

Visitor Guide 2025

Canberra

Destination Dining | Cultural Icons | Family Adventures | Local Secrets
Plus what's on – and what's free



CONTENTS

FOOD & WINE

4/ Destination Dining
The restaurants and signature dishes that make eating out in the capital memorable.

12/ Black Gold
Unearth rare truffles at a small farm on the city's fringe.

14/ Crushing It
Sip your way around the scenic (and surprising) wine region.

CULTURE

18/ New Perspectives
Take a fresh look at Canberra's museums and galleries.

26/ Modern by Design
A self-guided walking tour of the city's Mid-century marvels.

FAMILY & NATURE

30/ Turn Up the Fun
Epic playgrounds, action-packed tours and adrenaline hits for kids.

36/ Shore Things
An ideal day – from sun-up to sundown – at Lake Burley Griffin.

40/ Wild at Heart
Explore hiking or biking trails and spectacular views within easy reach of the CBD.

42/ So Close, Yet So Far
Escape to dreamy nature getaways that are nearer than you think.

TRENDING

46/ Neighbourhoods to Know
What to eat, do and see in three unique pockets of the city.

50/ After Dark
The perfect spots for a cruisy craft beer, rooftop wine and underground cocktail.

51/ Events
Why Canberra is the place to be every season of the year.

LOCAL SECRETS

60/ My Perfect Day
Three in-the-know locals share the secrets that make the capital tick.

66/ Free for All
Some of Canberra's best experiences won't cost you a cent.



DIRECTORY

67/ Listings
Look up hundreds of attractions, tours, eateries and stays.

75/ Around Town
Essential info for getting around, finding wi-fi and securing last-minute bookings at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land and recognise any other peoples or families with a connection to the lands of the ACT and surrounds. We pay our respects to their ongoing culture and the rich contributions they make to the life of this region.



© VisitCanberra
Canberra Visitor Guide 2025 is published by Medium Rare Content Agency (02 8114 8900, mediumrarecontent.com) for VisitCanberra, part of the ACT Government. GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601. T: (02) 6205 0666, E: visitcanberra@act.gov.au. Tourist information: 1300 554 114. Printed March 2025.



Printed by IVE Group.
Paper fibre is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources.
Certified by the PEFC (Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification).

DESTINATION DINING

Inventive chefs with cool new venues. Artful dishes served with a side of fun. Canberra's food scene is sizzling hot right now.

◦ FOR AN UNEXPECTED FUSION

Inka

Canberra City

Wondering what a Japanese-Peruvian restaurant might put on your plate? At moodily low-lit Inka, a ceviche bar brings Peru's national dish to the fore, while miso-glazed short ribs with roasted cashew nuts and Wagyu sirloin with umami butter come hot off the robata grill. From the kitchen, there's all manner of goodness, not least the Signature Nikkei Nigiri – fingers of sushi rice laden with tuna and flecked with Peruvian yellow pepper. inka.com.au

◦ FOR A LEISURELY LUNCH

Lamshed's

Yarralumla

Here's a classic example of a neighbourhood wine bar and diner that, with unshowy confidence, has come to stand with the best in the city. Expect surprises like gnocco fritto (fried dough) with piped mortadella mousse, ocean

trout pastrami and steamed prawns with spiced capsicum butter and baba ganoush. Start a long lunch with bubbles – your options range from French to Italian or Australian pétillant naturel. lamsheds.com.au

◦ FOR REFINED BISTRO PLATES

Onzieme

Kingston

Chef Louis Couttoupes earned his stripes in Paris, working with leaders of the bistronomy scene, a movement that's all about matching relaxed bistro-style service with restaurant-quality details. At award-winner Onzieme, that translates to laid-back vibes with slick small dishes, such as lamb rib with apple glaze and blood plum, plus elegantly substantial plates (think: half a chicken, expertly roasted and served with smoky mash and a lusty tarragon butter – just the thing for tasting your way around the natural-leaning wine list). onzieme.com.au

◦ FOR EXQUISITE FRENCH

Les Bistronomes

Campbell

To find a more classical take on the French canon with a twist of modern flair, look no further than the warm, wood-panelled dining room of owner and executive chef Clément Chauvin. Snails with butter, parsley and garlic? *Oui*. Moreton Bay bug soufflé with a crustacean bisque and bug tail salad? *Mais oui*. Duck à l'orange and a tarte Tatin for two? Oh, yes. lesbistronomes.net

◦ FOR MOREISH BITES AND BEATS

Bar Rochford

Canberra City

Yep, it's definitely a bar – and a very good one at that. But as spirited as the cocktails may be (and as late as the vinyl spins into the night), it's also home to some of the city's most impressive cooking. Snack on anchovy toast with a sparky sauce gribiche at the bar or trip the light fandango through



LOBSTER TAIL SPAGHETTI WITH SALMON ROE AT BAR ROCHFORD



(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) CULINARY DELIGHTS AT MONSTER; PEONEE'S CARAMELISED YOGHURT ICE-CREAM WITH BURNT MERINGUE AND SEASONAL CITRUS; HIDDEN FINE-DINER PILOT; SPANISH RED AT SUCH AND SUCH



a set menu, starting with Margra lamb ribs with black beans and honey and finishing with mango sorbet on a bed of coconut mousse and tapioca.
barrochford.com

◦ FOR UPSCALE JAPANESE FARE

Koto

Parkes

Is this the finest dining location in Canberra? Once home to The Lobby, a fabled National Triangle dinner destination, this Mid-century venue has been reimaged into a Kyoto-inspired pavilion that houses Koto. Guide your chopsticks around a contemporary Japanese menu, savouring new-style sushi, tempura and grills as you bask in the grandeur of the grounds at Old Parliament House.
kotodining.com.au

◦ FOR AN ARTFUL DEGUSTATION

Pilot

Ainslie

Behind an unassuming disguise at the little shopping village in Ainslie lies one of Canberra's greatest food experiences. Upending expectations is the whole idea at Pilot. Presenting a seven-course degustation that spans the eclectic likes of massaman carrots, tom yum meatballs and a sliver of roasted

duck plated with walnuts, green onion and a blade of piquant sorrel, co-owner and executive chef Mal Hanslow has turned this 30-seat suburban surprise into one of the big guns of Australia's fine-dining scene. Book early or you'll kick yourself.
pilotrestaurant.com

◦ FOR FARE TO SHARE

Such and Such

Canberra City

In 2023, the team behind Pilot opened a new place that flips the script entirely. Such and Such might have a dress-circle address near the Canberra Theatre Centre but, despite the polished fit-out, lunch and dinner here are casual. Grab a seat at the little bar, order the house's Lions Tail whisky cocktail and make the most of snacks such as anchovy and sage cruller with tuna tartare and artichoke. Going all-out? Order the roasted duck crown with quince and fish-sauce caramel to share, along with a bottle of something special. "I think eating in Canberra has never been better," says co-owner Ross McQuinn. New independent operators are constantly popping up and, he adds, they're being ever bolder in their vision for good hospitality. "Pound for pound, I think this is one of the best places to eat in the country."
andsuchandsuch.com

◦ FOR CONTEMPORARY COMBOS

Monster

Acton

With its mind-bending puzzle-of-timber staircase, the Ovolo Nishi hotel is a design marvel – as is its in-house restaurant, Monster. The menu was once exclusively vegetarian but it's expanded to include hearty meat options. From snacks (smoked-scamorza-stuffed zucchini flowers with chimichurri) to share plates (adobo-marinated whole spatchcock with pickled green tomatoes, blood orange and watercress salad) and wickedly good desserts (gianduja crèmeux with grilled peach and hazelnut praline), there's something to tempt every palate.
ovolohotels.com

◦ FOR EXCITING GLOBAL EATS

Peonee

Campbell

Small is beautiful at Peonee, whether you're considering the jewel box of a dining space, the boutique wineries on the all-Australian drinks list or the independent producers championed by Italian-born chef Alberto Ranalli. He may be from Bologna but bolognese doesn't figure on this menu. Ranalli's focus is both global and contemporary, leading him to dishes such as slow-roasted

Berkshire pork aged with koji and spices, plated in generous slices along with a fine apple-and-riesling purée and spoonfuls of deeply savoury pan juices. peoneerrestaurant.com.au

◦ FOR A FRENCH TWIST

Louis

Barton

Ben Willis broke new ground for fine dining in Canberra with his acclaimed restaurant Aubergine, which he shuttered in 2022. Now at Hotel Realm, he's leaning into the setting with a greater focus on French cuisine and a menu set to a three-course cadence. Think: cured yellowfin tuna punched up with horseradish cream, citrus oil and lemon balm; chicken liver parfait with a surprising fig jam; and buttermilk panna cotta with strawberry fool and the spark of an elderflower granita. louisdining.com.au

◦ FOR SERIOUS COMFORT FOOD

Corella

Braddon

An opening act of cultured “buttermite” on perfect bread sets the tone at cheerful, light-filled Corella. It says: “Yes, this is upscale but we’re not above Vegemite, because it’s delicious.” Accept the ride and trust the

set menu, which rolls from Appellation oysters to surprises such as Wagyu flank with trusty stroganoff sauce or barramundi dressed in caramelised miso. Native ingredients used as accents are a delight here, with sunrise lime adding sharpness to the mayonnaise on spanner crab toast. Come dessert, chocolate cake spiked with wattleseed makes for a winning, nutty finale. corellabar.com.au

◦ FOR WINE BAR WINNERS

Paranormal Wines

Campbell

From Copenhagen to Tokyo, drink-and-dine-in bottle shops are becoming a trend and in this city, Paranormal Wines is leading the charge. Located on Provan Street, opposite Hasset Park, it's a stripped-back space (under an unassuming “Wine Shop” sign) with a succinct menu. But just as the edit of bottles on the shelves is choice, so it goes with the food. Everything on these plates is there for a reason. Case in point? The flatbread laden with taramasalata and a punchy little salad of chilli and fennel. Matching these zippy flavours with orange, pink, fizzy and unconventional drops from small makers, such as Mada Wines and Joshua Cooper Wines, is the name of the game. paranormalwines.com

◦ FOR A CHEF-LED ADVENTURE

Mu

Canberra City

Omakase dining, in which the chef decides the best dishes for you, is a Japanese tradition. And Mu is the first to bring this style of restaurant to Canberra. Your 11 plates might explore oysters, clams, scallops, Inaniwa udon, duck or... surprises. Opt in for bold drink pairings such as a dessert sake matched with sweet miso-cured Patagonian toothfish. chairmangroup.com.au/mu

◦ FOR BRAVE, MOREISH DISHES

Rebel Rebel

Acton

A canopy of impossibly high timber beams sets the tone for this restaurant, bar and bottle shop. Chef Sean McConnell serves a menu like no other in Canberra, adroitly bringing together seemingly disparate influences and ingredients in a consistently seamless (and tasty) way. Gear up for tahini-dressed sugarloaf cabbage with North African harissa oil and Appellation Sydney rock oysters spiked with pomelo and pink peppercorn. Or, as McConnell puts it, “uncomplicated, reliable food that you want to come back for”. rebelrebel dining.com.au

RABBLE GROUP

CORELLA, BRADDON





(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) CASUAL DINING AT VERITY LANE MARKET; NEW RESTAURANT LUNETTA; RAKU'S KINGFISH SASHIMI; A TASTE OF THE MED AT CARLOTTA



◦ FOR BUZZY MODERN JAPANESE

Raku

Canberra City

Canberra has a lot of affection for Japanese food – it's everywhere – and a lot of love for sleek little Raku and its executive chef, Hao Chen, in particular (his toasted-sesame ice cream recently won over visiting celeb Post Malone). Over the years, Chen has charmed diners with beef cheeks braised to melting tenderness, scallops topped with pickled green apple and nigiri crowned with perfectly seared tuna belly. rakudining.com.au

◦ FOR A SUNNY MED-STYLE VIBE

Molto Italian

Kingston

Set on the edge of Lake Burley Griffin, Molto Italian draws on owner Carlo Tosolini's heritage to deliver authentic dishes with all the joy of *la famiglia* dining. The star of the show is the woodfired pizza oven, which makes for a crisp base (and a delicious diavola), but don't pass up the theatre of the classic spaghetti cacio e pepe, which is plated at the table from a massive wheel of pecorino Romano. moltoitalian.com

◦ FOR FOOD WITH A VIEW

Lunetta

Red Hill

Perched atop Red Hill Lookout, Lunetta pairs a stunning cityscape with a refined dining experience. A sleek, modern fit-out in the main space upstairs sets the stage for a thoughtful menu of elevated offerings (try the ravioli with pecorino and roasted-garlic-and-honey butter), while the trattoria downstairs offers more casual bites, such as a wood-fired beer-brined half chicken with jus, watercress and lemon. lunetta.au

◦ FOR LAID-BACK SHARE PLATES

Carlotta

Canberra City

With its warm lighting and a generous menu that encourages shared feasting, Carlotta puts a distinctly Australian spin on the flavours and hospitality of the Mediterranean coast. An ever-evolving selection of antipasti and handmade pasta complement tempting cuts of meat and seafood cooked over the coals of a custom-made woodfired oven imported from Naples and now presiding over the kitchen. carlotta.com.au

QUICK CITY BITES

◦ FOR A TASTE OF THE EXOTIC

Verity Lane Market

Hit up the 1920s Sydney Building for its upscale market-style dining hall, where you'll be spoiled for choice. There's Indonesian turmeric-stained rice with chicken curry at Rasa Rosa, creative takes on Latin cuisine at La Cocina Pura and a proper Neapolitan slice at Una Pizza. For authentic Japanese and Korean katsu, make your way to the market's newest vendor, 38 Katsu. veritylanemarket.com.au

◦ FOR ASIAN GO-TOS

Tiger Lane

This pan-Asian precinct at the Canberra Centre brings together full-service restaurants alongside speedy hawker-style stalls. Of the more formal offerings, Taki and Inari explore different expressions of Japanese cuisine, Supalove serves up Thai favourites and Mrs Wang brings the best of Shanghai to the capital. The fast-casual options – Cantonese barbecue, Korean fried chicken and poke – are cranked out on the spot. tigerlane.com.au

TO FIND MORE EATERIES ACROSS THE CAPITAL, TURN TO THE DIRECTORY ON PAGE 67

BLACK GOLD

Boots on, shot of schnapps – now you're ready. Winter truffle season is for getting your hands dirty, hunting a rare culinary luxury with an expert sniffing companion.



(FROM ABOVE) BLACK TRUFFLES;
ALICE OF BELTANA FARM;
THE ONSITE RESTAURANT IS ALL
ABOUT SEASONAL PRODUCE



Alice does not speak dog. But when her silky English springer spaniel, Drake, tap-taps the dirt and gives her that look, Alice knows it means eureka. “He always leads us to the treasure,” says the owner of Beltana Farm (beltanafarm.au), a boutique truffle orchard in Pialligo, a 10-minute drive south-east of the city. “In a stiff wind he might be off by a couple of centimetres but he’s never wrong.”

Canberra is truffle country, one of the few places outside of Western Europe – and the only Australian capital city – growing the *Tuber melanosporum*, or black truffle mushrooms, that are universally prized by chefs. “Our climate, swinging from hot summers to frosty winters, gives trees the kind of stress they need for root systems to grow healthy truffles,” notes Alice. From June through September, the hunt is on at the small handful of truffières that are speckled along the city’s semi-rural fringe. At Beltana Farm, that means a bucket, a spade, a bracing shot of schnapps and rambling around its 800 hazel and oak trees in search of a good, hearty stink.

That’s right – once you’ve disturbed the patch of soil Drake picks out, the funk will get you, too. “You can dig, get your hands dirty. Sometimes the truffle is buried 20 centimetres down.” Some people say the freshly unearthed fungi whiffs of kerosene or musky socks but “I think it’s a sulphuric asparagus-like scent,” says Alice. “Or it can even be nutmeg-y.”

James Souter from Beltana Farm’s rustic-luxe restaurant thinks they smell like delicious possibilities. “We like to use our truffles in ways that aren’t predictable,” he says. They’re always good when folded through licks of butter or microplaned into slivers atop silky eggs but truffles also add umami to lighter-leaning dishes of poultry or squid. “We even put truffle in ice-cream,” grins Souter. “We’re about modern food inspired by the Australian landscape and, while we don’t put truffle in every dish from go to woah, we like to be creative with it.”

Beltana’s produce also shows up on seasonal menus at local restaurants such as Marble & Grain steakhouse (marbleandgrain.com.au) and Filipino eatery Lolo and Lola (loloandlola.com.au). “Truffle doesn’t have to be fancy; it’s incredibly versatile and can elevate so many styles of cuisine,” says Souter.

Black truffles can fetch up to \$2000 per kilo at market but Drake remains nonchalant about his position at the pinnacle of culinary luxury. “He’s pretty relaxed – probably because he only works six to eight weeks of the year,” laughs Alice.

Off duty, the pooch lolls around his 1.2-hectare country domain, wandering over for a few scratchy pats if any guests are up for it and easing into the live music, sculpture trails and festival feel of the events that Beltana hosts throughout the warmer months. He isn’t wrong about that, either. For both dogs *and* humans, this is the good life.



HEYWOOD WINERY

LEAN TIMMS

CRUSHING IT

In a region famous for experimentation, do some testing of your own – starting with an “ethereal” shiraz.

It's perhaps unsurprising that the dynamic wine scene in Canberra was started by scientists. In the 1970s, a handful of grape-loving CSIRO researchers surveyed the soils and climate surrounding the city and, noticing similarities with Bordeaux and Burgundy, promptly staked out sheep paddocks to have a go at growing grapes.

Their vines thrived, especially shiraz and riesling, which quickly became the definitive grapes of a fast-growing region. Some 50 years later, those pioneering vineyards are still going strong and a new wave of growers has planted varieties from sangiovese and tempranillo to fiano, establishing the Canberra District wine region as one of Australia's most respected – and experimental – cool climate producers.

“The potential of this region excites me,” says Emma Shaw, a former public servant who was also drawn to the world of viticulture. “It's becoming known for producing really refined and distinctive styles. You can spot a Canberra shiraz – a perfumed, spicy, elegant wonder – from a mile away.”

For her nine-to-five, Shaw is the general manager at Collector Wines (collectorwines.com.au), the label of “visionary winemaker” Alex McKay. On Saturdays, she holds a wine-tasting pop-up (canberracellardoor.com.au) at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre, where she also runs classes and helps out travellers

looking for a crash course on local drops. “There are no silly questions,” she explains. “My aim is to get people excited about the quality of the wines they can explore around the region.”

Where to start? That depends on your palate. The district sews together more than 300 hectares of vineyards, reaching from northern ACT to the Yass Valley and Lake George in NSW. Most are within a half-hour-or-so drive from the capital.

Local styles can be roughly divided into three sub-regions, the diversity of the terroir expressed most clearly in shiraz, the flagship red. The vineyards in Murrumbateman produce “a more muscular wine with power that might be unexpected from our cool climate region”, says Shaw. Grapes grown by Lake George and around Bungendore are cooled by an evening easterly dubbed “Bateman's Breath”, which blows in from the coast of Batemans Bay. “You get wines, especially shiraz, with a real depth of character.” Conditions in Hall/Wallaroo, about 40 kilometres west of Lake George, tend to be warmer, with granite soils lending “an ethereal quality and an aromatic, floral perfume, which is divine in a cool climate shiraz”.

More than 30 of the region's wineries have cellar doors and you could easily spend three unhurried days tasting your way around them. Shaw steers first-timers to Clonakilla Wines (clonakilla.com.au)

Wineries at a glance

Pioneer vines

The award-winning Clonakilla Wines delivers the region in a glass

Drink now or later

Founded in 1973, Helm Wines is renowned for its topnotch riesling

Shiraz with a view

Linger over a glass at Yarrh Wines as you admire the rolling hills

For fruit fans

Nick O'Leary's Heywood winery produces masterful cool climate drops



KEN HELM WORKS THE BAR AT HELM WINES; ASK HIM FOR A DROP OF BLUSHING RIESLING

in Murrumbateman, 40 kilometres north of Canberra. The winery is on land that was planted in 1971 by one of those enterprising CSIRO staffers, Dr John Kirk, and is now internationally renowned, particularly for its shiraz viognier. These days, John's son, Tim Kirk, oversees the winemaking. "He's producing a beautiful grenache blend, a non-vintage muscat that is very special and some other wines that are only available here at the property," says Shaw.

At an old schoolhouse nearby, another scientist, Ken Helm, mans the bar at Helm Wines (helmwines.com.au), pouring drops made from grandfather vines he planted in 1973. He's called the "riesling king" around here, says Shaw. The 2023 vintage, all lemony on the nose and a balancing act of acid, fruit and texture, can be drunk now or cellared for 25 years.

At 860 metres elevation, Bungendore's Lark Hill Winery (larkhill.wine) is a biodynamic operation that produces vibrant grüner veltliners and rieslings. They are best sampled over a plate of swordfish with caper butter, available on weekends at the onsite restaurant. For another luxurious lunch option, Shaw says Nick O'Leary's Heywood winery (nickolearywines.com.au) in Wallaroo is hard to beat.

"He's producing great tempranillo," she says, noting that the charred sweetness of anything from the grill

would be an ideal match. "His riesling is some of the best in the region; it's flavourful, intense and expressive" – and great with oysters. There's also a scorched zucchini dish, served with sheep's milk yoghurt and peaches, that pairs beautifully with the flintiness of Heywood's 2022 Denison Chardonnay.

Yarrh Wines (yarrhwines.com.au), which takes its name from the Ngunnawal word for running water, is located east of Murrumbateman and is reached via a winding road that runs over a creek and through a forest of stringybarks. The rammed-earth cellar door was built using straw bales – a tangible sign of the commitment to sustainability that underpins every aspect of the business.

"I think you can see that quality in the wines when you taste them," says Shaw, who suggests doing a tour before lingering with a glass of "really elegant" shiraz or a textural fiano and soaking up the view. "The Yarrh property is a gorgeous, very still and quiet place." The whole region is full of gentle hills punctuated by tall poplars, she adds. "The French have a saying: 'Syrah [shiraz, as we call it] loves a view.' The best winemaking sites in the world are simply beautiful places to be."

See page 70 for more cellar doors to explore in the Canberra District wine region.

GREAT ENTERTAINERS

Visit these vineyards for fun that goes far beyond a tasting flight.

Stay and play

Wine is always the headliner at Tallagandra Hill, where the seven varietals to sample at the cellar door may include a single-vineyard sparkling viognier and tempranillo. But the vineyard also hosts regular concerts by Australian artists such as Tim Freedman and Troy Cassar-Daley. Make it into a getaway and stay in one of the three vineyard cottages. tallagandrahill.com.au

Fly-in fly-out

For the ultimate designated driver experience, book a return helicopter flight from Canberra to Lake George Winery in Collector. You'll drink in aerial views before touching down to indulge in a three-course meal and wine-tasting. Air CBR can whisk you off to other places, too, such as Shaw Wines, Brindabella Hills and Courabyra Wines. lakegeorgewinery.com.au, aircbr.com.au

Meet the locals

The Vintner's Daughter in Murrumbateman serves Canberra's signature drops and house specialties that are only available at the cellar door. Book a private session with winemaker Stephanie Helm to taste shiraz vintages dating back almost a decade. For children, there are farm tours with chickens, emus, peacocks, goats and adorable Babydoll sheep. thevintnersdaughter.com.au

Bring the dog

With grass to cavort on and piping-hot woodfired pizzas to share, the always relaxed Four Winds Vineyard, located east of Murrumbateman, is a magnet for families and their dogs. Wine-wise, there's something to suit all tastes, from sparkling to chardonnay, as well as a fine tempranillo from the winery's Kyeema Estate vineyard, plus a rare fortified shiraz and even a shiraz rosé gin. fourwindsvineyard.com.au



NEW PERSPECTIVES

There's a reason so many culture-hunters are drawn to this city. Canberra's iconic galleries and museums do art differently.

What is art for, if not to rock the boat – at least a little? The National Museum of Australia (NMA, nma.gov.au) in Acton has been making waves since it first appeared in 2001, a jigsaw of red, yellow and silver steel set on a promontory of Lake Burley Griffin. Tapping into a playful current of the Australian character, messages such as “She’ll be right” and “Love is blind” had been studded in braille throughout the building. At its launch, then prime minister John Howard, who was surprised by its imaginative galleries, deemed the NMA “unmuseum-like”.

These days, audiences expect cultural spaces to break new ground and with its Great Southern Land gallery – the most significant development since the Museum’s launch – the NMA delivers inventive ways to get visitors thinking about big questions. It opens with the *Bunya Infinity Forest*, in which casts of living bunya trees are surrounded by mirrors. These trees’ Jurassic ancestors are now coal that is being burned for power. As you gaze around, time collapses; you see yourself connected to the past and to tomorrow.

“Our connection to the environment, who we are and the experiences of First Nations peoples are pillars of our lives in this country and so are the themes of the Museum,” says senior curator Dr Martha Sear. “I think a history museum can help people when society is grappling with things: the lens of the past can help show us where we want to be in the future.”

Bree Pickering, director of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG, portrait.gov.au), agrees. Portraiture can “joyfully open you up to a new position”, she says, because when viewing a work, “there’s a conversation

happening and there are three points of view: the subject’s, the artist’s and yours”. While many visitors come to the Gallery to learn the stories behind images of Hugh Jackman, Nick Cave and other famous faces, she notes, “people tell us the memory they leave with is of someone they’d never heard of before”.

On a visit to Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG, cmag.com.au) at Civic Square, you get a fresh take on the city’s vibrant history. You can also get to know Sir Sidney Nolan before he was famous, as the artist gifted his most important paintings to the Australian people in 1974. See the art Nolan created as a young man, when he was living under an assumed identity, absent without leave from the army and painting social outcasts with the speed of an Instagrammer.

Canberra’s culture trail is full of surprises. Take the National Gallery of Australia (NGA, nga.gov.au), which pushes art out into the wild and artists out of their comfort zones. “The Sculpture Garden features a James Turrell skyspace, Tracey Emin... incredible artists,” notes the Gallery’s senior curator Simeran Maxwell. “The garden we have here is remarkable on an international level.” And it’s free.

The Hotshop at Kingston’s Canberra Glassworks (canberraglassworks.com) sees a 3500-year-old trade become fine art. “There are flames – the blast furnaces melt glass at 1270°C – and from those raw elements come exquisite works, which often end up in Canberra’s iconic national galleries,” says Aimee Frodsham, the Glassworks’ artistic director. “There’s a mesmerising fluidity to the way the artists work; I think it’s a lot like watching ballroom dancing.”

Ready to see things from a different angle? Here are the culture hits you can’t miss...



LEAN TIMMS

BUNYA INFINITY FOREST
AT THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Canberra Museum and Gallery

1/ Virginia Rigney, CMAG's senior curator of visual art, nominates *Mugga Way* as one of her favourite pieces. "It was '68 – the flower power era – but also a time of technology and growth in Canberra. The flashes of colour are the flowers in hedgerows that artist Thomas Gleghorn saw as he sped along the city's new fast-moving roads on his motorbike."

THOMAS GLEGHORN B. 1925, *MUGGA WAY*, 1968, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY, DONATION EMMANUEL NOTARAS 2020



2/ Upon seeing a news story of a woman living rough, Nolan quickly painted this work and exhibited it within days. "It has that current sense of feeling something and needing to say something – much like a social media post."

SIDNEY NOLAN (1917-1992), *WOMAN AND TENT*, 1946, ENAMEL ON BOARD, NOLAN COLLECTION MANAGED BY CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

3/ A conscript who went AWOL during World War II, Nolan saw himself in the outlaw stories he painted in his Ned Kelly series (1946-47). "He said: 'This collection is as much about myself as it is Ned Kelly,'" notes Rigney.

SIDNEY NOLAN (1917-1992), *POLICEMAN IN WOMBAT HOLE*, 1946, ENAMEL ON BOARD, NOLAN COLLECTION MANAGED BY CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

1



National Portrait Gallery

1/ Capturing Maggie Beer surrounded by kitchen ingredients, this painting feels familiar but also offers a new way of imagining the beloved cook. "It's a real Del Kathryn Barton in terms of the detail and symbolism," says NPG director Bree Pickering.

DEL KATHRYN BARTON, *MAGGIE*, 2023 © DEL KATHRYN BARTON



2

2/ "Large in scale, rich in symbolism and created from 15 individual screen-printed components, artist Brook Andrew's portrait of Professor Marcia Langton AO immediately draws you in," says NPG curatorial and collection director Isobel Parker Philip.

BROOK ANDREW AND TRENT WALTER (PRINTER), *MARCIA LANGTON*, 2009 © BROOK ANDREW

3/ A wall of portraits greets visitors on entering the gallery. "Discover the furtive glances, held stares and repeated gestures that connect sitters in this salon-style hang," says Parker Philip.

INSTALLATION VIEW FEATURING VARIOUS WORKS FROM NPG COLLECTION



3

National Gallery of Australia

1/ Stretching across some 20 metres in the NGA's Sculpture Garden, seven gleaming, pivoting cones by Bert Flugelman reflect each other, the natural world that surrounds them and the viewer.

BERT FLUGELMAN, *CONES*, 1982, NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, KAMBERRI/CANBERRA, COMMISSIONED 1976. PURCHASED 1982. © BERT FLUGELMAN



2 & 3/ Jackson Pollock's iconic artwork *Blue Poles* hangs near *Cool White*, a compelling work by his wife, Lee Krasner. "She was an incredible figure in post-war art and, in many ways, gave up her career to nurture his – a fairly common story," says senior curator Simeran Maxwell. "We always present a Krasner alongside Pollock."

2. JACKSON POLLOCK, *BLUE POLES*, 1952, NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, KAMBERRI/CANBERRA, PURCHASED 1973. © POLLOCK-KRASNER FOUNDATION. ARS/COPYRIGHT AGENCY, 2023

3. LEE KRASNER, *COOL WHITE*, 1959, NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, KAMBERRI/CANBERRA, PURCHASED 1978. © LEE KRASNER. ARS/COPYRIGHT AGENCY, 2023



4/ Artist Lindy Lee's *Ouroboros* is an immersive new addition to the sculpture garden. "Daytime or night-time, it pulses with light and energy," says Lee.

(OPPOSITE) LINDY LEE AT UAP COMPANY, BRISBANE, 2023, WITH *OUROBOROS*, NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, KAMBERRI/CANBERRA

LEAN TIMMS, LINDY LEE PHOTOGRAPH, JOSEF RUCKLI





Canberra Glassworks

Tours of the Glassworks' early-1900s industrial building take you inside the workshop. "You can see the artists transforming liquid fire into unique tableware and amazing installations for superstars such as Patricia Piccinini," says the Glassworks' artistic director, Aimee Frodsham. You can also craft your own piece at one of the regular artist-led classes.

(BELOW) SAPPHIRE VASES, PART OF THE SIGNATURE RANGE AT THE CANBERRA GLASSWORKS SHOP, ARE MADE WITH UPCYCLED GIN BOTTLES SOURCED FROM LOCAL PUB KING O'MALLEY'S



"WE'RE HARNESSING LIGHTNING AND PLASMA UNLIKE ANY OTHER ART FORM. NEON WORK IS LIKE BOTTLING UP THE NORTHERN LIGHTS."



National Museum of Australia

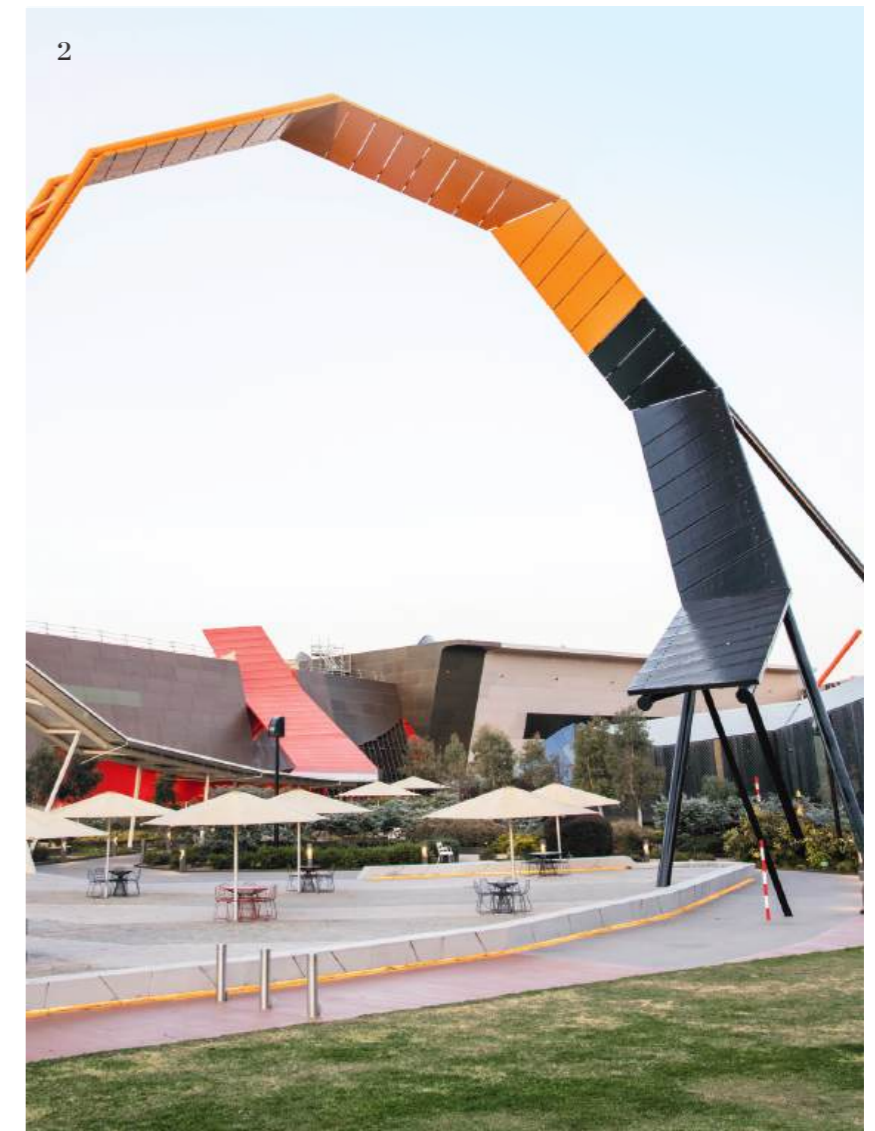
1/ "Shiny, with fluorescent tubes, Reko Rennie's sculpture tells the story of moths that have migrated to caves near Canberra since the Ice Age and their ancient calling to Aboriginal people," says Dr Martha Sear, the Museum's senior curator. "Its bright contemporariness speaks to the vibrancy of continuous culture."

REKO RENNIE, *UNTITLED (BOGONG MOTH)*, 2017, © REKO RENNIE

2/ The *Uluru Line* winds through and around the NMA building, a continuous reminder to visitors of a connection to the heart of the Australian continent.

LEAN TIMMS

ULURU LINE



MODERN BY DESIGN

A brave new world. Architects let loose. Take a walk through a capital's coming of age, starting with an on-campus surprise.

A university building is not a typical place to launch a tour of a city's architectural highlights. But the Menzies Library at the Australian National University (ANU) is a cuboid marvel of concrete and pink-grey stone, influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the most visionary architects of the 20th century. And if you tilt your head, you can see light being scrambled by the sculptural bronze Lyndon Dadswell screens that swirl across its windows.

Don't know much about architecture at all? This grassy campus at the edge of Canberra's hip Acton café district is the perfect place to begin. "Such is the diversity of design at ANU that Robin Boyd once called it 'architectural Disneyland,'" says Amy Jarvis, the co-founder of heritage events and advocacy platform Canberra Modern (canberramodern.com). "ANU is a fantastic microcosm of early Canberra being built on these very optimistic, brave post-war and democratic ideals." Through the middle of the century, the whole city was a laboratory. "Eminent designers from around the country and the world were given the space to

Architecture at a glance

Gloriously odd
The Shine Dome, Australian Academy of Science

Modernist feat
Enrico Taglietti's Cinema Center, a 1960s headturner

Grand plans
The Australian War Memorial, a stately take on Art Deco

Distinctive and detailed
Democratic ideals and a grass roof at Australian Parliament House

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL ANNEX, A MODERNIST DESIGN BY ENRICO TAGLIETTI



“CANBERRA [WAS] BEING BUILT ON OPTIMISTIC, BRAVE POST-WAR AND DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.”

create and experiment in making these buildings for everyday Australians.”

Not far from the campus, past the Art Deco National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Jarvis points out the building that houses the Australian Academy of Science – the Shine Dome. Imagined by architect Roy Grounds, the saucer-like “Martian Embassy” landed on a quiet hillscape in 1959, the early years of the Space Age. “Even as they were building it, people weren’t sure it was going to stand up,” says Jarvis. “It was really pushing the boundaries, not only of aesthetics but of engineering, with 710 tonnes of concrete being held up by 16 very slender supports.” But stand it still does – or rather, it “floats” above a moat, and is now on the National Heritage List.

“What Marion Mahony Griffin and Walter Burley Griffin tried to convey while planning Canberra back in 1912 was revolutionary,” says Jarvis as she tracks onwards into the thick of the CBD. “It was about recognising our colonial past but defining a unique identity.” Sleekly utilitarian and focused on progress, Modernist design then came along and made those ideas visible – often in concrete.

Now buried amongst the shops and eateries of Bunda Street, Enrico Taglietti’s Cinema Center stuck out like a sore thumb when it opened in 1966. Angular and adorned only with straight balconies, it stood audaciously apart from the city’s stately Melbourne and Sydney Buildings, both landmarks with their Mediterranean-inspired colonnades. “Taglietti came to Canberra from Milan and revelled in not being weighed down by the old traditions of golden cathedrals and towers,” says Jarvis. With his organic style, he created schools, libraries and even the Apostolic Nunciature (HQ for the Pope’s representative in Australia) that frame Canberra’s unique social and natural landscape.

A few blocks from the old cinema, towards City Hill park, lies Civic Square, one of Jarvis’s favourite design precincts. “Look at the lavish gold mosaic on those columns,” she says of Canberra Museum and Gallery. At the opposite end of the square, a winged woman – Tom Bass’s 1961 *Ethos* sculpture – holds a bursting

sun before the ACT Legislative Assembly. The work became a totem for the growing capital as it boldly entered a new world. “She’s so powerful she was used in tourism marketing as soon as she was installed,” says Jarvis.

From Civic Square, you can peel off in two directions. Head east on a 30-minute wander through leafy Reid, Canberra’s oldest residential neighbourhood, where tree-lined streets are dotted by gabled brick homes, and you’ll reach the Australian War Memorial (free tours daily; awm.gov.au) in Campbell.

Rising proudly from the foot of Mount Ainslie, the Memorial was constructed in the years between 1929 and 1941. This was a time when Modernism was a global juggernaut – but its grandeur is resolutely Art Deco. After World War 1 and the Depression, people took comfort in the gravitas of a Byzantine dome, arched cloisters and soaring Hall of Memory, says Jarvis. “Not everyone was ready for Modernism’s radicalness.” That was reserved for the Memorial’s boldly asymmetric conservation annex in Mitchell, built decades later, in 1978, to house giant relics like rockets – a Taglietti design in full Brutalist effect.

Your other option from Civic Square is to head south to Australian Parliament House (guided tours daily; aph.gov.au/visit). Opened in 1988, the building has its hints of Postmodern flair but the design is Modernist in spirit. The façade is clad in white Carrara marble, luxurious compared to concrete but also built to last. The pink and green marble columns of the foyer reflect the colours of the Senate and House of Representatives Chambers. “The principal architect, Romaldo Giurgola, embodied optimistic and brave democratic ideals in his design,” explains Jarvis. “The building nestles into a hill, with grass on its roof so citizens can walk above the people making the decisions.” If that’s not a modern idea, what is?

Canberra Modern is a program of events that celebrate the city’s uniquely designed buildings and spaces from the mid- and late-20th century. For upcoming tours, talks and workshops, go to canberramodern.com

LEAN TIMMS

(CLOCKWISE) AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE; THE SHINE DOME; CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY, CIVIC SQUARE; AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

TURN UP THE FUN

Pod-hopping, money-making, summer sledding... Find plenty of adventure for tiny travellers (and their grown-ups).

Play in epic pods

For kids, Pod Playground – where giant acorn and banksia cubbies are linked by a labyrinth of slides and climbing nets – is the slam-dunk star of Molonglo Valley's National Arboretum Canberra (also home to 94 different types of forest and many themed gardens). Nearby, you'll find the starting point for the Himalayan Cedar Track, a 2.1-kilometre loop that leads to a picnic deck with free electric barbecues. Pack walkie-talkies to level up a game amongst the century-old cedars. nationalarboretum.act.gov.au





Make your own coin

Robbie and Titan, the money-making robots, help the team at the Royal Australian Mint (left) in Deakin crank out up to two million coins every day. See them in action on a guided tour and, for \$3, you can mint your very own dollar (entry is free, as are tours). There's also Mini-Minties, a monthly hands-on session for children aged three to five. Big kids can sign up for Mintventures (ages six to 12; runs during the ACT school holidays) to learn all kinds of trivia, such as what makes the animals on Aussie coins so special. A recent refurbishment has the Mint shining brighter than ever, with brand-new interactive exhibits for visitors of all ages. ramint.gov.au

Talk to the animals

The Wonders of Wildlife tour at the National Zoo & Aquarium (opposite) in Yarralumla is your backstage pass to the animal kingdom. Stroke a rhino, hide breakfast for the sun bears and dodge licks from a giraffe's 45-centimetre-long tongue. Bring a fully charged camera and walk away with a stack of animal facts. nationalzoo.com.au

Try fantastical treats

Fancy eating a psychedelic-looking mushroom stuffed with strawberry mousse and lychee jelly, served on edible "dirt"? How about a mini New York lemon cheesecake made to look like actual cheese? Work your way through a selection of weird and wonderful treats at Space Kitchen's Magical Afternoon Tea. There's a four-person minimum for Magical Afternoon Tea bookings but the mouth-watering cookies, cakes and desserts are available all day long at this treasure trove in Phillip, a 10-minute drive from the CBD. space-kitchen.com.au

Live the high life

If your crew has energy to burn, head for Canberra's newest adrenaline-boosting attraction: a high-altitude obstacle course set in the canopy of a former pine plantation. About 15 kilometres north-east of the city – and just down the road from Mount Majura Vineyard – Treetops Adventure (right) offers heart-palpitating fun for the whole family, with ropes courses suited to kids as young as three. The best bit? It's open 363 days a year (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day). treetopsadventure.com.au



Go tobogganing on snow... or steel

In winter, Corin Forest Mountain Resort, a 50-minute drive south-west of the CBD, is blanketed with fluffy but not too fluffy snow – perfect for building snowmen and tobogganing. Hire a toboggan at the resort and try to time your visit for midweek to avoid the crowds (these snowy slopes are within easy reach of Sydney and Canberra). In summer, get your no-chill thrills on the Alpine Slide (ages two and up), which races through 1.2 kilometres of majestic mountain ash forest. corin.com.au

Staying up late(ish)?

Follow the sweet, smoky smell drifting from a charcoal grill to the laid-back city eatery Terra, where easy family dining doesn't feel like eating at a play centre. "Our food is a good bridge between

kids' meat-and-chips and adult dining, with options that aren't too challenging but are super delicious," says co-owner Anthony Iannelli. If hot dogs and burgers are a must, head to East Lake's Dairy Road precinct, where you'll find the Brodburger food van at Capital Brewing Co., a carbon-neutral outfit with a play area and lawn games. To wind down, go to LESS, a sculptural public space created for quiet contemplation, just a short walk away. terracanberra.com.au, capitalbrewing.co

Sleep in a tricked-up cubbyhouse

Book the Kids Cubby and East Apartment at East Hotel in vibrant Kingston and soak up parental peace while the little ones get stuck into Xbox, board games and Lego in their interconnecting

studio. The kids' zone also comes with a bunk bed and a "kiddy-bar" stocked with juice, popcorn and biscuits. A cruisy five-minute ride on the complimentary bicycles gets you to Patissez Cafe & Bakehaus, where you can fill up on the justly famous FreakShakes. easthotel.com.au, patissez.com

Shake it up in the Quake Lab

Questacon, the science centre where you're *supposed* to fiddle with stuff, has been a holiday highlight since it opened in 1988. Kids can feel the full force of an earthquake and then defy gravity on the two-storey Free Fall slide. Queue early to catch one of the Spectacular Science Shows, which run multiple times a day. Want more? Get the Questacon Walks of Wonder app for a science-y guide to the nearby National Triangle. questacon.edu.au



Discover secrets at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

As you follow the interactive Who Did That? Children's Trail at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Acton, about a five-minute drive from the city, you'll learn why bees buzz and how a feather ended up on the moon. Download an activity book, or pick one up from the visitor centre, to become a detective and match scats (that's animal poo, kids) with the tracks of native animals. Itching to climb a tree? The three-storey Paperbark Treehouse (above) takes you into the canopy of a lush paperbark forest (parts of the treehouse were made using rosewood fence posts from the set of the 2008 film *Australia*). parksaustralia.gov.au

Embrace the little things

No Canberra holiday with kids is complete without a trip to Cockington Green Gardens (right), a meticulously crafted world-in-miniature that has delighted tiny travellers since 1979. Having seen similar gardens in the UK, founders Doug and Brenda Sarah created this shrunken English village in the northern suburb of Nicholls. Since then, it's grown to

include an international display (featuring temples, castles, a soccer field and a mini Machu Picchu), plus a 34-room doll's house, miniature steam train, playground and picnic area with free barbecues. cockingtongreen.com.au

Tick all the boxes

Reaching a family consensus can be tricky. But everyone wins with the Gold Creek Adventure Ticket, which gives you access to all four attractions at Gold Creek Village. In addition to Cockington Green Gardens, there's Canberra Walk In Aviary, where you just might have a parrot perch on your shoulder. Canberra Reptile Zoo has all kinds of slithery critters to encounter and the kids will come face to face with a 20-metre-long



Tyrannosaurus rex at the National Dinosaur Museum (opposite). goldcreekadventure.com.au

Get your sport on

Aspiring athletes and trivia nuts will get a real kick out of the Australian Institute of Sport in the northside suburb of Bruce. A 1.5-hour tour gets you into Sportex, an interactive exhibit where you can stand on an Olympic podium, have a crack at wheelchair basketball, try virtual skiing and peruse precious memorabilia, including shoes worn by institute grad Cathy Freeman. Check out the public swimming timetable for a chance to test your speed in the pool where greats like Petria Thomas have clocked countless laps. ais.gov.au



TOURISM AUSTRALIA

SHORE THINGS

In the centre of the city, Lake Burley Griffin makes a strong case for slow exploration, its 40-kilometre edge a haven for paddlers, bike riders and curious roos.



The Lake at a glance

Watercraft

Hire an electric boat or a pedal boat to get out on the lake with friends

Wheel good action

Explore the shore on a tandem bike or zip around on an e-scooter

Family fun

Have a splash and meet the ponies at Yarralumla Play Station

Order up

Enjoy crisp riesling at Margot or a four-course feast at The Boat House



You'll want to skip the sleep-in on at least one morning of your stay. Head down to Lotus Bay at first light to catch keen kayakers as they push off from the water's edge, fracturing reflections of the hot air balloons coasting above (or book your own flight; balloonsoftcanberra.com.au). Right now, the almost seven square kilometres of Lake Burley Griffin belong to early birds like you and the mobs of eastern grey kangaroos that graze in Weston Park at Yarralumla on its southern shore.

Later in the morning, things start to buzz. The roos give way to kids who come to swim at the sandy beach and whoop at Yarralumla Play Station (yarraps.com.au) – with no devices in sight. The park's miniature golf course and farm populated by ponies, sheep and alpacas provide plenty of hands-on action.

Named after Walter Burley Griffin, one of the lead designers of the city's layout, the artificial lake is as much a part of the local lifestyle as it is a must-do for visitors. To make the most of the lake's Captain Cook Memorial Jet, which shoots six tonnes of water about 114 metres into the air, propel your pedal boat (loveboats.com.au) through the much-photographed mist.

Perhaps a whisper-quiet electric boat is more your style? Kingston foreshore has two eco-friendly options for those who fancy hiring a vessel: there's GoBoat (goboat.com.au) for Danish-designed crafts, plus the lake's newest addition, Love Boats (loveboats.com.au). All are equipped for self-catering, whether it's an intimate occasion or a big family celebration. The best bit? You get to be the captain – no boat licence necessary (a captain's hat is optional but highly recommended). Just make sure to stay clear of that towering water jet, lest your table, laden with crunchy fish and chips from Snapper & Co (snapperandco.com.au), cops a soaking.

Back on land, the winding shoreline creates space for all types of adventures. Families licking gelato and counting black swans share park benches with bike riders making pit stops on the five-kilometre bridge-to-bridge loop. Couples taking it slow on tandem bikes (cyclingcanberra.com.au) have their pick of shady spots, too. If you want to squeeze in a gallery after your picnic, an orange e-scooter (rideneuron.com) will zip you into the heart of the National Triangle.

Come late afternoon, Queen Elizabeth Terrace is the place to be, as lakeside bar Margot (margot.bar) dishes up Eden Road riesling, buffalo-milk blue cheese and a cruisy playlist. On the other side of the lake in Barton, The Boat House (theboathouse.restaurant) serves four courses – alongside the best sunset in town.

WILD AT HEART

Around here, epic views, bushwalking highs and even space odysseys are easy to come by.

Track down Stromlo's black diamonds

Stromlo Forest Park in Molonglo Valley, a 15-minute drive from the CBD, is a mountain-biking mecca. Its 50-plus kilometres of track offers 16 ways to descend Mount Stromlo, from double-black-diamond runs to cruiser sections for novices. "Green Evolution is a great trail for a family outing," suggests Peta Longhurst, an instructor at Dynamic Motivation, which runs training sessions and a shuttle up the 770-metre-high mountain. "You will navigate fun flat corners with loose and slippery rocks and there's a jump, which you can go around if you're not confident." Feeling brave? Try the blue-square flow trail Trebuchet. "It has lots of berms and rollable jumps."

stromloforestpark.act.gov.au,
dynamicmotivation.com.au

CHECK PARKS.ACT.GOV.AU FOR TRACK MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY UPDATES

Head for the hills

Red Hill Nature Reserve stretches over nearly 300 hectares along the eastern edge of the Woden Valley. One of the most delightful paths through this biodiverse wildlife corridor is The Red Track, a 3.2-kilometre loop where white-banded bees and meadow argus butterflies flit among creamy candle flowers while gang-gang cockatoos squawk above. You won't believe you're only five kilometres from the CBD.

parks.act.gov.au

Choose your own adventure

Skirting the NSW border at its northern tip and travelling as far south as the Murrumbidgee River, the epic Centenary Trail takes in major monuments and suburban lookouts before sweeping off into the wilderness that frames Canberra. Tackle the 145-kilometre loop by bike or on a seven-day walk (averaging about 20 kilometres per day). Alternatively, you can dip in and out on short trips. The popular One Tree Hill Summit trail starts and finishes in the town of Hall, a 20-minute drive north-west of the city. It's a mostly gentle nine-kilometre amble on well-groomed dirt, winding in and out of wattle and eucalypt cover and through open grazing land. The summit unfurls knockout views of the Brindabella Range.

parks.act.gov.au

Salute the sunshine

Sun-up (and sundown) is go time at Mount Ainslie Lookout, when 270-degree views of the National Triangle are burnished gold and orange. Drive or cycle your way there, or walk the

MARTIN OLLMAN



Kokoda Track, a 4.5-kilometre-return sealed trail that connects Remembrance Nature Park (near the Australian War Memorial) to Mount Ainslie's summit. Along the way, a series of switchbacks through shrubby scribbly gums gives way to a meandering path with a gentle incline and few steps. When you hear glossy black cockatoos making a ruckus atop some drooping she-oaks, you'll know you're almost there.

canberratracks.act.gov.au

Take off on a space odyssey

Before starting out on the self-guided Heritage Trail from Mount Stromlo Observatory, the HQ of the Australian National University's Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, download the ANU Walks smartphone app. Stories of the site's destruction in the 2003 bushfires and wartime military secondment bring history to life. But the real action is up above.

Ngannawal people watched the sky from Stromlo for millennia before the first observatory dome arrived in 1911. "After-dark group tours, lectures and stargazing events here are a great way to discover the beauty of space," says Dr Brad Tucker, astrophysicist and cosmologist at ANU. "There's nothing quite like seeing the rings of Saturn with your own eyes."

rsaa.anu.edu.au/observatories

Hit a park after dark

Bush stone-curlews – nicknamed "murderbirds" for their haunting call – freeze when surprised, often committing to comically odd poses. Catch one in the act on a Twilight Tour at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, a 12-square-kilometre oasis for endangered species in Throsby, 20 minutes' drive from the city. About two hours long, the easy walk starts before sunset at Wildbark, a visitor-centre-meets-café with a solid local wine list.

wildbark.org

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

Relax into dreamy stays just a short drive into the middle of... nowhere.

Above the vines

From the cellar door at Mount Majura Vineyard, you'll need to walk five minutes uphill (pack light) to reach the solar-powered tent called Edgar, one of three simple yet stylish stays set among the vines. It's operated by Cubby and Co, which partners with local businesses to offer tents and tiny homes filled with thoughtful touches (check out the new digs at Yarrh Wines, a 45-minute drive north of Canberra).

Once you've settled in, wander down the hill for tastings that go until 5 o'clock most days. We suggest

investigating Mount Majura's TSG, a sprightly blend of tempranillo, shiraz and graciano. Come dinnertime, the folks at Terra will deliver a lavish feast (think: beef brisket with caper gremolata and spit-roasted pork belly) or you could make the 15-minute journey to Kita at Narrabundah, where you'll get topnotch Indonesian noodles for pick-up from 6pm. Up for a (very) late-night snack under the stars? The kitchen at Kita stays open until five in the morning. nakedcubbycollective.com, kitakafe.com.au



In the bush

There are no bells or whistles at Ready-Cut Cottage, a six-bed, tin-roof hideout that is all but camouflaged by Namadgi National Park. There's no restaurant within cooee either (Namadgi Visitor Centre is 30 kilometres north; Canberra is another 36 kilometres away). But who wants them? You'll have views of Yankee Hat Mountain, a bank of the Gudgenby River, a firepit and a kettle. Heaven. parks.act.gov.au



Among the animals

If it's wild immersion you're after, a tree house in the canopy, where a giraffe might just poke its nose in for a nuzzle, hits the brief. At Jamala Wildlife Lodge in the National Zoo & Aquarium, stays also include safari-style bungalows, which share glass walls with lion, tiger, cheetah and sun bear enclosures, plus digs set into a teeming blue aquarium. jamalawildlifelodge.com.au



Off the grid

It's always a good morning to wake up in a tiny eco house at Lake George Winery, in a cool climate varietal heartland about 45 minutes up the highway from Canberra. Outside your window, rows of chardonnay and shiraz riot with fruit in spring, are hand-picked

in March and April, then get that autumn glow when the air turns nippy. Each of the four stays is privately tucked away and cleverly kitted out. Little Baxter (pictured), with a loft and sofa, sleeps three. lakegeorgewinery.com.au

NEIGHBOURHOODS TO KNOW



Where can you find the most delicious brunch, track down vintage treasures or let the kids slide into an epic ball pit? Maximise your chances of pleasing everyone with our round-up of the ideal neighbourhoods to hit.



CANBERRA CITY, ACTON & BRADDON

Short walks and cycle paths connect the bar-studded laneways of Canberra's CBD to artsy Acton and hip Braddon. No matter where you set out from, you won't need to stroll far to get your coffee fix. If you're in the CBD, head to The Cupping Room (1; thecuppingroom.com.au) – “The Cuppo” in local dialect – where the menu features vegetarian and gluten-free options and world champion barista Sasa Sestic oversees the brews.

At Garema Place (2) you can shop at indie treasure troves Landspeed Records (landspeed.com.au) and Impact Comics (impactcomics.com.au). The nearby Canberra Centre (3; canberracentre.qicre.com) puts David Jones and other stores you know together with the authentic hawker-style eateries of its Tiger Lane precinct (tigerlane.com.au). Fancy an al fresco wine instead? Low-key bar Dear Prudence (dearprudencebar.com.au) and the upmarket food hall at Verity Lane Market (4; veritylanemarket.com.au) both open onto a buzzy backstreet.

Winding your way west into Acton, take the time to nose around the colourful exhibitions of the Drill Hall Gallery (5; dhg.anu.edu.au) on your way to the Australian National Botanic Gardens (6; visit.anbg.gov.au) or the National Museum of Australia (7; nma.gov.au).

On Lonsdale Street, which runs north from the city into Braddon, retail is the cultural experience. There's Hive (8; hivebraddon.com.au), which curates sustainable kids' toys, accessories and trinkets, plus jewellery showroom KIN Gallery (9; kin.gallery), where you'll find one-offs from local makers. When you're ready to refuel, seek out the donburi nori tacos at Lazy Su (10; lazy-su.com.au) and follow with beers at Bentspoke Brewing Co. (11; bentspokebrewing.com.au).

Stay local

The Midnight Hotel (12; midnighthotel.com.au) for its elegant indoor pool and bar; A by Adina (13; abyadina.com) for Modernism-inspired rooms with a view.

(CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE) VERITY LANE MARKET; STREET ART IN BRADDON; LANDSPEED RECORDS; LAZY SU

FYSHWICK, PIALLIGO & MAJURA

Escape to the country in a tick over 15 minutes. You'll find truffle farms and wineries as well as fun for kids along the way. Start at Fyshwick, an industrial-zone-turned-hipster-hangout on Canberra's green fringe where you can eat brekkie and fill your picnic basket at the Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets (1; fyshwickmarkets.com.au). It's open from 7am, Thursday to Sunday.

Not far away, at the design-forward Dairy Road (2; dairyroad.com.au), you can take a casual yoga class at Kind (kindcanberra.com.au) and let the kids loose at play centre Kidzplore (kidzplore.com.au). Of course, no judgement if you swap yoga for noodles at Canteen (eatcanteen.com.au) or an indulgent lunch at winery Contentious Character (contentiouscharacter.com.au) followed by a gin-sipping tour at Big River Distilling Co. (bigriverdistilling.com.au). Or for a fine-art fix, head to Grainger Gallery (graingergallery.com.au).

Lonsdale Street Roasters (lonsdalestreetroasters.com) has also set up shop at the Dairy Road precinct – swing by to get your infrared-roasted single-origin beans direct from the source. Vintage style more your thing? A short drive gets you to Dirty Janes Canberra

(3; dirtyjanes.com), where you'll find all things old and covetable from some 90 sellers, or make your way to Designer Op Shop Emporium (4; dosemporium.com.au), a consignment-fashion hotspot with an onsite café.

A five-minute drive north brings you to semi-rural paddocks. Order scones with jam at the pretty Kitchen Garden at Rodney's café (5; kitchengardenrodneys.com.au) or go for boulangère potatoes with poached eggs at The Pialligo Bakesmith (6; [@the_pialligo_bakesmith](https://www.instagram.com/the_pialligo_bakesmith)). In Majura, go hunting for prized black fungi at The Truffle Farm (7; thetrufflefarm.com.au) in winter.

Afternoons don't get better than sundowners with a glass of The Silurian Sparkling while overlooking the hills at Mount Majura Vineyard (8; www.mountmajura.com.au). Book a tasting flight to take a tour of the terroir.

Stay local

Yurts at Pialligo's Beltana Farm (9; beltanafarm.au) can be stocked with ready-to-cook meals ahead of your arrival. There's also the stylish Vibe Hotel Canberra (10; vibehotels.com) in Majura, which is only 50 metres from the airport terminal.



BARTON, MANUKA & KINGSTON

Leafy village vibes meet slick dining spots and elegant cocktail bars in this enclave of the inner south. Barton, once known for its office blocks, is now one of the city's hottest places to eat, with Vincent (1; vincentrestaurant.com.au) among those championing refined small plates and European wines. The Realm precinct (2), featuring Hotel Realm (hotelrealm.com.au) and Burbury Hotel & Apartments (burburyhotel.com.au), with its rooftop bar Leyla (leylabar.com.au), also helps make the National Circuit an after-hours hangout.

Stay in the Realm precinct for a meal at Cantonese restaurant Chairman & Yip (chairmangroup.com.au) and a nightcap at Ostani (ostani.com.au). In the AM, Maple + Clove (mapleandclove.com.au) pulls a weekend crowd with its nourishing smoothies and savoury spelt waffles. This cool concrete pocket of town is also an oasis of wellness: bliss out with a massage ritual at Mudd The Spa (mudd.com.au) or book in for a high-performance facial at the nearby Hale Spa (3; halehealth.com.au).

A 15-minute walk away, Manuka village sets a chilled pace. You could spend an afternoon browsing beloved bookstore Paperchain (4; paperchainbookstore.com.au),

shopping for fashion by labels such as Alémais, Trelise Cooper and Kitx at Momento DeZigns (5; momentodezigns.com.au) or reading the paper at Manuka Lawns, ducking in to Urban Pantry (6; urbanpantrymanuka.com.au) for a burger when the mood strikes.

Neighbouring Kingston mixes the modern with the historical. "Old" Kingston has its heritage homes and Canberra Railway Museum (7; canberrarail.org.au) but head down to the foreshore and you'll find a vibrant mix of parks and eateries.

If you're still around after sundown, wander into the backstreets of Kingston to discover its restaurants and bars, including Queenies (8; queeniesatkingston.com.au), where they serve a "sweet and spritzzy" Marilyn cocktail made with pink gin and rosemary, along with live jazz and an entirely gluten-free menu. A local crowd brings the good times.

Stay local

Little National Hotel (2; littlenationalhotel.com.au) for boutique sophistication; Hotel Kurrajong (9; hotelkurrajong.com.au) for heritage suites and a family room.



(ABOVE, FROM LEFT) REFINED DINING AT VINCENT; OSTANI BAR AT HOTEL REALM

(CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT) MOUNT MAJURA VINEYARD; FYSHWICK FRESH FOOD MARKETS; BIG RIVER DISTILLING CO.'S CINN GIN

AFTER DARK

Up for a nightcap? Here's where to find underground cocktails, craft beers and live music playing until late.

Leyla

Afternoons are golden on the glossy rooftop of Barton's Burbury Hotel & Apartments. Snag one of the leather lounges for big city views with a sunny disposition. As it darkens, Leyla's interior steals the scene with its glittering onyx-backed bar and slick booths where champagne feels so right. The wine list is impressive and, if tinnies are more your thing, a top edit of brews awaits.
leylabar.com.au

Fun Time Pony

For New York-style pizza in an authentically grungy late-night joint, head to the Sydney Building in the city centre. Grab a booth and feast on cheesy slices delivered on demand or enjoy a cold beer between games of pool. With local musicians playing every Saturday night, regular comedy shows and a calendar full of touring bands, you'll hear Fun Time Pony before you see it.
funtimepony.com.au

Capital Brewing Co.

This Fyshwick taproom lays claim to Australia's first B Corp-certified carbon-neutral beers. On game days, footy fans come here for the big screens and an even bigger atmosphere. Nab a seat in the courtyard, family-friendly beer garden or by the fermenters in the main bar and quench your thirst with one of Capital's classic ales, the XPA or a special release, such as the tangy mango sour.
capitalbrewing.co

High Jinks

Walk across the garden by New Acton's Nishi Building and take the elevator to the basement. Bunker bar High Jinks matches candlelit saloon vibes with fanciful cocktails and top-shelf gins and whiskies. The Lord Jim Zombie, spiked with three types of rum, absinthe and passionfruit, is the signature drink but the bartenders here are award-winners – so go bespoke and know you're in great hands.
highjinks.bar

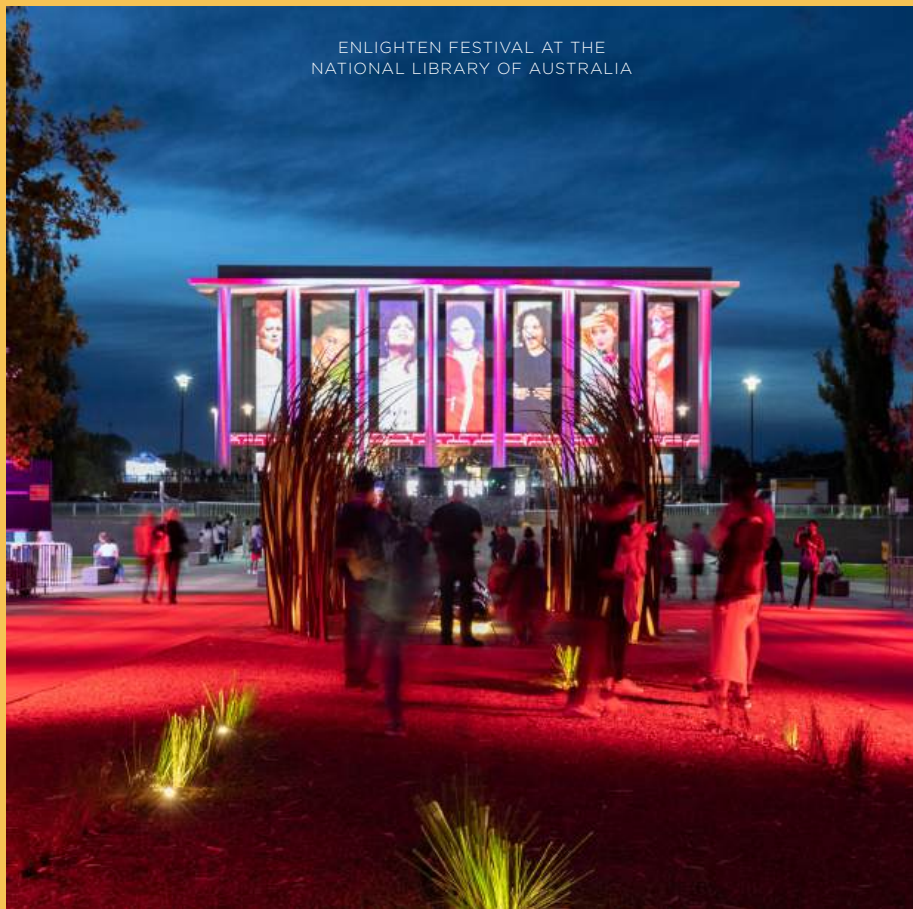
BentSpoke Brewing Co.

When this Braddon brewpub opened in 2014, local beer fans rejoiced, sinking more than 3000 litres of indie brew on its first weekend. BentSpoke still has buzz, its Crankshaft American IPA having topped the GABS Hottest 100 Craft Beer people's choice poll twice in recent years. Every beer on tap is a cracker. Try the cider, too.
bentspokebrewing.com.au



EVENTS

Festivals of music, sport, wine and food. Hot air balloons and floral spectaculars. Find out what's happening in Canberra for 2025.



FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT'S ON FROM DAWN UNTIL
AFTER DARK, SCAN THIS CODE OR GO TO [VISITCANBERRA.COM.AU/EVENTS](https://visitcanberra.com.au/events)

SUMMER

World-class cricket, cars and art stars take over the city in this action-packed season.



SUMMERNATS

Joan Ross: Those trees came back to me in my dreams exhibition

24 Aug 2024-27 Apr 2025

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, PARKES

Exploring the consequences of colonisation in Australia with wit and wry critique.

portrait.gov.au

Ethel Carrick | Anne Dangar exhibition

7 Dec 2024-27 Apr 2025

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, PARKES

A simultaneous exhibition for two very different artists.

nga.gov.au

Pompeii exhibition

13 Dec 2024-4 May 2025

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, ACTON

Features a re-enactment of the eruption and ancient artefacts.

nma.gov.au

New Year's Eve Fireworks

31 Dec 2024

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

Bring a picnic and enjoy the spectacular fireworks display.

nye.events.canberra.com.au

Summernats 37

2-5 Jan

EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL

Revheads unite for four days of burnouts, drifting and cruising.

summernats.com.au

Women's International T20 Cricket: Australia v. England

23 Jan

MANUKA OVAL, GRIFFITH

Australia is set to face England's best in what promises to be an epic showdown.

cricket.com.au

Flight: Drone SkyShow + Night Markets

24-26 Jan

COMMONWEALTH PLACE, PARKES AND REGATTA POINT

Breathtaking drone displays, food stalls and live entertainment over the Australia Day weekend.

nca.gov.au

Festival of Speed

25-26 Jan

THOROUGHbred PARK, LYNEHAM

Hundreds of exotic cars, thrilling laps and family-friendly events.

canberrafestivalofspeed.com

Lunar New Year

1 Feb

WOOLLEY STREET, DICKSON

Head to this lively, eclectic neighbourhood to ring in the Year of the Snake.

events.canberra.com.au

National Multicultural Festival

7-9 Feb

CANBERRA CITY

Food, music and a street parade celebrate more than 170 cultures.

multiculturalfestival.com.au

Royal Canberra Show

21-23 Feb

EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL

Expect animals, trade displays, fireworks and a milking demo.

canberrashow.org.au

Super Rugby Pacific: ACT Brumbies v. Western Force

22 Feb

GIO STADIUM CANBERRA, BRUCE

Root for the Brumbies at their first home game of the season.

brumbies.rugby

Enlighten Festival

28 Feb-10 Mar

NATIONAL TRIANGLE AND CANBERRA CITY

Watch the city come to life with culture and creativity.

enlightencanberra.com

All event dates are for 2025 unless specified



NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

AUTUMN

The region's hills are alive with marathon runners, balloons and the sound of Australian folk music.



HOT AIR BALLOONS ABOVE LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

LEAN TIMMS



Canberra Comedy Festival 12-23 Mar

CANBERRA CITY

A line-up of top performers, plus a gala event with the very best.
canberracomedyfestival.com.au

ACT Brumbies home games 14 and 28 Mar; 26 Apr; 3, 17 and 30 May

GIO STADIUM CANBERRA, BRUCE
Watch rugby superstars in action at the Brumbies' home ground.
brumbies.rugby

Skyfire 15 Mar

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

Entertainment and fireworks light up the lake.
searsworkwearroundabout.com.au

Canberra Balloon Spectacular 15-23 Mar

JOHN DUNMORE LANG PLACE, PARKES

Marvel (or go for a ride) as hot air balloons float above the city.
canberraballoonsspectacular.com

Canberra Raiders home games 15 Mar; 3 and 27 Apr; 10 and 18 May

GIO STADIUM CANBERRA, BRUCE
Cheer on the local NRL heroes at the team's home stadium.
raiders.com.au

Handmade Market Canberra 29-30 Mar

EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL
Meet the makers at this food and design market with 250-plus stalls.
handmadecanberra.com.au

The Canberra Times Marathon Festival

13 Apr

JOHN DUNMORE LANG PLACE, PARKES

Soak in the scenery at the oldest city marathon in Australia.
solemotive.com

National Folk Festival 17-21 Apr

EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL
The best acts from Oz and beyond.
folkfestival.org.au

Canberra and Region Heritage Festival 18 Apr-11 May

VARIOUS VENUES, ACT

A celebration of rich and enduring natural, First Nations, cultural and historic heritage.
environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival

Anzac Day Dawn Service 25 Apr

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CAMPBELL

Honouring those who have served takes on a special significance here.
awm.gov.au

AFL Premiership: GWS Giants v. Western Bulldogs 26 Apr

MANUKA OVAL, GRIFFITH
See the GWS Giants at their first Canberra game of the season.
gwsgiants.com.au

Canberra International Music Festival 30 Apr-4 May

VARIOUS VENUES, ACT
Enjoy classical and Baroque bops.
cimf.org.au

Cézanne to Giacometti: Highlights from Museum Berggruen / Neue Nationalgalerie exhibition 31 May-21 Sept

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, PARKES

Explore the dynamic changes in European and Australian art over the 20th century.
nga.gov.au



TRUFFLES TAKE CENTRE STAGE DURING THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL

WINTER

Rug up and indulge in cold-weather pleasures, from truffle hunts and wine-tasting to international rugby.

Truffle Festival

Jun-Sep

VARIOUS VENUES, ACT

Join the dogs on a hunt for black gold at one of the region's truffle farms. Chefs are getting on board too, serving up truffle-infused everything.

southernharvest.org.au

GWS Giants home games

7 Jun; Aug (date TBA)

MANUKA OVAL, GRIFFITH

Keep an eye on the website for dates and details of AFL's GWS Giants' next Canberra game.

gwsgiants.com.au

Canberra Raiders home games

8 Jun; 5, 19 and 27 Jul;

8 and 30 Aug

GIO STADIUM CANBERRA, BRUCE

Show your support for the "green machine" (aka the NRL's Canberra Raiders) by wearing green and cheering loud.

raiders.com.au

National Wine Festival

12-15 Jun

NATIONAL TRIANGLE

Celebrate Australia's diverse wine culture and taste some of the nation's greatest drops.

nationalwineshow.com.au



(FROM TOP) CANNOLI BROTHERS AT HANDMADE MARKET CANBERRA; ACT BRUMBIES SUPPORTERS

Handmade Market Canberra

14-15 Jun; 30-31 Aug

EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL

Meet the makers at this food and design market, featuring some 250 stalls.

handmadecanberra.com.au

ACT Brumbies v. British & Irish Lions

9 Jul

GIO STADIUM CANBERRA, BRUCE

See the best rugby players from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland take on the Brumbies.

brumbies.rugby



SPRING

The capital gets colourful with a million flowers in bloom and a vibrant festival scene.

FLORIADE



CANBERRA NARA CANDLE FESTIVAL

Canberra Moon Festival

5-7 Sept

CANBERRA CITY

A diverse Asian cultural festival celebrating themes of harvest and reunion with performances, food stalls and family-friendly activities. canberramoonfestival.com.au

Floriade/NightFest

13 Sept-12 Oct

COMMONWEALTH PARK, CANBERRA CITY

At Australia's biggest celebration of spring, see millions of flowers by day and go with the festival flow at night.

floriadeaustralia.com

Canberra Nara Candle Festival

25 Oct

NARA PEACE PARK, YARRALUMLA

This popular festival features thousands of shimmering candles, delicious Japanese street food and live performances. events.canberra.com.au

SpringOUT

1-30 Nov

VARIOUS VENUES, ACT

Pride flags fill the streets as the city celebrates love and joy with the LGBTQIA+ community.

springout.com.au

Remembrance Day

11 Nov

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CAMPBELL

Pay respects to those who've died or suffered in war and conflict during the memorial's National Ceremony or place a poppy on the Roll of Honour.

awm.gov.au

MY PERFECT DAY

Three locals share their line-up for the ultimate 24 hours in the capital. First is ceramicist Clyde Arnott, who follows wild swimming with Swedish buns.



I'm a bacon-and-egg-roll-for-breakfast guy. And I reckon the best one in town is from NewActon's Mocan and

Green Grout (mocanandgreengrout.net). The fit-out of this café is also one of my favourites – it's eclectic, with Brutalist shapes and plants everywhere. For me, that contrast is Canberra in a nutshell.

I might have had a good cup of tea with breakfast but now I need

coffee so I'll swing by Lonsdale Street in Braddon for a locally roasted flat white at **B-Side** (b-side.com.au).

Incorporating nature is really important to my work. I love making things that have a sense of place. When they're finished, my cups, vases or whatever it is can be quite stark and concrete-looking, influenced by the architecture of Canberra. But I also like to make water and sand from rivers around the city a literal part of the pieces. I collect a little to take back to my studio in Ainslie. I mix these with

clay to make what potters call "grog", which gives the ceramics a rustic texture.

There's a beautiful spot called the Uriarra Crossing on the Murrumbidgee River, where I've been swimming since I was a kid. It's about 25 minutes north-west of the city. As you clear the suburbs, you pass plains of bushland and sheep farms, then when you enter into a valley, it feels like you're driving into a secret. You end up at this peaceful river, surrounded by tall native trees. I come for the sound of nothing but the birds



URIARRA CROSSING ON THE MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER AT STROMLO



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP)
EDGAR'S AT AINSLIE;
POTS BY CLYDE ARNOTT;
LIGHT RYE AT UNDER

Clyde's Perfect Day

Morning
Bacon and egg roll at Mocan and Green Grout in NewActon

Afternoon
Uriarra Crossing picnic with a sandwich from Sandoochie

Evening
A lager in the garden at Edgar's with a schnitzel and chips

and of clear water running over big river stones.

Uriarra is also a great picnic spot. Before you go, stock up at the Ainslie IGA (ainslieiga.com.au). It's not just any old supermarket – it has a fantastic deli with a wall of imported cheeses that you can't get anywhere else in Canberra. And I love that it has been owned by one family for 60-or-so years.

I'm big on small businesses that do something special. There's a bakery in Mawson called Under (under-bakery.com), which makes bread and pastries that I'd say are worth making a trip to Canberra for. They do these sweet, doughy Swedish bullar – buns with

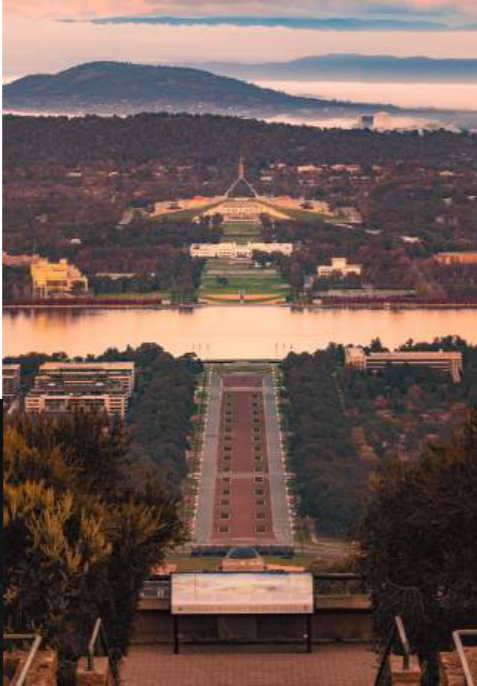
cinnamon or cardamom – that are amazing. Also at the top of my list is Book Lore (02 6247 6450) at the Lyneham shops. I love the range of secondhand books there and the store feels like a comfortable step back in time.

And if you're in the city, follow No Name Lane to the sandwich joint called Sandoochie (sandoochie.com.au), which uses Under's bread, loading it with seasonal stuff from the markets. Fillings might be poached chicken with almond and rocket or pastrami with apple but they change daily – whatever's written on the butcher's paper on the wall is good.

If there's still some time left in the day, I'll work on my tennis at the grass courts of Reid Tennis Club (play.tennis.com.au), one of the oldest in Canberra. In summer, I might watch an international or national cricket match at Manuka Oval (manukaoval.com.au). Or, in winter, you can catch AFL there.

The best way to see out the afternoon is a drink at the pub. My local is Edgar's (edgarsinn.com.au), near the Ainslie shops. The garden is a beautiful place to have a cold draught beer or lager from the tap. There's snazzy dining at The Inn restaurant upstairs but a classic schnitzel and chips from the bar makes me pretty happy.

(FROM LEFT) MUSHROOMS ON TOAST WITH HUMMUS AT CAFE STEPPING STONE; THE ICONIC VIEW FROM MOUNT AINSLIE



Sita Sargeant of tour company She Shapes History reveals the city's secrets, from unlikely sites of espionage to a hidden basement bar.



If someone told me I only had one day left in Canberra, I'd start that last day by hiking Mount Ainslie.

I think there's

something so special about the city's stillness in the early morning. At the summit, there's a display showing how Marion Mahony Griffin and her husband, Walter Burley Griffin, originally envisioned Canberra. It's a powerful reminder that Australia's history has been significantly shaped by women.

Canberra is one of the only capitals in the world that was, in large part, designed by a woman. Even Walter said that Marion was the genius in the relationship. She was a trailblazer as the second

woman in America to earn an architecture degree and played a pivotal role in defining 20th-century architecture.

I often joke that I'm single-handedly supporting Canberra's café economy with how many cups of coffee I consume each week. Post-hike, my go-to is often Stepping Stone (cafesteppingstone.com) in Dickson. Owned by women, this café is a work-integration social enterprise that is low on waste and provides employment and training opportunities to refugee and migrant women. What appears to be regular coffee-shop fare draws on the women's cultural backgrounds – and offers phenomenal flavours. The carrot cake is my favourite and the menu of seasonal specials is always worth exploring.

Next, I'd visit the Gallery of Small Things (galleryofsmallthings.com) in Watson. Anne Masters, a cornerstone of the local art community, curates rotating exhibits here. The intimate space, once a backyard laundry, displays everything from photography to painting and textiles.

The National Triangle doesn't seem like a secret but there are so many places here that don't make many visitors' to-do lists. For instance, the National Archives of Australia (naa.gov.au) does free exhibitions that explore intriguing tales from Canberra's past. It's set in a historic building that once housed ASIO. Unbeknownst to many, Canberra has a rich history of espionage. There are stories about '50s and '60s housewives being recruited to infiltrate the Communist Party.

Sita's Perfect Day

Morning

Hiking Mount Ainslie, then carrot cake at Stepping Stone

Afternoon

A classic movie at Arc Cinema, the National Film and Sound Archive

Evening

A drink at 11e Cave and chewy noodles at Muku Ramen Bar

The Ladies Rose Garden at Old Parliament House (moaodph.gov.au) is a beautiful spot to stop and catch your breath. Check out its Centenary of Women's Suffrage Fountain. It's a timeline that starts in 1902, when Australian women won the right to vote and to stand for Federal Parliament. It shares moments when the glass ceiling of federal politics has been broken, finishing when Julia Gillard became prime minister. In spring, the garden's wisteria blooms, revealing a code: the green, white and violet reflects the letters GWV, a sneaky acronym that suffragettes used for "Give Women Votes"!

Make sure you pop inside the Museum of Australian Democracy (moaodph.gov.au) at Old Parliament House to see the offices of Bob Hawke and Joan Child, preserved as they were during their tenure as Prime Minister and Speaker of the House. Once you're back outside, look out for the sculpture of Dames Dorothy Tangney and Enid Lyons, the first women to walk through the doors as members of parliament.

For lunch, I usually head to Bookplate at the National Library of Australia (nla.gov.au). The pot pie is my particular favourite and I'll eat at an outdoor table,

reading something from the shop's fantastic range of Australian authors. On Saturdays in spring or summer, I check out the food trucks at The Little Burley Market (thelittleburleymarket.com.au) by the lake. I'm lactose intolerant so I'll grab an oat milk soft serve at Future Swirl (futureswirl.com.au); also sold at selected supermarkets across Canberra).

In the afternoon, I like to check what's playing at Arc Cinema at the National Film and Sound Archive (nfsa.gov.au). The Archive restores films and puts on an amazing program of classics in an Art Deco building. This is solely responsible for my knowledge and love of Aussie film. Tickets are only about \$10.

For a pre-dinner drink, I'll stop by 11e Cave (onzieme.com.au) in Kingston. You have to look behind a red door to find it and there are only 12 spots – no reservations. The drinks list is incredible but you don't need to know about wine; just tell the bartenders how you're feeling. They're grape encyclopaedias and really personalise the experience.

My restaurant pick is Scullin's Muku Ramen Bar (mukuramenbar.com.au). The owner, Rina Miyata, makes everything from scratch and her menu combines the flavours of Hokkaido – thick, chewy noodles and creamy broths – with Shojin cuisine, a plant-based temple food that uses seasonal ingredients.

For dessert, I love Dickson's Spilt Milk Bar (spiltmilkbar.com), where the ice-cream is made with condensed milk. The friendly staff always let me sample as many flavours as I like before I settle on my usual vanilla. I'll brave my lactose intolerance for that.

She Shapes History's walking tours run in the Inner South, Inner North and National Triangle. Go to sheshapeshistory.com.au.



THE LADIES ROSE GARDEN AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

LEAN TIMMS

For Yasmine Gray, founder of accessible tourism consultancy GetAboutAble, swimming, sculpture and a late-night gig make for a day well spent.

Yasmine's Perfect Day

Morning

Hearty eggs on toast at My Café and a wander through Manuka

Afternoon

Explore Canberra Glassworks and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Evening

Ramen at Tenkomori and a show at Smith's Alternative



(FROM LEFT) LINDY LEE'S *OUROBOROS* (2024); CANBERRA GLASSWORKS SHOP; BOWEN PARK



I'm not one to rush. My ideal weekend gives me either nature or the arts but because of the way Canberra is laid out, I can

do both at a leisurely pace in one day – and eat lots of good food, too. For me, the perfect morning starts with a hearty breakfast at My Café (mycafemanuka.com.au) in Manuka. My favourite is eggs on toast with mushroom, spinach and roasted tomato sides and a Refresher juice made with fresh pineapple, watermelon, orange and mint. I never have trouble with my wheelchair there and the staff are amazing. It's a great example of the community feel in Canberra's Inner South.

From there, it's an easy wander past Manuka Oval (manukaoval.com.au), where they play cricket and AFL, to the beautiful Art Deco Manuka Pool (manukapool.com.au; open October to March). Both have accessible paths and are great spots to meet friends.

I'd continue on to Lake Burley Griffin and once I got to the water, I'd pick which way to turn depending on my mood. Going right would take me to Kingston Foreshore, with the Old Bus Depot Markets (obdm.com.au), Canberra Glassworks (canberraglassworks.com) and dozens of places for a quick lunch. From there, I'd follow the lake's Eastern Loop for two kilometres to the Jerrabomberra Wetlands (parks.act.gov.au). It's an unbelievable spot: you can be in the native grassland, spotting planes as they come in to land at the airport or watching for Latham's snipes and waterfowl, and all the while Parliament House hovers in the distance.

If I felt like soaking up some culture, I'd turn left at the lake, go past the black swans that hang out near Bowen Park and grab lunch at On Lake Cafe ([@onlakecafe](https://www.instagram.com/onlakecafe)). I'd then head over to the National Gallery of Australia (nga.gov.au), my go-to of the city's art hubs. No matter how many times I visit, I always find something new, including in the Sculpture Garden.

Lindy Lee's *Ouroboros* (2024) is the Gallery's newest sculpture and I find it fascinating.

I love live music and theatre so as evening approaches, I'd go into the city for a show. For dinner, I recommend grabbing ramen at Tenkomori (tenkomori.com.au), a great hole in the wall on Lyric Lane, which winds between London Circuit and the theatre door at Canberra Theatre Centre (canberratheatrecentre.com.au).

Later, I'd make my way to the Melbourne Building to see what's happening at Smith's Alternative (smithsalternative.com). It used to be a bookshop but these days it's a cool spot for a drink and a gig – you might get jazz, folk, classical, big band, comedy or poetry. Canberra is full of quirky secrets and Smith's is one of the best.

In 2025, GetAboutAble will transition to Empowering Experiences and will continue its mission to help the tourism industry create better experiences for people with disabilities. Go to empoweringxp.com

FREE FOR ALL

Five winning ways to get even more out of your trip – without spending a cent.

1/ Get some inside intel

You can see core exhibitions at most of Canberra's museums and galleries (see page 71) without paying an entrance fee. Many institutions, such as the National Museum of Australia and Australian Parliament House, also offer free talks or guided tours. Spend a leisurely hour or three on a self-guided walk around Lake Burley Griffin, Anzac Parade, the gardens at Old Parliament House or the National Triangle's Reconciliation Place. Go to the National Capital Authority website (below), bookmark your chosen walk and enjoy learning about the highlights as you go.
nma.gov.au, aph.gov.au,
nca.gov.au/attractions/take-tour

2/ Meet the maker

The good folk at the family-run Canberra Wine & Spirit Merchants in Ainslie are always up for a yarn about sangiovese, marsanne, riesling or almost any regional

varietal you could name. The store curates drops from about 60 local winemakers and on Thursday evenings, you can join a producer for a free tasting session.
canberrawineandspiritmerchants.com.au

3/ Max out the markets

Weekends are for nosing around Canberra's community and artisan-led stalls. On Saturdays, The Little Burley Market in Parkes brings street food and tunes lakeside to Queen Elizabeth Terrace (8am-1pm). And on Sundays, there's Braddon's Haig Park Village Markets (8am-1pm), which entertains crowds with busking festivals, garden games and face painting, as well as Kingston's Old Bus Depot Markets, which is legendary for its free themed events, such as fashion-focused Designer Sunday, and crafty workshops.
thelittleburleymarket.com.au,
haigparkvillagemarkets.com.au,
obdm.com.au

4/ Feel cool on campus

The Kambri precinct in Acton, at the Australian National University, is a thriving creative zone that's not just for students – everyone can listen to live music concerts on its grassy green or catch film screenings at its cinema. Keep your eyes peeled for free tickets to talks by authors such as Geraldine Brooks and Stan Grant.
kambri.com.au

5/ See the world

Roam around the epic National Arboretum Canberra to explore 94 different forests of rare trees from Australia and around the globe. If you're a fan of Japan, the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia showcases plant life that has been sculpted into art. There's also the Canberra Nara Peace Park in Yarralumla, which blooms with Japanese red maple and cherry blossoms during *hanami* season (spring).
nationalarboretum.act.gov.au,
parks.act.gov.au



NATIONAL ARBORETUM
CANBERRA

DIRECTORY

More attractions, wineries, tours and places
to eat for the ideal Canberra holiday.



CORELLA



PLANNING YOUR NEXT TRIP? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
OUR ACCOMMODATION GUIDE.

Monster Kitchen & Bar
Ovolo Nishi, 25 Edinburgh Ave,
Canberra City
ovolohotels.com

Mu
1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
chairmangroup.com.au

OhNo!
13 and 15 Flinders Way, Griffith
oh-no.com.au

Onzieme
5/39 Kennedy St, Kingston
onzieme.com.au

Ostani
18 National Cct, Barton
ostani.com.au

Otis
29 Jardine St, Kingston
otisdininghall.com.au

Ottoman
9 Broughton St, Barton
ottomancuisine.com.au

Pilot
1 Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie
pilotrestaurant.com

Peonee
G34, 12 Pentland St, Campbell
peoneerestaurant.com.au

Poachers Pantry
431 Nanima Rd, Springrange
poacherspantry.com.au

Raku
Canberra Centre, Bunda St,
Canberra City
rakudining.com.au

Rebel Rebel
21-23 Marcus Clarke St,
Canberra City
rebelrebeldining.com.au

Rubicon
6A Barker St, Griffith
rubiconrestaurant.com.au

Such and Such
Constitution Place, Canberra City
andsuchandsuch.com

Vincent
Cnr Macquarie and Broughton Sts, Barton
vincentrestaurant.com.au

Water's Edge Restaurant
40 Parkes Pl, Parkes
watersedgecanberra.com.au

■ BARS

11e Cave
5/39 Kennedy St, Kingston
onzieme.com.au

88mph
Basement, 8-10 Hobart Pl, Canberra City
88mph.bar

The Alby
45 Furzer St, Phillip
thealby.com.au

Ambrosia Lounge
2/1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
ambrosialounge.com.au

Amici Wine Bar & Deli
59 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City
amici.bar

Bar Beirut
25 Garema Pl, Canberra City
barbeirut.com.au

Bar Rochford
First Floor, 65 London Cct, Canberra City
barrochford.com

Blue Eyes
Level 1, 5 Garema Pl, Canberra City
blueeyesabr.com.au

Brew Nation
Sydney Building, 102 Alinga St, Canberra City
brewnation.com.au

Cabo
27 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City
cabocanberra.bar

Cicada Bar
1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
chairmangroup.com.au

Dear Prudence
Sydney Building, 100 Alinga St, Canberra City
dearprudencebar.com.au

Highball
Melbourne Building, Level 1,
75 London Cct, Canberra City
highball.bar

High Jinks
Basement, 15 Edinburgh Ave, Canberra City
highjinks.bar

Hopscotch
5 Lonsdale St, Braddon
hopscotchbar.com.au

The Howling Moon
150 Northbourne Ave, Braddon
thehowlingmoon.com.au

Joe's Bar
East Hotel, 69 Canberra Ave, Kingston
easthotel.com.au

Leyla
Level 7, 1 Burbury Cl, Barton
leylabar.com.au

Luna
99 London Cct, Canberra City
lunabar.com.au

Margot
West Kiosk, Queen Elizabeth Tce, Parkes
margot.bar

Molly
Melbourne Building,
59-81 London Cct, Canberra City
molly.bar

Mooseheads
105 London Cct, Canberra City
mooseheads.com.au

Paloma's
2/5 Lonsdale St, Braddon
palomas.bar

Paranormal Wines
G27/6 Provan St, Campbell
paranormalwines.com

Public
1-33 Flinders Way, Griffith
publicbar.com.au

Queenies
Cnr Kennedy and Giles Sts, Kingston
queeniesatkingston.com.au

Rizla
22 Lonsdale St, Braddon
drinkrizla.com.au

Smith's Alternative
76 Alinga St, Canberra City
smithsalternative.com

■ WINERIES, BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

CANBERRA & SURROUNDS

BentSpoke Brewing Co.
Braddon Brew Pub
38 Mort St, Braddon
bentspokebrewing.com.au

Big River Distilling Co.
Building 3, 1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
bigriverdistilling.com.au

The Canberra Distillery
70 Dacre St, Mitchell
thecanberradistillery.com.au

Capital Brewing Co.
Building 3, 1 Dairy Rd,
Fyshwick
capitalbrewing.co

Contentious Character
Building 4, 1 Dairy Rd,
Fyshwick
contentiouscharacter.com.au

Cypher Brewing Co
3/35 Hinder St, Gungahlin
cypherbrewing.com.au

Mount Majura Vineyard
88 Lime Kiln Rd, Majura
mountmajura.com.au

GUNDAROO (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Gundog Estate at Cork St. Cellar
42 Cork St
gundogestate.com.au

Joshua's Fault
Amorelle, 1725 Murrumbateman Rd
joshuasfault.com.au

Tallagandra Hill
1692 Murrumbateman Rd
tallagandrahill.com.au

JEIR (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Gallagher Wines
2770 Dog Trap Rd
gallagherwines.com.au

Granitevale Estate
153 Magennis Dr
granitevaleestate.com.au

SPRINGRANGE (30 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Poachers Vineyard
431 Nanima Rd
poacherspantry.com.au

WALLAROO (25 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Brindabella Hills Winery
156 Woodgrove Cl
brindabellahills.com.au

Nick O'Leary Wines at Heywood
149 Brooklands Rd
nickolearywines.com.au

Pankhurst Wines
56 Woodgrove Cl
pankhurstwines.com.au

Surveyors Hill Vineyard
Woodgrove, 215 Brooklands Rd
surveyorshill.com.au

YASS (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Mallaluka Wines
517 Dog Trap Rd
mallaluka.com.au

LAKE GEORGE REGION (30 MINS NORTH-EAST OF CANBERRA)

Collector Wines
39 Murray St
collectorwines.com.au

Lake George Winery
137 The Vineyards Rd
lakegeorgewinery.com.au

Lerida Estate
87 The Vineyards Rd
leridaestate.com.au

BUNGENDORE (35 MINS EAST OF CANBERRA)

Lark Hill Winery
31 Joe Rocks Rd
larkhill.wine

MURRUMBATEMAN (40 MINS NORTH-WEST OF CANBERRA)

Barton Estate
2307 Barton Hwy
bartonestate.com.au

Clonakilla
3 Crisps Lane
clonakilla.com.au

Dionysus Winery
1 Patemans Lane
dionysus-winery.com.au

Eden Road Wines
3182 Barton Hwy
edenroadwines.com.au

Four Winds Vineyard
9 Patemans Lane
fourwindsvineyard.com.au

Helm Wines
19 Butts Rd
helmwines.com.au

Jeir Creek Wines
122 Bluebell Lane
jeircreekwines.com.au

McKellar Ridge Wines
2 Euroka Ave
mckellarridgewines.com.au

Murrumbateman Winery
131 McIntosh Cct
murrumbatemanwinery.com.au

Shaw Estate
34 Isabel Dr
shawwines.com.au

The Vintner's Daughter
5 Crisps Lane
thevintnersdaughter.com.au

Yarrh Wines
440 Greenwood Rd
yarrhwines.com.au

■ WINERY TOURS & EXPERIENCES

Air CBR
aircbr.com.au

Canberra Cellar Door
canberracellardoor.com.au

Canberra Wine Region E-Bike Tours
winerides.com.au

Canberra Winery Tours
canberrawinerytours.com

Dave's Tours
daves.com.au

Grape Escapes Canberra Luxury Wine Tours
grapeescapescanberra.com.au

Merry Heart CBR
merryheartcbr.com.au

Van du Vin
vanduvin.com.au

Vines & Wines
vineswines.com.au

CULTURE

Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery
19 O'Hanlon Pl, Nicholls
aboriginaldream.com

Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres
30 Elouera St and 55 Ainslie Ave, Braddon
ainslieandgorman.com.au

ANCA Gallery
1 Rosevear Pl, Dickson
anca.net.au

ANU School of Art & Design Gallery
Building 105, Childers St, Acton
soad.cass.anu.edu.au/gallery-exhibitions

Artworld ADG
Cnr London Cct and Gordon St, Canberra City
aboriginaldream.com

Australian Parliament House
Parliament Dr, Canberra City
aph.gov.au

Australian War Memorial
Treloar Cres, Campbell
awm.gov.au

Belconnen Arts Centre
118 Emu Bank, Belconnen
belcoarts.com.au

Blundells Cottage
Kings Park, Wendouree Dr, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

Burrunjū Art Gallery
254 Lady Denman Dr, Canberra
burrunjū-aboriginal-arts.org.au

Canberra Contemporary Art Space
19 Furneaux St, Manuka; and
44 Queen Elizabeth Tce, Parkes
ccas.com.au

Canberra Glassworks
11 Wentworth Ave, Kingston
canberraglassworks.com

Canberra Museum and Gallery
Cnr London Cct and City Square,
Canberra City
cmag.com.au

Canberra Theatre Centre
Civic Square, London Cct, Canberra City
canberratheatrecentre.com.au

Craft + Design Canberra
Level 1, North Building,
180 London Cct, Canberra City
craftanddesigncanberra.org

Drill Hall Gallery
Kingsley St, Acton
dhg.anu.edu.au

Gallery of Small Things
27 Wade St, Watson
galleryofsmallthings.com

Government House
Dunrossil Dr, Yarralumla
gg.gov.au

Grainger Gallery
Building 3.3, 1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
graingergallery.com.au

High Court of Australia
Parkes Pl, Parkes
hcourt.gov.au

Humble House Gallery
93 Wollongong St, Fyshwick
humblehouse.com.au

Kin Gallery
G06/27 Lonsdale St, Braddon
kin.gallery

Lanyon Homestead
Tharwa Dr, Tharwa
historicplaces.com.au

M16 Artspace
21 Blaxland Cres, Griffith
m16artspace.com.au

**Museum of Australian Democracy
at Old Parliament House**
18 King George Tce, Parkes
moadoph.gov.au

**National Archives of
Australia National Office**
Kings Ave, Parkes
naa.gov.au

National Capital Exhibition
Regatta Point, Barrine Dr, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

National Carillon
Kings Park, Queen Elizabeth II Island, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

**National Film and Sound
Archive of Australia**
McCoy Cct, Acton
nfsa.gov.au

National Gallery Australia
Parkes Pl, Parkes
nga.gov.au

National Library of Australia
Parkes Pl, Parkes
nla.gov.au

National Museum of Australia
Lawson Cres, Acton
nma.gov.au

National Portrait Gallery
King Edward Tce, Parkes
portrait.gov.au

photo access
Manuka Arts Centre, 30 Manuka Cir, Griffith
photoaccess.org.au

Scott Leggo Gallery
33 Jardine St, Kingston
scottleggo.com

Shine Dome
15 Gordon St, Acton
shinedome.org.au

Strathnairn Arts
90 Stockdill Dr, Holt
strathnairn.com.au

The Street Theatre
15 Childers St, Canberra City
thestreet.org.au

Tharwa Valley Forge
11 Naas Rd, Tharwa
tharwavalleyforge.com

Thor's Hammer
10 Mildura St, Griffith
thors.com.au

Tuggeranong Arts Centre
137 Reed St, Greenway
tuggeranongarts.com

FAMILY & NATURE

**Australian National
Botanic Gardens**
Clunies Ross St, Acton
anbg.gov.au

Axxe (axe throwing)
4/1 Lyell St, Fyshwick
axxe.com.au

Beltana Farm
14 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
beltanafarm.au

BlocHaus Canberra (bouldering)
Unit 2, Building 2, 1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
cbr.blochaus.com.au

**BOUNCEinc
(trampolining)**
Westfield Belconnen, Benjamin Way,
Belconnen
bounceinc.com.au

Boundless Playground
Kings Park, Wendouree Dr, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

Breakr (break room)
4/1 Lyell St, Fyshwick
breakr.com.au

Canberra Aqua Park
Black Mountain Peninsula,
Garryowen Dr, Acton
canberraaquapark.com

Canberra Railway Museum
2 Geijera Pl, Fyshwick
canberrarail.org.au

Canberra Reptile Zoo
O'Hanlon Pl, Nicholls
reptilesinc.com.au

Canberra Walk In Aviary
Unit 13, Federation Square,
18-26 O'Hanlon Pl, Nicholls
canberrawalkinaviary.com.au

Civic Carousel
Intersection of Petrie Plaza and
City Walk, Canberra City
[arts.act.gov.au/public-art/
civic-carousel](http://arts.act.gov.au/public-art/civic-carousel)

Cockington Green Gardens
11 Gold Creek Rd, Nicholls
cockingtongreen.com.au

Corin Forest
1268 Corin Dam Rd, Paddys River
corin.com.au

Delta Force Paintball
Cnr Monaro Hwy and
Old Tuggeranong Rd, Tuggeranong
canberrapaintball.com.au

Escape Rooms Canberra
2/22 Dundas Ct, Phillip
escaperoomscanberra.com

**Geoscience Australia
Education Centre**
Cnr Jerrabomberra Ave and
Hindmarsh Dr, Symonston
ga.gov.au

Hijinx Hotel
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
hijinxhotel.com.au

Holey Moley
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
holeymoley.com.au

International Flag Display
Commonwealth Pl, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

iPlay
Westfield Belconnen, Benjamin Way,
Belconnen
iplayaustralia.com.au

Jerrabomberra Wetlands
via Dairy Rd, Fyshwick, and Eyre St, Kingston
jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au

Jet Flight Simulator Canberra
4 Montford Cres, Lyneham
jetflightimulatorcanberra.com.au

Kingpin (tenpin bowling)
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
kingpinplay.com

Lake Burley Griffin
Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

**Majura Valley Farm Gate
and Sunflower Maze**
728 Majura Rd, Majura
mveggs.com

Maniax Canberra
Lvl 1/202-208 City Walk, Canberra City
maniax.com.au

Metaphysica Virtual Reality
30 Kemble Ct, Mitchell; and Shop 176,
South Point Shopping Centre, Tuggeranong
metaphysica.com.au

Mount Stromlo Observatory
Cotter Rd, Weston Creek
rsaa.anu.edu.au/observatories

**Mulligans Flat Woodland
Sanctuary**
25 Rosenberg St, Throsby
mulligansflat.org.au

National Arboretum Canberra
Forest Drive, off Tuggeranong
Parkway, Molonglo Valley
nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

National Dinosaur Museum
6 Gold Creek Rd, Nicholls
nationaldinosaurmuseum.com.au

National Zoo & Aquarium
Scrivener Dam, Lady Denman Dr,
Yarralumla
nationalzoo.com.au

Old Parliament House Gardens
Parliament Square and
King George Tce, Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

Power Kart Raceway
125 Canberra Ave, Griffith
powerkarts.com.au

**Questacon (science and
technology centre)**
King Edward Tce, Canberra City
questacon.edu.au

Revelation Puzzle Rooms
Unit 8/151-155 Gladstone St, Fyshwick
revelationpuzzlerooms.com

Riddle Room
8/160 Lysaght St, Mitchell
riddleroom.com.au

Royal Australian Mint
62-114 Denison St, Deakin
ramint.gov.au

Stromlo Forest Park
Dave McInnes Rd, Stromlo
stromloforestpark.act.gov.au

Treetops Adventure
Off Lime Kiln Rd, Majura
treetopsadventure.com.au

The Truffle Farm
23 Mount Majura Rd, Majura
thetrufflefarm.com.au

**VR Canberra
(games and rides)**
5/83-101 Lysaght St, Mitchell
vrcanberra.com.au

Yarralumla Play Station
9 Pescott Lane, Yarralumla
yarraps.com.au

**Zone 3 Canberra
(laser games)**
28 Weedon Cl, Belconnen
zone3act.com.au

LOCAL SECRETS & SHOPPING

Ainslie IGA
9/11 Edgar St, Ainslie
ainslieiga.com.au

Bison Home
12 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
bisonhome.com

Canberra Centre
Bunda St, Canberra City
canberracentre.qicre.com

Canberra Outlet
337 Canberra Ave,
Fyshwick
canberraoutlet.com.au

**Canberra Wine & Spirit
Merchants**
39 Ainslie Pl, Canberra City
canberrawineandspiritmerchants.com.au

Capital Region Farmers Market
Exhibition Park, Cnr Flemington Rd
and Northbourne Ave, Watson
capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au

Designer Op Shop Emporium
Cnr Barrier and Lyell Sts,
Fyshwick
dosemporium.com.au

Dirty Janes Canberra
80 Collie St, Fyshwick
dirtyjanes.com

Haig Park Village Markets
Haig Park, Braddon
haigparkvillagemarkets.com.au

Hale Gym + Spa
Brassey Hotel, 10-14 Macquarie St,
Barton
halehealth.com.au

Hive
Ori building, 30 Lonsdale St,
Braddon
hivebraddon.com.au

IKEA
1030 Majura Rd, Pialligo
ikea.com

Jindii EcoSpa
Australian National Botanic Gardens,
Clunies Ross St, Acton
jindii.com.au

Landspeed Records
30 Garema Pl, Canberra City
landspeed.com.au

The Little Burley Market
Queen Elizabeth Tce, Parkes
thelittleburleymarket.com.au

Momento Dezigns
Shop 4, Manuka Court,
17 Bougainville St, Manuka
momentodezigns.com.au

Mudd the Spa
Hotel Realm, 18 National Cct,
Barton
mudd.com.au

Old Bus Depot Markets
21 Wentworth Ave, Kingston
obdm.com.au

Paperchain Bookstore
34 Franklin St,
Manuka
paperchainbookstore.com.au

POP Canberra
27 Lonsdale St, Braddon
popcanberra.com.au

Quizzic Alley
5 Pirie St, Fyshwick
quizzicalley.com

South Point Tuggeranong
Cnr Anketell and Reed Sts,
Tuggeranong
southpointcanberra.com.au

Westfield Belconnen
Benjamin Way, Belconnen
westfield.com.au

Westfield Woden
Keltie St, Woden
westfield.com.au

SPORT & RECREATION

Australian Institute of Sport
Leverrier St, Bruce
ais.gov.au/visit

Canberra International Sports & Aquatic Centre
100 Eastern Valley Way, Bruce
clublime.com.au

Canberra Olympic Pool
Cnr Allara St and Constitution Ave,
Canberra City
canberraolympicpool.com.au

Casino Canberra
21 Binara St, Canberra City
casinocanberra.com.au

GIO Stadium Canberra
Battye St, Bruce
giostadiumcanberra.com.au

GoBoat Kingston
8 Trevillian Quay, Kingston
goboat.com.au

Manuka Oval
Manuka Circle, Griffith
manukaoval.com.au

Manuka Pool
New South Wales Cres, Griffith
manukapool.com.au

Phillip Swimming and Ice Skating Centre
1 Irving St, Phillip
phillippoolandskate.com.au

Reid Tennis Club
17A Dirrawan Gardens, Reid
play.tennis.com.au

Thoroughbred Park
1 Randwick Rd, Lyneham
thoroughbredpark.com.au

TOUR OPERATORS

Balloon Aloft Canberra
balloonaloftcanberra.com.au

Canberra Guided Tours
canberraguidedtours.com.au

Classic Capital Golf Tours
classiccapitalgolf.com.au

Cycle Canberra
(tours and bike hire)
cyclecanberra.com.au

Dawn Drifters
dawn drifters.com.au

Dhawura Tours
thunderstone.net.au

Dynamic Motivation
dynamicmotivation.com.au

Eat Canberra Food Tours
eatcanberra.com.au

Explorer Buses Canberra
explorerbuses.com.au

Gang Gang Tours
ganggangtours.com.au

Helicopter Corp.
helicoptercorp.com.au

Lake Burley Griffin Cruises
lakecruises.com.au

Love Boats Canberra
loveboats.com.au

Mulga Bicycle Tours
mulgabicycletours.com.au

She Shapes History
sheshapeshistory.com.au

Tim the Yowie Man
yowieman.com.au

Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation
toac.com.au



FOR UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION AND TO
PLAN YOUR VISIT TO PARKS
IN THE ACT, GO TO
PARKS.ACT.GOV.AU OR
SCAN THIS CODE

AROUND TOWN

Essential info for staying connected, planning ahead and getting to know the city.

i Canberra and Region Visitors Centre (CRVC)

Find this helpful visitors centre (visitcanberra.com.au, 1300 554 114) on the edge of Lake Burley Griffin at Regatta Point, Parkes. The in-the-know staff can help you put together the perfect itinerary, book tickets for shows and secure last-minute accommodation and restaurant reservations. You can also pick up books and toys for the kids, as well as locally made ceramics and gifts. Regional goodies, including Jasper + Myrtle chocolate and whisky-infused Blackhorse marmalade, are ideal for taking home a taste of the city – or elevating a lakeside picnic.

b Bike and Scooter Hire

Canberra has an extensive network of shared bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as on-road bike lanes ([maps at transport.act.gov.au](http://maps.transport.act.gov.au)). E-scooters can be hired from Neuron (rideneuron.com). Push bikes and e-bikes are on offer from Share A Bike (shareabike.com.au) at stations around the city, and



Cycle Canberra (cyclecanberra.com.au) delivers bikes to hotels and Lake Burley Griffin. Bikes can also be hired from the CRVC.

b Public Transport

The light rail and public bus network operated by Transport Canberra is an easy and cost-effective way to get around. To ride, simply tap on and off with a Mastercard, Visa, MyWay+ pass (available on the MyWay+ app) or a MyWay+ card (available at MyWay+ retail outlets). To ensure you pay the right fare, always tap on and off with the same card or device. Printed tickets (including for concessions) can be purchased at vending machines located at all light rail stops, selected bus interchanges and Canberra Airport. Public transport is free on Fridays. Find maps, timetables and a real-time trip planner at transport.act.gov.au. For assistance, call 13 17 10.

c Taxis and Rideshare

Taxis are operated by ACT Cabs (actcabs.com.au), Silver Service Canberra (silverservicecanberra.com.au), Canberra Elite (canberraelite.com.au) and Ezy Cabs (ezycabs.com.au). Wheelchair-accessible taxis can be booked through 13WATS (13wats.com.au). App-based services include Uber (uber.com) and the all-women rideshare Shebah (shebah.com.au).

w Free Wi-Fi

CBRfree is a public wi-fi network that covers much of the city and its surrounds, offering one free gigabyte per day. You'll also find free hotspots at Canberra Airport, the CRVC and many shopping centres and hotels.





CANBERRA

Explore the city's highlights on foot, by car or bike or using public transport.



NOTE: ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

2025 AT A GLANCE

Come for summer art, autumn tunes, fun festivals in winter and bursts of colour in spring. Amazing happens all year round in the capital.

SUMMER

- 7 December 2024-27 April 2025
Ethel Carrick | Anne Dangar exhibition
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, PARKES
nga.gov.au
- 13 December 2024-4 May 2025
Pompeii exhibition
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, ACTON
nma.gov.au
- 2-5 January
Summernats 37
EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL
summernats.com.au
- 23 January
Women's International T20
Cricket: Australia v. England
MANUKA OVAL, GRIFFITH
cricket.com.au
- 24-26 January
Flight: Drone SkyShow
+ Night Markets
COMMONWEALTH PLACE, PARKES,
AND REGATTA POINT
nea.gov.au
- 7-9 February
National Multicultural Festival
CANNBERRA CITY
multiculturalfestival.com.au
- 28 February-10 March
Enlighten Festival
NATIONAL TRIANGLE AND CANNBERRA CITY
enlightencanberra.com

AUTUMN

- 12-23 March
Canberra Comedy Festival
CANNBERRA CITY
canberracomedyfestival.com.au
- 15 March
Skyfire
LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN
searsworkwarraroundabout.com.au
- 15-23 March
Canberra Balloon Spectacular
JOHN DUNMORE LANG PLACE, PARKES
canberraballoonspectacular.com
- 17-21 April
National Folk Festival
EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL
folksfestival.org.au
- 25 April
Anzac Day Dawn Service
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CAMPBELL
awm.gov.au
- 31 May-21 September
Cézanne to Giacometti: Highlights from Museum Berggruen / Neue Nationalgalerie exhibition
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, PARKES
nga.gov.au

WINTER

- 14-15 June and 30-31 August
Handmade Market Canberra
EXHIBITION PARK, MITCHELL
handmadecanberra.com.au
- 9 July
ACT Brumbies v. British & Irish Lions
GIO STADIUM CANNBERRA, BRUCE
brumbies.rugby
- June-September
Truffle Festival
VARIOUS VENUES, ACT
southernharvest.org.au

SPRING

- 5-7 September
Canberra Moon Festival
CANNBERRA CITY
canberramoonfestival.com.au
- 13 September-12 October
Floride/NightFest
COMMONWEALTH PARK, CANNBERRA CITY
floridaeaustralia.com
- 25 October
Canberra Nara Candle Festival
NARA PEACE PARK, YARRALUMULA
events.canberra.com.au
- 11 November
Remembrance Day
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CAMPBELL
awm.gov.au



For up-to-date information about what's on in 2025, scan this code or go to visitcanberra.com.au/events

