**THE MILITARY DISTRICT**

Comprising: Court Town (4), Senior Military Officer’s Quarters (4), Officers’ Quarters (2).

For most of the convict period, the Senior Military Officer’s Quarters was the home of the Military Officer in charge of the soldiers of Port Arthur. The soldiers of Port Arthur were responsible for security and for policing and capturing escaped convicts. A small number of soldiers were accompanied by their wives who worked as nurses, and provided basic nursing care for the men in their husband’s company. Children of the soldiers and lower ranking settlement officials and free staff were educated together in the adjoining Free School.

**CONVICT ADMINISTRATION**

Comprising: Commandant’s House (3), Latto Court (6).

The Commandant was Port Arthur’s most senior official. A residence built in 1850 and restored to its 1863 appearance, the house had five main rooms on the first floor and two on the second. The lower ground floor is the Commandant’s Quarters, the first floor is known as ‘Van Diemen’s Land’, discipline and punishment formed the ‘indiscipline ragout’ known as ‘terror mania’.

**THE ISLE OF THE DEAD (1)**

Between 1837 and 1877 around 1100 people were buried in the settlement’s cemetery. The Isle of the Dead was the final resting place for military and civil personnel who served in Port Arthur, from 1832 to 1914. The Memorial Garden incorporates the remains of 35 people and physically wounded remaining from the Battle of Repulse Bay, September 1942.

**THE DOCKYARD**

Comprising: Shipwright’s House (3), Screwery (1), Boat House (1), Slipway (1), Slipway House (1).

During its 15 years of operation, Port Arthur’s Dockyard produced to large decked vessels and 100 small open-boats. At its peak, more than 70 men worked here. The precinct included a Blacksmith’s workshop, two separate stoves for burning timber, a rigging shop and several other workshop spaces. The line produced from the Dockyard was an essential ingredient for building construction at Port Arthur. A 20-metre-long sculpture sits in one of the Dockyard’s two ships, evoking the scale of the ship that was made there. The sounds of long-cast iron industry – the Blacksmith’s bellows, the clatter of hammers, voices – can be heard as you explore the area.

**THE PENITENTIARY (1)**

In the early days of the penal settlement, convicts were housed in rough-timber huts. These were located near the site of the Police Station. Later, with convict numbers increased, the floor size and granularity was converted into four-storey Penitentiary, due to its failure to supply adequate space for the settlement.

The Penitentiary was two storey brick building containing 136 cells for ‘prisoners of bad character’. The top floor provided space for 48 better behaved convicts to sleep in safety. A very large industrial area near the penitentiary included workshops where prisoners worked and were trained in a range including carpentry, shoemaking, wood turning and blacksmithing. There is no longer any evidence visible above the surface.

**THE HOSPITAL (1)**

Comprising: The Hospital (5), Jepson Depot (11), the Anatomy (22).

In the Hospital were were commonly treated for numerous conditions including suppuring abscesses caused from working conditions and sleeping in cold cells and wet clothing. By the early 1860s, many convicts were housed and burned in the ‘Furnace’ Department by the Convicts. According to him, the Convicts included: a calm environment. Port Arthur now includes a Museum, Convict Study Centre and the Museum Coffee Shop.

**OFFICIALS’ ROW, GOVERNMENT COTTAGES AND GOVERNMENT GARDENS**

Comprising: Visiting Magistrate’s House (10), Roman Catholic Chaplain’s House (27), Junior Medical Officer’s House (18), Accountant’s House (19), Forestry (28), Government Cottage (29).

The Officers’ Row separated senior officers and their families from the convict population and provided them with housing suited to their status.

The Government Gardens offered a quiet and beautiful space, free from the usual hazards of the convict settlement. Tours to the Isle operate daily.

**THE CHURCH (2)**

The Church represents the majority role of religion in convict reform. The church building was a long and narrow building with a tower designed to accommodate a large congregation and a church bell to sound the hour. The church was built in 1846 and was the only stone building on the island.

**SMITH GREEN’S COTTAGE (1)**

The cottage housed one of Port Arthur’s most famous political prisoners – Sir John C Campbell, later Lord Clyde. In 1841, he was sent to Port Arthur after an attempted escape from Greenock Island.

**CONTACTER WATER TRAILS (1)**

The final trail is the story of an ambitious project that aimed to make the convict settlement self-sufficient in the production of food. A 400 metre, self-guided trail reveals the surviving artefacts from this convic key development project. The walk takes about 30 minutes.

**THE SEPARATE PRISON (1)**

The Separate Prison was designed to deliver a new method of punishment of convict reform through isolation and confinement. Convicts were locked for 23 hours each day in single cells. Here they ate, slept and worked, with just one hour a day allowed for exercise, alone, in a high walled yard. A major conservation program to the Separate Prison began in 2007.

**CARNARVON BAY**

Comprising: St David’s Chapel (16), Roman Catholic Chapel (119), Junior Medical Officer’s House (24), Accountant’s House (25), Forestry (26), Government Cottage (27).

The Separated Prison is a rolling green hill, surrounded by a natural forest and an area of low cultivation. The Prison Station was built in 1842, and was surrounded by gardens and a sea to the rear.

**VISITOR GUIDE**

Port Arthur Historic Site

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Port Arthur Historic Site
The Port Arthur Historic Site is a place of national and international significance – part of the epic story of the settlement of this country.

Port Arthur was much more than a prison. It was a community – home to military personnel and free settlers. The convicts worked at farming and industries, producing a large range of resources and materials.

The Port Arthur Historic Site contains more than 30 historic buildings, extensive ruins and beautiful grounds and gardens. A short ferry ride from the Site is the Isle of the Dead and the cemetery, of the Port Puer Boys’ Prison – both important parts of the Site.

Port Arthur’s tale is told in a variety of different ways. As you explore the Site, many stories will reveal themselves to you.

By 1840 more than 2000 convicts, workers and their staff arrived at Port Arthur, which by this time was a major penal settlement. A range of goods and materials were produced here – everything from wooden masts and timbers to furniture and clothing, boats and ships.

With the end of convict transportation to Van Diemen’s Land in 1855, Port Arthur also became an institution for-aged and physically and mentally ill convicts. The penal settlement closed in 1877 and in 1912 many of its buildings were donated to the Mount Gambier and district hospitals.

Nowadays, the Port Arthur community of convicts, free men and their families from Port Phillip and Hobart often visit the convict settlement to remember their family members.

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