

# CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY

## Discover the stories of Australia's convict women

The World Heritage-listed Cascades Female Factory is Australia's most significant historic site associated with female convicts. It was a purpose built, self-contained institution intended to reform female convicts. Thousands of women and children were imprisoned here, and many never left, due to high rates of illness and infant mortality.

Visiting the site today can be both emotional and rewarding, creating a connection with the stories of female convicts in Australia and their children – stories that are often tragic, but that also inspire hope and resilience.

Located in the shadow of Mount Wellington a short distance from the Hobart waterfront, the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site also offers a good introduction to Tasmania's convict heritage and is a great starting-point for exploring the island's other World Heritage-listed convict sites, at Port Arthur, the Coal Mines, Maria Island and at Woolmers and Brickendon Estates.

The stories of the Cascades Female Factory and its inmates are brought to life for visitors in a variety of ways. **Visitors may explore by themselves** with the assistance of our excellent printed Visitor Guide to learn about the Site's convict past and more recent industrial heritage. Ingenious architectural, sculptural and landscape elements reveal the location of long-lost buildings and hint at the people, pathways and activities of daily life within the forbidding stone walls of the prison.

Our **Heritage Tour** is offered several times each day and offers a guided introduction to the site and its stories. In this 45 minute tour our guide will offer insights into the regimented system of punishment and reform that operated within these walls, and also poses the question whether these women were more sinned against than sinning?



*A reminder of the Female Factory's role as a laundry and sewing service*

That question is further explored in *Her Story*, our dramatised guided walking tour which operates at 11am daily. Two actors perform the story of a convict woman who experienced the harsh realities of the Female Factory system. It is an emotional but rewarding experience lasting about an hour.

A small gift shop offers books, cards, souvenirs, local craft items and light refreshments as well as visitor amenities and services. For those with convict ancestry, a research service is available on request.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site is one of 11 places that comprise the Australian World Heritage Convict Sites property. It is managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

### **Cascades Female Factory Historic Site**

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Entry fees contribute to the ongoing conservation of the Site. Site entry is \$5, the Heritage Tour is an additional \$10 and *Her Story* costs \$20 (Adult retail prices valid to 31/03/2016).

Located 20 minutes from Hobart International Airport, the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site is situated in South Hobart beneath the majestic Mt Wellington.

