YOUR HOSTS

The World Congress of Sociology 2022 in Melbourne will be hosted by The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), a vibrant national association with over 750 members and strong connections to our sibling associations across the region and the world.

WHY MELBOURNE?

Australia is adjacent to South-East Asia and a major education hub in the Asia-Pacific Region. It is a clean and welcoming city, accredited as an International ‘Safe City’ by the World Health Organisation. Yet Melbourne is also a vibrant city; it is a UNESCO ‘City of Literature’ and home to a calendar of global events and Australia’s premier destination for international students. Students and scholars from across the Asia Pacific come to Melbourne to learn, discuss and debate. It is the ideal place for a global dialogue about the role of sociology in a shifting world.

The city of Melbourne is a young city, among the most urbanized and multicultural in the world, but also home to the oldest living cultures on earth. The traditional owners of the City of Melbourne are the Indigenous Australian people of the Wurundjeri. Wurundjeri cultural protocols will be followed at the beginning of each session, with an ‘Acknowledgement of Country’.

MELBOURNE FAST FACTS

> Easy access to wildlife, beaches and wide open spaces
> Australia’s multicultural hub, representing over 230 ethnic communities with more than 180 languages spoken
> Safe and secure
> More than 6500 restaurants, cafés, bistros and bars within 15 minutes of the city centre
> The leading destination in Australia for major international sporting and cultural events including the Spring Racing Carnival, featuring the Melbourne Cup, the Australian Open Tennis Championships and the Boxing Day Cricket Test

AUSTRALIA’S LEADING CONFERENCE CENTRE

The venue for WCS 2022 will be the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), on the edge of the CBD and along the banks of the Yarra River. It is surrounded by bustling restaurants, bars, shops and cultural attractions.

ACCOMMODATION - 5400 ROOMS WITHIN A FIVE MINUTE WALK

Melbourne has a superb range of accommodation to suit all budgets, tastes and delegates’ needs. There are currently 10,891 hotel rooms within the city centre, including 5400 within five minutes of the MCEC by foot, ranging in price from budget hostels to five-star hotels.

MEMORABLE EVENTS, EATING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Melbourne has the perfect venue for all ISA social events, as well as the capacity to host any other evening gatherings that may form part of the program. It has a vibrant food and wine scene, from budget street food from around the world to top-end restaurants. Melbourne often makes the list of world’s best food cities and its coffee culture is world renowned. Some of its best bars, cafes and restaurants can be found down an unassuming laneway or on the city’s rooftops. Melbourne’s famous street art is also focused around the city’s numerous laneways.

IMPRESSIVE REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS

A short trip from Melbourne are some of Australia’s most beautiful regions, including the famous coastal vistas of the great ocean road and the wineries of the Yarra Valley.

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Melbourne is the perfect walking city and most delegates will be able to walk to their choice of accommodation, and the city’s restaurants, bars, café and cultural venues. The major public transport within the city is the extensive tram network. All tram travel within the city centre is free, for delegates who require public transport.

VISAS

Australia’s Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is the world’s most advanced and streamlined travel authorisation system. ETA allows citizens from 30+ countries to access an instant online application. If your country is not listed under ETA, your visa will be processed by the nearest Australian visa processing office. If your country does not have a visa office, VFS Global can process your application. For more information, http://www.border.gov.au/

FLYING TO MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Melbourne International Airport operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 33 international airlines fly direct to Melbourne from over 39 international destinations, 484 times per week. Melbourne’s comprehensive transport network and touring companies will also enable delegates to travel to other parts of Victoria and Australia for pre and post touring.
For a unique Melbourne sporting experience, head to the MCG or Etihad Stadium to watch an AFL (Australian Football League) game. Also known as ‘Aussie Rules’, the AFL games are held on Friday nights, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, so rug up and revel in the excitement of one of the city’s favourite pastimes.

Less than one hour’s drive from Melbourne, the picturesque Yarra Valley is famous for its vineyards, rolling green hills and the pleasures of locally produced food and wine. The Dandenong Ranges is a popular escape for its mountain scenery, forests and fern gullies. Drive, walk, wander or float through in a hot air balloon.

One of the world’s most scenic drives, the Great Ocean Road follows Victoria’s stunning south-western coastline past the famous Twelve Apostles. From Torquay, south of Geelong, to Peterborough, east of Warrnambool, the 243-kilometre road winds along cliff tops, moves under the canopies of lush rainforests and cruises down to the shoreline.

The Grampians region, with its expansive landscapes, has stunning national and state parks, indigenous history and breathtaking scenery. The Grampians National Park features spectacular rocky outcrops, 200 bird species, Aboriginal heritage trails and Victoria’s largest collection of rock art. Survey its beauty by following one of the region’s 40 walking tracks.

From mushroom foraging walks in winter, to strawberry picking in summer, Mornington Peninsula is awash with outstanding local produce that is found in the many award-winning restaurants in the region. While in the area be sure to get lost in Ashcombe Maze or soak any worries away at the Peninsula Hot Springs.

Head for the spectacular scenery and high altitude of Victoria’s high country. The region is renowned for its welcoming villages, long traditions of wine making, fine local produce, adventure and outdoor activities in the breathtaking alpine scenery. Take to the slopes for skiing in winter, or in the warmer months explore the mountains on horseback or bike.

Phillip Island is a popular destination for its nature and wildlife, as well as its international motor racing events. Just 90 minutes from Melbourne, experience the famous Penguin Parade, Australia’s most popular wildlife event, where every day at dusk a parade of little penguins emerge from the sea and make their way to their burrows in the sand dunes.

Daylesford and Macedon Ranges is the state’s capital of indulgence, offering spa retreats and natural springs, great cafés and fine dining just over an hour from Melbourne. More than 80 per cent of Australia’s naturally occurring mineral springs are found in the region.

When gold was discovered in Victoria over 150 years ago it left a lasting legacy within the towns of Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine and Maryborough. Pan for gold at Sovereign Hill and explore the region’s beautiful architecture, grand public buildings, statues, fountains and exquisite gardens - all reminders of that rich bygone era.

Escape to the eastern corner of Victoria and be rewarded with natural landscapes of unparalleled beauty. Visit quaint seaside villages and alpine towns; fill up on farm-fresh produce; get active on the region’s lakes, rivers and mountain ranges; or simply relax on the pristine beaches.

www.melbourne.org