

Wanderlust EXPERTS' GUIDE TO

CANBERRA



One good thing
after another



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Singapore Airlines is easily Australia's most frequent foreign visitor, making the trip Down Under more than 120 times a week. Indeed, Singapore Airlines has been flying to Australia since 1967.

Back then, flights stopped at Perth, en route to Sydney; now, both cities are served nonstop, four times a day. Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Cairns, the Gold Coast and Darwin have been added, too, with Canberra being the latest city to join the list. Also, Singapore Airlines has long connected UK travellers to Australia: for over 45 years from London and over 30 years from Manchester.

Australia is vital to the Singapore Airlines network, and attention to the quality of experience on the Canberra service is no different. Choice and speed are the operative words: four flights depart Singapore

Changi Airport each week, while it operates on the fastest route from the UK to the Australian capital.

That means adventure is closer than you think. Canberra's wine regions, nature reserves and rich dining scene are calling...



ONE GOOD THING AFTER ANOTHER

With striking modernist architecture, bold public artworks and gracious tree-lined avenues, Canberra is a city of substance. This is a capital that feels instantly familiar, but looks unlike anywhere else in Australia, or indeed the world.

Whatever your thoughts on planned capitals, the concept never fails to intrigue. In Canberra's case, the aim was to create a beautiful, diverse and innovative administrative centre that would belong to all Australians.

Canberra continues to evolve. Less frenetic than some capitals, the city and its surrounds, the Australian Capital Territory, is an approachable region that's packed with attractions,



For more great information and inspiration on Canberra visit: <https://firststopsingapore.com>

from memorable museums and award-winning restaurants to peaceful gardens and thrilling hiking trails. For visitors, it's a fantastic introduction to a complex, dynamic nation.



CANBERRA HIGHLIGHTS

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CANBERRA TRIP PLANNER

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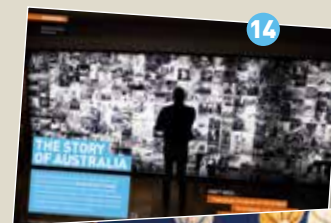
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THREE DAYS IN AUSTRALIA'S COOL CAPITAL

It's normal for visitors to feel a little fazed by the land Down Under's monumental scale. So here's the good news: the **Australian Capital Territory** is reassuringly compact. With dozens of attractions condensed into a relatively small area, it's perfect for a city-and-country break. Stay for just a night or two, and you'll barely scratch the surface; allow three days and you'll be amazed at what you can pack in.

Highlights

- The museums and monuments – inspiring cultural centres which tell the story of the nation
- The creative buzz of the city's art galleries, craft studios and boutique shops
- The exciting blend of flavours at the region's award-winning restaurants, cafés, breweries and wineries
- The green spaces which have earned Canberra the title “Bush Capital of Australia”

THREE DAYS IN THE CAPITAL



National Museum of Australia



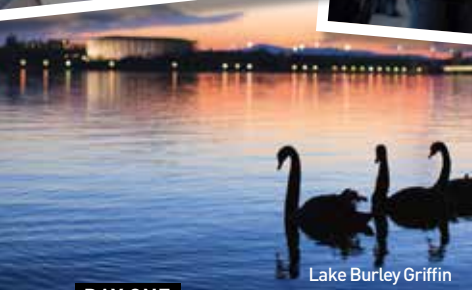
Australian War Memorial



Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve



Temporada



Lake Burley Griffin



Australian National Botanic Gardens



Lanterne Rooms

DAY ONE

BREATHE DEEP & GET YOUR BEARINGS

Morning: Start at Lake Burley Griffin, the city's focal point. Drop in at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre, then make for the blockbuster attractions on this side of town: the National Museum of Australia and the Australian War Memorial.

Afternoon: Inhale the aromatic scent of native flora at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, then head

out of town to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Both are rich in wildlife and great to explore.

Eat out: Tuck into dishes infused with European or Asian flavours at one of Canberra's leading contemporary eateries. To Temporada, perhaps, for duck breast with blood orange and kim chi butter, or Lanterne Rooms for Malaysian delicacies with a twist.

DON'T MISS...

- The Captain Cook Memorial Jet, which shoots water more than 100 metres between 11am and 2pm daily
- Love tokens, hand-engraved onto coins by 18th-century convicts, at the National Museum of Australia
- Kangaroos bouncing through the Australian National Botanic Gardens and koalas snoozing in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

Hidden Canberra

All is not what it seems in Commonwealth Park, beside Lake Burley Griffin. Back in 1975, during the legendary Australia 75 festival of arts and sciences, avant-garde sculptor Bert Flugelman buried six large polished aluminium tetrahedrons under the turf, where they remain to this day.

THREE DAYS IN THE CAPITAL



National Portrait Gallery



National Library of Australia



Clonakilla



Four Winds Vineyard



Mount Majura Vineyard



National Gallery of Australia



Aubergine

DAY TWO

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN CULTURE

Morning: Clock up some more heritage centres. The National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery, National Library of Australia and Reconciliation Place are all close to the lakeshore, just steps away from each other.

Afternoon: Find out about wine-making, a mainstay of contemporary Australian culture, on

a trip into the capital's cool-climate winelands. Indulge your palate at Mount Majura Vineyard (just 15 mins from the city) and Clonakilla.

Eat out: Treat yourself to an evening at Canberra's most celebrated Modern Australian restaurant, Aubergine. The Australian Good Food Guide has awarded it 2 Chef Hats, Australia's answer to Michelin stars.

DON'T MISS...

- Australia's biggest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art at the National Gallery of Australia
- Shiraz Viognier, Clonakilla's signature red
- Ben Willis' brown butter ice cream at Aubergine

Cultural Canberra

With a large proportion of public sector workers, academics and students in their ranks, Canberrans are a highbrow lot. Attendance at art galleries, concerts, theatre, dance and cinemas is higher here than anywhere else in Australia, with the National Gallery of Australia and National Portrait Gallery regularly voted the nation's favourite art museums.

THREE DAYS IN THE CAPITAL



DAY THREE

HANG OUT IN THE HIP INNER DISTRICTS

Morning: Pull together your best look – think individual but understated – and trot down to Lonsdale Street in Braddon, a hive of appealing boutiques and eateries. After that, for big brand shopping, hit the Canberra Centre.

Afternoon: Make your way through Civic to the NewActon Precinct, where there's always a buzz. Take in

some art or join the locals at a yoga class before catching a film at the Palace Electric Cinema or a show at the Canberra Theatre Centre.

Eat out: Monster Kitchen and Bar on the ground floor of NewActon's Hotel Hotel is a must. Expect a colourful, casual vibe and sharing plates heaped with nibbles made from local, seasonal ingredients.

DON'T MISS...

- Award-winning coffee at *The Cupping Room*
- Experimental art at *NewActon's Nishi Gallery*
- Sean McConnell's *yabby jaffle*, the ultimate crayfish and horseradish toastie, at *Monster Kitchen and Bar*

Green Canberra

A city of early-adopters, the capital tops Australia's league tables for recycling, car-sharing, travelling by bike, harnessing digital technology and creating eco-certified buildings. Single-use plastic shopping bags have been banned since 2011 and the city takes pride in keeping its many open spaces pristine.



THE STORY OF AUSTRALIA

Most of Canberra's superb national museums and attractions lie within the **Parliamentary Triangle** which spans Lake Burley Griffin, with Parliament House at its southern apex. They describe Australia's journey from prehistory to the present day, and offer vivid glimpses of the future. In many cases, entrance to the permanent collections is free.



DON'T MISS...

- National Museum of Australia
- Australian War Memorial
- National Library of Australia

◀ National Museum of Australia

Lawson Crescent, Acton nma.gov.au

Not just a museum, but an interactive social history project – its walls are decorated with braille messages and QR codes. Inside, it collates voices, stories, objects and theories about Australian identity. The best way to take it all in is the ‘Ultimate Museum Experience’ – a combined guided tour and lunch.

TOP TIP Many of Canberra’s top attractions offer free guided tours at set times each day. Check visitcanberra.com.au for details.

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

*18 King George Terrace, Parkes
moadoph.gov.au*

Tour the cramped interior of Canberra’s first parliament building, in use between 1927 and 1988, and you realise why Australia decided to invest more than A\$1.1 billion in a replacement. Despite its limitations – it was never intended to be permanent – the building is impressive, designed in a neoclassical style. Exhibitions focus on 20th century Australian politics. ▶▶



Balloons over the National Museum of Australia



Parliament House featuring projections during the Enlighten Festival

« Walter Burley Griffin's city plan

Canberra's founding fathers selected the city's location in 1908 and launched a prestigious international competition to decide the layout. The winning blueprint was the work of an American husband-and-wife team, Chicago-based architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, and while numerous diversions from the plan have taken place, the spirit of their model city remains largely intact. Inspired by the Garden City movement and entranced by the simple geometry of triangles, hexagons and circles, the vision featured generous, unfenced green spaces and gracious avenues, aligned with the hills which bracket the landscape.

DID YOU KNOW?

A light rail network is now under construction and is set to open in 2019. It is in keeping with Griffin's masterplan that first proposed a tram system.

Parliament House

Parliament Drive, Canberra aph.gov.au

Shaped like two huge boomerangs, powered by solar panels and built from Australian materials including timber, granite and marble, this is one of the world's most imaginative legislative buildings. Its design was a deviation from Griffin's original plan but local designers Mitchell / Giurgola and Thorp won plaudits for their vision when it was inaugurated in 1988. Visitors can take a tour, witness political debate from the public galleries or admire the Art Collection.

TOP TIP

Find out more about the Griffins' plans for Canberra and how the site was chosen at the National Capital Exhibition at Regatta Point. »

WHY CANBERRA?

Canberra's foundation was a masterstroke in early 20th century regional diplomacy. So the new nation's capital wasn't open to attack from the sea, among other things, an inland location between Sydney and Melbourne was chosen. The city's official naming took place on 12 March 1913.

Canberra is derived from Canberry, the region's first European-owned sheep station, founded in the 1820s. While it's thought to be a corruption of an Aboriginal name, nobody's entirely sure which one. Candidates include Kambra, meaning meeting place; Ngambri, a local tribe; and Ngambra, the space between the breasts of a woman, a reference to the peaks of Black Mountain and Mount Ainslie.

The region's woodlands, grasslands and mountains had been inhabited by the Ngunnawal people and other Aboriginal groups for some 25,000 years when the first Europeans arrived. Hundreds of heritage sites and artefacts remain, from rock art and shelters in Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to little-known burial grounds.

Many of Canberra's place names honour Aboriginal culture. In the suburb of Giralang, which means star in the Wiradjuri dialect, the streets are named after stars, constellations and astronomers. In Kaleen [water in Wiradjuri], the theme is Australian rivers; in Aranda, it's tribal groups. Bonner, near Mulligans Flat, is named after Neville Bonner, the first Indigenous Australian to sit in the Australian Parliament, while Amaroo, its neighbour, simply means 'beautiful place'.

Together they present an interesting mosaic of native Australian geography and heritage.

Many more suburbs and streets, inevitably, pay tribute to politicians, but Canberra's planning officers have also immortalised athletes, artists, botanists and explorers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Canberra is the only Australian state capital with a road named after Cyril Callister, the inventor of Vegemite.

Look out from Mount Ainslie



◀ **National Archives of Australia**

Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes naa.gov.au

Canberra's original post office is now home to a stash of historic documents, records and photographs. If you're of Australian descent and would like to research your family tree, you'll find plenty of material to get your teeth into here. The centre also hosts exhibitions; espionage and banned books have been among the recent themes.

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place, Parkes nla.gov.au



National Library of Australia

We're used to the idea of cafés in bookshops, so why not in a national library? National Library of Australia's Bookplate and Paperplate cafés are just two of the many reasons to visit. There's also an aptly named Treasures Gallery containing priceless colonial portraits and one of Captain James Cook's journals. But let's not forget the books. The catalogue is so extensive that robots work alongside the librarians,

helping to collect requested volumes from the underground storage facility and delivering them to the reading rooms.

DID YOU KNOW?
The swans on Canberra's coat of arms – one black, one white – represent its Aboriginal and European citizens.



Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour

Australian War Memorial

Treloar Crescent, Campbell awm.gov.au

Tackling its solemn subject matter with courage and grace, Australia's celebrated war museum pays due respect to the armed forces and innocent victims of conflict. Bedecked with poppies, the Roll of Honour contains the names of more than 102,000 Australian servicemen and women who have lost their lives in battle, while the galleries and audiovisual reconstructions try to make sense of it all.

TOP TIP Time your visit to the Australian War Memorial to see the moving Last Post Ceremony, held every day from 4.55pm.

Embassy Drive, Yarralumla

Naturally, one expects embassies and high commissions to be rather grand, but Canberra's 80 or so modern diplomatic headquarters take things to the next level. Many are built in a style that reflects the architectural vernacular of their home country, from Papua New Guinea's decorative long-house to South Africa's Cape Dutch mansion. The Chinese Embassy is based on a traditional building. A tour of Yarralumla, the principal ambassadorial quarter, lends itself to embassy bingo, guessing the nationality of each institution you pass.



The Aboriginal Memorial
at the National
Gallery of
Australia

ART, DESIGN, SCIENCE & CULTURE

Canberra is a city of galleries and grand cultural institutions. If you think that sounds a little dry, you're in for quite a surprise. Far from dusty, these are modern, invigorating, interactive centres, stuffed with treasures. What's more, many have superb shops, cafés and gardens that make excellent destinations in their own right.

DON'T MISS...

- *National Gallery of Australia*
- *National Portrait Gallery*
- *Canberra Theatre Centre*



National Portrait Gallery



📍 National Gallery of Australia

Parkes Place, Parkes nga.gov.au

In a crisp 1970s concrete building, full of raw, brutalist right angles, the NGA displays international greats (think Monet, Warhol, Hockney and Dalí) and Australian art, including a powerful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection. Highlights include Jackson Pollock's Blue Poles, Sidney Nolan's paintings of the 19th-century bushranger Ned Kelly and The Aboriginal Memorial, a forest of log coffins handpainted by a collective of Aboriginal artists from the Northern Territory. The art continues outside where an architectural and lighting installation by James Turrell, *Within without* (better known as *Skyspace*)

stands in a peaceful Australian garden. The café is rather good too.

TOP TIP The NGA holds more than 166,000 works of art. Don't miss the **Sculpture Garden**, featuring pieces by **Auguste Rodin**, **Henry Moore** and **Bert Flugelman**.

National Portrait Gallery

King Edward Terrace, Parkes portrait.gov.au

Low slung, light-filled and intriguingly multi-textured, the NPG's permanent home is less than a decade old. Its vivid collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs and videos, roughly 300 of which are on display at a time, honours around 2,500 prominent Australians, together with

significant non-Australians including Captain James Cook and Queen Elizabeth II. Like all the best portrait galleries, it's intimate, eclectic and enjoyable on multiple levels. There's a fascinating array of themes, techniques and styles to appreciate as you move from room to room, gazing into the eyes of the people who have helped shape the nation between the 18th century and the present day.

Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre

*King Edward Terrace, Parkes
questacon.edu.au*

A hit with families, this award-winning museum is truly interactive, inviting visitors to experiment and explore. Budding geologists and engineers can experience an earthquake or challenge a robot to a game of air hockey. ➤



National Gallery of Australia

TOP FIVE MUSEUM & GALLERY SHOPS

01 The Curatoreum, National Portrait Gallery

A treasure trove of the quirky and interesting, from cult cameras to wearable art in brooch form. Excellent for books.

02 NGA Shop National Gallery of Australia

Artfully stocked with catalogues, prints and colourful homewares, this is a favourite among museum shop connoisseurs.

03 The Museum Shop, National Museum of Australia

Satisfyingly eclectic, this one is good for crowd-pleasing gifts such as bead necklaces, scarves, scented candles and toys.

04 Q Shop, Questacon

A goldmine for kids, featuring puzzles, gadgets and curiosities such as freeze-dried ice cream (just like astronauts eat in space).

05 Canberra Glassworks Shop

This boutique sells original vessels, tiles and coloured beads by Australia's leading glass artists.

Canberra Glassworks



Canberra Glassworks

11 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston
canberraglassworks.com

Visit this contemporary glass workshop and hands-on education centre when its resident artists are at work, and you'll really feel the heat. The centre offers absolute beginners the chance to have a bash at blowing a glass beaker, casting a paperweight or creating lampwork beads which are then yours to take home.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Canberra Theatre Centre's first show was a gala performance by The Australian Ballet. The company still returns to the theatre on a regular basis.

TOP TIP

The official name for Canberra's

commercial heart is not the standard Aussie term Central Business District (CBD), but City. Mind you, nobody refers to it as that. Call it Civic like the locals do.

Canberra Theatre Centre

Civic Square, London Circuit, Civic
canberratheatrecentre.com.au

Founded in 1965, the Canberra Theatre Centre was Australia's first government-initiated performing arts centre. Its three stages host everything from Bell Shakespeare to cutting-edge circus acts and comedy shows.

TOP TIP

From a sheep in a barber's chair to a huge tangle of iron girders representing native grasses, Canberra and the ACT are liberally sprinkled with public art. There's a guide online: arts.act.gov.au/public-art

Canberra Contemporary Art Space

Gorman House Arts Centre, Ainslie Avenue, Braddon ccas.com.au

Celebrating Australian art through exhibitions, performances, publications and talks, CCAS is a vibrant and innovative creative hub. As well as its three main galleries at Gorman House, it runs more experimental exhibition spaces in Civic and Manuka.



Above, top to bottom: Mocan and Green Grout, Glassworks, Lonsdale Street, Questacon

CREATIVE CANBERRA: LONSDALE STREET AND NEWACTON

You'll find pockets of artistic activity all over the capital. For shopping and café-hopping, Lonsdale Street in Braddon is an excellent place to start. Try Handsomepretty (handsomepretty.com.au) for quirky homewares and Moxom and Whitney (moxomandwhitney.com.au) for terrariums styled like mini film sets, before moving on to the Designer Op Shop (designeropshop.com.au) for curated vintage finds. Lonsdale Street Roasters (lonsdalestreetroasters.com) and Sweet Bones Bakery (sweetbonescompany.com), one of the city's best vegan cafés, are superb spots to refuel.

Next, step things up by heading south to the NewActon Precinct (newacton.com.au) in Civic, a modern, eco-friendly quarter stuffed with galleries, bars and community vegetable patches. It's a stimulating place to hang out. Grab lunch or a Fair Trade coffee at Mocan and Green Grout (mocanandgreengrout.com), an ethical café with upcycled décor.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Canberra has so much native wilderness on its doorstep, it's called the **Bush Capital**: more than half the Australian Capital Territory is nature reserve, national park or state forest. For wildlife-watchers, there's masses to see close to the city centre, while hikers, cyclists and runners will love the open spaces, laced with trails.



DON'T MISS...

- Australian National Botanic Gardens
- Cycling around Lake Burley Griffin
- Tidbinilla Nature Reserve

DISCOVER...

Australian National
Botanic Gardens

DID YOU KNOW?

The Australian National Botanic Gardens contain over 6,200 plant species including a propagated Wollemi pine, one of the world's oldest and rarest species of tree.

Australian National
Botanic Gardens



Lake Burley Griffin cycling loops

« Australian National Botanic Gardens

Clunies Ross Street, Acton anbg.gov.au

Canberra's famous Botanic Gardens are as well-endowed with native plants as the city's museums are with cultural artefacts. Join a guided tour, or simply stroll the walking trails, admiring the giant ferns and scented trees. This green space is a haven for wildlife: birds call from the branches and kangaroos graze in quieter areas.

Lake Burley Griffin cycling loops

Whether it's to clock up some exercise or zip between museums,

a bike ride along Lake Burley Griffin's waterside cycle paths is an excellent way to enjoy the fresh air. There are three waymarked loops, ranging from 4.9km to 16km, which can be linked to create a 30km round-the-lake trip. Pick up VisitCanberra's route map listing sights and pit stops from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre, Regatta Point, or download it from visitcanberra.com.au.

TOP TIP Hiring a bike in Canberra is a breeze. Spinway (spinwaycanberra.com.au) has bike-share ranks all over the city centre and hire services such as Cycle Canberra (cyclecanberra.com.au) will deliver direct to your hotel. »



Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

✦ **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**

Paddy's River Road, Tidbinbilla tidbinbilla.act.gov.au

You've an excellent chance of spotting emus, kangaroos, wombats, possums and endangered southern brush-tail rock-wallabies in this varied reserve in the foothills of the National Heritage-listed Australian Alps, just 40 minutes' drive from the centre of Canberra. Hiking trails wind through its protected habitats, which include wetlands, grasslands and Aboriginal heritage sites.

TOP TIP Tidbinbilla's wildlife sanctuaries offer the best opportunities to see koala and platypus.



Balloons over the National Arboretum

National Arboretum

Forest Drive, off Tuggeranong Parkway, Weston Creek nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

Within easy reach of the city centre sits a collection of 94 forests of rare and symbolic trees from around the world, such as the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection – miniature ✦

CANBERRA'S TOP SEVEN PANORAMIC VIEWS

01 HELICOPTER FLIGHT
BEST FOR: GLAMOUR

Feel like a rock star as you swoop over Lake Burley Griffin or cruise across to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko.

02 HOT AIR BALLOON TRIP
BEST FOR: ROMANCE

Set your alarm for crazy o'clock: it's worth it for the chance to glide over Australia's cool capital at dawn.

03 TELSTRA TOWER, BLACK MOUNTAIN

BEST FOR: ADRENALINE
Drink in the 360° panoramas from the viewing decks of Canberra's iconic communications tower.

04 MOUNT AINSLIE LOOKOUT
BEST FOR: ARCHITECTURE

Cycle, drive or walk up the trail from the Australian War Memorial for sweeping views of Walter Burley Griffin's visionary layout.

05 RED HILL LOOKOUT
BEST FOR: BIRDWATCHING

Enjoy views of the Parliamentary Triangle from eucalyptus groves where white-throated treecreepers and southern boobooks build their nests.

06 MOUNT PLEASANT LOOKOUT
BEST FOR: CLOSENESS

Mount Pleasant is a low hill that feels very near to the city.

07 Kayaking on Lake Burley Griffin
BEST FOR: LAKE VIEWS

The low-level view from the lake is thoroughly impressive too.



View from Telstra Tower, Black Mountain



Telstra Tower, Black Mountain

« arboreal landscapes, designed to induce a feeling of calm – and a 165-million-year-old petrified tree stump. Fine views, picnic decks and a playground make this a favourite spot for locals.

Jerrabomberra Wetlands

*Dairy Road, Fyshwick
jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au*

Nature-lovers can enjoy a suburban safari in this marshy nature reserve, formed by the damming of the Molonglo River. Wildlife hides allow glimpses of birds such as pink-eared ducks and Latham's snipes in the pools and reedbeds. There's also a much-admired restaurant within easy reach, The Farm-house at Pialligo Estate.

TOP TIP The capital's classic bushwalk is the Centenary Trail, a 145km yomp with a particularly beautiful section that follows the Murrumbidgee River.

Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary

*Justice Kelly Street, Forde
mulligansflat.org.au*

Mulligans Flat is a wildlife treasure box, home to echidnas, wallabies, sugar gliders and, remarkably, extremely rare marsupials such as eastern bettongs and eastern quolls.

TOP TIP The best way to appreciate the nocturnal animals at Mulligans Flat is to book a twilight tour.

Canberra District Wine Region

Yass Plains, canberrawines.com.au

Canberrans know their wine – they've been making it for 160 years. The local wine industry gained momentum in the 1970s and there are now 140 cool-climate vineyards and more than 30 cellar doors within 35 minutes' drive north of the city centre. Cool-climate wines, made from grapes grown at 19°C or lower, are famous for their tart fruit flavours. Book a wine region tour with an expert guide for a tasting experience.

TOP TIP Canberra celebrates the harvest with a Wine Week in early April each year.

DID YOU KNOW? Clonakilla's Shiraz Viognier is so celebrated that its makers never need to promote it at trade shows – word of mouth is enough to ensure it's always in demand.



Namadgi National Park

DID YOU KNOW?

The emblems of the ACT are the royal bluebell (a mountain wildflower) and the gang-gang cockatoo. Canberra is the only Australian city where this red-headed grey parrot is found.

Namadgi National Park

*Naas Road,
Tharwa environment.act.gov.au*

At more than 100,000 hectares, Namadgi's bush-covered hills comprise 46 per cent of the ACT. The park, which is 45 minutes' drive southwest of central Canberra at the northern end of the Australian Alps,

is home to birds, bats, marsupials, fish and frogs. It's a region of great importance to local Aboriginal tribes containing Ngunnawal campsites and spectacular rock art sites. A network of waymarked tracks is yours to explore on foot, bike or horseback. For a real adventure, plan a journey on the 650km Australian Alps Walking Track.

A YEAR OF FESTIVALS

Canberra is as mad about sport as any other Australian city, but what really sets the capital apart is its superb calendar of **cultural events**. The best of them bombard the senses – Canberra's dazzling displays of spring flowers, hot air balloons, light projections and fireworks are the spectacles that everyone wants to see.

Dazzling displays at the
Enlighten festival

DON'T MISS...

- *Floriade*
- *Enlighten*
- *Canberra Balloon Spectacular*

SPRING Floriade

Mid-September to mid-October
floriadeaustralia.com

Canberrans enjoy swathes of spring flowers and blossoms in an incredible display of floral beauty and creativity.

MID SUMMER Christmas and New Year's Eve

25 & 31 December events.act.gov.au

The festive season is celebrated in classic Aussie style, with summer family barbecues, public celebrations and stupendous firework displays.

Summernats

January summernats.com.au

Fleets of restored and modified cars with amazing artwork are paraded.

Australia Day

26 January australiaday.org.au

Community events are topped off with a free concert and a reliably gigantic fireworks display at Regatta Point.

Other mid summer events National Multicultural Festival

February multiculturalfestival.com.au

Royal Canberra Show

February canberrashow.org.au

LATE SUMMER Enlighten

March enlightencanberra.com.au

For more than two weeks, the Parliamentary Triangle becomes a canvas for dazzling projections and light shows.

Lights! Canberra! Action!

March events.act.gov.au

This upbeat film festival features open air screenings in the Senate Rose Gardens of Old Parliament House.

Canberra Balloon Spectacular and Canberra Day

March events.act.gov.au

Hot air balloons fill the skies over Commonwealth Park and Lake Burley Griffin for this multi-day event.

AUTUMN & WINTER Canberra District Wine Week

Late March – early April
canberrawines.com.au

Canberra's cool-climate wineries celebrate the harvest.



Floriade



Balloon Spectacular



Summernats



Enlighten

◀ **Anzac Day**

25 April awm.gov.au

Solemn commemoration at the Australian War Memorial.

Other autumn and winter events
National Folk Festival

April folkfestival.org.au

Canberra International Music Festival

April–May cimf.org.au

The Truffle Festival

June–August trufflefestival.com.au



Truffle Festival



Truffle Festival



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with the Australia
experts

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ENJOY...

FOOD & DRINK

Passionate about eating experiences which feature locally-sourced produce, boutique wine and perfectly prepared coffee? Of course you are – and Canberrans are too. Perhaps as a throwback to old prohibition laws, the city isn't big on pubs, but it's huge when it comes to award-winning restaurants and cool cafés.



DON'T MISS...

- *Aubergine*
- *Monster Kitchen and Bar*
- *Akiba*

This image: Monster Kitchen and Bar
Opposite, top to bottom: 'Freak Shakes' at Patissez; craft beer at Temporada

ENJOY...



Akiba



Eightysix



Temporada



Aubergine



Cupping Room



Patissez



Temporada

Best for: **Gourmet Australian**
Aubergine

[02] 6260 8666
aubergine.com.au

Impeccable, original dishes with a casual twist.

Temporada

[02] 6249 6683
temporada.com.au

Relaxed venue with an upmarket tapas-inspired menu.

Courgette

[02] 6247 4042 courgette.com.au

Formal fine dining – expect glazes, foams and sauces.

Best for: **Modern Asian**
Lilotang

[02] 6273 1424 chairmangroup.com.au/
lilotang

Traditional Japanese cuisine served with style.

Lanterne Rooms

[02] 6249 6889
chairmangroup.com.au/
lanterne_rooms

Small, inviting Southeast Asian-inspired dining.

Akiba

[02] 6162 0602 akiba.com.au

Famous for its pork belly buns with Asian slaw.

DID YOU KNOW?
OzHarvest (ozharvest.org), Australia's leading food rescue organisation, is active in Canberra, collecting unsold food items and giving them to charities.

Best for: **Smart-casual cool**
Monster Kitchen and Bar

[02] 6287 6287 monsterkitchen.com.au

Seasonal fare at one of Canberra's hippest hotels.

Mocan and Green Grout

[02] 6162 2909 mocanandgreengrout.com

Ethical restaurant with an arty vibe.

Eightysix

[02] 6161 8686 eightysix.com.au

Fun open-kitchen restaurant.

Best for: **Indulgent treats**
Patissez

patissez.com.au

Home of the Freak Shake, an Instagram sensation.

Frugii Dessert Laboratory

0438 366368 frugii.com

Ridiculously tasty ice cream.

The Cupping Room

[02] 6257 6412 thecuppingroom.com.au

Australia's best coffee barista three years running.

TOP TIP To put together a weekend picnic of yummy artisanal treats, head for the Capital Region Farmers Market (capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au) at Exhibition Park on a Saturday or the Old Bus Depot Markets (obdm.com.au) in Kingston on a Sunday.



COAST, COUNTRY & BEYOND

Keen to explore the mountains, beaches, villages and cities of southeast Australia? Canberra is an excellent place to begin your adventure. While there's masses to keep you busy within a one-hour radius of the capital, a two-hour drive will get you to the coast and in three hours you could reach Thredbo in the Snowy Mountains. As for driving to Sydney or Melbourne – that's pretty straightforward, too.

DON'T MISS...

- *Dolphin-watching in Jervis Bay*
- *Christmas in July in the Snowy Mountains*
- *Sydney and Melbourne*

« Take a road trip along the south coast of New South Wales

Drive east from Canberra and you'll soon be digging your toes in the sand of Australia's beautiful Pacific shore. The south coast of New South Wales is easy to explore, with ample parking and minimal traffic. En route, you'll discover pretty, historic villages such as Central Tilba, a picturesque hamlet set against Mount Gulaga (Dromedary), and Eden, a former whaling station which is forging a new identity as a whale-watching centre. With the whitest sand in the world, Jervis Bay is a favourite escape for Sydneysiders but is technically part of the Australian Capital Territory, despite its distance from Canberra. Its pristine beaches are lapped by protected waters; head out to see the life-affirming sight of dolphins leaping in the waves.

Enjoy a winter break in the Snowy Mountains

Canberra is the only major Australian city where you don't have to travel very far to celebrate a proper Aussie "Christmas in July", complete with snow. While it's rare for the city to get more than

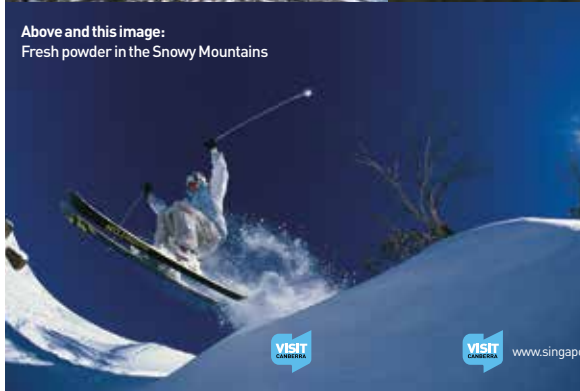
a dusting, Canberra is a gateway to the Australian Alps, Australia's highest mountains. Here, the Snowy Mountains build to a crescendo at Mount Kosciuszko in Kosciuszko National Park, a magnet for winter sports enthusiasts. As soon as the summer hiking season is over, the region starts thinking about skiing and snowboarding. Never skied before? Thredbo, 213km from Canberra, is a perfect place to learn.

DID YOU KNOW?

At 2228m, Mount Kosciuszko is the highest peak in Australia.



Above and this image:
Fresh powder in the Snowy Mountains



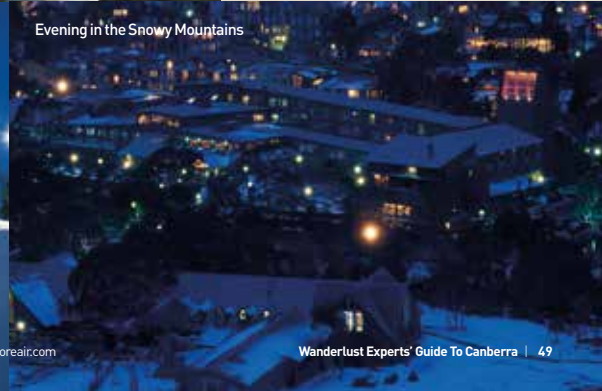
Tilba

PLAN THE ULTIMATE THREE-CITY TOUR

Follow the Heritage Drive from Canberra northeast to Sydney or southwest to Melbourne then meander back along the coast, and you'll uncover the very best of southeast Australia. Visiting all three in one trip is an excellent way to get a feel for what each city does best – Sydney will wow you with self-confidence and glamour, while Melbourne will impress you with its sophisticated outlook and cutting-edge cultural scene.

TOP TIP Driving from Canberra to Sydney is quicker than you may think. They're only 286km apart; about a three-hour drive.

Evening in the Snowy Mountains



FOOTNOTES

Population: 390,000

Time zone: GMT +10

Visas: Required by UK nationals. The eVisitor visa is free and can be applied for online from the Department of Immigration and Border Control (border.gov.au). It's valid for visits of up to three months.

Money: Australian dollar (A\$), currently around A\$1.65 to the UK£.

Internet: CBRfree WiFi hotspots offer free public broadband access in many parts of the city, including Civic and the Botanic Gardens.

When to go: With a temperate climate, Canberra is a year-round destination. Seasons in Australia are the reverse of those in the UK. Summer is December to February or March, when the daytime temperature typically hovers around 22°C and sometimes rises above 30°C – perfect for enjoying the city's parks and open air swimming pools.

In winter, from June to August, temperatures drop to a crisp 6°C, with occasional freezing spells. Spring (September to November) and autumn (March to May) are beautiful times to visit, with wildflowers, wine harvests, food festivals and warm weather that's great for hiking, cycling and a wealth of other activities.

Getting there: Flights from the UK are frequent, and take around 24 hours with a stop. Singapore Airlines (0844 800 2380, singaporeair.com) offers great fares in all classes, flying via Changi Airport direct to Canberra Airport, less than 20 minutes from the city centre by Airport Express shuttle bus, taxi, ride-share, or rental car.

More info: VisitCanberra
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We search for familiar flavours, to make you feel at home.

A warm welcome. It's that special feeling of sipping your favourite tea, served just the way you like it. It comes from the thought that goes into everything you taste and touch. Because we understand that there's nothing as comforting as enjoying the things you love, without having to ask. It's just one of the lengths we go to, to make you feel at home.

