



PRESS RELEASE: Travel Experts share their experiences of CAO A

Cultural Attractions of Australia has recently celebrated its 3rd Anniversary and this industry-led collective offers an inspiring selection of VIP, bespoke and behind-the-scenes experiences of iconic Australian arts, cultural, historic and sporting venues. Each attraction has curated pre-bookable, premium experiences, ensuring unrivalled access for guests. CAO A is part of Tourism Australia's Signature Experiences of Australia programme.

Annabel Sullivan, Executive Officer, is delighted to share personal recommendations from two leading travel experts, based on their experiences of the collective.

Annabel met with **Kate Kneipp, Travel Advisor and Manager, Travel Associates** at a trade event earlier this year and had the opportunity to introduce her to the exciting selection of VIP curated experiences offered by the collective. When Kate had the opportunity to prepare an itinerary for clients travelling to Canberra, she thought they would enjoy *More Than Politics*, a behind-the-scenes tour of the art and furniture collection at Australian Parliament House with a High Tea. As with all CAO A experiences, they are commissionable, easy to book, and provide clients with a memorable experience of our own cultural icons here in Australia.

Kate sent through the following comments as a follow on to her client's CAO A experience.

"My clients loved their *More Than Politics* experience at Parliament House. They were impressed with the guides, and the effort they made to make the information relevant and interesting to each member of the family. They raved about the High Tea - one of the children had just turned 18 and they made a birthday cake for her. As an agent, I was extremely impressed with the level of service provided, and their communication with me during the booking process. It is fantastic to have discovered such amazing experiences here in Australia, which enhance and add value to our clients' travel experiences and take them to a whole other level. Thank you so much for your assistance. I will be sure to remember you and the other opportunities CAO A offers."

CAO A has also hosted top travel professionals for famil visits in recent months including an inspiring Culture and Wine Experience of Tasmania, as one of eight exciting famils created by Tourism Australia and Signature Experiences of Australia, as a part of ATE 21. Annabel Sullivan, led the group of four travel industry guests including **Aaron Spriggs, Orbit World Travel**; Margaret Rae, MTA Travel; Victoria Woolnough, Travel Beyond Group and Evan Petrelis, Renaissance Tours. The 5-day trip encompassed experiences created especially by CAO A by two of its members - cultural and dining experiences at MONA, the Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, and the *Wheel of Fate* tour of Port Arthur Historic Site.

Aaron Spriggs, highlights he would definitely include these behind-the-scenes experiences in his client's itineraries. He notes that he is seeing Australian travellers are looking for different experiences at present and touring as part of a small group appeals.

"I'd been to Port Arthur previously and joined a standard group tour which was informative and enjoyable. However, to experience Port Arthur with a small group of friends and our own fantastic story teller guide was an amazing experience. On CAO A's *Wheel of Fate* Tour we had the opportunity to talk to our guide and ask questions, and as a result, felt we learned more about the human story of the site. A glass of bubbles in the Commanders cottage with morning tea provided an insight into how the "other half" lived with pleasant surroundings, a view and plumbing, as opposed to the convicts. The tour concluded with a beautiful lunch highlighting Tasmanian wines and produce from local suppliers in the Visiting Magistrate's House. This was superbly presented by the chef's from the onsite restaurant which dates from 1830."



ABOUT THE CAO A EXPERIENCES

Australian Parliament House, More Than Politics

The *More than Politics* tour is a behind the scenes look at the Australian Parliamentary Art and Furniture collection and a High Tea, usually reserved for visiting dignitaries! The special tea features local delicacies, including honey from the parliamentary bee hives and the chance to meet the Parliamentary Chef.

You will be able to enjoy once-in-a-lifetime, below-decks and behind-the-scenes access to Australian Parliament House, along with a High Tea experience usually reserved for visiting dignitaries.

Visitors will have the opportunity to gain 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. You will don your hard hat for an exclusive visit to the Parliamentary Art and Furniture Collections and other off-limits spaces.

In-house chefs will prepare a High Tea with seasonal offerings, and a gin tasting. You will 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 including the book *Interwoven* by Pamille Berg on the commissioned art and craft of Australian Parliament House and a bottle of 'Parliamentary Librarian's Gin' produced exclusively for us by McHenry's Distillery, Port Arthur.

INCLUSIONS Privately-hosted talks and tours; Exclusive access to the Art & Furniture Collections; High Tea. Day concludes with gin tasting and presentation of gift tote bag with publication *Interwoven* and McHenry's APH gin. Duration 4.5 hours.

WHERE Australian Parliament House, Parliament House, Parliament Drive, Canberra.

COST \$250 per person. Group Size Minimum 2/ No Maximum

<https://culturalattractionsofaustralia.com/experiences/more-than-politics/>

[HIGH RES IMAGES HERE](#)

Australian Parliament House

The heart of Australian parliamentary democracy and the meeting place of a nation, Australian Parliament House offers visitors to Canberra a unique experience that is More Than Politics.

Architecturally impressive, the building design was chosen from more than 320 entries to an international competition. Australian Parliament House in Canberra was designed to encourage public access and involvement, while responding to the Australian climate, landscape, vegetation, and even the quality of light. The forecourt reflects Australia's ancient beginnings, with a 196 square-metre-mosaic, designed by Aboriginal artist Michael Nelson Jagamara. Inside, there is a stunning art collection to be explored and the extraordinary Great Hall Tapestry, designed by renowned Australian artist Arthur Boyd, it took fourteen full-time weavers more than two years to complete.

Visitors to Canberra can also be part of democracy in action as they watch Question Time on their visit to Australian Parliament House.



Port Arthur Historic Site, Wheel of Fate Tour

Call it what you will, the 'luck of the draw', the 'lottery of life', 'wheel of fate'; it led to the forced migration of tens of thousands of men, women and children, convicted and free alike, to Van Diemen's Land, thousands alone to Port Arthur. The Wheel of Fate sent tens of thousands of men, women and children to Van Diemen's Land. Their fate here hinged on social class, trade, integrity and interpersonal aptitude.

With exclusive access to Port Arthur's unique buildings, you will be led behind the bars to explore 19th century life in this infamous prison settlement and sample the region's amazing produce, prepared by our in-house chef.

You may also upgrade this tour to include a conservation specialist - these scholars of history, conservation and archaeology have an in-depth knowledge of the 30 buildings of Port Arthur, and their insight can provide an unforgettable layer of intrigue to the visit.

INCLUSIONS Expert led talk with behind the scenes access; 2 course lunch and beverages showcasing Tasmanian produce. Duration 4 hours.

WHERE Port Arthur Historic Site, Arthur Highway, Port Arthur, Tasmania.

COST \$300 per person, additional \$200 per person with a conservation expert. Group Size Min 2 / Max 10

<https://culturalattractionsofaustralia.com/experiences/wheel-of-fate/>

[HIGH RES IMAGES HERE](#)

Port Arthur Historic Site

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Port Arthur Historic Site, located 90 minutes' drive southeast of Hobart, brings Australia's early convict history to life.

Port Arthur is the best-preserved convict settlement in Australia and among the most significant convict era sites in the world. For more than forty years, until its closure in 1877, Port Arthur was a penal settlement as well as a military and industrial centre, encompassing mining, farming, timber cutting, boat building and many other trades.

Today the Port Arthur Historic Site covers 100 acres of gardens and grounds, with more than 30 historic buildings and ruins to explore, the site combines history and scenic beauty with innovative interpretation to tell the stories of the harsh discipline and determined industry of the settlement. It is the place to discover Australian history and explore the origins of contemporary Australian culture.

Cultural Attractions of Australia is part of Tourism Australia's Signature Experiences of Australia program. See culturalattractionsofaustralia.com for more.

Members include: NSW, Sydney Opera House, Opera Australia, National Maritime Museum; ACT, Australian Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia, National Museum of Australia, Australian War Memorial; TAS, Mona, Hobart, Port Arthur Historic Site; QLD, Qantas Founders Museum; VIC, National Gallery of Australia, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Sovereign Hill Outdoor Museum; SA, Adelaide Oval; WA, WA Maritime Museum, Fremantle Prison.

For more information, contact:

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