



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – CANBERRA

4 to 16 July 2026

CANBERRA ATTRACTIONS

Canberra is the nation's capital. It is well-known for its national buildings and monuments. Information about attractions in Canberra can be obtained by visiting the Canberra and Region Visitor Information Centre at Regatta Point, the information booth at Canberra Airport, or at the VisitCanberra website ([Canberra tourist information](#)). In most cases there is no charge for admission to national attractions. Many attractions include a café and/or restaurant open to the public. Some of these restaurants are highly regarded by Canberrans, but bookings are essential.

Outdoor attractions

- *Lake Burley Griffin* (Parkes) offers the opportunity to walk, cycle or jog around this iconic Canberra feature. The 5 km route around the central basin crosses two bridges, passes most of the national buildings and monuments in Parkes and traverses Commonwealth Park. Take in the vista along Anzac Parade to the War Memorial and Mount Ainslie in one direction and to the new and old Parliament Houses in the other. Download the [Lake Burley Griffin Self-Guided Walking Tour](#).
- *National Arboretum* (Molonglo) offers a mosaic of living forests and gardens that also offers breathtaking views of Canberra. With over 44 000 rare and endangered trees across the 250-hectare site, the Arboretum is a place of beauty, conservation, science research, education, tourism and recreation. You can drive through or walk around the site. The Arboretum includes [The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia](#).
- *Australian National Botanic Gardens* (Acton) is a heritage-listed botanical garden located at the foot of Black Mountain. Its mission is to "study and promote Australia's flora" and it contains the largest living collection of native Australian plants, organised in thematic sections.
- *National Carillon* (Parkes) is a gift from Britain to mark Canberra's 50th birthday, it houses 57 bronze bells, weighing a total of 32 000 kg, which are controlled from a specially designed keyboard. Take a picnic and sit by the lake to hear recitals on Sundays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 pm.
- *Anzac Parade* (Campbell and Reid) is home to 13 powerful outdoor memorials that honour various aspects of Australian military history, from the Boer War to more recent conflicts. Download the details of the memorials at [Anzac Parade Self-Guided Walking Tour](#).
- *Diplomatic Missions* of more than 110 foreign governments are hosted in Canberra. They facilitate relationships between their governments and the Australian Government. The various governments were encouraged to design their missions to reflect their country's national architectural style. This practice is unique and allows the embassies to be easily identified. Download the [self-guided driving tour](#).
- *Wildbark Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary* (Throsby): Nature on Canberra's doorstep. It is open 24/7 with free access for visitors. It is Australia's largest single Box-gum Grassy-woodland area managed for conservation. Explore the critically endangered ecosystem with the walking trails, bike tracks, and a downloadable audio tour app to guide you through the sanctuary. The Wildbark visitor centre sits at the edge of the sanctuary.

Indoor attractions

- *Parliament House* (Parkes) is the home of Australia's robust democracy. See some of the nation's finest historical treasures, symbolic architecture and contemporary art on display throughout the building. Guided tours are available. Parliament is not expected to be in session during the ANC.
- *Museum of Australian Democracy* (Parkes) is located in the Old Parliament House and showcases Australia's rich democratic history. Take a tour (self-guided or guided) to learn about the individuals and events of Australian democracy, in the very building where they occurred
- *Australian War Memorial* (Campbell) houses exhibitions in three main galleries about Australia's involvement in major conflicts (self-guided or with a free guide). The more than 7000 objects on display tell of Australia's continuing story of service, sacrifice and military history. New extensions to the building have recently opened. At 4:30 pm each day the Memorial farewells visitors with a moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. The ceremony features the story behind one of the names on the surrounding Roll of Honour.

- [National Gallery and National Sculpture Gardens \(Parkes\)](#) displays an evolving collection of over 155 000 works of art, created by more than 15 000 artists. It houses the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Several exhibitions are featured in July, including [Hermannsburg](#), [Ngura Pulka – Epic Country](#), [Trent Parke: The Christmas tree bucket](#), [Body Adorned](#), [Richard Lewer: Steve, Know My Name: Global](#), and [Proofs and Processes: The Kenneth Tyler Collection](#).
- [National Portrait Gallery \(Parkes\)](#) tells Australian stories through the art of portraiture to showcase well-known Australians and reflect the nation's identity, history, culture, creativity and diversity. In July, see the [John Brack x Noel McKenna](#) exhibition.
- [High Court of Australia \(Parkes\)](#) is a monumental work of modern architecture, forty metres tall and constructed mainly of concrete and glass. Visitors are welcome during ordinary opening hours to see the court at work and learn about the building and its history, role and operation from the Court Guides. If the court is sitting, you can watch proceedings.
- [Questacon \(Parkes\)](#) is popular with children, seeking to stimulate engagement with science, technology and innovation through fun interactive learning experiences. Bookings are essential, especially during school holidays.
- [National Museum of Australia \(Acton\)](#) is located on a peninsular in Lake Burley Griffin, on the far side of Black Mountain from Belconnen. It brings to life the rich and diverse stories of Australia through compelling objects, ideas and events. In July 2026, the museum is holding three exhibitions: [Aboriginal-Chinese People in Australia](#), [Talking Blak to History](#), and [Hallyu! The Korean Wave](#).
- [National Capital Exhibition \(Parkes\)](#) explores the people and the events that shaped the story of Canberra, including the first nations people, the choosing of the site, the international design competition and building of the city.
- [National Archives of Australia \(Barton\)](#) contains more than 45 million Australian Government records from Federation in 1901 to now, including those about key events and decisions that have shaped Australia. There are two permanent exhibitions highlighting stories from the collection: Connections/Mura gadi and Voices/Dhuniai.
- [National Library \(Parkes\)](#) houses a collection of Australian publications and stories with national significance. The collection is the largest in the world that focuses on Australia and its people. By bringing together these stories, the library helps Australians to understand their past, present, and place in the world. There is a permanent display of documents, publications and artefacts of significance in Australian history.
- [National Film and Sound Archive \(Acton\)](#) is Australia's national audiovisual cultural institution. It collects, preserves and shares Australia's audiovisual culture.
- [Sydney Nolan Collection \(Civic\)](#) is an iconic group of paintings from 1945 to 1953 by Sidney Nolan that the artist gifted to the nation in 1974. It features photographs and original text following Nolan's personal and creative journey from St Kilda lad to sophisticated artist. [The Canberra Museum and Art Gallery](#) manages the collection on behalf of the Australian Government.
- [Geoscience Australia \(Symonston\)](#) is home to the National Mineral and Fossil Collection. It includes minerals, fossils and meteorites, with around 700 items on permanent display in the foyer.
- [Blundells Cottage \(Parkes\)](#) is a restored stone dwelling in Commonwealth Park. It was built around 1860, when Canberra was a rural landscape, to house the head ploughman on the property 'Duntroon'. It was occupied until 1961, when it was handed over to the Canberra District Historical Society. It is open from 10 am to 2 pm on weekends.
- [Lanyon Homestead \(Tharwa\)](#) is a restored 1850s homestead, the central feature of a pastoral property with convict-era outbuildings and stunning gardens.

Belconnen district

- [Cockington Green \(Gold Creek\)](#) is an award-winning miniature landscape park at Gold Creek. Famous buildings around the world are depicted in small-scale. The garden is divided into two exhibition areas: English country life and world-famous buildings.
- [National Dinosaur Museum \(Gold Creek\)](#) is an interactive insight into the earth's long and dynamic history. The museum houses life-like dinosaur models, full skeletons, skulls, and animatronic dinosaurs, and visitors can navigate through millions of years of earth's ancient past.
- [Historic Hall Village](#) predates the establishment of Canberra. It is located on the northwestern side of the ACT near the NSW border. Proclaimed in 1882, the village is surrounded by open country and has a rural appearance while retaining its village character. The heritage-listed town features historic buildings that existed before the establishment of Canberra. A self-guided 'heritage walk' around the village takes about 90 minutes. There is a market in Hall from 9 am to 2 pm on the first Sunday of each month (including 5 July 2026).
- [Black Mountain](#) is visible throughout Belconnen. The venue for the ANC Presentation Dinner has panoramic views of the mountain. The road up the mountain starts on the southeastern side of the mountain (in Clunies Ross St, Acton) and a walking trail starts on the northwestern side in Aranda. On a clear day, the summit allows spectacular views of Canberra in all directions. The Black Mountain tower, closed for many years, is undergoing refurbishment prior to reopening.