SCHOOL VISITS to the PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

Guidelines for teachers planning a visit

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITES

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Teachers and students will have a more enjoyable and engaging experience at the site, teaching is done before the excursion. Our website has information on our *'Discovery Box'* and our interactive CD ROM *'Key to Port Arthur Investigations'*.

Speaking with our on-site Education Officer, who is a trained teacher, is a good way to ensure you get the most from your visit.

ARRIVAL AT PORT ARTHUR

In order to get your visit off to a smooth start, be sure to arrive at the Visitor Centre (please see our site map on the website) at least 30 minutes before you are scheduled to begin your tour, so we can check you in. Please call Reservations on 1800 659 101 to let us know if you are running behind time.

Coaches are permitted to drop off passengers outside the Visitor Centre on the lowest level (Level 0) and coach parking is available in the areas marked along the side of the main car parks.

VISITOR CENTRE

All the facilities at the Visitor Centre allow independent access: the café, the restaurant, gift shop, interpretation gallery and rest rooms.

FIRST AID

First aid enquiries should be made to the ticketing staff or emergency situations reported to guides.

CLOTHING

Suitable clothing is important and the weather at Port Arthur is quite changeable! Hats, sunscreen, a warm jumper, and a raincoat, or jacket are recommended. As the surfaces here can be very uneven, closed toe shoes, suitable for walking are recommended.

FOOD

We have food outlets at the Visitor Centre and the Museum. If you require catering, that can also be arranged to suit your needs. If you are self catering please check with Reservations about locations.

OTHER

Toilets are signposted about the site, and are marked on the map in *'Your Guide to Port Arthur'*. Lockers are available at the Visitor Centre where items can be left all day, but cost $2 each time they are opened.

SUPERVISION

Please be aware of supervision requirements on site. Teachers are required to be with their students *AT ALL TIMES.* Please refer to the Education department website for guidelines regarding outdoor programs; (www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoor/excursion).

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Code of Conduct for School Visits

BEHAVIOUR

For many visitors, a trip to Port Arthur is a very powerful and moving experience. As a visitor to Port Arthur, please be mindful of the experience of other visitors who are experiencing the site at the same time as your group, inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

CARE OF THE SITE

This site is fragile and in places, ruinous. We ask visitors to be mindful of this and not be tempted to climb upon or interfere with the exhibits or buildings and surrounds. Port Arthur is a Heritage Site and as such we need to look after it and to also prevent accidents occurring to people who visit.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Port Arthur is an archaeological site as well as a tourist site. As such, any material found on site, is important for telling the story of its past. Often there are artefacts (objects such as broken ceramics, nails, etc.), turning up in the soil and grounds of the site. These MUST NOT BE TOUCHED or TAKEN. It is tempting to pick it up and hand it in to someone, but in order to assist us in maintaining the site, leaving things where they are is the best way. Once something is removed, our archaeologists have lost some pieces of the puzzle!

RUBBISH

We take pride in the appearance of Port Arthur, and while we have many bins around the site for the disposal of rubbish, one may not always be to hand, in which case, we ask that you hang on to your rubbish until a bin is found.

HARBOUR CRUISE

A harbour cruise on the ferry is included in your site entry. Being on the water poses obvious risks and as such, appropriate supervision of students and monitoring of their behaviour is expected. There is an on board commentary during the trip about the things you will be seeing and as such, orderly behaviour will help your students, and others, to make the most of this wonderful experience.

OUR GUIDES

All our guides at Port Arthur are very passionate and are extremely knowledgeable about the site. When on tours with them, please ensure student groups respect this and behave in an appropriate manner.

28 APRIL 1996

The Port Arthur massacre occurred at the Historic Site and in the surrounding township on this date. A lone gunman shot and killed 35 people and physically injured 19 others. The Memorial Garden is situated within the Site and we encourage people to pay their respects. There is a brochure available with brief details of this tragedy from the Visitor Centre and we encourage you to view the details on this topic on our website and discuss with your students before visiting.

CONTACTS

Reservations
Ph: 1800 659 101
Email: reservations@portarthur.org.au

Education Officer
Ph: (03) 6251 2367
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