2025 COMMUNITY DAYS

Mark your calendars for this special free weekend filled with guided tours and activities, part of the Commonwealth Heritage Grant conservation project. Dive into the rich history and unearth the incredible history and environment of North Head Quarantine Station at Q Station.
As Australia's oldest, continuously operating quarantine station, Q Station's history has many stories to unearth. From the 1830s until 1984 thousands of migrants and returning Australians were quarantined here. Discover some of their stories in our Quarantine Life tour or Skip through Quarantine tour especially for families. The Unearthing Quarantine tour takes a systematic look at the historical and cultural evidence within the landscape and buildings.

Q MUSEUM

Our moveable heritage collection comprises thousands of artefacts unique to North Head Quarantine Station. Many of these are on display in the Visitor Centre's historical exhibit. Learn about the passenger's journey to Australia, the many horrific diseases they were exposed to on those journeys and the many stories of life in quarantine for both passengers and staff. Our replica cabins of the RMS Niagara give visitors a sense of what sea travel was like 100 years ago and the interactive map gives kids today time to think about their own heritage. Preserved gravestones from the first burial ground are a poignant reminder of those that have visited the site before us. The recent Stories of the Sandstone project is also a highlight, alongside details of the Aboriginal significance, flora and fauna of our site.

QUARANTINE WANDER HISTORY TOUR

Our Wharf Precinct is the most significant place to understand the arrival and daily operations of residents at the Quarantine Station. You'll explore the heritage buildings and discover the stories of migrants through the 19th and 20th centuries. For over 150 years the Quarantine Station was for many, the beginning of a new life in Australia after making the arduous & lengthy journey from their homelands.

UNEARTHING QUARANTINE

Across the Quarantine Station there are clues in the cultural landscape and heritage buildings which reveal its fascinating history. Join a guide and unearth some of those stories on this one-way tour between Q Station reception and the Wharf precinct.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Put your detective hats on and let your curiosity and imagination help you discover Quarantine Station and its magical spots, historical landmarks and secrets. This will be an adventure of hunting for clues, uncovering hidden items, solving puzzles. Your treasure reward awaits!

MOVEABLE HERITAGE (P14 & P15)

North Head Quarantine Station's moveable heritage collection comprises over 2500 items which relate to the operation of the Quarantine Station from 1828 to 1984. The items demonstrate the development of public health administration in Australia, early immigration procedures and the control of infectious diseases. The collection is significant because it forms part of the heritage of the earliest and largest continually functioning Quarantine Station in Australia. Visit the collection store and chat to our team about the work that is being done with the collection.

SKIP THROUGH QUARANTINE FAMILY HISTORY TOUR

Experience arrival at the Quarantine Station on the RMS Niagara in 1921. A case of smallpox has been discovered as the boat steams into Sydney Harbour and everyone must be quarantined. Experience arrival at the Quarantine Station on the RMS Niagara in 1921. A case of smallpox has been discovered as the boat steams into Sydney Harbour and everyone must be quarantined. Discover what life had been like on board the ship and how the arriving passengers were processed as they arrived at the Quarantine Station.

NATURE EXPLORERS

This slow-paced nature walk guided by our passionate Q Station Educators will help immerse your group into the micro-climates of North Head. Admire the spectacular views and spot wildlife while you mindfully explore the natural landscapes of the Quarantine Station. A place where heritage, history and nature coexists through Q Station's beautiful surroundings. Sydney Harbour National Park is home to hundreds of special plant species and iconic wildlife. It is also known to be a significant sacred place to first nations indigenous people.