

The Local's Guide to Canberra

Below is some general information about Canberra and some highlights of 'beyond the bubble' things to do before or after the conference.

ABOUT CANBERRA



[Weather in Canberra](#) in September is a bit unpredictable and cold, often with frost in the mornings. Maybe you will have the most glorious spring sunshine as you stroll through the tulips at Floriade. Maybe it will sleet. Maybe both in the same afternoon.

Bring a winter jacket, no matter what the forecast says. **Bring a beanie, gloves and scarf**. The Conference venue is heated, so we suggest you wear layers.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING CANBERRA

The **airport is about 10 minutes by taxi from the conference centre**. It's a small, efficient airport – it won't take as long to gather bags or check in and security as other airports. Most people take taxi or uber to access the airport. There is public transport (bus) available

- R3 ([route Rapid 3](#)) runs about every 15 minutes on weekdays and 30 minutes on weekends until about 9pm. It takes about 20 minutes from the airport to the city.
- There is a bus stop right outside the convention centre, or you can catch the bus from the City interchange. If you're going from the convention centre to the airport, you want to be on the other side of the road from the convention centre, and get the bus that says 'airport'.
- Coach terminal (e.g. Greyhound/Murrays bus) is close to the city centre and bus interchange. There is a taxi rank out the front (Northbourne Ave).

Canberra is renowned for its national institutions, galleries and exhibitions, and we highly recommend experiencing some of them. For info on those, check out:

<https://visitcanberra.com.au>

A particular highlight is Parliament House – you can enter and wander the public areas at leisure, even on sitting days, something that is rare by world standards!

Canberrans refer to the central part of the city as '**Civic**' although this is not the official name for it (being 'City' officially). The Conference is on the edge of Civic (south-east corner), near the Civic pool

Canberra is **not a grid city** so the Civic area can be difficult to navigate and estimate distance. We recommend use of maps or way finding apps.

GETTING AROUND

Rail construction on London Circuit may affect direct routes and transit time between City East and City West, especially if you are driving. Accessible pedestrian routes are marked.

Transport:

Self propelled – the city centre is relatively flat, and many cafes and restaurants are all within a 10-15 min relaxed walk of the Conference venue (often faster to walk than to catch a cab). Shared e-scooters are available to be hired – watch out for these if you are walking!

Taxis – Multiple taxi companies operate. Call to order or book, or catch from a designated Taxi rank. Taxis are generally hard to catch off the street.

Uber – available and is a popular option.



Public Transport – there is one public transport system (bus/light rail) and they do not take cash fares. You can tap on/off with a Visa or Mastercard, or use an app. Tickets can be purchased from select vendors, or at machines at interchanges. [More info on routes and tickets here.](#)

Private Vehicle: Canberra was designed with cars in mind, and driving in Canberra is easy. Most public institutions have plenty of parking (check signage for payment).

Use map apps to estimate driving times, and add a little extra around 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

OFFICIAL SOCIAL EVENTS



Welcome Reception at the National Portrait Gallery

Tuesday 16 September, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm



Gala Awards Dinner at Australian Parliament House

Thursday 18 September, 6.30 pm – 10.30 pm
Venue: Great Hall, Australian Parliament House

A complimentary shuttle bus will operate between the National Convention Centre and both event venues, running prior to the event start time and again at its conclusion. Full details, including the schedule, will be shared closer to the event dates.

SOCIAL EVENTS HOSTED BY THE CANBERRA REGIONAL COMMITTEE



Welcome to Canberra Drinks

Monday 15 September 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Assembly | 11 Lonsdale Street, Braddon, ACT

First Night Supper

Wednesday 17 September 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Verity Lane Market (main floor)
50 Northbourne Ave, Canberra, ACT

For more information and to register, visit the [Social Program Page](#)

WHERE TO EAT

An informal, group dinner option for Monday and Wednesday nights will be made available to register for in advance.

If you are staying Sunday or Monday night, please check your desired venue is open (Canberra can be quiet on these days).

There are supermarkets (Aldi and Coles) within the Canberra Centre Mall (smaller convenience stores are also around).

Close to the Convention Centre (1-5 min walk)

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Flavours of Ethiopia (Ethiopian), Kan Sushi and Poke (Japanese), Tenkomori (Japanese), Meat & Wine Co (Western), Lilong (Chinese)

Breakfast options close-ish to the Conference centre, a warm café to start your day

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Redbrick Coffee Civic (Constitution Ave), The Cupping Room (London Cct West), Močan & Green Grout (Kendall Ln), Sweet Bones (Braddon), Roy Jr (London Cct West)

There are four areas with more options to eat and experience Canberra's reinvigorated social scene within 10-15 min walk of the Conference venue.

Lonsdale St (Braddon)

A revitalised area of the city, now perhaps one of the most vibrant areas. [Many options](#) for casual dining.

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Assembly (Pub), Palomas (Mexican), Grease Monkey (American), BentSpoke Brewery (Pub), Lazy Su (gluten free and vegan options)

City Walk (north)/Garema PI/Genge St/Bunda St

There are many dine-in chain restaurants (not fast-food) outside and towards the north end of the Canberra Centre. There is also Tiger Lane, an Asian-inspired food court within the Canberra Centre.

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Blue Ginger (Indian), Happys (Chinese), Kinn (Thai), Akiba (Asian Fusion)

Bus Interchange/West Row/Alinga St

We can't compete with Melbourne's laneways, but there's some hidden gems in this area (and some not so hidden!)

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Verity Lane (multiple vendor food court with bar), Dear Prudence (wine bar), Highball (cocktail bar), Bistro Nguyen's (Vietnamese), Briscola (Italian), SoLita Pizzeria (Italian – bookings essential)

New Acton

Canberra Region Committee suggests; Monster Kitchen and Bar, Parlour Bar

Drinks venues and nightlife



Yes, Canberra has a social scene – much around quality beverages and food, and occasional fireplaces. Most of these are in the Alinga St/West Row/London Cct area.

Canberra Region Committee suggests: Molly Bar, Dear Prudence, Parlour Wine Room, Bar Rochford, Highball, Fun Time Pony, Luna, King O'Malley's (Pub), PJs in the City (Pub)

Canberra Region Committee does not have recommendations for dance/club venues. [Try some of these options.](#)

THINGS TO DO ('beyond the bubble')



[Floriade](#) – annual flower festival featuring artworks made from tulips planted in patterns, just across the road from the Conference at Commonwealth Park, open 9:30am to 5:30pm (free entry).

[Canberra Museum and gallery](#) – learn more about the local area, many exhibitions.

Walks and talks

There are over 100 free self-guided bushwalks around Canberra, including the iconic Mt Ainslie summit – details [here](#).

[Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary](#) is Australia's largest single Box-gum Grassy-woodland area managed for conservation

[She Shapes History](#) – regularly scheduled walking tours about Canberra's hidden history (book early)

[Tim the Yowie Man](#) – ad-hoc evening tours of unique locations in Canberra (book early)

[Local Jinni](#) – public art inspired tours and events

Get active

Walk or run: the iconic '[bridge to bridge](#)' loop (5km, central basin of the lake)

Swim: [Canberra Olympic pool](#) is across the road from the Convention centre. Opens at 5.30 weekdays, Casual entry is \$9.00.

Cycle: We have a great network of paths, including around the lake. Some hotels have bikes you can borrow, or [hire a bike](#) (weekends only). Cycling on footpaths is permitted in Canberra, and so it can feel much safer to cycle here than in other cities.

Get out a bit further

Canberra is [cool climate wine country](#) and there are many great local wineries to visit on the weekends (need a car or book a tour) Canberra Region Committee suggests: Majura Winery (north), Capital Wines Cellar Door (north west), Canberra Wine Merchants (Civic)

[Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve](#). While you can certainly see kangaroos close to the city (guaranteed sightings at Weston Park), Tidbinbilla offers walking trails, and a sanctuary where you can spot a variety of birds, roos, koalas and platypus in the wild. Car transport is required, and there is a vehicle entry cost (\$16)