A Walk in the Park

Magnificent cathedrals, lush parklands and delightful Flinders Lane.

Walking time 2 hours
Distance 3.75 Kilometres

Opposite Federation Square, begin by taking the 10-minute tour of St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral. Pick up a brochure inside the entrance to guide you. Near the Swanston Street entrance, notice the statue of Matthew Flinders who bravely circumnavigated the continent in 1801-03.

Continue back along Flinders Street to Hosier Lane. As you walk up the cobblestones to Flinders Lane, take in the dramatic street art and funky bars. Once the home of the city’s rag trade, today the old warehouses and factories hide apartments, artisans and galleries and some of the city’s grooviest bars.

At 129-131 Flinders Lane, look out for Levy and Robinson’s Warehouse that dates back to 1857. Near Spring Street you’ll pass Milton House, built as a hospital in 1901.

At the top of Spring Street the view widens to an expanse of green. Cross Spring Street and enter the Treasury Gardens. With their beautiful avenues of Moreton Bay Figs, the gardens are full of history - dating back to the early period of European settlement. As you stroll through them, look for the monuments to Scottish poet Robert Burns and the assassinated American president John F. Kennedy.

Cross Lansdowne Street into Fitzroy Gardens, and discover more historic and botanic treasures. Fitzroy Gardens was laid out in the 1850s and named after Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, Governor of New South Wales and Governor General of the Australian Colonies. Today, more than two million local, interstate and international visitors come to enjoy the gardens every year.

Follow the green signs to the graceful Conservatory built in 1930. Go in and see what’s in bloom (it’s free!) and walk around to admire the statues outside. Five major flower displays are staged each year, attracting large crowds of garden lovers.

Your next stop is Cooks’ Cottage, which was shipped from Great Ayton in Yorkshire and re-erected in Fitzroy Gardens in 1934 as a Victorian centenary gift. The explorer James Cook may never have lived in the cottage, but his parents probably did. For a small fee, you can go inside the cottage and see the reconstruction of a modest English home of the mid 1700s.

Just up the small path to the east, a Scarred Tree is a reminder that Aboriginal people were here long before.

You continue this walk past Sinclair’s Cottage. Built in 1864, it was the home to James Sinclair and his family. Sinclair was a renowned horticulturalist who established the Fitzroy Gardens in the 1860s. Follow the signs to the Pavilion Café - a great spot to relax and unwind. The nearby carved Fairies’ Tree and Model Tudor Village are popular with...
young children, while adults enjoy the elegant fountains and rotundas.

Don’t miss the children’s playground - slide down the dragon’s tail, swing on the giraffe’s ears, see how the dragon glows in the dark!

If you look carefully, maybe you’ll spot a world record break of 4137 on an English Elm, the Lindrum Billiard Rooms. All-time billiards champion Walter Lindrum made his name here.

Look along Treasury Place to some of the area’s finest buildings. The current Premier’s Office is the Lindrum Building (200), formerly the Lindrum Billiard Rooms. All-time billiards champion Walter Lindrum made a world record break of 4137 on an English Elm, the Lindrum Billiard Rooms. All-time billiards champion Walter Lindrum made a world record break of 4137 on an English Elm, the Lindrum Billiard Rooms.