
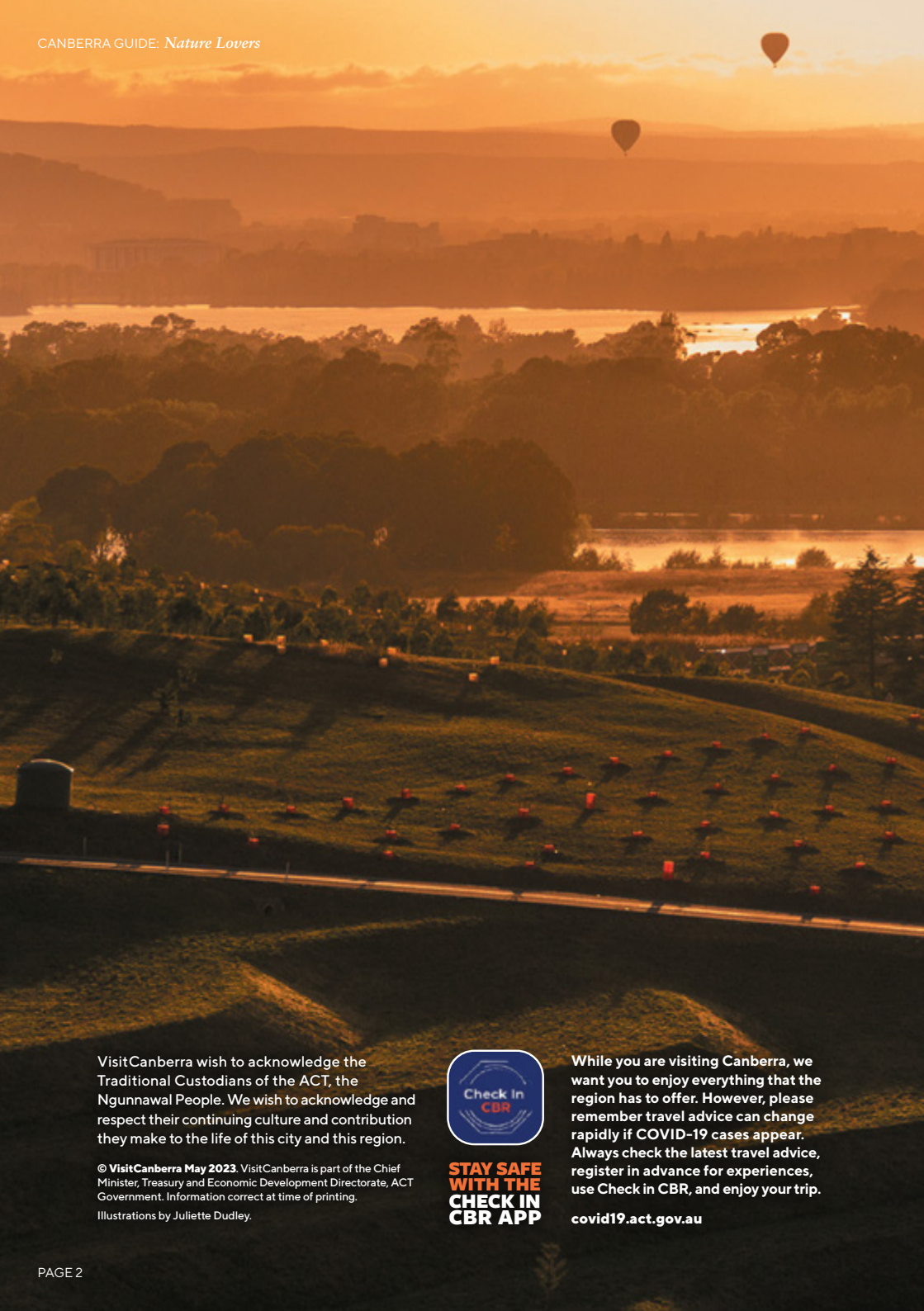


FREE

A circular inset image showing a landscape at sunrise or sunset. Several hot air balloons are visible, with one large orange and white balloon in the foreground and others in the background. Silhouettes of trees and people are visible in the foreground.

# NATURE LOVERS

Canberra Guide



VisitCanberra wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal People. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

© VisitCanberra May 2023. VisitCanberra is part of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government. Information correct at time of printing.

Illustrations by Juliette Dudley.



**STAY SAFE  
WITH THE  
CHECK IN  
CBR APP**

While you are visiting Canberra, we want you to enjoy everything that the region has to offer. However, please remember travel advice can change rapidly if COVID-19 cases appear. Always check the latest travel advice, register in advance for experiences, use Check in CBR, and enjoy your trip.

[covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)

# Contents

## *Nature Lovers*

- 04 Iconic Canberra
- 06 Great walks
- 08 On two wheels
- 10 On the water
- 12 Animal encounters
- 14 Outdoor wonderland
- 16 Lookouts
- 18 Share your travels

*Hot air balloons are an iconic Canberra experience.*



*Enjoy a massage at Jindii Eco Spa in the Botanic Gardens.*



# Iconic Canberra

No trip to Canberra would be complete without ticking off these top five iconic experiences. Do all the big hitters in a long weekend, from a bike ride around the lake to a hot air balloon ride over the city, to discover **more than** you expect.

*Take a sunrise balloon ride over the capital.*

## TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE'S POWERFUL PAST

To many, Tidbinbilla means excellent wildlife-spotting opportunities. 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'. Explore the nature reserve, once a location for sacred coming-of-age rituals, on a self-guided walk.

[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)



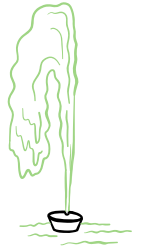
*Tip toe through the tulips at Floriade.*

## HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT

Float into the sky as the sun rises, see the sights from above before enjoying a champagne celebration at Hyatt Hotel Canberra. Did you know Canberra is one of the few places where you can fly over both a cityscape and natural vistas in one flight?

[balloonaloftcanberra.com.au](http://balloonaloftcanberra.com.au)

Planting of bulbs and annuals for Canberra's Floriade begins late March each year, guaranteeing a colourful spring spectacular.



## SPRING CELEBRATIONS AT FLORIADE

The country's premier spring festival features more than one million bulbs and annuals blooming in intricate patterns. Held mid-September to mid-October, there's more to this floral festival than just flowers; enjoy markets, workshops, and more.

[floriadeaustralia.com](http://floriadeaustralia.com)

## MOUNT AINSLIE SUMMIT WALK



You will be rewarded with sweeping views across the city after completing a short but steep walk up this urban mountain. Look out for kangaroos on your way down and leave plenty of time to explore the Australian War Memorial, which stands tall at the foot of Mount Ainslie.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

## CLASSIC BRIDGE TO BRIDGE LOOP



The Lake, as it's affectionately known, is loved by locals and visitors alike. Lined with parks and paths, walking, running, scooting or cycling Lake Burley Griffin's popular five-kilometre bridge-to-bridge loop is a must. Take in the stunning views or drop by the lakeside galleries and iconic attractions.

# Great walks

Natural beauty is right on your doorstep in Canberra with popular walks ranging from easy ambles through to multi-day hikes. Discover **more than** picturesque vistas with waterfalls, gorges, forests, and snow-capped mountains just 45-minutes' drive from the city centre.

*View from Booroomba Rocks.*

## BOOROOMBA ROCKS AT NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK



Nestled on the northern edge of the Australian Alps, Namadgi National Park is criss-crossed with trails just waiting to be hiked. The panoramic view over the valley from Honeysuckle Campground to Booroomba Rocks shows how the park is regenerating from the devastating 2020 fires.

[parks.act.gov.au](https://parks.act.gov.au)

## NIL DESPERANDUM AT TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE



Pack a picnic of local delicacies and hike through regenerating native forest to Nil Desperandum, a heritage pisé-style house. Explore the nearby historic eucalypt distillery, wild flowers in bloom, and camelia gardens or book the property to spend a night of tranquility in the reserve.

[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](https://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)

## CENTENARY TRAIL AROUND CANBERRA

The Centenary Trail loops around Canberra taking in many highlights from Parliament House through to secluded natural pools. 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.

[parks.act.gov.au](https://parks.act.gov.au)

The knowledgeable staff at Namadgi and Tidbinbilla Visitor Centres provide great advice about walks that may best suit you.



*View from the Arboretum.*



## NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANNBERRA TRAILS

Just six kilometres from the city centre, wander through 44,000 rare and culturally significant trees. Your hardest choice will be deciding whether to walk, cycle, ride a horse, or take a bus tour through the forests. The National Arboretum Canberra is also home to the National Bonsai Collection and a great café.

[nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)

## DHAWURA TOURS

Make a walk in the park a more meaningful experience by following in the footsteps of the guides from Dhawura Tours. Learn how the Ngunnawal people have lived on the land for thousands of years on tours of Mount Majura, Mount Taylor and Black Mountain.

[thunderstone.net.au](http://thunderstone.net.au)

**Namadgi National Park**  
is more than 100,000  
hectares in size and  
features 160km of  
walking tracks.



*Hire an e-scooter at the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre.*

As a planned city with extensive dedicated bike paths, Canberra is easy to navigate on two wheels, whether they belong to bikes or e-scooters. Join a tour to see popular attractions with an expert or head to the pines for **more than** your average mountain bike trails.

# On two wheels







*Mount Stromlo, along with Majura Pines, offers world-class mountain bike riding.*

## CLASSIC LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN LOOP

Lake Burley Griffin is Canberra's centrepiece and a ride around this beauty will take you to many beloved city icons. Galleries, museums, a zoo and aquarium, an arboretum, scenic wetlands, cafes and breweries all call the 40km shoreline home. The ride is mostly flat and predominantly uses bike paths.

## BIKE TOURS

Mulga Bicycle Tours makes it easy to get your bearings with guided tours tailored to your interests. Design a bespoke itinerary or choose the Capital Highlights Tour that will take you past Old Parliament House and the National Gallery's Sculpture Garden to name just a few places of interest.

[mulgabicycletours.com.au](http://mulgabicycletours.com.au)

## MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Traversing Canberra's natural playground on a mountain bike is the ultimate way to boost your adrenaline level. Majura Pines Recreation Area features 20 kilometres of well-marked tracks ranging from beginner level to the hardcore black diamond runs.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)



*Hire a scooter to explore the city.*

## HIRE A BIKE

Hire a Brompton bike from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre at Regatta Point (\$20 for 2 hours, \$45 all day). Other hire options include Share A Bike ([shareabike.com.au](http://shareabike.com.au)), Cycle City Hire ([cyclecityhire.com.au](http://cyclecityhire.com.au)), and Livelo ([livelo.cc](http://livelo.cc)).

## HIRE AN E-SCOOTER

The Visitors Centre also has e-scooters (\$15 for 1 hour, \$25 for 2 hours), or choose between Neuron's orange scooters ([rideneuron.com](http://rideneuron.com)) and Beam's purple scooters ([ridebeam.com](http://ridebeam.com)) bookable via mobile apps.

# On the water

*Captain your own GoBoat  
on Lake Burley Griffin.*

## **GOBOAT CANBERRA TRIPS**

Hire an electric GoBoat to explore the glittering jewel in Canberra's crown, Lake Burley Griffin. Don a captain's hat and pack a picnic to feast on as you see the sights from the water. You don't need a boating licence, but bookings are essential.

[canberra.goboat.com.au](http://canberra.goboat.com.au)

## **CAPITAL PADDLE RIDES**

A much-loved tradition that has stood the test of time, peddle across the lake in a colourful paddle boat (\$25 for 30 minutes, \$35 for 1 hour). Circle around the Captain Cook Memorial Jet to see six tonnes of water spraying an impressive 114m into the sky (11am - 2pm daily).

[capitalpaddle.com.au](http://capitalpaddle.com.au)

## **STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING**

Got a group? Rent stand up paddleboards and explore the still waters of Yarralumla Bay, on the south-west edge of Lake Burley Griffin. The Paddle Hub accepts group bookings of 10 or more between October and April.

[canberra.ymca.org.au](http://canberra.ymca.org.au)



The glistening centrepiece of the capital, Lake Burley Griffin, has been dubbed a water playground with **more than** just lakeside activities on offer. Glide across the water with picnic boats, stand up paddleboards, paddle boats and cruises.

*Lake Burley Griffin Cruises*



### RIVER FLOATING

The shady Pine Island Beach is a popular spot for summer barbecues.

Bring an inflatable mattress to bob gently on the sepia-hued water of the Murrumbidgee River. Walk or mountain bike to nearby Point Hut, Red Rocks Gorge, or Kambah Pool after your float.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

### CRUISES OF LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

Many distinctly Canberran landmarks are best seen from the water. Time your guided boat trip with sunset to be surrounded by colourful skies and the dramatic silhouette of the Brindabellas. MV Southern Cross and Lake Burley Griffin Cruises run regularly with one and two-hour options in the warmer months.

[mvsoutherncross.com.au](http://mvsoutherncross.com.au)  
[lakecruises.com.au](http://lakecruises.com.au)

# Animal encounters

Don't be surprised if you spot a kangaroo while simply driving or walking around Canberra. For **more than** an exciting animal encounter visit a sanctuary, go bird-watching or stare a cheetah in the eye at the zoo.

*Kangaroos at  
Weston Park.*



*Be neighbours with a cheetah for the night at Jamala Wildlife Lodge.*

## STAY OVERNIGHT AT THE ZOO

Be neighbours with a tiger for the night at Jamala Wildlife Lodge. Set inside the National Zoo & Aquarium, the lodge's luxurious rooms and bungalows allow guests to wake up alongside giraffes, lions and sun bears. Meet rare creatures up close with an animal encounter experience and enjoy a wander through the aquarium.

[jamalawildlifelodge.com.au](http://jamalawildlifelodge.com.au)  
[nationalzoo.com.au](http://nationalzoo.com.au)

## KOALAS IN THE SANCTUARY

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, a 40-minute drive from the city centre, is a sanctuary for an abundance of native wildlife. Venture along the Koala Path to see these snuggly marsupial, wander the Sanctuary Loop and challenge yourself to spot ten Aussie species, or walk the Camels Hump trail for scenic views over Canberra.

[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)

## Mulligans Flat is home to more than 100 endangered Eastern Bettongs.

### KANGAROOS AT WESTON PARK

Head to this 40-hectare reserve in Yarralumla 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. Weston Park also features an excellent kids' playground, a miniature train, and a marked orienteering course.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

### BIRDLIFE AT JERRABOMBERRA WETLANDS

Over 170 different bird species call the wetlands home. See how many you can spot as you venture along the signposted walking trails and bike tracks. Keep an eye out for frogs and even platypus as well, before heading to the nearby Dairy Road precinct for beers, burgers, bouldering and indoor skiing.

[jerrabomberrwetlands.org.au](http://jerrabomberrwetlands.org.au)

### QUOLLS AT MULLIGANS FLAT SANCTUARY

Snuffly echidnas, tiny bettongs and elusive eastern quolls thrive at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, a 25-minute drive from the CBD. Join a guided Twilight Tour to increase your chances of spotting these secretive creatures or follow the well-marked trails to enjoy a six-kilometre walk or 12-kilometre circuit of this native wonderland.

[mulligansflat.org.au](http://mulligansflat.org.au)

# Outdoor wonderland



With **more than** half of the ACT protected as nature reserves, Canberra truly is an outdoor wonderland. For an adventure to remember, have a snowball fight in a forest of eucalypts or glamp under the stars.

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS WALKS

To walk through the Gardens is to walk through Australia's unique landscapes, from tropical rainforests to the red centre. Climb into the canopy to explore the Paperbark Treehouse, grab lunch on the deck of Pollen Café or pamper yourself at Jindii Eco Spa — all nestled in the gardens.

[parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens)  
[pollencafe.com.au](http://pollencafe.com.au) [jindii.com.au](http://jindii.com.au)

Canberra's 'city in a park' status comes from half of the ACT being designated bushland.

## POD PLAYGROUND FUN

Imagine airborne acorns connected with tunnels and nets just waiting to be climbed — that's the magic of the Pod Playground at the National Arboretum Canberra. Surrounded by forests of rare trees, this picturesque play space is a hop, skip and jump away from rolling hills that are perfect for flying kites.

[nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)

## CUBBY AND CO LUXURY GLAMPING

Sleep next to the vines and under the stars at Mount Majura Vineyard and disconnect from technology. Here your only jobs are to determine which of the estate's wines is your favourite, feast on proudly local food, and star gaze before snuggling up in a chic bell tent or tiny house for the night.

[nakedcubbycollective.com](http://nakedcubbycollective.com)

## CORIN FOREST ACTIVITIES

Corin Forest transforms with the seasons. In winter, young families will love building snowmen, skiing easy downhill slopes and tobogganing. Year round you can jump on board the Alpine Slide and descend 1.2 kilometres through the majestic Mountain Ash Forest.

[corin.com.au](http://corin.com.au)



Climb the banksia-inspired Pod Playground.



Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Toboggan at  
Corin Forest.

# Lookouts

Canberra's urban reserves are filled with lookouts that are as popular with locals as visitors. Many lookouts can be reached quickly by car or by foot along well signed posted walking tracks that reward urban adventurers with **more than** breathtaking views.

*The walk up Mt Ainslie provides stunning views.*



**MOUNT AINSLIE**

Canberra's city design is best appreciated from the top of Mount Ainslie. Gaze down Anzac Parade to Parliament House. The summit trail begins behind the Australian War Memorial and features heart-warming plaques and memorials along the way.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

**BLACK MOUNTAIN**

Choose from the many routes that lead to Black Mountain's summit and be rewarded with panoramic views over the lake and city. Keen adventurers can explore the Australian National Botanic Gardens at the base of Black Mountain and great views from the top.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

**RED HILL**

South of the city centre, Red Hill offers an amazing lookout over many national attractions and sweeping vistas of Canberra. In autumn, the brilliant reds and oranges of the deciduous trees in the suburbs below are breathtaking. Combine these views with a delicious meal at the top.

[parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

**MOUNT TAYLOR**

A short walk to the peak along a well-trodden track will offer 360-degree views of the surrounding valleys and Brindabella Ranges, sometimes topped with snow during winter. The reserve's woodlands are home to many rare plants, birds and animals.

Plan your walks at [parks.act.gov.au](http://parks.act.gov.au)

The Black Mountain Summit Walk is nicknamed the flower to tower trail.

*The view from Mt Ainslie. Image: Rob Mulally.*



# Share your travels

with more than your camera roll, use **#visitcanberra**



Lake Burley Griffin with @808outcanberra.



Escorting around Lake Burley Griffin with @vanderlust73.





Floride with @mareroms.



The Sanctuary at Tibbilla with @pfpinsondke2017.



Hot air ballooning with @simplycheeky.



National Zoo & Aquarium with @harperyeats.

# discover **more than** a visitors centre



Chat to a friendly local and browse the range of Canberra region wine and produce.



**CANBERRA AND REGION  
VISITORS CENTRE**

LOCAL MERCHANDISE • TOURS AND TICKETS • ACCOMMODATION DEALS

Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes, ACT 2600

• 1300 554 114 • [visitcanberra.com.au](http://visitcanberra.com.au)

• Open 9am-5pm weekdays • Open 9am-4pm weekends  
& public holidays • Closed Christmas Day.