

FREE



CULTURE CAPITAL

Canberra Guide



Scan here for a
chance to win!



Tell us what you think of
this guide for a chance
to win a luxurious
overnight stay for two at
Jamala Wildlife Lodge.

T&Cs apply.

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

© VisitCanberra August 2021. VisitCanberra is part of the Chief
Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT
Government. Information correct at time of printing.

Illustrations by Juliette Dudley.



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

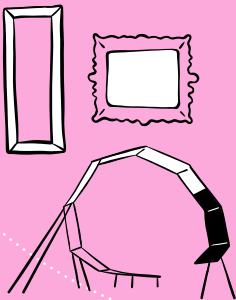
While you are visiting Canberra, we
want you to enjoy everything that the
region has to offer. However, please
remember travel advice can change
rapidly if COVID-19 cases appear.
Always check the latest travel advice,
register in advance for experiences,
use Check in CBR, and enjoy your trip.

covid19.act.gov.au

Contents

Culture Capital

- 04 First Nations art
- 06 Canberra history
- 08 Social history of Australia
- 10 Galleries for art lovers
- 12 Suburban art gems
- 16 Centres for creatives
- 18 Bespoke local stores
- 20 Behind the scenes
- 22 See a show



Craft ACT's makers' wares are for sale.



Grainger Gallery by @canberrastreetcolour.

First Nations art

ABORIGINAL DREAMINGS GALLERY

Located in Gold Creek Village with a sister gallery in the city centre, there is always something new to see at this commercial gallery. Ethical practices are at the heart of the Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery which works with Indigenous artists from across Australia to protect artists' rights and source beautiful paintings and crafts available for purchase.

aboriginaldream.com

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

The National Museum of Australia celebrates Australia's people and culture of storytelling. Explore the shared stories and experiences of First Nations peoples in the *First Australians Gallery* and *Talking Blak to History* exhibition, before heading outside to enjoy the forecourt garden and sculptural Uluru Line. Daily talks and tours available.

nma.gov.au

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

Comprising over 7500 works, the Gallery is privileged to house the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. From ancient traditions to contemporary practices, each masterpiece connects audiences with the unique perspectives of First Nations artists, their experiences, cultures and deep and enduring connections to Country.

nga.gov.au

BURRUNJU ART GALLERY

Every wall is filled with inspiring pieces. Specialising in boomerangs and didgeridoos as well as paintings, this space was established to provide local Indigenous people an opportunity to realise their dream of self-determination through the creation of artworks and music. Purchase your favourite piece to support great artists local to the region and from all around Australia.

aboriginal-arts.com.au



Emily Kame Kngwarreye's The Alhalkere suite at the National Gallery is a must see.

Immerse yourself in some of the oldest and richest cultures in human history with the extensive collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art at Canberra's national museums and galleries. For original, handcrafted arts and crafts by local Aboriginal artists, head to Burrenju Art Gallery and Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery.

Uta Uta Tjangala's stunning work Yumari (1981) at the National Museum.

Canberra history

A city with a rich heritage, Canberra's local history is on show at **more than** just museums. Take a self-drive tour of historic sights and Indigenous tracks, visit original cottages and see the city come to life with augmented reality.

*Dhawura's Tyrone Bell
at Black Mountain.
Image: Lean Timms.*

CANBERRA TRACKS**CANBERRA**

The capital is criss-crossed by a network of heritage trails, including eight self-drive routes that link many of Canberra's historic sites. With informative signs along the way that tell exciting stories from a time gone by to the present day, Canberra Tracks will immerse you in the rich tapestry of the city.

canberratracks.act.gov.au

NATIONAL CAPITAL EXHIBITION**PARKES**

Canberra is one of only a handful of planned cities in the world. Learn about the people, events, and history behind Canberra's design through interactive displays, interesting models and even augmented reality. Stop by the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre next door for friendly advice and great locally made souvenirs.

nca.gov.au

BLUNDELLS COTTAGE**PARKES**

Do as the locals do and walk or cycle the classic 5-kilometre bridge-to-bridge loop around the central basin of Lake Burley Griffin. Catch your breath at Blundells Cottage and explore the 1860 heritage home built from stone taken from nearby Mount Ainslie and Black Mountain.

nca.gov.au

LANYON HOMESTEAD**LANYON**

Visit the restored 1850s homestead, explore the convict-era outbuildings, and wander the stunning gardens of Lanyon Homestead. Learn the fascinating stories of the families that lived and worked here. The Barracks is a great spot for a bite to eat.

historicplaces.com.au

CALTHORPES' HOUSE**RED HILL**

A visit to Calthorpes' House will take you back in time to the 1920s. Original furnishings, heritage household appliances and vintage photos reflect the taste and lifestyle of a middle-class Australian home in this era.

historicplaces.com.au

Learn about the
region's First Nations
culture with
Dhawura Tours.

MUGGA-MUGGA COTTAGE**MUGGA MUGGA**

Built in the 1850s, this stone cottage tells the story of Canberra after federation through to the 1980s. Spot the simple cottage built for the head shepherd of Duntroon and browse the Curley family's 19th Century household items.

historicplaces.com.au

Stroll through Lanyon Homestead's gardens.



Social history of Australia

Learn **more than** the history lessons from your high school textbooks with compelling exhibitions that showcase interesting stories from Australia's past. Each cultural icon shares different perspectives.

Marvel at the design of the National Museum of Australia.



Honour those who have served at the Australian War Memorial.

**AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
CAMPBELL**

After an insightful journey through the Memorial’s exhibitions, pay tribute to those who have served at the Last Post Ceremony or place a poppy beside the Roll of Honour. Located at the foot of Mount Ainslie, stretch your legs with a short but challenging walk up to the summit.

awm.gov.au



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT
DEAKIN**

Kids can watch robots hard at work making money from the Mint’s observation deck before seeing the Holey Dollar and Dump, Australia’s first minted coins made by a convicted forger. Head to the gift shop to see collector pieces, centenary coins, and the ultimate tooth fairy kit.

ramint.gov.au

**CANBERRA MUSEUM
AND GALLERY
CANBERRA CITY**

This museum and gallery tells Australian stories through both historic objects and art. Follow artist Sidney Nolan’s creative journey or explore four key periods of Canberra’s development in the heart of the city centre.

cmag.com.au

**NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIA**

ACTON

Learn the rich and diverse stories of Australia and its people as you explore objects of significance. The Museum is full of thoughtful inclusions that extend to the design of the building itself. Book a guided tour to learn about the architectural significance of the museum and hidden meanings in the design.

nma.gov.au

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
AUSTRALIA**

PARKES

Discover stories in the reading rooms and explore a treasure trove of rare books, maps, photographs, and manuscripts that illustrate the heartbeat of the nation. Fuel up at Bookplate Café where stain glass windows cast colourful light over lunch fare.

nla.gov.au

**MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRACY**

PARKES

From the red heels Julie Bishop wore when she announced her resignation from Parliament to interactive exhibitions for the kids, this museum housed in Old Parliament House is rich in history and political intrigue. The collection of political cartoons is a crowd favourite.

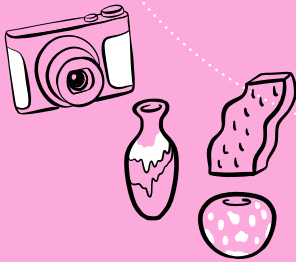
moadoph.gov.au



See masterpieces at the Canberra Glassworks. *Images: Rew Rew Studio.*

From impressive national art collections to intimate galleries where you can see the makers in action, Canberra sure knows how to put on **more than** your usual show.

Galleries for art lovers



A visit to gallery shops is a must.



NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

PARKES

Drawing from a collection of 160,000-plus artworks, the National Gallery is at the top of every art lovers' list. See 19th century masterpieces from around the world through to modern Australian classics like Jackson Pollock's *Blue poles*. A walk through the sculpture garden and James Turrell's *Within without* Skyspace is a must.

nga.gov.au



The National Portrait Gallery is sure to inspire.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

PARKES

What do Adam Goodes and Cate Blanchett have in common? Portraits of both are featured on the walls of the Portrait Gallery alongside many other significant Australian personalities. Leave time to have a cuppa at the café and explore the beautifully curated gift store.

portrait.gov.au

CANBERRA GLASSWORKS KINGSTON

Located in the historic former Kingston Power House, the Glassworks is Australia's only professional artspace dedicated entirely to contemporary glass art. Visit the HotShop to see glass artists in action working with kilns firing at 810 degrees or book a one-on-one class to make your own tumbler or paperweight.

canberraglassworks.com

CRAFT ACT: CRAFT AND DESIGN CENTRE

CANBERRA CITY

Shining the spotlight on designers and makers, Craft ACT celebrates excellence in all types of craft. The store is just as stunning as the exhibition space, full of bespoke goods including ceramics, glassware, and textiles. Craft ACT also runs the popular annual DESIGN Canberra festival.

craftact.org.au

ANU AND KAMBRI PRECINCT GALLERIES

ACTON

A short stroll through the Australian National University campus and Kambri precinct will reveal three galleries. Head to aMBUSH Gallery for modern art that makes a statement, the School of Art & Design Gallery to see graduate and post-graduate work, and Drill Hall Gallery for contemporary visual art.

dhg.anu.edu.au soad.cass.anu.edu.au ambushgallery.com



Suburban art gems

Gallery of Small Things owner Anne Masters.



Walls full of colour await you at Aarwin Gallery.



Beaver Galleries is popular with art lovers.



Canberra's suburbs are filled with **more than** homes. Discover hidden gems, from delightful cafes to unique galleries, all around the capital.





Canberra is home to
more than 30 galleries that
support local, national and
international artists.

NANCY SEVER GALLERY **CANBERRA CITY**

Representing a select group of leading contemporary artists, the art ensconcing the walls of the Nancy Sever Gallery is constantly changing and evolving. Pop into the gallery during a stroll through the city's shopping precinct.

nancysevergallery.com.au

SCOTT LEGGO GALLERY **KINGSTON**

A much-loved local photographer, Scott Leggo's gallery is a tribute to all the beautiful views and scenes that abound Canberra. With prints available for purchase, this Kingston gallery is a short walk from some of the capital's best cafes and boutiques.

scottleggo.com

BEAVER GALLERIES

DEAKIN

Printmaking, ceramics, paintings, glass and jewellery await you at Beaver Galleries. With three spacious galleries plus a dedicated print room, courtyard full of sculptures and licensed café, Canberra's largest and longest-established privately owned commercial gallery is overflowing with creativity.

beavergalleries.com.au

AARWUN GALLERY

NICHOLLS

Heritage treasures from Norman Lindsay sit alongside exquisite Indigenous artworks that celebrate the land at this inspiring gallery at Gold Creek Village. Afterwards explore the shops and cafes in the area and wander through the miniature world models at Cockington Green Gardens.

aarwungallery.com

GALLERY OF SMALL THINGS **WATSON**

Less than six square metres in size, this art space is aptly named for the mini masterpieces that fit snugly inside the tiny walk-in gallery. Nestled next to an artists' studio, this thoughtfully curated exhibition space is thought to be the smallest gallery in Australia.

galleryofsmallthings.com

Suburban art gems

Fine craftsmanship at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery.



TUGGERANONG ARTS CENTRE

TUGGERANONG

Exploring issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, this arts centre continues to shape Canberra's cultural identity. Hosting many thought-provoking exhibitions and events, Tuggeranong Arts Centre showcases local artists young and old.

tuggeranongarts.com

You won't have to look too far to find fantastic cafes and restaurants near Canberra's galleries.

BUNGENDORE WOOD WORKS GALLERY

BUNGENDORE

A cornucopia of hand-carved furniture, a visit to this regional gallery will make you want to master the fine art of woodworking. The gallery itself is a love story to craftsmanship with a jarrah staircase, ash frames and flooded gum wall panelling.

bwoodworks.com.au

GRAINGER GALLERY

FYSHWICK

Established by an artist as a space for experiencing, making and processing art, the Grainger Gallery has revolving exhibitions and studio workshops throughout the year. Nestled in the popular Dairy Road Precinct, you can also enjoy an afternoon at the nearby brewery, bouldering gym or indoor ski centre.

graingergallery.com.au

BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

BELCONNEN

Belco Arts, as the locals call it, is a place to undertake creative journeys, share stories and celebrate talented Canberrans. Showcasing local creatives that specialise in everything from dancing through to painting, this centre champions many emerging artists.

belcoarts.com.au



Street art at The Cupping Room.



See miniature masterpieces at the Gallery of Small Things.

Canberra's tiniest walk in gallery offers a platform for artists and makers from Canberra and beyond.

Centres for creatives



Canberra is home to an extensive number of gallery and exhibition spaces, showcasing the works of talented local artists and cultural collections. Whatever you love – be it screen-prints, photography or music – there is **more than** enough inspiration to be found in our artspaces.

There's always time to visit the galleries' cafés and bars.

The capital's love of all things design is showcased at the annual DESIGN Canberra festival each November.

MEGALO PRINT STUDIO AND GALLERY

KINGSTON

A mecca for screen-print, lithograph and intaglio enthusiasts, this studio also hosts woodblock, lino cutting and screen-printing workshops. No trip would be complete without wandering through Kingston down to the foreshore for a coffee.

megalo.org

CANBERRA CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE

MANUKA

Contemporary art just got even more modern with this art space which pushes boundaries. Focusing on innovation and exploring new artistic directions, this art space often features experimental compositions.

ccas.com.au

M16 ARTSPACE

GRIFFITH

With three galleries that change exhibitions every three weeks, there's always something new to see at M16 Artspace. The space exudes a contagious, artistic energy managing 25-plus artist studios and housing five arts organisations that offer art classes.

m16artspace.com.au

AINSLIE + GORMAN ARTS CENTRES

BRADDON

Twin art centres. One dedicated to music, the other to new ideas. This multi-arts environment is rich in inspiration as well as award-winning eateries. Feast at Sage Dining Rooms for outstanding food in a heritage backdrop or enjoy a cocktail at the more casual Mint Garden Bar.

agac.com.au

PHOTOACCESS

MANUKA

Housed in the Manuka Arts Centre, this non-profit organisation dedicated to the humble art of photography showcases emerging and established photo-artists. After you visit the gallery challenge yourself to take a great photo of the architecture in historic Manuka.

photoaccess.org.au

STRATHNAIRN ARTS

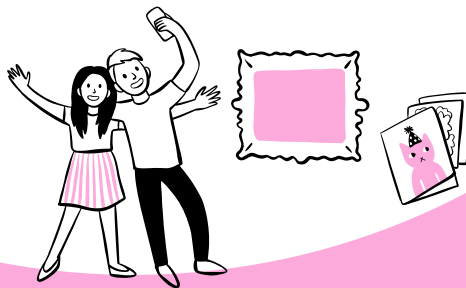
HOLT

Looking out to the Brindabella Mountains, Strathnairn Arts is so picturesque you'll never want to leave. With a gallery of locally crafted works, café, shop, and artist in residence creating magical pieces, this art space also features working kilns and a foundry.

strathnairn.com.au



Strathnairn Arts' Cafe Stepping Stone. Image: Britonus Media.



Bespoke local stores

Pick up a gift
or a handcrafted
souvenir to
remember your
getaway to
Canberra.

*Thea curates Meet Gather
Collect in Aranda.*

POP CANBERRA

BRADDON

If you're in the market for Canberra-specific merchandise, you can't go past this Lonsdale Street favourite—supporting makers and local businesses this store is an emporium of Canberra's best things. Take a little piece of Canberra home with you—perhaps a 'bus shelter' pin, Canberra candle or even a local gin.

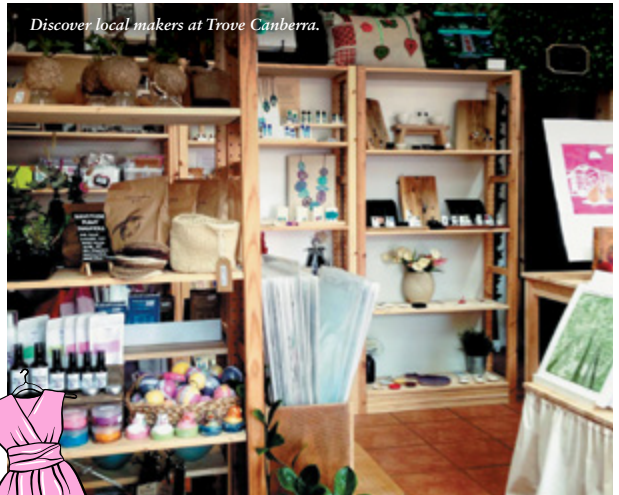
popcanberra.com.au

TROVE CANBERRA

DICKSON

A cooperative of local artists and designers display their handcrafted work at this treasure trove of a shop. Located near popular Asian eat streets, browse through jewellery, clothing, millinery, ceramics, homewares, candles, soaps, cards and more before you feast.

trovecanberra.com.au



Craft ACT and many of our museums and galleries have stores full of pieces that are just as stunning as their exhibitions.



DIRTY JANES CANBERRA

FYSHWICK

This expansive warehouse boasts more than 2000 square metres of tiny individual stores, each curating their own selection of vintage and retro goods. After a long day of shopping, stop off for a coffee and a bite to eat at Billy T's Larder.

dirtyjanes.com

MEET GATHER COLLECT

ARANDA

Run by a husband and wife team, this store nestled under a café and roastery is beautifully curated. Choose from an ever-changing range of Australian designed homewares, jewellery and baby items, as well as bespoke furniture made by the talented duo.

meetgathercollect.com.au

Behind the scenes



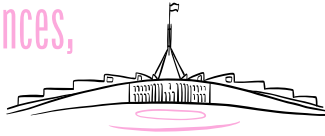
Discover **more than** the usual sights with a tour of Canberra. Learn about the capital's mysterious haunts on a ghost tour, ace your holiday pics on a photography tour, and more.

Discover the secrets of Parliament House on a tour.



Many attractions offer regular tours. Image: Pat Surrsong.

More than politics, specialised subject tours of Parliament House include art, Indigenous experiences, and architecture.



CULTURAL TOUR

Delve deeper at Canberra's iconic sights with a knowledgeable local author on a Canberra Secrets Tour. Quirky secrets about the capital will be revealed to you as you learn about Canberra's cultural, natural and pioneering heritage. Tours are tailored to suit interests.

canberrasecrets.com.au

DHAWURA TOURS

Journey through Ngunawal land, travel back in time to become a part of 'The Dreaming' and learn about Aboriginal culture at iconic natural havens around Canberra. Listen as local Ngunawal Traditional Custodians interpret sites of significance and connect with the diversity of landscapes, wildlife and natural bush in the Canberra region.

thunderstone.net.au

GHOST TOURS

A rare treat for lovers of the strange and mysterious, Tim the Yowie Man's tours will take you on a journey of supernatural discovery. Visited haunted sites, go on a torchlit snoop around the bowels of Old Parliament House, or see the stomping grounds of past criminals.

yowieman.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

See Canberra through the lens of your camera with Capture Canberra Photography Tours. Master light capturing techniques as you soak up the capital's stunning landscapes and get creative as you snap unique architecture. Design your own photo tour to tailor the session to your interests or skill development goals.

photoschool.com.au

ANU ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE TOURS

Explore the rich historical significance of the Australian National University's campus on a self-guided walk. The trail follows Sullivans Creek downstream, where First Nations people managed the landscape using traditional methods of cool burning, weaving its way around scarred trees.

services.anu.edu.au

See a show

From underground music to sold out international tours, you can enjoy a lively performing arts scene.



Dance, theatre, and comedy grace the Canberra Theatre Centre's stages.

CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE

Rock, classical music, comedy, Shakespeare, dance, theatre—if it's doing the rounds nationally and internationally, it will feature at Canberra's premier performance centre. Just over 1200 audience members fit in the large, sloped auditorium, while the adjoining playhouse seats more than 600. They are linked by a giant bar for those intermission breaks.

canberratheatrecentre.com.au

THE STREET THEATRE

The Street is a hub for Canberra's creative community and a venue dedicated to contemporary performance, presenting bold work from inquisitive artists who have something to say about the world. Performance styles range from interactive live-streamed think tanks to acoustic rock, and everything in between.

thestreet.org.au

LLEWELLYN HALL

Home to Canberra's Symphony Orchestra, Llewellyn Hall is Canberra's premier concert hall and one of the finest acoustic venues in Australia. Home to local and international acts, Llewellyn Hall also attracts contemporary music, comedy, dance and public lectures. Part of the ANU's School of Music, the brutalist building is a link between the university and city centre.

llewellynhall.com.au

Theatre fans love the Canberra Theatre Centre.



SMITH'S ALTERNATIVE

The grungy jewel in Canberra's artistic crown, Smith's Alternative is the beating heart of the city's community cultural scene. From live music to poetry readings, book launches and anything experimental, here is a place which accepts all with open arms. Frankly, there is nothing else quite like it.

smithsalternative.com

GANG GANG CAFÉ

Nestled in between a delightful wellbeing studio and expansive playing fields teaming with dogs, you'll find Gang Gang Café. Famous for its flat whites and pancakes in the morning, at night this café becomes a relaxed music venue. Owned by brothers who make up three-quarters of indie-pop band Slow Turismo, musicians often launch their new singles here.

ganggangcafe.com.au

Gang Gang Café showcases local musicians.



discover **more than** a visitors centre



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



**CANBERRA AND REGION
VISITORS CENTRE**

LOCAL MERCHANDISE • TOURS AND TICKETS • ACCOMMODATION DEALS

Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes, ACT 2600

• 1300 554 114 • visitcanberra.com.au

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