

Canberra

Introduction:

Canberra is the capital city of Australia and is Australia's 8th largest city. It is home to 300,000 people.

Location:

Canberra is located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The city is 150 kilometres inland and 571 metres above the Pacific Ocean. The latitude and longitude is 35 degrees south and 149 degrees east.

History:

Originally occupied by the Ngunnawal people, European settlement began in the area in the 1820s. It was chosen as the nation capital as a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne in 1908. An international competition was held in 1911 to design a new capital city and it was won by American architects Mr. and Mrs Griffin. Canberra was officially named on 12 March 1913.

Geography:

Canberra covers an area of 814.2 km². It's highest point is Mount Majura at 888 m. Canberra has a few native forests, creeks, lakes and rivers. It is a modern city that is in a wheel and spoke pattern with buildings set between extensive parks and gardens. The city is split in two by Lake Burley Griffin.

Climate:

There are four distinct seasons with it typically being a dry climate. The average high is 28 degrees with a low of 11 degrees. It is not very windy and gets a light snowfall about twice a year.

Features:

Parliament House stands on Capital Hill and is where the Prime Minister and the rest of the federal government work. Just across from this is the Australian War Memorial. Questacon is the National Science and Technology Centre that is a popular place for children to visit. The National Museum of Australia and the National Gallery of Australia are also located in Canberra.

Conclusion:

Canberra is a beautiful and interesting place to visit!