

ROAD NETWORK

Victoria has an extensive, well-developed network of highways connecting the State's major population centres. The principal highways that form part of the National Network include the Hume Highway, Citylink, Monash Freeway, Eastern Freeway, Calder Freeway, South Gippsland Freeway, East Link.

Refer to vicroads.goc.au

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

An efficient network of transport options connects the attractions and suburbs of Melbourne and regional Victoria, including buses, trains, trams and light rail. To use the network, either a [Myki](#) card (available for purchase and can be 'topped up') or a contactless credit card, debit card or mobile device (with payment options) is required. See details of how and where to purchase a [Myki](#).

Melbourne's network is an efficient way of travelling around the city. Use the Public Transport Victoria journey planner to map your route. This allows you to plan your route most easily and swiftly while providing constant updates on changes or alternative routes. Refer to ptv.vic.gov.au or the downloadable App PTV.

Melbourne's main rail terminus for some local and all regional and interstate trains and buses is Southern Cross Station at Spencer St, Central Business District in Melbourne. Flinders St Station is the central station for suburban trains.

There is a vast network of trams and buses throughout Melbourne. Travelling by tram within the Central Business District of Melbourne is free.

A bicycle is a great way to get around Melbourne. Cyclists use kerbside bike lanes and have their own designated bike lanes along the major roads. Helmets are a legal requirement.

Intercity & Country Victorian trains - Trains depart Southern Cross Station for interstate to South Australia and NSW. Trains also depart for many Victorian destinations, including Ballarat, Geelong, Bendigo, Warrnambool, Shepparton, Wodonga. Travelling long distances is easy and affordable.

DRIVING IN MELBOURNE

Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road. Use of seat belts is compulsory in Australia, with the driver being responsible for ensuring that all passengers are wearing them. Using a hand-held mobile phone is prohibited when driving. It can however be used if mounted in an approved cradle but through voice command only, not touch. Penalties for misuse apply.

The blood alcohol limit is 0.05% throughout Australia and is enforced with random breath tests. Pay attention to speed limits – speed cameras are used across Melbourne and Victoria. Note that there are zero alcohol limits for certain classes of driver including heavy vehicle, bus and probationary/learner drivers. These limits are strictly enforced.

Melbourne has a number of tolls along the Citylink and East Link roads. Tolls are charged via an electronic system. Rental cars may have an e-tag installed with contractual billing arrangements but when a tag is not used toll payments must be made on-line within 24 hours to avoid penalties.

RENTING A CAR

There are many car rental companies operating in Australia, rates vary depending on the type of car required and the length of hire time. Some of the popular companies are Budget, Hertz, Thrifty, Avis, Sixt and others.

Alternatively, **GoGet** is a car-sharing service where a car can be hired for a specific day or amount of time, this might be a suitable alternative when a car is needed for a limited time.

PURCHASING A CAR

There are various ways to purchase a car in Australia depending on needs. New cars are purchased from preferred brand dealerships and used cars can be purchased from used car dealerships or private individuals.

Before finalizing the deal on a secondhand car, it is highly recommended to have it checked thoroughly with an independent mechanic or automotive center. A pre-purchase inspection of a used car can be arranged and purchased through the NRMA (National Roads and Motorist's Association) which will provide a thorough and unbiased report on a car's condition.

CAR INSURANCE

Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance is a mandatory pre-requisite for a vehicle to be registered in Victoria. CTP insurance (also known as a green slip) provides compensation for other people injured in an accident when the person driving the vehicle is at fault, and in certain circumstances, regardless of who was at fault.

Comprehensive and third-party car insurance options can be purchased providing additional cover and where appropriate, agreed values. More information about the different insurance plans and pricing can be found on comparison websites that provide quotes from a range of participating insurance providers. Nuss can provide further details on sourcing quotes and information.

GETTING A VICTORIAN DRIVER'S LICENCE

Currently, a temporary resident is permitted to drive in Australia with a foreign driver's licence for up to 6 months after arrival as long as that license is in English. If the licence is not in English, it is necessary to obtain an International Driver's Permit (IDP) to use in Australia; note that this MUST be obtained in the country in which the driver's licence was issued so would need to be obtained before travelling to Australia. The Victorian driver's licence will be required after 6 months. There are certain common eligibility factors that must be met to apply for and obtain a driver's licence. The application and process are completed at the Vic Roads Centres www.vicroads.vic.gov.au which also manage several government services for residents and businesses. Please refer to this site for specific information.