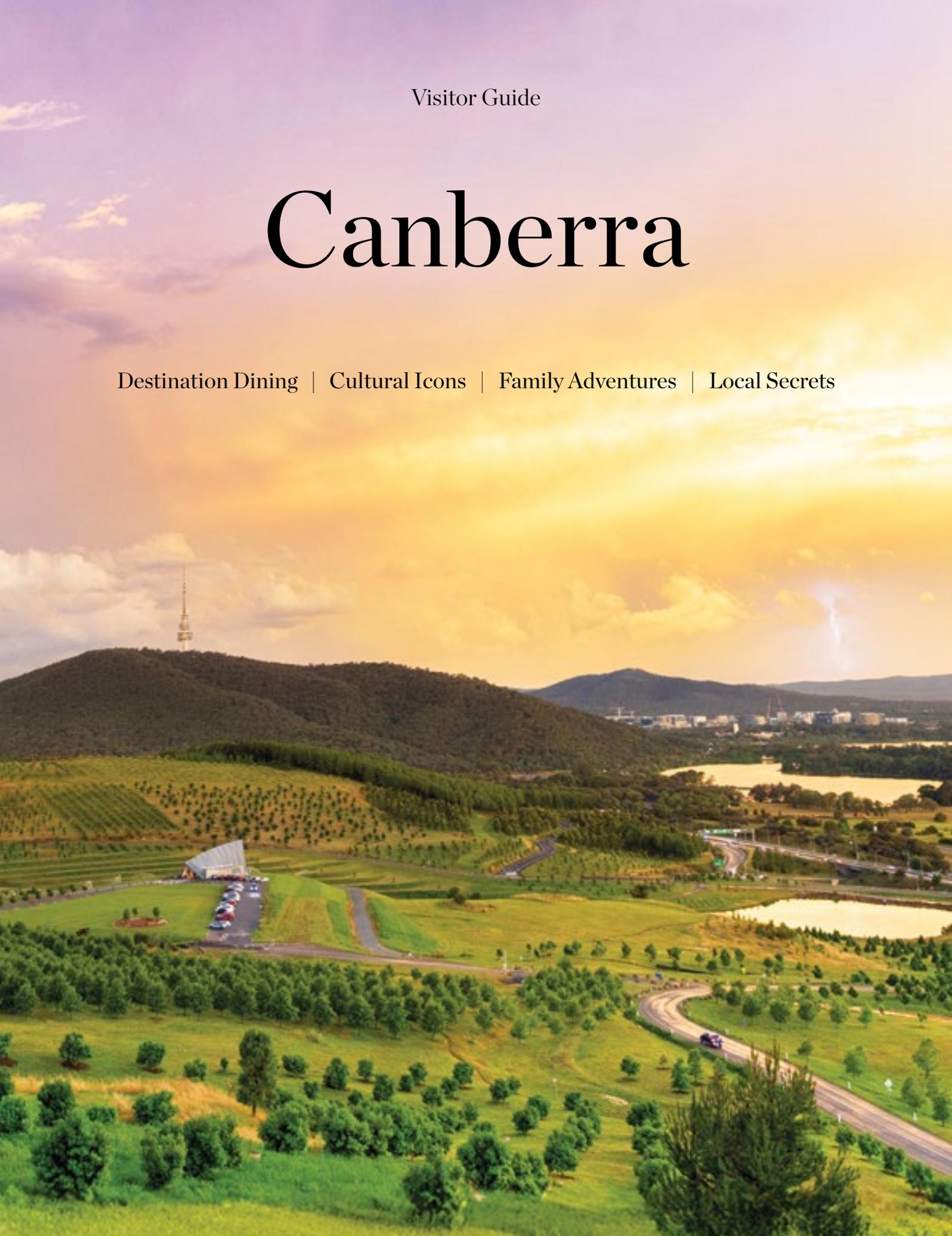


Visitor Guide

Canberra

Destination Dining | Cultural Icons | Family Adventures | Local Secrets



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Cover image: Vishal Pandey for VisitCanberra.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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Canberra Visitor Guide 2026 is published by Medium Rare Content Agency (02 8114 8900, mediumrarecontent.com) for VisitCanberra, part of the ACT Government. GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601. T: (02) 6205 0666, E: visitcanberra@act.gov.au
Tourist information: 1300 554 114. Printed February 2026.



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

DESTINATION DINING

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

◦ FOR AN UNEXPECTED FUSION

Inka

Canberra City

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

◦ FOR A LEISURELY LUNCH

Lamshed's

Yarralumla

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

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

◦ FOR REFINED BISTRO PLATES

Onzieme

Kingston

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

◦ FOR EXQUISITE FRENCH

Les Bistronomes

Campbell

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

◦ FOR MOREISH BITES AND BEATS

Bar Rochford

Canberra City

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



LOBSTER TAIL SPAGHETTI
WITH SALMON ROE AT
BAR ROCHFORD

DIRECTORY

LOCAL SECRETS

TRENDING

FAMILY & NATURE

CULTURE

FOOD & WINE



(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) ULLADULLA SWORD FISH SKEWER AT KOTO; AZUMA DEN CHEF; HIDDEN FINE-DINER PILOT; SPANISH RED AT SUCH AND SUCH



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

barrochford.com

◦ FOR UPSCALE JAPANESE FARE

Koto

Parke

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

kotodining.com.au

◦ FOR AN ARTFUL DEGUSTATION

Pilot

Ainslie

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

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

pilotrestaurant.com

◦ FOR FARE TO SHARE

Such and Such

Canberra City

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

andsuchandsuch.com

◦ FOR CONTEMPORARY COMBOS

Monster

Acton

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

ovolohotels.com

◦ FOR EXCITING GLOBAL EATS

Azuma Den

Barton

This is where Korean soul meets Japanese precision across a menu built around the hibachi grill. Tucked into East Hotel, the space glows with hand-dyed lanterns and silk canopies, setting the scene for a dining experience that's both intimate and elemental. Chefs Junho "Luffy" Koh and Jun Kim lead the charge, blending fermentation and finesse in dishes like Wagyu tartare tacos – crisp wonton shells cradling beef yukhoe, nashi pear and wasabi oil. It's a bite that's bold,

balanced, and gone too soon. “It’s all about connection and harmony. Our food is based on Korean and Japanese cuisine, bringing together traditional flavours with modern ideas, familiar dishes and new surprises,” says Chef Koh. Each dish arrives with warmth, smoke, and thoughtful detail, from the ceramics to the cocktails azumaden.com.au.

◦ FOR A FRENCH TWIST

Louis

Barton

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

◦ FOR SERIOUS COMFORT FOOD

Corella

Braddon

An opening act of cultured “buttermite” on perfect bread sets the tone at cheerful, light-

filled Corella. It says: “Yes, this is upscale but we’re not above Vegemite, because it’s delicious.” Accept the ride and trust the set menu, which rolls from Appellation oysters to surprises such as Wagyu flank with trusty stroganoff sauce or barramundi dressed in caramelised miso. Native ingredients used as accents are a delight here, with sunrise lime adding sharpness to the mayonnaise on spanner crab toast. Come dessert, chocolate cake spiked with wattleseed makes for a winning, nutty finale. corellabar.com.au

◦ FOR WINE BAR WINNERS

Paranormal Wines

Campbell

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

◦ FOR A CHEF-LED ADVENTURE

Mu

Canberra City

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

◦ FOR BRAVE, MOREISH DISHES

Rebel Rebel

Acton

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



FOOD & WINE

CULTURE

FAMILY & NATURE

TRAVELING

LOCAL SECRETS

DIRECTORY



(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) CASUAL DINING AT VERITY LANE MARKET;
RESTAURANT LUNETTA; RAKU'S KINGFISH SASHIMI;
ENJOY A NIGHTCAP AT MOLLY



◦ FOR BUZZY MODERN
JAPANESE

Raku

Canberra City

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

rakudining.com.au

◦ FOR A SUNNY MED-STYLE VIBE

Molto Italian

Kingston

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

moltoitalian.com

◦ FOR FOOD WITH A VIEW

Lunetta

Red Hill

Suspended between sky and city, Lunetta is Canberra’s little moon – a modernist marvel atop Red Hill Lookout. Inside, clean lines and soft light set the tone for a dining experience both grounded and celestial. The menu is a poetic ode to seasonal produce, with pecorino ravioli in roasted garlic honey butter speaking in quiet, confident flavours. With panoramic views and a philosophy that connects earth and sky, Lunetta invites you to dine not just with taste, but with perspective.

lunetta.au

◦ FOR FLAVOURFUL FUSION

Clover

Canberra City

Clover brings a modern Wafu–Italian spirit to the table where Japanese subtlety and Italian generosity meet. There’s affection in every dish: the Unagi Risotto, rich with Japanese eel, parmesan and ‘Nduja; or the Hotate, a grilled scallop that arrives with a cashew–jalapeños emulsion. Don’t sleep on the signature cocktails, bright and deep in all the right places. Clover suits everything from unhurried breakfasts and easy lunches to social hours and dimly lit dinners.

cloverdining.com.au

QUICK CITY BITES

◦ FOR A TASTE OF THE EXOTIC

Verity Lane Market

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

veritylanemarket.com.au

◦ FOR A NIGHT THAT DOESN’T QUIT

Melbourne Building Crawl

Start your night with a spritz and charcuterie board at Amici, where hand-stretched pizza and deli delights meet a curated wine list. Then slip into Vice, a sultry steakhouse where indulgence rules. When the evening calls for something stronger, descend into the speakeasy charm of Molly or sip tropical cocktails at Highball. Still got energy? A short walk away is 88mph for throwback beats to keep the party going.

amici.bar, vice.restaurant, molly.bar, highball.bar, 88mph.bar.

TO FIND MORE EATERIES ACROSS THE CAPITAL, TURN TO THE DIRECTORY ON PAGE 63

BLACK GOLD

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HEYWOOD WINERY

LEAN TIMMS

CRUSHING IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wineries at a glance

Pioneer vines

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

Drink now or later

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

Shiraz with a view

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

For fruit fans

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



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

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

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

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

“He’s producing great tempranillo,” she says, noting that the charred sweetness of anything from the grill

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

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

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

See page 67 for more cellar doors to explore in the Canberra District wine region.

GREAT ENTERTAINERS

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

Stay and play

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

Fly-in fly-out

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

Meet the locals

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

Bring the dog

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

CULTURE

FAMILY & NATURE

TRENDING

LOCAL SECRETS

DIRECTORY



NEW PERSPECTIVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LEAN TIMMS

BUNYA INFINITY FOREST
AT THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

DIRECTORY

LOCAL SECRETS

FAMILY & NATURE

CULTURE

FOOD & WINE

Canberra Museum and Gallery

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

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



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

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

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

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

1



National Portrait Gallery

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

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



2

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

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

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

INSTALLATION VIEW FEATURING VARIOUS WORKS FROM NPG COLLECTION



3

National Gallery of Australia

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

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



2



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

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

3



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

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

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



FOOD & WINE

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Canberra Glassworks

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

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

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





1

National Museum of Australia

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

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

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

ULURU LINE



2

MODERN BY DESIGN

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

THE AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL
ANNEX BY ENRICO
TAGLIETTI



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

A few blocks from the old cinema, towards City Hill park, lies Civic Square, one of Jarvis’s favourite design precincts. “Look at the lavish gold mosaic on those

columns,” she says of Canberra Museum and Gallery. At the opposite end of the square, a winged woman – Tom Bass’s 1961 *Ethos* sculpture – holds a bursting sun before the ACT Legislative Assembly. The work became

a totem for the growing capital as it boldly entered a new world. “She’s so powerful she was used in tourism marketing as soon as she was installed,” says Jarvis.

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

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

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

TURN UP THE FUN

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





Play in epic pods

For kids, Pod Playground – where giant acorn and banksia cubbies are linked by a labyrinth of slides and climbing nets – is the slam-dunk star of Molonglo Valley’s National Arboretum Canberra (also home to 94 different types of forest and many themed

gardens). Nearby, you’ll find the starting point for the Himalayan Cedar Track, a 2.1-kilometre loop that leads to a picnic deck with free electric barbecues. Pack walkie-talkies to level up a game amongst the century-old cedars. nationalarboretum.act.gov.au



Make your own coin

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

ramint.gov.au

Talk to the animals

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

nationalzoo.com.au

Try fantastical treats

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

space-kitchen.com.au

Live the high life

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

treetopsadventure.com.au





Go tobogganing on snow... or steel

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

Staying up late(ish)?

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

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

Comfort and fun

Alivio Tourist Resort is a family-friendly option close to the city, offering a range of accommodation styles, award-winning service, and



fun amenities like a pool and games for kids. For a more upmarket stay, Brassey Hotel provides a touch of luxury and a VIP Kids package, making it a great choice for families seeking comfort with a little extra. aliviotouristparkcanberra.com.au

Shake it up in the Quake Lab

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



Discover secrets at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

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

Embrace the little things

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

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

Tick all the boxes

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

Or opt for the Canberra Mega Pass to unlock three iconic experiences and save. Tour the elite training grounds of Olympians at the Australian Institute of Sport, get up close with wildlife at the National Zoo & Aquarium, and spark your curiosity at Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre. goldcreekadventure.com.au
booking.visitcanberra.com.au/canberra-mega-pass

Get your sport on

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





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The background of the page is a photograph of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, Australia, during sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The water in the foreground is dark with gentle ripples. In the middle ground, a long, low building with a series of columns is visible on the left, followed by a line of trees. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

SHORE THINGS

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



FOOD & WINE

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The Lake at a glance

Watercraft

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

Wheel good action

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

Family fun

Have a splash and meet the ponies at Yarralumla Play Station

Order up

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





ANNE STROUD FOR VISITCANTBERRA

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

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

Named after Walter Burley Griffin, one of the lead designers of the city's layout, the artificial lake is as much a part of the local lifestyle as it is a must-do for visitors. To make the most of the lake's Captain Cook Memorial Jet, which shoots six tonnes of water about 114 metres into the air, propel your pedal boat through the much-photographed mist. Or warm up and unwind at Yarralumla Beach East where two wood-fired sauna rooms with floor-to-ceiling lake views offer a serene escape right on the water (floatingsauna.com.au).

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

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

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

WILD AT HEART

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

Track down Stromlo's black diamonds

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

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

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

Head for the hills

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

parks.act.gov.au

Choose your own adventure

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

parks.act.gov.au

Salute the sunshine

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



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

canberratracks.act.gov.au

Take off on a space odyssey

Before starting out on the self-guided Heritage Trail from Mount Stromlo Observatory, the HQ of the Australian National University's Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, download the ANU Walks smartphone app. Stories of the site's destruction in the 2003 bushfires and wartime military secondment bring history to life. But the real action is up above. Ngunnawal people watched the sky from Stromlo for millennia before the first observatory dome arrived in 1911. After-dark group tours, lectures and stargazing events here are a great way to

discover the beauty of space. A French-Australian astronomer with a PhD in Astrophysics and Astronomy has launched a new stargazing base on the western edge of Canberra. Just a short drive from the city, this stunning location along the Murrumbidgee offers unforgettable nights where science, storytelling and wonder meet. Enjoy a 90-minute guided experience featuring constellation storytelling, telescope and binocular viewing, expert Q&A, and complimentary hot chocolate, all under sweeping 360-degree views of the ACT's natural beauty.

rsaa.anu.edu.au/observatories

Hit a park after dark

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

wildbark.org

CONTINUING CULTURE

The landscapes, wildlife and natural bush of Canberra have been cared for by elders for thousands of years, continuing today. Immerse yourself in some of the oldest and richest cultures in human history on Country.

EXPERIENCE ABORIGINAL CULTURE IN THE CAPITAL, FROM THE STORIES SHARED INSIDE OUR CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS, TO LEARNING FROM CANBERRA'S DIVERSE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

GO TO [VISITCANBERRA.COM.AU/THINGS-TO-DO/FIRST-NATIONS-EXPERIENCES](https://www.visitcanberra.com.au/things-to-do/first-nations-experiences) FOR MORE.

Mununja the Butterfly Garden depicts a Dreamtime story of the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the land that includes Canberra and the site of the National Arboretum Canberra. The layout, colour and shapes of the garden reference the geometric scales on butterfly wings, in particular the Orchard swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio aegeus*), and the Common crow butterfly (*Euploea core*), both found along the east coast of Australia.

Plants have been selected to provide habitat and food for butterflies, and for their cultural significance, with an emphasis on plants that grow naturally in the ACT and surrounds.

The Dreamtime story of Mununja the Butterfly is the story of a young Aboriginal girl who was changed into a butterfly so that she could avoid marrying the evil Gunga. Gunga possessed great powers and would always prevent Mununja from marrying the boy she loved. With the help of Narja, the good spirit butterfly, Mununja was able to remain near her family and her Country forever, as a beautiful butterfly.

Set on the banks of the Burrinjuck River, the characters and landscape celebrate the diversity of plant and animal species in the environment before non-Indigenous people settled there. The story of Mununja has been told for generations and will continue to be told for many more.



The story of Mununja the Butterfly, as told by Ngunnawal elder Don Bell, has been provided by Tyrone Bell. Other traditional custodians have also been consulted to ensure appropriate depiction of cultural intellectual property, via Charles Solomon at Garawana Creative.

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

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



FOOD & WINE

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Above the vines

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

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

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



In the bush

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

Among the animals

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





Off the grid

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

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

NEIGHBOURHOODS TO KNOW



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



CANBERRA CITY, ACTON & BRADDON

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

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

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

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

Stay local

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

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



BARTON, MANUKA & KINGSTON

Leafy village vibes meet slick dining spots and elegant cocktail bars in this enclave of the inner south. Barton, once known for its office blocks, is now one of the city's hottest places to eat, with Muk Bar (1; mukbar.com.au) sharing a different side of Korean food with Canberra. The Realm precinct (2), featuring Hotel Realm (hotelrealm.com.au) and Burbury Hotel & Apartments (burburyhotel.com.au), with its rooftop bar Leyla (leylabar.com.au), also helps make the National Circuit an after-hours hangout.

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

A 15-minute walk away, Manuka village sets a chilled pace. You could spend an afternoon browsing beloved

bookstore Paperchain (4; paperchainbookstore.com.au), shopping for fashion by labels such as Alémais, Trelise Cooper and Kitx at Momento Dezigns (5; momento dezigns.com.au) or reading the paper at Manuka Lawns, ducking in to Urban Pantry (6; urbanpantrymanuka.com.au) for a burger when the mood strikes.

Neighbouring Kingston mixes the modern with the historical. "Old" Kingston has its heritage homes and Canberra Railway Museum (7; canberrarail.org.au) but head down to the foreshore and you'll find a vibrant mix of parks and eateries. Don't miss Rakkas (8; rakkas.com.au) where Turkish-born chef Mert Toplu invites visitors to savour the diverse flavours of his home country across their extensive menu and wine list.

If you're still around after sundown, wander into Kingston to discover its restaurants and bars.

Stay local

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

(ABOVE, FROM LEFT) CASUAL EATS AT URBAN PANTRY; OSTANI BAR AT HOTEL REALM

FYSHWICK, PIALLIGO & MAJURA

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

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

Lonsdale Street Roasters (lonsdalestreetroasters.com) has also set up shop at the Dairy Road precinct – swing by to get your infrared-roasted single-origin beans direct from the source. Vintage style more your thing? A short drive gets you to Dirty Janes Canberra (3; dirtyjanes.com), where you'll find all things old and covetable from some 90 sellers, or make your way to Designer Op Shop Emporium (4; dosemporium.com.au),

a consignment-fashion hotspot with an onsite café. Swing by The Flute Bakery (theflutebakery.com.au) for pastries and artisan cakes crafted with French-inspired flair.

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

Afternoons don't get better than sundowners with a glass of The Silurian Sparkling while overlooking the hills at Mount Majura Vineyard (8; mountmajura.com.au). Book a tasting flight to take a tour of the terroir. Or venture to the stunning Majura Sunflower Maze (mveggs.com/sunflowers). Come for the golden hour photos, stay for the farm gate shop for local produce and handmade goods.

Stay local

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



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

AFTER DARK

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

Leyla

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

Fun Time Pony

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

Peacemaker Saloon

Step through these swinging saloon doors in Braddon and you'll feel like you've landed in the heart of the Wild West. Home of BBQ and bourbon, you'll be spoiled for choice with a menu stacked with slow-cooked meats and comfort food classics. The cocktail list is a standout and the whiskey selection is extensive enough to impress even seasoned connoisseurs. Head over for the laid-back, lively atmosphere that's perfect for late-night hangs. peacemakersaloon.com.au

Karl Bar

Tucked away in Constitution Place, Karl Bar is a micro margarita and wine bar that's all about moody vibes and minimalist elegance. With just a handful of seats and a menu focused on expertly crafted margaritas and a small selection of wines, this walk-in-only spot is perfect for those who appreciate intimate, high-quality drinking experiences. The interiors are dark and understated, making it a chic escape for a quiet conversation. chairmangroup.com.au/karl-bar

King O'Malley's

Raise a glass to one of Canberra's quirkiest historical characters at King O'Malley's Irish Pub. Named for the eccentric politician who once pushed for an alcohol ban in the capital, this lively spot now celebrates the very thing he tried to outlaw. Step inside for a hearty feed, a well-poured pint, and plenty of Irish charm in an easy-going, unpretentious setting. kingomalleys.com.au





PEW PEW STUDIO

MOLLY

Gang Gang

When the sun dips behind the eucalypts, Downer's beloved Gang Gang Café swaps its daytime chill for an effortlessly cool after-dark buzz. This Inner North favourite becomes a low-key nightlife anchor: part neighbourhood bar, part gig space, part creative clubhouse... and 100% Canberra vibes. ganggangcafe.com.au

Molly

Hidden behind an unmarked door, Molly is a speakeasy-style gem that rewards those willing to seek her out. Guided by GPS coordinates, you'll uncover a warm, vintage-inspired hideaway serving masterfully crafted cocktails and smooth live jazz. A must-visit for anyone chasing a sophisticated night of music and mixology. molly.bar



PEW PEW STUDIO

PEACEMAKER SALOON

Smith's Alternative

A beloved icon of Canberra's creative soul, Smith's Alternative buzzes with artistic energy day and night. This grungy, free-spirited venue throws open its doors to live music, poetry, book launches, experimental performance and everything in between. Welcoming, eclectic, and utterly unique, it's where Canberra's culture comes out to play. smithsalternative.com

Blackbird

Slip through a discreet doorway in the heritage-listed Sydney Building and descend into Blackbird, a cosy underground bar with serious atmosphere. Think dim lighting, timber panelling, jazz legends on the walls and plush little nooks perfect for settling in with a drink. With its nostalgic '70s vibe and regular live performances, Blackbird is a favourite haunt for music lovers seeking an intimate night out. blackbirdcanberra.com.au

MY PERFECT DAY

Four locals share their line-up for the ultimate 24 hours in the capital. First up is Hany Ezzat, a five-time Brewers Cup finalist and manager at ONA Coffee, shaping Canberra's specialty coffee scene.



Year round, my perfect day starts outdoors, under Canberra's wide-open sky. Even in winter, I'll throw on a

jacket and soak up the crisp air – just as long as it's not raining. There's something grounding about starting slow, letting the day breathe before it rushes in. For me, it's all about balance: equal love for coffee and the outdoors.

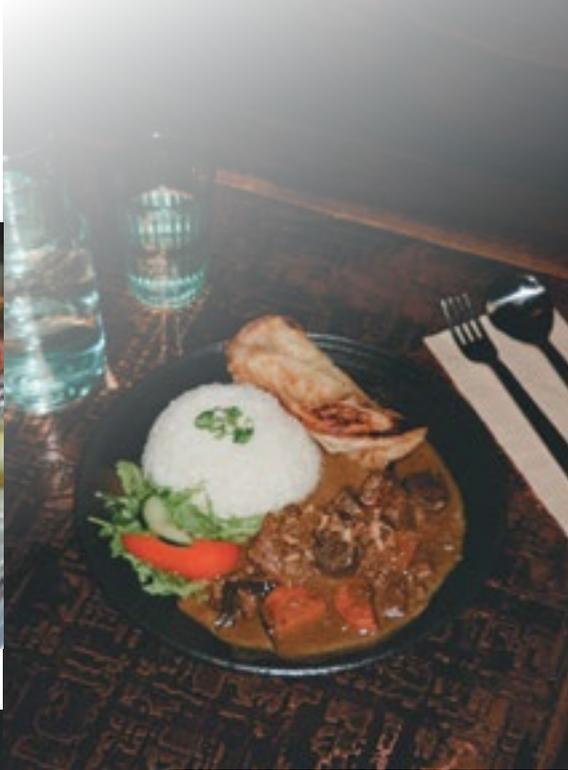
Canberrans have an extreme demand for really good coffee. People here drink two or three cups a day, and they want it quick, they want it excellent, and they want it at a high level. That pressure keeps us sharp and makes this city a coffee capital in its own right.

Start at **ONA Coffee House** in Fyshwick – I'd show you how we roast and source coffee. ONA coffee is well renowned for winning many different coffee championships, bringing new

techniques, and being at the forefront of pioneering all things in coffee so it's the perfect place to start. Then head to **The Cupping Room** to try raspberry candy – a world barista championship-winning milk coffee and brunch. After that, **Arc for Redbrick**, another specialty coffee roasted in Canberra with natural light and amazing atmosphere. Then, **Bedst** – my current obsession – to experience black coffee brought in from around the globe, and read some interesting books, and



ONA COFFEE HOUSE



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP)
GOOD NEIGHBOUR;
KITA; RAKU

Hany's Perfect Day

Morning
Coffee at ONA Coffee House and a walk around Lake Burley Griffin

Afternoon
Lunch at Greenhouse Coffee & Food

Evening
Dinner at Raku and cocktails at Highball

Barrio in Braddon to round it out. Barrio is perfect for a cozy moment – I would recommend trying a batch brew there with a warm meal. You can touch every major roaster in Canberra in one morning. That's the beauty of this city: everything's close, and everything's done at a high level. What excites me about the café scene in Canberra is the rise of signature drinks and matcha. We're seeing cafés experiment with bold, creative flavours – **Good Neighbour**, **Nichi**, **Highroad**. There's everything from floral infusions, crunchy nut shakes, different takes on matcha. It's fun, it's fresh, and I'd

say it's the next big thing for Canberra cafés.

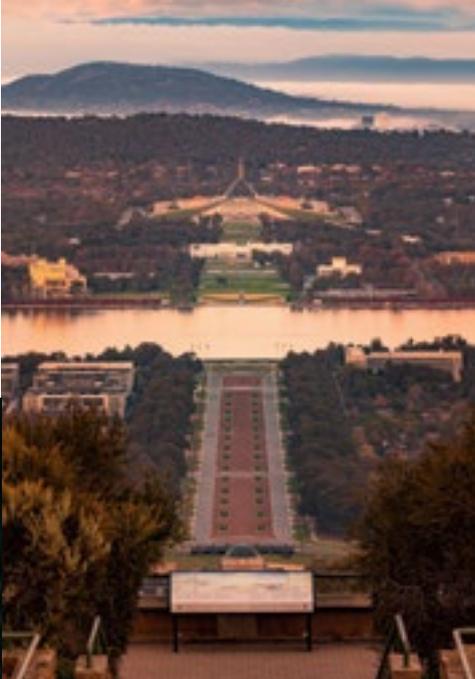
If I'm not working, I'll take my cup for a walk and wander across the Parkes Way Footbridge, looping around Lake Burley Griffin. When it's time for lunch, I can't go past **Greenhouse Coffee & Food**. Sitting out on the veranda is unbeatable, and their steak has become my go-to – simple, done well, and exactly what I need.

But when life gets hectic, I recharge in two ways. If I need a quiet corner, **Monster Bar** in NewActon at night is perfect – low-lit, calm, a space to think. If I want energy, **Kita** – an overnight Indonesian fusion café. But when

I need a deeper reset, I head outdoors. I'm drawn to the bodies of water in Canberra – Pine Island in Tuggeranong, Gibraltar Falls, or the National Arboretum Canberra overlooking Lake Burley Griffin.

As the sun dips, the evening is all about indulgence. If I had just one day left in Canberra, I'd chase a sunset at Mount Ainslie. That's magic. **Raku** in the city centre is my go-to for dinner: flawless, consistent dishes, and impeccable service. They really look after you there. And no night is complete without a boogie and cocktail at **Highball** in the historic Melbourne building.

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



Sita's Perfect Day

Morning

Hiking Mount Ainslie, then carrot cake at Stepping Stone

Afternoon

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

Evening

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

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



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

I think there's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE LADIES ROSE GARDEN AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Dave Caffery is the director of Dionysus, a cultural program and event company based in Canberra. He reveals his perfect day in Canberra – including a very early start.



If you asked me how my perfect day in Canberra begins, I probably have a start earlier than most. Technically, the perfect morning

starts at midnight as the clock ticks over and the headliners start their set. You'll find me at **The Vault** or one of the many dance parties put on by local promoters. I figure margaritas don't count as breakfast if you're still awake.

Once the sun is up, coffee is essential. Only last week I was amazed, yet again, by the quality at **The Cupping Room**. My recommendation to all is to try the batch brew - it's sensational. If brunch is on the cards, **Silo** is the go-to, perfect for refuelling with pastries and picking up a loaf for later.

After caffeination, I'll seek out some time in the outdoors. My pick of where to roam depends on the season. Over the school holidays, I host **Techno Picnics** by Lake Burley Griffin. We take the *Soul Defender*, an ex-military cargo truck

converted into a mobile party stage, down by the lake and put on dance parties for families. Parents bored of the Wiggles love it – we've found kids can dance to anything if the vibe is right. If it's a non-event day, I'll let visitors in on my go-to running route: **Haig Park** is an exact 4-kilometre loop, nice and flat. To set the mood, I tune into local Canberra artists; Citizen Kay, Safia and Doppel who all feature heavily in my rotation.

Canberra's full of surprises, and one of my favourites to share with visitors is right by the Dionysus office in NewActon. Here sits Robin Blau's *Time Thief*, a sculpture of a bird swooping a functioning clock. Since its unveiling in 2011, horologists have tried to fix the clock, but time still escapes. It's currently four hours ahead, just like my days feel.

As the evening closes in, I'll let the night's activities guide my dinner selection. If I'm off to the **Canberra Theatre** for a performance, I'll make sure I get to **Azima**. If it's around Lunar New Year, when Dickson comes alive, my order is a vegetarian laksa from

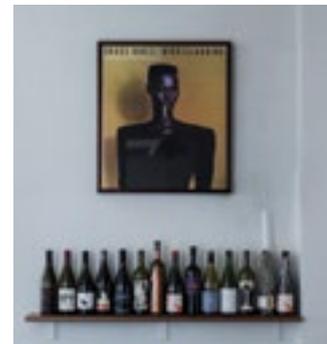
Pho Phu Quoc. And if I'm with loved ones who want to feel a piece of Canberra's soul, we're taking them straight to **Old Canberra Inn**, where the gigs help set the tone of the night.

If I had just one day left, I'd spend it with friends at **Bar Rochford**. A long session there is unbeatable. I would ask Nico or one of his team to whip me up a Tommy's Margarita, and know I won't be steered wrong if I ordered whichever sensational pasta they've currently got on the menu. They only play records, usually funk and soul, and that's all you need for the last day on Earth.

Canberra to me is intimate and beautiful. This is what we're looking to celebrate in part with our new festival **Wonderful World**, which will launch in autumn. Families are invited to rediscover joy and imagine a world where loved ones embrace the wonders of our lives. It's going to be an opportunity for parents, carers and grandparents to rediscover their wonders, and for kids to fall in love with the world again and again.



(FROM LEFT)
TIME THIEF BY ROBIN BLAU,
NEWACTON; SILO BAKERY;
BAR ROCHFORD



A man with long hair and sunglasses, wearing a bright pink vest over a dark patterned shirt and khaki pants, is blowing bubbles. He is surrounded by a large crowd of people at an outdoor festival. The air is filled with many large, shimmering bubbles. In the background, there are trees and other festival-goers, including a woman in a red shirt and a man in a black shirt. The scene is bright and festive.

Dave's Perfect Day

Morning
Dancing at The Vault

Afternoon
Funk and Soul at
Bar Rochford

Evening
Laksa at Pho Phu Quoc

FOOD & WINE

CULTURE

FAMILY & NATURE

TRENDING

LOCAL SECRETS

DIRECTORY

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

Yasmine's Perfect Day

Morning

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

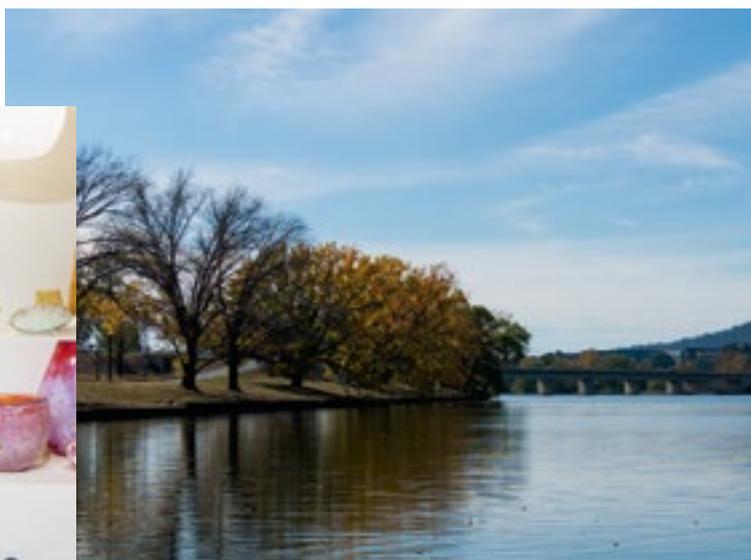
Afternoon

Explore Canberra Glassworks and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Evening

Ramen at Tenkomori and a show at Smith's Alternative





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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Go to empoweringxp.com

FREE FOR ALL

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

1/ Get some inside intel

You can see core exhibitions at most of Canberra's museums and galleries (see page 68) without paying an entrance fee. Many attractions, such as the National Museum of Australia and Australian Parliament House, also offer free talks or guided tours. Spend a leisurely hour or three on a self-guided walk around Lake Burley Griffin, Anzac Parade, the gardens at Old Parliament House or the National Triangle's Reconciliation Place. Go to the National Capital Authority website (below), bookmark your chosen walk and enjoy learning about the highlights as you go. nma.gov.au, aph.gov.au, nca.gov.au/attractions/take-tour

2/ Meet the maker

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

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

3/ Max out the markets

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

4/ Feel cool on campus

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

5/ See the world

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



DIRECTORY

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



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FOOD & WINE

CULTURE

FAMILY & NATURE

TRENDING

LOCAL SECRETS

DIRECTORY

Food & Wine

COFFEE & BREAKFAST

Arc

1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
arccoffee.place

Barrio

59/30 Lonsdale St, Braddon
barriocollective.com

Bedst

185/20 Allara St, Canberra City
bedst.coffee

B-Side

1/35 Lonsdale St, Braddon
b-side.com.au

The Cupping Room

Cnr London Cct and University Ave,
Canberra City
thecuppingroom.com.au

Café Sosta

Red Shed, John Cardiff Cl, Acton
redshed.org.au

Doubleshot

7/27 Hopetoun Cct, Deakin
doubleshotdeakin.com.au

East Row Specialty Coffee

2/121 London Cct, Canberra City
east-row-specialty-coffee.square.site

Eighty/Twenty Food

Outlets in Barton, Belconnen, Braddon,
Canberra City, Coombs, Greenway & Kingston
eightytwentyfood.com.au

Farmers' Daughter

27 Bentham St, Yarralumla
cafefarmersdaughter.net.au

The Flute Bakery

8 Barrier St, Fyshwick
theflutebakery.com.au

Gather

4/24 Mort St, Braddon
cafegather.com.au

Good Neighbour

1/55 Wentworth Ave, Kingston
@goodneighbour.cafe

Green House Coffee & Food Co

Canberra Centre
instagram.com/greenhousecoffee

Highroad

1 Woolley St, Dickson
highrd.com.au

Intra PRVN

30/12 Provan St, Campbell
intraabr.com.au

Kitchen Garden at Rodney's

24 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
kitchengardenrodneys.com.au

Local Press Café

Cnr Eastlake Pde and Giles St, Kingston
localpresscafe.com.au

Lonsdale Street Roasters

Building 2, 5/1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
lonsdalestreetroasters.com

Maple + Clove

7 Burbury Cl, Barton
mapleandclove.com.au

Mocan & Green Grout

1/19 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra City
mocanandgreengrout.net

My Café

Manuka Arcade,
1/22 Franklin St, Griffith
mycafemanuka.com.au

Nichi

3/22 Jardine St, Kingston
instagram.com/nichi.kingston

Ona Coffee House

68 Wollongong St, Fyshwick
onacoffeehouse.com.au

Patissez Cafe & Bakehaus

2/21 Bougainville St, Griffith
patissez.com

Penny University Coffee House

15 Kennedy St, Kingston
pennyuniversitycbr.com.au

The Pialligo Bakesmith

12 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
@thepialligobakesmith

Pollen

Australian National Botanic Gardens,
Clunies Ross St, Acton
pollencafe.com.au

Recess Coffee

6B Barker St, Griffith
recesscoffee.com.au

Red Brick Coffee

6/161 Newcastle St, Fyshwick
redbrick.coffee

Silo

36 Giles St, Kingston
silobakery.com.au

Space Kitchen

3G/12 Furzer St, Phillip
space-kitchen.com.au

Sweet Bones

3/3 Scullin Pl, Scullin
sweetbonescompany.com

Ujin Matcha House

64 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City
ujin-matchahouse.com.au

Under

1/30 Mawson Pl, Mawson; and
The Stream, Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
under-bakery.com

Walter Cafe

Barrine Dr, Parkes
waltercafe.com.au

Wildflour Artisan Bakery & Café

Cafe in Fyshwick and shopfronts
in Jamison, Weston and Kingston
wildflour.com.au

CASUAL

& Sando

Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
andsando.com.au

Agostinis

East Hotel, 69 Canberra Ave, Kingston
agostinis.com.au

Ainslie Football Club

52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie
ainsliegroup.com.au

Akiba

40 Bunda St, Canberra City
akiba.com.au

Assembly The People's Pub

11 Lonsdale St, Braddon
thepeoplespub.com.au

Azima

1/222 City Walk, Canberra City
azimarestaurant.au

Azuma Den

69 Canberra Ave, Griffith
azumaden.com.au

Baby

54 Alinga St, Canberra City
eatatbaby.com.au

Ballyhoo

7 King George Tce, Parkes
ballyhoo.au

Bicicletta Restaurant

1/15 Edinburgh Ave, Canberra City
bicicletta.com.au

Black Fire Restaurant

45/38 Mort St, Braddon
blackfirecanberra.com.au

Bookplate

National Library of Australia,
Parkes Pl, Canberra City
library.gov.au/visit/cafes

Braddon Merchant
1 Elouera St, Braddon
braddonmerchant.com.au

Brodburger
Outlets in Fyshwick, Kingston,
Woden and Tuggeranong
brodburger.com.au

Capital Food Market
10 Lathlain St, Belconnen
capitalfoodmarket.com.au

Canberra Burns Club
28 Kett St, Kambah
burnsclub.com.au

Canberra Southern Cross Club
Cnr Catchpole and Bowman Sts, Macquarie;
Cnr Pitman and Holwell Sts, Greenway;
92-96 Corinna St, Woden; and Mariner Pl,
Yarralumla
csc.com.au

Canteen
Building 3.3/1 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
eatcanteen.com.au

CBD Dumpling House
Canberra Centre, Bunda St,
Canberra City
canberracentre.qicre.com

Clover Wafu Italia
197 London Cct, Canberra City
cloverdining.com.au

Edgar's Inn
1 Edgar St, Ainslie
edgarsinn.com.au

**Fyshwick Fresh
Food Markets**
36 Mildura St, Fyshwick
fyshwickmarkets.com.au

Grease Monkey
Outlets in Braddon, Gungahlin,
Woden and Belconnen
greasys.com.au

Gungahlin Lakes Club
110 Gundaroo Dr, Nicholls
ainsliegroupp.com.au

Hellenic Club
13 Moore St, Canberra City;
and 1 Matilda St, Woden
hellenicclub.com.au

Johnny Gios Pizza
24 Mort St, Braddon
johnnygiospizza.com.au

Kita
59 Boolimba Cres, Narrabundah
kitakafe.com.au

La Rustica by the Lake
Eastlake Pde and Trevillian Quay, Kingston
larustica.au

Lolo and Lola
2/3 Watson Pl, Watson
loloandlola.com.au

Muku Ramen Bar
5/9 Scullin Pl, Scullin
mukuramenbar.com.au

Marble & Grain
25 Mort St, Canberra City
marbleandgrain.com.au

Pho Phu Quoc
5 Badham St, Dickson
phophuquoc.com.au

Ramen O
1F/54 Benjamin Way, Belconnen;
1/28 University Ave, Canberra City;
and G09/35 Furzer St, Phillip
ramen-o.com.au

Ramentic
134/24 Lonsdale St, Braddon
ramenticbar.square.site

Rosa's
King George Tce, Parkes
rosascbr.au

The RUC Turner
54 McCaughey St, Turner
theruc.com.au

Sandoochie
Shop 8, No Name Lane,
40 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra City
sandoochie.com.au

Snapper & Co.
Mariner Pl, Yarralumla
snapperandco.com.au

Spilt Milk Bar
70/2 Cape St, Dickson
spiltmilkbar.com

Stepping Stone
8 Hawdon Pl, Dickson; Gullifer St, Strathnairn
cafesteppingstone.com

Tenkomori
7/220 London Cct, Canberra City
tenkomori.com.au

Terra
Unit 4/115 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra
cityterracanberra.com.au

Three Mills Bakery
Outlets in Fyshwick, Belconnen, Woden, Majura
Park and Capital Region Farmers Market
threemillsbakery.com.au

Tiger Lane
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
tigerlane.com.au

Urban Pantry
5 Bougainville St, Griffith
urbanpantrymanuka.com.au

Verity Lane Market
Sydney Building, 50 Northbourne Ave,
Canberra City
veritylanemarket.com.au

Walt & Burley
70/17 Eastlake Pde, Kingston
waltandburley.com.au

RESTAURANTS & FINE DINING

The Boat House
Grevillea Park, 7 Menindee Dr, Barton
theboathouse.restaurant

Chairman & Yip
Burbury Hotel, 1 Burbury Cl, Barton
chairmangroup.com.au

Clover
197 London Cct, Canberra
cloverdining.com.au

Compa
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
comparistorante.com.au

Corella
1/14 Lonsdale St, Braddon
corellabar.com.au

Eightysix North
Cnr Elouera and Lonsdale Sts,
Braddon; and 45 Furzer St, Phillip
eightysix.com.au

Grazing
Cnr Cork and Harp Sts, Gundaroo
grazing.com.au

Inka
Canberra Centre, Bunda St,
Canberra City
inka.com.au

Koto
1 King George Tce, Parkes
kotodining.com.au

Lamshed's
27 Bentham St, Yarralumla
lamsheds.com.au

Lazy Su
1/9 Lonsdale St, Braddon
lazy-su.com.au

Les Bistronomies
18 Blamey Pl, Campbell
lesbistronomies.net

Louis
Hotel Realm, 18 National Cct, Barton
louisdining.com.au

Lunetta
60 Red Hill Dr, Red Hill
lunetta.au

The Marion

Barrine Dr, Parkes
themarion.com.au

Med

1 Burbury Cl, Barton
medbarton.com.au

Minima

29 Bentham St, Yarralumla
eatminima.com.au

Molto Italian

Element Building, 43 Eastlake Pde,
 Kingston
moltoitalian.com

Monster Kitchen & Bar

Ovolo Nishi, 25 Edinburgh Ave,
 Canberra City
ovolo-hotels.com

Mu

1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
chairmangroup.com.au

Muk Bar

3/48 Macquarie St, Barton
mukbar.com.au

OhNo!

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

Onzieme

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

Ostani

18 National Cct, Barton
ostani.com.au

Otis

29 Jardine St, Kingston
otisdininghall.com.au

Ottoman

9 Broughton St, Barton
ottomancuisine.com.au

Pilot

1 Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie
pilotrestaurant.com

Peonee

G34, 12 Pentland St, Campbell
peoneerrestaurant.com.au

Rakkas

18/19 Eastlake Parade, Kingston
rakkas.com.au

Raku

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

Rebel Rebel

21-23 Marcus Clarke St,
 Canberra City
rebelrebel-dining.com.au

Rubicon

6A Barker St, Griffith
rubiconrestaurant.com.au

Such and Such

Constitution Place, Canberra City
andsuchandsuch.com

Vice

Odgers Ln, Canberra City
vice.restaurant

Water's Edge Restaurant

40 Parkes Pl, Parkes
watersedgecanberra.com.au

■ BARS**11e Cave**

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

88mph

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

The Alby

45 Furzer St, Phillip
thealby.com.au

Ambrosia Lounge

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

Amici Wine Bar & Deli

27 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City
amici.bar

Bar Beirut

25 Garema Pl, Canberra City
barbeirut.com.au

Bar Rochford

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

Blue Eyes

Level 1, 5 Garema Pl, Canberra City
blueeyesbr.com.au

Brew Nation

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

Cabo

27 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City
cabocanberra.bar

Cicada Bar

1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
chairmangroup.com.au

Dear Prudence

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

Fun Time Pony

2/122 Alinga St, Canberra City
funtimepony.com.au

Highball

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

Hopscotch

5 Lonsdale St, Braddon
hopscotchbar.com.au

The Howling Moon

150 Northbourne Ave, Braddon
thehowlingmoon.com.au

Joe's Bar

East Hotel, 69 Canberra Ave, Kingston
easthotel.com.au

Karl Bar

1 Constitution Ave, Canberra City
chairmangroup.com.au/karl-bar

Leyla

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

Luna

99 London Cct, Canberra City
lunabar.com.au

Margot

West Kiosk, Queen Elizabeth Tce,
 Parkes
margot.bar

Molly

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

Mooseheads

105 London Cct, Canberra City
mooseheads.com.au

Paloma's

2/5 Lonsdale St, Braddon
palomas.bar

Paranormal Wines

G27/6 Provan St, Campbell
paranormalwines.com

The Peacemaker Saloon

26 Mort St, Braddon
peacemakersaloon.com.au

Public

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

Queenies

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

Rizla

22 Lonsdale St, Braddon
drinkrizla.com.au

Smith's Alternative

76 Alinga St, Canberra City
smithsalternative.com

Tintino

4/11 Kennedy St, Kingston
tintino.com.au

■ WINERIES, BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

CANBERRA & SURROUNDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GUNDAROO (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

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

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

Tallagandra Hill
1692 Murrumbateman Rd
tallagandrahill.com.au

JEIR (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Gallagher Wines
2770 Dog Trap Rd
gallagherwines.com.au

Granitevale Estate
153 Magennis Dr
granitevaleestate.com.au

SPRINGRANGE (30 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Poachers Restaurant & Vineyard
431 Nanima Rd
poacherspantry.com.au

WALLAROO (25 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Brindabella Hills Winery
156 Woodgrove Cl
brindabellahills.com.au

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

Pankhurst Wines
56 Woodgrove Cl
pankhurstwines.com.au

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

YASS (35 MINS NORTH OF CANBERRA)

Mallaluka Wines
517 Dog Trap Rd
mallaluka.com.au

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

Collector Wines
39 Murray St
collectorwines.com.au

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

Lerida Estate
87 The Vineyards Rd
leridaestate.com.au

BUNGENDORE (35 MINS EAST OF CANBERRA)

Lark Hill Winery
31 Joe Rocks Rd
larkhill.wine

MURRUMBATEMAN (40 MINS NORTH-WEST OF CANBERRA)

Barton Estate
2307 Barton Hwy
bartonestate.com.au

Clonakilla
3 Crisps Lane
clonakilla.com.au

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

Eden Road Wines
3182 Barton Hwy
edenroadwines.com.au

Four Winds Vineyard
9 Patemans Lane
fourwindsvineyard.com.au

Helm Wines
19 Butts Rd
helmwines.com.au

Jeir Creek Wines
122 Bluebell Lane
jeircreekwines.com.au

McKellar Ridge Wines
2 Euroka Ave
mckellarridgewines.com.au

Murrumbateman Winery
131 McIntosh Cct
murrumbatemanwinery.com.au

Shaw Estate
34 Isabel Dr
shawwines.com.au

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

Yarrh Wines
440 Greenwood Rd
yarrhwines.com.au

■ WINERY TOURS & EXPERIENCES

Air CBR
aircbr.com.au

Canberra Cellar Door
canberracellardoor.com.au

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

Canberra Winery Tours
canberrawinerytours.com

Dave's Tours
daves.com.au

Grape Escapes Canberra Luxury Wine Tours
grapeescapescanberra.com.au

Merry Heart CBR
merryheartcbr.com.au

Van du Vin
vanduvin.com.au

Vines & Wines
vineswines.com.au

Wine Hopper
winehopper.com.au

Culture

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Burrnju Art Gallery
254 Lady Denman Dr, Canberra
burrnju-aboriginal-arts.org.au

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

Canberra Glassworks
11 Wentworth Ave, Kingston
canberraglassworks.com

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

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

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

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

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

Government House
Dunrossil Dr, Yarralumla
gg.gov.au

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

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

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

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

Lanyon Homestead
Tharwa Dr, Tharwa
historicplaces.com.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scott Leggo Gallery
33 Jardine St, Kingston
scottleggo.com

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

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

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

Tharwa Valley Forge
11 Naas Rd, Tharwa
tharwavalleyforge.com

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

Tuggeranong Arts Centre
137 Reed St, Greenway
tuggeranongarts.com

The Vault
Dairy Rd, Fyshwick
thevault.place

Family & Nature

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

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

Beltana Farm
14 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
beltanafarm.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holey Moley at Hijinx Hotel
Canberra Centre, Bunda St, Canberra City
holeymoley.com.au; hijinxhotel.com.au

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Burley Griffin
Parkes
nca.gov.au/attractions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Splash Lab
8/160 Lysaght St, Mitchell
splashlab.com.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Secrets & Shopping

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

Bison Home
12 Beltana Rd, Pialligo
bisonhome.com

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

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

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

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

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

Dirty Janes Canberra
80 Collie St, Fyshwick
dirtyjanes.com

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

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

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

IKEA
1030 Majura Rd, Pialligo
ikea.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quizzic Alley
5 Pirie St, Fyshwick
quizzicalley.com

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

Westfield Belconnen
Benjamin Way, Belconnen
westfield.com.au

Westfield Woden
Keltie St, Woden
westfield.com.au

Sport & Recreation

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

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

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

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

Floating Sauna
35 Alexandrina Dr, Yarralumla
floatingsauna.com.au/lakeburleygriffin

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

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

Manuka Oval
Manuka Circle, Griffith
manukaoval.com.au

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

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

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

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

Tour Operators

Balloon Aloft Canberra
balloonaloftcanberra.com.au

Canberra Guided Tours
canberraguidedtours.com.au

Classic Capital Golf Tours
classicapitalgolf.com.au

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

Dawn Drifters
dawn drifters.com.au

Dhawura Tours
thunderstone.net.au

Dynamic Motivation
dynamicmotivation.com.au

Eat Canberra Food Tours
eatcanberra.com.au

Explorer Buses Canberra
explorerbuses.com.au

Gang Gang Tours
ganggangtours.com.au

Helicopter Corp.
helicoptercorp.com.au

Lake Burley Griffin Cruises
lakecruises.com.au

Love Boats Canberra
loveboats.com.au

Mulga Bicycle Tours
mulgabicycletours.com.au

She Shapes History
sheshapeshistory.com.au

Tim the Yowie Man
yowieman.com.au

Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation
toac.com.au



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

AROUND TOWN

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

i Canberra and Region Visitors Centre (CRVC)

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

b Bike and Scooter Hire

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



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

b Public Transport

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

c Taxis and Rideshare

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

w Free Wi-Fi

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



SHOP LOCAL TREATS AT THE CRVC

