

CANBERRA

Stories of a Nation

IMAGE: NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA. PHOTO: TOURISM AUSTRALIA.

DAY 1

Spend day one settling in and exploring Canberra. The **National Arboretum**, where 94 forests of rare and symbolic trees are planted across 250 hectares of rolling hills has stunning vistas of the city about to be uncovered. Amongst its many exhibits and forests, it also holds Australia's National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, around 80 living artworks that are some of the finest miniature trees and forests in the world, created with both Australian native and exotic trees.

DAY 2

Start the day with an engaging private morning tour of one of the most significant military museums in the world, the **Australian War Memorial**. The Memorial's *Soul of the Nation* experience commences with a tour of the Commemorative Area, followed by an exploration of the archives of rare and beautiful letters, maps, photographs and diaries that tell the stories of the men and women of Australia's Defence Forces, past and present.



IMAGE: AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.

Then head to New Acton, an innovative new cultural precinct for lunch and an afternoon of exploration. At its heart is **Nishi**, the much-loved 'pineapple-shaped' building which won International Project of the Year at the 2015 Building Awards in London. **The Nishi Gallery** programs an inspiring range of local, national and international exhibitions and performances. There is also a cinema, some of Canberra's favourite restaurants and cafés, shops and a collection of outdoor art and sculpture that merits a wander for a surprise around almost every corner.



IMAGE: NEW ACTON. PHOTO: TOURISM AUSTRALIA.

DAY 3

Spend your third day in Australia's capital with a walk or segway around the iconic **Lake Burley Griffin**, named after Walter Burley Griffin an American architect who, with his wife Marion Mahoney Griffin, won the Australian government's international competition to design the new capital city from scratch. It is Canberra's masterful centrepiece, with 40 kms of scenic paths and the opportunity to row, sail, kayak, paddle board or fish on the water.

Along the lake's edge are some of Canberra's premier attractions including the **National Capital Exhibition**, **National Library** and **National Museum of Australia**.

For further information on attractions and experiences visit culturalattractionsofaustralia.com
To find out more about visiting Canberra go to visitcanberra.com.au

IMAGE: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

There are numerous parks and gardens around the lake and if you time your walk to be at Aspen Island at 12.30 on a Wednesday or a Sunday you will be treated to the unique sounds of Australia's **National Carillon**, 50 metres tall, with 55 bronze bells, it was a gift of the British Government to the people of Australia, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Capital.

The evening's *Feast of Icons* at the **National Gallery of Australia** is a night to remember. The Gallery will open exclusively for you and your party (minimum 10 people) for an intimate encounter with the iconic works in the collection. Take in the sunset vista over the lake from a private dining lounge as you enjoy a premium, six course degustation with each course reflecting an artwork you've seen on the tour. Take home some incredible memories, together with a special gift and personal note from the Director of the Gallery.

DAY 4

Begin with a behind-the-scenes look at the design, collections and architecture of **Australian Parliament House**. The *More than Politics* tour is booked by prior arrangement and gives visitors once-in-a-lifetime,

behind-the-scenes access to **Australian Parliament House**, its significant art and furniture collections and a dining experience usually reserved for visiting dignitaries.

Build an understanding of architect Romaldo Giurgola's unique vision – from its European origins to its Australian materials and interpretation that caps Walter Burley-Griffin's Canberra plan and see the Parliamentary Art and Furniture Collections. In-house chefs will prepare a High Tea with seasonal offerings and a gin tasting. Walk away with stories of your exclusive look at one of the country's lesser-known but most significant art and furniture collections, as well as a gift tote bag with *Interwoven* by Pamille Berg on the commissioned art and craft of Australian Parliament House and a bottle of Parliamentary Librarian's Gin.

In keeping with the governmental theme of the day, spend the remainder of the afternoon on the self-guided driving, cycling or walking tour of the **Yarralumla Diplomatic Estate**. The tour features architectural highlights of the diplomatic missions of over 30 countries. For those wanting more, Canberra has a range of attractions and activities to suit all tastes, including **Old Parliament House** and **Questacon**, a fun and educational, interactive science centre.

BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION

EXPERIENCES IN THIS ITINERARY	BOOKING CONTACT
1. The Soul of the Nation	tours@awm.gov.au
2. A Feast of Icons	tourism@nga.gov.au / +61 2 6240 6641
3. More than Politics	visitorservices@aph.gov.au / +61 2 6277 5399

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