

Disney THE EXHIBITION

A CENTURY OF MAGIC

TEACHER EXCURSION GUIDE

Walt Disney Archives · Semmel Exhibitions · Mackay Regional Council · Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre MECC · Queensland · bishopp · Caneland Central Mackay · ibis Hotels · Mackay Airport · woollam Constructions

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Bring over 100 years of Disney magic to your next school trip

Whether you're travelling to Mackay for sport, dance, music, agriculture, debate or another school event, or want to create an excursion built around Disney and all of its magic for your students - why not make the most of your visit?

Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic is making its Australian debut in Mackay and is the perfect addition to your itinerary.

Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic is making history as it debuts in regional Australia, making this extraordinary experience more accessible than ever.

Running over a five-month season, there are plenty of opportunities to visit the exhibition or include it as part of your school's visit to the Mackay region.









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Why Schools Love It!

For over a century, The Walt Disney Company has brought its iconic stories and characters to life in new and innovative ways, becoming part of the global culture and creating generations of memories for billions.

Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic invites guests to step into eight magnificent and imaginatively themed galleries, where moving stories, unique interactive installations, and behind-the-scenes glimpses will take visitors on a journey through over 100 years of The Walt Disney Company. The Walt Disney Archives has opened its vault of treasures, showcasing many of Disney's "Crown Jewels"— more than 120 artefacts including works of art, costumes and props, and memorabilia.



Relevant learning opportunities across over 100 years of storytelling.

Subject links across: English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Animation, Visual Arts, Media, STEM, Drama, Music and Digital Technologies.





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What are the eight Galleries?

Gallery 1 – Where It All Began

Learning areas	Students will explore
• Humanities & Social Sciences	• Historical Inquiry
• English	• Authentic historical artefacts
• The Arts (Visual Arts & Media Arts)	• Chronology and change over time
	• Innovation and entrepreneurship
	• Creativity and problem solving
	• Visual storytelling

This gallery introduces visionary filmmaker and innovator Walt Disney and explores the ideas and philosophies that laid the foundation for The Walt Disney Company. Students will explore his story from before Mickey Mouse to Mickey's debut in *Steamboat Willie* in 1928 to the fantastic breakthroughs in animation during the early 1930s.





Gallery 2 – Where Do the Stories Come From?

Learning areas	Students will explore
• English	• How ideas are developed into stories
• The Arts (Visual Arts & Media Arts)	• Character creation and development
	• Narrative structure and plot
	• Adapting traditional stories for modern audiences
	• Inspiration from literature, folklore and real life
	• Communicating ideas through words and images
	• Creative thinking and imagination

A gallery dedicated to the art of storytelling with ever-changing multimedia environments that illustrate how Disney storytellers bring characters to life. Guests can explore the sources of inspiration for some of Disney's most beloved and iconic films through art and artifacts from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), *Mary Poppins (1964), and Frozen* (2013).





DID YOU KNOW? Many Disney stories began long before they appeared on the big screen. This gallery explores how classic fairy tales, folklore, books and original ideas inspired generations of Disney storytellers, showing students that creativity often begins by reimagining stories in new and exciting ways.

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What are the 8 Galleries?

Gallery 3 - The Spirit of Adventure and Discovery

Learning areas	Students will explore
• English	• Adventure and discovery
• The Arts (Visual Arts & Media Arts)	• Hero's journey and storytelling
• Humanities & Social Sciences	• Curiosity and exploration
	• Exploring artefacts and the stories they tell
	• World building and imaginary worlds
	• Problem solving and critical thinking
	• Character, setting and conflict

From the depths of the ocean and the mysteries of the jungle to the outer reaches of the galaxy, adventure stories from Disney, Star Wars, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe invite exploration and discovery in this interactive gallery where curious youngsters can embark on a quest to uncover hidden artifacts from favourite films.







Gallery 4 – Innoventions

Learning areas	Students will explore
• Design & Technologies	• Innovation and invention
• Digital Technologies	• Design thinking
• Science	• Emerging technologies
• The Arts (Media Arts)	• Creative problem-solving
	• Digital storytelling
	• Collaboration and creativity
	• The relationship between technology and the arts

Innoventions explores Walt Disney's passion for technological innovation and how new ideas and technology have continually pushed the boundaries of storytelling. The gallery celebrates the role of imagination, invention and innovation across Disney history—from early animation breakthroughs to modern filmmaking and immersive experiences.





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What are the 8 Galleries?

Gallery 5 – The Illusion of Life

Learning areas	Students will explore
• English	• Storytelling and narrative
• The Arts (Visual Arts & Media Arts)	• Adapting literature for new audiences
	• Character and setting
	• Visual communication
	• Creative interpretation
	• Inspiration from myths, legends and fairy tales
	• Comparing original and adapted texts

The Illusion of Life gallery invites visitors to explore animation models and sketches showing the origins of characters such as Ariel from *The Little Mermaid (1989)* and the dress worn by Emma Stone in *Cruella (2021)*. Visitors can discover the animation models with miniatures of characters such as Pocahontas and Woody from *Toy Story (1995),* Hercules from *Hercules (1997),* Mulan from *Mulan (1998),* Lightning McQueen from *Cars (2006),* and Jafar from *Aladdin (1992).*





Gallery 6 – The Magic of Sound and Music

Learning areas	Students will explore
• English	• Music as storytelling
• The Arts (Visual Arts & Media Arts)	• Sound, mood and emotion
	• Creative expression
	• Sound design and innovation
	• Performance and audience engagement
	• Music across cultures
	• The relationship between sound and visual storytelling

Music has the power to tell stories, create emotion and bring unforgettable characters to life. From the groundbreaking synchronised sound of *Steamboat Willie* to the songs that have inspired generations, this gallery celebrates the magic of music in Disney storytelling. Through immersive experiences, iconic melodies and one-of-a-kind artefacts from the Walt Disney Archives, students will discover how music has helped shape some of Disney's most memorable moments—and why it continues to connect audiences around the world.



DID YOU KNOW?
Steamboat Willie (1928) was the first cartoon with synchronised sound. This breakthrough changed animation forever and helped establish music and sound as an essential part of Disney storytelling.



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What are the 8 Galleries?

Gallery 7 – A Day in the Parks

Learning areas	Students will explore
• Humanities & Social Sciences	• Place and environment
• Digital Technologies	• Tourism and visitor experience
• English	• Designing immersive environments
• The Arts (Media Arts)	• Mapping and wayfinding
	• Storytelling through place
	• Innovation in themed experiences
	• Global connections and cultures





Step into a recreation of *Main Street, U.S.A.* and discover how Walt Disney's vision transformed the entertainment industry. This interactive gallery explores the history, development and global impact of Disney Parks, celebrating the creativity, imagination and immersive storytelling that continues to inspire millions of visitors around the world.

Gallery 8 – We're Just Getting Started

Learning areas	Students will explore
• English	• Innovation and future thinking
• Design & Technologies	• Creativity and imagination
• The Arts (Media Arts & Visual Arts)	• Goal setting and aspirations
• Future Pathways	• Designing for the future
	• Curiosity and lifelong learning
	• Reflection and personal growth
	• Creative careers and opportunities





"We keep moving forward – opening up new doors and doing new things – because we're curious."
– Walt Disney

The final gallery invites students to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and imagine what comes next through creativity, innovation and endless possibilities.

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School Group Information

Disney: The Exhibition - A Century of Magic offers opportunities for cross-curricular learning across English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Visual Arts, Media Arts, Drama, Music, Digital Technologies, Design and Technologies, and STEM. Teachers are encouraged to use the exhibition as a stimulus for inquiry-based learning, creative projects and reflective discussion.

School Group Price - $45 per person
When making your enquiry, simply let Ticketek know:

- Number of students
- Number of adults

(1 x complimentary teacher ticket per group booking, additional teachers will be charged at the student price of $45 each)

Booking your visit
School bookings are managed through Ticketek. Scan the QR code below to complete the online request form and a Ticketek team member will contact you to arrange payment and confirm your booking. Once your booking is confirmed, leave the rest to us. The MECC team will be preparing everything behind the scenes for your arrival.





A VIP welcome

Schools receive a little extra magic...
Every school group will be welcomed by a member of the MECC team who will:

- greet your group on arrival
- assist with entry
- provide a safe space to store school bags
- answer questions about the exhibition
- help ensure your visit runs smoothly

We want your excursion to be as easy and enjoyable as possible.

Every student receives:
A **Disney Adventure Passport.**
A folded A6 booklet. Inside:

- Spot your favourite character
- Favourite exhibit
- Draw your own character
- Fun facts and trivia

Plus a selection of MECC-branded stationery to help students capture their discoveries throughout the day.

SCAN FOR TICKETS

PLEASE NOTE: This guide highlights possible curriculum connections only. Schools are encouraged to determine how the exhibition best supports their own teaching and learning programs.

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Make it a full day in Mackay

Artspace Mackay

FREE
Just a short walk from the MECC.
During the Disney exhibition there will also be changing exhibitions suitable for school visits.
Schools can even book a personalised education tour.
Contact: Artspace Public Programs & Education
(07) 4961 9722 | artspace@mackay.qld.gov.au



BB Print Stadium

FREE
Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at a sporting venue? Ask about stadium tours. Perfect for sporting teams.
Contact: BB Print Stadium | 07 4961 9515
stadiummackay@mackay.qld.gov.au



Bluewater Lagoon

FREE – Open 9am to 6pm.
Perfect for end-of-day fun. Three lagoons. Slides. Water play. Picnic facilities. Conveniently located near Caneland Central.



Cape Hillsborough

FREE
Cape Hillsborough Nature Tourist Park is a beachcomber's paradise, set along the stunning Casuarina Bay, between Cape Hillsborough and Andrews Point. Discover caves, rock pools, unique geological formations and wide stretches of sand. At sunrise, kangaroos and wallabies hop down to the beach to feed on mangrove pods that have washed up with overnight tides. Please read important information at capehillsboroughresort.com.au/wildlife. Contact: Cape Hillsborough Nature Tourist Park (07) 4959 0152 | enquiries@chntp.com.au



Make it a full day in Mackay

Mackay's Street Art – Tour

FREE

Enjoy a guided tour through Mackay's city where you view vibrant large-scale murals in the city centre. Contact: Artspace Public Programs & Education (07) 4961 9722 | artspace@mackay.qld.gov.au



North QLD Bulk Port School Tour

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities by North Queensland Bulk Ports, who facilitate 54% of Queensland's international trade by volume, including 68% of the state's coal exports, across their ports of Mackay, Hay Point, Abbot Point and Weipa. Requirements: You will need your own bus (preferred bus supplier is Kinetic). If you'd like to exit the bus, for a group photo, all students must be in correct PPE (including long sleeves, long pants and closed in shoes). Contact: Ange Julian | (07) 4969 0741 ajulian@nqbp.com.au



Sarina Sugar Shed

$16 per student / teacher

Your students will enjoy a guided tour through the Sarina Sugar Shed, where they will learn how sugar is produced through an engaging, hands-on tour experience. Contact: Sarina Sugar Shed (07) 49432801 | sarinasugarshed.com.au



Wake House Australia

Price on application

The team at Wake House Australia tailor sessions and adjust cable speeds to suit absolute beginners so that teachers can be confident students are learning in a positive, controlled environment. Contact: Wake House Australia | 1300 500 261 | wakehouse.com.au



Suggested itineraries

Visiting Mackay for a Sports Carnival, Cultural Camp or Coastal Escape?
Check out these itinerary options!

ITINERARY ONE – SPORTS CARNIVAL

Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Morning of regional sport	Morning of regional sport	Morning of regional sport
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Afternoon of regional sport	Afternoon of regional sport	Travel Home
Return to accommodation, shower and get ready for evening activities	Tour of Artspace Mackay / BB Print Stadium	
Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic	Dinner and back to accommodation	
Dinner and back to accommodation		

ITINERARY TWO – CULTURAL CAMP

Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Travel to Mackay	Breakfast	Breakfast
Lunch	Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic	Tour of Central Queensland Conservatorium
Tour of North QLD Bulk Ports	Lunch	Lunch
Play at Mulherin Park (Mackay Harbour)	Artspace Mackay – Guided tour of exhibition	Travel Home
Arrive at accommodation / settle in	Bluewater Lagoon	
Dinner and evening activities	Return to accommodation, dinner and evening activities	
Dinner and back to accommodation		

ITINERARY THREE – COASTAL ESCAPE

Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Travel to Mackay	Rise and Shine – Wallabies at sunrise, Cape Hillsborough	Breakfast
Lunch	BBQ Breakfast at the park, Cape Hillsborough	Mackay's Street Art – walking guided tour
Wakeboard fun at Wake House Australia	Andrew's Point Trail - Hike	Lunch
Arrive at accommodation / settle in	Lunch	Artspace Mackay – Guided tour of exhibition
Dinner and evening activities	Disney: The Exhibition – A Century of Magic	Travel Home
	Return to accommodation, Dinner and evening activities	

Looking for more experiences while you're in Mackay?

Our Engagement Team is happy to help build a customised itinerary for your visit. Whether you're here for two hours or two days, we can suggest activities, lunch locations and other educational experiences to help make the most of your time in Mackay.

Contact us today: mecc@mackay.qld.gov.au

Please note: Schools are encouraged to enquire early to secure their preferred date and session time, particularly during Term 1 and popular travel periods.





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