floating bar offers fresh Asian-inspired dishes.

On the other side of the bridge is outdoor bar and restaurant **Arbory** **95**. It spans the length of Flinders Street station, with uninterrupted riverfrontage. Sister venue Arbory Afloat is Melbourne's largest seasonal outdoor floating cocktail bar.

Head west away from the station, past the **Sandridge Bridge** **96** on your left. The ten Travellers sculptures across the bridge represent the meeting of cultures in Melbourne over generations. Dating back to 1891-92, the **Banana Alley Vaults** **97** earned their enduring moniker from these early decades as a warehouse for wholesale fruit and produce.

Cross over Queens Bridge then bear left down the steps to Enterprise Wharf. Underneath Queen's Bridge there was a basalt ridge, creating

cascading Falls that separated the freshwater river from the saltwater bay. **The Falls** **98** were a crossing point near an Eastern Kulin meeting place, now known as Enterprise Park. 'Yarra River' derives from a local Aboriginal word used to describe the Falls, **Yarro Yarro** meaning 'it flows'.

Enterprise Wharf, and the adjacent **Enterprise Park** **99**, are named after the ship Enterprise. Led by John Pascoe Fawkner, his syndicate of Van Diemen's Land sheep farmers first moored near here in 1835.

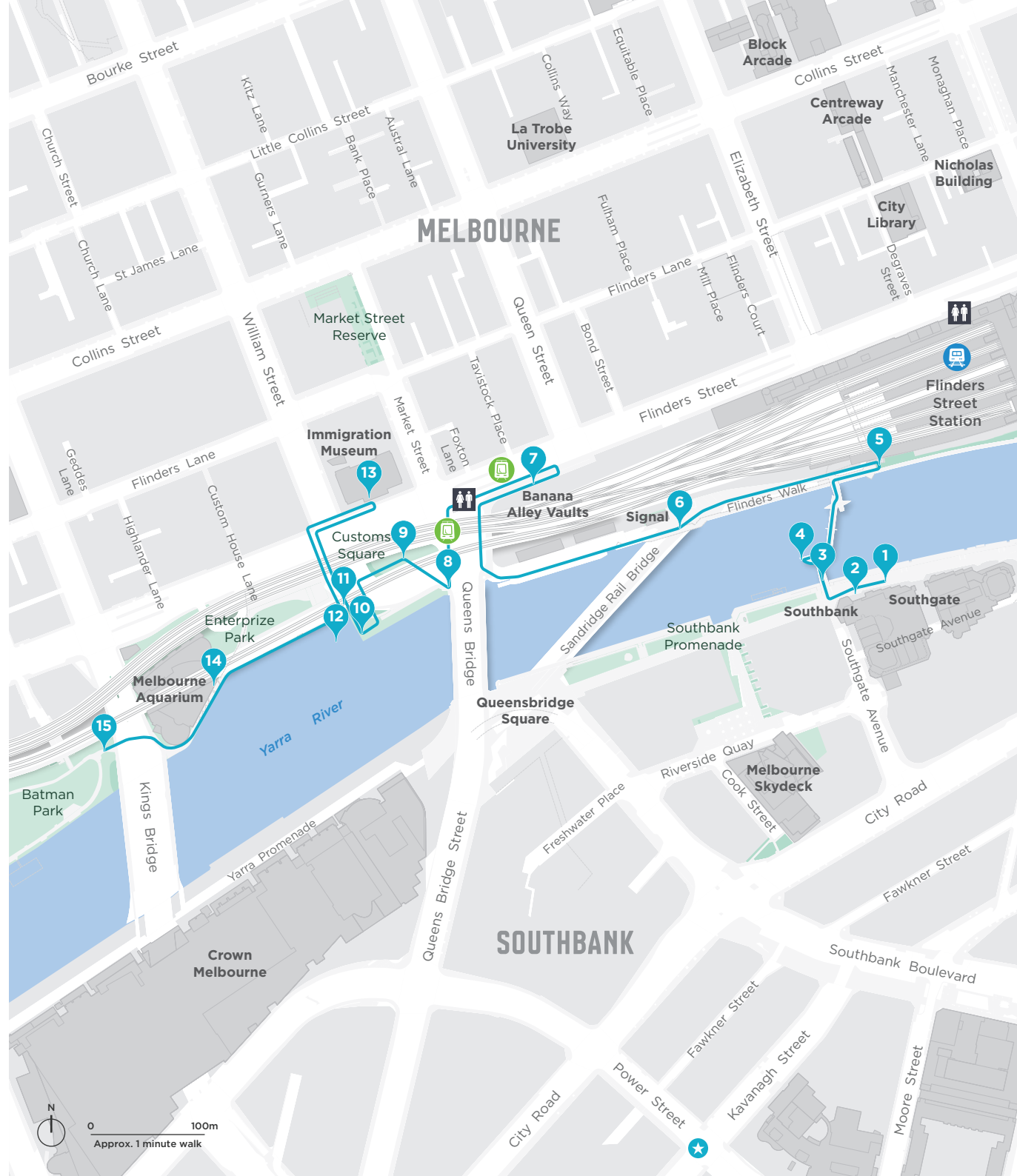
**Constellation** **910** (1996), the five stainless-steel, copper and Cyprus-pine figureheads on Enterprise Wharf depict a dragon, a woman, a bird, a man and a lion. Their forms reference the history of figurehead carving and suggest maritime sails and instruments.

Enterprise Park is home to **Scar - A Stolen Vision** **911** (2001), a collaborative artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Made from wharf poles recycled from Queens Bridge, the sculptures evoke the Aboriginal cultural tradition of scarred or culturally modified trees.

Just below The Falls was the **Yarra Turning Basin** **912**. During the gold rush, the shipping trade grew quickly, making this an increasingly busy port. Ships unloaded at Customs House and could then turn around. Customs House is now the **Immigration Museum** **913** where you can explore Australia's migrant history. In 1879, the basin was widened and deepened by colonists, and The Falls destroyed.

Trains trundle overhead as you continue west past **Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium** **914**. Inside are a myriad of up close encounters with underwater creatures.

Cross at Kings Way over to the shady eucalypts of **Batman Park** **915** and Rebecca Walk. It was established in 1982 and named after pioneer of Melbourne, John Batman.







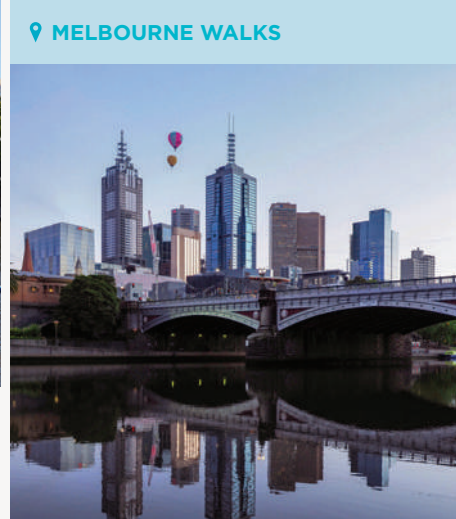
📍 Ponyfish Island



📍 Southgate



📍 Princes Bridge



# YARRA RIVER DISCOVERY



## EXPLORE MORE ALONG THE YARRA RIVER

You've walked along the Yarra, now try sailing up it. On A Boat at WTC Wharf offers easy to use (and quiet) electric boats for hire. Or jump on Yarra River Cruises from Federation Wharf for a guided tour of Melbourne's waterways. If harbour views of picturesque luxury yachts, ferries and pleasure boats is more your speed, head for Melbourne City Marina in Docklands.

Enjoy riverfront views and a whiff of the sea along South Wharf Promenade at restaurants and bars with outdoor seating. Choose from a Mediterranean menu at Boat Builders Yard, spicy Thai flavours at BangPop and gastro-pub fare at Common Man.

For more unique views of Melbourne's riverfront, head to the deckchairs by Library at the Dock at the end of Victoria Harbour Promenade.

## Interested in more Aboriginal history?

Discover Melbourne's Aboriginal heritage and culture on this walking tour of significant sites [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/walks/aboriginal-melbourne](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/walks/aboriginal-melbourne)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For opening hours contact City of Melbourne on 03 9658 9658 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information head to [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

📍 **Melbourne Visitor Hub at Town Hall**

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

📍 **Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre**

📍 **City Ambassadors**

Cover: Yarra River  
Information correct at time of printing  
January 2023.

Opening hours for all venues and attractions may vary. Please check with the venue before arriving.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS


The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

Tour gold rush boom buildings, Gothic gargoyles and modernist art hubs.

  
**1.0**  
HOURS

  
**2.0**  
KILOMETRES



📍 Enterprise Wharf



📍 Sandridge Bridge



📍 Arbory

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