



Canberra & Southern NSW

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- » Montague Island (p151)
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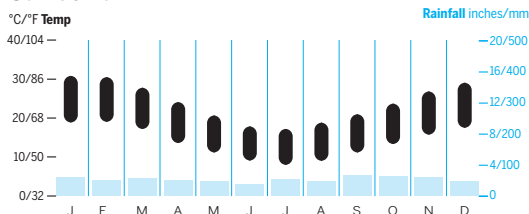
Why Go?

The textbook 20th-century architecture and town planning of Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) couldn't be further removed from the luscious natural green and blue meanderings of the NSW South Coast. But in many ways the extremes make these two destinations ideal bedfellows.

One day visitors can be rubbernecking in museums and art galleries, strolling around manmade lakes and marveling at the powers that be and the fabulous buildings they inhabit. The next they can find themselves in the natural world with its unpolluted and spectacularly clear waters, dolphin and whale populations, vast tracts of national park and kangaroos that wander down to the shore for an evening stroll. Being able to enjoy both of these quintessential Australian experiences with relative ease adds another dimension to any East Coast odyssey.

When to Go

Canberra



February–May (except Easter)
Sun's still shining and kids are back at school

May–November
Spot whales along the coast

December
Enjoy Christmas Aussie-style on the coast – seafood for lunch and beach cricket

Canberra & Southern NSW Highlights

- 1 Having kangaroos call in at your camp site in **Murrumbidgee National Park** (p147)
- 2 Sounding your barbaric yawp atop stunning **Pigeon House Mountain** (p146).
- 3 Hanging out with the seals and penguins at **Montague Island** (p151)
- 4 Leaving snowy white footprints on the brilliant sands of **Jervis Bay** (p143)
- 5 Ogling at the architectural splendour of **Parliament House** (p127)
- 6 Eating ice cream as the sun sets on one of the eye-blinkingly beautiful urban beaches at **Wollongong** (p133)
- 7 Watching **Eden's** whale-human reconciliation play itself out (p158)
- 8 Experiencing village life with the 'quaint' quotient at max in **Central Tilba** (p153)
- 9 Negotiating the network of Australian in the **National Museum of Australia** (p127)

