

Guidelines for Teachers Planning a Visit

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Teachers and students will have a more enjoyable and engaging experience at the site, if some pre-teaching is done before the excursion. Our website has links to lesson plans and other resources www.portarthur.org.au/education. Speaking with our Education Officer is also 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 main entrance (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 directly in front of the Visitor Centre and coach parking is available in the areas marked along the side of the main car parks. It would be appreciated if large groups could gather in the forecourt of the Visitor Centre while those in charge check in at the ticketing desk.

VISITOR CENTRE

Located on the upper floor of the Visitor Centre are the ticketing desk, gift shop, Port Arthur Cafe, 1830 Restaurant & Bar and toilets. On the lower floor you will find additional toilets, a locker room, the Port Arthur Gallery and the tour departure court.

THE PORT ARTHUR GALLERY

School groups are welcome to visit the Port Arthur Gallery where students can discover the fate of their Port Arthur Playing Card Character (please collect cards at the ticketing desk when you check in), as well as explore interactive displays and learn about Port Arthur's world heritage history. Please keep in mind that the gallery can be visited at any time of the day, and it is best done in small groups.

FIRST AID

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

DISABLED ACCESS

The Historic Site comprises a variety of areas, some of which provide independent access, and others which may require assisted access. Our Guided Walk and Harbour Cruise are both wheelchair accessible. However, our Ghost Tours and our tours to the Isle of the Dead and Point Puer Boys Prison are not recommended for those with mobility restrictions.

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

Food outlets are located in the Visitor Centre and the Asylum. Catering for lunch and dinner can be pre-ordered and arranged to suit your needs. If you are self-catering please check with our reservations staff about available locations. Please note that we are unable to store food.

OTHER

Toilets are signposted throughout the site, and are marked on the Visitor Map. Lockers are available on the lower floor of the Visitor Centre where items can be left all day, but cost \$2 each time they are opened.

If school bags, or any other items, are collected together (e.g. during educational activities, lunch or visiting the gift shop) they must be attended by a school staff member at all times. **This includes the area outside the Visitor Centre where buses drop-off and collect passengers.**

SUPERVISION

Please be aware of supervision requirements on site. Teachers are required to be with their students **AT ALL TIMES**. Please refer to the Tasmanian Education Department website for guidelines regarding outdoor programs ([Procedure for Planning Off Campus Activities](#)).

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. When walking through the gardens please stay on the paths and avoid walking on garden beds. Port Arthur is a World Heritage Site and as such we need to look after it and also prevent any accidents from occurring.

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.

WILDLIFE

Port Arthur is home to a large variety of native wildlife. Occasionally you might spot one of our furry, feathered or reptilian friends, and in these instances we ask you to leave them alone. All of our wildlife is vulnerable to stress especially with so many people visiting each day. Please do not attempt to chase or touch any animal that you might see, and do speak up if you see someone else doing it. If you are concerned about the wellbeing of an animal please report it to one of our staff members.

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 2389

Email: education@portarthur.org.au