



Canberra & Around

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Best Places to Stay

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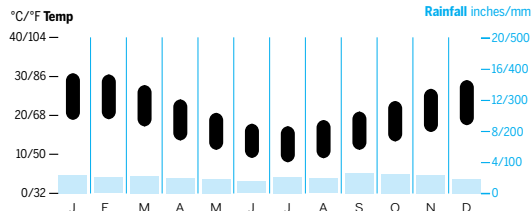
Why Go?

Established to showcase the expansive spaces, immense wealth and staunchly democratic aspirations of a newly-minted nation, the city of Canberra is where many of the decisions that shape Australia are made and where many of its major cultural institutions are located. It's odd, then, that the place is so lacking in personality – in many ways, time spent on a visit here is time that could better be spent elsewhere in the country.

The exception to this rule applies to domestic tourists, because this is a destination that every Australian should visit at least once. Its flagship museums and galleries – especially the Australian War Memorial, National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery and National Museum of Australia – are repositories of the artefacts and artworks that have shaped and defined Australia's modern history and character, making them guardians and storytellers of the national narrative.

When to Go

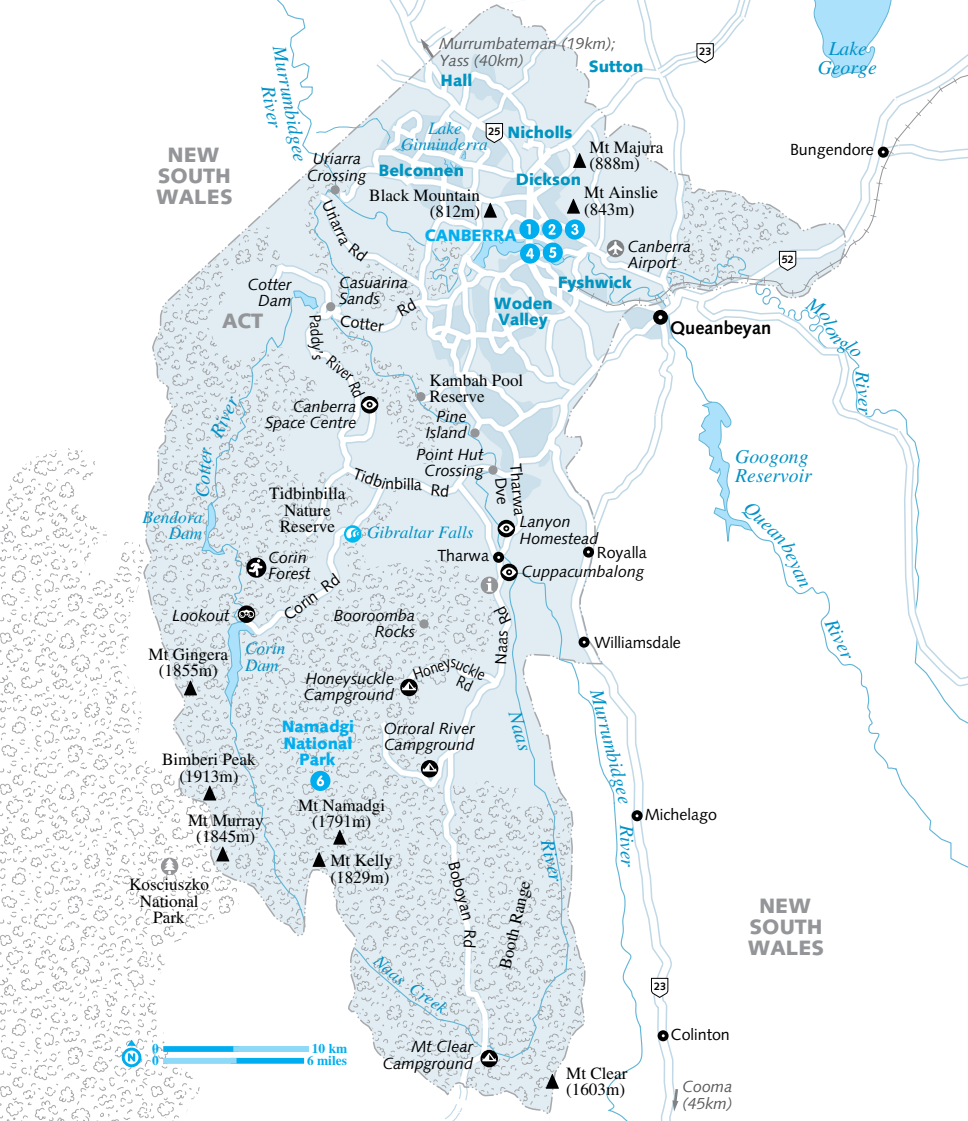
Canberra



Apr Cellar doors beckon during the Canberra District Wine Harvest Festival.

Sep The Floriade festival celebrates flowers and fun.

Dec–Jan School holidays and a lack of parliamentary sittings minimises crowds and hotel prices.



Canberra & Around Highlights

- 1 Admire Australian and international artworks at the **National Gallery of Australia** (p259)
- 2 Learn about Australia's nation-defining military history at the **Australian War Memorial** (p258)
- 3 Witness democracy in action at **Parliament House** (p260)
- 4 Paddle, cycle, skate, walk or run around **Lake Burley Griffin** (p259)
- 5 Ponder an eclectic array of portraits at the **National Portrait Gallery** (p260)
- 6 Spot kangaroos and Aboriginal rock art in **Namadgi National Park** (p273)
- 7 Sample the award-winning cold-climate drops being produced at the region's many **wineries** (p272)