SYDNEY LEARNING ADVENTURES

2027 education programs

Relive the past and explore the present
Primary and Secondary

NSW

sydneylearningadventures.com

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Welcome—Budyari Gamarruwa

Sydney Learning Adventures brings the histories of Sydney, New South Wales and Australia to life for thousands of young people every year through our variety of education programs.

Developed in consultation with academic educators and practising classroom teachers, our programs take a curriculum-linked, outcomes-focused approach to provide engaging, interactive, multilayered learning experiences for all students. Facilitated by our team of dynamic education guides, the programs cater to all stages and types of learners, from Kindergarten to Year 12.

What's coming in 2027

Sydney Learning Adventures is currently working on a brand new way to bring you all the tours and programs you know and love in The Rocks, Darling Harbour, and Barangaroo. We look forward to sharing more about this new and improved platform in due course.

Stay in touch

Our newsletter is a great way for teachers to keep up with upcoming events, new programs and teaching resources—subscribe at:
sydneylearningadventures.com

We look forward to hosting you and your students on a learning adventure in 2027!

Yanoo yanoo, gigitti gor—Goodbye and thank you.

five reasons

why students and teachers love our education programs

1 **Unique venues—places where history happened**
From ancient Aboriginal culture to 'first contact', and from streets built by convicts, through bubonic plague, to contemporary Aboriginal life—The Rocks has seen it all. Today its historic sites combine with facilities such as The Rocks Discovery Museum and The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre to offer a window into that past.

2 **Hands-on experiences—touching the past**
Students are thrilled to touch, hold, excavate and examine authentic artefacts, historical paintings and photographs. A simulated archaeological dig and an Aboriginal artefact collection bring to life the real stories of people who once lived in The Rocks.

3 **Dynamic educators—making learning fun**
Our team of professional education guides have training and experience in education, history, archaeology, tourism, tour guiding and theatre. Their passion for the people and places featured in our programs is complemented by their skills in liaising with teachers and building rapport with students.

4 **Teacher resource packs—facilitating active learning**
Our comprehensive excursion packs, filled with background information, syllabus links, maps, timetables and pre- and post-visit learning activities, will help you make the most of your excursion—download them from our website **sydneylearningadventures.com**

5 **Constantly evolving programs—responding to curriculum change**
At Sydney Learning Adventures we review our programs frequently in response to teacher feedback, curriculum change, syllabus updates and current developments in teaching and learning.

primary

education programs

Exciting interactive learning experiences for K–6 students in Sydney's historic areas of The Rocks and Darling Harbour.

Little Diggers

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 History

Find out about the children who lived in The Rocks during the 1800s. What were their houses like? What games did they play? How were their lives different from, and similar to, ours?

Students work as archaeologists, excavating artefacts from our simulated archaeological dig, then use our interactive map mat to examine and discuss them in the context of the everyday lives of children who lived in The Rocks in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Cost: $15 per student

The programs Little Diggers, Dirt Detectives and Pieces of the Past were developed in partnership with The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre.

"Staff engaged students really well. They were able to interact with students respectfully and answer all their questions with a depth of knowledge. Students loved digging for artefacts in the sand. It was great!"

Teacher,
Caringbah North Public School

Dirt Detectives

Stage 2 History

Why did the great journeys of exploration occur? Who were the first 'Sydneysiders'?

Ball and chain shackles and filthy rags decorated with broad arrows? History books often describe horrific tales of the brutal punishment and agonising labour experienced by convicts in early colonial Sydney.

Students work as archaeologists to excavate artefacts from our simulated archaeological dig, then use their investigative skills to discover what life was really like for the convicts and early settlers who lived in The Rocks during the 1800s.

Cost: $15 per student

Pieces of the Past

Stage 3 History

Early settlers' buttons and buckles, bottles and beads are amongst the artefacts found under floorboards in The Rocks.

Students combine artefacts that they excavate from our indoor archaeological dig with other sources, to find out about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past, focusing on the Cumberland Street neighbourhood of The Rocks in the 1800s. They look at how the Australian colony developed, who the significant people were, and how colonisation changed the environment.

Cost: $15 per student

Gadigal Mudjin

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 History, Science, Geography and Aboriginal Languages

Education guides take students on a journey through local Aboriginal history, culture and heritage.

Students explore the differences between their own personal and family histories and those of the Gadigal people.

The program includes:

- stories of role models such as Arabanoo and Nanberry
- Aboriginal language and place names—what did these places mean to the Gadigal people?
- investigating and discussing bush tucker and other resources in the local area
- hands-on experience with Aboriginal artefacts (The Rocks Discovery Museum).

Cost: $15 per student
(program might be delivered by non-Indigenous guides)

"Excellent program, with knowledgeable guide. The children were engaged with the thorough explanations, demonstrations and story telling."

Teacher,
St Mark's Primary School - Drummoyne

Ngara

Stages 2 and 3 History, Science, Geography and Aboriginal Languages

Education guides take students on a journey through local Aboriginal culture and history, the arrival of Europeans and 'first contact', as well as the impact of colonisation on both settler and Aboriginal children and families.

The program includes:

- stories of role models such as Bennelong, Colebee, Nanberry, Arabanoo and Patyegarang
- Aboriginal language and place names—what did these places mean to the Gadigal people?
- how the Gadigal people understood and interpreted their environment
- Gadigal initiation ceremonies and practices
- Aboriginal astronomy
- investigating bush tucker and other resources in the local area
- hands-on experience with Aboriginal artefacts (The Rocks Discovery Museum).

Cost: $15 per student
(program might be delivered by non-Indigenous guides)

"Clear and concise information. Very engaging to all the students and all interactive elements (leaf weaving, bush tucker, playing clap sticks & touching kangaroo fur) and the interesting stories from history was perfect for the program."

Teacher,
Trinity Catholic Primary School, Kemps Creek

Double Dragons

Stages 2 and 3 History and Geography

In Darling Harbour's 'hidden pearl', the Chinese Garden of Friendship, students solve riddles and find clues to piece together the legend of the Chinese horoscope.

In the heart of Chinatown students experience contemporary Chinese-Australian culture whilst learning why and when Chinese people first came to Australia, and how they have adapted and flourished as a community.

By opening a window on Chinese culture and its ongoing contribution to Australian society and identity, the program helps students explore the role that people of diverse backgrounds play in the development and character of local communities.

Cost: $17 per student
(includes entry to the Chinese Garden)

Packages

Stage 2 Package:
Double Dragons and Dirt Detectives

Stage 2 History and Geography

Combine an exploration of Chinese culture and the part that it plays in Australian society and identity, with a hands-on investigation of what life was like for the convicts and early settlers who lived in The Rocks during the 1800s.

Cost: $30 per student

Stage 3 Package:
Double Dragons and Pieces of the Past

Stage 3 History and Geography

Explore Chinese culture and the part that it plays in Australian society and identity; then excavate artefacts from our indoor archaeological dig, and combine them with other sources to find out about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past.

Cost: $30 per student

secondary

education programs

Engaging, active learning programs for secondary students in The Rocks and around Darling Harbour.

Cesspits and Old Rubbish

Stage 4 History

How do historians and archaeologists investigate the past?

Archaeology has been dubbed "the science of rubbish" because it involves the excavation and analysis of object people have thrown away. The Cesspits and Old Rubbish program enables students to work as archaeologists, exploring the Big Dig archaeological site, examining historical sources and analysing artefacts discovered in wells, cisterns, cellars and backyards. This differentiated investigation will see students identify key challenges of everyday life that Colonial Sydney faced and compare them to life in Ancient cities as they explore the lives of some of the more colourful individuals who inhabited the cosy little houses, narrow lands and twisted streets of The Rocks' close knit community.

Cost: $15 per student

The programs Cesspit and Old Rubbish, Shopfront to Western Front, Groundwork: Archaeology at The Big Dig and Groundwork: Extended were developed in partnership with The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre.

"Many thanks for our program. It was very informative as well as entertaining. A definite must when we come to Sydney. The staff were very knowledgeable and had the boys well and truly involved."

Teacher,
Hale School

Shopfront to Western Front

Stage 5 Global History: The Making of the Modern World and Australia

How did industrialisation, imperialism and significant events such as the First World War impact on how people in The Rocks lived, worked and thought?

Students work as archaeologists to interpret a unique archaeological site, examine authentic artefacts, and delve into the lives of real families who lived in The Rocks between the mid-18th and early 20th centuries.

Using a range of archaeological, written and photographic sources, this program incorporates key historical concepts and skills such as continuity and change, cause and effect, perspective and empathetic understanding.

Cost: $15 per student

"The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, it was evident that the program significantly enhanced their understanding both the Revolution and World War I. The way the excursion brought these historical periods to life was truly impressive and provided our students with a learning experience that went beyond the classroom. Our guides' knowledge & enthusiasm contributed to the overall success of the excursion. Given the positive feedback & the educational value of the program, we will rebook!"

Teacher,
St Mary and St Mina's Coptic Orthodox College

Groundwork: Archaeology at The Big Dig

Stage 5 Elective History;
Stage 6 Ancient History and History Extension

How do historians and archaeologists investigate, record, reconstruct and interpret the past?

What types of questions do they ask? What ethical issues are involved in the excavation, conservation and interpretation of a site, and its presentation to the public?

Students use written and archaeological sources to undertake an inquiry-based investigation into topics such as the lives of real men and women who lived and worked in The Rocks in the 19th century; the impact on them of the Industrial Revolution; and the sociocultural identity of The Rocks.

Cost: $15 per student

Groundwork: Extended
Full-day program

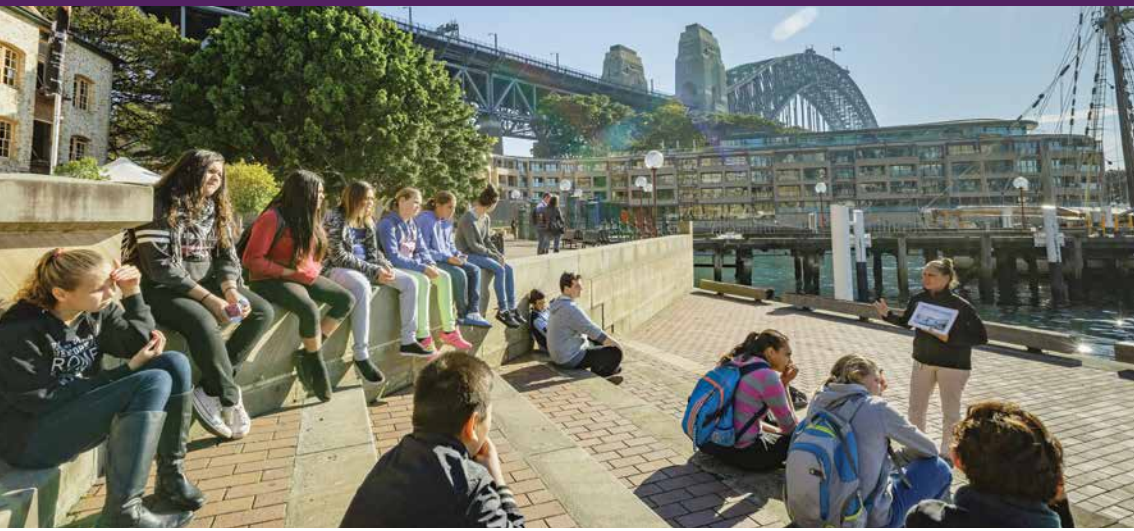
Stage 5 Elective History;
Stage 6 Ancient History and History Extension

This full-day interactive program begins with a practising archaeologist discussing their fieldwork experiences. Students tour The Big Dig site, examine artefacts, gain exclusive access to the Dawes Point Battery site, and explore The Rocks Discovery Museum.

They encounter a range of archaeological and written evidence, reflect on the roles of archaeology, science and history in contemporary society and consider related ethical issues.

As Australia's largest urban archaeological site, The Big Dig excavation in 1994 uncovered over one million artefacts. Unlike The Rocks, Dawes Point had contained a large and relatively undeveloped area since 1788, primarily due to its military use. In studying and exploring both sites, students gain a greater understanding of the style and manner in which people lived in colonial Australia in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Full-day program (9.30am – 2.15pm)
Cost: $26 per student



Giba-Nura

Stage 4 History, Science, Geography, Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal Languages

Education guides facilitate students' exploration of 'first contact', Aboriginal resistance to colonisation, and its impact on the Gadigal people from an Aboriginal perspective.

Through stories of role models such as Bennelong, Barrangaroo, Patyegarang and Pemulwuy, students will develop a knowledge and understanding of local Aboriginal identity and experiences, and explore how to analyse historical and archaeological evidence.

The program includes:

- Aboriginal astronomy
- Gadigal initiation ceremonies and practices
- Aboriginal language and place names—what did these places mean to the Gadigal people?
- how the Gadigal people understood and interpreted their environment
- hands-on experience with Aboriginal artefacts (The Rocks Discovery Museum)
- investigating bush tucker and other resources in the local area.

Cost: $15 per student
(program might be delivered by non-Indigenous guides)

This program can be tailored for tertiary students and corporate groups.

"Knowledgeable & passionate guide, excellent content and highlight of the program was the Aboriginal artefacts handling at the museum."

Teacher,
Pittwater High School

Mana-Nura

Stages 5 and 6 History, Science, Geography, Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal Languages

Aboriginal education guides take students on a journey to explore the history and culture of the Gadigal people, as well as their experiences during 'first contact' and after colonisation.

Students will explore the Gadigal and other Aboriginal peoples' resistance to colonisation, colonial policies of the day, and how these have impacted on and influenced Indigenous Australians today.

The program includes:

- hands-on examination of a variety of Aboriginal artefacts (The Rocks Discovery Museum)
- Investigating and discussing bush tucker in the local area
- The opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of local Aboriginal identity and experiences through examining a timeline of important historical, social and political events
- Stories of role models such as Bennelong, Pemulwuy, Windradyne, Charles Perkins, Eddie Mabo and others.

Cost: $15 per student

This program can be tailored for tertiary students and corporate groups.

"Thank you so much you wise strong women for your knowledge, passion and strong talking.

The session was amazing, deadly and the students were blessed to experience it.

It worked well, was really engaging and flowed. I am going to recommend it here, there and everywhere."

Louise, Lecturer,
The University of Sydney

Silk Road to Gold Tracks

Stage 4 & 5 History and Geography

Students will examine the history of Chinese immigration to Australia and observe its impact on past and present communities.

This program aims to gain an understanding of the history of migration that has created the multicultural Australia of today.

The program includes a visit to the Chinese Garden of Friendship.

Cost: $17 per student
(includes entry to the Chinese Garden)

"Wonderful, enthusiastic presenters – really interesting with a thorough knowledge of the excursion. I would highly recommend this program to other schools!"

Teacher,
Maria Regina Catholic School

contact us

When planning your visit please note:

- More detailed information on each program, risk assessments and teacher resources are available at: **sydneylearningadventures.com**
- All school groups must be pre-booked.
- Programs run for 120 minutes unless otherwise stated.
- Tailored programs can be arranged for professional development for teachers and other educators.
- We can provide advice about combining programs, lunch / morning tea options, and customised packages to suit your needs.

For bookings:

Complete our booking form here

E tours@property.nsw.gov.au

T (02) 9240 8552

W sydneylearningadventures.com

Barangaroo excursions

Students will explore the site's rich Aboriginal history and cultural significance, connect with the world's oldest living culture and discover the practices that enabled Australia's First Peoples to live in harmony with the land through engagement with Aboriginal guides.

Pre-visit materials including a teacher's resource document containing information such as a program overview, curriculum links and instructions on what to bring and where to meet on the day of your excursion.

Features

- Barangaroo Reserve is an award winning harbourside reserve that is considered a "must see" cultural destination for locals and tourists.
- The site is rich in Aboriginal history and is a re-imagined version of how the original Sydney Harbour headland looked prior to European settlement.
- The Reserve is the only public park of its size in Sydney that features exclusively native vegetation.
- Sustainability is a key element in the design and development of Barangaroo. It is at the heart of every development decision made as the team works towards the goal of it being Australia's first climate positive precinct of its size.

Programs

Programs are designed in collaboration with visiting teachers to ensure content is aligned to the NSW syllabus.

Incorporating Learning Across Curriculum elements including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander histories and culture.

Tertiary programs are designed with project specialists and can include topics such as sustainability, C40 cities, climate positive and the built and natural environment.

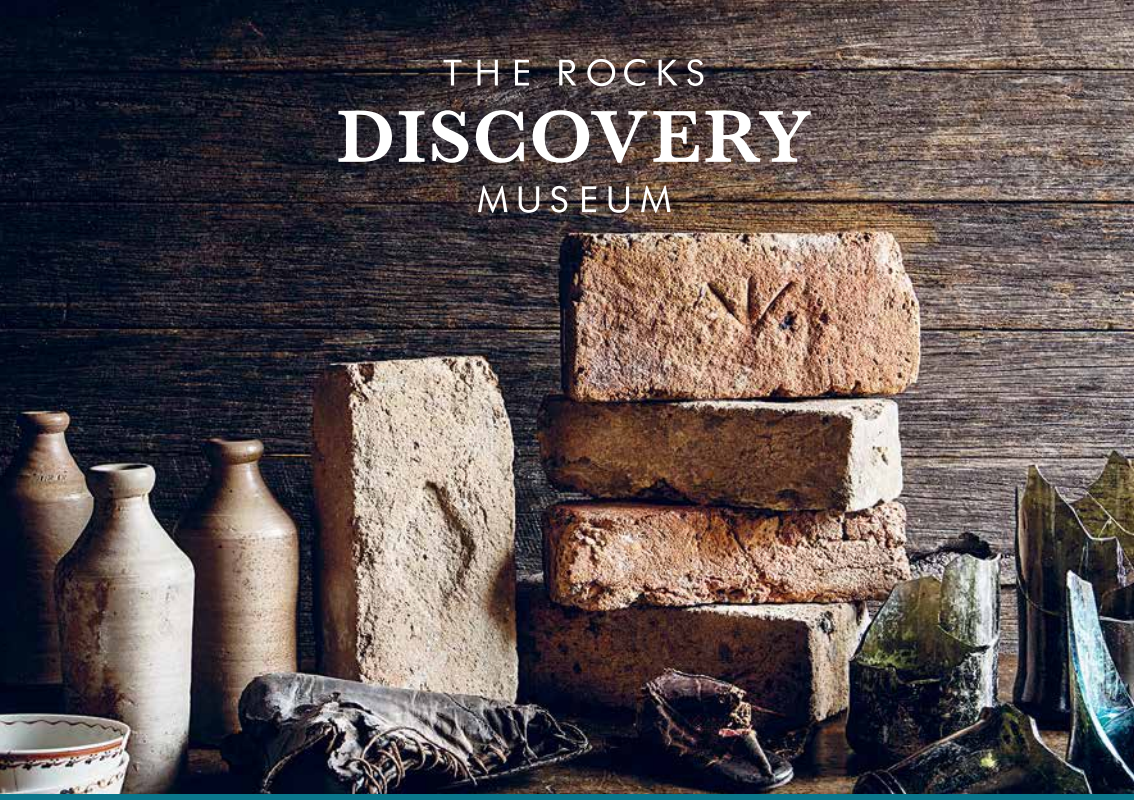
Excursions can be booked on weekdays at a suitable time and run for 2 hours.

Cost: $16 per student
(minimum booking charge of 20 students)

For bookings:

Complete our booking form here

E barangaroo.visitorservices@property.nsw.gov.au
T 1300 449 690
W barangaroo.com



Discover one of Sydney's best free museums

At The Rocks Discovery Museum students can see, touch and hear the past as they create their own journey from pre-European time to the present day.

Housed in a beautiful sandstone heritage building, the museum brings the history of The Rocks, its people and their stories to life through interactive displays, touch screens, audio and a unique collection of archaeological artefacts.

Make a full day of it in The Rocks! A visit to the museum is the perfect add-on to a two-hour Sydney Learning Adventures program.

Entry is free, but bookings are essential for self-guided school groups.

To book a self-guided visit, complete our booking form here

Open 10am – 5pm daily
(except Good Friday and Christmas Day)

2–8 Kendall Lane, The Rocks
(off Argyle Street)

For more information, call (02) 9240 8680
or visit rocksdiscoverymuseum.com

sydneylearningadventures.com