



Canberra & the ACT

POP 358,000 / 02

Includes ➔

History	254
Sights	254
Activities	257
Tours	257
Festivals & Events	259
Sleeping	260
Eating	261
Drinking & Nightlife	263
Entertainment	264
Shopping	264
Around Canberra	265

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cupping Room (p261)
- ➔ Morks (p262)
- ➔ Akiba (p261)
- ➔ Aubergine (p262)
- ➔ Courgette (p262)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ East Hotel (p260)
- ➔ Hotel Hotel (p261)
- ➔ Little National Hotel (p260)
- ➔ Hyatt Hotel Canberra (p261)
- ➔ Blue & White Lodge (p260)

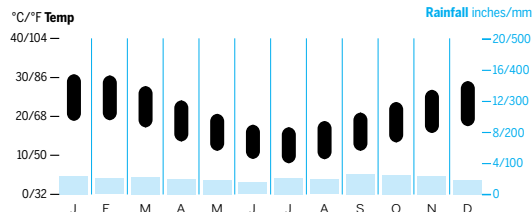
Why Go?

Carved out of New South Wales (NSW) in 1911 and transferred into the direct control of the federal government, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) was created solely to provide a neutral location for a national capital. The rivalry between the two most powerful states, NSW and Victoria, was even more pronounced back then than it is now. It made sense for the capital to be situated somewhere between Sydney and Melbourne, and it was deemed important that the new city should have its own water supply, so as not to be held hostage by any state government.

Effectively the ACT is just Greater Canberra, along with a chunk of mountainous wilderness to the south (which provides that all-important water source). Come here to explore Australia's interesting little capital, and perhaps take a walk in the bush while you're at it.

When to Go

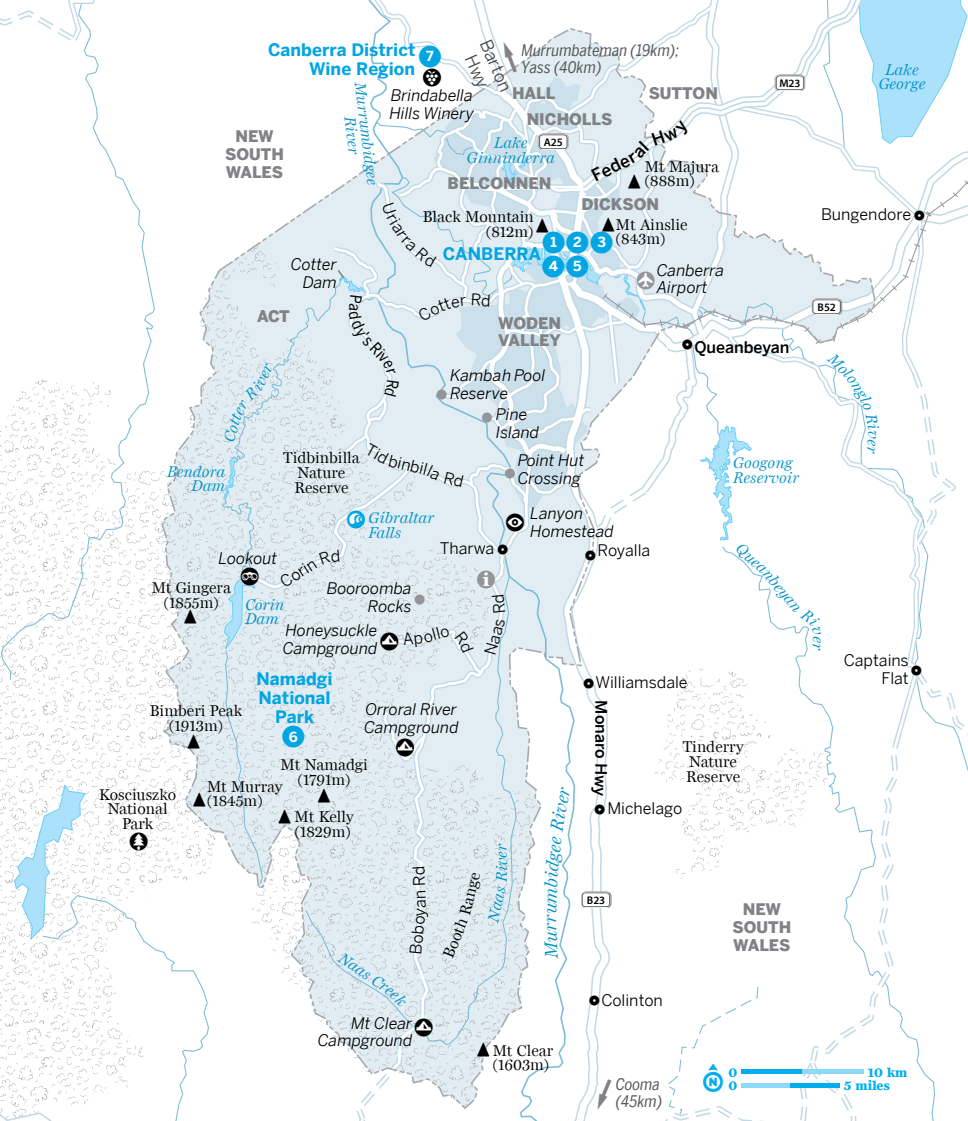
Canberra



Apr Cellar doors beckon during the Canberra District Wine Week.

Sep The Floriade festival fills the capital with flowers and fun.

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



Canberra & the ACT Highlights

- 1 National Gallery of Australia** (p254) Delving into a vast treasure trove of Australian and international art.
- 2 National Portrait Gallery** (p254) Pondering the eclectic array of faces that have shaped Australian culture.
- 3 Australian Parliament House** (p254) Witnessing

democracy in action within symbolism-laden walls.

- 4 Australian War Memorial** (p254) Learning about how Australia's chequered military history helped to define the national psyche.
- 5 Lake Burley Griffin** (p257) Paddling, cycling, skating or strolling around Canberra's central lake.

- 6 Namadgi National Park** (p266) Spotting kangaroos and Aboriginal rock art on a walk through the wilderness.
- 7 Canberra District Wine Region** (p266) Sampling the award-winning cold-climate drops being produced at the region's wineries.