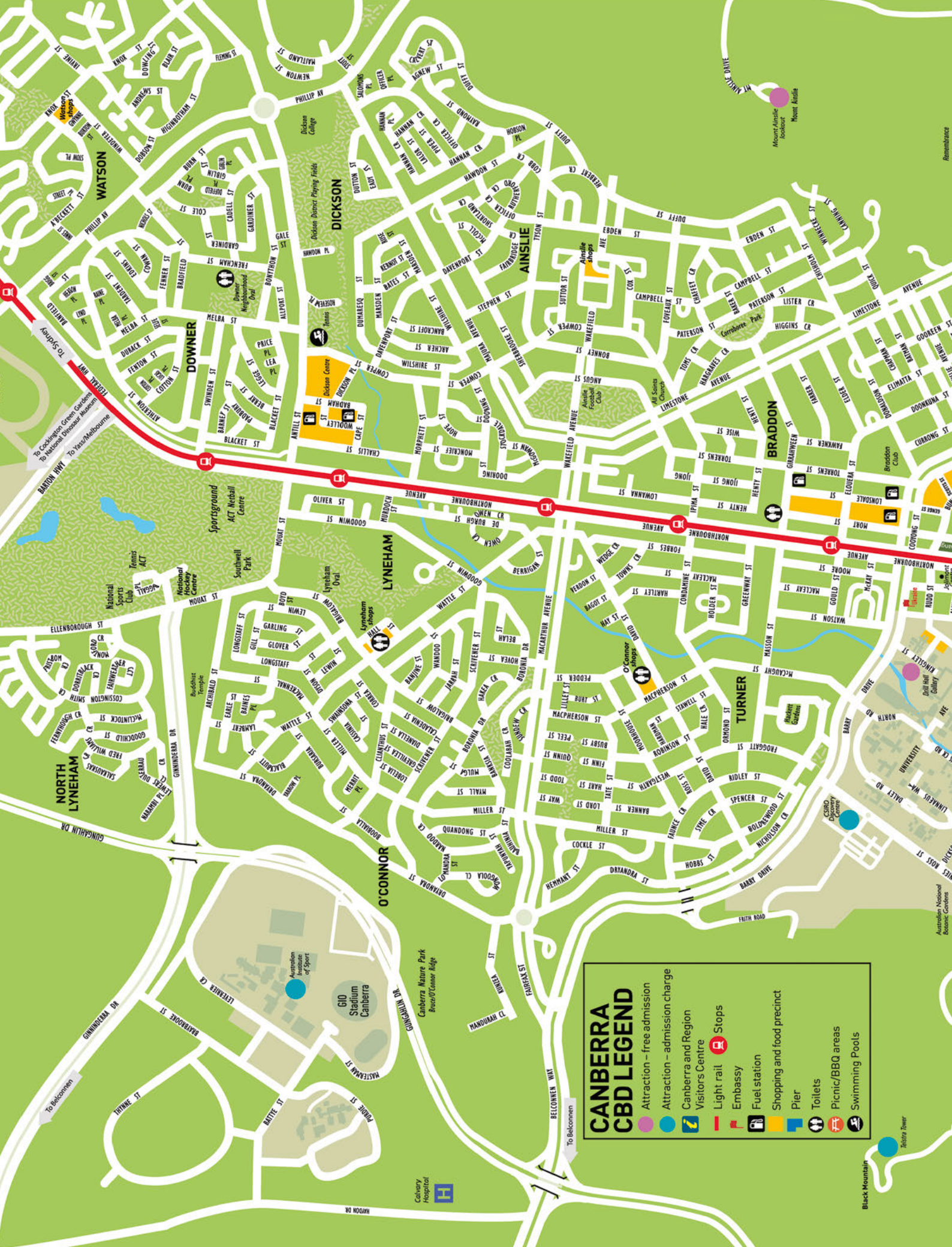


CANBERRA

Visitor Guide 2020

↓
Big hitters and hidden gems, dining
hotspots and local bars, cool adventures
and family fun... it's all right here



CANBERRA CBD LEGEND

- Attraction – free admission
- Attraction – admission charge
- Canberra and Region Visitors Centre
- Light rail
- Embassy
- Fuel station
- Shopping and food precinct
- Pier
- Toilets
- Picnic/BBQ areas
- Swimming Pools



BEHIND THE LINES

The year's **BEST** political cartoons 2019

THE GREATEST HITS TOUR



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Old
Parliament
House

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Canberra and Region Visitors Centre

LOCAL MERCHANDISE • TOURS AND TICKETS • ACCOMMODATION DEALS

Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes ACT 2600 • 1300 554 114 or +61 2 6205 0044 (outside Australia)
• Open 9am-5pm on weekdays • Open 9am-4pm on weekends and public holidays • Closed Christmas Day



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..... THE Icons

Canberra is home to a host of Australia's best-known attractions. If it's your first time in the city, here's what to put on your hit list. Return visitor? There are ways to see them anew, too.





Arts + Culture



National Gallery of Australia

♥ Parkes Place, Parkes

An incredible 160,000-plus works are held at the National Gallery, including the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Until mid-April, you can see the works of two of the art world's fiercest rivals – Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. If you're here between 30 May and mid-September, check out over 150 works in *Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now*. And from mid-November, the creations of some of Europe's greatest talents can be seen in *Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London*. Visited the gallery since late 2018? You may know Yayoi Kusama's infinity room, a visually arresting bright yellow space covered in black polka dots (see page 23). But you may not have witnessed the ethereal clouds of Fujiko Nakaya's sculpture *Foggy wake in a desert: An ecosphere* (1982), which operates daily between 12.30pm and 2pm.
→ nga.gov.au



National Gallery of Australia and Ramingining artists' *The Aboriginal Memorial* (1987-88) (above) and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (below).

National Portrait Gallery

♥ King Edward Terrace, Parkes

Discover a collection of Australia's most enigmatic faces captured in ways that bring them to life – everyone from actress Cate Blanchett to football legend Adam Goodes.
→ portrait.gov.au

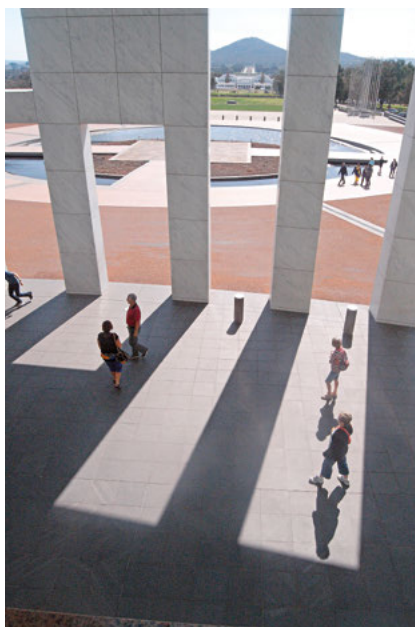
National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

♥ McCoy Circuit, Acton

Find three million records of Australia's audiovisual history here. Settle in for the daily film program to see what life in our cities looked like in the 1960s and enjoy a selection of films from the Black Screen collection, made by Indigenous filmmakers.
→ nfsa.gov.au



Democracy



Parliament House

♥ Parliament Drive, Capital Hill

It's the place where laws are made, debate rages and, every now and then, harmony can be found, too. Watching members of the Senate or House of Representatives go head-to-head is the most exhilarating way to see Australian democracy at work but there's much more to do at Parliament House. Spend a moment hunting for Halley's Comet in the Great Hall tapestry or head to the roof lawn for 360-degree views of the city. This year, the More Than Politics tour takes you below-decks to discover some lesser-known treasures inside the nation's most important building before indulging in a high tea with local wine or beer and a gin tasting session. You'll leave with a tote bag of goodies, including a bottle of Parliamentary Librarian's Gin.

→ aph.gov.au

Parliament House (above and right) and inside the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (below).



Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

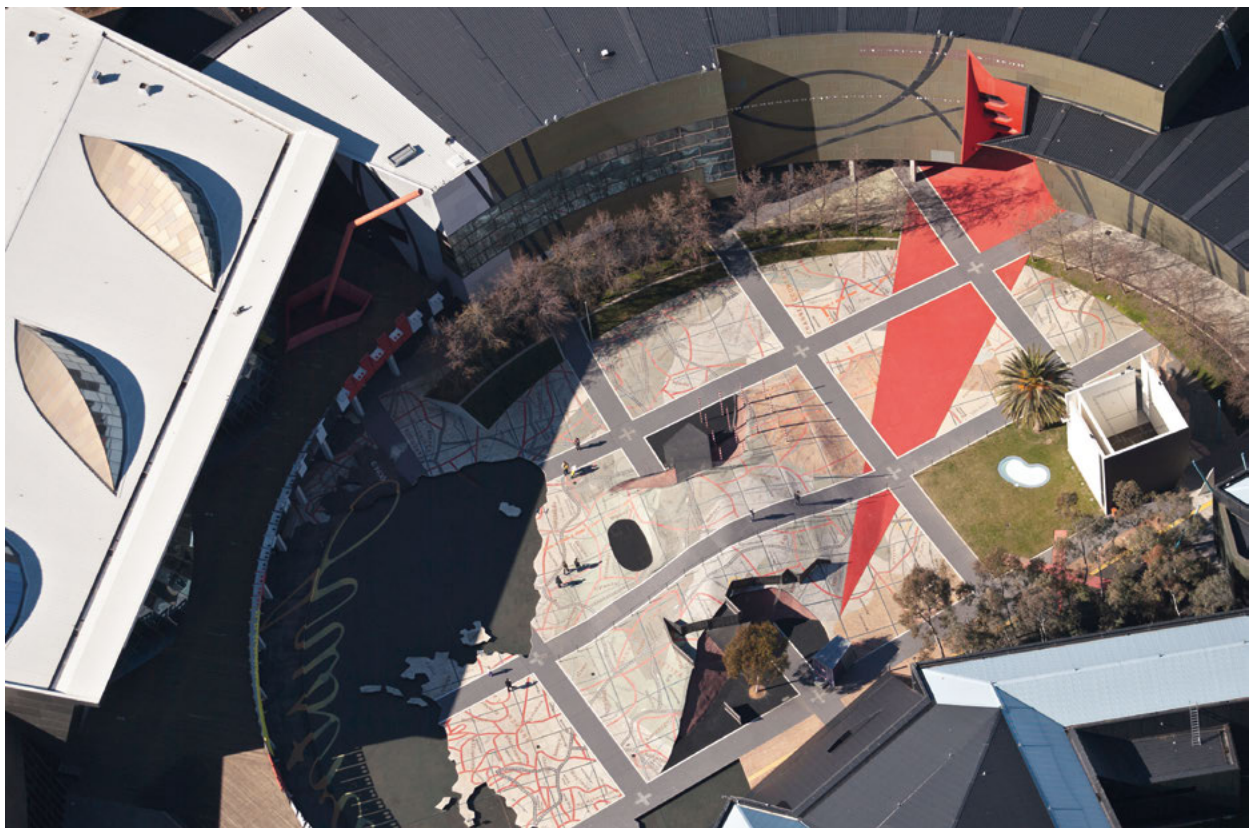
♥ King George Terrace, Parkes

Old Parliament House ceased its official duties in 1988 and now houses engaging memorabilia – including the red heels Julie Bishop wore when she announced her resignation from Parliament. Take the kids to explore PlayUp, a fun and interactive area featuring the 'Kindness Café', encouraging role-play, and with free daily craft sessions from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

→ moadoph.gov.au



History



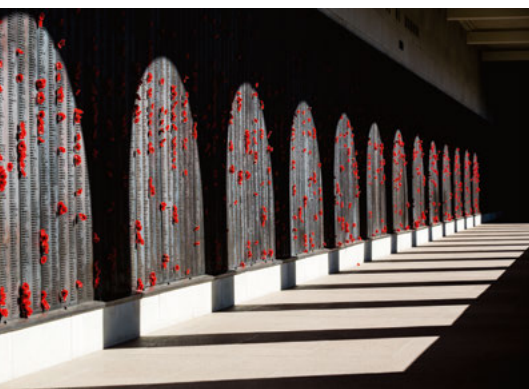
National Museum of Australia

♥ Lawson Crescent, Acton Peninsula

With over 210,000 pieces that depict Australia's history and culture, the National Museum preserves and interprets the timeline of the nation. In 2020, experience a new take on the Cook and *Endeavour* stories from the perspectives of those on the ship and on the shore. From April, *Yidaki: Didjeridu and the Sound of Australia* celebrates the Indigenous musical instrument, from its birthplace in Arnhem Land to the concert halls of Europe. And if you've ever dreamt of exploring a seemingly inaccessible destination – Antarctica, perhaps, or outer space – the 360-degree virtual reality experiences will take you there without the peril or price tag.

→ nma.gov.au

The Garden of Australian Dreams at the National Museum of Australia (above) and the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (left).



Australian War Memorial

♥ Treloar Crescent, Campbell

The moving *For our Country* sculpture, made of thousands of reflective lenses, is a tribute to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have defended the nation. Between about 9am and 10am on a clear day, the sun shines through the glass, giving visitors an unmatched view of the memorial.

→ awm.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

♥ Kings Avenue, Parkes

Step into the country's memory bank – the National Archives holds records documenting the decisions made throughout Australia's history, including our constitution.

→ naa.gov.au

National Library of Australia

♥ Parkes Place, Parkes

Visit the stacks, discover stories in the reading rooms and explore a treasure trove of rare books, maps, photographs and manuscripts that illustrate the heartbeat of the nation.

→ nla.gov.au

Kids

Questacon

♥ King Edward Terrace, Parkes

It's not a stretch to say The National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon) is the number one place kids will clamour to visit – but it's not all about the Free Fall slide. The current *Born Or Built?* exhibit, in place until the end of October, will leave kids and adults with more questions than answers as they examine the blurred lines between man and machine. The stunningly detailed *The Moon* exhibit, which is suspended from the ceiling and allows visitors to gaze at the cratered surface, is also set to remain in place until June. Make sure you time your visit with one of the free daily Spectacular Science Shows – they're a high-energy riot of information on everything from spiders to rockets and dinosaurs.

→ questacon.edu.au



Questacon's Möbius strip sculpture (above) and *Born or Built?* exhibition (left). Metal sculptures at the AIS (below).

Australian Institute of Sport

♥ Leverrier Street, Bruce

This elite sports training precinct is where champions are made. Head behind the scenes on a 90-minute tour; it might be led by an Australian representative athlete on a break from training or you could watch a volleyball team polish their skills – it's different every day. You can also work up a sweat in the interactive *Sportex* exhibit – shoot hoops like a pro or find out what it's like to speed down a skeleton track at over 100 kilometres per hour.

→ experienceais.com



Experiences



Hot-air balloon ride

♥ Depart Hyatt Hotel Canberra, Yarralumla

It's rare to be able to take a hot-air balloon ride over a nation's centre of power, but in Canberra you can. Dawn flights from Balloon Aloft take to the air just as the sun rises and conclude with a champagne celebration at Hyatt Hotel Canberra, with an option of a full buffet breakfast. Aside from the pink, purple and gold colour burst of the sunrise, one of the most arresting sights is the highly-stylised courtyard of the National Museum of Australia and its looping Uluru line sculpture, which can be seen in full glory when you float above.

→ balloonaloftcanberra.com.au



Floriade

♥ Commonwealth Park, Parkes

The country's premier spring festival from 12 September to 11 October is created using over one million bulbs. But there's more to this celebration than flowers; there are markets, workshops, plus music and comedy at NightFest, Floriade's after-hours side.

→ floriadeaustralia.com

Enlighten Festival

♥ Parliamentary Zone venues

Canberra's famous architecture lights up with vibrant, clever and compelling projections. It's an enchanting setting for streets that come alive with performance art, musical acts, night noodle markets and more from 28 February to 15 March.

→ enlightencanberra.com

Hot-air balloon ride (above) and the Enlighten Festival (right).

Lake Burley Griffin

♥ Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes

The Lake, as it's known, is one of those landmarks locals love and use just as much as visitors. The lakeside parks and paths are the city's outdoor fitness arena, with many people walking, running or cycling the five-kilometre bridge-to-bridge stretch as their daily exercise – or to take in the stunning views. Zip along on an easy-to-use, foldable Brompton bike, which can be hired from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre on the lake's northern shore (address above). Or enjoy the water from a kayak or stand-up paddleboard (hire from The Paddle Hub between October and April; canberra.ymca.org.au) or a self-captained boat (book one with GoBoat Canberra; canberra.goboat.com.au).

→ nca.gov.au



Cycle and sail around Lake Burley Griffin (above left and right) and the view from Mount Ainslie Lookout (right).



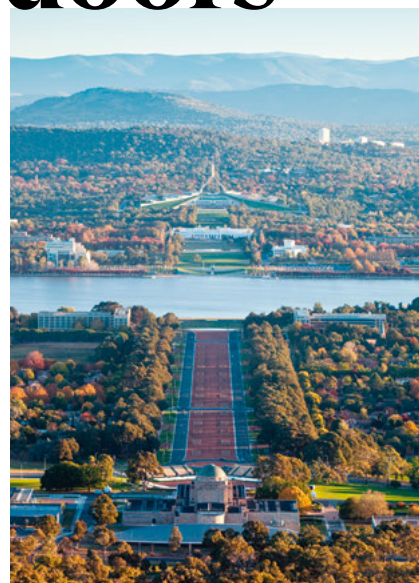
Outdoors

Mount Ainslie Lookout

♥ Mount Ainslie Drive, Ainslie

You might spot a politician on his or her morning walk as you make your way to this scenic spot but you're much more likely to share the path with the local kangaroos. From the top, the sweeping view across the city is one to capture, with the stately line of Anzac Parade leading up to both old and new Parliament House.

→ environment.act.gov.au



Child's play

The school set may be the toughest holiday critics. Add these fun-filled activities to your to-do list for a glowing report card.



01.

Keep them moving at the National Arboretum

"Today we're going to look at a place that grows lovely trees" may not be a phrase that would excite many under-10s. Yes, the National Arboretum Canberra is home to more than 44,000 trees from all over the world but reassure the little ones there's much more than that to grab their interest. Not only is there the nature-themed Pod Playground with airborne capsules resembling acorns connected by tunnels and nets (above right) but there's also space to race around with kites on a windy day and wide, green hills to roll down. Once everyone is tired out, Sprout Café has all your favourites, including burgers and salads, and views across the city. → nationalarboretum.act.gov.au





02.

Climb walls at BlocHaus bouldering gym

According to the gang at BlocHaus, Canberra's premier bouldering gym, you're never too young to learn how to rock climb – though over-fives are likely to get the most out of the experience. While the little ones explore the dedicated kids' climbing area with easy-to-follow, colour-coded routes, you can test out your own skills, too. BlocHaus also becomes sensory-friendly on the second Sunday of every month. Music and lights are turned off (allowing natural light only) so children with special needs can enjoy climbing in a calm setting.

→ blochausbr.com.au



03.

Take an intergalactic trip at Canberra Space Centre

Got a space-mad kid on your hands? Visit the Canberra Space Centre, a 45-minute drive from the CBD, to see an actual chunk of the Moon and discover what astronauts eat when they're in space. You can also learn about Australia's role in the exploration and understanding of everything that goes on in our galaxy and beyond. The range of interactive exhibits and displays covers everything a budding astronaut could want – and it's free.

→ www.cdsc.nasa.gov

04.

Score a strike at Kingpin

Conveniently located in the Canberra Centre, this brand-new outpost of the country's wildly popular entertainment hub has the lot, including ten-pin bowling, escape rooms, over 100 arcade games, karaoke, pool tables and more.

→ kingpinplay.com



05. Hunt for dragons at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Pick up a DIY explorer leaflet at the main entrance or follow the Who Lives Here? signposted discovery walk to learn about the biodiversity of the gardens. Keep your eyes peeled and you should spot the native water dragons – a harmless, medium-sized lizard – who make the gardens their home. If that's not enough reptile for you, every January the Botanic Gardens teams up with the ACT Herpetological Association for *Snakes Alive!*, a week-long exhibition featuring rare, endangered and threatened reptiles and amphibians, held away from the summer heat in the garden's Environmental Education Centre.

→ anbg.gov.au



06. Learn Japanese at Iori restaurant

The food is exceptional and the menu has plenty of kid-friendly options, including avocado and cucumber rolls and chicken teriyaki. But what makes this Japanese restaurant stand out is the top-shelf service. The staff at this CBD diner love kids and are extremely patient and helpful (they'll even show you how to use chopsticks). There are also Japanese phrases printed on the chopstick sleeves so your kids can learn how to say *konnichiwa* (good afternoon) and thank the restaurant's staff with *arigato* on the way out.

→ iori.com.au

07.

Cool off at the Cotter River

Sometimes, all you need is a picnic, a playground and somewhere to paddle. Find a spot for all three at Cotter Avenue, a recreation area 30 minutes from the city on the banks of the Cotter River.

→ environment.act.gov.au



08.

Pick fruit and vegetables at The Possum Patch

Award-winning Pialligo Estate wants kids to understand that food doesn't just come from supermarket shelves. Alongside its vineyard, orchards, olive groves and herb gardens is The Possum Patch, an events and activities centre that runs programs to help kids get their hands dirty and learn exactly how food makes it to their plate. During school holidays, the centre runs daily cooking classes, farm tours and fruit picking sessions. Book ahead online.

→ thepossumpatch.com.au



Shoot it, share it!
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09.

See a mini Stonehenge at Gold Creek Village

It's worth setting aside an entire day to explore Gold Creek Village, 20 minutes from the CBD. Visit The National Dinosaur Museum (left; nationaldinosaurmuseum.com.au), Canberra Reptile Zoo (reptilesinc.com.au) and feed the birds at the Canberra Walk-in Aviary (canberrawalkinaviary.com.au). And don't miss the miniature replicas of an old English village as well as famous landmarks including Stonehenge (right) at Cockington Green Gardens (cockingtongreen.com.au). Bring a picnic for lunch then enjoy an ice-cream from Stripey Sundae (stripeysundaecanberra.weebly.com) or a babyteano at Adore Tea (adoretea.com.au).
→ goldcreekvillage.com



10.

Unleash an F1 racer at Power Kart Raceway

Experience the thrill of an F1-style raceway at this world-class indoor go-karting track in Griffith. Once adrenaline reserves are exhausted, try out Jungle Golf, Canberra's first glow-in-the-dark, 18-hole mini golf course. You can even make it into a true tournament and buy a medal or trophy to present to your little champion.
→ powerkarts.com.au



11. Savour a sweet treat at Kynefin

If you're not indulging in over-the-top sweet things every day when you're away, are you even on holiday? The Italian-style bombolini doughnuts filled with crème patissiere and sold at Kynefin café in the historic village of Hall are one of the things all kids will remember about their trip for years to come. If they're still not sated, the OTT offerings at Space Kitchen in Phillip (space-kitchen.com.au) and Patissez in Manuka (patissez.com) should do the trick.
→ kynefin.com

12. Hit new heights at Flip Out

Kids and grown-ups of all ages will love bouncing off some extra energy at Flip Out in Mitchell, an indoor trampoline park less than 20 minutes from the CBD. The centre has trampolines for both over- and under-10s and sessions last from one to two hours. Work up an appetite and then grab lunch at the family-friendly Dickson Asian Noodle House (02 6247 6380), just a 10-minute drive away.
→ flipout.net.au



13. Ski just beyond the city limits at Corin Forest

You don't have to travel to the ski fields to hit the slopes. And if your family is new to skiing, this is the place to learn. Corin Forest has easy beginners' slopes designed to show kids the snow ropes but there are also plenty of places to build snowmen for those not ready to tackle the downhills. In summer, get a thrill dashing through the eucalypts on the alpine slide. The \$45 all-day pass is worth it – very few kids will be satisfied with just one or two turns.

→ corin.com.au

14. Hit a hole-in-one at Yarralumla Play Station

A round of golf at Parliament House? The iconic Canberra building is just one of the replicas kids can putt their way around at Lake Walter Mini Golf, a 36-hole miniature golf course at Weston Park's Yarralumla Play Station. They can even take a miniature train ride, too, or check out the animals in the miniature farm. For lunch, the kebabs at nearby Yarralumla Turkish Halal Pide House (halalpide.house.com.au) are legendary.

→ yarraps.com.au



15. Attack a snack at The Mandalay Bus

Grab something fast and fabulous at The Mandalay Bus, a Canberra food truck institution that celebrates the cooking of its beloved Burmese founder, the late Kyaw 'George' Thaung. It's now run by his son, Stew, who cooks up larb tortillas, Burmese coconut chicken noodles and waffle fries with satay sauce every Wednesday to Saturday from 6pm until late next to Haig Park in Braddon.

→ [@themandalaybus](https://www.instagram.com/themandalaybus)

16. Post a letter at the top of Black Mountain

Letters, remember those? Teach your kids about the old-fashioned art of snail mail by mailing a postcard to Grandma and Grandpa from Canberra's highest post box, located at the top of Black Mountain Telstra Tower. The vintage, red letterbox from the 1900s is accessible every day of the year and mail is collected on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

→ telstratower.com.au



17.

Glamp with wombats at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

In autumn and spring, you can book in for the ultimate sleepover at the Tidbinbilla Pop Up Family Wilderness Camp. You'll stay in a designer bell tent with all the creature comforts, including real beds, and join rangers as they host nightly wildlife walks where you might spot wallabies, potoroos, wombats, echidnas and more. Of course, you'll roast marshmallows by the fire, too.

→ wildfest.com.au/tidbinbilla

18. Walk on water at Canberra Aqua Park

Manuka Pool is always a hit with the kids (manukapool.com.au; see page 27) but new to the city is Canberra Aqua Park. Open through to March 2020 and with plans to pop up every summer, it lets kids over five tackle an inflatable obstacle course on Lake Burley Griffin. Sessions last 50 minutes and kids must be able to swim on their own. Looking for more water-based adventures? During summer, you can take a paddleboat around the lake (capitalpaddle.com.au) or visit Macquarie's Big Splash water park (bigsplashwaterpark.com.au) for fun slides and more.

→ canberraaquapark.com

19. Make your own money at the Royal Australian Mint

The birthplace of Australia's currency can make up to two million coins a day with the help of two robots, Robbie and Titan, and three automated guided vehicles called Penny, Pence and Florin. Kids can watch the robots hard at work from the Mint's observation deck. They can even make a commemorative \$1 coin. It costs \$3 but is a small price to pay to mint your own money.

→ ramint.gov.au

20. Hang out in the members' lounge at Questacon

Hang on, Questacon (see page 9) has a members' lounge? Yep, and if you're a member of Questacon, or any reciprocal venues – such as Melbourne's Scienceworks, Brisbane's Sciencentre and Sydney's Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences – you can pop into the lounge for a free tea and coffee after the kids have pushed buttons and pulled levers.

→ questacon.edu.au

Hidden gems

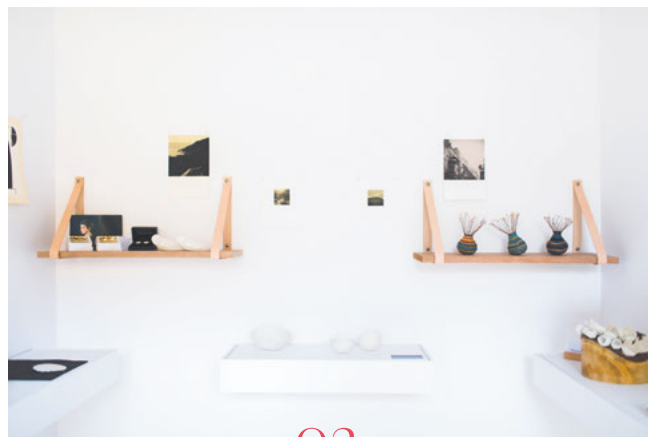
Beyond the excitement and grandeur of the major sights, there are countless under-the-radar moments just waiting for you – if you know where to look.



01.

Capture the sunrise from Lake Burley Griffin

Paul Jurak, aka the Kayak Cameraman (kayakcameraman.com), paddles out to the middle of the lake almost every morning, taking with him his camera and a love for the still beauty of the capital in the early hours. If you have a kayak, he suggests launching from The Boat House restaurant (theboathouse.restaurant) and paddling into the east basin. It's the perfect place to watch the sun rising over the poplar trees. "Autumn is one of the best times to catch the sunrise," Paul adds. "The drop in air temperature means you get spectacular misty mornings and then the sunrise bursts through."



02.

"Finding the Gallery of Small Things in Watson is a bit of a journey. You're driving around in suburbia then you go through the gate of an ordinary house and there you are! I love that you can buy a tiny piece of art here that doesn't need a huge hanging space; you can just keep it on a shelf or in the corner of your apartment."

– Sarah McDougall, co-owner of Lake George Winery.

→ galleryofsmallthings.com



03.

“Right next to the Parliamentary Zone is the Free Serbian Orthodox Church St George, Canberra’s little Sistine Chapel. You don’t have to be religious to appreciate the work that’s gone into it. An artist began doing the paintings in about 1968 and worked on it for 16 years – he began the painting when he was 77 years old. It opens Tuesdays to Saturdays between 10am and 2pm.”

– Margaret Wade,
tour guide and author
(canberrasecrets.com.au).

→ National Circuit, Forrest

04. Have lunch at the Royal Thai Embassy

Australians love Thai food so much that we’d claim it as our own if we could. To celebrate ties between the two countries, the Royal Thai Embassy in Yarralumla holds a Food and Cultural Festival in spring. Missed out? Canberra is home to nearly 80 embassies – spin down ‘Embassy Drive’ and see which countries you can name.
→ canberra.thaiembassy.org

05. Stay in a tiny house at Lake George

The boutique Lake George Winery, which specialises in cool-climate wines (see page 50), now has its own tiny house, Little George. Drift to sleep with views over the vines and stretch your legs the next morning with a wander around the vineyard. You can explore anywhere on the 300-acre property and bring your furry friends, too.
→ lakegeorgewinery.com.au



06.

Drink a next-level smoothie at Doubleshot café

Start your day right at this Deakin café. Snare a spot on the chocolate leather bench under a neon sign blazing with the words “I wake up wanting to kiss you” and order one of the popular smoothies. “The peanut butter smoothie is possibly the most delicious drink I’ve ever had,” says photographer and digital influencer Lauren Bath (laurenbath.com). “It’s exactly the right thickness and coolness and it’s perfectly sweet without being unhealthy – it’s vegan and sweetened with dates and banana.”

→ doubleshotdeakin.com.au

07.

Explore Tidbinbilla’s powerful past

To many, Tidbinbilla means excellent wildlife-spotting opportunities (see page 60). But to the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of the ACT, it’s a word that comes from *Jedbinbilla*, meaning the “place where boys were made men”. The nature reserve, once a location for sacred coming-of-age rituals, can be explored on a guided tour and is also one stop on the self-driving Ngunnawal Country track, beginning at the Yarramundi Cultural Centre and ending at Mount Ainslie Lookout. Keen for more? Canberra has seven other such tracks marked with signs (some using augmented reality) that introduce visitors to the Aboriginal history of the region.
→ canberratracks.act.gov.au

08.

“The Designer Op Shop Emporium is a mecca for all things vintage, designer and retro in the light industrial suburb of Fyshwick. Alongside unique vintage clothing and well-known labels, you’ll find homewares, jewellery and more.”

– Amanda Whitely,
founder and director of
HerCanberra.com.au.

→ dosemporium.com.au

09. Suit up at Kambah Pool

A sheltered waterway 20 minutes from the CBD and part of the Murrumbidgee River, Kambah Pool was designated a nude bathing area in the 1970s and is a popular spot to get respite from the summer heat. If going the full monty isn't what you had in mind, there are plenty of non-nude areas perfect for picnics and regular swimming (and the nude area is signposted).

→ environment.act.gov.au

10. Get spooked by a prime minister during a ghost tour

Tim the Yowie Man is an expert when it comes to everything paranormal and unexplained around Canberra and beyond. Join his Weird Canberra Ghost and History Tour to hear about the spirit who creates chaos at the Australian War Memorial and discover the real story about the tunnels linking The Lodge and Parliament House. You might even get to meet the prime minister who haunts one of Canberra's hotels.

→ yowieman.com.au



11.

Sleep between the vines at Mount Majura

The only winery that actually sits within the ACT boundary, Mount Majura Vineyard also offers an exclusive glamping experience. Spend a night on the vineyard's grounds in one of Naked Cubby Co's bell tents built for two and prepare yourself for some spectacular star gazing, aided by the estate's wines and proudly local food.

→ nakedcubbycollective.com

12.

Fill your cup at the Negroni fountain in Amici bar

It's cocktails on tap, quite literally. And the Negroni fountain is just one of the delights served up at this modern Italian bistro in Canberra City. You'll also find a concise edit of cocktails, plus a menu of boutique wines. Tasty morsels include platters of local and international charcuterie and cheeses, Cuca sardines and hand-stretched pizza.

→ amici.bar



Shoot it, share it!

#VisitCanberra

15.

“Within Without (2010) at the National Gallery is a work of art by James Turrell. You sit inside a viewing space as the sun is setting. First, the sky is bright blue, then it goes deeper and deeper blue and then pitch-black. When you walk outside, you realise the sky is nowhere near pitch-black but your eyes have interpreted the light differently because you're looking through a hole.”

– Margaret Wade,
tour guide and author
(canberrasecrets.com.au).

→ nga.gov.au

16.

Discover Mount Ainslie after dark

Trek this popular walking trail on the weekend and you'll probably share it with locals who love the famous lookout. But wait until the sun goes down and you'll not only have a lot more space to yourself but you'll get an entirely different perspective of town. "I often do the walk at night with my dog to see the city lights," says Laurence Kain, co-founder and managing director of boutique brewery Capital Brewing Co (capitalbrewing.co). "It's amazing to see how much the city has grown in the past 30 years – you can really see the full expanse of it at night."

→ Mount Ainslie Drive, Ainslie

13. See where money grows under trees at Parliament House

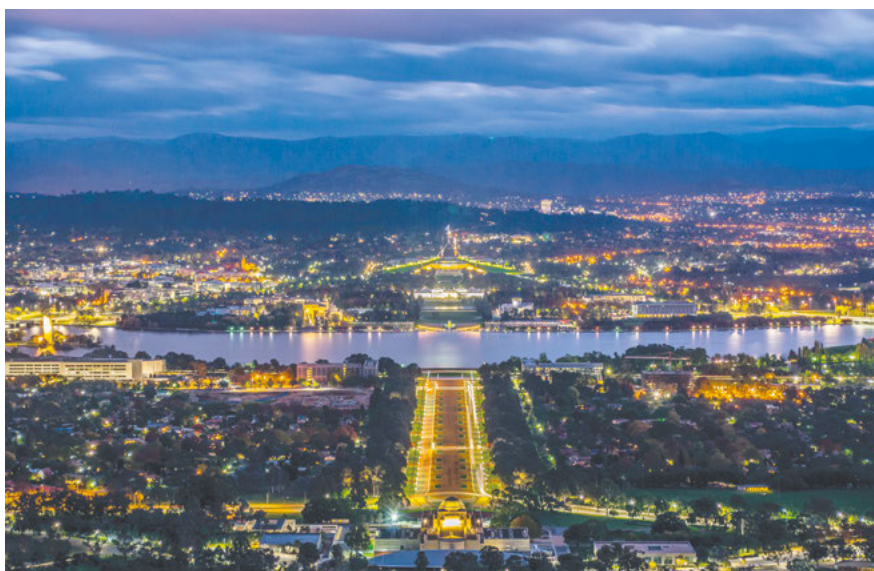
If you've watched an Australian treasurer deliver the post-budget press conference, you might have found the flame-red tree in the background more interesting than the words being broadcast. The Budget Tree, as it's known, is a sunset maple with leaves that blaze around traditional budget time in April and May. It's found in one of the inner courtyards of Parliament House and is usually off-limits to the public unless you join one of the daily Behind The Scenes tours or the courtyard gardens tours held in spring and autumn.

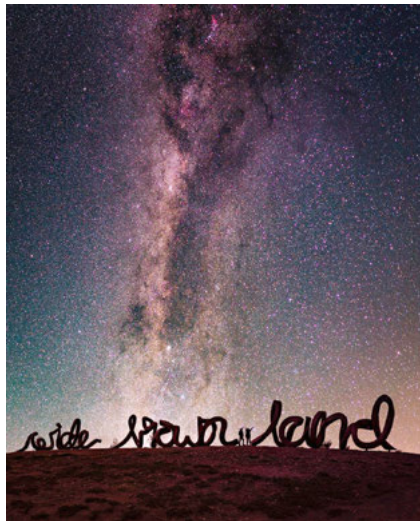
→ aph.gov.au

14. Step back in time at Lucky's Speakeasy

Tucked inside the quirky QT Canberra is a barber's shop. And hidden beyond its walls is Prohibition-themed bar Lucky's Speakeasy, where the nightcaps are strong and the living is easy. Don't expect it to be tiny – there are banquettes for a good-sized group.

→ qtcannberra.com.au





Wide Brown Land sculpture

♥ National Arboretum Canberra,
Weston Creek

It's literal poetry: Dorothea Mackellar's words, from her iconic work 'My Country' (nationalarboretum.act.gov.au).

Tess Godkin



Ricardo's Café

♥ Macquarie

Plating up never looked so pretty. Find your first snap of the day at this fun café, where breakfast is both a delight for your tastebuds and your eyes (ricardoscafe.com).

For the 'gram...

Food, design, nature and art – there are plenty of cool spots that serve up great photo ops right around town. Here are six for the mix.



@smilewithmel

Canberra Nara Peace Park

♥ Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla

It's a little slice of Japan in the heart of the city, complete with cherry blossoms that bloom with soft pops of pink come spring (environment.act.gov.au).

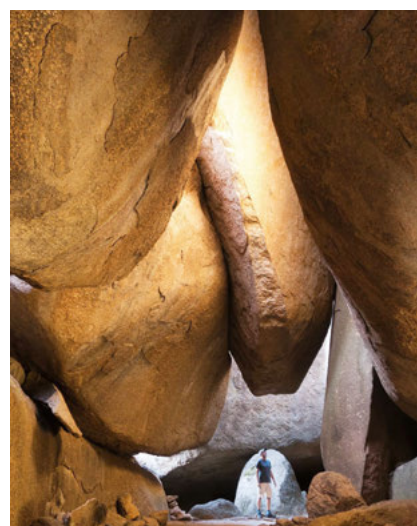


Ovolo Nishi foyer

♥ NewActon

This architectural eye candy makes for a dramatic backdrop. If viewed at the right angle, the many planks of timber suspended between the floor and ceiling of this hotel's lobby and staircase give the impression of travelling at warp speed (ovolohotels.com.au).

@angelinazxy



@markjek



Legoland

♥ Namadgi National Park, Paddys River

You'll look as small as you may feel walking among these enormous granite boulders (environment.act.gov.au).

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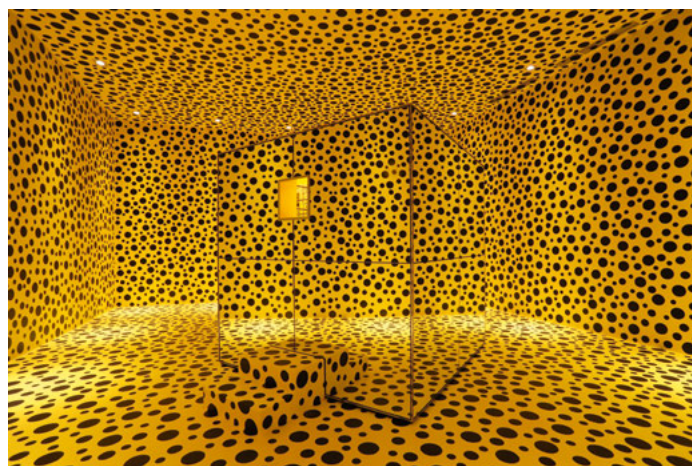


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Yayoi Kusama

Yayoi Kusama's infinity room

♥ National Gallery of Australia, Parkes

Officially, it's called *The Spirits of the Pumpkins Descended into the Heavens* (2017). Unofficially? The polka dot room (nga.gov.au).



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Image: Arriving in Australia on board the Sibajak, 1954.
NAA: A12111, 1/1954/4/23

This image comes from the National Archives'
Immigration Photographic Archive.
dest.nationaustralia.gov.au

ITINERARIES

→ *From*
sunrise
 ————— *to* —————
sunset

How do you unlock a city and find its beating heart? Follow the footsteps of locals. Discover where to eat, shop and play in three of Canberra's coolest precincts.



Manuka & Kingston

These leafy, heritage suburbs offer charming village shops, family-friendly dining, plenty of parks and activities for the kids, plus sophisticated pubs and bars for the grown-ups.



Braddon, Canberra City & NewActon

The city's buzzing urban centre is the place to appreciate art and live performances, shop local designers and international brands and people-watch at the hottest cafés, restaurants and bars.



Fyshwick, Majura & Pialligo

Located on the city's fringe, this emerging area combines cafés and shopping with gourmet surprises, a vineyard, green spaces to explore and even the odd platypus.



ITINERARIES

Manuka & Kingston

AM

1 Weekend brunch is a big deal in Canberra. Make a booking at Muse (musecanberra.com.au), a relaxed spot that keeps food-lovers happy with its delectable fare and book-lovers entertained with its setting – it shares space with a bookstore. The baked soufflé is popular with regulars as is the bottomless brunch for groups. Find eggs and soldiers on the kids' menu and a fun cartoon to colour in. Or try Typica Manuka (typica.com.au), on one corner of Manuka Lawns square. It's the local outpost of the city's beloved ONA coffee. Order the famous ONA roll (two strips of bacon, two fried eggs and your pick of sauce from barbecue, aioli and chutney) with your brew and sit at a sidewalk table to people-watch. Both cafés are open daily.

2 Manuka village is an easily walkable maze of malls and arcades. Memento Designs (momentodezigns.com.au) stocks designer women's fashion by the likes of Alex Perry, Bec & Bridge and Camilla. Wolfie (wearwolfie.com.au) is opposite Typica and has a lovely edit of children's clothes, toys and nursery décor. Or shop for an extra-precious souvenir at Creations (creationsjewellers.com.au) and visit Canberra Contemporary Art Space (ccas.com.au) on the next block. The small gallery shows a diverse range of local and international contemporary art and is open Friday to Sunday; admission is free.

3 You're in one of the city's garden precincts on the ACT Heritage Register so go for a wander. The 10-minute stroll to the playground at Griffith Park passes elegant old homes and beautiful gardens.

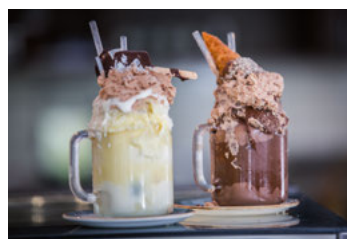
PM

4 Manuka village is a good spot for an early lunch. Urban Pantry (urbanpantrymanuka.com.au) is bright and casual and borders the Manuka Lawns. Sit outside and watch the kids play on the grass while you enjoy a seasonal salad or a bowl of pasta and a glass of Australian wine. Cross the square to Patissez (patissez.com) and





Patissez's famous milkshakes (top left), Urban Pantry (top and right), Canberra Glassworks (below) and Public Bar (left).



satisfy your sweet tooth with one of the café's famous 'FreakShakes' or freshly baked doughnuts for the road.

5 Scott Leggo Gallery (scottleggo.com) is a five-minute drive away in Kingston. The Australian photographer's work captures moments from around the country and his prints are available to purchase.

6 For more photographic art, stop by PhotoAccess (photoaccess.org.au) in the Manuka Arts Centre between Tuesday and Saturday to take in a contemporary exhibition. In the warmer months, cool off

at Manuka Pool (manukapool.com.au); it's right next door and open seven days. The outdoor swimming spot dates back to 1931 and has its original Art Deco façade – the popular pirate ship playground was added later. Across the road, Telopea Park has a skateboard half-pipe, sheltered kids' play equipment and public barbecues. On cricket and AFL game days, you may hear the roar of the crowds at nearby Manuka Oval (manukaoval.com.au).

7 If you need an afternoon pick-me-up, Penny University Café (pennyuniversitycafe.com) has daily single origin specials.





On a Sunday, make the three-minute drive to the vast Old Bus Depot Markets (obdm.com.au) at the Kingston Arts Precinct, where you'll find everything from hand-hewn wooden bowls and utensils to soy wax candles and Indigenous artworks. The markets also feature an eclectic array of international food stalls; Canberra locals the Cannoli Brothers (@CannoliBrothers.CBR) have mastered the Sicilian sweet treat – try and stop at one.

8 Just next door at Canberra Glassworks (canberraglassworks.com), see an exhibition or watch a live glass blowing demonstration. The gallery and studio is open from Wednesday to Sunday and you can book ahead for a one-on-one class with an artisan. Less creative types don't miss out, either – there's a gift shop of gorgeous pieces. Neighbouring Megalo Print Studio and Gallery (megalo.org) is open Tuesday to Saturday and exhibits screen-prints, lithographs and intaglio art. The studio also hosts woodblock, lino cutting and screen-printing workshops; book ahead.

9 Fill your lungs with fresh air and take a five-minute stroll to the Kingston Foreshore. Hire an electric GoBoat (canberra.goboat.com.au) to explore the glittering jewel in Canberra's crown, Lake Burley Griffin. You don't need a boating licence but bookings are essential.

10 Settle back on land with a laid-back dinner at greenery-filled gastropub Walt and Burley (waltandburley.com.au). Order a charcuterie board to share or classic pub fare such as steak, chicken schnitzel and Caesar salad, then find a seat outside or by the floor-to-ceiling windows on the lakeside. If you're lucky, there'll be live music. Alternatively, Otis Dining Hall (thisisotis.com.au), in the heart of Kingston, is a moody, wood-panelled bistro with a stellar 10-plate tasting menu. Kick on or wind down with drinks at Public Bar (publicbar.com.au), Manuka's buzzing local.

Also try...

GREAT BITES

Abell's Kopi Tiam, Manuka

→ abellskopitiam.com.au

Belluci's, Manuka

→ bellucis.com.au

Jewel of India, Manuka

→ jewelofindia.com.au

Timmy's Kitchen, Manuka

→ timmyskitchen.com.au

Portia's Place, Kingston

→ 02 6239 7970

BARS AND PUBS

Polit Bar, Manuka

→ www.politbar.co

Joe's Bar, Kingston

→ easthotel.com.au

Kingston Hotel, Kingston

→ kingstonhotel.com.au

The Dock, Kingston

→ thedockkingston.com.au

Cruise the lake with GoBoat (above left) and grab a drink at Public Bar (below).



National Library of Australia, Canberra

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Erik Lindberg (1873–1966) and Bertram Mackennal (1863–1931), *Olympic Gold Medal for Swimming Won by Fanny Durack at Stockholm* (detail), 1912, nla.cat-vn2104701.



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ITINERARIES

Braddon, Canberra City & NewActon

AM

1 Set back in a courtyard, Kyo Coffee Project (kyocoffeeproject.com) has your early caffeine fix covered (see page 39). Next, work up an appetite with some retail therapy on Lonsdale Street, Braddon's hip heart. Find high-end women's fashion, including Missoni and Ellery, at Pink Ink Boutique (pinkinkboutique.com.au), designers such as By Johnny and Alice McCall at Rebel Muse (rebelmuse.com.au) or focus on Australian made jewellery, art and homewares at Timber and Tailor (timberandtailor.com). Pick up a souvenir at Bison Home (bisonhome.com), makers of ceramic and glass dinnerware in a rainbow of colours, and discover gifts and goodies from plant pots to salad servers and silk scarves at Hive (@thehiveonlonsdalest). For brunch, Rye Café (ryecafe.com.au) is a favourite with locals (see page 38) or



Parlour restaurant and the grand staircase at Ovolo Nishi (right).



Bison Home,
Nishi Gallery (far
right) and Sonoma
bakery (below).



Across the road, the Canberra Centre (canberracentre.com.au) is a one-stop shopping destination. Find Zara, H&M, Peter Alexander, COS, David Jones, Nike, Muji, Myer and more. If the kids are dragging their feet, treat them to a ride on the carousel in Petrie Plaza.

PM

3 In nearby NewActon, there are lots of great options for lunch. Morning Glory (morning-glory.com.au) is a contemporary diner overlooking a courtyard (see page 40). Just across Kendall Lane, Mocan and Green Grout (mocanandgreengrout.net) is a cosy den of timber, brass and forest green details. Sit at a table by the open kitchen with a fair trade coffee or a glass of wine or beer and order from a menu that features local produce.

Check out the latest exhibition at Nishi Gallery (nishigallery.com.au), next to pretty community-tended John Avery Gardens, then cross Parkes Way via the footbridge to the lakefront. There's space for the little ones to run around and a spectacular view of Parliament House across the water.

On Saturday afternoons, the Cellar Door (@CellarDoorCBR) wine and produce market (held in the grand staircase of the

grab a table at beloved bakery Sonoma (sonoma.com.au). Try the toasted muesli or a selection of indulgent pastries baked fresh each day.

2 A 10-minute walk away and open from Tuesday to Saturday, Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre (craftact.org.au) features exhibitions by international and local makers. From pottery vessels to embroidery, jewellery and more, the gift shop is filled with beautiful handcrafted pieces to take home. Next door, Canberra Museum and Gallery (cmag.com.au) tells the social history of the Canberra region with a mix of traditional, modern and Indigenous art exhibits. Here you'll also find *The Nolan Collection*, a permanent display of 24 paintings by celebrated Australian artist Sir Sidney Nolan.





Ovolo Nishi hotel) celebrates local growers. Stop by for a pre-dinner wine tasting.

Many of the city's finest restaurants are within blocks of each other in NewActon. Rebel Rebel (rebelrebeldining.com.au) is the European-style new kid on the block (see page 44), while Monster Kitchen and Bar (monsterkitchen.com.au) remains a favourite. The designer space, set within the Ovolo Nishi hotel, is all terrazzo floors, chevron panelled ceilings and a shimmering mosaic wall. Expect local and seasonal share plates and a wine list with plenty of Canberra drops. Nearby, elegant and old-world dining room Parlour (parlour.net.au) boasts a Spanish-inspired menu and an impressive drinks list, from Australian wines to cocktails and spirits.

4 After dinner, take in a show – the city's best performing arts venues are not far away. See a play or performance at Canberra Theatre Centre (canberratheatrecentre.com.au) or The Street Theatre (thestreet.org.au); catch a movie at Arc Cinema

in the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (nfsa.gov.au); or enjoy live music at Llewellyn Hall (llewellynhall.com.au) and the Cultural Centre Kambri (kambri.anu.edu.au). The National Convention Centre Canberra (nccc.com.au) also hosts a range of concerts and conferences.

5 Stop for a nightcap at Bar Rochford (barrochford.com), an upstairs haunt that feels like the home of your coolest friend (see page 47). Shelves are stacked with wine and records and there's an open fireplace. Grab a seat at the central bar, in a green leather booth or by the arched 'love' window overlooking London Circuit.

Bar Rochford (right) and trout with burnt mandarin at Rebel Rebel (above).



Also try...

GREAT BITES

Frugii Dessert Laboratory, Braddon

→ frugii.com

Gather Cafe, Braddon

→ cafegather.com.au

Gelato Messina, Braddon

→ gelatomessina.com

Lonsdale St Roasters, Braddon

→ lonsdalestreetroasters.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Dendy Cinema, Canberra City

→ dendy.com.au

Royal Theatre, Canberra City

→ nccc.com.au

Palace Electric Cinemas, NewActon

→ palacecinemas.com.au

BARS AND PUBS

Assembly, Braddon

→ assemblycbr.com.au

Rizla, Braddon

→ drinkrizla.com.au

Highball Express, Canberra City

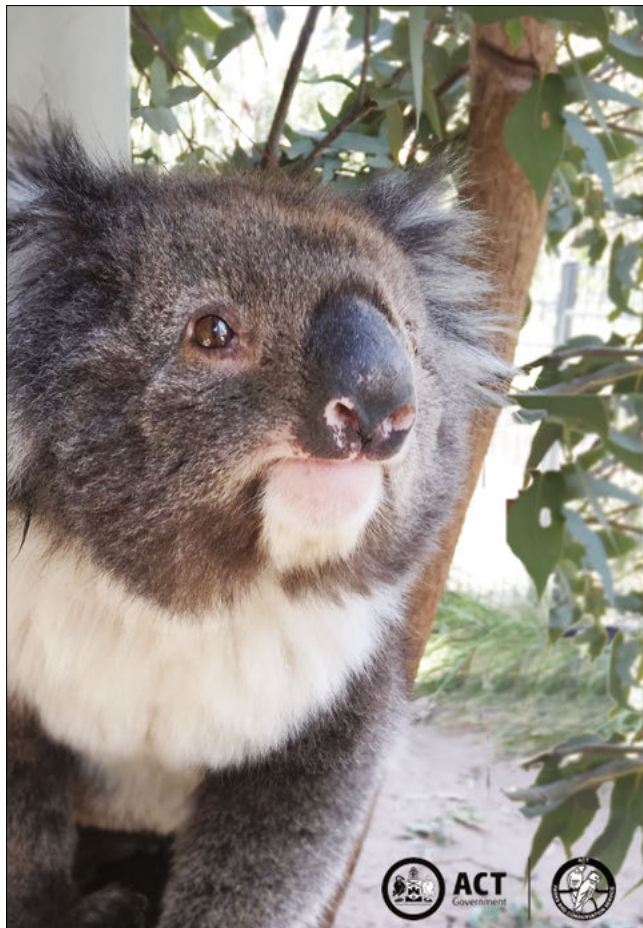
→ www.highballexpress.com.au

Mooseheads Pub and Nightclub, Canberra City

→ mooseheads.com.au

White Rabbit Cocktail Room, Canberra City

→ whiterabbitroom.com.au



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ITINERARIES

Fyshwick, Majura & Pialligo

AM

1 Kick off with caffeine at Canberra institution DNA Coffee House (dnacoffee.com.au; see page 39); this flagship venue is also home to the roastery. Around the corner, Wildflour Artisan Bakery and Cafe (wildflour.com.au) has a kids' playground with a cubbyhouse, so the grown-ups can finish a flat white while it's still hot. Order freshly baked croissants or breakfast classics such as eggs how you like them and French toast. Or, on Thursday to Sunday, head to Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets (fyshwickmarkets.com.au), Canberra's oldest markets, and munch on pastries as you peruse the stores.

2 A five-minute drive away, Designer Op Shop Emporium (dosemporium.com.au) is home to a mix of contemporary and vintage finds. Think mid-century ceramics, retro jewellery and fashion, Cire Trudon candles (which also perfume the space) and pre-loved pieces from fashion labels such as Miu Miu and Gucci. If you're keen on a more modern shopping spree, Canberra Outlet Centre (canberraoutletcentre.com.au) is a five-minute drive away. It's open seven days a week and offers discounts of up to 70 per cent off favourite brands including Nike, Bonds, Ralph Lauren and Cotton On. A further 10 minutes away, you'll find Ikea (ikea.com) and, at Majura Park Shopping Centre (majuraparkshopping.com.au), Costco (costco.com.au) and more.



PM

3 From the heart of Fyshwick, it's a scenic 15-minute drive to Mount Majura Vineyard (mountmajura.com.au; see page 54). Nestled at the base of vine-lined hills just off Majura Parkway, this relaxed cellar door is open every day for tastings. When the weather's in your favour, sit outside on the patio to sample the winery's varieties, including riesling, shiraz and tempranillo, as you take in the pastoral scenery. For an exclusive gourmet experience, The Truffle Farm (thetrufflefarm.com.au) is two minutes down the road and holds truffle



ONA Coffee House (left), Mount Majura Vineyard (above), Brodburger at Capital Brewing Co (right), and Vertikal Indoor Snow Sports (below).



hunts as well as degustation lunch and dinner packages during the season (from late May to early September). You'll need to book well ahead.

4 Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Pialligo Estate (thepialligoestate.com.au). The sprawling property is a 15-minute drive from Majura and close to the airport, and features a farm, vineyard and smokehouse. The onsite restaurant, The Pavilion, serves lunch and dinner from Wednesday to Sunday. Choose from build-your-own charcuterie boards and share plates of estate-grown goodies and keep the little ones happy with the two-course kids' menu. The laid-back, modern farmhouse space enjoys stunning views of the gardens and city beyond.

5 Back in Fyshwick, burn off some energy at Vertikal Indoor Snow Sports (vertikal.snowsports.com), where you can practice downhill skiing. It's open Tuesday to Sunday.

Around the corner, BlocHaus (blochausbr.com.au), a bouldering gym that's open every day, is great for rock-climbing enthusiasts.

6 Go exploring at Jerrabomberra Wetlands (jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au). There are well signposted walking trails and bike tracks through the floodplain landscape, plus plenty of birds, frogs and even platypus to look out for, too.

7 On two wheels or two legs, Capital Brewing Co (capitalbrewing.co; see page 47) is a short trip from the wetlands. There's something for everyone at this warehouse brewery: beers on tap and a tasting paddle if you can't pick between the Trail Pale Ale and Evil Eye Red IPA. Plus, a Brodburger van serves the city's favourite burgers and hot dogs. Sit in the taproom around the fire, outside on the lawn or in the courtyard to watch the kids play in the cubbyhouse. Book ahead for brewery tours.

3 in fun.

Canberra

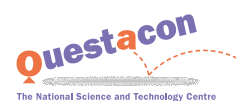
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BRADDON

Rye Café

Sit inside the cool, Scandi-inspired space or grab a table on the terrace and settle in for some people watching over Five Senses coffee, chai, tea or the gunfire: a long black with rum. Expect sophisticated takes on standards such as bircher muesli and baked eggs, plus Nordic flavours including smorrebrod open sandwiches.

→ ryecafe.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

The Cupping Room

This coffee hotspot keeps racking up the accolades for its uncompromising quality. Headed by world champion barista Sasa Sestic, The Cupping Room is synonymous with caffeine best practice and offers all-day breakfasts and exotic brunches with vegan and gluten-free options. Try its coffee blends or selection of reserve teas.

→ thecuppingroom.com.au



KINGSTON

Local Press Café

Build your breakfast with ingredients such as avocado, bacon and cured salmon at this lakeside health hub. Or try its seasonal dishes, such as the beetroot and caraway loaf with asparagus, brussels sprouts, vegan cheese, hazelnuts and cashew crumble. Juices are freshly pressed and served in recyclable bottles by staff as cheerful as the colourful knitted tea cosies.

→ localpresscafe.com.au



KINGSTON

Silo Bakery and Cafe

This favourite draws a crowd so be prepared to wait for a table. If you're taking away, peruse the selection of baked goods in the glass cabinet. Eating in? Breakfast highlights include welsh rarebit and pumpkin doughnuts with berry compote and chocolate mascarpone.

→ silobakery.com.au



Kyo Coffee Project (above) and smashed avocado and poached eggs at The Cupping Room (below).



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→ If you want...

A caffeine hit



FYSHWICK

ONA Coffee House

The original café by Canberra's beloved brand is also its roast house. Sit inside by the open kitchen or outside beneath the colourful graffiti mural. Try a specialty brew and order the bacon and egg roll, eggs and toast your way or a daily special. The kids' menu includes waffles and toasties.

→ onacoffee.com.au



BRADDON

Kyo Coffee Project

Coffee fanatics will love the pour-over brews but the espresso and milk classics are exceptional, too. In the courtyard of an architect-designed complex, this hip café has an Asian-inspired menu that includes a kimchi toastie and bento breakfast.

→ kyocoffeeproject.com



ONA Coffee House roasts its coffee onsite.



BRADDON

Barrio Collective

It's more than a hole in the wall, less than a standard café but the coffee here is just right. Perch on one of the stools and enjoy a seasonal blend with house-made nut milk. More of a tea aficionado? There's plenty for you, too, including a chaga chai.

→ barriocollective.com



CANBERRA CITY

Coffee Lab

If you need a mid-shopping pick-me-up, this Canberra Centre café is the goods. As well as making a mean latte, it offers all-day breakfast and a kids' menu designed by someone who gets young tastebuds. For a serious kick, try the cold brew by Canberra's coffee specialists, Bellerophon.

→ [@coffeelabcanberra](https://www.instagram.com/coffeelabcanberra)

Key:



TAKEAWAY



FAMILY-FRIENDLY



BOOKING RECOMMENDED

→ *If you want...*

Lunch



ACTON

Pollen Cafe

Nestled in the Australian National Botanic Gardens on the lower slopes of Black Mountain, Pollen is for lunching outdoors. Grab a table on the café's deck and take in the birdsong while perusing the menu, which includes dishes such as poke bowls, chicken chimichanga and pumpkin and rosemary fritters. The kids will love the battered fish bites with chips and mini pancakes with maple syrup.

→ pollencafe.com.au



PARKES

Bookplate

One for the bibliophiles – this eatery, set inside the National Library of Australia, offers a satisfying spin on café fare. Choose from options including a gourmet Wagyu burger, pulled pork tacos or a salad of roast pumpkin and grilled zucchini. Book an inside table to admire the stained-glass windows or request a seat on the terrace in warmer months.

→ bookplate.com.au



Shoot it, share it!
#VisitCanberra



NEWACTON

Morning Glory

This is Asian fusion at its best. Delivered by the XO crew (see page 48), Morning Glory offers a menu that mixes flavours with superb results – think Hainanese chicken with roti, salsa, avocado and chilli relish.

→ morning-glory.com.au



SPRINGRANGE

Poachers Pantry

Want to try kangaroo prosciutto? Just 30 minutes from the CBD, you'll find a range of smoked goods available to purchase from the farm shop. For an indulgent experience, visit the restaurant from Thursday to Sunday and tuck into the tasting-menu lunch.

→ poacherspantry.com.au



The deck at Pollen Cafe (right). Black rice pudding and eggs Benedict at Morning Glory (above).



→ *If you want...*

Family-friendly dining



Brodburger (top)
and Snapper on
the Lake (above).



KINGSTON, DICKSON & FYSHWICK

Brodburger

This burger joint actually encourages diners to skip the queue. Simply order online and time your arrival at one of three locations at Canberra Glassworks, Coop at Soho or Capital Brewing Co for when your meal's ready to go. The menu has something for everyone, from the meaty Deluxe to the OMV (Oh My Vegan) and mini options, too.

→ brodburger.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

Sammy's Kitchen

If you need proof that Sammy's Kitchen consistently churns out delicious fare, just check out the crowds. The restaurant's extensive Chinese and Malaysian menu ensures this place is always buzzing with diners. Nosh on hawker-style noodles and kampong curries or choose from the chef's favourites, including Mongolian fillet steak or Shantung chicken.

→ sammyskitchen.com.au



YARRALUMLA

Snapper on the Lake

Nestled beneath the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin is a fish and chip shop that serves up spectacular lake views. Nab an outdoor table or set up a picnic blanket on the grass under the trees and relax with a box of crumbed, battered or grilled fish and chips. Salads and chicken burgers are also available.

→ csc.com.au/snapper



DICKSON

Dickson Dumpling House

The menu is huge, so buy yourself some time and start by ordering da bao for the kids (it's a steamed pork bun that is easily shareable) then find a dish for even the fussiest member of your troupe. With over 150 options, everyone will go home happy.

→ 02 6248 8350

→ If you want...

A sugar fix



CANBERRA CITY

Doughnut Department

There are doughnuts and then there are doughnuts. The hand-cut offerings here are big enough to share and come in a rotating variety of flavours that are always inventive, including lime and mint glaze, dulce de leche with toasted almonds and matcha mascarpone.

→ thedoughnutdept.com.au



PHILLIP

Space Kitchen

On weekends, you may find the surrounding streets to be a little quiet. But step inside and you'll find a café that's buzzing. Patrons crowd around the counter to choose from confections so over the top, even sugar fiends meet their match.

→ space-kitchen.com.au



Shoot it, share it!

#VisitCanberra

Sweet treats at Frugii Dessert Laboratory (left and above) and Space Kitchen (below).



BRADDON

Sweet Bones

It's Canberra's go-to place for deliciously sweet vegan delights. Get here early to grab a cinnamon scroll and coffee to go or settle in for a blueberry pancake stack with organic maple syrup and house-made coconut cream. Don't leave without bagging a couple of cake pops for the road.

→ sweetbonescompany.com



BRADDON

Frugii Dessert Laboratory

Indulge in artisanal gelato, sorbet or fancy ice-cream on a stick at this minimalist, industrial spot. Flavours are as exotic as cardamom and frankincense but salted caramel is the firm favourite. Claim a seat at the shared table and warm back up with Toby's Estate coffee.

→ frugii.com



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f VisitGoulburn

GOULBURN
Australia

Into the night

Here's a twist: Canberra has more hatted restaurants per capita than any other city in Australia. From gourmet degustations to casual-cool haunts and family-friendly diners, these are the best spots when the sun goes down.



→ *If you want...*

The hottest restaurants

Rebel Rebel (above)
and Asian fusion
eatery Akiba (below).



NEWACTON

Rebel Rebel

This recent addition to NewActon's food scene – the latest venture from renowned chef Sean McConnell – combines excellent fare, edgy design and cool music while serving up an all-day menu. Come here after-hours to sample the Moonlight Flat oysters, raw or with pomelo and pink peppercorn, and follow it up with a sardine piadina with caramelised onion.

→ rebelrebelddining.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

Akiba

It draws a crowd on weekends for yum cha but buzzes most nights thanks to the Asian fusion share plates. An eight-course 'feed me' menu means no deciding between the pork belly bun and raw kingfish. But picking a sake from what the eatery claims to be Australia's largest sake menu is up to you.

→ akiba.com.au



BRADDON

EightySix

The Pickle Back cocktail – a mix of bourbon and pickle juice – neatly sums up this joint, which has been testing boundaries since it opened in 2013. The menu is written on the walls and features starters such as jamon and coffee butter crouton and mains including oxtail ragu and pumpkin tortellini. Don't leave without trying the caramel popcorn sundae.

→ eightysix.com.au



AINSLIE

Pilot

In an unassuming suburban spot, this contemporary and hatted diner is a relaxed, elegant surprise. Order à la carte or opt for the prix fixe menu – both include innovative dishes such as cabbage e pepe, a spin on the Roman classic. An Australian wine list and cool interiors seal the deal.

→ pilotrestaurant.com



→ *If you want...*

A romantic setting



CANBERRA CITY

Raku

This Japanese restaurant is solid date-night material, with its sleek aesthetic and sublime food. Book a private booth and take in chef Hao San's tasting menu or try the Raku royal banquet. Alternatively, design your own tantalising tour through the impressive dinner offerings of sashimi, nigiri and exquisitely prepared meats, including Wagyu tenderloin skewers.

→ rakudining.com.au



Wagyu steak at Raku (top right) and soft-shell crab mantou at The Boat House (above).



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#VisitCanberra



BARTON

The Boat House

When it comes to location, there's not much that can top The Boat House, which offers some of the capital's finest food and service from a tranquil setting on the east basin of Lake Burley Griffin. Watch the sun set while enjoying a modern degustation menu of Australian produce with matched wines.

→ theboathouse.restaurant



GRIFFITH

Aubergine

As Canberra's only restaurant to hold two hats, this dining destination is the go-to for a five-star experience. (It's even drawn the likes of actor Hugh Jackman and his partner, advocate Deborra-lee Furness.) The four-course menu reliably sings of seasonality and the wine list is every bit as lauded as the nosh.

→ aubergine.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

Courgette

A night at this hatted restaurant is an indulgent fine-dining experience, from the décor (seats that seem ready to hug you) to the surrounds (a CBD address boasting an indoor garden) and, of course, the food. Dinner is a four-course affair – five if you add the cheese course – and something of a masterclass in modern Australian cuisine.

→ courgette.com.au

Key:



TAKEAWAY



FAMILY-FRIENDLY



BOOKING RECOMMENDED



KINGSTON

Agostinis

It's the big-hearted atmosphere and excellent Italian food that keep locals coming back to this haunt with its open kitchen and state-of-the-art rotating pizza oven. The richly roasted, crunchy Friuli frico accompanied by rucola della casa – crisp rocket and apple salad laced with parmesan crisps – is a must, as is the homemade gelato.

→ easthotel.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

Briscola Pizzeria

This relaxed Italian spot, with its exposed brick interior, arched windows and central bar, attracts everyone from families to couples and large groups. Expect familiar trattoria fare (antipasto and parmigiana) with pizza and pasta dominating the menu.

→ briscolapizzeria.com.au

→ If you want...

Family-friendly dining



CANBERRA CITY

Kinn Thai

A restaurant so big it has crowd control (there are separate entrances for walk-in customers and those with a reservation), this CBD diner ticks the first box for great family dining: you won't need to worry about the kids making noise. The menu has all the Thai classics and a couple of surprises, such as crispy eggplant fries. Little ones will love their kids' menu dishes, with the chicken satay arranged to resemble an animal face.

→ kinnrestaurant.com.au



BRADDON

Grease Monkey

Make sure you arrive hungry at this boisterous joint, which offers all the usual burger suspects (and a delicious vegan option, too). You'll find plenty of other menu items as well, such as Detroit-style pizzas, fried chicken and Philly cheesesteaks, which make this the go-to place for anyone in search of a fast and satisfying meal.

→ greasys.com.au



Shoot it, share it!

#VisitCanberra

House-made gelato and the outdoor terrace at Agostinis (above) and juicy burgers at Grease Monkey (left).



CANBERRA CITY

Bar Rochford

Tucked away behind a nondescript entrance and up a narrow set of stairs in the historic Melbourne building, Bar Rochford is where the city's cognoscenti go to unwind. There's a superb selection of wines and cocktails, and a bar-snacks menu that's earned one hat. The space buzzes as attentive waitstaff spin vinyl records and banter.

→ barrochford.com



BRADDON

Rizla

If you're the kind of person whose eyes jump straight to the rieslings on a wine list, welcome home. This new bar specialises in the Canberra region's rieslings. But if that's not your top drop, there's plenty more on offer, including a menu of delicious share plates. Pickled figs on toast, anyone?

→ drinkrizla.com.au

The inviting interior at Bar Rochford (above), Capital Brewing Co (below) and Zierholz (below right).



→ *If you want...*

The perfect drink



BRADDON

BentSpoke Brewing Co.

This thoroughly urban brewpub is an industrial-styled space with bicycle parts as decoration. Sample the Canberra brand's beers – brewed on-site – as well as local wines and spirits and a menu of reimagined pub fare. Sidewalk seats are coveted when the weather's warm.

→ bentspokebrewing.com.au



FYSHWICK

Capital Brewing Co.

Everyone is welcome at this sprawling working brewery and taproom: there's a lawn for dogs, a cubbyhouse for the kids, plenty of beers on tap for the grown-ups (the tasting paddle solves indecision) and a Brodburger van to satisfy the lot, including vegetarian and vegan burgers.

→ capitalbrewing.co



BRADDON

Dave's Brewery Tours

Take your beer seriously? Meet the makers behind some of Canberra's best on a half-day or full-day discovery tour. Sample craft beers at breweries including Zierholz, go behind the scenes at distilleries and explore the region's wineries, too.

→ daves.com.au



→ If you want...

Casual-cool dining



BARTON

Lilotang

With striking black-and-red décor set against cool, blonde wood, Lilotang offers a classic backdrop for meals redolent of Tokyo's finest. Choose from the à la carte menu, which includes mains such as duck breast sukiyaki, or opt for a set menu. Evening meals are expertly matched with a selection of sake.

→ chairmangroup.com.au

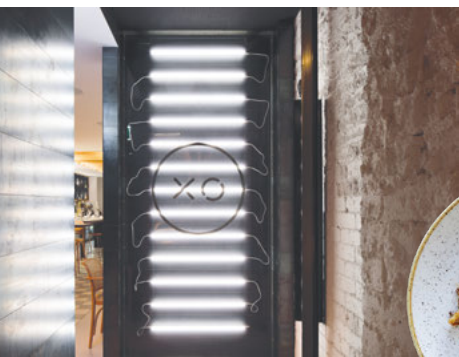


NARRABUNDAH

XO

It's all about sharing at this chic eatery, which has earned one hat. The succinct South-East Asian menu features an ever-changing roster of items alongside popular constants, such as the umami-rich Asian bolognese – stir-fried udon noodles in chicken ragout with a just-cooked 60°C egg to stir through.

→ xo-restaurant.com.au



Hatted restaurant XO and its popular Asian-inspired version of bolognese (left).



Pappardelle with miso butter, roquefort, caraway and fried egg at Temporada.



KINGSTON

Molto Italian

Topnotch service and authentic dishes make this lively restaurant on the buzzing Kingston Foreshore a hit for all comers. Cheese fans will be hard-pressed to resist the spaghetti cacio e pepe, served at the table from a large wheel of pecorino.

→ moltoitalian.com



KINGSTON

Morks

If you score a table outside, you'll have water views to enjoy with the modern Thai fare that the hatted Morks has mastered. Step inside and you'll find a bustling dining room and kitchen that's focused on crafting enticing dishes of fried chicken, chilli jam and cashew, and duck larb with smoked chilli powder and roasted rice ash.

→ morks.com.au



CANBERRA CITY

Temporada

With its warm wood panelling, large central bar and city location, Temporada moves effortlessly from day to night. The laid-back cousin of Aubergine in Griffith (see page 45), this hatted bistro whips up a mean sundowner – try the Temporada G&T with juniper berries, rose petals and pink peppercorn. Feeling peckish? Smoked ham and taleggio croquettes and grilled Fremantle octopus will sort you out.

→ temporada.com.au



BRADDON

Italian and Sons

With its focus on seasonal produce and a convivial atmosphere, this hatted restaurant has delivered a true taste of Italy for over 10 years. Pay attention to the dish of the day and the cheese selection, which stars goat, sheep and cow varieties from the homeland.

→ italianandsons.com.au

CANBERRA'S FAVOURITE DESIGN & FOOD MARKET

Join us at our award-winning quarterly market. With over 270 stalls of the best Australian made, handmade design and produce, there's so much to discover at Handmade.
All indoors with free parking and entry, it's a great day out at Exhibition Park In Canberra.

2020 MARKET DATES

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JUNE	26*, 27 & 28
SEPTEMBER	26 & 27
DECEMBER	11*, 12 & 13

10am-4pm Saturday & Sunday
*5pm-9pm Friday evening



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A large, scenic photograph of a wide, sandy beach with turquoise water and a cloudy sky. A person in a red swimsuit is walking away from the viewer towards the water's edge. The beach is bordered by lush green trees on the left.

Canberra's Coast

Jervis Bay

Just 2 hours drive from Canberra

Four diamond-shaped inset images on the left side of the main image: a stone archway with a red car, a person surfing on a wave, a hand holding an open oyster, and a whale breaching the water.

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Among the vines

Its rich surrounds mean Canberra has more than 30 cellar doors within an hour's drive of the city. And the wine region's youth means having a winemaker jump off the tractor to talk you through a tasting is all in a day's play.

→ For...

Award winners

MURRUMBATEMAN

Clonakilla



You can't say Canberra wine region without thinking Clonakilla. This was the first commercial winery here and almost half a century on, it remains an iconic producer of handcrafted, regionally distinctive wines.

→ clonakilla.com.au

› **Take home:** The 2017 shiraz viognier, the region's highest-rated wine in the *Halliday Wine Companion 2020*.

› **Cellar door:** 11am-4pm on weekdays; 10am-5pm on weekends.



LAKE GEORGE

Lake George Winery



Run by Anthony and Sarah McDougall, who took home owner/operator of the year at the 2019 Australian Women in Wine Awards, this winery (left) holds a five-star rating in James Halliday's current *Wine Companion*. Go here for shiraz, riesling, pinot noir and tempranillo.

→ lakegeorgewinery.com.au

› **Take home:** The exceptionally intense and vibrant Giannoula riesling.

› **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm Thursday to Sunday.

MURRUMBATEMAN

Helm Wines



A regional hero, it has a five-star rating in the *Halliday Wine Companion 2020*. Tastings of its prized cabernet sauvignon and riesling take place in the National Trust-listed 1888 Toual public schoolhouse, where Ken Helm often regales visitors with tales from his nearly 50 years in winemaking.

→ helmwines.com.au

› **Take home:** The premium riesling 2018, which received a 96-point Halliday rating.

› **Cellar door:** 10am-4pm Thursday to Monday.



→ For...

Brunch or small bites

GUNDAROO

Gundog Estate (Cork Street Cellar)

↓
Spread over the Canberra, Hunter Valley and Hilltops regions, this premium boutique winery is currently rated five stars by James Halliday and opened its second cellar door in 2016; you'll find it in an old stable in Gundaroo village. Locally sourced meats and cheeses turn a tasting into brunch. Still hungry? The lauded Grazing restaurant (grazing.com.au) at the Royal Hotel is nearby and has a full four-course offering and a wine list that includes Gundog Estate.
→ gundogestate.com.au

- › **Known for:** Canberra riesling and shiraz.
- › **Cellar door:** 11am-4pm Thursday and Friday; 11am-5pm on weekends.

WAMBOIN

Contentious Character

↓
When the owners took over in 2016, they gave this winery (above) a new name and made it the uncontentious home of spectacular vintage wines. There's an all-day menu to make cellar door tastings sing, featuring duck pate and fried squid with pepperberry and aioli.
→ contentiouscharacter.com.au

- › **Known for:** The award-winning 2018 pinot gris.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm Wednesday to Sunday.

JEIR

Gallagher Wines

↓
The boutique family winery of famed viticulturalist Greg Gallagher (left) showcases his sterling efforts with shiraz, sparkling and riesling. Don't leave without trying Libby Gallagher's artisan cheeses, including camembert, creamy blue and a black truffle labneh.
→ gallagherwines.com.au

- › **Known for:** The riesling, which is a stand-out in an exceptional field.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm Thursday to Monday.



→ For...

A long lunch or dinner

MURRUMBATEMAN

Shaw Wines

↓
This architecturally impressive cellar door opened in 2018; all the better to taste its lauded shiraz, merlot, cabernet sauvignon, semillon and riesling. The Mediterranean-leaning menu at onsite restaurant Olleyville at Shaw Vineyard Estate (olleyville.com.au) focuses on seasonal dishes from the central woodfired oven.

→ shawwines.com.au

- › **Take home:** The multi award-winning 2016 cabernet sauvignon.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm daily.

WALLAROO

Surveyor's Hill

↓
James Halliday calls it "the ultimate patchwork-quilt vineyard", with an array of varietals spanning the classic shiraz and chardonnay to the lesser-known Portuguese touriga nacional. Combine a tasting with the hearty European-influenced lunch menu in the bistro.
→ surveyorshill.com.au

- › **Take home:** The Cabernets 2015, a full-bodied blend of cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon and merlot.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm on weekends.

GUNDAROO

Tallagandra Hill

↓
It may be a small, single-vineyard estate but its range of grapes includes shiraz, tempranillo, viognier, cabernet franc and vermentino. Add to a visit with a broad selection of epic grazing platters in the wine bar then make your way to the onsite accommodation.
→ tallagandrahill.com.au

- › **Take home:** The Newtown Farmer 2016 tempranillo cabernet.
- › **Cellar door:** Noon to 4pm Saturday; 11am-4pm Sunday.



→ For...

A minimal-intervention drop

MURRUMBATEMAN

Eden Road Wines

↓
Hugging the high country, this five-star winery, featured in the *Halliday Wine Companion 2020*, has its sights set on all-biodynamic principles across its varietals, including sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, syrah and pinot noir.

→ edenroadwines.com.au

- › **Take home:** The 2017 Canberra Syrah, an award-winner for its spicy notes.
- › **Cellar door:** 11am-4.30pm Wednesday to Sunday.

BUNGENDORE

Lark Hill Winery

↓
It was founded on organic principles in 1978 – so, before organic was cool – and has since been certified biodynamic. Their range of riesling, chardonnay, grüner veltliner and pinot noir offers a taste of minimal-intervention terroir.

→ larkhill.wine

- › **Take home:** The 2018 grüner veltliner from the variety's first Australian vines.
- › **Cellar door:** 11am-4pm Wednesday to Monday.

MURRUMBATEMAN

McKellar Ridge Wines

↓
At the gateway to the Murrumbateman wine region, husband and wife team John and Marina Sekoranza hand-pick the best fruit to produce their high quality, cool-climate Canberra wines.

→ mckellarridgewines.com.au

- › **Take home:** The 2018 shiraz, with its rich, dark red fruit flavours.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-4pm on weekends.

→ For...

Views

MURRUMBATEMAN

Four Winds Vineyard

↓
The rolling vines make a beautiful backdrop for tastings of regional heroes, like shiraz and riesling, as well as the sangiovese rosé and fortified shiraz.

→ fourwindsvineyard.com.au

- › **Take home:** The 2019 riesling with its citrus flavours.

› **Cellar door:** 10am-4pm Thursday to Monday.

WALLAROO

Pankhurst Wines

↓
A mountain vista enhances the beauty of this family-run estate. Gaze over the Brindabella Ranges during tastings of pinot noir, marsanne and arneis.

→ pankhurstwines.com.au

- › **Known for:** Pinot noir from the first vines planted on the estate.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm on weekends.

MURRUMBATEMAN

Yarrh Wines

↓
Nestled into a hill with panoramic views of the Yass River valley, this is the place to taste varietals including cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir and sangiovese.

→ yarrhwines.com.au

- › **Known for:** The Mr Natural range of experimental wines.
- › **Cellar door:** 11am-5pm Friday to Sunday.

+ Ways to see it

› Canberra Winery Tours

Choose a full-day or half-day tailor-made tour for singles, couples or groups. You'll be expertly guided through wine tastings at three to five cellar doors and stop for lunch.

→ canberrawinerytours.com

› Vines and Wines tours

Travel via mini-van to either the Murrumbateman or Lake George sub-region. You'll visit a minimum of four wineries and enjoy a vineyard lunch. Tours run every second Saturday.

→ vineswines.com.au

› Abode Murrumbateman

Hire a bike at this hotel, grab a cycling map and then ride to Shaw Wines, Helm Wines, Four Winds Vineyard and Clonakilla – pick one or two if you're more about the pinot than the puffing.

→ abodehotels.com.au



Canberra Theatre Centre

From international touring sensations to homegrown talent, the Canberra Theatre Centre hosts the best live music, comedy, theatre and dance shows. An evening performance is a must during a visit to the national capital.

📍 Civic Square
London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601
☎ (02) 6275 2700
🌐 canberratheatrecentre.com.au



The National Dinosaur Museum

The National Dinosaur Museum in Gold Creek Village has the largest permanent display of dinosaur and prehistoric fossils in Australia. The museum houses lifelike dinosaur models and animatronics, full skeletons, skulls and fossils. The dazzling gift shop has something for everyone and the dinosaur garden offers families a world of adventure.

📍 6 Gold Creek Road, Nicholls ACT 2913
☎ (02) 6230 2655
🌐 nationaldinosaurmuseum.com.au



Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial is a world-class museum, shrine, research centre and archive of Australia's military history. Its magnificent collection tells the stories of the men and women who have and continue to serve our nation. Visit the memorial to honour those who gave their all to protect our freedom. Entry is free and a highlights audio tour is available in English, Mandarin, Hindi and Auslan (Australian Sign Language video translation).

📍 Treloar Crescent, Campbell ACT 2612
☎ (02) 6243 4211
🌐 awm.gov.au



Australian National Botanic Gardens

Discover Australia's unique landscapes, from the rainforest to the Red Centre, and experience and share the beauty of Australian plants. Climb into the canopy and explore the Paperbark Treehouse. Take a walk with a guide or follow one of our many self-guided trails. Indulge at Pollen café, pamper yourself at Jindii Eco Spa and find gifts at the Botanical Bookshop.

📍 Clunies Ross Street, Acton ACT 2601
☎ (02) 6250 9540
🌐 nationalbotanicgardens.gov.au



→ For...

Varietal heroes



HALL

Capital Wines

↓
Specialising in shiraz and varieties including tempranillo, chardonnay and merlot, this winery gained recognition for the witty political commentary of its 'Ministry' series.
→ capitalwines.com.au

- › **Known for:** The Kyeema vineyard shiraz, made from a clone from Penfolds estate.
- › **Cellar door:** 10.30am-5pm Thursday to Sunday.

COLLECTOR

Collector Wines

↓
Try Alex McKay's riesling, grüner veltliner, pinot meunier and chardonnay, before popping next door to the popular Some Cafe (somecafecollector.com).
→ collectorwines.com.au

- › **Known for:** Chardonnay. The 2016 and 2017 Tiger Tiger is a champion in its field.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-4pm Thursday to Monday.

MAJURA

Mount Majura Vineyard

↓
This vineyard has made its name specialising in the likes of graciano, touriga nacional and tempranillo. While you're here, take a self-guided tour of the property.
→ mountmajura.com.au

- › **Take home:** The 2017 tempranillo.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm daily.

LAKE GEORGE

Lerida Estate

↓
This winery overlooking Lake George does an exceptional pinot noir as well as shiraz, viognier, pinot grigio and tempranillo. The Glenn Murcutt-designed winery also houses Café Lerida, where lunches range from sliders to three-course affairs.
→ leridaestate.com.au

- › **Take home:** The 2017 Josephine pinot noir; cellar now to drink in a few years' time.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-5pm daily.

MURRUMBATEMAN

The Vintner's Daughter

↓
Stephanie Helm started making wine at nine, so yes, she knows a thing or two. The daughter of industry legend Ken Helm, she's since joined forces with husband Benjamin Osborne to craft wines that reflect the unique terroir of the region, including riesling, shiraz viognier and syrah.
→ thevintnersdaughter.com.au

- › **Known for:** Riesling. Its first vintage in 2015 was awarded best in the district.
- › **Cellar door:** 10am-4pm on weekends.

+ More to try

Affleck Vineyard

♡ Bywong
→ affleck.com.au

Barton Estate

♡ Murrumbateman
→ bartonestate.com.au

Brindabella Hills

♡ Hall
→ brindabellahills.com.au

Dionysus Winery

♡ Murrumbateman
→ dionysus-winery.com.au

Dog Trap Vineyard

♡ Yass
→ dogtrapvineyard.com.au

Granitevale Estate

♡ Murrumbateman
→ granitevaleestate.com.au

Jeir Creek Winery

♡ Murrumbateman
→ jeircreekwines.com.au

Long Rail Gully Wines

♡ Murrumbateman
→ longrailgully.com.au

Murrumbateman Winery

♡ Murrumbateman
→ murrumbatemanwinery.com.au

Wallaroo Wines

♡ Wallaroo
→ wallaroorwines.com.au

Wily Trout Vineyard

♡ Springrange
→ poacherspantry.com.au

+ Drive time from Canberra City

- › Bungendore: 40 minutes
- › Bywong: 30 minutes
- › Collector: 40 minutes
- › Gundaroo: 35 minutes
- › Hall: 25 minutes
- › Jeir: 35 minutes
- › Lake George: 35 minutes
- › Majura: 20 minutes
- › Murrumbateman: 35 minutes
- › Springrange: 30 minutes
- › Wallaroo: 30 minutes
- › Wamboin: 30 minutes
- › Yass: 50 minutes



Balloon Aloft Canberra

Hot-air ballooning is an unforgettable experience. Take off at sunrise and drift gently with the wind. Enjoy breathtaking views and see the nation's capital come to life below you. With daily sunrise flights, your experience will last about an hour but your memories will last a lifetime.

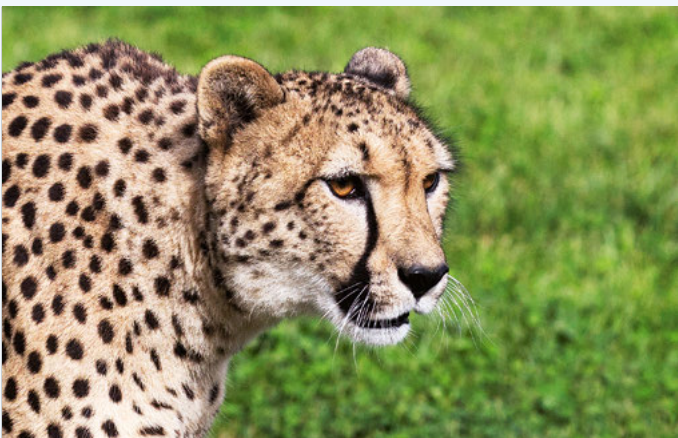
📍 Meeting point: Hyatt Hotel Canberra
120 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla ACT 2600
☎ (02) 6249 8660
🌐 balloonaloftcanberra.com.au



National Arboretum Canberra

Experience spectacular views and remarkable architecture set among 44,000 rare, endangered and culturally significant trees from around the world. Highlights include the award-winning Village Centre, National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, Pod Playground, Sprout Café, Conservatory Restaurant, The Curatoreum gift shop, walking trails, gardens and lookouts.

📍 Forest Drive (off Tuggeranong Parkway), Weston Creek ACT 2611
☎ (02) 6207 8484
🌐 nationalarboretum.act.gov.au



National Zoo & Aquarium

Canberra's National Zoo & Aquarium features a combined aquarium, metropolitan zoo and easily walked open range section, as well as an incredible Adventureland playground. Come and experience amazing up-close and personal animal encounters and tours. You can also experience the unforgettable with an overnight stay at the internationally recognised Jamala Wildlife Lodge. There is truly something for everyone at the National Zoo & Aquarium.

📍 Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla ACT 2600
☎ (02) 6287 8400
🌐 nationalzoo.com.au



Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex

Explore the solar system and beyond at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex. Part of NASA's Deep Space Network, and managed by CSIRO, the facility provides constant contact with dozens of robotic spacecraft exploring planets, moons and stars. See Australia's largest dishes, a real moon rock, exhibits on space exploration or grab a bite to eat in the Deep Space Café.

📍 421 Discovery Drive, Tidbinbilla ACT 2620
☎ (02) 6201 7880
🌐 www.cdsc.nasa.gov



Get a move on

From scaling mountains and paddling pristine waterways to zipping about on a segway and following a koala trail, there's a heart-pumping experience for everyone in the bush capital.

On the water



YARRALUMLA

Explore the lake standing up

↓
The still waters of Yarralumla Bay, on the south-west edge of Lake Burley Griffin, are ideal for an activity that requires you to work your core and maintain balance: stand-up paddleboarding. Rent a board from nearby YMCA Aquatic Recreation Centre between October and April and you can glide across the lake for up to two hours. First timer? Expect to get wet while you find your feet.

→ canberra.ymca.org.au

YARRALUMLA

Unleash your paddle power

↓
If you want to combine exploration with a rigorous workout, all you need is a kayak. (You can hire one from The Paddle Hub between October and April.) This vessel lets you move at the perfect speed: not so slow that it takes hours to reach Spinnaker Island but not so fast that you miss the chance to appreciate the beauty along the way.

→ canberra.ymca.org.au

GREENWAY

Float along a river

↓
The bush nips at the edges of the ACT and in less than half an hour, you can escape the city centre and relax beneath the trees at Pine Island, a shady nature reserve on the Murrumbidgee River. Pine Island Beach is a popular spot for summer barbecues but locals have a more inventive way of enjoying the serenity: boarding an air mattress and spending an hour bobbing gently on the sepia-hued water. Any pool float will work just as well.

→ environment.act.gov.au



Stand-up paddleboard (left) and kayak (above) on Lake Burley Griffin.



Great walks

PADDYS RIVER

Hike through the wilderness



There are more than 160 kilometres of trails in Namadgi National Park, situated on the northern edge of the Australian Alps and just a 37-kilometre drive from the CBD. Take an easy jaunt to Booroomba Rocks for an incredible view over the valley or discover the granite outcrops locals call 'Legoland'. If you're an experienced, self-reliant hiker and have time to spare, there are multi-day walks to take on, too. Throughout the park, you'll find markers of its Aboriginal history, including well-preserved rock art etched on enormous boulders.

→ environment.act.gov.au

› *Best for:* All ages

› *Intensity:* Varied

Take in the view from Booroomba Rocks in Namadgi National Park.



Shoot it, share it!
#VisitCanberra



Join a Dharwra Aboriginal Cultural Tour (above) and ride the Centenary Trail (left).



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Tackle the Centenary Trail



Canberra might be small but you will need a full week to walk the loop around its limits on the Centenary Trail, which was created to commemorate the city's 100th birthday. The 145-kilometre marked path is broken into seven manageable sections, although experienced hikers and cyclists may be able to complete multiple legs at a time. The terrain varies from highway-adjacent paths to fire trails through the scrub, offering a glimpse of the city's many sides.

→ environment.act.gov.au

› *Best for:* Adventurers

› *Intensity:* Varied

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Discover the region's Aboriginal heritage



Make a walk in the park a more meaningful experience by following the footsteps of the guides from Dharwra Aboriginal Cultural Tours. Learn how the Ngunnawal people have lived off the land for thousands of years on one of three separate tours that take in Canberra's key landmarks, including Mount Majura, Mount Taylor and Black Mountain. Each tour is around two hours.

→ thunderstone.net.au

› *Best for:* Families

› *Intensity:* Moderate

MOLONGLO VALLEY

Wander among the trees



Spending time in nature is said to reduce stress levels and what better way to find a moment of calm than in a purpose-built forest of over 44,000 trees? The National Arboretum Canberra, just six kilometres from the city centre, is a living collection of endangered and significant species and the reserve is crisscrossed with walking trails. You can follow the paths quite easily on your own but free guided forest walks are offered on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

→ nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

› *Best for:* All ages

› *Intensity:* Easy to moderate

Two wheels



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Spin past the big hits

↓
As a planned city, Canberra is easy to navigate on bike: the paths are clear and the terrain is relatively flat. Mulga Bicycle Tours makes it even easier to get your bearings with guided tours for between two and 10 people, tailored to your interests. Bespoke private itineraries are available but the Capital Highlights Tour takes you past Old Parliament House, the National Library and the National Gallery's Sculpture Garden, to name a few; between December and March, you can also do it at dusk.

→ mulgabicycletours.com.au

Mountain bike
through Majura Pines
Recreation Area.



Shoot it,
share it!

[#VisitCanberra](https://www.visitcanberra.com.au)

VIA MAJURA PARKWAY

Go wild on a mountain bike

↓
Traversing Canberra's natural playground on a mountain bike is the ultimate way to boost your adrenaline level. There are several bike parks and trails on the city's outskirts, and the Majura Pines Recreation Area to the north-east has 20 kilometres of well-marked tracks ranging from beginner level to the hardcore black diamond runs (including some with dirt jumps). Runners are also welcome to follow the bi-directional paths, provided they look out for bikes.

→ majurapines.org

PARKES

Zip around the foreshore

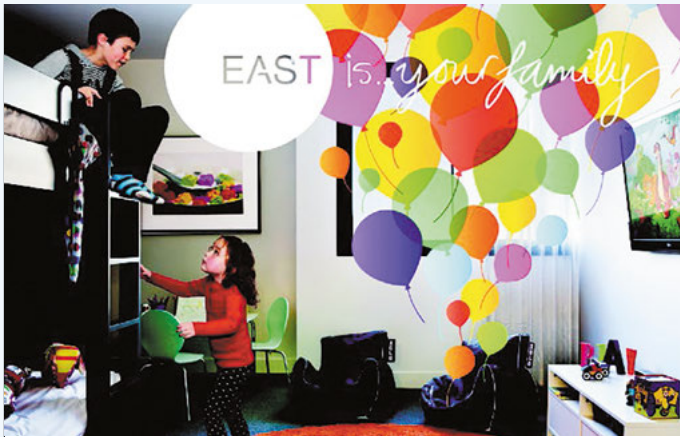
↓
Want to squeeze a trip past as many buildings in Canberra's Parliamentary Zone into as little time as possible? Hop on a segway. Seg Glide Ride offers daily tours on this unique mode of transport that allows you to take in the foreshore and most of the city's icons. First-timers are more than welcome – you should be able to master the ride in about 10 minutes.

→ segglideride.com.au



Explore the lake
foreshore on a segway
with Seg Glide Ride.

Cassandra Hannagan, Damian Breach



East Hotel

Situated between the vibrant hubs of Kingston and Manuka, East Hotel is the ultimate location for your visit to the capital. Experience all the services you would expect from a premium hotel, including undercover parking and complimentary Wi-Fi, while feeling completely at home in this stylish accommodation.

📍 69 Canberra Avenue, Kingston ACT 2604

☎ (02) 6295 6925

🌐 easthotel.com.au



Pacific Suites Canberra

Conveniently located in Braddon, a premier shopping and dining precinct within walking distance of the CBD, Pacific Suites Canberra has spacious one- and two-bedroom serviced apartments that are perfect for families and business travellers. Enjoy the swimming pool, work-out in the gym and explore the nearby attractions.

📍 100 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon ACT 2612

☎ (02) 6262 6266

🌐 pacificsuitescanberra.com.au



Canberra City YHA

Located in the CBD, Canberra City YHA is a short walk from restaurants, shops and attractions. The hostel features private and multi-share rooms, 24-hour reception, an onsite café and bar, indoor pool, spa and sauna, fully equipped kitchen, rooftop barbecue area and free Wi-Fi. Group accommodation is also available, with a secure dedicated area.

📍 7 Akuna Street, Canberra ACT 2601

☎ (02) 6248 9155

🌐 yha.com.au



Manuka Park Serviced Apartments

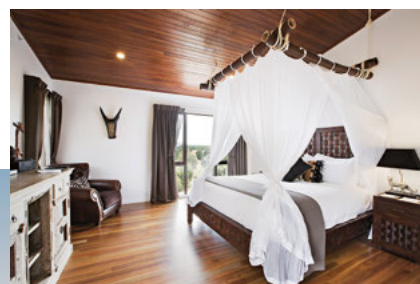
Set in an amazing location, the family-owned Manuka Park Serviced Apartments complex is a 10-minute drive from the CBD and close to the Parliamentary Zone and national attractions, plus restaurants, cafés and boutique shopping. All apartments include a fully equipped modern kitchen, bathroom, laundry and air conditioning, plus the complex has a swimming pool and secure undercover parking.

📍 1 Oxley Street, Griffith ACT 2603

☎ (02) 6239 0000

🌐 manukapark.com.au





Handfeed a giraffe at Jamala Wildlife Lodge.



Wildlife

FORDE

Encounter native creatures

↓
Snuffly echidnas, tiny bettongs and elusive eastern quolls thrive at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, a 25-minute drive from the CBD. The native wonderland is surrounded by a predator-proof fence, allowing these special species to go about their business undisturbed. Visitors can follow the marked trails, ranging from a six-kilometre walk through box-gum grassy woodland to a more challenging 12-kilometre circuit. Keep your eyes peeled for all sorts of incredible creatures – your chances of spotting the more secretive ones increase on a guided Twilight Tour.
→ mulligansflat.org.au

WESTON CREEK

Join the animal kingdom

↓
Few opportunities exist to happily share a moment with a tiger but an overnight stay at Jamala Wildlife Lodge is one of them. Set inside the National Zoo and Aquarium, the lodge's luxurious rooms and bungalows allow guests to wake alongside tigers, lions and sun bears. You will also have exclusive interactions with meerkats and sharks.
→ jamalawildlifelodge.com.au

YARRALUMLA

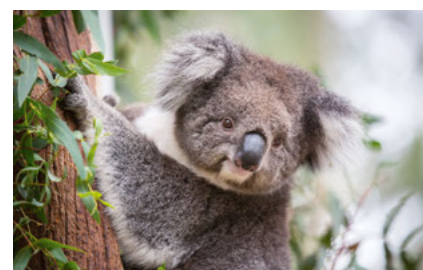
Spot kangaroos at dusk

↓
It might not be an obvious choice for an up-close animal encounter but Weston Park, a 40-hectare reserve in Yarralumla, has some regular visitors. Head there at dusk or dawn and there's a high chance you'll spot a mob of kangaroos nibbling at the meadows, though they also like to recline in the sun at high noon. The park also features an excellent kids' playground and a marked orienteering course, too.
→ environment.act.gov.au

PADDYS RIVER

See koalas in the canopy

↓
There are plenty of paths to choose from at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, a 40-minute drive from the city centre, with a different experience at the end of each one. The 700-metre-long Koala Path will take you past eucalypts that shelter the snuggly animals, the Sanctuary Loop offers plenty of opportunities for birdwatching, while the Camels Hump trail has a vast view over Canberra and its surrounds. All walking trails are clearly marked and guided tours are also available.
→ tidbinbilla.act.gov.au





Canberra Walk-in Aviary

Located at Gold Creek Village, the Canberra Walk-in Aviary features 1000 square metres of planted space where free-flying birds can be observed, photographed and fed. Visitors can walk among 500 birds representing 60 different species from Australia and around the world. Open every day except Christmas Day.

Unit 13, Federation Square
26 O'Hanlon Place, Gold Creek Village, Nicholls ACT 2913
(02) 6230 2044
canberrawalkinaviary.com.au



Telstra Tower

Rising 195 metres above the summit of Black Mountain, Telstra Tower provides unsurpassed 360-degree views of Canberra and surrounds. Visitors can take advantage of the two open viewing platforms or the enclosed viewing gallery, featuring spectacular views of the city by day or night.

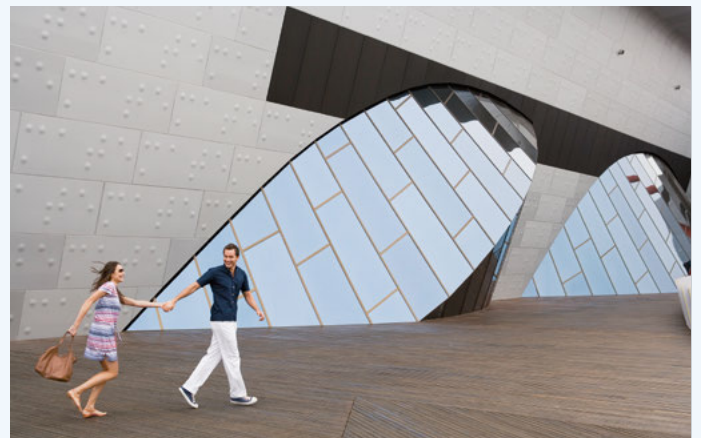
100 Black Mountain Drive, Acton ACT 2601
(02) 6230 0907
telstratower.com.au



National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

Australia's audiovisual archive preserves more than three million items in its collection. Enjoy our latest exhibition; watch a film or attend one of our special events; take a self-guided tour of our Art Deco building or just relax in the courtyard with coffee, cakes and snacks from Biginelli Espresso. Open daily, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Parking is close by or catch the free Culture Loop Shuttle Bus.

McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601
(02) 6248 2248
nfsa.gov.au



National Museum of Australia

See Australia's history come alive at the National Museum of Australia. Explore the museum's diverse collection, take a break at the lakeside café and visit the Museum Shop – a favourite with the locals. With virtual reality experiences, exhibitions and events, there's always something new to see and do.

Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601
1800 026 132
nma.gov.au



Treat yourself

Unwind, bliss out or gloss up. Whether you're looking for a muscle-melting massage or the perfect blow-dry, here's your little black book of beauty.

FOR A BLOW-DRY

Saloon, Braddon

↓
Licensed and pouring wines from local makers, the fun and full-service Saloon is where Canberra nights get started for many. Have your lashes lifted, your event face put on or pick one of the signature blowouts taking inspiration from iconic '90s supermodels – Cindy (a bouncy 'do), Claudia (smooth and retro), Christy (classic), Naomi (polished and poker-straight) and Linda (short and chic). After a lower-key style? There's a boho Kate Moss look, too.

→ www.saloonco.com.au



FOR A FACIAL

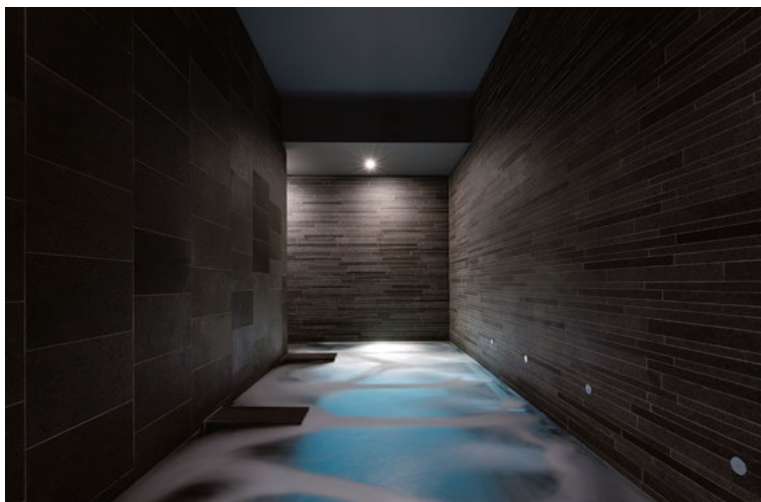
Endota Spa, Canberra City

↓
Need a flash hydration fix, an anti-ageing treatment or a fresh glow? Facials at Endota Spa's CBD skin temple are all about wow results. Treatments are delivered with gentle hands and fuse organic skincare with LED light therapy, clinical-strength peels and hydro-microdermabrasion. You can choose from the menu or opt for a custom facial designed by your therapist to feel uplifted in all the right ways.

→ endotaspa.com.au



Relax and rejuvenate at Endota Spa (above) and at blow-dry bar Saloon (left).



FOR A RELAXING MESSAGE

Hale Spa, Barton

↓
De-stress in Scandi-style at this wellbeing sanctuary attached to Hale Gym. For a full body and mind recharge, start by boosting your circulation in the infrared sauna and steam room. Then reinvigorate in the plunge pool and take timeout on a lounge by the open-air reflection pond (facilities are free with treatments over 60 minutes). Afterwards, disappear into your private treatment room (there's also a couples' suite with a deep bath) for Hale Spa's heavenly signature massage, which evolves from a warm, essential oil-infused foot compress to a gentle rhythmic massage using Swedish techniques.

→ halehealth.com.au

FOR A REMEDIAL MESSAGE

Thai Bliss Therapeutic Massage, Canberra City

↓
Perhaps you've got aches and pains after a nearby hike. Or maybe you've just overworked a bicep at the Murrumbateman wineries. Either way, check into Thai Bliss Therapeutic Massage for some muscle rehab, where the therapists will masterfully tailor a treatment to your body structure. A remedial massage here is combined with traditional Thai techniques to stretch out sore, tight muscles and dissolve tension that is buried deep. Inhale and exhale the essential oils in the air – uncoiling begins as soon as you walk through the door. Treatments range from 30 minutes to two hours and are available until 10pm. Bonus: you can claim with some health funds, too.

→ thaiblissmassage.com.au

FOR A MANI PEDI

Lavender Beauty and Nail Bar, Canberra City

↓
Get in, get done and head out or kick back and relax in a comfy chair for the 60-minute soak, exfoliation and spa massage treatment on your fingers and toes. Lavender Beauty and Nail Bar pulls off precision with more than 600 nail colours by OPI and DND, plus shellac and even airbrush nail designs.

→ 02 6257 5436

FOR BROWS

The Lab, Griffith

↓
At brow mecca The Lab, first-timers get a consultation (they practically get out the protractor to analyse your angles and brow type), before a tweeze and a wax so neat, it's become beauty legend around this town. After a tint? The eyebrow artists will mix a cocktail of colours to perfectly match your skin tone and hair colour, while your therapist will also guide you through their method for maintaining beautiful brows and filling them in with the right makeup.

→ the-lab.com.au

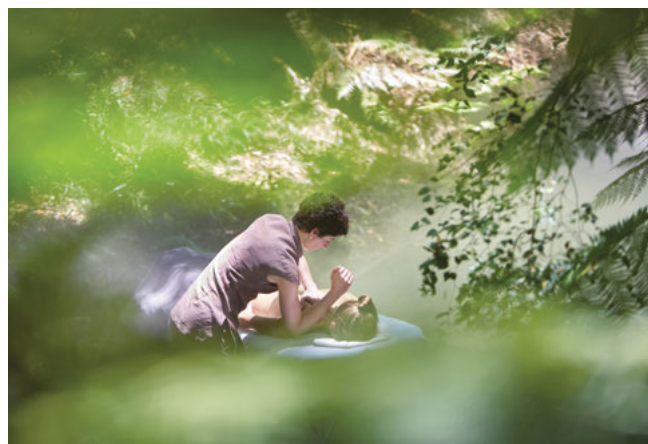
FOR A BODY RITUAL

Jindii Eco Spa, Acton

↓
Mobile off, robe on – you're here to immerse in nature. Ensnared in a lush pocket of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Jindii Eco Spa enriches detoxifying bathing, body and relaxation therapies with bush tucker plant extracts like vitamin C-stacked native hibiscus and calming, anti-inflammatory lemon myrtle. Jindii's Native Elements treatment, inspired by Indigenous healing practices, uses 'smoking' (the burning of plants), a grounding foot bath, heated stones and mulga brushwood to release muscle tension and enhance wellbeing.

→ jindii.com.au

The sleek interior of Hale Spa (above) and recharging at Jindii Eco Spa (below).



More to explore

Venture a little further to discover the riches of the region. Hit the surf or the snow, spot whales or sip wine, all within reach of the capital.



South Coast

Shoalhaven

→ *Drive time: 2.5 hours*

Many of the Shoalhaven's treasures are water-based: there's the almost-still bay at Scottish Rocks in Booderee National Park (camp overnight at nearby Green Patch); secluded patches of sand at Currarong; and dolphins playing in the shore breakers at

Mollymook Beach. But the region will delight food-lovers, too. Pick from the extensive brunch menu at 5 Little Pigs in Huskisson (5littlepigs.com.au) or tuck into the lunch plates filled with local produce at Milk Haus (milkhaus.com.au) in Woodstock. For wholesome fare, don't miss Pilgrims Vegetarian Cafe (pilgrims.cafe) in Milton.

› **You'll love...** A tour of Cupitt's winery (cupitt.com.au) in Ulladulla as the sun sets (tours begin at 5pm Fridays and Saturdays). Wine and cheese tasting included.

› **Kids will love...** Spotting humpbacks off the Jervis Bay peninsula on a whale-watching tour from Huskisson (jervisbaywild.com.au). Best between April and November.

Spot humpback whales (above) and explore the beautiful white-sand coves at Jervis Bay (right).





Narooma

→ **Drive time:** 2 hours 50 minutes

The past is palpable in Narooma. Pose for a photo at Australia Rock, a formation that resembles its namesake and many believe gained its shape thanks to thousands of years of erosion. For recent history, head to the Narooma Lighthouse Museum (narooma.org.au) where you'll find the century-old light apparatus from Montague Island Lightstation, the last manned lighthouse in NSW. A tour of Montague Island, nine kilometres offshore, is a must: it's home to the state's largest fur seal colony and thousands of little penguins and seabirds (naroomacharters.com.au).

› **You'll love...** Tucking into a ploughman's platter at Tilba Valley Winery and Ale House (tilbavalley.com.au), a 15-minute drive south.

› **Kids will love...** Bottle-feeding the calves at nearby Bodalla Dairy (10am and 4pm daily; bodalladairy.com.au).



Enjoy fresh oysters and sunset views at The Oyster Shed on Wray Street (above).

Batemans Bay

→ **Drive time:** 2 hours

It's the first choice for Canberrans wanting a breath of salty sea air. Surfers, swimmers and snorkellers can check out the beaches to the north and south of the town. There's even a marked snorkelling trail starting at Maloneys Beach, a 13-minute drive to the north. And the smooth-moving Clyde River offers opportunities for other adventures, including kayaking and fishing.

› **You'll love...** Slurping freshly shucked oysters plucked from the estuary while admiring the view at The Oyster Shed on Wray Street (02 4472 6771), a working oyster farm on the river.

› **Kids will love...** Meeting a real-life Timon and his inquisitive meerkat mates at Mogo Zoo (mogozoo.com.au), just 11 kilometres south of the Bay. It's one of 10 interactive animal experiences on offer.



Hit the waves near Glasshouse Rocks to the south of Narooma Surf Beach.



Snowy Mountains

Jindabyne

→ *Drive time: 2 hours*

Jindy is an ideal base for exploring the Snowy Mountains at any time of year. But if you visit in spring, Kosciuszko National Park is more likely to be covered in a bright blanket of wildflowers than sheathed in snow, making the walking and biking trails a much more enticing proposition. In town, mosey about the clothing and homewares stores before grabbing lunch at Banjo Paterson Inn (banjopatersoninn.com.au).

› **You'll love...** Sipping schnapps or pink gin (the striking hue comes from raspberries) at Wildbrumby (wildbrumby.com.au), Australia's highest gin distillery.

› **Kids will love...** Racing around the bike path that encircles Lake Jindabyne or paddling a kayak across its glassy surface.

Thredbo

→ *Drive time: 2.5 hours*

Thredbo village is the closest Aussies can get to a European-style chalet town without leaving the country. Some of Australia's longest ski runs (up to five kilometres) lead to a walkable town centre at the base of the mountain filled with restaurants and bars. In summer, the high country is ideal for abseiling, biking and fishing. Or take the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift (thredbo.com.au) to the start of the spectacular summit walk. The track takes around five hours.

› **You'll love...** Night skiing beneath bright lights at the Flare Run (held every Saturday night during the ski season) followed by après nightcaps at Lounge Bar.

› **Kids will love...** An epic hot chocolate from Eagles Nest Restaurant (thredbo.com.au), perched nearly 2000 metres above sea level. The mugs are piled high with whipped cream, marshmallows and hazelnuts, Flake, M&M's or Maltesers.



Carve up fresh powder at Perisher (left) and fish for trout or hike the high country at Thredbo.



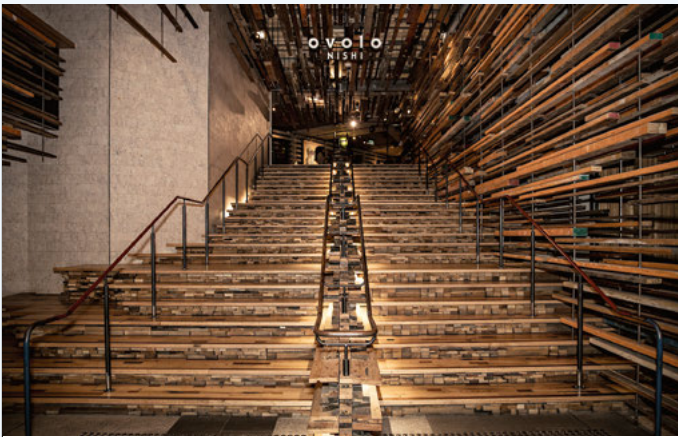
Perisher

→ *Drive time: 2.5 hours*

Australia's largest ski resort has four separate areas over seven different peaks for skiing, snowboarding and just about any other snow-based activity you can dream up. Watching the fresh flakes glisten in the early morning light is truly magical. If you're visiting outside of the June to October ski season, you can wander through the national park with ease.

› **You'll love...** Exploring the back country on skis or snowshoes. Snowy Mountains Backcountry (snowymountainsbackcountry.com.au) runs tours during the snow season, ranging from introductory runs to tough climbs (an intermediate ski level is needed).

› **Kids will love...** Careening down the mountain on the designated tobogganing slope that opens each season on Pipers Ridge (perisher.com.au).



Ovolo Nishi

Inspired architecture. Innovative sustainable design. Artistic modern luxury. Ovolo Nishi celebrates art in all its forms. Art, texture and natural materials form a stylishly cool, award-winning space overlooking Lake Burley Griffin. Within the hotel, Monster Kitchen and Bar marries classic French brasserie with Japanese rooted flavours, while its use of modern techniques creates an innovative approach to the Canberra dining scene.

📍 NewActon precinct. 25 Edinburgh Avenue, Canberra ACT 2601

☎ (02) 6287 6287

🌐 ovolohotels.com



Capitol Bar & Grill

Have your fill of fine wine and food offerings at Capitol Bar & Grill, a concept created by acclaimed Australian restaurateur and QT Hotel creative food director Robert Marchetti. The Italian-themed restaurant is perfect for a power lunch or dinner, with a signature antipasto table and mix of refreshed favourites teamed with prime cut steaks on the woodfired grill.

📍 1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

☎ (02) 6247 1488

🌐 qthotelsandresorts.com



Pialligo Estate

On the doorstep of the airport and just minutes from the CBD, Pialligo Estate is Canberra's dining and event destination, showcasing produce and wine from their olive grove, vineyard, orchard, market gardens and award-winning Smokehouse. Here you'll find two restaurants (including the Pialligo Pavilion and their new Market Grill), the Pialligo Fields bar, newly opened The Farm Shop Cafe, a number of event spaces and more.

📍 18 Kallaroo Road, Pialligo ACT 2609

☎ (02) 6247 6060

🌐 thepialligoestate.com.au



Oxley Court Serviced Apartments

Make Oxley Court in Kingston your home away from home. The one- and two-bedroom serviced apartments feature spacious living and dining areas, large bedrooms, fully equipped modern kitchens and laundries, plus access to free Wi-Fi and Foxtel.

📍 9 Dawes Street, Kingston ACT 2603

☎ (02) 6295 6216

🌐 oxleycourt.com.au





Southern Tablelands

Yass/Murrumbateman

→ *Drive time: 50 minutes*

Choose your own adventure in the Yass Valley, north-west of Canberra. There's the line-up of boutiques and cosy cafés for daytrippers; a cool-climate wine district with more than 30 cellar doors stretching around Murrumbateman (see page 50); and two rivers (Murrumbidgee and Yass) with banks ideal for picnicking with a selection of local produce.

› **You'll love...** Creating your own food trail. Make a reservation at the hatted Clementine (clementinerestaurant.com.au) or enjoy a more casual woodfired pizza at Four Winds Vineyard (fourwindsvineyard.com.au). Also stop at Yass Valley Bakery (yassvalley.com.au) and Robyn Rowe Chocolates (robynrowechocolates.com.au).

› **Kids will love...** Taking part in a sheep muster with Burnelee Excursions on Horseback (burnelee.com.au). Rides suitable for all skill levels are held on the 1400-hectare property.

Wine and dine in the region, including at Clementine in Yass (above left).



Bungendore

→ *Drive time: 35 minutes*

Here you'll find all the ingredients required of a picturesque bush town: a pub that's stood for close to 150 years, quirky cafés for a coffee stop and a heritage-listed railway station. That's not to mention the community spirit that permeates the town and manifests in a weekly farmers' market (southernharvest.org.au) and an annual country music muster (bcmm.com.au).

› **You'll love...** The skill on display at the Bungendore Wood Works Gallery (bungendorewoodworks.com.au), a cornucopia of hand-carved furniture. Also visit Manon & Moss (manonandmoss.com.au) to browse a strong collection of modern and antique homewares.

› **Kids will love...** Harvesting chestnuts at Tweenhills Chestnuts (tweenhillschestnuts.com.au). Pick-your-own access is available in April, with farm-gate sales until June.

Braidwood

→ *Drive time: 1 hour*

It was the first town to be listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and is an ideal place to stop and have a wander on your way to the coast. You'll find a main street that hums with cafés, antique stores, clothing shops and more.

› **You'll love...** A gourmet take on pizza at Casanova's (casanovasbraidwood.com.au). Fermented sourdough bases are dressed with toppings such as marinated artichokes, mozzarella, rosemary, garlic and honey. Or follow the crowds to Dojo Bread (@DojoBread) for one of their popular pies.

› **Kids will love...** The sugar wonderland at The Boiled Lolly (@TheBoiledLolly), an old-fashioned sweet shop on Wallace Street. It has more than 300 varieties of colourful treats on display in glass jars.



Hilltops Region

Welcome to the Hilltops region in southern NSW, located a little more than an hour north-west of Canberra. The thriving towns of Boorowa, Harden and Young, plus the quaint local villages in between, tell distinctive Australian historical stories. Full of places waiting to be explored, the Hilltops region is a lively and convenient country escape.

Visitor Information Centres located at
 📍 Railway Station, Lovell Street, Young NSW 2594
 📍 300 Albury Street, Harden NSW 2587
 📍 44 Marsden Street, Boorowa NSW 2586
 ☎ 1800 628 233
 🌐 visithilltopsregion.com.au



Parliament House

The heart of Australian parliamentary democracy and the meeting place of a nation, Parliament House offers visitors to Canberra a unique experience. Take one of our regular tours to enjoy the impressive architecture and art collections, enjoy lunch at our Queen's Terrace Café and visit The Parliament Shop.

📍 Parliament Drive, Canberra ACT 2601
 ☎ (02) 6277 5399
 🌐 aph.gov.au/visit



King O'Malley's

King O'Malley's Irish pub is a favourite with the locals and a must-visit on any trip to Canberra. Located in the heart of the city, King O'Malley's features Canberra's best live bands every weekend, with free entry, all day meals and great craft and international beers on tap. Open seven days until late.

📍 131 City Walk, Canberra City ACT 2601
 ☎ (02) 6257 0111
 🌐 kingomalley.com.au



National Portrait Gallery

Immerse yourself in the identity of Australia, captured through the National Portrait Gallery's unique collection. Australian stories unfold through paintings and photographs, revealing our culture, achievements and history. The gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm, except Christmas Day.

📍 King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600
 ☎ (02) 6102 7000
 🌐 portrait.gov.au



What's on

No matter when you're in town, there's something happening in Canberra. Mark these events in your calendar.



Summer

SPORT

2-5 JANUARY
Summernats

♥ Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Mitchell
→ summernats.com.au

SPORT

15 JANUARY
BBL Sydney Thunder vs Melbourne Renegades

♥ Manuka Oval, Griffith
→ bigbash.com.au

HOLIDAY

26 JANUARY
Australia Day In The Capital

♥ Regatta Point, Parkes
→ events.act.gov.au

SPORT

31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY
Women's T20 Intl Tri-Series

India vs England (31 Jan)
Australia vs England (1 Feb)
Australia vs India (2 Feb)
♥ Manuka Oval, Griffith
→ cricket.com.au

FESTIVAL

21-23 FEBRUARY
National Multicultural Festival

♥ Canberra City
→ multiculturalfestival.com.au

SPORT

26-28 FEBRUARY
ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020

♥ Manuka Oval, Griffith
→ cricket.com.au

FESTIVAL

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH
Royal Canberra Show

♥ Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Mitchell
→ canberrashow.org.au

Martin Ollman

Autumn

FESTIVAL
28 FEBRUARY – 15 MARCH
Enlighten Festival
♥ Parliamentary Zone venues
→ enlightencanberra.com

FESTIVAL
7–15 MARCH
Canberra Balloon Spectacular
♥ Lawns of Old Parliament House, Parkes
→ events.act.gov.au

HOLIDAY
9 MARCH
Canberra Day
♥ Commonwealth Park
→ events.act.gov.au

FIREWORKS
14 MARCH
Skyfire
♥ Lake Burley Griffin
→ hit1047skyfire.com.au

SPORT
4–5 APRIL
Australian Running Festival
♥ Start at King George Terrace, Parkes
→ runningfestival.com.au

FESTIVAL
9–13 APRIL
National Folk Festival
♥ Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Mitchell
→ folkfestival.org.au

FESTIVAL
14 APRIL – 3 MAY
Canberra and Region Heritage Festival
♥ Various venues
→ environment.act.gov.au/heritage

HISTORY
25 APRIL
ANZAC Day Commemorations
♥ Australian War Memorial, Campbell
→ awm.gov.au

FESTIVAL
1–10 MAY
Canberra International Music Festival
♥ Various venues
→ cimf.org.au

Winter

CULTURE
1 JUNE
Reconciliation In The Park
♥ Canberra City
→ events.act.gov.au

FESTIVAL
10–19 JULY
FYI Canberra
♥ Various venues
→ fyicanberra.com

FOOD
LATE JUNE – EARLY AUGUST
The Truffle Festival
♥ Various venues
→ trufflefestival.com.au

SPORT
1 AUGUST
AFL Premiership GWS Giants vs Brisbane Lions
♥ Manuka Oval, Griffith
→ afl.com.au

FESTIVAL
12–16 AUGUST
Canberra Writers Festival
♥ Various venues
→ canberrawritersfestival.com.au

Spring

FESTIVAL
12 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER
Floriade – including NightFest
♥ Commonwealth Park
→ floriadeaustralia.com

FESTIVAL
24 OCTOBER
Canberra Nara Candle Festival
♥ Canberra Nara Peace Park in Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla
→ events.act.gov.au

HISTORY
11 NOVEMBER
Remembrance Day
♥ Australian War Memorial, Campbell
→ awm.gov.au

Before they go...

→ For detailed seasonal events, go to visitcanberra.com.au

KIDS
UNTIL 2 FEBRUARY, 2020
Dreamworks Animation: The Exhibition – Journey From Sketch To Screen
♥ National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula
→ nma.gov.au

TECH
UNTIL 9 MARCH, 2020
Game Masters: The Exhibition
♥ National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Acton
→ nfsa.gov.au

CULTURE
UNTIL 13 APRIL, 2020
Matisse & Picasso
♥ National Gallery of Australia, Parkes
→ nga.gov.au

Around town

Your handy guide to staying connected and discovering the city.



Free Wi-Fi

The CBRfree public Wi-Fi network services the city centre and surrounding precincts, offering users 250 megabytes of data per day. You can also find free Wi-Fi hotspots at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre, both Canberra Airport's international and domestic terminals, shopping centres and many hotels and motels.



Taxis and rideshare

Cabxpress (02 6181 2700), Canberra Elite Taxis (canberraelite.com.au), Silver Service (13 31 00), Uber (uber.com), Ola (ola.com.au), Shebah (shebah.com.au) and 13WATS wheelchair-accessible taxi (13 92 87).



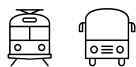
Bike hire

Brompton bikes can be hired at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre and come with a helmet and a map (\$20 for two hours; \$45 for a full day). Other options include: Share A Bike (shareabike.com.au), with stations in the city and south of Lake Burley Griffin; Airbike, a dockless bike hire platform accessible via an app; or NewActon Bike Hire (newacton.com.au). Cycling enthusiasts should try Cycle City Hire (cyclecityhire.com.au); Cycle Canberra (cyclecanberra.com.au); Goodspeed Bicycle Company (goodspeed.com.au); The Cyclery (thecyclery.net.au) and Livelo (livelo.cc).



Canberra and Region Visitors Centre

Centrally located at Regatta Point on Lake Burley Griffin's north shore, the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre (above) is more than just an information hub. Friendly staff and volunteers share their wealth of knowledge on everything to do, see and experience in the ACT – from last-minute accommodation deals to restaurant or café recommendations and tickets to the hottest exhibitions. You can check out the gift shop to stock up on souvenirs, including locally produced food and wine.



Public transport

Transport Canberra's light rail and public bus network are a convenient and cost-effective way of getting around the capital. You'll need a prepaid MyWay card to pay for travel – buy one from convenience stores, newsagents and ticket vending machines at all light rail stops and selected bus interchanges. Find real-time service information, timetables and an easy-to-use journey planner at transport.act.gov.au.



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TECHNOLOGY
SOCIETY + HUMANITY
ENVIRONMENT
ARTS + CULTURE
DEMOCRACY



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From zero to art hero



Yinka Shonibare MBE Refugee astronaut 2015; fibreglass, printed cotton, net, wood, metal and plastic objects, baseplate National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Courtesy of the artist, James Cohan Gallery, New York, Shanghai