ACT Tourist Bureau

cnr London Circuit and West Row
Canberra City ACT 2601
Open Monday to Friday 9am-5.15pm
Saturday 9am-11.30am
School vacations and public holidays: later closing, seven-day-week operation

Tourist Information Centre
Northbourne Ave, Dickson (just after junction of Federal and Barton Highways)
Open 9am-5pm daily throughout the year (except Christmas Day)
Telephone: 49 7555 Telex: AA62305

ACT Tourist Bureau

Drive yourself tours

in & around Canberra

Other publications available free from ACT Tourist Bureau include:
Canberra, Australia's National Capital
Canberra: Points of Interest with Map Guide
Parliament House, Canberra
Australian War Memorial, Canberra
National Library of Australia
Embassies in Canberra
Australian National University
Canberra's Botanic Gardens
Canberra's Captain Cook Memorial
Canberra's Carillon
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
Facts about the Australian Capital Territory
Canberra, Your Capital (a brief history)
Also two useful folders listing hotel, motel, guest house and caravan park facilities (Canberra Accommodation Guide), and conducted tours by coach, cruise vessel, aircraft and car convoy (Day and Half-day Tours of Canberra).
Linking most of its diverse attractions and finally exploring beyond its borders, these drive-yourself tours are designed to help you make the best use of your sightseeing time, and petrol, during your stay in the Australian Capital Territory. With the aid of the maps the itineraries can be varied or adapted to your own preferences, or two or more combined to plan a full day’s touring.

Approximate route length and time are given, the latter allowing for short stops at attractions listed for inspection (shown in heavy type). Estimates for rural tours are based on driving time only.

A useful accompaniment to this brochure is another ACT Tourist Bureau publication, Canberra Points of Interest. It lists inspection times for all buildings etc included in these tours and also contains a detailed map guide of central Canberra. Get your free copies of this and other informative folders from the Bureau or Visitor Information Centre. And if you wish to explore the city and countryside more thoroughly you can also obtain there a fully indexed map of Canberra and suburbs for 45c and an ACT and regional tourist map (20c).

Tours are shown starting from Civic Centre but you may of course join the route at any point. Speed restrictions and other ACT traffic signs must be strictly observed. (A free booklet, Driving in the ACT, is available from the Bureau or Information Centre.) Canberra’s public buildings, lookouts, commercial centres etc are generally well provided with parking facilities. There is ample free parking, too, at the Visitor Information Centre. However, right in the City and near the Tourist Bureau time limits are imposed through zoning, voucher or meter controls in most areas.

OTHER TOURING AIDS AND SERVICES

besides this brochure have been developed to make the motorist’s visit more rewarding and relaxing. Would you like to join a car convoy, or hire an ‘invisible’ guide? Ask at the Tourist Bureau or Information Centre for details about Radio Motorcades and Travel Tapes.

Or, if you want to get your hands off the wheel altogether, there is a wide range of day and half-day conducted coach tours leaving the Bureau every day.

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Gold Arrow Tour

(30 km, 3 hrs).

Signposted by distinctive gold arrows (first at junction of London Circuit/Northbourne Ave), this tour introduces the visitor to the main elements of central Canberra including the Parliamentary Triangle with its buildings of national or historical interest, and part of the picturesque embassy areas in the suburbs of Yarralumla, Deakin, Forrest, Red Hill.

MAP KEY

1. CITY HILL LOOKOUT, Vernon Circle (left) —A key point in Canberra's Parliamentary Triangle bounded by Constitution, Commonwealth, Kings Avenues; latter two bridging Lake Burley Griffin and terminating at Capital Hill behind Parliament House.

2. PLANNING EXHIBITION, Regatta Point (left off Commonwealth Ave just before the bridge). —Depicts in models, diagrams, Canberra as it is and will become.

3. CAPTAIN COOK MEMORIAL WATER JET —One of the world's highest, rising to a maximum 137 m. Located off Regatta Point. (Check with Tourist Bureau for operating times.)

4. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA, Parkes—Completed in 1968 at a cost of $8 million. Splendid tapestries, coloured glass windows in foyer which also features displays of books, manuscripts, pictures.

5. PARLIAMENT HOUSE, King George Tce —Visitors are conducted on tours of Senate and House of Representatives or, when Parliament is sitting, King's Hall and both visitor galleries are open to the public.

6. EMBASSIES, High Commissions, diplomatic residences passed on tour are: Russia, Brazil—Flinders Way; India, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, Singapore, Portugal, Ghana, Chile—Muggs Way; Thailand, Japan, Germany, Netherlands—Empire Crct; Belgium, Israel—Arkana St; United States, Philippines, South Africa—Moonah Pl; Italy, Vietnam Republic—National Crct. They are not open to public inspection with the exception of the Indonesian Embassy cultural pavilion (Darwin Ave, left off Arkana St).

7. RED HILL LOOKOUT—700 m high, offers sweeping views of Canberra, Woden Valley new town. Kiosk, restaurant.

8. THE LODGE—Prime Minister's official residence in Adelaide Ave (cnr National Crct); not open to public.

9. AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN MEMORIAL—Tall aluminium-clad shaft surmounted by eagle; commemorates United States' contribution to defence of Australia in World War II.

10. BLUNDELL'S FARMHOUSE, off Constitution Ave (Wendouree Dr) —Built in 1858 by pioneer settler Robert Campbell for his ploughman. Preserved, furnished to depict that period.

11. CANBERRA CARILLON, on Anzac Is (also approached by Wendouree Dr) —Gift from UK Government to mark Canberra's 50th Jubilee, 1963. (Ask Tourist Bureau for inspection, recital times.)

12. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, at top of Anzac Pde—A huge collection commemorating all wars in which Australians have fought. Most popular of Canberra's visitor attractions. Hall of Memory should not be missed.

13. CIVIC SQUARE, in heart of city (on London Crct facing Ainslie Ave) —Dominated by Canberra Theatre Centre. In the foreground stands statue of Ethos.
Lakeside Parks and Gardens

(40 km, 3 hrs)

Centrepiece of this tour is the man-made lake named after the American architect who won a world-wide competition for the design of Canberra. Lake Burley Griffin with its 35.4 km of shoreline is the centre-piece of the city and its foreshores provide delightful picnic spots. Fishing (rod, line) is permitted all year; a licence is not necessary.

MAP KEY

1. BOTANIC GARDENS, Clunies Ross St — Covers 40 ha on slopes of Black Mountain. Devoted exclusively to Australian plants. Descriptive folders available inside Gardens and at Tourist Bureau.

2. BLACK MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT. Approach off Clunies Ross St — 812 m above sea level and one of four mountain lookouts ringing central Canberra. Affords broad views of city, lake and new town of Belconnen.

3. SCRIVENER DAM, Lady Denman Dr — Built in 1963 to hold back waters of Molonglo River, thus forming Lake Burley Griffin. River enters lake 11 km east of this point. (Parking to right after crossing dam.)

4. GOVERNMENT HOUSE — Official residence of Australia's Governor-General. Can be viewed from lookout off Lady Denman Dr just after crossing Scrivener Dam and, further on, Dunrossil Dr leading to main gates. House, grounds not open to public.

5. WESTON PARK — Favourite spot for picnics, affords fine views across lake. Play facilities for children.

6. NATIONAL LIBRARY, Parkes — Second opportunity to visit this important building (see Tour 1).

7. PARLIAMENT HOUSE — (see Tour 1).

8. CANBERRA CARILLON, on Aspen Is (also approached by Wendouree Dr) — Gift from UK Government to mark Canberra's 50th Jubilee, 1963. (Ask Tourist Bureau for inspection, recital times.)

9. BLUNDELL'S FARMHOUSE, off Constitution Ave (Wendouree Dr) — Built in 1858 by pioneer settler Robert Campbell for his ploughman. Preserved, furnished to depict that period.

10. COMMONWEALTH PARK, NERANG POOL — Leave car at lookout (Parkes Way at junction with Anzac Pde) and stroll in these delightful gardens.

11. LAKE CRUISE TERMINAL, Acton — Information, bookings at Terminal or Tourist Bureau.

12. ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY — Face each other across McCoy Crct in grounds of Australian National University, Institute houses interesting physiological, anthropological displays. Domed academy not open to public.

13. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY — Campus covers 130 ha and best explored with a guide. Conducted car convoy tours (see Points of Interest folder) leave main entrance of —

14. UNIVERSITY HOUSE, Belmain Cres.

15. RESERVE BANK, ACT LAW COURTS, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, London Crct facing University Ave. Law Courts open to visitors.
Mountains, Museums and Military College

(22 km, 2 hrs including 1 hr at War Memorial)

Highlights are visits to Royal Military College, Duntroon, Australian War Memorial, Mt Ainslie Lookout. Other features near the itinerary which merit attention are Commonwealth Park, Blundell's Farmhouse, Canberra Carillon, Civic Square.

MAP KEY

1. CIVIC SQUARE — See Tour 1.
2. OLYMPIC POOL — one of six public swimming pools in Canberra.
3. CANBERRA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.
4. CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST and OLD SCHOOL HOUSE—Both of historical interest. The church, begun in 1841, is Canberra's oldest; in adjoining schoolhouse are displayed relics of pioneer days.
5. COMMONWEALTH PARK — See Tour 2.
6. BLUNDELL'S FARMHOUSE — See Tour 1.
7. CANBERRA CARILLON — See Tour 1.
8. AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN MEMORIAL — See Tour 1. Rises high above Russell Offices, which house Australia's Defence departments.
9. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, Duntroon — Training academy for officers of the Australian, New Zealand armies. Proceed via Jubilee Ave, Harrison Rd, Robert Campbell Rd, General Bridges Dr. Left of Harrison Rd are parade ground and headquarters building; right, Duntroon House, pioneer settler Robert Campbell's homestead, now Officers Mess. Campbell settled here in 1825. Left of Robert Campbell Rd stands multi-denominational ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul. Grave of General Bridges (College's first commandant, who led 1st AIF at Gallipoli) is passed left of drive named after him, leading to—
10. MT PLEASANT LOOKOUT — 663 m, and Armoured Corps Memorial.
11. MT AINSLIE LOOKOUT. Right off Fairbairn Ave — Canberra's highest vantage point, 842 m, gives excellent panoramic impression of capital's development. View embraces full length (11 km) of Lake Burley Griffin, and outlying new towns of Woden, Belconnen. In foreground is Parliamentary Triangle.
12. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL — This huge, fascinating museum can absorb several hours of visitor's time. See Tour 1.
Conveniently related to Canberra City, Woden Valley was first of Capital's new town developments. Like the second, Belconnen (Tour 5) and the third, Tuggeranong, Woden provides an interesting example of decentralised urban planning. It will have twenty suburbs accommodating 90,000 people, yet in 1962 it was still sheep-grazing country with a population of nine.

MAP KEY

1. COMMONWEALTH AVE BRIDGE — Spans Lake Burley Griffin to link north, south Canberra. Left front stands National Library and on Acton Peninsula to right, Canberra Hospital.

2. CAPITAL HILL — Apex of Parliamentary Triangle and circled by two ring-roads, Capital Circle, State Circle. Approaching it, on right of Commonwealth Ave, you pass High Commissions of United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, Malaysia. From either Circle take (Woden) exit to—

3. ADELAIDE AVE — To pass the Lodge (left, behind long white wall), home of Australia's Prime Ministers, and Italian Embassy, and on right embassies of Philippines, Thailand, Japan.

4. ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT, left into Kent St then Denison St — Conspicuous landmark to commuters between Canberra City and Woden and popular tourist stop. See coin exhibition, watch money being made.

5. CURTIN — First Woden suburb, named for Australia’s wartime Prime Minister. Provides finished example of style, character of Canberra's new-town suburbs.

6. LYONS, right of Melrose Dr — Named after Tasmanian-born Prime Minister J. A. Lyons. Street names have Tasmanian connotation.

7. WODEN TOWN CENTRE, left of Melrose Dr (suburb of Phillip) — First major shopping, office complex developed outside Canberra City. Several Government departments already housed here. When complete, it will give Woden self-sufficiency in most goods, services, and local employment to many residents.

8. CHIFLEY and

9. PEARCE — These newer suburbs give further impression of new town's residential character.

10. SCHOOLS — Plentiful in new towns, strategically placed. The two here (left of Melrose Dr) are Marist Brothers College, Melrose High School.

11. MAWSON — Suburb, Southlands shopping centre.

12. HINDMARSH DRIVE — One of Canberra’s longest roads. Connects Weston Creek, Woden, South Canberra and Fyshwick industrial area. Woden Valley High School, Woden Hospital on left. Sharp left just after summit into—

13. MUGGA WAY — One of Canberra's best-known suburban streets, address of many embassies, diplomatic residences.

Canberra's second new town development, Belconnen, is main feature of this tour. It begins in inner suburbs of Braddon/Ainslie, continues through northern suburbs, then proceeds to Belconnen which in time will have twenty-five suburbs accommodating 120,000 people.

Between College of Advanced Education and proposed Town Centre, a 121 ha lake has been formed. Town Centre will include Government offices, residential area, and retail, service, institutional, entertainment, recreation facilities.

MAP KEY
1. CIVIC CENTRE — First shopping blocks, Spanish-style Melbourne/Sydney buildings on either side of Northbourne Ave, opened in 1927. Turn right at Ipima St, cnr Canberra-Rex Hotel, into suburb of —
3. AINSLIE (1926) — Separated from Braddon by Limestone Ave. James Ainslie first overseer, Dunrobin Station, now Royal Military College (Tour 5). It is worth stopping at Cowper St, immediately after crossing Limestone Ave to visit —
7. DOWNER (1961) — Sir John Downer, South Australian Premier 1885-87, 1892-93.
9. HORSE ERA MUSEUM — Aspinall St, Watson, colonial-style coach house, contains forty historic horse-drawn vehicles dating from 1835. (50c adult, 20c child.) Collection will eventually be moved to special location at Cuppacumbalong.
10. CANBERRA SHOWGROUND.
11. RACECOURSE.
12. YOWANI COUNTRY CLUB (golf, bowls).
15. TURNER (1940) — Sir George Turner, Victorian Premier, then first Australian Government Treasurer.
18. COOK (1968) — Captain James Cook, discoverer of east coast of Australia, 1770; Sir Joseph Cook, Prime Minister 1913-14.
23. FLYNN, Under development — Flynn of the Inland, pioneer of flying doctor service.
24. CHARNWOOD — Named after Charnwood Homestead.
29. CANBERRA COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION — opened 1969.
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Tracking Station

(100 km, excluding detours to Pine Island, Corin Dam. 3 hrs)

This pleasant round trip into Tidbinbilla Range country, a favourite recreation area for Canberra residents, is highlighted by visits to Nature Reserve and Space Tracking Station of same name. The reserve covers about 5000 ha, is one of best places in Australia to see native fauna, flora in natural surroundings and a favourite with photographers. The ACT’s three space tracking stations, Tidbinbilla, Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral Valley are administered by Australian Government on behalf of US National Aeronautics and Space Administration. They have key roles in manned, unmanned space research programs. Only Tidbinbilla is open to public.

MAP KEY

1. JERRABOMBERRA AVE — Canberra exit road for tour. To reach it from Civic Centre, cross lake by Commonwealth Ave Bridge, veer left on State Circle round Capital Hill and left again by St Andrew’s Church into Canberra Ave. Immediately after passing Manuka shopping centre (right) turn right into Captain Cook Cres, continue to the end and turn right into Jerrabomberra Ave.

2. MONARO HIGHWAY — Canberra-Cooma link. Followed for 8 km to Tharwa turnoff (right).

3. POINT HUT CROSSING — Concrete ford. First of two crossings of Murrumbidgee River on tour and popular picnic spot. (In event of high water, take alternative route via Tharwa, where river bridged.)

4. PADDY’S RIVER BRIDGE.

5. GILBRALTAR CREEK BRIDGE — If you have time, turn left to —

6. GILBRALTAR FALLS — another scenic picnic spot, and

7. CORIN DAM — largest of Canberra’s three water-supply storages. Retrace route, continue to —

8. TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE — At Information Centre, 1.5 km inside entrance, visitors can see colour-slide presentation, ask about barbecue, picnic facilities, walking trails, animal enclosures. Reserve open 9 am-6 pm. Dogs, cats, firearms prohibited.

9. TIDBINBILLA SPACE TRACKING STATION — At 4.8 km bitumen road, right off Paddy’s River Rd, leads to station gates (parking outside). Visitor Centre open daily, 9 am-5 pm.

10. MURRAY’S CORNER — another popular recreation area.

11. COTTER RESERVE — only 25 km from city centre, at junction of Murrumbidgee, Cotter rivers. Kiosk, coin-in-slot gas barbecues, playground, swimming, toilets. Steps lead to top of spillway for view of Cotter Dam. Leaving Reserve, one-way timber bridge (traffic signals) crosses Murrumbidgee. Cotter Pumping Station on right, Casuarina Sands on left (river swimming, kiosk, dressing rooms, toilets).

12. MT STROMLO OBSERVATORY — Operated by Australian National University. Visitor centre open daily 9.30 am-4 pm.


The Three Rivers

(72 km, 2 hrs)

This round trip through pastoral country and foothills of Brindabella Range west of Canberra crosses Murrumbidgee, Molonglo, Cotter rivers and offers extensive views of Murrumbidgee Valley. Established picnic grounds at Coppins Crossing, Uriarra Crossing, Cotter Reserve, Casuarina Sands. Time permitting, easy diversions can be made through Belconnen new town, to Mt Stromlo Observatory or Royal Australian Mint. Departure from City is north along Northbourne Ave to join Barry Dr (left), leading to Belconnen Way. Turn left into Cotter Dr, between suburbs of Macquarie, Weetangera, and continue straight on into open country.

MAP KEY

1. COPPINS CROSSING — Low-level one-way concrete bridge spanning Molonglo River. At junction with Uriarra Rd 3.7 km further on, turn right and drive to —

2. URIARRA CROSSING — Murrumbidgee River low-level one-way concrete bridge. Beach, barbecues, toilets. Turn left after bridge and follow Uriarra Rd for 5.6 km, then left into Brindabella Rd (signposted Cotter River).

3. COTTER DAM, RESERVE, CASUARINA SANDS — Extensive recreation area near confluence of Murrumbidgee, Cotter rivers. See Tour 6. Note: Bridge over Murrumbidgee takes one-way traffic (signals).

4. MT STROMLO OBSERVATORY — Turn off left of Cotter Rd. Visitor Centre open daily 9.30 am–4 pm. Also Tour 6.

5. WESTON CREEK — new town.

6. WODEN VALLEY — new town.

7. ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT — See Tour 4. Return to City via Adelaide Ave, Capital Circle, Commonwealth Ave.
Molonglo Gorge and Queanbeyan

(42 km, 1½ hrs)

Queanbeyan, the New South Wales city only 13 km south-east of central Canberra, is a turnaround point on tour. On way, Air Disaster Memorial in Fairbairn Forest and Molonglo Gorge are visited. Exit from Canberra is via Ainslie, Limestone and Fairbairn Avenues.

MAP KEY

1. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL — See Tour 3.
2. MT AINSLIE LOOKOUT — See Tour 3.
3. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE — See Tour 3.
4. CANBERRA AIRPORT — Off Pialligo Ave. Australia’s fourth busiest. Frequent jet services connect Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and points beyond. On far side of airfield is RAAF Base Fairbairn (no entry).
5. AIR DISASTER MEMORIAL — Marks spot where on 13 August 1940 ten people lost their lives, among them Ministers for Army and Air, Vice-President of Executive Council and Chief of General Staff.
6. MOULONGO GORGE RESERVE — Left into Sutton Rd then right at signpost. Picnic area, barbecues, toilets. Railway across gorge marks ACT/NSW border.
7. QUEANBEYAN — one of fastest growing cities in NSW. First settled in 1828. Entry via Yass Rd, Molonglo River bridge. Turn right at traffic lights in town centre, proceed along Crawford St and Uriarra Rd to cross back into ACT at railway bridge. Return to capital via Canberra Ave (Highway 23).
8. HMAS HARMAN NAVAL BASE — no entry.
9. FYSHWICK INDUSTRIAL SUBURB.
10. CANBERRA MARKET.
The Snowy Mountains

Canberra visitors are close enough to the Australian Alps to see something of the Snowy Mountains and the gigantic engineering achievement of the world-famous hydro-electric scheme. If time will not permit a stay in the Alps, a return day trip will enable visits to Jindabyne, Perisher Valley and Mt Kosciusko summit (road open in summer only), or the alpine village at Thredbo (year-round). All centres have shops, restaurants, ski hire. During winter, the Kosciusko road is normally open to Smiggin Holes where you can take a short Snocat tour into Perisher Valley (2 km). Interesting diversions in Cooma are the Man from Snowy River statue, the international avenue of flags in Centennial Park, the remains of the Avro 10 aircraft Southern Cloud at the Aviation Pioneers Memorial, a clog-making shop, the old Pine Valley Hotel, now an historical museum, and Fairy Tale Park.

Distances from Canberra via Monaro Highway:
- To Cooma and return: 229 km
- To Jindabyne and return: 344 km
- To Smiggin Holes and return: 406 km
- To Kosciusko Summit and return: 444 km
- To Thredbo Village and return: 415 km

Information on Snowy Mountains road conditions is available from Cooma Visitors Centre.

The South Coast

Another attractive region favoured by day trippers from Canberra is the NSW South Coast. Batemans Bay, pretty situated at the mouth of the Clyde River, is in all but name the national capital's seaside resort. It is the nearest to Canberra of a string of coastal towns lying along the Princes Highway—Nowra, Ulladulla, Moruya, Narooma, Bermagui—all within a few hours' drive. And the two-hour journey to the coast, via Queanbeyan, historic Braidwood and the spectacular Clyde Mountain, is worth making for its own sake.

Distances from Canberra:
- To Bateman's Bay and return: 300 km
- To Moruya and return: 358 km
- To Ulladulla and return: 406 km
- To Bermagui and return: 424 km
- To Narooma and return: 450 km
- To Nowra and return: 530 km