

FAMILY FUN

Nestled between mountains and surrounded by bushland, Canberra is the perfect addition to an Australian east-coast itinerary and the perfect family-friendly destination. From hands-on activities at galleries and museums to outdoor adventures and wildlife encounters – prepare for a whirlwind of laughter, exploration and delicious treats!

National Zoo & Aquarium

DAY 1

*Arrive in Canberra,
Australia's national capital.*

MORNING *Don't walk, RUN...*

Make your first stop the **Canberra and Region and Visitors Centre** and purchase a **Mega Pass** for discounted entry into three epic attractions – the **National Zoo & Aquarium**, **Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre** and the **Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)** – or pre-order online.

▼ Drive 9 minutes / 7 km

Hit the ground running with a trip to see some of the world's most amazing creatures at the **National Zoo & Aquarium**. From lions, tigers and bears to giraffes and penguins, the zoo features a variety of native and exotic animals, as well as the largest inland saltwater tank in Australia. Book a thrilling hands-on **Close Encounter** animal experience to make the visit extra special (various times, daily, \$). Enjoy lunch next to the monkeys at the Jungle Vines café or at the Rhino Bistro. Open daily, 9.30am–5pm, general entry fee applies.

AFTERNOON *Get active*

▼ Drive 5 minutes / 2 km

Be sure to stop at the whimsical giant acorns at **POD Playground** at the **National Arboretum Canberra**. Along with 20 km of walking paths through rare and endangered forests, fantastic views, a great café, forest sculptures and the captivating **National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia**, the whole family will enjoy it here – it's just up the hill from the zoo! Open daily, times vary, free entry.

▼ Drive 45 minutes / 47 km

Take an alpine adventure to **Corin Forest**, just 45 minutes drive from the city centre. Year round, visitors can enjoy the **alpine slide** – weave down the 1.2-kilometre metal toboggan track, which takes riders through the striking mountain ash forests of the Gibraltar Valley (booking required, 1-hour session, \$). In winter, enjoy the **snow play** area for tobogganing, snowmen and snowball fights (booking required, 1.5-hour session, \$). A great area to experience the Australian bush.



POD Playground, National Arboretum Canberra



Corin Forest



Gelato

EVENING

A family night on the town

Tiger Lane is a neon lit, bright and bold hawker-style Asian indoor alley in the city centre – be spoilt for choice for dinner. Sample Canberra's best **gelato** and challenge the family with bowling and games at **Kingpin**.



Questacon — The National Science and Technology Centre

DAY 2

MORNING

Learning has never been so much fun!

▼ Drive 9-minutes / 3 km

Start the day with a delicious **hot brew** – ready for another action-packed day ahead!

With more than 200 hands-on and interactive exhibitions, a talking robot and a two-storey free-fall slide, there is something to enthral the whole family with so much explore at **Questacon**. Be sure to leave time to catch the live science shows – they're a blast! Open daily 9am–5pm, Mega Pass or entry fee applies.

▼ Drive 1 minute / 500m

Pop across the road to **The Lawns**, surrounded by the Parliamentary Rose Garden, **Rosás** offers the perfect venue for a quick bite to eat before the next adventure begins.



Treetops Adventures

AFTERNOON

Adventure awaits

▼ Drive 17 minutes / 16 km

There is nothing like **Treetops Adventure** to get the adrenalin pumping! Offering an exhilarating and challenging experiences, families can swing, leap, climb and fly through the forest canopy. With a ropes course and zip lines for all the family from 3 years old plus, leave with a great sense of achievement. Open daily, 10am–5pm, bookings required.

▼ Drive 20 minutes / 20 km

See where Australia's money is made, find out the stories behind the images on the coins and even mint a coin at the **Royal Australian Mint**. Open daily, 9am–5pm, with free entry.



Royal Australian Mint

EVENING

Outdoor spotlighting adventure

▼ Drive 20 minutes / 14 km

After an early dinner in the city, head out to **Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary**. A **Twilight Tour** (booking required, 2 hours, \$) spotlighting journey in the predator-proof sanctuary will take you through woodlands to learn about the conservation programs for the Eastern Quoll and Eastern Bettong. Sanctuary open 24 hours, free entry.



Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary

Cockington Green Gardens

DAY 3

MORNING *The mini and the mega*

Kickstart the day with a warm brew and breakfast at a local café featuring local blends and produce before heading off to **Gold Creek Village**.

▼ Drive 17 minutes / 12 km

Be transported into a delightful and fascinating world of meticulously handcrafted miniature buildings featuring monuments from around the world in a stunning landscaped garden setting at **Cockington Green Gardens**. Open daily, 9.30am–5pm, with admission fee.

▼ Walk 3 minutes / 500m

From the miniature to the mega! With the largest permanent display of dinosaurs and prehistoric life in Australia, the **National Dinosaur Museum** is a family favourite. There are even animatronic dinosaurs that move, roar, blink and breathe as well as a **Dinosaur Garden** complete with life-size models and a huge range of gemstones. Open daily, 10am–5pm, with admission fee.

Lunch at Gold Creek Village.



National Dinosaur Museum

AFTERNOON *Lace up your running shoes*

▼ Drive 10 minutes / 9 km

Go on a behind-the-scenes guided tour at Australia's elite sports precinct, the **Australian Institute of Sport** (bookings, open daily 8.30am–5pm, Saturday and Sunday from 9.30am, Mega Pass or \$), to see where sporting champions train. Challenge the family at **Sportex**, an interactive sports exhibit where visitors get to try virtual downhill skiing, wheelchair basketball and football penalty shootouts set amongst unique Australian sporting memorabilia.

▼ Drive 10 minutes / 12 km

Set on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, the **National Museum of Australia** brings to life the rich and diverse stories of Australia through compelling objects, ideas, and exhibitions. There is something for all ages. The **Discovery Centre** is an immersive play and learning space for those under 6, with VR experiences for teens and so many collections for the whole family to explore. Open daily, 9am–5pm, with free general entry, fees may apply.



National Museum of Australia

LIKE TO STAY ANOTHER DAY?

▼ Drive 9 minutes / 9 km

For the ultimate overnight safari experience in Canberra, check in to **Jamala Wildlife Lodge** at 1pm for afternoon tea and a private tour of the **National Zoo & Aquarium**.

Enjoy an exclusive experience along with selected special guests, such as white lions, for pre-dinner drinks, then enjoy a four-course dinner party with wine and champagne in a rainforest cave. Retire to a luxury treehouse or garden pavilion adjoining animal enclosures. Could there be anything more exciting than a night at the zoo?

After waking to a curious giraffe at the verandah or a sun bear at the window, enjoy an à la carte breakfast and guided tour of the zoo. Explore the zoo one more time before setting out.

DINING SUGGESTIONS

Tiger Lane, Verity Lane, Snapper & Co, La Rustica, Bicicletta

HOTEL SUGGESTIONS

East Hotel, Pavilion, Meriton Suites, Sebel, Novotel