COMMONWEALTH AVE

STATE CIRCLE

FEDERATION MALL

KINGS AVE

CAPITAL CIRCLE

BRISBANE AVE

1 2 3 4 5 6

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

MAGNA CARTA

1297

MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRACY
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
Australian Government
Your story, our history

Australian Government
National Capital Authority

DEMOCRACY WALK

All of the documents that are the foundation of Australia's democracy can be found in the Parliamentary Triangle. On this self- guided tour, you can discover these documents, explore their stories and see Australia's democracy in action.

DEMOCRACY WALK

1 Australian Parliament House

1297 Magna Carta

Australian Parliament House is home to an original 1297 Inspeximus issue of Magna Carta sealed by King Edward I. It is the only copy in the southern hemisphere and is widely considered to be one of the most important documents in the history of democracy.

Living Democracy

Visitors to Parliament House can view the proceedings in the chambers on parliamentary sitting days. This opportunity to experience democracy in action is only available to members of the public in a few democratic countries.

Must see:

– The Senate and House of Representatives Chambers
– Question Time
– The Yirrkala bark petitions
– The *Women's suffrage banner: Trust the women...*(1908) by Dora MEESON (1869 - 1955)

aph.gov.au/visitparliament

3 Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

Old Parliament House is home to the Museum of Australian Democracy. As you walk up the famous steps and enter King's Hall, you'll find yourself in the heart of one of Australia's most loved buildings. Beyond King's Hall there is a feast of exhibitions, tours and programs that celebrate the spirit of Australian democracy and the power of people's voices. They include, Magna Carta: An Australian Story, an exhibition which explores the importance of this 800 year-old document and its relevance to modern Australia.

Must see:

– King's Hall, including the statue of King George V
– The historic Senate and House of Representatives chambers
– The Prime Ministers' Suite, including the exhibition Prime ministers on prime ministers
– The Cabinet Room
– The House of Representatives Press Gallery

moadoph.gov.au

5 National Archives of Australia

The Federation Gallery at the National Archives of Australia holds the original documents that established the federated democratic nation we know today. See the Royal Commission of Assent and Royal Proclamation of Inauguration Day, both signed by Queen Victoria, and the original Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act which provides the power to make laws and for the government to implement them. In *Memory of a Nation*, a permanent exhibition, see Australian government records that show Australia's democratic processes at work, including Sir Edmund Barton's draft copy of the Constitution.

Must see:

– The Federation Gallery — 'birth certificates' of our nation (see website for open dates)
– Memory of a Nation exhibition
– No Common Creation display
– Changing exhibitions drawn from the Archives collections

naa.gov.au

2 Magna Carta Place

The monument here was designed to look like an excavated burial mound revealing the treasure within, the Magna Carta. It features a copper dome and recycled ironbark columns with bronze panels suitable for brass rubbing.
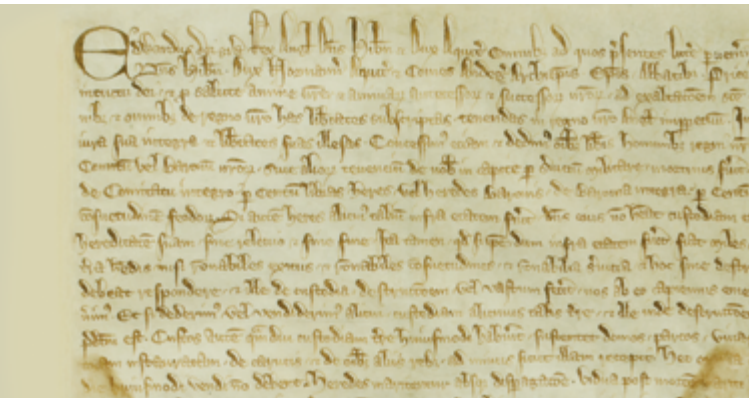
4 Old Parliament House Gardens

The Old Parliament House Gardens were created in the 1930s. The tennis courts in the gardens are red for the Senate and green for the House of Representatives. Created in 2002, the Centenary of Australian Women's Suffrage commemorative area includes a mosaic timeline that shows milestones and significant achievements of women in Federal Parliament.

6 Commencement Stone

This six sided base of a proposed Commencement Column sits on the central land axis of Canberra. It was the site of the official dedication and announcement of the naming of the nation's capital by the then Governor General Lord Thomas Denman and Lady Denman on 12 March 1913. The six sides represent the six colonies that became the Commonwealth.

nationalcapital.gov.au

King Edward I (1272-1307) *Inspeximus issue of Magna Carta*, 1297
Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, ACT

Students explore the Faces of Australia photo wall, Memory of a Nation exhibition
National Archives of Australia

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

Magna Carta place