

CANBERRA AND SAPPHIRE COAST

National Arboretum Canberra

DAY 1 CANBERRA

- A visit to the **Old Bus Depot Markets** (only open Sunday) is a must. Find a locally handcrafted gift or tasty treat as you peruse the many distinctive stores within a rustic, bustling shed.
- Next door at **Canberra Glassworks**, watch as professional artists create glass magic before your eyes. Take a tour of the heritage-listed building.
- Explore the glorious ever-changing **Lake Burley Griffin** on foot or bike, or really test your balancing skills on a fun Segway. If you fancy captaining your own boat (captain hat included), hire a **GoBoat** with optional onboard picnic.
- Australia's **Parliament House** is a wondrous architectural feat, visible from many parts of Canberra. See the famous Magna Carta and one of the world's largest tapestry pieces in the remarkable Great Hall.
- Become engrossed in the Australian and international pieces on display at the **National Gallery of Australia**, including the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection in the world. Take the time to explore the Sculpture Garden and Fern Garden.
- Watch Australia's cultural story unfold at the **National Museum of Australia**. Another wonderful example of modern architecture, you can search the treasures and take in the beautiful lakefront view.
- Gain an insight into the men and women who have served our nation at the **Australian War Memorial**. At 4.55pm each day, a special Last Post ceremony commemorates a person from the Roll of Honour.
- Overnight: Canberra.



National Gallery of Australia

DAY 2 CANBERRA

- Rise above the city in a magical hot air balloon flight with **Balloon Aloft**. You will need to leave your bed early to get the best views of the bush capital — but it's worth the 5am start!
- Only 35 minutes from the city a wonderful world of cool climate wineries await you. There are 30 cellar doors offering wine tastings, cheese platters, woodfired pizzas and friendly banter. Famous for our Rieslings and Shiraz, the region's conditions are perfect for crisp, award-winning varieties. Try a gumboot tour at **Mount Majura Vineyard**, take in the glorious views at **Four Winds Vineyard** or graze the café menu at **Brindabella Hills Winery**.
- Raise your glass to a classic farmhouse lunch at **Poachers Pantry**. Match wines from **Wily Trout Vineyard** and sample the famous smokehouse meats. Sit outside or order a picnic hamper on a bright, sunny day.
- Sweeten the experience with irresistible **Robyn Rowe Chocolates**. Learn how they make their traditional Belgian chocolates before you devour them.
- Finish the day with more views of the city at sunset. Try **Mount Ainslie Lookout** or the **National Arboretum Canberra**.
- Overnight: Canberra.

Lake Burley Griffin



DAY 3 CANBERRA

- Get up close and personal with the animals at **National Zoo & Aquarium**, where you can meet emus, koalas, tigers, dingos and White Rhinoceros. Book a special close encounter with a White Lion, cheetah, giraffe or the Sun Bear. You can even greet the rare Tree Kangaroo, Simbu.
- Spot Australian wildlife in their natural habitat as you hike one or more of the walking trails at **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**. Trails can take anywhere from 15 minutes to a full day, depending on your energy levels — talk to the friendly visitor centre staff for suggestions. While trekking, see if you can find kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, emus, birdlife and the elusive platypus.
- Hike the pristine bushland to **Gibraltar Peak**, an 8.2km walking trail with a magnificent view at the top. Or head to **Gibraltar Falls** within Namadgi National Park, which is upstream from Woods Reserve. Under clear skies, you will be in awe of the vast scenery before you.
- See the largest antenna complex in the southern hemisphere at **Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex**. Not only an interesting place to learn about the solar system, it also forms part of NASA's Deep Space Network.
- **Corin Forest** is the best place near Canberra to see the snow in winter. Spice up your alpine adventure with beginner skiing or boarding, or ride a toboggan. During summer, feel the breeze in your hair as you ride the 1.2km alpine slide.
- Overnight: Canberra.



CANBERRA DINING SUGGESTIONS

Braddon

Rye Café, eightysix, Italian and Sons, Eighty/Twenty Food, Barrio Collective Coffee

NewActon

Mocan and Green Grout, Morning Glory, Rebel Rebel, Monster Kitchen and Bar, Parlour Wine Room

Manuka

Urban Pantry, Typica Manuka, Abell's Kopi Tiam, Belluci's, Patissez

City Centre

Raku, Mezalirra, Bar Rochford, Amici, The Cupping Room, Akiba

Canberra surrounds

Pialligo Estate, Poachers Pantry, Grazing at Gundaroo

DAY 4 CANBERRA - MERIMBULA

- Depart Canberra.
- Drive towards Cooma then take the Snowy Mountains Highway towards Bega. Pop into Cooma's **Birdsnest store** for some retail therapy or **Nimmitabel Bakery** to break up the trip.
- Soak up the lush dairy country at Bega, part of the Sapphire Coast. The rolling green hills and lagoons make the area a beautiful place to explore. Drop into the **Bega Cheese Heritage Centre** to taste fudge, milkshakes, and of course, cheese.
- Stroll the town on a self-guided heritage walk starting at **Bega Pioneer's Museum**, Bega's first hotel built in 1859.
- Drive to **Mumbulla Creek Falls** in the Biamanga National Park. At this sacred Aboriginal site, you can walk the boardwalk and enjoy a picnic. Not far away, explore the **Mimosa Rocks National Park** where you can even stay in a secluded, historic house overlooking Bithry Inlet.
- Try **deep-sea game fishing** from Bermagui — known for its fresh seafood and picturesque beaches. Join a charter boat to try your hand at catching a tuna or marlin. Or sail aboard a 62-foot catamaran for some whale watching.
- Drop into **Stony Creek Farm Distillery** to sample North of Eden's heavenly gins. Pat the distillery dog, sample The Connoisseur or The Admiral varieties, or simply immerse yourself in the hinterland views.
- Overnight: Merimbula, NSW

Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex



DAY 5 MERIMBULA - EDEN

- From mid-August through to the end of November, large numbers of humpback whales travel past Merimbula on their southern migration. Book a tour with **Merimbula Marina Ocean Adventure Tours** for your best chance to witness these magnificent creatures and their young calves. You will also likely see dolphins, penguins, flying fish and fur seals.
- Learn about oyster farming and taste oysters directly from the lake with **Captain Sponge's Magical Oyster Tours**. The Pambula Lake produces about 215,000 dozen Sydney Rock Oysters per year. On the tour, you'll also hear about the fascinating geology of the area.
- Indulge in a seafood lunch at **Wheeler's Seafood Restaurant**. Take your time in the alfresco oyster bar with a bottle of wine.
- Visit **Potoroo Palace**, a native animal educational sanctuary near Merimbula. Give the roaming kangaroos a scratch on the chest and hand feed the ducks, emus and peacocks. You can also see possums, wombats, echidna, and pythons.
- Feed the fish at the **Merimbula Aquarium**, which has 28 tanks and a fantastic Oceanarium full of large ocean fish and sharks. Grab a souvenir and stay for a meal or coffee at the spectacular **Wharf Restaurant**.
- Overnight: Merimbula or Eden, NSW



DAY 6 EDEN

- Travel 'Humpback Highway', otherwise known as Eden, to search for whales. In September, baleen and toothed whales migrate south for the summer with their calves. Take the **Killer Whale Trail** around Twofold Bay to Ben Boyd National Park for the best viewing spots.
- Visit Eden's **Killer Whale Museum** to see the full skeleton of 'Tom' the Orca, plus uncover the history of Indigenous shore-based whaling. Take a personalised guided tour to learn more about whale species and historic sites.
- Grab an authentic coastal fish 'n chips from **Hooked on Seafood** and sit on the harbour to watch the fishing boats.
- South of Eden, discover Wonboyn and its surrounding national parks and lake. The lake meets the sea at stunning Disaster Bay, so pack a picnic and find a secluded spot for some fishing, surfing or relaxing at Greenglades or Baycliff.
- Snorkel with the local sea creatures on a **Marine Discovery Tour**, where you can explore Eden's Snug Cove and Merimbula Lake. Or discover the rock pools — natural habitats for crabs, sea stars and anemones — with an experienced marine guide.
- Stock up on gourmet smoked goods at **Eden Smokehouse**. Try the smoked eel, mussels, ocean trout and salmon. Or buy the finest Eden Mussels direct from the boat on weekdays.

Pambula, Sapphire Coast, NSW

