

# CANBERRA HIGHLIGHTS

Nestled between mountains and surrounded by bushland, Canberra is the perfect addition to an Australian east-coast itinerary. Discover some of Australia's finest seasonal dining, coffee that has won awards around the world, wildlife spotting, and expertly guided behind-the-scenes tours, all in Australia's capital, Canberra.

Lake Burley Griffin

## DAY 1

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

### MORNING –

*The heart of the nation*

- Appreciate democracy in action at Australia's **Parliament House**. Join the **Best of Parliament** tour (booking required, departs 10am, 45min, \$) to experience the must-see highlights such as the Great Hall, architectural features, the chambers, and significant artworks. Open daily, free general admission.

▼ Drive 5-minutes / 3km.

- With waterfront views of **Lake Burley Griffin**, enjoy lunch at **The Marion** overlooking many of Canberra's cultural attractions and Commonwealth Park. Visit the **Canberra and Region Visitors Centre** right next door for more inspiration and to pick up some exquisite local products.

▼ Drive 8-minutes / 4km.

### AFTERNOON –

*Discover rich culture*

- Visit the **National Gallery of Australia** to enjoy the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, a significant Australian and international collection, and Sculpture Garden. A guided **Collection Tour** (departs 1pm, 1 hour, free) will provide unique insight into the highlights at the gallery. Open daily, 10am–5pm, admission is free with an online booking.

▼ Drive 4-minutes / 4 km.

- Join an expert guide for an engaging private tour **A Place to Remember** (booking required, confirm time upon booking, 90min, \$) at the **Australian War Memorial** and connect with powerful stories of courage, mateship, and devotion told through the exhibits and collections. Stay and participate in the moving **Last Post Ceremony** which commemorates a person from the Roll of Honour every day at 4.30pm. Open daily, free general admission.



Australian Parliament House



National Gallery of Australia



Australian War Memorial

### EVENING –

*A foodie paradise*

- Choose from one of the many featured restaurants, discover **Canberra's nightlife** and enjoy a nightcap and live jazz at **Molly**.



Balloon Aloft, Lake Burley Griffin

## DAY 2

### MORNING –

*For the best views in town*

- Start the day at dawn in a hot air balloon with **Balloon Aloft** (booking required, departing 5am summer / 6am winter, 3-4 hour total tour time, \$) and bask in stunning dawn colours – part exhilarating, part relaxing, this is one of the best ways to view the lake, city and mountain ranges.

▼ Drive 11-minutes / 9 km

- In a beautifully landscaped setting, at the **National Zoo & Aquarium**, view native and exotic wildlife from around the world, from cuddly koalas, curious meerkats, cheeky monkeys to the giant cats and towering giraffes. For a memorable and thrilling experience, get up close and personal with your favorite animal in a **Close Encounter** (booking required, times vary, \$). Open daily, 9.30am – 5pm, entry fee applies.

▼ Drive 14-minutes / 13 km

- Sit back and relax at **Beltana Farm** for a paddock to plate lunch offering a sophisticated rural experience within the city (Thursday to Sunday).

### AFTERNOON –

*See native Australian animals*

- Canberra is a city surrounded by nature. Join the **Best of Wildlife** tour (booking required, departs 1pm winter / 3pm summer, 4 hours, \$) to learn about and spot kangaroos, koalas, emus, and platypus at the peaceful **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**. **Canberra Guided Tours** also offer bespoke private tours.



National Zoo & Aquarium

### EVENING –

*A night at the theatre*

- Choose from one of the many featured restaurants and discover **Canberra's nightlife**. The **Canberra Theatre** offers a curated selection of international and Australian performances spanning from block buster musicals, theatre, comedy, and dance. Finish with a nightcap at one of **Canberra's best hidden bars**.



Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve



Beltana Farm



Canberra's nightlife



National Museum of Australia

## DAY 3

### MORNING –

*Explore the senses*

- Kick start the day with a fresh brew and breakfast. Head to Braddon for inner city chic cafes such as **Harvest** or **Lonsdale Street Roasters**.

▼ Drive 7-minutes / 4.2 km

- Delve into the stories of Australia with the **Big Histories** tour (booking required, departing 11am Mon–Fri, 1.5 hours plus dining, \$) at the **National Museum of Australia** which includes a guided tour exploring highlights from the permanent exhibits with lunch at the lakeside Museum Café. Open daily, 9am–5pm, free general admission, fees may apply.

## WANT TO EXTEND YOUR STAY?

### EVENING –

*Indulge for a night at Jamala Wildlife Lodge!*

- The ultimate overnight safari experience at the **National Zoo & Aquarium** includes an African style dinner party in a rainforest cave and a luxury garden pavilion adjoining animal enclosures – imagine waking up to the roar of a lion or alongside a tiger! Inclusive of all meals, drinks, exclusive tours and a two day pass.



Jamala Wildlife Lodge

## LOOKING FOR MORE?

- Captain your own self-drive e-GoBoat and picnic on the lake.
- Discover the cool climate wineries in the **Canberra Wine District**, meet the makers at the cellar door and pair a tempting drop with a cheese platter.
- 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**.
- For sensational panoramic views across the city, visit the **National Arboretum Canberra**. Enjoy forest walking trails, bonsai exhibitions, the POD playground and the Forest Sculpture Gallery.

## MARKETS TO EXPLORE

Canberra Region Farmers Market (Saturday's)  
Little Burley Market (Saturday's)  
Haig Park Markets (Sunday's)  
Old Bus Depot Markets (Sunday's)

## DINING SUGGESTIONS

Akiba, Bar Rochford, Vincent, Onzime, Monster, Raku, 86, Inka

## HOTEL SUGGESTIONS

The Avenue, Midnight Hotel, Hotel Kurrajong, QT, Little National, Ovolo Nishi, Novotel, Hyatt Hotel