

Self Guided Walking Tour

ANZAC PARADE Walk

Your self guided walking tour from the steps of the Australian War Memorial along the national capital's major commemorative way.

Anzac Parade is set along Canberra's magnificent Land Axis, which forms a key feature of Walter Burley Griffin's original 1912 plan of the city.

The Parade is visually powerful, with a red gravel central strip and dark eucalypt 'walls'. The red gravel of the central strip was originally made from crushed Canberra house bricks. The material was chosen in part for the similarity to the 'crunch' made by military boots during a parade. The 'walls' are created by the Victorian Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus bicostata*, and the planter boxes, which contrast in colour to the crushed red brick paving, have the native New Zealand plant Hebe 'Autumn Glory' growing in them (symbolising the ANZAC connection).

At the top end of Anzac Parade stands the Australian War Memorial. The foundation stone for the Australian War Memorial was laid on Anzac Day 1929 but, due to the Great Depression in the 1930s, it was not until Remembrance Day, 11 November 1941 that it was officially opened.

The term 'ANZAC' stands for 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps'. The ANZAC legend has its roots in Gallipoli and World War I, when the Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, on 25 April 1915.

The Parade was completed in 1965, in time to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, and provided a colourful setting for this memorable occasion. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attended, along with the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, and a large gathering of people including a group of original ANZACS.

Anzac Parade is important to generations of Australians as a commemoration of the military conflicts in which Australia has played a part. It recalls the bond with New Zealand made at a time when both nations were grieving for the heavy losses they sustained as a result of World War I.

The street lighting of Anzac Parade, unique in the world, utilises plasma induction technology and can be programmed for variable light output during less busy times. The light design responded to concerns over light pollution from astronomers at Canberra's Mount Stromlo Observatory. For only 60% of normal electricity usage, the new lights deliver twice the illumination of the previous 1960s lights, and will last 15-20 years before requiring replacement, compared to five years for conventional streetlights.

Walking is one of the best ways to experience your national capital.

ANZAC PARADE WALK

TIME: 1 hour 20 minutes

DISTANCE: 2.5 kilometres

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

Your Values, Your Culture, Your Stories

»» Our Nation, Your Capital

TO GAIN THE OPTIMUM EFFECT, THE FIRST MEMORIAL—THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL—SHOULD BE APPROACHED FROM THE BACK, AS IF ENTERING AN AMPHITHEATRE. ALL OTHER MEMORIALS SHOULD BE APPROACHED FROM ANZAC PARADE.

1 THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEMORIAL While the ANZAC legend has its roots in Gallipoli and World War I, there was only one combined Australian and New Zealand Army Corps formed during World War II. Those ANZACs fought in Greece. The name ‘Hellenic’ is used instead of ‘Greek’ to ensure all the Greek battles that were fought, not just those on the Greek mainland, are represented.

The spear in the paving points to the Thermopylae Line, a pass where, in ancient times, the Spartans resisted the Persians, the Greeks held off the Gauls and, in more modern times, the ANZAC unit and British troops resisted a German advance. In each case, a small force held the pass against overwhelming odds. The jagged flint stone rock outcrop symbolises the terrain over which our troops fought.

2 THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY NATIONAL MEMORIAL is dedicated to the ‘Diggers’ of the Australian Army who fought on the African Veldt, in the trenches of France, in the Western Desert and in the jungles of the Pacific and South East Asia. Since the unified Australian Army was formed in 1901, ‘diggers’ have taken part in two World Wars, the Korean conflict, the Malayan Emergency, confrontation in Malaysia and Borneo, and in Vietnam. Since 1972 they have participated in various international peacekeeping operations.

The sculpture is entitled ‘Every Mother’s Son’ because ‘the Army is about people—about Infantrymen who can be anyone’s sons, husbands, fathers or brothers’. The figures are so large that they were not able to be assembled in the foundry, so the pieces were assembled by crane at an Air Force hanger in Canberra.

3 THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL commemorates the 339 Australians who died and honours those who served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. Many Australian servicemen remained in Korea from the Armistice until 1957 as part of the United Nations Command to preserve the independence of the Republic of Korea. In the contemplative space, a boulder from a Korean battlefield is a commemorative focal point. The word in Korean script translates as ‘Peace and Independence’. An obelisk commemorates those who died with no known grave. The inscription from the ‘Missing in Action’ section of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Pusan is a poignant link to the burial place of those Australians who died in the Korean War. The conifers—*Abies koreana*—planted as ‘bookends’ on either side of the Memorial, are readily identifiable to those veterans who served in Korea.

On both sides of the Memorial are fields of poles symbolising those Australians who died. The three figures represent the Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen who served in Korea. On a cold winter afternoon, the poles cast long shadows and are icy to the touch. The boulders from the Imjim River region of Korea, and the white and grey tones of the materials used in the Memorial recall the harsh climate and terrain, which are the lasting impressions of those who fought in Korea.

4 THE AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES NATIONAL MEMORIAL This Memorial is dedicated to all those Australians who served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973. The ‘wall of words’ highlights the colourful and distinctive language developed by soldiers in Vietnam. A black granite memorial stone carries the badges of the three Armed Forces and a suspended granite ring contains a scroll bearing the names of those Australians who died in the conflict. Surrounding the Memorial are six seats dedicated to the memory of Vietnam servicemen missing in action.

The Memorial was dedicated on 3 October 1992, the fifth anniversary of the Welcome Home Parade for Vietnam Veterans. Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day is celebrated each year on 18 August, the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. During this battle, D Company (108 men) fought a Viet Cong force for several hours. With 17 dead and 19 wounded, it was thought to be a humiliating defeat. The next day 245 enemy dead were counted and it has since been estimated that D Company confronted at Long Tan some 2 500 enemy troops. D Company became only the second Army unit in Australian military history to be awarded a United States Presidential Unit Citation.

5 THE DESERT MOUNTED CORPS MEMORIAL This was the first Memorial to be constructed on Anzac Parade (in April 1968). The Memorial commemorates all Australian and New Zealand units and formations that served in Egypt, Palestine and Syria from 1916 to 1918. The original Memorial was suggested after the battle of Romani in August 1916. The idea was agreed to by the troops. In 1917 every serving member of the Desert Mounted Corps, the New Zealand mounted units forming part of the Corps, members of the Australian Flying Corps and the Nursing Services—all then in Egypt or Palestine—donated one day's pay towards the cost of the Memorial.

The monument commemorates the partnership expressed in the word 'ANZAC', and is the last to portray 'Diggers' in action on horseback. The original Memorial, in Port Said, Egypt, was destroyed by Egyptian nationalists during the 1956 Suez crisis. This is the third version of the original sculpture. In 1962 a recreation of the original was begun; this sculpture was erected on Mt Clarence, in Albany, Western Australia in 1964. Albany was selected as the site because Australian and New Zealand troops assembled in the town prior to sailing for Egypt in 1914.

6 THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL is located on a pair of flanking sites at the end of Anzac Parade. A gift from the New Zealand Government to the people of Australia in 2001, the Memorial is a symbol of the ANZAC experience, an evocative link between Australia and New Zealand. It also serves as a reminder of the long history of cooperation between the two nations.

The design of the Memorial consists of a bronze representation of the handles of a flax basket (kete harakeke). The words from a Maori proverb, 'Each of us at a handle of the basket' (Mau tena kiwai o te kete, maku tenei), expresses the unique co-operative relationship between the two countries, especially in wartime.

This is the Australian side of the Memorial. The pavement was designed by the Indigenous artist Daisy Nadjundanga from Maningrida Arts and Crafts, Arnhem Land, in association with Sydney-based Urban Art Projects.

Cross Anzac Parade to the New Zealand side of the Memorial.

Here the pavement design is by New Zealand artists Allen Wihongi and Toi Te Rito Maihi, and is based on the whakatu weaving pattern of a flax basket representing the New Zealand side of the Memorial.

7 THE RATS OF TOBRUK MEMORIAL commemorates the historic World War II siege of Tobruk, Libya, from April to December 1941. Other than the Australian forces, there was also support from British, Indian, Czechoslovakian, Polish and other allied troops. At the end of July 1941, the garrison strength was about 22 000, of whom 14 000 were Australians. The German radio propagandist, Lord Haw Haw,

referred to them as 'rats who would be smoked out of their holes'. In a typically Australian response, the troops took up the name and began referring to themselves as the 'Rats of Tobruk'.

The Memorial is based on the memorial in the Tobruk War Cemetery, which was built by Royal Australian Engineers during the siege. That memorial has since been destroyed. The original marble inscription stone was brought back to Australia after the war and is incorporated in the obelisk. The Eternal Flame was installed in 1984. A time capsule was placed in the step below the marble stone on 17 April 1991, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the siege.

8 THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE MEMORIAL. *Per Ardua ad Astra—Through Struggle to the Stars.*

Soaring to a height of almost eight metres, the national memorial to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) honours the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in the RAAF and its predecessor, the Australian Flying Corps. It was the second memorial to be erected on Anzac Parade and unveiled in 1973 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF.

The sculpture, by Inge King, won the Memorial's design competition in 1970. It, was enhanced in 2002 by three polished granite walls. Using archival images, the artwork depicts the dedication and valour of the men and women of the RAAF who have served Australia, and traces the major war episodes from 1915 to the present.

The RAAF is one of the world's oldest independent air forces, established in 1921—just three years after the first, the (British) Royal Air Force. Australian pilots were on active service in 1914 in New Guinea, and in 1915 the Australian Flying Corps was fighting in Mesopotamia (Iraq). By 1918, squadrons were also in action on the Western Front in France. During World War II the RAAF served with distinction in the Middle East, Britain and the Pacific. The RAAF also served in the Malayan, Korean and Vietnam conflicts and, more recently, RAAF personnel have served in the Gulf War, East Timor and numerous peacekeeping operations.

9 THE AUSTRALIAN SERVICE NURSES NATIONAL MEMORIAL commemorates those Australian Service Nurses who died, and honours those nurses who served and suffered in war since 1899. This is a markedly different memorial to the others on Anzac Parade, being horizontal and flowing in form, and nurturing in character. Artist Robin Moorehouse recognised the Memorial needed to say something different to the other memorials and, having read that dying soldiers in World War I just wanted to be held by nurses, she arrived at two curving lines based on the female form.

The first army nursing service was raised in New South Wales in 1899 and embarked for the Boer War in early 1900, having paid its own way to South Africa. During World War I about 2 300 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service served in most theatres of war, including Gallipoli and isolated posts in India, in appalling conditions and under the threat of death. In World War II, nearly 3 500 Army, Navy and Airforce nurses served, sharing bombardment, capture, torture and death. A time capsule containing the names of the many Service Nurses who have died in war lies beneath the entrance to the Memorial.

10 **THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY MEMORIAL** is also known as 'Sailors and Ships'. This is a massive bronze sculpture, standing more than eight metres high, which is dedicated to the naval servicemen and women who from colonial days have created the naval traditions of Australia; and to those who continue to serve. The design brief stated that the Memorial should be functional rather than symbolic, and clearly and unambiguously a Naval Memorial. The sculpture itself expresses the constant vigilance and preparedness required of Navy personnel.

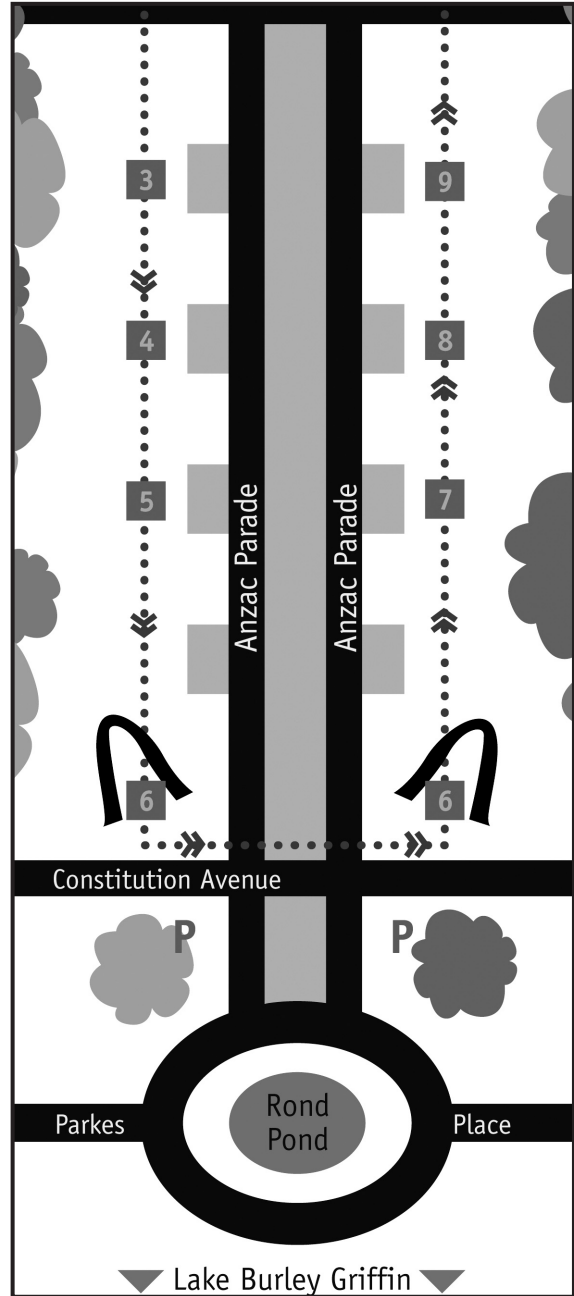
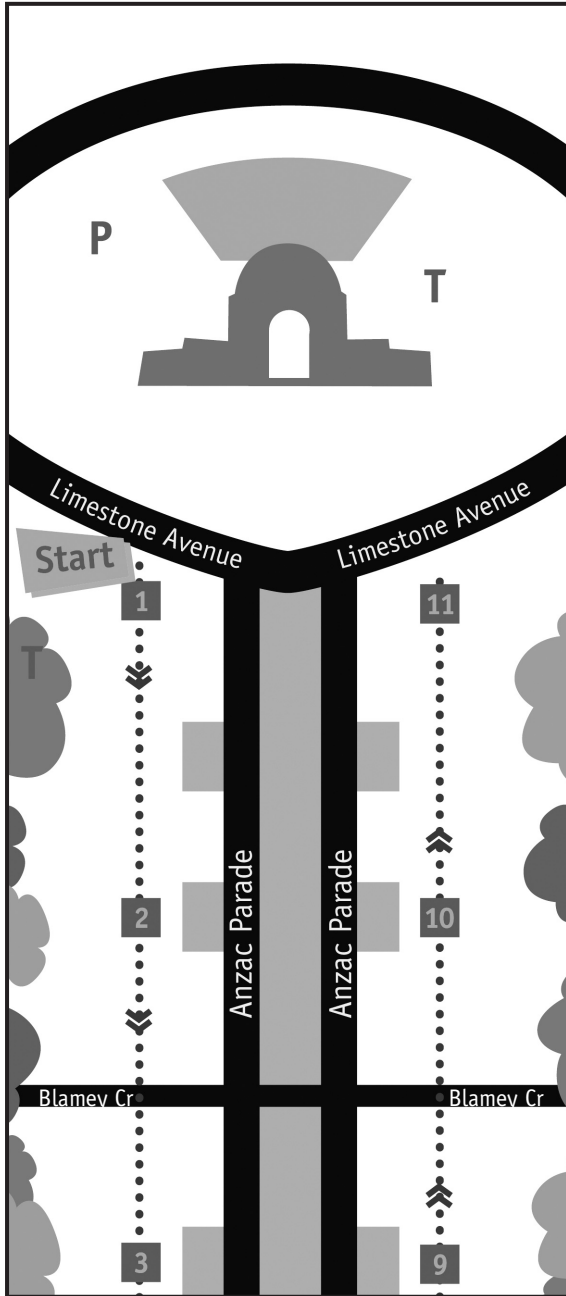
Walk around the sculpture not only to look, but also to listen to the water. Each element has a distinctive sound - for example, the bow wave has a slight hiss and the main gush of water behind the sculpture throbs as though driven by propellers. There is the sound of water cascading from a submarine's conning tower and the general turbulence created by a ship's passage. The geometric shapes symbolise a ship, and the emerging figures portray a range of ranks and activities commonly associated with Navy personnel.

11 **THE KEMAL ATATURK MEMORIAL** was dedicated on 25 April 1985. This was part of an agreement by the Australian and Turkish governments on a series of commemorative gestures to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Kemal Ataturk commanded the Turkish forces at Gallipoli, and later became the founder and first president of modern Turkey. This Memorial honours him, as well as the heroism and sacrifice of both the ANZAC and Turkish troops who took part in the bitterly fought campaign.

Soil from Anzac Cove in Turkey was placed beneath the dedication plaque. Surrounding the Memorial are pine trees—*Pinus halepensis*—grown from seed collected from the Gallipoli 'lone pine'. The Battle of Lone Pine at Gallipoli takes its name from the pine tree which stood in this area of the battlefield on 25 April, but was soon shot to pieces. Later in the war, seeds were collected from the area and sent to Australia where a pine tree, cultivated from those seeds, now stands near the Australian War Memorial. The crescent-shaped wall was inspired by the symbol of the crescent and five-pointed star on the Turkish flag. Located on the wall is a bronze likeness of Ataturk, a gift from the Turkish Government.

This ends the Anzac Parade Walk

ANZAC PARADE Walk



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

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