



SIX DAYS IN THE A.C.T.

TUESDAY 9 – SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2019

DAY 1 – TUESDAY 9 APRIL:

Departing 8.30 am from the front of Penshurst RSL in Penshurst Street and morning tea will be provided in Mittagong.

We always enjoy a winery visit, so we'll call in to **Lerida Estate Winery** for a tasting and lunch. Nestled at the foot of the Cullerin Range at Lake George, Lerida Estate is dedicated to making distinctive, world class wines that represent the unique and beautiful site on which they are grown. Through the combination of cutting edge vineyard management, meticulous winemaking, a magnificent cool climate site and their spectacular Glenn Murcutt designed winery, Lerida Estate strives to provide a welcoming and memorable visitor experience to stand alongside their exceptional wines.



Not far away is **Bungendore** and there will be time to wander and grab a coffee if wished. Popular with visitors from Canberra, the town has become a major tourist centre in recent years and some of it has heritage protection.

Then to our accommodation for the next five nights, the **Golden Age Motor Inn** in Queanbeyan. This motel is highly regarded and customers have rated it five stars on Trip Advisor. It's a ten-minute walk from Queanbeyan's shops and clubs, and central Canberra is only a 20-minute drive. All the usual mod cons are offered including free wi-fi, laundry facilities, reverse-cycle air-conditioning, refrigerator, microwave, iron, hairdryer and toiletries, and there is a restaurant and bar where we'll enjoy a great fully-cooked breakfast and dinner each day.

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL:

First stop today will be **Mt Ainslie** and its picture-perfect views of Canberra. From the lookout, we'll be able to see how Walter Burley Griffin's vision for the city has been brought to life, taking in the lake and many of Canberra's national attractions, framed by picturesque mountain ranges. Popular with photographers, the vista is complemented by the abundance of native birds and wildlife.

Next, we'll be able to expand our knowledge recently gained from the science centre in Wollongong, with a visit to the amazing **Questacon – the National Science and Technology Centre**. It's located on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin and we'll be able to wander through more than 200 interactive exhibits relating to science and technology.



The **National Gallery of Australia** is also located on the shores of the lake, and lunch will be in their café. We're hoping that there will be music with our meal - the **National Carillon** is just across the



water and recitals are held only on Wednesdays and Sundays from 12.30 to 1.20 pm. Afterwards, we'll meander through the various galleries, admiring the collection which includes the famous 'Blue Poles' by Jackson Pollock and the Ned Kelly series by Sidney Nolan. The new Australian and International art galleries provide plenty of things to see, following a large-scale rehang of almost every piece. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art collection comprises over 7500 works and is the largest in the world. Photos are permitted here, but no flash please.

The final venue for the day is the **Australian War Memorial** where there will be time to wander or join one of the regular tours if wished, as well as participate in the very moving Last Post Ceremony held each day just before closing time.



DAY 3 - THURSDAY 11 APRIL:

A little over half an hour's drive is the enlarged **Cotter Dam**, constructed in 2013 and comprising an 87 m high, 330 m long dam wall. After a series of delays, this was built downstream from the old 1912 dam, to substantially increase the storage capacity of the Cotter Reservoir, a supply source of potable water for the city and its environs. The old dam wall remains, inundated by the water held behind the new dam wall and acting as a sediment trap for the new dam's intake tower. The old dam may only be visible in exceptional circumstances of drought.

Next, we will enjoy a guided tour of the **Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex**. After deciding that the remote Woomera site was not ideal for a deep space tracking station, the search began for an alternative site. By the 1960s, the growth of the National Capital was considered to be



occurring at too slow a pace and a decision was made to locate a new tracking station in the ACT in an effort to promote growth in the region. The Tidbinbilla valley, 35km south-west of the city, was chosen due to its close proximity to a growing city, with the surrounding ridges helping to shield it from unwanted radio interference. Construction of the complex began in June 1963, with operations commencing in December 1964. We'll be able to see the amazing Deep Space Station 43, 70 m in diameter, and three smaller 34 m Deep Space Stations, the latest (No 36) being built in 2016. There is a café at the complex for those who wish to buy morning tea.

On to **Lanyon Homestead**, the gem of Canberra's history, and there will be a guided tour here. Lanyon is a restored 1850's homestead on a property originally purchased in 1834 by James Wright and John Lanyon. Since then, it has been owned by various families: the Cunninghams, the Osbornes and the Fields, until it was compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth Government in 1971. They introduced modern farming methods and further expanded the property. Pastures were improved, breeding programs undertaken and new structures built. The garden was also expanded and terraced to the west of the house. After the acquisition, Lanyon was opened to the public as a historic property in 1975. Parts of Lanyon are still leased and it is a working property. Lunch will be in their Barracks Espresso Bar and Eating House.



DAY 4 – FRIDAY 12 APRIL:

Gold Creek Village is first on the agenda today and we'll have a little time to roam. Although home to four tourist attractions, the area is not just for tourists. The numerous boutique shops here are uniquely inspired and offer fabulous retail. Five shops not to be missed are Bower Bird, Flight of Fancy, The Lolly Shop, Staghead and Totally Country. Historic Ginninderra Village is also within it. There are galleries to please the art lovers, an accredited training facility and six venues for weddings and functions. Gold Creek Village is also home to Cockington Green Gardens, the National Dinosaur Museum, Canberra Walk-In Aviary and Canberra Reptile Zoo.



Cockington Green Gardens. We'll venture into this delightful and fascinating display of meticulously handcrafted miniature buildings from around the world. Set within beautifully landscaped gardens, complete the experience with a ride on the miniature steam train (extra \$3) or view the 34-room dolls house 'Waverley'. We'll enjoy lunch in their Garden Café.

There's no better way to experience Canberra than a **one-hour cruise on Lake Burley Griffin.** We'll relax in stylish comfort on the MV Southern Cross which departs from the Southern Cross Yacht Club at Yarralumla. There will be an informative commentary given whilst we admire the picturesque foreshore and its many wonderful buildings.



From there, we'll be visiting the famous **Royal Australian Mint** at Deakin. The Commonwealth Government approved the construction of the Mint in 1962, construction commenced in 1963 and it was officially opened by Prince Philip on 22 February 1965. The Mint has a few visitor guidelines and the most relevant are: Bags are better left on our coach and that photography is permitted in the exhibitions area, but must not contain images of children without their guardian's consent.

DAY 5 – SATURDAY 13 APRIL:

This morning, we'll head to Regatta Point and the new **Visitors Information Centre** which, in addition to offering visitors face-to-face advice, incorporates a dedicated technology area showcasing the diversity of experiences on offer in the Canberra region. Apart from stunning views across the lake, a wide range of regional produce including local wines is available for purchase! Co-located on this site is the recently redeveloped **National Capital Exhibition.** The



guided tour here will allow us to learn more about Canberra which is unique in design and innovative in the history of town planning, by being the result of a worldwide competition. The winners, Walter and Marion Griffin, presented a design where the built and the natural landscapes have equal importance, and a city that fits in between landmarks and remains in scale with humans.



Afterwards, we're off to the **National Arboretum Canberra** and a one-hour guided coach tour. 250-hectares (618 acres) was created after the area was burned out in the Christmas 2001 and 2003 bushfires: The Himalayan Cedar forest lost about one third of its trees, and the Radiata Pine commercial plantation was burned out, allowing the arboretum to be created.

In 2004, the Government held a nationwide competition for an arboretum, and the winning design by landscape architects Taylor Cullity Lethlean and architects Tonkin Zulaikha Greer proposed 100 forests and 100 gardens focussing on threatened, rare, and symbolic trees from around the world. The site has been planted since 2005, and includes ceremonial trees planted by visiting heads of government and ambassadors, but was officially opened in February 2013. We'll be able to wander through the National Bonsai and Penjing collection. Ginger Catering will provide our lunch here.

Relaxing back in your coach seat, we'll take a leisurely drive around the **Embassies**. Canberra is home to nearly 80 embassies and high commissions and most are in the suburb of Yarralumla. See traditional and modern architecture from many countries, including the spectacular traditional design of the Chinese Embassy and the long-house style of the High Commission of Papua New Guinea, to name just a few.



DAY 6 - SUNDAY 14 APRIL:



Time to put the suitcases out and depart this lovely city, but taking our minds off returning home will be our first stop today, **Canberra Glassworks**. Here we will take the 45-min guided Group Experience Tour of the facility, learning about its history, seeing professional glass artists at work and viewing the gallery. **We must wear closed-toe shoes, and long hair must be tied up.**

This is an Australian gallery and glass art studio open to the general public to view the glass artists working.

Opened in May 2007, it is the largest dedicated glass studio facility in Australia and located in the Kingston Powerhouse constructed from 1913-1915 and now listed by the ACT Heritage Council. The studio, strongly linked with the ANU School of Art Glass Workshop, contains a public viewing gallery as well as public access walkways around all glass working areas. The glassworks offers courses to non-practicing artists and members of the public, as well as students. There is also a volunteer program. The studio also offers members of the general public to commission works through artists working at the studio.

Next, for the many of us who love to shop, we'll be able to wander around the **Old Bus Depot Markets**, also at Kingston, which are only open on Sundays. Lovers of fine handcrafted wares, clothing collectors, food fanatics and jewellery junkies are just a few of the people who make their way here every Sunday. In a fabulous old industrial building you will experience the endless colour, tastes, sounds and atmosphere that is "Canberra's Sunday Best". Lunch will be at own cost here, and we expect to return to Penshurst by 5.30 pm.



COST \$920 per person/twin share, \$350 single supplement, \$100 deposit includes:

- **Coach**
- **5 night's accommodation**
- **5 fully-cooked breakfasts, 5 dinners and 5 lunches, one lunch at own cost**
- **One morning tea on the way to Canberra**
- **Entry to all venues as per the itinerary**

OPENING 1 AUGUST 2018 AND FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED ON 6 FEBRUARY 2019