

School Visits to Port Arthur Historic Site: Guidelines for Teachers



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Prepare students for their visit—let them 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. These must not be touched or taken. To archaeologists, the ground around the item is as valuable as the item itself. If you find something of interest, leave it in place, take a picture and report it to the Visitor Centre Team.

Pre-visit lessons about colonisation, transportation and the convict era will be very beneficial for students. See our website for lesson plans, resources and useful links.

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

Supervision

- Teachers must accompany 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.
- A note on the Harbour Cruise—being on the water poses obvious risks and we expect teachers to provide appropriate supervision and monitor student behaviour at all times.

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, we are unable to store food.

First Aid

- First aid enquiries should be made to the Visitor Centre Team. Report emergency situations to staff on site.

Access

- The Education Guided Walk and Harbour Cruise are wheelchair accessible.
- Ghost Tours and Point Puer 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.

FACILITIES

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.

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 the site's world heritage history.
- The gallery can be visited at any time of the day, in small groups (20 students).

Bathrooms

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