



**COMPLETE GUIDE ON
HIDDEN GEMS TO
EXPLORE IN
CANBERRA**

ABSTRACT

Canberra, Australia's capital, is known for its national monuments and galleries, yet it also harbors many hidden gems. This guide highlights lesser-known spots in the city, from peaceful natural reserves and quirky art galleries to hidden cafes and unique historical sites. These under-the-radar attractions offer a more intimate view of Canberra, inviting visitors to discover its true charm beyond the usual tourist path.

INTRODUCTION

Often overshadowed by larger cities, Canberra offers more than just its iconic landmarks. The city holds a variety of hidden gems that reveal its rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning natural beauty. From secluded parks and nature trails to secret art hubs and local eateries, this guide showcases the lesser-known treasures that make Canberra an intriguing destination for curious travelers seeking something beyond the ordinary.

I. Canberra

The capital of Australia

It is often thought that it is Sydney, but Canberra is the real capital of Australia! It is a city little known compared to the other Australian metropolises. It has a rather large area of 814.2 square km, made up of numerous green spaces that make it an airy and spacious city.



DISCOVER CANBERRA

The population is about 370,000 inhabitants or one-tenth of that of Sydney. This makes it a rather quiet city where you can enjoy your surroundings peacefully. Unlike the majority of Australian cities, Canberra is inland. This results in a climate characterised by hot summers and cold winters. However, the sea and the mountains are just a two-hour drive from the capital.

The Brindabella mountain range in fact laps the capital and several Australian reserves that are home to kangaroos and other typical Australian animals that dot the surroundings of the city. For quite some time, Canberra has remained outside the usual tourist routes, but lately, it has begun to attract **more and more visitors interested in government buildings, museums and the wide variety of wineries, trendy restaurants and craft breweries.**

The best season to visit Canberra is probably February, but the city offers numerous events and events throughout the year. For locals living in Canberra, it is a privilege, and they consider the capital as one of the best cities in the world to reside in. The city was born following a long debate between Sydney and Melbourne concerning the granting of capital status. **Today, it is actually considered by many to be one of the best-designed and organized cities in the world.**



THE HISTORY OF CANBERRA

At the beginning of the 20th century, the region where Canberra is located was a rural area that, for thousands of years, had been inhabited by the **Ngunnawal** and **Walgalu Aborigines**. When in 1908 it was chosen as the capital of Australia, only a few thousand farmers and breeders lived there. According to tradition, Canberra was chosen as the capital of Australia to put an end to a rivalry that exploded violently between Sydney and Melbourne with regard to obtaining the status of the **capital city**.

The government of that time decided to decree the construction of a new centre that would have served as the capital of Australia. In this way, similarly to **Ottawa, Brasilia and Washington, Canberra** was specifically designed to house the Australian Parliament and other political and economic institutions of the country.

In the construction of this agglomeration the plan was inspired by the philosophy of the “garden city” and for this Canberra is a city characterized by large spaces of spontaneous vegetation, divided in two by Lake Burley Griffin, named after the American architect Walter Burley Griffin who followed the design of the city. The architect made sure that the landmark of the city was the Parliament House and that it was always visible from every point.

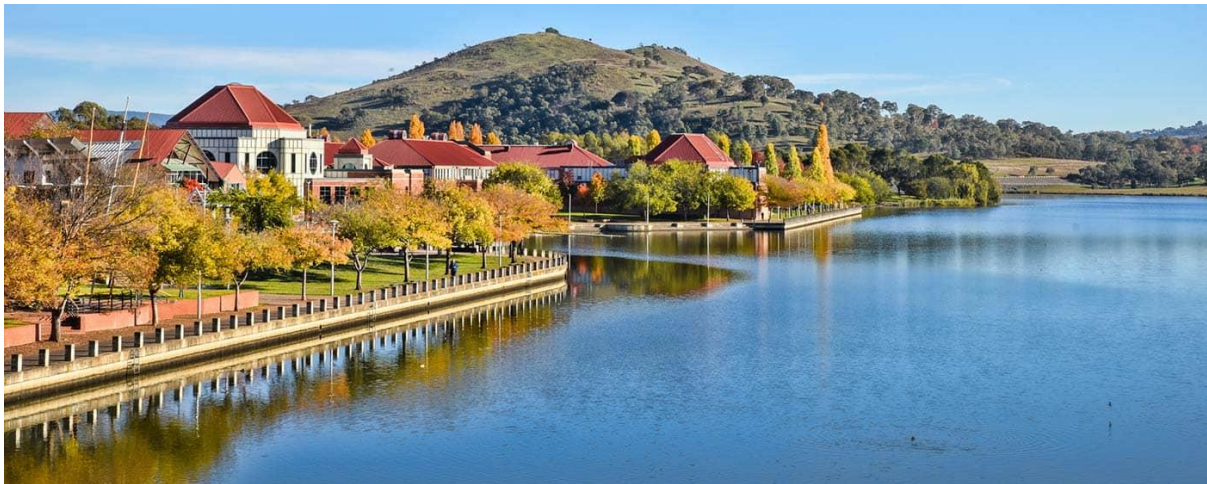
The very low rate of unemployment makes it a city with a vocation for work and, both for this and for its harsh winter climate, it has never entered the hearts of Australians too much. In fact, in addition to the representative palaces and their austere and serious appearance, Canberra is also a lively and interesting city.

The university centre attracts students from all over Australia and also from abroad, and the young people are not lacking in animating the nightlife, especially during the weekend. The cultural offer is also tempting with some particularly attractive museums including the National Gallery and various art exhibitions and galleries. A curiosity: the name Canberra (which moreover is pronounced in two syllables “canbra”) would derive according to some from the English name of the Canberra

locality while, according to others, it would originate from the word aborigine Kambera, which means “meeting place”.

WHAT IS THERE TO SEE IN CANBERRA?

Canberra is a city that is easy to get around with regular and very wide roads. You could rent a car to get around or rely on one of the sightseeing buses that organize guided tours. Among the things you can't miss visiting:



Australian national botanic gardens

For lovers of greenery and nature, don't miss a visit to these botanical gardens. This superb site of about 90 hectares hosts the richest collection of flora in Australia. Remaining on the subject of nature, you can visit the National Zoo & Aquarium, where you can admire animal species from Australia and the rest of the world.

National portrait gallery of australia

A museum that traces the history of Australia, with an exhibition of famous Australian and prominent portraits that marked the different eras of the country. The building occupies a space of 14,000 square meters and contains more than 500 portraits.

Questacon

It is the national centre of science and technology that offers exhibitions related to new technologies and scientific discoveries. It is a particular mix of attractions, exhibitions and new discoveries. A fascinating place that is not to be missed!

Parliament

Located on Capital Hill. The modern architecture of this building will make your head spin. It is the seat of government and symbolizes the importance of Canberra in making important political and economic decisions in the country. Visitors can see how the democratic debate comes to life during Question Time. The roof of the

building is covered with a grass mantle and gives the opportunity to admire a breathtaking view of the city.

Living in canberra

Canberra is an ideal city for study and work experience. **Living in Canberra allows you to have a relaxed lifestyle, which is less hectic and more on a human scale.** The university is represented by the University of Canberra which was established in 1967 and is located in the Bruce district north of the capital. Every year, 2,500 international students choose it as a study destination. Studying in Canberra will allow you to choose between different schools and universities and benefit from the National Library of Australia.

Canberra is considered one of the best cities in the world to live in. Given the proximity to the mountains and because of its climate, Canberra is a city suitable for those who love hiking, cycling and trekking. Among the various nature reserves surrounding the city, we find the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, which offers several hiking trails. There are also several bike paths that will allow bicycle lovers to ride in peace. Wine lovers can also find some interesting locations in Canberra.

II. The Best Hidden Gems in Canberra to Discover

Canberra may be meticulously planned out with fewer nooks and crannies than other cities around Australia, but that doesn't mean it's entirely without a few hidden treasures. Scratch beneath the surface, and you'll find all sorts of locals-only hotspots.

While some – or many – of these may be fairly well-known to long-time Canberrans, this list is perfect if you're new to the city or visiting for the **weekend**. Ready to uncover the best hidden gems in Canberra? Here are our favourites.



Old Parliament House Gardens

On both sides of Old Parliament House, you'll find breathtaking gardens that make you feel like you are stepping into a magical picture book.

Made up of blossoming roses, wisteria-arched walkways, and perfectly manicured lawns, it's a delightful place to stroll, read a book or have a picnic as you soak up the political history around you.

Kambah Pool

If you're after some respite from Canberra's summer heat, look no further than Kambah Pool. While not technically a pool at all – it's a reserve on the Murrumbidgee River in Namadji National Park – Kambah Pool is a fantastic spot to cool off when the temp skyrockets. The water isn't overly deep, with plenty of space around the reserve to picnic or relax.

You can also canoe or kayak, fish, birdwatch or set off on a walk around the river. And if you're so inclined, Kambah Pool has a nude bathing section a little further down from the main swimming area.

Lanyon Homestead

If you're visiting Canberra for a hit of history, culture and heritage, you cannot miss a drive out to **Lanyon Homestead**. While you will tick off sites like the Australian War Memorial and the National Arboretum, the restored 1850s homestead remains one of Canberra's best-kept secrets.

Discover the stories of the families and convict workers who called Lanyon home, well before Canberra became what it is today. Walk the stunning gardens the

surround the home, and opt for the guided and virtual tours to get the most out of your visit to the museum.

For something extra special, book a **dinner under the stars** in collaboration with Mt Stromlo Observatory, where you will enjoy a 2-course meal before stargazing and learning about the constellations above you.

Canberra Deep Space Communication Centre

30 to 40 minutes from the city centre, the **Canberra Deep Space Communication Centre** is worth the road trip! The drive will take you through the picturesque Tidbinbilla Valley before depositing you outside the largest antenna complex in the southern hemisphere. Here, you can view a piece of the moon (over 3.8 billion years old!), memorabilia and images taken across the solar system.



With a physical address like 35°16'44.5"S 149°07'42.0" E and an email like shhh@molly.net.au, everything about **Molly** screams a hidden gem. This clandestine bar sits in the iconic Melbourne Building behind a big wooden door and down a pretty non-descript staircase.

Alpaca Magic

If having brekky with an alpaca is on your bucket list, we have the place for you. Just outside Canberra, you'll find **Alpaca Magic**, a charming, family-friendly farm where you can dine amongst their alpacas, llamas and donkeys.

Bookings are essential and will guarantee a once-in-a-lifetime experience where you feed the animals, walk the llamas around the farm, and tuck into your breakfast with your new furry friends close by.

Tocumwal Lane

Canberra isn't especially famed for its street art, but if you know where to go, you'll find some amazing examples.

There are a few spots across the city where local artists showcase their work, with Tocumwal Lane in Civic a particular highlight. The space is mostly decked out with superhero-themed creations but is a bit of an evolving beast with new artworks added over time.

If you're after more stunning street art in Canberra, Woden Town Square and various streets and alleyways around Braddon are also worth visiting.

11e Cave

From the same team behind one of the best restaurants in Canberra, Onzieme, 11e Cave is one of the city's coolest hidden bars. You'll have to head underground to visit this place; it's inside an old bank vault beneath the restaurant.

The wine bar has a lovely atmosphere alongside an excellent playlist, great cheese and charcuterie options, and, naturally, a fantastic drinks list. You can order all kinds of wines here, but we recommend ordering one of the bar's seasonal cocktails – each one is shaken, stirred or blended to perfection.



III. A Local's Guide To Unique Food Experiences in Canberra

Sure, Canberra has incredible restaurants in spades, but don't let these unique foodie experiences pass you by

Take your palate on an adventure beyond white tablecloths and explore Canberra's boutique wine region and lesser-known foodie experiences that will truly get tastebuds tingling.

Brush up on your (essential) knowledge of fudge and wine pairings, graze your way around the city on a local-led tour, and hunt for your own Black Winter Truffle with some of the cutest farmers in Australia... woof. All in a day's work.

Take your time as you taste your way through the city's **more than** eclectic mix of cuisines, wineries and unique experiences.



Canberra. There's **more than** they're telling us.

Hunt for truffles

One of the few places outside of Western Europe to grow the deliciously ugly delicacy, Canberra is truffle country. Join a truffle hunt at The Truffle Farm or Beltana Farm, both located just ten minutes from the city centre, to see how talented canines sniff out the precious ingredient. Get your hands dirty digging it up, and then taste the fruits of your labour with a meal infused with truffle.

Take advantage of the accommodation at Beltana Farm by booking a stay in one of their luxury yurts. Guests can also play a game of tennis, explore the local area by bicycle, and meet Drake the truffle dog.

Time your trip with the truffle season (June - August) when restaurants across Canberra celebrate by putting the tasty morsels front and centre with some creative paddock to plate dishes just waiting to be devoured.

Find your new favourite winery

From stately cellar doors to tin sheds and dusty bottles, the Canberra District Wine Region champions variety in an impressive array of cool climate wines. With over 140 vineyards and more than 40 wineries all within a 35-minute drive of Canberra, the Canberra Wine District is sure to impress any wine lover.

Enjoy long lunches, unique wine pairings and meet-the-maker tastings at popular wineries such as Four Winds Vineyard.

Canberra District Wine Region

Let a local foodie lead the way

They say to go where the locals go, but that can be tricky when the locals keep their favourite spots hush-hush. Luckily, there are passionate foodie guides who are more than willing to tell all.

Feast your way around the capital on a tour with the experts who we guarantee will take your taste buds on a thrilling adventure. Hop from one eatery to the next in Braddon with Eat Canberra Tours, tour the wine region in a black London cab with Van Du Vin, and discover local gin and beer makers with Dave's Tours.

Get the best of breweries

Great beer can be found all over Canberra, but there's something special about enjoying it right where it's made. You may even get the opportunity to taste experimental or exclusive beer releases that are not available elsewhere.

Did you know Capital Brewing Co. has become the first brewery in Australia to achieve a carbon-neutral certification across its entire operations and products?

To taste one of Australia's favourite beers, the Crankshaft, which took out top spot in the GABS Hottest 100 Aussie Craft Beers two years in row, head to BentSpoke Brewing Co.

Indulge in moreish delicacies (we won't tell)

The locals know Canberra is home to several chocolateries offering delicacies to satisfy even the most discerning palate.



Have you ever heard of a fudge and wine pairing? Fudgemental works with local distillers to create flavours inspired by the Canberra region's cool climate wines produced by awarded master winemakers.

Tucked behind unmarked doors, secret laneways or unassuming locations, Canberra knows how to keep the top bars hidden.

Get down low to find High Jinks, locate Molly Bar using coordinates, or go underground to explore Canberra's newest hidden bar, 11e Cave.

IV. Top 10 Adventure Outdoor Activities To Try In Canberra

There is nothing as pleasant as natural beauty, and Canberra has many such beautiful places. It has many challenging hikes, famous lookouts, and mountain bike trails. You can find forests and snow-capped mountains situated just a 45-minute drive from Canberra city at the nature reserves and national parks. This city's unique setting amidst rushing rivers, alpine mountains, and vast bushland makes a stunning contrast with its easy roads, terrific lake, and sights to see.

The city's many outdoor activities make it quite easy to enjoy some exercise, encounter a friendly animal, and breathe in fresh air. The locals prefer going outdoors in Canberra since it is a 100% renewable energy city that has progressive climate change policies. Here are the top 10 adventure outdoor activities to try in Canberra. Try these activities to have a memorable experience.

Hot Air Ballooning

You can find several hot air balloon companies in Canberra. The majority of them provide a dawn take-off, a glass of champagne, and a mid-air snack to eat. The balloon potentially gives the greatest vantage point of the ACT for about 45 minutes. It is an excellent way to orientate yourself with the place and its surroundings at the beginning of your visit.



Explore the City on Your Bike

Canberra City is considered to be made for cycling, and that is why you will find many cyclists here. The place has a network of cycling paths connecting the outer suburbs. If you are looking to hire a bike, then there are plenty of options available for that as well. Utilise it to explore places like Lake Burley Griffin, which is a picturesque 35-kilometre (22-mile) path.

Awaken Your Inner Foodie in Braddon

Braddon is located just a few minutes walk from the city centre. It is known to be Canberra's constantly evolving foodie and shopping area, where you will spot a blended assortment of cafes, boutiques, bakeries, bars, and restaurants. At the centre of this place is Lonsdale Street, which has a range of independent stores displaying local creatives. You will not regret your visit to Braddon.

The best part is that the suburb has an array of fine-dining restaurants and stylish cafes where you can enjoy multiple cuisines around the world. However, don't forget to hop on the local street food, such as burgers, fries, etc, to treat your taste buds.

Go for Boating at Lake Burley Griffin

You have the option of hiring an electric GoBoat to explore the bright jewel in Canberra City's crown, Lake Burley Griffin. Put on a captain's hat, and do not forget to pack a picnic to feast on while you enjoy the sights from the water. There is no requirement for a boating license. However, bookings are crucial for you and up to seven of your family members or friends.

Indulge in Birdwatching at Jerrabomberra Wetlands

An excellent example of this beautiful city's attractions is the man-made Jerrabomberra Wetlands, located nicely on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. A sanctuary for scores of waterbirds and other similar native species is also there. This specific section of the Canberra Nature Park promotes easy walking and great exploration of floodplains.



Enjoy the Views From Black Mountain Trails

Pick one from several routes that take you to Black Mountain's summit and get to witness scenic views over the city and lake. If you are an enthusiastic adventurer, you can make your way to the Australian National Botanic Gardens located at the base of Black Mountain, as well as Telstra Tower at the top.

Booroomba Rocks at Namadgi National Park

Situated on the Australian Alps' northern edge, the Namadgi National Park is known to be criss-crossed with trails that are perfect for hiking. The scenic view over the valley from the place known as "Honeysuckle Campground" to Booroomba Rocks is a 10.5-kilometre return walk, which displays how the place has been recovering from the 2020 fires.

Mount Ainslie Walk

After finishing the short yet steep walk up Mount Ainslie, you will get an excellent view across the city. When you are on your way down, look out for kangaroos and make time to explore the Australian War Memorial, which rests nicely at the foot of Mount Ainslie.

If you love outdoor adventure, trek towards Namadgi National Park and Lake Burley Griffin. These places cherish the different colours of nature and give a peaceful and blissful experience. You can walk, cycle or drive up Mount Ainslie while keeping the safety measures in mind to enjoy your trip.

Go Fishing at Googong Dam

Googong Dam is located about 8kms from the Canberra domestic airport. It is a part of the Queanbeyan River System, which is considered tourist-friendly and has sufficient on offer to keep you busy for a week. Although fuel-powered boats are not allowed on the lake, electricity-powered watercraft will be available.

Classic bridge to bridge loop

Lovingly known as "The Lake" is loved by the local people and the tourists also. It is lined with paths and parks. Running, walking, or cycling Lake Burley Griffin's renowned five-kilometre bridge-to-bridge loop is great if you want to enjoy the best views in the city.



Bond Cleaning Canberra: Your Cleaning Mate

After exploring the places mentioned above, you would not want to return to a dirty and unhygienic home. To ensure your place is clean when you return, it is best to hire professionals for a cheap end of lease cleaning in Canberra, who also provide house cleaning services. This will help you ensure that your residence is spotless, permitting you to completely enjoy your trip without stressing about the cleanliness of your space. Let the professionals take care of the cleaning work while you enjoy the outdoor activities in Canberra.

So, these were the 10 adventure outdoor activities worth trying if you are in Canberra. You will be able to create great memories, especially if you are a keen adventurer. Pack your bags and get started with your trip.

V. Hidden Shopping Spots in Canberra You Must Visit

Hidden Shopping Spots in Canberra

While Canberra is often recognized for its national monuments and vibrant political life, the city also boasts an impressive array of hidden shopping spots that are a treasure trove for those in the know. From charming boutiques and artisan markets to unique local stores, these lesser-known sites provide a distinct shopping experience away from the usual tourist traps. Join us as we explore 15 hidden shopping spots in Canberra where you can find one-of-a-kind items, support local artisans, and experience the city's creative heartbeat.



1. Old Bus Depot Markets

The **Old Bus Depot Markets** is a vibrant spot that takes place every Sunday in Canberra. This bustling market features over 200 stalls, offering artisan foods, crafts, and unique items from local creators. When you visit, don't forget to try some of the delicious street food options available. It's a perfect place for families as well, with plenty of entertainment for kids.

Moreover, the atmosphere is lively and welcoming. Many vendors are happy to share their stories and the inspirations behind their products. As you stroll through the market, you'll find everything from handmade jewelry to gourmet jams. This gem in Canberra is truly one of the best **hidden shopping spots in Canberra** that you simply cannot miss!

2. The Hamlet

The Hamlet is a trendy collection of food trucks and unique shops located in Braddon. This spot has gained popularity for its eclectic atmosphere and is one of the best hidden shopping spots in Canberra. You can explore a range of offerings from local artists and small businesses while enjoying some of the finest food Canberra has to offer.

Specifically, be sure to grab a bite from one of the food trucks or check out the local boutiques for something unique. The combination of delicious food and creative shopping makes The Hamlet a must-visit destination in Canberra. Furthermore, it's a great place to relax and enjoy time with friends.

3. Lonsdale Street Roasters

Lonsdale Street Roasters is not just a café, but also a fabulous destination for coffee lovers in Canberra. Known for its excellent brews, this place is among the **hidden shopping spots in Canberra** you should check out. Their fresh beans and unique blends have attracted coffee enthusiasts from all over the city.

In addition to great coffee, you can buy some of their special blends to take home. Plus, the cozy atmosphere provides a perfect spot to relax with a good book. Visiting Lonsdale Street Roasters is a delightful experience that combines quality coffee with local shopping!



4. Canberra Centre's Little Market

If you're searching for unique products, the **Canberra Centre's Little Market** is a treasure trove. This vibrant market pops up regularly, showcasing local artisans and their handmade creations. From beautiful crafts to delicious snacks, there's something for everyone.

Visitors can stroll through the market and discover locally made goods. Notably, the atmosphere is lively, often filled with music and creativity. Make sure to check the market's schedule, as it usually takes place on weekends. Thus, it's a perfect spot to grab gifts or something special for yourself.

5. Shop Handmade

Shop Handmade is a must-visit for those who appreciate artisanal goods. It features a carefully curated selection of handmade products, from jewelry to home décor. Each item at this shop tells a story and supports local artists.

What's more, the shop often hosts workshops, allowing visitors to learn something new. This interactive experience is valuable for anyone wanting a deeper connection to the community. Therefore, stopping by Shop Handmade is not just shopping; it's participating in Canberra's creative spirit.

6. The Cupping Room

The Cupping Room is not just about coffee; it's an experience. This trendy café offers some of the best brews in Canberra. Here, you can engage in a coffee tasting session, learning about different flavor profiles and brewing methods. Moreover, the ambiance is inviting, making it a perfect spot to relax.

As you enjoy your drink, don't forget to explore their selection of coffee beans for sale. Transitioning from simply enjoying a cup to bringing that experience home adds immense value to your visit. Therefore, whether you're a coffee enthusiast or a casual drinker, The Cupping Room is a hidden gem worth checking out.

7. The Canberra Glassworks

The **Canberra Glassworks** is a hidden treasure for those who appreciate art and craftsmanship. Located in the old Kingston power station, this unique venue showcases the beauty of glass blowing. Visitors can experience live demonstrations and even participate in workshops to create their own glass art. This interactive experience makes it an exciting spot for all ages.



Moreover, the Glassworks hosts exhibitions featuring local artists, allowing you to purchase exclusive pieces that cannot be found elsewhere. Thus, if you're looking for a distinct souvenir or a gift, this could be the perfect place to explore. Make sure to check their schedule for special events, as they often host open days that highlight their artisans' skills.

8. Gaia Chocolate

If you have a sweet tooth, then **Gaia Chocolate** is a must-visit hidden shopping spot in Canberra. This boutique chocolate maker focuses on producing organic and ethically-sourced chocolate. As soon as you step inside, the rich aroma will tempt you to stay awhile.

What sets Gaia apart is their commitment to quality; each chocolate piece is made with love and care. You can indulge in tastings or even take part in chocolate-making workshops. Additionally, don't forget to explore their extensive selection of unique flavors. Whether it's a gift or a personal treat, Gaia Chocolate offers something special for every chocolate lover.

9. Proper & Son

For those in search of unique gifts and homewares, **Proper & Son** is a delightful hidden gem in Canberra. Tucked away in Braddon, this boutique store features a curated selection of artisanal goods. From handmade kitchen items to stylish home decor, you'll find carefully sourced products that stand out.

Moreover, the friendly staff are passionate about their offerings and can help you choose the perfect item. This shop not only emphasizes quality but also supports local artisans, making your purchases feel even more meaningful. To sum up, Proper & Son is perfect for anyone wanting to find something original and memorable during their shopping journey.

10. Koko Black

If you're a chocolate lover, Koko Black is a must-visit among the **hidden shopping spots in Canberra**. Located on Lonsdale Street, this boutique chocolate shop offers a luxurious experience with artisanal delights. From handcrafted chocolates to indulgent desserts, there's something for everyone.

VI. Awesome Reasons to Live in Canberra

Australia's capital city may be smaller and less known than some other cities, but that works in its favour. Canberra is open and welcoming to new ideas, and new people, perhaps because it's so new itself. This peaceful, innovative hub is famed for its liveability and is perfectly designed for students.

Here are 10 awesome reasons to consider Canberra your home away from home.

1. Canberra is a cultural hub

Culturally, Canberra has a rapidly growing arts scene. At just a glance, the Canberra Writer's Festival is an annual event that brings authors, publishers and readers together to share and develop their ideas. Meanwhile, Enlighten Festival is a key highlight, transforming the city with stunning illuminations, street performances, and a dazzling hot-air balloon event.

2. Canberra has Australia's best museums and galleries

Canberra is home to some of Australia's largest and most impressive historical and educational institutions, including famous galleries.

The National Museum of Australia holds some of the most significant objects and events in the country, while the National Gallery of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery are two of the best spots to visit for those interested in both classical and modern artwork.

Established in 1993, The National Dinosaur Museum Canberra lets visitors explore a collection of rare, prehistoric fossils that uncover part of Australia's deep past. Fast forward to the present, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, offers interactive and hands-on experiences with over 200 innovative exhibitions.



3. Australia's political centre

The Australian Federal Government and many of its related departments are based in Canberra, making it a popular destination for students interested in law and policy. The Museum of Australia Democracy and Parliament House (offering guided tours) are two of the most important political stops for anyone interested in government operations.



4. Canberra is surrounded by natural beauty

Easy to walk around, the city centre is beautifully shaded with trees and broken up by green space. Open spaces, such as Commonwealth Park, Canberra Arboretum, and Mount Ainslie Nature Reserve, are proven to help people de-stress and stay healthy.

If you're interested in nature walks, camping or outdoor adventure – then you'll love exploring the rest of the ACT. Only a short drive out of town, you can access some unforgettable areas of native forest. Mt Tennent in Namadgi National Park is a 15km hike, only one hour from Canberra, and has breathtaking views that look out across natural bushland and rolling green hills.

5. Canberra is one of Australia's most affordable cities

Canberra has a high standard of living at a generally lower cost than other major Australian cities. Lower expenses mean that your money will go further. You can allocate more of your budget to entertainment, trips and exploring the city!

Learn more about Canberra's cost of living here, and use our Cost of Living Calculator to help you plan your expenses.

6. Canberra has plenty of on-campus accommodation

In Canberra, international students are provided the support they need to find stress-free, affordable accommodation.

The University of Canberra (UC) and Australian National University (ANU) offer an accommodation guarantee. At UC, all first-year domestic and new or continuing international students are guaranteed places in student housing. At ANU, accommodation is guaranteed to first-year, first-semester international undergraduate students.

This takes the pressure off new students, helping you settle in seamlessly and be immediately immersed in the student community.

CONCLUSION

Exploring Canberra's hidden gems provides a deeper, more personal connection to the city. By venturing off the beaten path, visitors can uncover serene nature spots, cultural treasures, and local favorites that make the capital truly unique. Whether you're new to the city or a seasoned visitor, these hidden attractions offer unforgettable experiences that will enrich any trip to Canberra.

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