

PORT ARTHUR *Historic Site*

VISITOR GUIDE

Commodore
Department
Port Arthur
11/1/57

**Please
wear your
lanyard at
all times**



NO DRONES



**PLEASE DO
NOT DISTURB
THE SITE**

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Your entry is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Visitors enter this Historic Site entirely at their own risk. Please exercise due care and attention.

The Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA), its employees and agents shall not be liable, either in contract or for negligence, for any injury, loss or damage, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, arising out of or caused by the condition of the land, any building or structure within the site, any natural or other hazard, or by any activity on the site.

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority retains the right to deny access and/or eject visitors who are being a public nuisance, acting recklessly or failing to observe directions from signage or PAHSMA staff.

Help us conserve our site by not climbing on the ruins or disturbing any heritage material. Please note drones are not permitted on site.

Welcome to the Port Arthur Historic Site.

Port Arthur is a place of national and international significance — part of the epic story of forced migration and settlement of this country.

Port Arthur was much more than a prison; it was a complete community, home to convicts, military and civilian officers and their families. The convicts worked at many industries producing goods and services for use locally and to be sold in Hobart and beyond. The military and civilian officers were tasked with security and administration of the settlement.

Before Europeans arrived in the region, the land, its natural resources and abundant waters were utilised by the **Pydarerme** people of the **Paredarmerme** language group.

Containing more than 30 historic buildings, extensive ruins and beautiful grounds and gardens, the Site has many stories to explore.

We hope that you enjoy your time with us.



YOUR VISIT

Your day pass is valid for two consecutive days and includes access to:

- interactive experiences for all ages in the Port Arthur Gallery, located in the Visitor Centre;
- a 40 minute introductory walking tour — a fascinating introduction to Port Arthur, its people and its past;
- a 20 minute harbour cruise passing the Dockyard, Point Puer Boys' Prison and the Isle of the Dead. The ferry leaves punctually, so please make sure you arrive at the jetty ten minutes before your cruise time (Map **26**);
- the Museum — located in the Asylum (Map **12**);
- more than 30 historic buildings, ruins, restored museum houses and grounds and gardens;
- the Convict Water Supply Trail and the Dockyard (Map **10 27 28 29 30**); and
- a buggy shuttle service for people with restricted mobility.

Optional extra tours are available for an additional cost, bookings are essential. Please ask our staff at the ticketing counter in the Visitor Centre.

THE TICKET OF LEAVE is our great value, two-year pass — available for a small additional fee. This allows free return entry to the Site as often as you like for two years from the date of your first visit.



**LAW COURTS, GUARD TOWER
AND COMMANDANT'S HOUSE**
c1860s



**Use your card
to 'discover
their fate' in the
drawers of the Port
Arthur Gallery.**



INSIDE OUR VISITOR CENTRE



**Site entry
and tour tickets**



Gift shop



**Café +
Restaurant & Bar**



First Aid



ATM



Parent room



**Visitor Information
desk** — information
and bookings



Three Capes Track
check-in office and
locker facilities



Locker facilities

WHERE TO SHOP AND EAT

Our Gift Shop offers an extensive range of gifts, books and specialist Tasmanian and Port Arthur items. It is open daily.

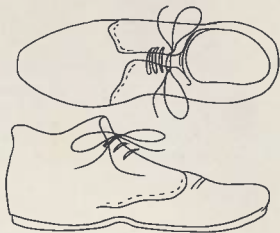
There are two cafés on site. The main café in the Visitor Centre is open daily from 9am and remains open until the last Ghost Tour has departed.

The Asylum Café is open daily. Indulge in coffee and fresh cakes, delicious snacks and light meals accompanied by a glass of wine or a range of hot and cold drinks.

Enjoy a drink or dinner of superbly prepared fresh local produce in 1830 Restaurant & Bar — located in the Visitor Centre, and open daily. Reservations can be made at the ticketing desk. (Hours of operation vary seasonally)

SAFETY ONSITE

The weather at Port Arthur can be changeable. Most tours take place outdoors and operate in all weather, so be prepared with sun protection, warm clothing, a raincoat or umbrella. The ground in some places is uneven, so comfortable and sturdy walking shoes are recommended.



Rachel Tribout.

LIMITED MOBILITY ACCESS

The Site comprises a variety of areas, some of which allow independent access, others which may require assisted access, and unfortunately some with restricted access.

Our introductory walking tour and harbour cruise are both wheelchair accessible. However, several of our optional tours are unfortunately NOT recommended for visitors with mobility restrictions. Please check with staff.

Wheelchairs and strollers are available for loan from the Visitor Centre. Our courtesy buggies provide a regular drop-off and pick-up service around the Site for visitors with limited mobility. Please enquire on arrival for times of operation.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority recognises and wishes to pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, in particular, the **Pydarerme** people of the **Paredarerme** language group, as the traditional, original and continuing custodians of the land on which the Port Arthur Historic Site stands today. Cultural sites representing many tens of thousands of years of occupation still remain in the area, though many were destroyed or pillaged as a result of British settlement of the region.

The Port Arthur penal station was established in 1830 as a timber-getting camp, using convict labour to produce sawn logs for government projects. From 1833 Port Arthur was used as a punishment station for repeat offenders from all the Australian colonies.

Port Arthur was built on a philosophy of discipline and punishment, religious and moral instruction, classification and separation, training and education. Many men were broken by the system; others left rehabilitated, educated and skilled.

Port Arthur's community of military and free people lived their lives in stark contrast to the convict population. Parties, regattas and literary evenings were common, and beautiful gardens were created as places of sanctuary.

By 1840 more than 2000 convicts, soldiers and civil staff lived here and Port Arthur was a major industrial settlement, producing a range of goods and materials — everything from worked stone and bricks to furniture, clothing, boats and ships.

With convict transportation to Van Diemen's Land ceasing in 1853, Port Arthur became an institution for aging, and physically and mentally ill convicts.

The penal settlement closed in 1877 and many of its buildings were dismantled or destroyed in bushfires. Others were sold and the small town was renamed Carnarvon in an attempt to erase the hated 'convict stain'. Tourism began almost immediately after the closure of the penal settlement.

On 29 August 1916 Port Arthur was officially recognised as a place of 'historic interest' by the Scenery Preservation Board. By the 1920s, some convict-period buildings had become museums, hotels and shops and the settlement was once again named Port Arthur. In 1971 the National Parks and Wildlife Service took over management of Port Arthur.

Gradually the State Government acquired portions of the Site from private owners and a major conservation project started in the 1980s.

Today, the site is managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, which formed in October 1987.

On Sunday 28 April 1996, a tragic chapter was added to Port Arthur's history when a gunman took the lives of 35 people and physically wounded 19 others in and around the Port Arthur Historic Site. Within days, employees, community members and the State and National governments were working towards reopening the site to visitors.

In July 2010, Port Arthur and 10 other sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property.

Long. Port Arthur Cook

WORLD HERITAGE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



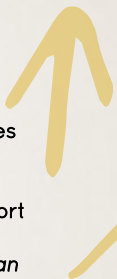
Australian Convict Sites
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2010

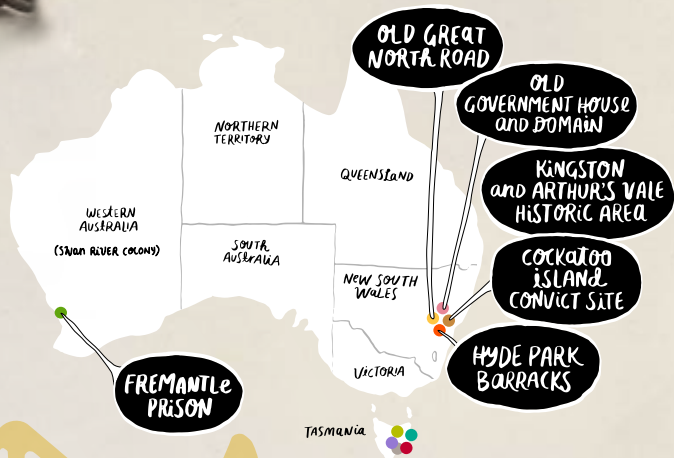


The Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property is a serial listing of eleven sites across Australia that collectively represent the world's first conscious attempt to build a new society on the labour of convicted prisoners.

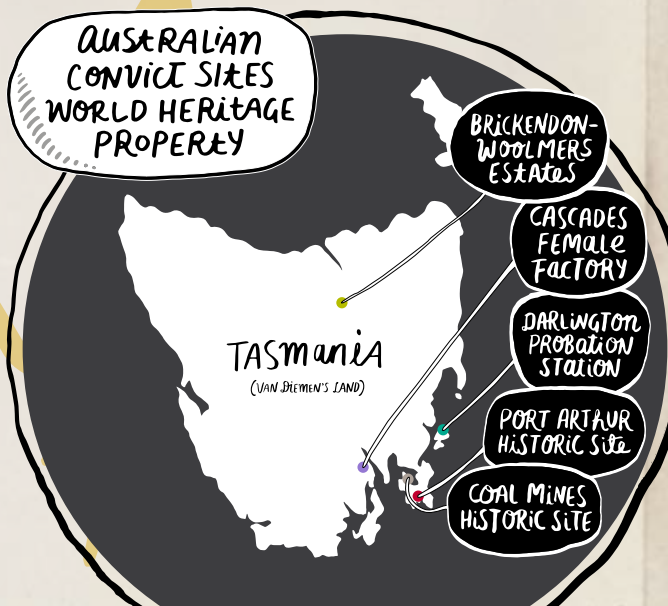
The eleven sites are pre-eminent examples of Australia's rich convict history, with more than 3000 convict sites remaining around Australia.

To gain a deep understanding of the Australian and Tasmanian convict story, we recommend that you visit all the Tasmanian sites included in the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property – the Port Arthur Historic Site, Coal Mines Historic Site (*Tasman Peninsula*), Woolmers Estate and Brickendon (*Longford*), Cascades Female Factory Historic Site (*South Hobart*) and Darlington Probation Station (*Maria Island*).





AUSTRALIAN CONVICT SITES WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY



VISITOR MAP

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 The Penitentiary | 20 Parsonage |
| 2 Police Station | 21 The Church |
| 3 Law Courts | 22 Government Cottage |
| 4 Guard Tower | 23 Government Gardens |
| 5 Commandant's House | 24 St David's Church |
| 6 Senior Military Officer's Quarters | 25 Memorial Garden |
| 7 Officers' Quarters | 26 Ferry/Dock |
| 8 Smith O'Brien's Cottage | 27 Dockyard Slipway and Sculpture |
| 9 Hospital | 28 Limekiln |
| 10 Convict Water Supply Trail | 29 Master Shipwright's House |
| 11 Paupers' Depot | 30 Clerk of Works' House |
| 12 The Asylum | 31 Isle of the Dead |
| 13 The Separate Prison | 32 Point Puer Boys' Prison |
| 14 Soldiers' Memorial Avenue | 33 Pat Jones' Cottage |
| 15 Trentham | |
| 16 Visiting Magistrate's House | |
| 17 Roman Catholic Chaplain's House | |
| 18 Junior Medical Officer's House | |
| 19 Accountant's House (Education Centre) | |



31

32

27

28

29

30



Walking track to Dockyard

Ferry

Jetty
Cottage

CAR
PARK



Site Entry

Exit

NO PUBLIC VEHICLE ACCESS





CARNARVON BAY

MASON COVE

26

Canadian Cottage

25

VISITOR CENTRE



33

TARLETON STREET

23

GOVERNMENT GARDENS

JETTY ROAD

CHURCH STREET



Museum
& Cafe

9

11

12

13

14

TRAMWAY STREET

15

CHAMP STREET

24

19

20

21

22

17

18

16

Farm Overseer's
Cottage

Scorpion
Rock
Lookout

The Penitentiary (1857) 1

This building was originally constructed as a flour mill and granary in 1845. Grain was ground by either a water-powered mill or, when the water flow was inadequate, by convicts walking on a treadmill — one of the harshest punishments at Port Arthur.

Although the building was beautifully designed and one of the largest in the colony, the venture ultimately ended due to an insufficient water supply and competing priorities for space and industry. The mill was converted into the Penitentiary between 1854 and 1857.

The lower floors of the building housed 136 separate cells. The ground floor housed the men in heavy irons, the first floor, those in lighter irons. The dormitory was located on the uppermost floor, accommodating 348 men in basic bunk-style beds. There was also a library, mess room and Roman Catholic chapel. It was used to house prisoners until the settlement closed in 1877. The building was devastated by fire in 1897 leaving only the masonry walls and barred windows behind.

A large scale conservation project was undertaken between 2012 and 2018.



The Church (1837) 21

The Church represents the important role of religion in convict reform at Port Arthur. Up to 1100 people attended compulsory services here each Sunday.

Much of the decorative stonework and joinery in the church was crafted by boys from the Point Puer Boys' Prison. The Church was never consecrated, allowing for multi-denominational services to be held.



Commandant's House (1833-56) 5**Law Courts (1846) 3**

The Commandant was Port Arthur's most senior official. A residence befitting this rank and position was erected on high ground in 1833 and grew substantially over the years of occupation.

The Law Courts served as 'home' to the rules and regulations of the settlement. It was here that the rules were outlined by a clerk the day convicts first arrived and where punishments were ordered if a convict broke the rules.

**Commandant's
House**

5



Guard Tower (1835) 4

Senior Military Officer's Quarters (1833) 6

Officers' Quarters (1844) 7

For most of the convict period, the Senior Military Officer's Quarters was the home of the Military Officer in charge of the soldiers at Port Arthur. The soldiers were responsible for security and for pursuing and capturing escaped convicts. A small number of

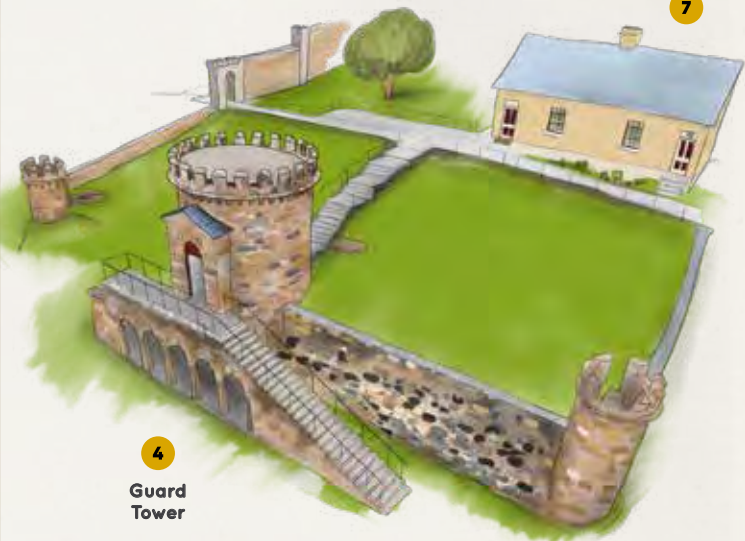
soldiers were accompanied by their wives who washed, sewed and provided basic nursing care for the men in their husband's company. Children of the soldiers, lower ranking settlement officials and free staff were educated together in the nearby Free School.

**Officers'
Quarters**

7

4

**Guard
Tower**



Hospital (1842) 9

Paupers' Depot (1864) 11

The Asylum (1868) 12

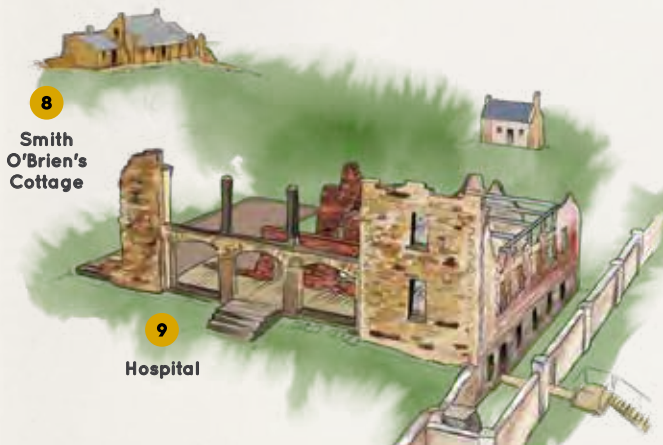
In the Hospital, convicts were treated for numerous conditions including respiratory or rheumatic ailments contracted from working outdoors and sleeping in cold cells. By the early 1860s many

convicts were housed and treated in the Paupers' Depot or the Asylum, according to new ideas that recognised the importance of mental healthcare. The Asylum today includes a museum and café.

Smith O'Brien's Cottage (1840s) 8

This cottage housed one of Port Arthur's most famous political prisoners — Irish Protestant Parliamentarian, William Smith O'Brien.

Transported for life, he was sent to Port Arthur after an attempted escape from Maria Island.



Convict Water Supply Trail (1842) 10

This trail tells the story of an ambitious project that aimed to make the convict settlement self-sufficient in the production of flour.

A 600 metre, self-guided trail reveals the surviving artefacts from this convict-built hydro-engineering project. The walk takes about 30 minutes.

The Separate Prison (1849) 13

The Separate Prison was designed to deliver a new method of punishment and reform through isolation and contemplation.

Convicts were locked in single cells for 23 hours each day. 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 for the Separate Prison occurred between 2007 and 2012.

The Asylum 12

Separate Prison 13



Visiting Magistrate's House (1847) 16

Roman Catholic Chaplain's House (1843) 17

Junior Medical Officer's House (1848) 18

Accountant's House (1842) 19

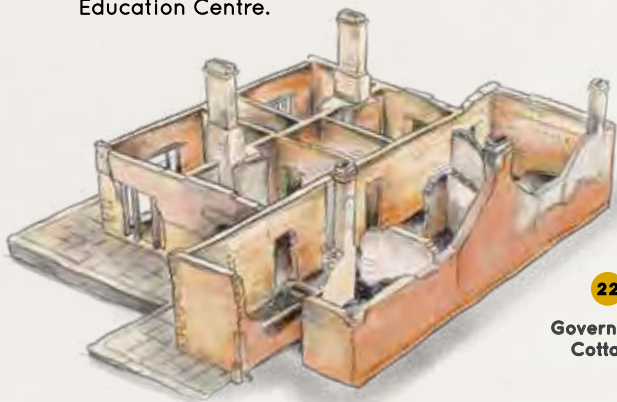
Parsonage (1842) 20

Government Cottage (1853) 22

Government Gardens (1846) 23

Civil Officers' Row separated senior officers and their families from the convict population and provided them with housing suited to their status. These houses were home mainly to medical staff and administrators, each with a small garden and outbuildings. The Accountant's house today operates as our Education Centre.

Government Cottage was built in 1853 to accommodate government officials visiting the penal settlement. Although several officials lived in it for short periods, it appears never to have had a permanent resident. The adjacent Government Gardens offered a quiet and beautiful space, free from the presence of the convicts.



22

**Government
Cottage**

Police Station (1936) 2

Soldiers' Memorial Avenue (1918) 14

Trentham (1898-1904) 15

St David's Church (1927) 24

Pat Jones' Cottage (1942) 33

Several buildings and areas remain from the post-convict period. Trentham was lived in by members of the Trentham family up to 1920. The house and garden have been restored and are open to the public.

The Soldiers' Memorial Avenue was planted to honour the men from the Carnarvon and Oakwood districts who served in the First World War.

It was replanted in the five years leading up to 2018 as the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1.

The Police Station was home to the township's policemen from 1936 to 1972. St David's Church was built after years of Anglican Church services in the Town Hall (Asylum).

Residing in her sheet metal cottage, Pat Jones was the last private resident still living on the site in 1984.

Trentham



Isle of the Dead (1833) 31

Between 1833 and 1877 around 1100 people were buried at the settlement's cemetery. The Isle of the Dead is the final resting

place not only for convicts, but also civilian and military officers, their wives and children. **Accessible only with a guided tour.**

Point Puer Boys' Prison (1834) 32

Point Puer operated from 1834 to 1849 and was the first purpose-built juvenile reformatory in the British Empire. Young offenders were separated from the older convicts to protect them from criminal influence. Most of the boys were aged between 14 and

17, with the youngest just 9 years old. Point Puer was renowned for its regime of stern discipline and harsh punishment; many of the boys received an education and some were given the opportunity of trade training. **Accessible only with a guided tour.**

ISLE OF THE DEAD
c1870



Slipway (1834-48) & Sculpture 27

Limekiln (1854) 28

Master Shipwright's House (1834) 29

Clerk of Works' House (1848) 30

During its 15 years of operation (1834-1848), Port Arthur's Dockyard produced 16 large-decked vessels and around 150 small open boats. At its peak, more than 70 men worked here. The precinct included a blacksmith's workshop, two sawpits, two steamers for bending timber, a rigging shed and several other workshops.

The lime produced from the Limekiln was an essential ingredient for building construction at Port Arthur. A 25 metre long sculpture sits in one of the Dockyard's two slips, evoking the scale of the ships that were made here. The sounds of long-vanished industry — the blacksmith's shop, sawpit, the clattering of hammers, voices — can be heard as you explore the area.

Limekiln

28

Master Shipwright's House

29



1996 Memorial Garden 25

On Sunday 28 April 1996, a tragic chapter was added to Port Arthur's history when a gunman took the lives of 35 people and physically wounded 19 others in and around the Port Arthur Historic Site. Among them were members of staff from the Historic Site.

The Memorial Garden incorporates the shell of the Broad Arrow Café, where 20 people were killed during the massacre. The garden has been created as a place of remembrance and quiet reflection.

SUNDAY
28TH APRIL 1996
PORT ARTHUR

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

We undertake a range of conservation activities at the Port Arthur Historic Site to ensure that the Site is protected for future generations to enjoy.

Today, the Site is managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. PAHSMA also manages the Coal Mines Historic Site, near Saltwater River, and the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site in South Hobart. Our vision is to conserve and enhance the heritage values of our World Heritage convict sites, and to share the stories of these places and the people connected to them.

We have established the *Port Arthur Conservation Fund* to assist us in conserving these fragile and valuable places. Please ask our staff for more information if you would like to contribute.

Your entry fee enables us to make the Site available for visitors and to ensure quality services. Your fees also contribute to the conservation of our three Sites, a responsibility supported by substantial funding from the Tasmanian Government.

PAHSMA provides a range of services and resources to assist people undertaking research into convict and colonial history, genealogy, tourism and heritage management studies. Our research team can help you with research into Tasmanian convicts — whether they came to Port Arthur or not. We can also help you to research non-convicts who had a relationship with Port Arthur or the Tasman Peninsula — for example, a Medical Officer, Commandant or Overseer.

For more information please contact us at library@portarthur.org.au



#portarthurtassie



@PortArthur



@portarthurtassie

Free
Wi-Fi



1800 659 101
portarthur.org.au

MAY 2019



Illustrations by Cathy McAuliffe. Historic images from PAHSMA.



Tasmanian
Government



Australian Government

Ongoing support for conservation is provided by the Tasmanian Government.

Selected conservation projects have been supported by funding from the Australian Government.