

Bicycle tour of the Port of Melbourne

Directions (finishing at Southern Cross Station (formerly Spencer Street Station))

1. Leave Southern Cross Station (formerly Spencer Street Station) at the Collins St end.
2. Turn right on Collins St away from the city and over the bridge.
3. At the end of Collins St, go straight ahead through a park, over some tram tracks and turn right onto the bike path.
4. Continue along Harbour Esplanade past sculptures, the colourful National Australia Bank building and Telstra Dome.
5. Follow the bike path along Footscray Rd.

The Port of Melbourne starts at Appleton Dock Rd. As you cycle along Footscray Rd you first pass Patrick Stevedores container terminal on the left then, once you cross Swanson Dock Rd you pass D P World container terminal.

Around 1.9 million containers pass through (import and export) the Port of Melbourne each year, and they generally come in two sizes: 20 feet (approx six metres) and 40 feet (approx 12 metres) in length. Most containers are for general cargo but some have built-in refrigerating units for goods that require cold storage, these are called reefer containers.

6. Stay on Footscray Rd as you cross the Maribyrnong River on Shepherd Bridge.
7. Just after crossing the Maribyrnong River, turn left on the bike path along Moreland St and then onto Whitehall St.
8. At Somerville Road, turn right till you meet Hyde Street, then turn left.

9. Follow Hyde St towards the West Gate Bridge past a large Mobil terminal.

After crossing Francis St, you'll pass the Mobil oil terminal on the left. A large proportion of the petroleum that comes into the Port of Melbourne arrives at Holden Dock which is on the river-side of the Mobil terminal. On average, the Port of Melbourne handles 10,800 tonnes of petroleum per day.

10. Travel under the West Gate Bridge and past the West Gate Memorial Park.

11. Downstream from Riverside Park you may notice some boats with black hulls and pipes coming out of their decks.

Just past Scienceworks, near some overhead pipes, you'll find an area where Bunker Barges are moored. These strange-shaped boats are used to refuel the large ships that call into the port. The name dates from the time when ships were steam powered and the fuel – coal was stored in bunkers on the barges.

12. Take the Westgate Punt (**public holidays and weekends only**) across the river to Westgate Park.

13. Turn left onto Lorimer St past the Shipping Management Centre and Port Ed.

The large tower you can see on your left as you cycle down Lorimer St is the Shipping Management Centre (SMC). Much like an airport with its air-traffic controllers, the Port of Melbourne has ship-traffic controllers and these people work in the SMC. The SMC is staffed all day, every day. To get an idea of the view from the SMC you can visit:

http://www.portofmelbourne.com/shipping/webcams/smc_cam.asp

to use the web cams.

Next door to the Shipping Management Centre is Port Ed. Port Ed is the community and school education centre. For further information or bookings please contact the Port Education Programs Coordinator on **9645 3000**.

14. Continue along Lorimer St, turning left at the junction with Todd Rd, past South Wharves and under the Bolte Bridge. The Bolte Bridge marks the Port of Melbourne's boundary.

Along the left-hand side of Lorimer St is the area of the port called South Wharves. Two of these berths are used to load cement; the others are general cargo berths. There are often interesting ships tied up along South Wharf and if you want to discover what these ships are you can visit:

<http://www.portofmelbourne.com/shipping/shippingmovements.asp>

14. At Yarra's Edge apartments, re-join the bike path, cross over the Yarra on the Webb Bridge and re-enter the Docklands.

15. Up Collins St, over the bridge and back to Spencer St Station.