

Melbourne Fringe 2019

VISITING ARTIST INFO PACK



Disclaimer: This is by no means an exhaustive list – think of these tips and suggestions as a starting point for your research. Melbourne Fringe will not be held accountable if you get food poisoning!

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MELBOURNE

Population: 4.9 million (Yes – that is more than the entire population of New Zealand)

Weather in September: Fringe is at the time of year when locals start to emerge from their winter hibernation, get a fresh haircut and frolic amongst the cherry blossoms. With lows of 9 degrees (Celsius) and highs of 19, it's a great time to be in Melbourne. TIP: Always pack a raincoat.

Fun Fact: Melbourne was originally named Batmania

HOW TO LIVE IN THE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITY (7 YEARS RUNNING)

Accommodation

There are plenty of great, affordable housing options in Melbourne if you know where to look. Make sure you check the public transport options from your accommodation to your venue and the city so you don't end up spending all your money on ubers!

Share Houses

Also known as flats, spare rooms, apartments, digs... These are abundant in Melbourne, but the market is pretty competitive. It's worth noting that a lot of share houses come unfurnished, so it may be best to focus on sublets. Average costs for a room per week are \$150-\$250, but short-term rental can be more expensive.

Facebook Links:

- ❖ [Fairy Floss Real Estate](#)
- ❖ [Queer Housing Melbourne](#)
- ❖ [Festival and Event Staff Network](#) – Great for finding other artists/festival workers who are subletting a room or connecting with other people looking. Keep in mind, this isn't a Melbourne only group so ensure it's clear where you're looking when you post.

Other Links:

- ❖ [flatmates.com.au](#)

- ❖ Airbnb.com.au
- ❖ Gumtree.com.au
- ❖ Couchsurfing.com

Hostels/Backpackers/Hotels

- ❖ Space Hotel: great, budget accommodation just down the road from the Fringe Hub, with great discounts for Fringe artists.
- ❖ Hostelworld.com
- ❖ yha.com.au/hostels/vic/melbourne-hostels/
- ❖ Hostelbookers.com

Eating and Drinking

You can throw a stone from anywhere in Melbourne and you'll hit good coffee and tasty treats. To help you out, we've put together a handy list of cheap eats for when you're on that tight Fringe budget.

Chinatown (CBD)

Chinatown is brimming with restaurants serving cheap dumplings galore. Average price is 15 dumplings for \$7.50 – that's 50 cents a dumpling! Tip: the shabbier the exterior the tastier the dumplings.

Queen Vic Market (CBD)

Fresh produce, meats and cheese just north of the CBD.

Welcome to Thornbury (Thornbury, obviously)

A happening outdoor food truck complex in the northern 'burbs.

Aldi (CBD)

Discount supermarket chain, with a store just around the corner from the Fringe Hub

The Green Refectory (Brunswick)

Massive brunches and cheap cabinet food. Cash only.

Lentil as Anything (Abbotsford/St Kilda/Thornbury)

Pay what you can afford at this vegan and vegetarian restaurant. Most of the people you see working here are volunteers and they run solely on a contribution box system with no set prices.

Festival Club (CBD)

The best place to drink during the Fringe is our very own Fringe Club, located at the Fringe Hub! With free special events every night and cheap drinks for artists it's a great place to hang out and meet other artists (who can give you even more tips for making the most of Melbourne!)

Getting Around

Melbourne is a big city and getting around can seem a bit daunting. Never fear – the public transport system has you covered!

Myki Card

To access any Melbourne public transport you need to have a Myki card. You can buy a Myki (\$6 full price or \$3 concession) at [multiple places](#) around the city – the 7-Eleven is a good place to start. You can top up your Myki at any place you can purchase one, or at self-serve machines located at some tram stops and train stations. You need to touch on and off when jumping on a tram/train/bus to validate your fare, and the most you'll be charged in a day is \$8.60.

Tram

Check out the [Yarra Trams](#) website for information on tram routes. The centre of the city is a Free Tram Zone, where you don't need to touch on or off.

Navigating

Google Maps or Citymapper are both pretty good ways to find the best routes to get from A to B. You can also download the PTV app for real time updates on transport.

Accessible Public Transport

The PTV website has information on [Accessible Public Transport](#), but here are a few key things to note:

- ❖ Not all trams or tram stops are wheelchair accessible: [this page](#) has details
- ❖ All metropolitan trains are wheelchair accessible
- ❖ Assistance animals are welcome on public transport
- ❖ For more information, you can call [1800 800 007](tel:1800800007) or 03 9619 2727 for the National Relay Service

Cycling

Melbourne has fantastic cycle paths and is mostly flat. Riding without a helmet in Australia is a big no-no (as in, it's illegal). There are a couple of bike share options [here](#) and [here](#).

Flexicar

If you're going to need to drive a fair bit during your stay, it's worth checking out [Flexicar](#). Basically, you pay a \$49 joining fee and then can use a car at a low hourly or daily rate as long as you need. You can hire regular-sized cars, people-movers or vans for moving your set/props.

Mobile Phones

If you're not from Australia, it's pretty easy to get a sim for your mobile phone. The main providers, Optus, Vodafone and Telstra, all have stores in the Melbourne Airport. You can walk into any of these stores and buy a sim card on the spot and get set up with a prepaid plan.

HOW TO HAVE THE FRINGIEST FRINGE

Cheap Prop/Costume/Set shopping

Facebook groups/Websites:

- ❖ [Free Stuff Melbourne](#)
- ❖ [Festival and Event Staff Network](#)
- ❖ [Gumtree](#)

Second Hand Shops

- ❖ [Savers](#)
- ❖ [Vinnies](#)

Fringe Hub

Melbourne Fringe programmes and manages a series of venues in Trades Hall. The Hub houses the Festival Club, which has free nightly events for artists, a bar and, of course, lots of dancing. It's a great place to meet other artists and Melbourne Fringe staff during the festival. Your artist pass gets you into shows at the Hub for free (provided they're not sold out), as well as drink discounts at the bar.

Melbourne Fringe Office

The Melbourne Fringe team is always here to answer your questions. You can contact the Participants Services team on artists@melbournefringe.com.au or +61 (0)3 9660 9600 with any queries.

OTHER HANDY TIPS AND BITS

- ❖ If you're not Australian, your driver's licence is not enough to buy alcohol or enter licenced premises. You'll need to bring along your passport in order to purchase alcohol.
- ❖ Australian customs are super strict on food products, so if you're thinking of bringing in a bag of apples to keep the doctor away – make sure you declare them and be prepared to have them taken off you.