

About Canberra

Canberra is the capital city of Australia and has a population of 326,000 people.

Canberra is located approximately 150 kilometres (93miles) from Australia's east coast, approximately 300km (186miles) southwest of Sydney and approximately 660km (404miles) northeast of Melbourne by road.

Located on the ancient lands of the Indigenous Ngunnawal people, Canberra's name is thought to mean 'meeting place,' derived from the Aboriginal word *Kamberra*. It is unusual among Australian cities, in that it is an entirely purpose-built, planned city. Following an international contest for the city's design, a design by the Chicago architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin was selected. Construction commenced in 1913. The city's design incorporates significant areas of natural vegetation that have earned Canberra the title "bush capital".

For more information on Canberra's history, visit www.nationalcapital.gov.au.

As the seat of the government of Australia, Canberra is the site of Parliament House, the High Court of Australia and numerous government departments and agencies. Canberra is home to many national monuments and institutions such as the [Australian War Memorial](#), the [National Gallery of Australia](#), the [National Portrait Gallery](#) currently housed at Old Parliament House, the [National Library of Australia](#) and [National Museum of Australia](#). Other sites of interest include the [Australian National Botanic Gardens](#) on Black Mountain and the [National Zoo and Aquarium](#).