



PHARAOH AT THE NGV

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

OVERVIEW

Unpack the phenomenon of the National Gallery of Victoria's new landmark exhibition, *Pharaoh*, celebrating 3000 years of ancient Egyptian art and culture – the undisputed highlight of our new four-day tour to Melbourne.

From colossal sculptures to exquisite jewellery, artistry from royal tombs and a rich array of funerary treasures, *Pharaoh* will showcase more than 500 works from the British Museum, covering the time from the Old Kingdom to Alexander the Great.

Joined in Melbourne by UK-based Egyptologist Lucia Gahlin, we enjoy a private, before-hours guided viewing of the exhibition, complemented by two background lectures. Our time is rounded out by visits to some of Victoria's unique house museums in the company of curator Kenneth W. Park, an evening performance at the Southbank Theatre, fine dining and five-star accommodation in the heart of the city.

TOUR LEADERS



Lucia Gahlin is an Egyptologist based in the UK and holds a First Class Honours Degree in Egyptology and Ancient History from University College London.



The second part of the tour is accompanied by **Kenneth W. Park**. Kenneth is an art curator, presenter and writer. During his career, he has lectured at every state art gallery in Australia.

TOUR DATES

July 29 - August 1, 2024 | 4 Days

TOUR PRICE

\$4,480 per person, twin share
\$680 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$500** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Melbourne (3 nights)

INCLUSIONS

3 nights' accommodation in a centrally located 5-star hotel. All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner. Best available tickets to **1** performance. Services of two expert tour leaders and an experienced tour manager. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy the best of Melbourne's world-class arts and cultural heritage institutions in this carefully-curated program.

PHARAOH AT THE NGV

Enjoy a private before-hours, guided tour of this landmark exhibition, showcasing more than 500 individual pieces from the British Museum's permanent collection.

BACKGROUND LECTURES

Understand the role of the Pharaoh in ancient Egyptian society with its associated rituals and beliefs with two in-person talks from British Egyptologist Lucia Gahlin.

ENGLISH AT SOUTHBANK THEATRE

Winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, enter a small classroom in Iran in this big-hearted comedy directed by Tasnim Hossain and starring Osamah Sami.

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Explore the Heide Museum of Modern Art, a creative hub set on 6.5 hectares of parkland with five gallery spaces, award-winning architecture and a collection of more than 3,600 works of art.

COOMBE YARRA VALLEY

Visit the Australian home of operatic icon Dame Nellie Melba containing many of the treasures she amassed during her life, including works by Hans Heysen and Arthur Streeton.

JUSTIN ART HOUSE MUSEUM

Tour the house museum of Charles and Leah Justin, the founders of the architecture and interior design firm SJB, who have collected art for 40 years with a collection of over 250 works.

LIGHTSCAPE IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS

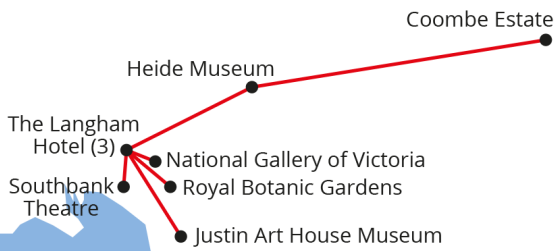
Take a night-time stroll through Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens and experience luminous pathways, lit-up tree canopies, soothing soundscapes and brand new installations.

FINE DINING

Dine in elegant spaces, from a three-course dinner overlooking the Yarra River to relaxed lunches in both the NGV's tranquil Garden Restaurant and Dame Nellie Melba's restored motor house.

THE LANGHAM MELBOURNE

Spend three-nights at the five-star Langham perfectly located on the Southbank Promenade and the banks of the Yarra River, with accommodation in comfortable deluxe river view rooms.



Start & Finish

The tour starts at 2.45pm on Monday 29 July, at the Langham Hotel, Melbourne.

The tour ends at 1.00pm on Thursday 1 August, with a transfer to Melbourne Tullamarine Airport.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Monday 29 July

Arrival

We gather in the lobby of the hotel this afternoon for introductions before enjoying **two background lectures** on ancient Egypt by Lucia, accompanied by afternoon tea. Afterwards, we enjoy dinner together in a private room of the hotel's award-winning Melba Restaurant. [D]

Tuesday 30 July

Pharaoh at the NGV | **English**

This morning we have a private, before-hours guided visit to the National Gallery of Victoria's **Pharaoh exhibition**. Comprising seven thematic sections and spanning from the first dynasty (3000 BCE) to the Roman period (3rd century CE), the works featured will provide a sense of the sheer grandeur and vast scale of this ancient civilization. Among the highlights we find a green siltstone head of Thutmose III, a five-centimetre wide ivory label depicting King Den of the first dynasty, a larger-than-life limestone statue of Ramses II, and 'The seated statue of Pharaoh Seti II' – one of the most complete sculptures from ancient Egypt that serves as a testament to the exceptional craftsmanship. Also on show will be a re-assembled limestone wall from an Old Kingdom mastaba tomb, elaborately carved with hieroglyphic texts, and an enormous fist from the temple of Ptah weighing 1.5 tonnes! Following our tour, we take a well-timed coffee break before free time to further explore the exhibit and the impressive permanent collection. Our visit to the NGV concludes with **lunch in the gallery's restaurant**, overlooking the tranquil garden. The afternoon is at leisure, where you may wish to further explore the NGV or spend it shopping the boutiques of the CBD. Tonight, we head to Southbank Theatre for Sanaz Toossi's Pulitzer Prize-winning play **English**, starring Osamah Sami (ABC's *Savage River*). Set in English language classes in Iran, the play follows a diverse group of characters as they navigate the complexities of learning a foreign tongue. [B, L]

Performance details

Venue: Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

Play: Sanaz Toossi's *English*, directed by Tasnim Hossain

Performers: Maia Abbas, Osamah Sami, Delaram Ahmadi, Salme Geransar, Marjan Mesbahi

HOTEL

Melbourne, The Langham Hotel (3 nights)

This five-star hotel is ideally located in Melbourne, in the heart of the city, on the Southbank Promenade. The National Gallery of Victoria is only a short walk from the hotel.

www.langhamhotels.com

WEATHER

July is cool in Melbourne, with average day time temperatures fluctuating between 7 to 12°C.

Expect colder temperatures in the evening and some possible rain. We recommend packing warm layers, gloves and a travel umbrella.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade One

This tour is appropriate for travellers in good health with good mobility. You should be able to:

- comfortably participate in up to three hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy pace, sometimes on uneven terrain, with only short breaks
- keep up with the group at all times
- stand for one to two hours in galleries and museums at a time without a break
- negotiate stairs and bridges
- get on and off a coach with steep stairs unassisted

Wednesday 31 July

Heide and Coombe | **Lightscape**

Kenneth W. Park takes over from Lucia for the next two days as we set out to the outskirts of Melbourne, where we find the **Heide Museum of Modern Art** – founded by art patrons John and Sunday Reed who transformed their acreage into a haven for writers and artists. This gem of a museum now houses one of the premiere collections of Australian modernism, with works by Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd, and its sculpture garden has works by Anthony Caro, Anish Kapoor and Inge King. Following our visit, we make our way to **Coombe**, the estate of world-famous opera singer Dame Nellie Melba. Located on seven acres at Coldstream in the Yarra Valley, we take a glimpse into the extravagant life of this iconic diva with a guided tour of the cottage, followed by lunch together in Melba's restored 'motor house' with its original chiming clock tower. Returning to Melbourne CBD in the late afternoon, we venture back to the hotel via Melbourne's characterful laneways, buzzing with street art, arcades, cafes, bars and boutiques. Tonight we head to Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens for **Lightscape** – an immersive, after-dark experience that brightens up the botanical gardens with multi-sensory light, colour and sound. (B, L)

Thursday 1 August

Justin Art House Museum & Departure

On our final morning, we visit the **Justin Art House Museum** – one of Melbourne's most intimate galleries and the private in-home collection of architect Charles and Leah Justin. Their collection comprises over 300 works and continues to grow. *ARTitecture* will be showing in the main gallery. With over 35 works from the JAHM collection, this exhibition explores what differentiates the creative process in art and architecture and what qualifies the design of the utilitarian to be regarded as art. We then continue by coach to the airport, arriving by 1.00pm. Those staying on in Melbourne can be dropped back at the hotel on the way to the airport. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Sharon Williams** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

sharon@academytravel.com.au

✉ info@academytravel.com.au

🖱 academytravel.com.au