




TRANSPORT

Melbourne's city centre is a delight for pedestrians, with trams at the ready when you're fatigued or in a hurry. Surrounding neighbourhoods can be reached easily via the extensive tram, train and bus network. All three methods of transport are overseen by **Metlink** (☎ 131 638; www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au).

In this book, the nearest tram/train/bus route or station is noted after the    symbols in each listing.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can all be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR Airlines

You can fly into Melbourne from most international hubs and from all major cities and tourist destinations in Australia. Not all international flights are direct and you may need to change planes and terminals in Sydney. Frequent, and often discounted, domestic flights are offered by **Qantas** (☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com.au) and its budget/leisure subsidiary **Jetstar** (☎ 13 15 38; www.jetstar.com.au), as well as competitors **Virgin Blue** (☎ 13 67 89; www.virginblue.com.au) and **Tiger Airlines** (☎ 9335 3033; www.tigerairways.com), which flies out of Melbourne to all state and territory capitals, plus a variety of regional resort destinations, at rock-bottom prices. Tiger also flies to Singapore and connects through to a variety of destinations in Indonesia, China, Vietnam, India and Malaysia.

Because of the state's compact size, scheduled internal flights are limited and often

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

ludicrously expensive. Airlines that fly to regional centres around the state and other country destinations:

QantasLink (☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com) Flies to Mildura and Mt Hotham, as well as Burnie and Devonport. Book through Qantas.

Regional Express (☎ 13 17 13; www.regionalexpress.com.au) Regional Express, better known as Rex, flies to Albury, Mildura and Portland. It also offers flights to Burnie, Devonport, King Island and Mt Gambier.

Airports MELBOURNE AIRPORT

The city's major airport, **Melbourne Airport** (☎ 9297 1600; www.melair.com.au), often referred to as Tullamarine or Tulla, is around 25km northwest of the city centre. All international and domestic terminals are within the same complex. There are no direct train or tram services linking it with the city (don't get us started on this pet beef for Melbourne's frequent flyers). See the boxed text [below](#) for transport options.

GETTING INTO MELBOURNE CITY

There are no direct train or tram services linking Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport with the city. Taxis can be found on the ground floor outside each terminal; a ride to or from the city centre will take between 25 and 40 minutes and cost at least \$40, plus an additional \$2 airport parking fee for inward journeys.

Skybus (☎ 9689 6888; www.skybus.com.au) runs a 24-hour shuttle between the city centre and the airport, with city hotel drop-offs (\$16/26 one way/return); depending on traffic it takes around 25 minutes.

All major car-hire companies are represented at the airport. The Tullamarine Fwy runs to Flemington, close to the city centre. The CityLink tollway (p345) forms part of the freeway. A 24-hour pass for the Tulla section costs \$4.10, or \$11.55 for 24-hour access to all three CityLink expressways. Intrepid drivers can avoid the tollway by exiting at Bell St and taking Nicholson St to the city, though it's not recommended if you are in a hurry.

For information on travel to and from Avalon airport, see p344.

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

AVALON AIRPORT

Most Jetstar flights to and from Sydney and Brisbane use **Avalon Airport** (☎ 1800 282 566, 5227 9100; www.avalonairport.com.au), around 55km southwest of the city centre. The **Sunbus** (☎ 9689 6888; www.sunbusaustralia.com.au) meets all flights at Avalon Airport and picks up or drops off at Southern Cross Station and Franklin St (\$20/36 one way/return). Hotel pick-ups can be booked 48 hours prior to departure. The trip takes around 40 minutes.

BICYCLE

Melbourne's bike-friendly terrain is endowed with many dedicated bike lanes and paths. One note of caution: tram tracks can cause havoc for cyclists. See [p171](#) for further information, including bike hire.

Bicycles can be taken onto trains for free, but commuters with bikes are requested to travel during off-peak times (between 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday; no restriction on weekends). Bikes are not permitted on trams and buses.

Bicycles are carried free on all V/Line regional services provided you check in 30 minutes before departure. The system of rail trails (disused train lines adapted as bike paths) is growing in country Victoria, and provides scenic, hassle-free cycling. Some routes connect with V/Line train stations. See www.railtrails.com.au for details. V/Line bus services do not carry bicycles.

BOAT

The slow but scenic **Melbourne Water Taxis** (☎ 9686 0914; www.melbournewater taxis.com.au) services the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, from Richmond to Williamstown – great for arriving at the Australian Open in style.

The **Spirit of Tasmania** (☎ 1800 634 906; www.spiritoftasmania.com.au), a car and passenger ferry, sails nightly to Devonport on Tasmania's northern coast from Station Pier in Port Melbourne, with additional day sailings during summer. The crossing takes around 11 hours. A wide variety of fares are available, from basic seats to private en suite cabins.

BUS

Melbourne's red and yellow buses are usually of more use if travelling out into the suburbs, but can provide shortcuts or more direct routes than trams on some inner routes. These include the 220, (which runs from the city to Doncaster, and takes in Carlton, Fitzroy, Collingwood and Abbotsford), the 220 Sunshine–City–Gardenvale (which Gardenvale bound takes you via Southbank, St Kilda Rd, Prahran, Hawksburn and East St Kilda) and the 250 Garden City–City–La Trobe University (running through Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, the city, Carlton, Carlton North, Fitzroy North and Northcote). Many, but not all, buses are wheelchair- and stroller-accessible 'bendy' buses. Call Metlink for more information about accessibility.