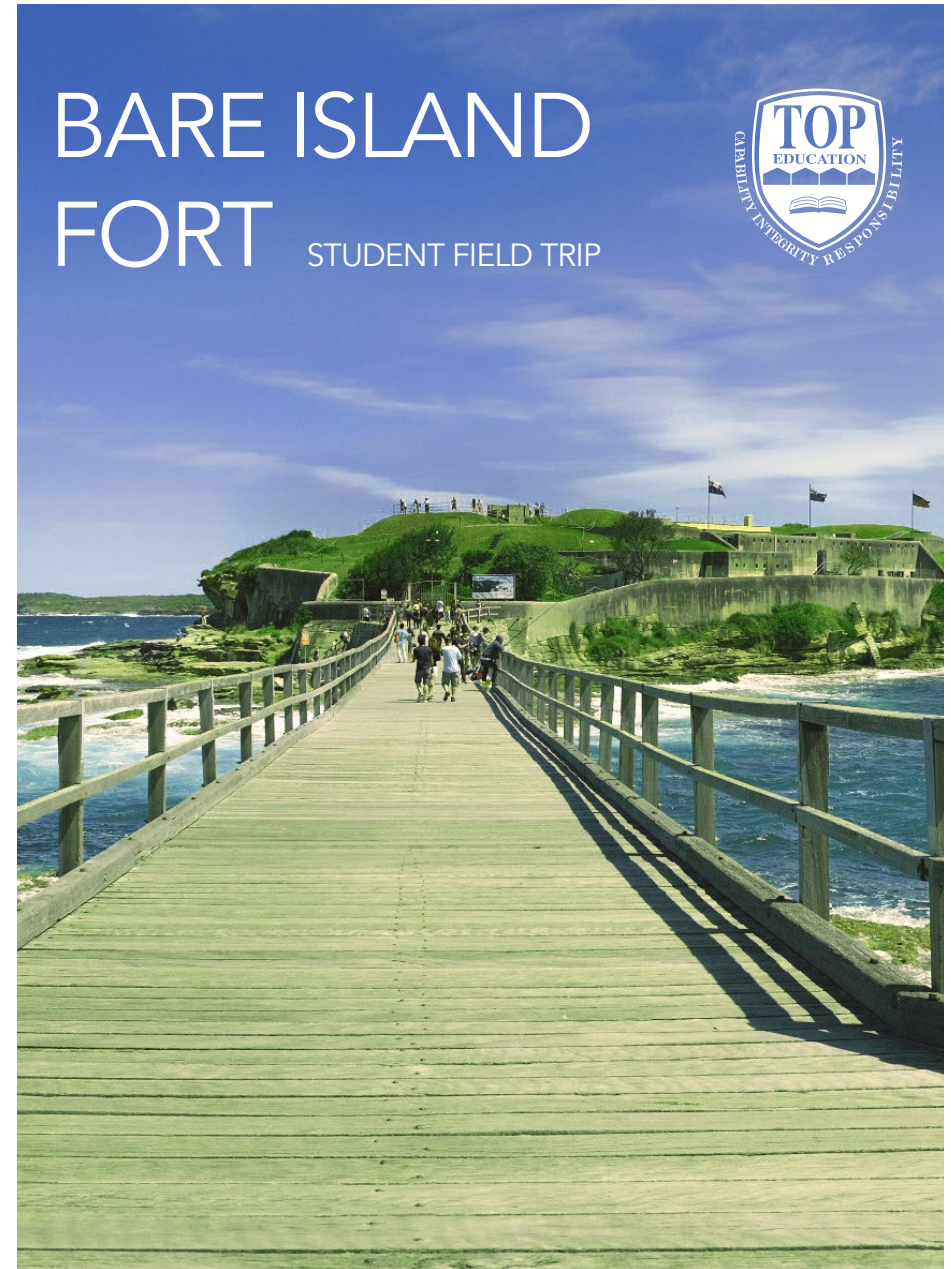


# BARE ISLAND FORT

STUDENT FIELD TRIP



For more information on Bare Island Fort please visit their website:

<https://www.sydney.com/sydney-life/beach-lifestyle/featured-photographer-danny-stone/attachment/bare-island-sunset-la-perouse/>

# LA PEROUSE MUSEUM

The La Perouse Museum sits within a spectacular historic landscape on the northern headland of Botany Bay within the Botany Bay National Park. The dramatic view extends east to the Pacific Ocean, south across the sheltered waters of Botany Bay to the landing place of Captain Cook at Kurnell, and west to the distant industrial landscape of Port Botany. The Museum is located in the historic 1881-1882 Cable Station on the headland at La Perouse.

The building originally provided accommodation for Cable Station staff. At different periods it provided a home for nurses and soldiers. From 1944, it was a Salvation Army refuge for women and children.

The Museum opened in 1988 and tells the story of the La Perouse expedition, its arrival in Botany Bay in 1788 and encounter with the First Fleet, and eventual shipwreck in the Solomon Islands. Through a program of changing temporary exhibitions, the museum also looks at the Aboriginal, environmental and local history of La Perouse.



The collection contains nearly 2,000 items, relating to either the La Perouse expedition, French 18th century maritime navigation, the Cable Station building itself, or local history.

One of the most significant collection items is a complete Atlas of the Voyage of Laperouse, consisting of 72 coloured drawings and maps, featuring places the expedition visited between 1785 and 1788.

Significant heritage items may be visited in the immediate vicinity of the Museum and include the Macquarie Watchtower, the La Perouse Monument and the tomb of Father Receveur, the first Catholic priest to be buried on mainland Australia. Nearby is the historic Bare Island Fort, La Perouse Snake Show, and several idyllic beaches and walking trails.

The La Perouse Museum is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) which is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

# TODAY'S ITINERARY

**9.30am Depart from TOP**

**11.00am La Perouse Museum**

Housed in a heritage building at La Perouse in Sydney's south, the La Perouse Museum documents the expedition of French explorer the Comte de La perouse.

**12.00pm Bare Grill café for lunch**

**2.00pm Bare Island Fort Guided tour**

Join this guided tour to hear about the unpredictable history of Bare Island Fort at La Perouse. We'll cross a 130-year-old wooden bridge and enter a world of fine engineering and great deception.

**4.00pm**

Depart from La Perouse



## MACQUARIE WATCHTOWER



Macquarie Watchtower, also known as the Barrack Tower, was probably built around 1821 or 1822. It is Randwick City's oldest building and an important heritage site.

Although it is often referred to using Governor Lachlan Macquarie's name, no documentary evidence has been discovered that positively identifies when and why the Tower was built. Macquarie did not claim it as one of his building works.

It was originally staffed by a few soldiers who were tasked to be on a lookout for problems in what was in the 1820s an isolated back door to the Colony.

Patrick Lally was made Watchman in 1827. When the Tower became a Customs post David Goodsir was appointed Coast Watcher, the first in a series of officials charged with undertaking Customs Duties. Coast Watchers also had to help capture escaped convicts, keep local order and rescue distressed seamen.

The octagonal tower was altered over the decades. In 1864 a conically shaped roof was added as well additions attached to the Tower by skillion roofs. A fire in October 1957 destroyed the additions and parts of the Tower. The La Perouse Monuments Trust, then in charge of the building, cleared away rubble and "restored" the Tower to what was then thought to be the original 1820s shape. It is likely that the crenulations that were added were more numerous and solid than the original.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service commissioned a major restoration project in 2010.

## BARE ISLAND FORT

Captain Cook first spotted the area now known as Bare Island in 1770, and referred to it in his journal as 'a small bare island'. The fort was built in the early 1880s to protect Sydney's back door. It was in operation until 1908, after which time it became Australia's first war veterans' home.

Bare Island Fort's structure provides a picturesque backdrop for any event, with spectacular scenic views over La Perouse. You may also recognise the island as the location for some thrilling action sequences in the Hollywood film, Mission: Impossible 2.

The water surrounding Bare Island Fort is also one of the most popular scuba diving sites in NSW, as well as a very popular location for snorkelling in Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

Join this guided tour to hear about the unpredictable history of Bare Island Fort at La Perouse. We'll cross a 130-year-old wooden bridge and enter a world of fine engineering and great deception.

In 1885 concerned British colonists thought an invasion by Russia was imminent. To ease their fears, they built Bare Island Fort to protect Botany Bay (then known as 'Sydney's back door').

Since then, Bare Island Fort in Kamay Botany Bay National Park has developed a fascinating history. It's been an object of military pride. It's also been a place of shocking scandals and hidden secrets. In recent years it's even been the location for some great action sequences in a blockbuster movie. Join this guided tour of the fort and find out much more!



## INTERESTING FACTS

### ■ Aboriginal culture

At the time of the first encounters with Europeans, Aboriginal people of 2 different nations - the Goorawal People and the Gweagal People - were living in the area which now includes Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

Over 30 Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the park, including rock art and engravings.



## INTERESTING FACTS



### ■ Historic heritage

Two of Australia's earliest European explorers landed in Botany Bay here - James Cook in 1770, and the Comte de Laperouse, a week later. Cook's botanists, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, first explored Australia's natural world here.

After the reports of Cook and Banks, Botany Bay was recommended as a suitable site for settlement but upon inspection by Captain Arthur Phillip it was found unsuitable as it had no secure fresh water or suitable anchorage so Sydney Cove was set up as the penal colony instead.

You can also explore the fascinating history of Bare Island Fort on a guided tour, see World War II military remnants at Henry Head, or learn more at La Perouse Museum.

