

Islamic Museum of Australia

A guide to all attractions, food and fashion in the local neighbourhood

The Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) is located in the family-friendly area of Thornbury.

Perfectly positioned at the intersection of Darebin and Moreland local government areas, the IMA is enveloped by a multicultural mosaic. With flavourful restaurants, stylish clothing stores and leafy nature trails, our local neighbourhood has you covered with things to eat, see and do. Many of these are only a short walk or drive from the Museum, making them a convenient and accessible addition to your IMA itinerary.

DINING

Old School Pizza and Stone Grill (V, VG and GF available)

Just a 10-minute walk around the corner from the IMA, Old School Pizza is our go-to for a delicious feed of halal pizzas and a great selection of pasta. For an interactive dining experience, choose a steak which will be served on a sizzling stone grill plate.

14-20 Nicholson St, Coburg, VIC 3058

<https://oldschoolpizza.com.au/coburg/>

Zaatar (V, VG and GF available)

Located in Coburg, Zaatar offers a delightful array of tasty Middle Eastern dishes, share plates and pastries. If you're craving a traditional zaatar or simply a good cup of coffee, this popular family-run establishment will have you covered for all your breakfast, lunch and snack needs.

365 Sydney Rd, Coburg, VIC 3058

<https://zaatar.com.au/>

Instagram: @zaatarbakery

Royal Stacks (V and VG available)

Looking for a juicy burger made with high quality, Australian-only ingredients? Or how about a sweet, frozen custard treat? This American-style eatery will satiate all your cravings—and it's the only Royal Stacks restaurant in Melbourne that offers halal options on the menu.

1/800 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, VIC 3056

<http://www.royalstacks.com.au>

Instagram: @royalstacksau

Northern Perk Café

(V and VG available)

Home of the whopping breakfast tower, the Northern Perk Café can pretty much do it all. From smashed avo to milkshakes and burgers, this hip little joint has something for everyone. An outdoor courtyard is located at the rear, perfect for a sunny Melbourne day.

710 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, VIC 3056

Instagram: @northernperkcafe

Half Moon Café

(V and VG available)

The locals have voted: here we have the best falafels in Melbourne. They've also perfected the humble kebab. Most items are \$10 or less—but prepare for a generous serving. It's no wonder the lunch queue trails out the door almost every day of the week.

13 Victoria St, Coburg, VIC 3058

Chorba Café

(V available)

Chorba Café will take you to Turkey in the same time it takes to brew a cup of coffee. This little eatery, next door to the Half Moon Café, offers an authentic Turkish breakfast experience alongside your Western favourites like banana bread and raisin toast.

11 Victoria St, Coburg, VIC 3058

Balha's Pastry

(V and VG available)

Sweet fiends will love the range of traditional Lebanese pastries, biscuits, continental desserts and ice-cream at Balha's Pastry. With 22 types of baklava on the menu, this popular store will satisfy your tastebuds.

761-763 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, VIC 3056

<https://www.balhaspastry.com.au>

Instagram: @balhaspastry

FASHION

Hijab House

One of the world's largest modest fashion brands is only a 10-minute drive from the IMA. Located in the heart of Brunswick, Hijab House offers the latest looks including hijabs, clothing and accessories.

604 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, VIC 3056

<https://www.hijabhouse.com.au>

Instagram: @hijab_house

Emaan

Emaan is a sustainable fashion and Islamic lifestyle store catering to men, women and children. Ethically-made clothing, books, multimedia, pilgrimage attire, prayer mats and perfumes are just some of the items to shop for at Emaan.

338-342 Sydney Rd, Coburg, VIC 3058

<https://www.emaan.com.au>

Instagram: @emaan.official

THINGS TO DO

Preston Market

This iconic market has been the multicultural hub of Melbourne's north for over 45 years. Market stalls range from fruit and vegetables, organic groceries, cafes, delis, fish markets, florists, and small variety stores. The Preston Market is open every Wednesday—Sunday.

Merri Creek

At the rear of the IMA, you'll find 21km of serene bushland that can take you towards Dights Falls in Abbotsford or the Western Ring Rd. Its name comes from 'Merri Merri', which means 'very rocky' in the Woi-wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people. The track is popular among families, cyclists and four-legged friends.

La Trobe University

La Trobe University is one of the IMA's major partners. They invite all students and non-students to discover their fantastic facilities which cater equally and fairly to everyone in the community. The Kingsbury Drive Community Market is also held on campus every Sunday from 9am-1pm, where you'll find fresh produce, fashion, gifts, art, pet supplies and more.

Edwardes Lake

A 12-minute drive north of the IMA will take you to the picturesque Edwardes Lake; a tranquil park among the busy suburbs. With two playgrounds, barbeque and picnic facilities, sporting tracks, a historic train engine attraction and a 4.7-star rating on Google, this park has something for everyone to enjoy.