

# a tour from DRAB TO FAB

STORY BY JOHANNA M'KINNON

FOR THOSE SICK of tagging along on the company golf game, this is the tour for you!



Three hours of touring around the high fashion streets of Paddington, Chic in the City Tours takes you on a journey filled with champagne, unique Australian designers and a taste of some exclusive handmade chocolates to boot.

Tour guide Siobhán Young has lived and shopped in Sydney for six years and says the experience was born out of a want to find the latest labels, cult buys and Australian designers that are one of a kind.

"Every designer on the tour is unique and won't be found in any department stores or on the high street," she said.

The walking tours take a maximum of six people, and our excursion started in a little café on Oxford Street, Paddington, where the group met and discussed what we would be doing over a lovely latte. From there the first port of call was Just William, a fine chocolate shop which only offers samples of their sweet works of art for participants on this custom-made trip.

From here our group strolled down William Street to meet Australian designer Adam Dixon where we were fortunate enough to try on some of his elegant frocks. From here we crossed the street to Sarah, a magnificent gem of a store, full of vintage jewellery. After trying on some sparkly rings and earrings we strolled further down the street and made our way to the Leona Edmiston boutique and

were tempted by many of her super-feminine styles.

We then made our way back down Oxford Street and stopped off at another beautiful store, Vivacity, for a glass of champagne and to slip into some more gorgeous gowns. Our tour ended on Queen Street, where we farewelled our fellow tourers and continued to dream about the beautiful designs we had seen.

The walking tours are available three or four times a week and Siobhán says Saturdays are very popular for groups. There is also a chauffeured tour available where guests can shop for four hours with a tour that is tailored to their style. It would be great for a small delegate partners' program or staff incentive, and especially good for an international group who are keen to leave our shores with a selection of unique Australian pieces.

Siobhán offers a personalised experience and also complements guests with styling tips. Indeed, she really has a knack of being able to find that perfect outfit for all her clients.

Don't be discouraged by the thought of traipsing around the streets of Paddington for kilometres, as Siobhán takes you on a leisurely stroll that can even be done in heels!

Guests on the tour are also treated to discounts at many of the stores along the way.

For further information go to [www.chicinthecitytours.com.au](http://www.chicinthecitytours.com.au)