

# Welcome to PORT ARTHUR

## Guidelines and code of conduct for school visits to Port Arthur Historic Site



*Teachers are expected to make themselves familiar with the details in this guide before visiting with student groups. This document can be used as a prompt for valuable pre-visit discussions with students. We thank you in advance for your support and respect of this very special site.*

### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

Prepare students for their visit. Let students know **where** they are going and **why**.

Ensure students and teachers are aware of the **care and respect** we expect all visitors to show the site.

Please **share the following expected behaviours** with your students, and brainstorm some further ideas as a class:

- Be mindful of others: You are sharing the site with visitors from all over the world!
- Take care of the site: This site is fragile so do not climb the buildings. When walking through the gardens, stick to the paths and please dispose of rubbish correctly.

- Respect nature: Do not chase or touch the wildlife. Respect history: Artefacts can sometimes be uncovered in the soil and grounds of the site. These must not be touched or taken. To our archaeologists, the ground around the item is as valuable as the item itself. If you do find something of interest, the best thing to do is leave it in place, take a picture and report it to the Visitor Centre Team.

**Pre-visit lessons** about Port Arthur, colonisation and transportation and / or the convict era can be very beneficial, and will help students get more out of their visit.

For inspiration, see **our website** for lesson plans, resources and useful links.

[www.portarthur.org.au/education](http://www.portarthur.org.au/education)

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Hat, sunscreen, a warm jumper and raincoat.
- Closed-toe shoes, suitable for walking.
- Water bottle.
- Curiosity.

Leave large backpacks and bags at school or on the bus. They will just get in the way.



## WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

- Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled start time.
- Call Reservations on 1800 659 101 to let us know if you are running late.
- 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.
- Groups should gather on the forecourt outside the Visitor Centre while the teacher-in-charge checks in.

## WHILE YOU'RE HERE:

### Visitor Centre

Entry level (upper floor): ticketing desk, gift shop, Port Arthur Café and toilets

Lower floor: additional toilets, Port Arthur Gallery and entrance to the grounds where the Guided Education Walk will begin.

### Port Arthur Gallery

Students can discover the fate of their Port Arthur Playing Card Character (cards available on arrival), explore interactive displays and learn about Port Arthur's world heritage history.

The gallery can be visited at any time of the day, in small groups (20 students).

### Harbour Cruise

Being on the water poses obvious risks and appropriate supervision of students and monitoring of their behaviour is expected.

There is an on board commentary during the trip. Considerate behaviour will help make the most of this wonderful experience.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### First Aid

First aid enquiries should be made to the ticketing staff or emergency situations reported to staff on site (i.e. Tour Guides).

### Food

Food outlets are located in the Visitor Centre.

Catering for lunch and dinner can be pre-ordered and arranged to suit your needs.

Schools are welcome to self-cater but please note that we are unable to store food.

### Access

Education Guided Walk and Harbour Cruise are both wheelchair accessible.

Ghost Tours and Point Puer Boys Prison are not recommended for those with mobility restrictions.

The Isle of the Dead is wheelchair accessible but only with assistance as some ramped sections are steep.

### Bathrooms

Toilets are signposted throughout the site, and are marked on the Visitor Map.

### Supervision

Teachers are required to be with their students AT ALL TIMES.

If breaking into smaller groups please ensure that every group has adult supervision.

Never leave bags unattended. This includes in the area outside the Visitor Centre where buses drop-off and collect passengers.

## CODE OF CONDUCT:

We ask that teachers talk with students about the expectations on site before arrival.

- Schools are sharing the site and experience with the public. Please be mindful and **respectful** of others at all times.
- This is a **fragile** site. **DO NOT** climb on the buildings and **STAY** on the paths.
- This is an **archaeological** site. Often there are artefacts (objects like nails or broken ceramics) turning up in the soil and grounds of the site. These **MUST NOT BE TOUCHED OR TAKEN**. Leave the artefact where it is, take a photo, and let a staff member know.
- Please **dispose of rubbish** in the bins provided.
- Please don't feed, chase or touch the **wildlife**. If you are concerned about the wellbeing of an animal please report it to one of our staff members.
- Appropriate **supervision** of students is expected at all times, especially during the Harbour Cruise. Being on the water poses obvious risk and supervision of students is mandatory.
- Whilst on the Harbour Cruise, please keep **noise / disruption to a minimum**, so everyone can hear and enjoy the on board commentary.
- Teachers are responsible for the **behaviour management** of their students. Our Tour Guides and Facilitators are not to be asked to take on the role of teacher. Please step in and step up when required.
- Please ensure your students **respect and listen** to our passionate and knowledgeable staff.

