

EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR AUSTRALIA

THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE AUSTRALIA



Explore Your Passion For...+

Each week we speak to an industry expert about indulging in their passion in Australia. This week in our 'passion series' we speak to Mondo Travel Marketing Manager, Gordon Bayne, about shopping and shows.

1. Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion?

Diversity, fun and fabulous are the words I always think of with Australia. No matter if you spend a special moment with your favourite Barossa Valley Riesling or for the first time putting your mask on and watching the Whale Sharks swim past you in Ningaloo, Western Australia or a Hidden Shopping Tour in Melbourne to discover the gems of Victoria, it is all at your finger tips.

2. Name your favourite place to best experience shopping and shows in Australia -

Victoria is my pick from the valleys of vineyards to the valleys of streets of shopping, best you take your empty credit card and suitcase to enjoy all the delights of the boutiques, malls and hunting for that special bottle of wine to put into your wine collection when you get home.

3. What do you love most about Melbourne?

There is always an event on, there is always a new restaurant opening and an old friend in terms of restaurants or bars to re visit. My favourite restaurant is Eau De Vie, which is



a seriously funky & chic restaurant on Malthouse Lane.

4. What do you think is most appealing about those places for fellow shoppers?

Melbourne is about discovery and you don't need to be in designer stores to find a bargain or something special. One of the best stores we visited earlier this year when we took a group to the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival in March was Retro Star Vintage Clothing store which is on Level 1 on Swanston Street. For the girls somewhere fun is Kinki Gerlinky, 22 Centre place which is a boutique filled with quirky and fun outfits for any occasion.

5. Your standout Australian experience to date...

This year the Mondo Fashion

SHOPPING AND SHOWS

and

Shopping

Ambassador Amber Peebles and I escorted a tour to the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival. Our entire itinerary was based around the shows as well as improving the fashion confidence of the guests we had on the tour. Watching Amber turn a client's \$100 budget into a full outfit for that night's show and the glory on their face when they put on their outfit was as good as seeing a bride glow on her wedding day. Equally as good where the Corporate Box seats and Front Row seats that we had. Anyone that loves fashion should go in 17-23 March 2014. Take your mum, a girlfriend or your sister and head off for the weekend.

6. You would go back tomorrow for...

The shows. I love the arts and theatre and have taken in all of the shows that come to town in Melbourne. Playing now is King Kong and just announced is the amazing musical Wicked in March 2014, Lucy Durack is back to Melbourne Glenda the Good who was amazing in the 1st show. Now for the boys, you can't go wrong with the AFL.

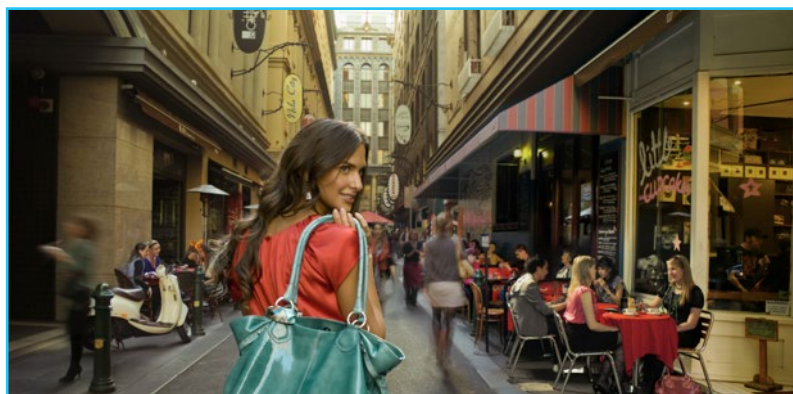
Brisbane Revealed

New Zealand fashionista Colin Mathura Jeffree recently checked out the delights of shopping in Brisbane - much to his surprise.

Colin explored the city with Brisbane's Hidden Gems Tours and guide Amanda Kruse, where he was taken on an adventure tour of taste, sight and sound in 'The Valley' that he won't forget. In Colin's words it's a precinct full of 'eccentric, faboosh stores'!

It all began at the city's fashion precinct Fortitude Valley, minutes from the CBD, popping into the Dello Mano chocolate cafe, where Colin was tempted with homemade chocolate brownies flavoured with pistachio.

Then it was onto Initial denim who create perfect jeans to fit your shape. The Valley tour fittingly ending with champagne at a masterclass of fragrance at Libertine perfumery, where Gai shares 36 years of fragrance industry knowledge. Read more about Colin's travels in the NZ Herald and on herald.co.nz



Explore Melbourne's laneways

Melbourne's city centre is made up of a quirky web of over 180 tiny laneways, side streets, basements and rooftops. Tucked behind the ordered grid of the city streets, this collection of laneways is bursting with one-off fashion boutiques, art galleries, hole-in-the wall cafes, secret bars and restaurants.

Guided tours of the laneways, such as Hidden Secrets Tours signature Lanes and Arcades tour, provide an excellent introduction to Melbourne's vibrant laneway culture and the history behind their development. From the old to the eccentric, Melbourne's Laneways are a piece of its rich multicultural history. Hop on a tram and you'll soon see why they're an Australian icon.