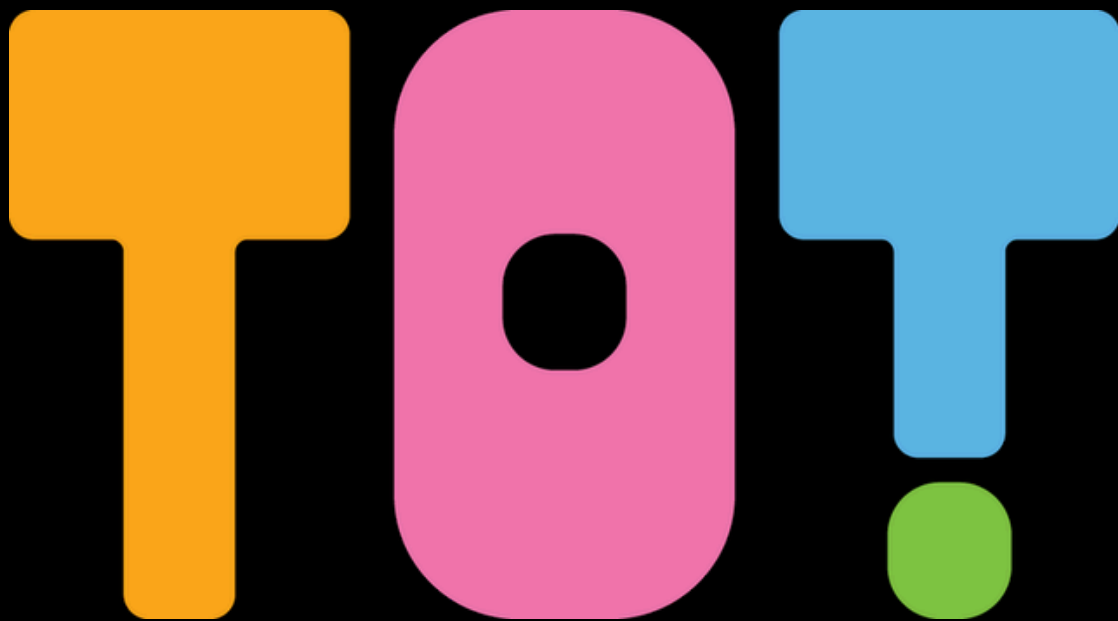




SPRING 2026

Your ultimate guide to Spring family fun in
Melbourne — events, day trips, playgrounds +
more!

October – November 2026

what's on +
things to do

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What's On in CBD:

October 2026

ROME: Empire, Power, People

 17 Until 25 Oct |  Melbourne Museum |  Ticketed
Last chance to see 180+ Roman objects, from statues and mosaics to frescoes and everyday items.

Melbourne International Jazz Festival

 17 16 - 25 Oct |  Melbourne CBD |  Ticketed
Ten days of live jazz across the city, with workshops and events for music-loving families.

Inside Out: Jump, Jive, Jazz

 17 26 Oct |  ArtPlay |  Free
A playful music and movement workshop for families, using different materials to make sounds, melodies and jazzy fun.

Melbourne Fringe Festival

 17 Until 18 Oct |  Various |  Free + Ticketed
Hundreds of independent shows across the city, including new work made for kids. Filter by age range on the Fringe site to find family picks.

Romp & Stomp

 17 Sat 24 Oct |  Melbourne Museum, Carlton | 
Museum entry (under 16s free)
A playful day of music, storytelling and hands-on making, with Emma Memma performing.

Making Memoir of a Snail

 17 Until 1 Nov |  ACMI |  Free
Step inside Adam Elliot's handmade claymation world, with original sets, props and characters from the film.

The Animal Crossing: New Horizons Adventure

 17 Until 8 Nov |  SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium |  Ticketed
The island adventure is back with an even bigger experience for young fans. \$19 Discounted kids' tickets run until 22 Oct.

Fitzroy Gardens Outdoor Adventure

 17 Until 31 Oct |  Fitzroy Gardens |  Free
Follow a trail of clues through the heritage-listed gardens and spot the hidden surprises along the way.

Victorian Festival of Diwali

 17 31 Oct |  Federation Square |  Free
Celebrate Diwali with cultural performances, music, food, activities and community celebrations showcasing the diversity of Victoria's Indian community.

Melbourne Diwali

 17 31 Oct |  Marvel Stadium Square, Docklands |  Free
A second big Diwali celebration on the same day, with 45+ performances, food stalls and a festival market from 2pm to 10pm.

Some of the listings in this guide are paid placements from businesses we've worked with directly.
We only ever include activities we genuinely recommend – paid or not.

What's On in CBD: November 2026

Polly Woodside Pirate Day

 17 1 Nov |  South Wharf |  Ticketed

Treasure hunts and storytelling for little pirates aboard the historic tall ship. It runs on the first Sunday of each month. [CONFIRM 1 Nov session]

Barbie: The Exhibition

 17 From 28 Nov |  Melbourne Museum |  Ticketed
More than 250 objects tell Barbie's story, including rare and unusual dolls from 1959 to today.

Stellar Nights

 17 Mondays until 30 Nov |  Melbourne Observatory |  Ticketed
Evening tours of the Observatory, with a look at nebulae, lunar landscapes and planets.

Solar Tours: Melbourne Observatory

 17 Sundays until 15 Nov |  Royal Botanic Gardens |  Ticketed
View sunspots and solar granulation through a restored 1800s telescope, with guides from the Astronomical Society of Victoria.

The Trumpet of the Swan

 17 20 - 22 Nov |  Regent Theatre |  Ticketed
A live concert of E.B. White's story with Orchestra Victoria, made for ages 8 to 12 and their families. A family offer for groups of four or more includes an ice cream per ticket.

Ballet of Lights: Sleeping Beauty in a Sparkling Show

 17 29 Nov 2026 |  Capitol Theatre |  Ticketed
Watch dancers in illuminated costumes bring Sleeping Beauty to life in this dazzling blend of light, colour and classical dance.

Polish Festival

 17 15 Nov 2026 |  Fed Square |  Free
Celebrate Polish culture with traditional food, music, dancing, performances and family entertainment in the heart of Melbourne.

African Music and Cultural Festival

 17 20-22 Nov 2026 |  Melbourne CBD |  Free
Experience African music, dance, food, culture and community at this colourful celebration showcasing cultures from across the African continent.

Queen Victoria Summer Night Market

 17 Wednesdays from Nov 18 |  Queen Victoria Market |  Free entry
Street food, live music and roving entertainment as the sun sets.

The Wiggles: Sparkle! BIG SHOW

 17 28 - 29 Nov |  John Cain Arena |  Ticketed
Lights, costumes and giant singalongs in the Wiggles' biggest arena show of 2026.

Mrs Doubtfire the Musical

 17 From 25 Nov |  Princess Theatre |  Ticketed
The Robin Williams film becomes a feel-good musical about family. Recommended for ages 6+, about 2.5 hours including interval.

Southbank Makers Market

 17 Sundays until 27 Dec |  Southbank |  Free
Handmade goods and live entertainment on the Yarra riverfront.

What's On in Melbourne: October 2026

LEGOLAND Discovery Centre – Jurassic World

Takeover

 Now – 4 Nov 2026 |  LEGOLAND Discovery Centre, Chadstone |  Ticketed

Hunt for hidden dinos through Miniland, take on a Jurassic-themed build challenge and spot dino-scale LEGO models scattered through the centre, plus the usual ride, 4D cinema and soft play zone.

Bubble Planet

 Until 30 Nov 2026 |  Brunswick |  Ticketed Step into a sensory wonderland of themed rooms, VR technology and fantastical bubble-filled landscapes.

Victorian State Ballet – The Nutcracker

 16–18 Oct 2026 |  Karralyka Centre |  Ticketed Follow Clara on a magical Christmas journey with the Nutcracker Prince, Sugar Plum Fairy, breathtaking snow scenes and festive surprises, performed to Tchaikovsky's iconic score.

Colour: See the World in a New Light

 Until 26 Jan 2027 |  Scienceworks, Spotswood |  Ticketed Test optical illusions, mix coloured light and design creatures in this interactive exhibition.

Children's Week

 24 Oct – 1 Nov 2026 |  Various |  Free Celebrate the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children with free events by local councils, not-for-profit organisations, schools and early childhood services.

Italian Festa & Expo

 17 – 18 Oct |  Royal Exhibition Building + Museum Plaza, Carlton |  Free

Free entry to more than 50 food marquees and trucks, with live music and street performers both days. Kids get games and a playground, and there's covered seating when little legs need a rest.

Edendale Community Environment Farm Activities

 Until 28 Oct |  Eltham |  Ticketed Hands-on sustainable gardening, Indigenous plants, worm farming and other environmental activities on a working community farm.

Wyndham Children's Week Picnic 25 Oct |

Werribee Park, Werribee South |  Free Free music, science, dance and painting for ages 0 to 12, plus roving performers and a sensory and quiet space.

Still Moves: Australian and International Animation

 Until 25 Oct |  Bayside Gallery, Brighton Town Hall |  Free Hand-made animation from artists who lead the field.

Knox Children's Week Free Family Fun

 27 Oct, 9:30am – 11:30am |  Knox Community Arts Centre, Bayswater |  Free A morning for babies and preschoolers, with a live performance of popular children's stories by The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company, plus crafts and play activities.

What's On in Melbourne: November 2026

Drum Theatre 20th Anniversary Celebrations

 7 Nov 2026 |  Drum Theatre |  Free Celebrate 20 years of the Drum Theatre with live performances, community groups, emerging artists and an after-party featuring local musicians and DJs.

Scienceworks Low Sensory Session

 7 Nov |  Scienceworks, Spotswood |  Ticketed A calmer session with reduced lighting and sound and smaller crowds.

Rotary Eltham Festival

 14 Nov |  Eltham |  Free Face painting, kids' entertainment and some free rides at Alistair Knox Park.

Miniature Railway at the National Steam Centre

 Every Sunday, 11am - 4pm |  Scoresby |  \$3 a ride Endless rides on a 1km miniature train track around the site's perimeter. It runs weather permitting and doesn't operate over Christmas and New Year.

Djerriwarrh Festival

 7 Nov |  High Street, Melton |  Free A street festival with a parade, kids' activities, a pet expo, sustainability village, market stalls, food trucks and fireworks to finish.

Maroondah Festival

 8 Nov 2026 |  Croydon |  Free Enjoy a full day of live music, free rides, circus workshops, sports activities and more than 70 market stalls serving up food and fun for families across Maroondah.

Malahang Festival

 29 Nov |  Malahang Reserve, Heidelberg West |  Free Banyule Council's free community day, with a community stage, circus and art workshops, face painting, garden workshops, learn to skate and food trucks.

The Art of Dawdling at The Abbotsford Convent

 Until 31 Dec, Mon - Fri |  Abbotsford Convent |  \$5 per map A self-guided listening walk by Japanese sound artist Akio Suzuki. Families follow a map to painted ears and footprints on the ground, stop and tune in to birds, leaves and footsteps.

Halloween in Melbourne 2026

Halloween at the Museum

 30 Oct - 1 Nov |  Melbourne Museum |  Ticketed
Kids can trick or treat in the Bubble Garden and dance at the Monster Halloween Disco. Daytime and after-dark sessions run all weekend. The Haunted Gala on 31 Oct is adults only.

Luna Dark at Luna Park

 Nights 22 - 24 + 29 - 31 Oct |  St Kilda |  Ticketed
The night sessions suit ages 14+. Family-friendly day sessions run on 24, 25 and 31 Oct and 1 Nov.

Trick or Treat at Kryal Castle

 31 Oct - 1 Nov |  Leigh Creek, Ballarat |  Ticketed
Trick or treat around the castle on Halloween weekend. Open 10am to 4pm both days.

Monster Mash: Halloween in Hollywood

 31 Oct, 5pm - 7pm |  Boroondara Cemetery, Kew |  Free, bookings essential
Come dressed as a favourite film or TV character with a Halloween twist. There's dancing, Halloween-Hollywood trivia and prizes for best costume and best dance moves. Suits all ages.

Halloween at Old Melbourne Gaol

 31 Oct, 6pm - 10pm |  Old Melbourne Gaol |  Ticketed
One of Melbourne's most haunted spots gets a mischievous makeover for one night only. A family-friendly Spooky Escape also runs on the day.

The Street Social: Halloween

 31 Oct - 1 Nov |  Docklands waterfront |  Free
A festive Halloween event for families and friends on the Docklands waterfront.

Mordy Halloween Hunt & Spooktacular Fun Day

 1 Nov, 12pm - 3pm |  Mordy Main Street, Mordialloc |  Free
Kids hunt for skeletons hidden in shop windows, then swap their completed map for a lolly bag. There's also face painting, freaky tattoos and roving spooky entertainers, all under shop awnings if it rains.

Acland Village Halloween

 31 Oct, 3:30pm - 7:30pm |  Acland Plaza, St Kilda |  Free market entry, ghost tours \$5
A Halloween market with free face painting and temporary tattoos, roving characters and giant inflatable Totoro and Kuromi for photos. The family-friendly ghost tours run at 6pm and 7:30pm and cost \$5 a person plus a booking fee. Kids get glow sticks and a sweet treat at the end.

Edward Scissorhands in Concert

 30 - 31 Oct, 7:30pm |  Hamer Hall, Southbank |  Ticketed
Watch the Tim Burton film while the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra plays Danny Elfman's score live. Rated PG.

What's On Near Melbourne: October 2026

Royal Geelong Show

 15-18 Oct 2026 |  Geelong Showgrounds |  Ticketed

A beloved agricultural fair with livestock judging, carnival rides, showbags, food stalls, wood-chopping shows, equestrian fun, and talented family entertainers.

Bendigo Agricultural Show

 23-24 Oct 2026 |  Bendigo |  Ticketed

See livestock, animals, carnival rides, showbags, food, entertainment and agricultural displays at this traditional family-friendly country show.

Castlemaine Show

 31 Oct-1 Nov 2026 |  Castlemaine |  Ticketed

See animals, rural skills, craft, produce, food and entertainment at this traditional country show, just around 90 minutes from Melbourne.

Bloom: Greater Bendigo & Loddon

 Until 1 Nov |  Bendigo, Heathcote + Loddon |  Free

A region-wide spring celebration with garden displays and events. Bloom After Dark and the gnome trail finished in early Oct.

CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO Bricks

 Until 29 Nov |  Bendigo |  Ticketed

Explore LEGO creations covering engineering, maths and science, then build your own.

Main Street Mornington Festival

 18 Oct |  Mornington |  Free

A family-friendly community festival along Main Street that draws thousands each year.

What's On Near Melbourne: November 2026

Maldon Folk Festival

 30 Oct - 2 Nov |  Maldon |  Free + Ticketed
Folk, bluegrass, jazz and blues in a historic township, running for more than 50 years.

The Mount Martha Briars Market

 7 Nov |  The Briars, Mount Martha |  Free
A market at a property with a wildlife sanctuary, heritage homestead and nursery.

Ballarat Show

 13-15 Nov 2026 |  Mount Rowan |  Ticketed
Experience a regional fair packed with livestock competitions, woodchopping, carnival rides, showbags, food stalls and entertainment.

SpringFest Ballarat

 29 Nov 2026 |  Ballarat |  Free
Explore more than 500 market stalls, live entertainment and family activities at this huge spring celebration around Lake Wendouree.

Wallington Strawberry Fair

 15 Nov 2026 |  Wallington |  Gold coin donation
Celebrate over 130 years of strawberry-growing history at this beloved Bellarine community fair. Enjoy local food, kids' activities, live entertainment and all the sweet, juicy strawberry treats your family can enjoy together.

International Rose Garden Festival

 6-7 Nov 2026 |  Morwell |  Free
Wander through over 4,000 roses in bloom at this family-friendly festival featuring workshops, market stalls, live music, light installations and a rose competition in Morwell's Centenary Rose Garden.

Geekon

 7-8 Nov 2026 |  North Geelong |  Ticketed
Dive into comics, cosplay, gaming, fantasy and pop culture with workshops, live entertainment, creators, exhibitors and family-friendly activities.

Queenscliff Music Festival

 27-29 Nov 2026 |  Queenscliff |  Ticketed
Enjoy three days of live music, roving performers, art, food and family-friendly entertainment in the historic seaside town of Queenscliff.

Cherry Picking at CherryHill Orchards

 Nov 2026-Jan 2027 |  Coldstream + Wandin East |  Ticketed
Soak up spring sunshine among blooming cherry trees and pick your own fresh, juicy fruit straight from the orchard. Enjoy live music, picnic spots and picture-perfect family moments surrounded by blossoms.

Best Melbourne Gardens for Spring Flowers

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

📍 South Yarra

Enjoy a leisurely picnic by the lake and explore themed gardens bursting with spring flowers.

Yarra Bend Park

📍 Kew/Fairfield

A natural bushland park along the Yarra River featuring native vegetation, wildflower areas, and remnant river red gum woodlands that come alive with spring blooms.

St Kilda Botanical Gardens

📍 St Kilda

Peaceful gardens established in 1859 featuring seasonal spring flowerbeds, heritage rose garden, and diverse native and exotic plant species.

Dandenong Creek Trail Parks

📍 Various locations

Eastern Melbourne linear parks along Dandenong Creek featuring native grasslands, wetland areas, and remnant vegetation with seasonal wildflower displays throughout spring.

Carlton Gardens

📍 Carlton

A historic garden featuring the Royal Exhibition Building, with beautiful spring floral displays.

Fitzroy Gardens

📍 East Melbourne

Home to over 10,000 plant species, including tulips and other spring blooms.

Westerfolds Park

📍 Templestowe

Metropolitan park conserving riparian habitat with native vegetation along the Yarra River, featuring wildflower areas and indigenous plants in their natural setting.

Werribee Park

📍 Werribee South

Home to the Victoria Rose Garden, admire 5,000 roses across five hectares, featuring award-winning varieties in a Tudor rose-shaped layout.

Williamstown Botanic Gardens

📍 Williamstown

One of Victoria's oldest botanic gardens, featuring palm-lined paths, seasonal flowerbeds, a charming ornamental pond, and picnic-perfect lawns near the waterfront.

Footscray Park

📍 Footscray

Victoria's most intact Edwardian-period public garden, with vibrant spring blooms, heritage gardens, and city skyline views.

Enjoy Flowers in Bloom Near Melbourne

Garden of St Erth

📍 Blackwood

A historic garden carpeted with daffodils each spring, offering stunning floral views.

Alowyn Gardens

📍 Yarra Glen

A seven-acre display garden featuring seasonal spring displays with seven distinct garden areas and an extensive Australian native garden section.

Sherbrooke Forest

📍 Dandenong Ranges National Park

Cool temperate rainforest with native understory plants, ferns, and seasonal spring wildflowers in their natural mountain ash forest habitat.

Macedon Regional Park

📍 Macedon Ranges

Native bushland areas with seasonal wildflower displays including native orchids, heath flowers, and indigenous spring blooms in their natural mountain environment.

Arthurs Seat State Park

📍 Mornington Peninsula

Take in panoramic views from the summit, wander wildflower-filled bush tracks, and spot native orchids and wildlife on scenic spring walks.

Lavandula Farm

📍 Daylesford

Experience fragrant lavender fields and scenic farm gardens in full bloom.

You Yangs Regional Park

📍 Little River

Granite peaks and woodland areas with native grasslands and wildflower displays, including seasonal orchids and indigenous spring blooms.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

📍 Cranbourne

Free entry to the Australian Garden, with more than 100,000 plants to spot in bloom. Kids can collect free Seek and Find nature cards from the Visitor Centre. Open daily 9am to 5pm.

Warratina Lavender Farm

📍 Wandin North

Stroll through fragrant lavender fields, enjoy seasonal gardens in bloom, and relax over lavender-infused treats at the café, with plenty of space for kids to explore.

Geelong Botanic Gardens

📍 Geelong

Heritage gardens featuring seasonal spring flowerbeds, lush lawns, and the modern 21st Century Garden showcasing Australian native plants in full bloom.

Best Spring Day Trips from Melbourne

Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden

📍 Olinda

Wander winding paths and spot birds among the trees. Nearby, the Olinda Playspace offers a nature-inspired playground perfect for kids.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

📍 Cranbourne

The Australian Garden features water play, rock sculptures, and landscapes showcasing native plants. Spot lizards and birds, picnic in the Woodland Picnic Area, or scoot along wide open paths.

Hanging Rock Reserve

📍 South Rock Road, Woodend

Kids will enjoy exploring rock formations and spotting wildlife like wallabies and echidnas. Visit the Hanging Rock Café nearby or picnic on the wide grassy lawns.

Serendip Sanctuary

📍 Lara

Spot kangaroos, emus, and colourful birdlife on easy walking trails, explore wetlands from bird hides, and enjoy a picnic in this family-friendly wildlife haven.

Warrandyte State Park

📍 Warrandyte

Follow riverside trails lined with spring wildflowers, try your hand at gold panning, or enjoy a picnic by the Yarra.

Peninsula Hot Springs

📍 Mornington Peninsula

Soak in natural thermal mineral pools surrounded by bushland – the Bath House has a dedicated family bathing area with shallow pools, barrel baths and a cave pool.

Trentham Falls

📍 Falls Road, Trentham

Visit one of Victoria's highest single-drop waterfalls after winter rains. The short, easy walk to the viewing platform offers impressive views.

McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery

📍 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin

A unique outdoor art experience where kids can roam among giant sculptures, then visit the gallery or grab a treat at the café. Free entry to the parklands.

Organ Pipes National Park

📍 Keilor North

Short hikes to unique basalt rock columns, birdwatching, and picnic spots in a compact, family-friendly park.

Kinglake National Park

📍 Kinglake

Discover panoramic lookouts, fern-filled gullies, and forest walks alive with bird calls, then stop by local farm gates for fresh produce and berry picking.

Enchanted Adventure Garden

📍 Purves Road, Arthurs Seat

Tackle the tube slides, explore hedge mazes, and wander through giant sculptures and gardens.

Puffing Billy Railway

📍 Belgrave

Victoria's most iconic steam train chugs through misty fern gullies in the Dandenong Ranges. Wrap up, hang your legs over the side, and ride to Emerald Lake where there's a café and playground waiting.

Best Animal Farms in + near Melbourne

Collingwood Children's Farm

 Abbotsford

Meet cows, goats, and chickens, enjoy pony rides, and explore veggie gardens at this working farm just minutes from the city.

Bundoora Park Farm

 Bundoora

Hand-feed friendly animals, take a tractor ride, and explore the historic village in Melbourne's largest parkland.

Myuna Farm

 Doveton

Pat baby animals, ride a pony or tractor, and wander the wetlands boardwalk in this community-run farm.

Animal Land Children's Farm

 Diggers Rest

Join a guided tour to feed, cuddle, and learn about farm animals, plus try your hand at cow milking.

Chesterfield Farm

 Scoresby

See cow milking and sheepdog demonstrations, hop on a tractor ride, and meet the farm's resident animals.

Living Legends

 Greenvale

Meet retired champion racehorses in peaceful country surrounds, stroll through heritage gardens, and enjoy a picnic or Devonshire tea at the historic homestead.

The Big Goose

 Moorooduc

A mix of farm animals, adventure playground, reptile shows, and even mini-golf makes this a full-day family outing.

Warrook Farm

 Monomeith

Step back in time with sheep shearing, whip cracking, and hand-feeding wildlife on this historic working farm.

Edendale Community Environment Farm

 Eltham

Sustainable farm with animals, veggie gardens, and nature play spaces in a leafy bushland setting.

Funky Farm

 Hastings

Book a personal tour to meet native wildlife and farm animals in a hands-on environment.

Mountview Alpaca Farm

 Yarra Valley

Walk and feed an alpaca while taking in the stunning vineyard scenery.

Wilindi Estate

 Tyabb

A farm stay on 10 acres, home to Herd Harmony, a rescue for neglected horses. Join a guided farm tour and use the playground and children's pool for day visitors.

Best Playgrounds for Spring Fun

Casey Fields Regional Playspace

📍 Cranbourne East

A massive playground with slides, climbing nets, and water play areas.

Frontier Park Playground

📍 Aintree

An adventure playground with forts and climbing structures, plus scooter tracks and water play.

Brimbank Park Playscape

📍 Keilor East

Nature-inspired adventure with climbing towers, slides, and shaded picnic areas alongside Maribyrnong River trails.

Ruffey Lake Park Playground

📍 Victoria Street, Doncaster

This park offers multiple playgrounds, including slides, swings, ladders, sandpit, and flying foxes.

Montrose Community Playground

📍 Montrose

Castle-themed play towers, flying foxes, and slides set against stunning Dandenong Ranges views.

Caulfield Park Playground

📍 Caulfield North

Large family playground with separate toddler and older kids' areas, sandpits, and bike paths around the park.

Royal Park Nature Play Playground

📍 Gatehouse Street, Parkville

Huge park next to Royal Children's Hospital, with eco-friendly design that integrates natural elements.

Lincoln Square Playground

📍 Lincoln Square South, Carlton

Nature-based play area located under 150-year old Moreton Bay fig trees.

Wyndham Park Playground

📍 Werribee

Riverside adventure play space with giant slides, climbing towers, water play, and shaded picnic areas, all connected by walking and cycling trails.

Diamond Valley Miniature Railway

📍 Eltham Lower Park, Eltham

Let the little conductors climb aboard this charming, full-scale miniature railway.

Ian Potter Children's Garden

📍 Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra

A magical space for kids to dig, splash, climb, and explore, with hidden paths and shaded lawns.

Bundoora Park Playspace

📍 Bundoora VIC

A farm-themed play space adjoining the city farm next door with animals and interactive exhibits.

Ticketed Galleries + Museums for Kids

Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery Melbourne Museum

 Carlton |  Ticketed

A dedicated play and learning space for babies to 5-year-olds, with a dinosaur dig, discovery garden, climbing net and a camouflage disco with mirror walls and light projections.

Scienceworks

 Spotswood |  Ticketed

Over 100 hands-on exhibits, a Planetarium, live Lightning Room demonstrations and the historic Spotswood Pumping Station.

ArtVo Trick Art Gallery

 17 Open Daily |  The District Docklands |  Ticketed

An interactive trick art gallery in Docklands where kids and adults alike can step inside and become part of the artwork.

Old Melbourne Gaol

 17 Open Daily |  Melbourne |  Ticketed

Walk three levels of Australia's oldest surviving prison, see Ned Kelly's death mask and the actual cells and gallows.

SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium

 17 Open Daily |  Flinders St & King St |  Ticketed

Dive into 12 themed zones packed with sharks, rays, jellyfish and King and Gentoo penguins, including internet superstar Pesto. Don't miss the brand new Rocky Shores rockpool zone.

Australian Sports Museum

 East Melbourne |  Ticketed

Inside the MCG, this museum tells the story of Australian sport through over 2,500 pieces of memorabilia. Add a stadium tour for the full experience.

Museum of Play and Art (MoPA)

 Thomastown, Sandringham, Geelong, Nunawading

An interactive museum offering creative play experiences for young children.

National Communication Museum

 Hawthorn |  Ticketed

Australia's national museum of communication. Kids can blast back to the 90s in a fully interactive cyber café, play retro games and explore how we've talked to each other across centuries.

Pentridge Prison Tours

 Coburg |  Ticketed

Australia's most infamous prison – open for guided family tours through B Division and the notorious H Division. Suited to all ages on the family tour.

Fire Services Museum of Victoria

 East Melbourne |  Ticketed

Australia's largest collection of firefighting memorabilia, with vintage engines, helmets, equipment and interactive displays on fire safety. Every Friday at 10:30am there's a Fire Safety Display.

Free Galleries, Libraries + Museums in Melbourne

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

📍 Melbourne CBD | 🆓 Permanent collection free
Australia's most visited art gallery, across two venues. The Children's Gallery at NGV International has a dedicated interactive exhibition and kids' activity sheets are available for self-guided exploring.

Children's Quarter – State Library Victoria

📍 Melbourne CBD | 🆓 Free
A light-filled space designed for families, with reading nooks, interactive games, and creative play areas perfect for little learners and book lovers.

The Story of the Moving Image – ACMI

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
permanent interactive exhibition tracing cinema, TV, gaming and digital art from shadow puppets to the present day. Kids can animate shadows, build optical toys, edit film scenes and create soundscapes.

Shrine of Remembrance

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
The Shrine runs dedicated family programs including Shrine Kids, designed to introduce younger visitors to the stories of Australians in wartime through interactive, age-appropriate activities.

Science Gallery Melbourne

📍 Parkville | 🆓 Free
Free gallery at the University of Melbourne running thought-provoking exhibitions aimed at curious minds of all ages. Great for teens especially.

Heide Museum of Modern Art

📍 Bulleen | 🆓 Sculpture park & gardens free
Sixteen acres of gardens and sculpture park with works by Anish Kapoor and Inge King. The indoor galleries showcase Australian modernist and contemporary art in beautiful heritage buildings.

Koorie Heritage Trust

📍 Federation Square | 🆓 Free
Victoria's only public collection dedicated to Koorie art and culture. Guided Walking Tours (ticketed) let kids hold replica artefacts while learning their significance.

Victoria Police Museum

📍 Docklands | 🆓 Free
Australia's largest collection of Kelly Gang armour lives here, alongside 300+ objects covering 150 years of Victoria's crime and policing history – forensic technology, notorious cases and real detective work.

Australian Music Vault – Arts Centre Melbourne

📍 Southbank | 🆓 Free
Exhibition celebrating the full story of Australian music – from pub rock to hip hop, Kylie to Archie Roach. Interactive listening zones, iconic costumes and a 360-degree immersive Amplifier experience.

narrm ngarrgu Library

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
Melbourne's newest library has a dedicated children's library, secure outdoor play terrace overlooking Queen Victoria Market precinct, playgroups for 0–6 year olds, and a creative makerspace.

Galleries + Museums near Melbourne for Kids

Sovereign Hill

📍 Bradshaw St, Ballarat | 🎫 Ticketed

An open-air living museum where Ballarat's 1850s gold rush comes to life through costumed characters, working trades and real gold panning.

Discovery Centre Bendigo

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

A hands-on science and technology centre in a heritage railway goods shed. Over 100 interactive exhibits, a Planetarium, a 7-metre vertical slide and special holiday programs.

Central Deborah Gold Mine

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

Descend 61 metres underground into the tunnels of a real gold mine that operated through the gold rush era. On the surface, explore heritage buildings and do gold panning.

Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery

📍 Mornington | 🎫 Free

Large public gallery with a strong program of Australian art and regular activities for kids and families. Guided tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)

📍 Shepparton | 🎫 Free

A beautifully purpose-built gallery housing one of Australia's largest ceramic art collections, a growing Indigenous art collection and children's gallery.

Golden Dragon Museum

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

The story of Chinese Australians in the goldfields and home to one of the world's oldest imperial processional dragons, Chinese gardens and a temple.

McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery

📍 Langwarrin | 🎫 Free entry to parklands

A unique outdoor art experience where kids can roam among giant sculptures, then warm up inside the gallery or grab a treat at the café. Free entry to the parklands.

Pt. Leo Estate Sculpture Park

📍 Merricks | 🎫 Ticketed, kids free

Seventy-plus large-scale works — including pieces by KAWS and Yayoi Kusama — spread across 16.5 acres of vineyard and coastal grounds on the Mornington Peninsula.

Bruno's Art & Sculpture Garden

📍 Marysville | 🎫 Ticketed

Hundreds of life-sized terracotta characters — goblins, goddesses, wizards and more — scattered through a lush rainforest garden near Steavenson Falls. Bruno makes everything on site.

MOVE – Museum of Vehicle Evolution

📍 Kialla | 🎫 Ticketed

Classic cars, motorbikes, trucks, buses, vintage bicycles, a costume collection and a small children's area in a contemporary, interactive space just south of Shepparton.

Best Indoor Play Spaces

Legoland Discovery Centre

📍 Chadstone Shopping Centre

A must-visit for LEGO lovers, with creative build zones, immersive rides, a 4D cinema and MINILAND showcasing iconic Melbourne landmarks in miniature.

Ark Play Cafe

📍 Epping

A calm, less crowded play cafe where kids explore through creative, purposeful play with premium felt toys while families enjoy nutritious food and quality time together.

Diggerland

📍 Braeside

A construction-themed indoor play zone for kids aged 6 months to 7 years, with 50+ tonnes of real sand, mini excavators, cranes, RC vehicles and a dedicated toddler zone.

SuperPark Melbourne

📍 Maribyrnong

A supersized indoor adventure park with 15+ activities including trampolines, ninja courses, pedal cars, and digital sports games.

Landing Playcentre

📍 Bundoora, Ravenhall, Altona North

Offers separate zones for babies, toddlers, and older children, with a focus on soft play and safety.

Eden Play

📍 Mill Park

A clean indoor play centre for children aged 3 and under, with thoughtfully designed play hubs and a café.

Dreamscape Melbourne

📍 The District Docklands

Thrilling game challenge rooms, a 7D visual rollercoaster and 3D movies aimed at families and teens looking for high-energy indoor fun.

Pixieland Kids Play Cafe

📍 M-City Shopping Centre

Combines a magical indoor play space with freshly made snacks, meals and barista coffee, so little ones can adventures in fairyland while grown-ups recharge in comfort.

Imaginationation

📍 Chadstone Shopping Centre

A design-led, architecturally built play centre for kids aged 6 months to 7 years, with immersive zones, a sensory room, CONNETIX builder area and a café serving Le Puree baby food and proper coffee.

We Rock the Spectrum

📍 Various locations

Inclusive indoor gym and play centre designed for all abilities with sensory-safe equipment like swings, crash mats, trampolines, and fine motor activities.

Rainbow Town Play Centre

📍 Glen Waverley

Offers bumper cars, trampoline park, interactive climbing walls, and enclosed toddler areas.

Funtopia

📍 Carrum Downs, Cranbourne

An indoor adventure playground with climbing walls, obstacle courses, and toddler play areas.

Want more of this - all year round?

Tot Perks is Melbourne's membership for families who want the good stuff – member-only experiences, exclusive giveaways and everyday savings.

As a Tot Perks Member you get:

 **Member-only access** for you and your guests to special experiences you won't find anywhere else

 **Giveaway** entries for high-value prizes – hotel stays, festival tickets, travel vouchers + more.

 **Discounts** on everyday spending – fuel, movies, gift cards, attractions, restaurants, travel + more

 The satisfaction of supporting an independent Melbourne family business.

Join Tot Perks

Already a member? Thank you – you make what we do possible 

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