

STEM MAD National 2026

Travel Guide

 **Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney NSW**

 **Thursday 26 November 2026**

Welcome to Sydney, host city for STEM MAD National 2026! Whether you're travelling with students, colleagues, or family, this guide will help you plan a smooth and enjoyable trip to one of Australia's most iconic cities.



STEM MAD National Student Showcase

The **Royal Randwick Racecourse** will host the 2026 STEM MAD National Student Showcase. Located in Sydney's eastern suburbs, the venue offers large, flexible indoor spaces, excellent accessibility, and close proximity to beaches, parks, and the CBD.

Be sure to check the [event agenda](#) for:

- Student showcases and judging sessions
- Workshops and interactive exhibits
- Networking opportunities for educators and partners

Getting There

From Sydney Airport

-  Taxi / rideshare: ~20 minutes (traffic dependent)
-  Public transport: Airport train to Central, then light rail to Randwick

Public Transport

- The **L2 Randwick Light Rail Line** stops directly outside the racecourse (Royal Randwick stop)
- Regular buses operate from Central Station, Circular Quay, and the CBD
- Royal Randwick Racecourse has 300 free parking spaces allocated to support STEM MAD. Once these are exhausted, additional parking can be purchased by individuals at a discounted day rate.

Accommodation

Convenient accommodation options near Royal Randwick Racecourse include:

- [The Lurline \(Randwick\)](#) – Simple, clean, and cost-effective accommodation within walking distance of the venue and local cafés.
- [Avoca Randwick Lodge](#) – Affordable rooms, quiet location, and easy access to public transport and the racecourse.
- [Coogee Bay Hotel](#) – Comfortable and well-located near dining and transport
- [Veriu Randwick](#) – Affordable rooms and easy access to public transport and the racecourse.
- [Avonmore on the Park Boutique Hotel](#) - Simple, clean, and cost-effective accommodation within walking distance of the venue and local cafés.
- [Coogee Sands Hotel & Apartments](#) – Simple, beach front hotel with easy access to public transport.

Dinner Ideas

Group-friendly dining options nearby include:

- [Coogee Pavilion](#) – Casual dining with ocean views
- [Coogee Bay Hotel](#) - Casual dining with ocean views
- [The Spot Dining Precinct \(Randwick\)](#) – Italian, Asian, and modern Australian options
- [Kingsford Dining Precinct](#) - Asian and modern Australian options

Things to Do in Sydney

If you're extending your stay before or after STEM MAD National, Sydney offers a mix of iconic attractions, outdoor experiences, and cultural highlights.

Harbour & City Icons

- **Sydney Harbour & Circular Quay** – Take in views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, enjoy ferry rides, or explore The Rocks.
- **Luna Park Sydney** – A heritage-listed amusement park with classic rides, harbour views, and plenty of photo opportunities. Great for students and families.

Nature & Outdoors

- **Coogee to Bondi Coastal Walk** – One of Sydney's most famous walks, offering dramatic coastal scenery, beaches, and lookouts.
- **Malabar Headland National Park** – A lesser-known coastal gem near Randwick. Ideal for short hikes, whale watching (in season), and learning about local ecology and conservation.
- **Centennial Parklands** – Expansive green space perfect for picnics, group walks, or downtime between sessions.
- **Wylie's Baths** – Dynamic tidal pool overlooking Coogee beach and Wedding Cake Island.
- **Coogee Beach** - An ideal swimming beach for families with wide range of dining options.

Culture & Discovery

- **St Mary's Cathedral Sydney** – Australia's largest Catholic cathedral and the spiritual heart of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Located beside Hyde Park, the cathedral is renowned for its Gothic Revival architecture, stained glass, and rich liturgical history.
- **Art Gallery of New South Wales** (free entry) – Home to outstanding Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and international art collections.
- **White Rabbit Gallery** (free entry) – One of Sydney's most distinctive contemporary art spaces, showcasing an internationally significant collection of 21st-century Chinese art.
- **Australian Museum** (free entry) – Australia's oldest museum, featuring exhibitions on science, nature, and culture.
- **Darling Harbour** – A lively precinct with museums, attractions, dining, and open spaces for groups.

Wildlife & Family Experiences

- **Taronga Zoo** – A uniquely Sydney experience, combining wildlife encounters with panoramic harbour views.
- **SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium & WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo** – Indoor attractions well suited to school groups and mixed-age visitors.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sydney for **STEM MAD National 2026**.

Safe travels, and enjoy your time exploring, learning, and **Making a Difference!**