

# 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 4-minutes / 2km.

### 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 11-minutes / 9 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 Museum 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, 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





## DAY 3

### MORNING –

#### Explore the senses

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

▼ Drive 13-minutes / 8.5 km

#### Take in the views

- Enjoy some of the best panoramic views across the city at the **National Arboretum Canberra**. The inspiring **Village Centre** is a great spot for morning tea after exploring the many forests, the **Forest Sculpture Gallery**, the **National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia** and the **National Rock Garden**. Open daily, free general admission.



### AFTERNOON –

#### Savour the wine region

- The **Canberra Wine District** celebrates over 40 cellar doors within 35 minutes from the city centre, where you can explore, sip, and savour the essence of this unique cool climate wine region. Join **Van du Vin** for a private half day 5 hour **Découverte Tour** (bookings required, departs 10.30am, 5 hours,\$) visiting three local wineries, wine tastings and wood fire pizza lunch.
- Enjoy the stunning colours of a Canberra afternoon on a self-drive electric powered **GoBoat** on **Lake Burley Griffin** for a lazy afternoon – preorder drinks and cheese platter to go. Available daily, times and prices vary.



### EVENING –

#### When the sun goes down

- Leaving just before sunset, enjoy a **Twilight Tour** at **Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary** (booking required, 2 hours, Friday and Saturdays, \$) for a spotlighting journey in the predator proof sanctuary through woodlands to learn about the conservation programs for the Eastern Quoll and Eastern Bettong.
- Then liven up the evening with a cocktail and late dinner at one of Canberra's many inner city bars.





She Shapes History

## DAY 4

### MORNING –

#### *Spies and social history*

- For a different take on history, join **She Shapes History, Badass Women of Canberra: The Women who shaped Canberra** walking tour (bookings required, depart 10am, 2-hours, Fri-Sun, \$) who bring history to life by unearthing secrets and stories from unassuming public sites.
- To continue the social history of Canberra and Australia, the iconic Art Deco **Museum of Australian Democracy** (Old Parliament House) is a living museum of social and political history reflecting on democratic values, political and social rights through exhibitions, political cartoons, and hands on family fun. Open daily, 9am–5pm, free general admission.

▼ Drive 6-minutes / 4 km

### AFTERNOON –

#### *Stories of Australia*

- Enjoy lakeside dining at the **National Museum of Australia** café and browse the Museum shop before traversing the vast, vibrant Australian continent in the **Great Southern Land** tour (bookings required, departs 2pm, 45min, \$) of the environmental history gallery. Open daily, 9am–5pm, free general admission, fees may apply.

## WANT TO EXTEND YOUR STAY?

### EVENING –

#### *Indulge for a night at Jamala Wildlife Lodge!*

- For the ultimate overnight safari experience in Canberra, check in to **Jamala Wildlife Lodge** at 1pm in time for afternoon tea and a private tour of the **National Zoo & Aquarium**.
- After an afternoon of exploring the zoo, enjoy an exclusive experience along with selected special guests, such as white lions, for pre-dinner drinks followed by a four-course dinner party with wine and champagne in a rainforest cave. Retire to a luxury treehouse or garden pavilion adjoining animal enclosures.
- After waking to the roar of lions or a curious giraffe at your verandah, enjoy an a la carte breakfast and guided tour.



Jamala Wildlife Lodge

## 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