

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2023-2024 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 24**

BEST BUYS 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**

Capital Blooms

Floriade, Canberra

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

Pause to smell the flowers at Floriade, an immense wonderland of bulbs and blooms you'll want to explore at a leisurely pace.

📍 Iconic Sites

From Floriade and Parliament House to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra's attractions don't disappoint.

📷 Time For You

Pop in to Bowral's antique stores, find a cosy café, wander through parks and gardens... the choice is yours.

🌿 Natural Wonders

Canberra is one of Australia's greenest cities, from its alternative energy ethos to its ample parks that welcome visitors at every turn.

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5 Included Experiences

See available prices and departure dates at aakings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your travel agent at time of booking.

Dining

2 Full breakfasts B 1 Devonshire Tea T
1 Lunch L 1 Dinner D

Flight Information

Day Prior – flights to arrive anytime into Sydney Airport

Day 3 – flights to depart after 8.00pm from Sydney Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price

As this holiday departs at 7.30am from Rydges Sydney Central, accommodation will need to be pre-booked for the previous night.

1 Sydney – Canberra

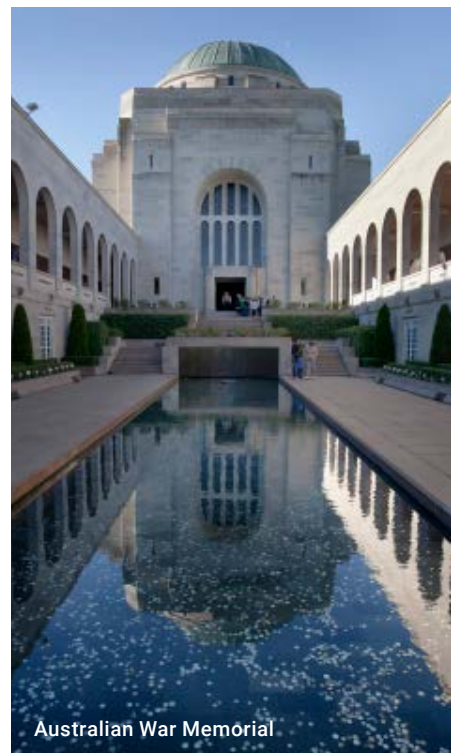
Leave Sydney's skyscrapers behind and venture into the bucolic countryside of the Southern Highlands, all heritage villages, vineyards and manicured gardens. The allure all unite in Berrima, the best-preserved Georgian town in Australia – look no further than its convict-era sandstone gaol. Despite its gloomy history, the building awfully pretty to look at. All this touring is hungry work – thankfully, a barbecue lunch awaits on the grounds of working cattle and sheep farm Gold Creek Station, where you'll learn about life on the land from someone who works it every day. Speaking of working hard for the money, 10,000 people spent years constructing Parliament House, the architecturally eye-catching seat of the nation's government. Your guide will take you behind the scenes and reveal all the secrets... Finally, a visit to the Australian War Memorial. Just try to not be moved by the piper's lament. Polish yourself up for dinner, where you'll enjoy seasonal produce, washed down with regional wine and a selection of tempting desserts. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza, 2 nights. L D**

2 Floriade & Canberra

There are more than a million bulbs on display annually at Floriade, an explosion of colour that transforms the banks of Lake Burley Griffin – as well as some of Canberra's suburbs. The month-long affair – the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere – was designed to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary and Canberra's 75th birthday. But it has become a regular on the city's event calendar. You'll see why. Browse immaculate flower beds in various patterns and themes, then enjoy entertainment, market stalls and a lively spring vibe. **B**

3 Canberra – Bowral – Sydney

Yet more flowers await in the Southern Highlands, where Bowral's Corbett Gardens play host to 75,000 tulips. The aptly named Tulip Time Festival here will inspire you to buy some bulbs to plant back at home – it's that eye-catching. Thirsty? High tea awaits in the Southern Highlands town of Mittagong. **B T**



Australian War Memorial