

Port Arthur Historic Site Cruise Ship Anchorage 2025



Introduction & Background:

Located at the south-eastern tip of Tasmania, 37 nautical miles from Hobart, Port Arthur offers a unique and memorable cruising experience. Dramatic coastline and sea cliffs lead to our beautiful, safe and sheltered deep-water anchorage, offering easy access to the Historic Site, the sense of arrival via water to the site is the most authentic and emotive a visitor can experience.

Port Arthur is the best-preserved convict settlement in Australia and among the most significant convict-era sites in the world and received UNESCO World Heritage listing in 2010. Port Arthur is located on a tranquil, protected harbour and surrounded by hills of dense native forest. The beauty belies the stark reality - that this was a place of much brutality.

A visit to Port Arthur is an introduction to Australian's history, its people and the past. A 'must-see' on any visit to Tasmania, and a popular day excursion from ships stopping in Hobart.

Cruising Distances:

Approximate distances (nautical miles) to/ from Port Arthur:

- Hobart: 37
- Coles Bay/ Freycinet coastal cruise:
 - North - Wineglass Bay: 80
 - South - Ile de Phoques: 60
- Devonport: 290
- Burnie: 297
- Melbourne: 402
- Sydney: 620
- Adelaide: 760 via West Coast Tasmania
- Adelaide: 850 via East Coast Tasmania

Anchorage:

Type of Berth: Sheltered anchorage.

Channel Depth: 25.0m in bay.

Channel Length: No channel, wide bay.

Tidal Variation: Max 1.2m, std 0.6m .

Berth Length (metres): Max anchorage 250m.

Maximum Draught: 12.0m.

Port Charges: only pilotage fees are charged, please refer to TasPorts www.tasports.com.au

Port Arthur is a defined Port under Tasmanian State regulation. Pilotage is required for all vessels with 'length over all' greater than 35m. The Port of Port Arthur is serviced by Pilots

based in Hobart. The Pilot will board either prior to Port Entry to Port Arthur via pilot boat, else at prior Tasmanian/ Mainland Ports and travel with vessel.

Port Arthur anchorage is determined subject to vessel length, environmental conditions, and available anchorages. They lie within the inlet forming Port Arthur; are approximately 3.5 – 4.0 nautical from the Pilot Boarding Ground; and are within 1.0 nautical mile to the wharf landing.

The anchorages are generally well sheltered from all swell; with exception of due southerly swell which may give limited exposure. Vessels tenders are used for passenger transfer and are transferred directly within the grounds of the Port Arthur Historical Site.

The site has a designated cruise ship tender jetty and can accommodate between two and four vessel tenders concurrently all day.

We highly recommend visiting Hobart prior to cruising to Port Arthur which will enable TasPorts experienced Pilot to board in Hobart.



Passage plan:

Current passage plan covering Port of Port Arthur is available on enquiry from www.Tasports.com.au



Tourism services available on site:

Port Arthur has high guest appeal and regularly receives positive passenger feedback. The Port Arthur Historic Site is a place of incredible stories. Created with convict labour, the impressive architecture, delightful gardens, dockyard and chilling prison facilities survive today for you to explore. Including:

- entry to the Port Arthur Gallery, which includes interactive exhibits and displays that tell the story of the Port Arthur Historic Site and its people;
- a self-guided *Port Arthur Audio Experience*;
- a 20-minute harbour cruise;
- complimentary site talks at key locations throughout the day;
- access to more than 30 historic buildings, ruins, restored houses, heritage gardens and walking trails;
- Electric courtesy vehicle service for people with restricted mobility;
- Soundscape of past boat building industry at the Port Arthur Dockyard;
- Modern fully accessible Visitor Centre with parent room, café, restaurant, gift shop and free wifi;
- Easy access/ parking for tour coaches

Guided tours of the Historic Site and other shore activities can be tailored to suit schedules and budgets. Access to shore operators for tours of the region is easily organised. The Site's cafes and restaurants offer quality dining, catering and hospitality options.

Exclusive Shore Excursions:

“The Behind the Bars”

Theme: Port Arthur’s prison history

A place of both punishment and reform Port Arthur was a prison like no other – a natural penitentiary for male secondary offenders. It evolved over time to incorporate many new ideas about incarceration and reform..... for better or worse. Join us on this captivating 90 minute walking tour and learn about the transformation of Port Arthur as you visit the Penitentiary, Separate Prison and Church.

Will visit: Penitentiary, Separate Prison, Church

90 Minutes; maximum 30 pax

\$90pp gross

“Guards and Gaolers”

Theme: Stories of the people of Port Arthur’s Prison

Immerse yourself in history as the lives of the guards, gaolers, and convicts are laid bare. During this 90 minute walking tour you will, visit the Penitentiary; take in the breathtaking water views from the Commandant’s House and visit the beautifully restored and furnished Junior Medical Officer’s residence, while hearing fascinating stories of those who lived here. What was life like for the families of officers stationed at this remote punishment station?

Will visit: Penitentiary, Commandant’s House, Junior Medical Officer’s House

90 minutes; maximum 30 pax

\$90pp gross

“Protecting our Past / Why we conserve”

Theme: The conservation and management of the Port Arthur Historic Site

Discover the secrets to protecting our past during this 90 minute walking tour. Learn about the conservation and management of this incredibly important World Heritage Site. As you stroll through Government Gardens, the Penitentiary and the infamous Separate prison you will hear about the large-scale conservation effort undertaken to preserve these iconic ruins, and some of the interesting discoveries made during recent archaeological investigations.

Will visit: Memorial Garden, Government Garden, Penitentiary, and Separate Prison

90 minutes; maximum 20pax

\$115 pp gross

Port / Guest lecturers:

Port Arthur has a range of highly skilled heritage experts who can provide valuable insights into Australians convict history as 'Guest Lecturers' on board, this would assist to generate interest and conversion in shore excursion programs and add to passenger satisfaction.

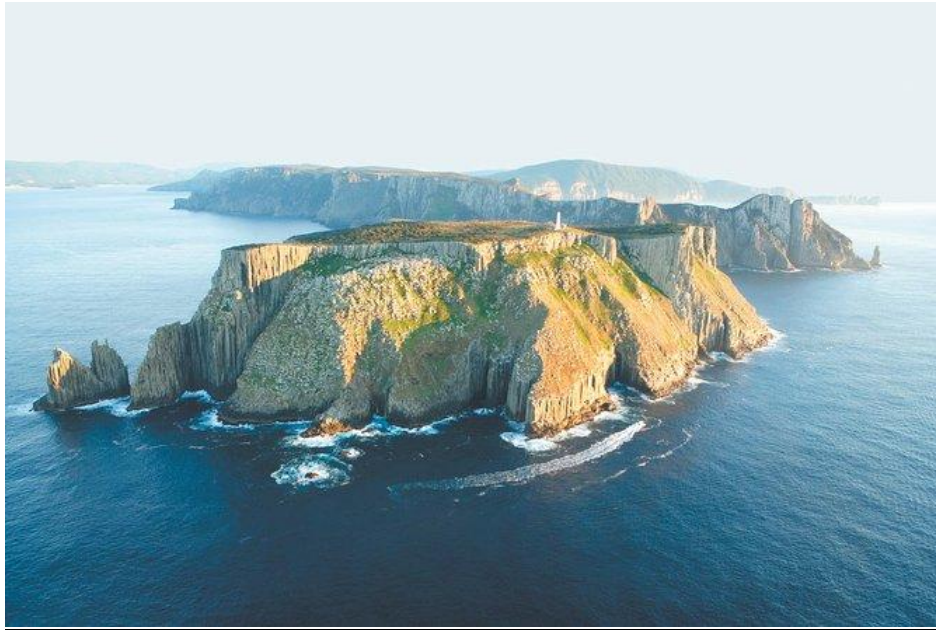
Mini Makers Market

For every cruise arrival, a market is set up adjacent to the render arrival area to showcase producers from the local region with a variety of authentic and hand crafted products. Many provide postal service for visitors that do not wish to take the goods onboard.

- Showcasing local artisans and producers
- Local wine, gin and whiskey tastings
- Food Truck and bar

On request:

- Private guided tours
- Themed tours
- Private dining in Visiting Magistrates House
- Local oysters and Tasmanian sparkling wine afternoons/evenings
- BBQs and picnics
- Tours to UNESCO World Heritage listed Coal Mines Historic Site



Tourism Attractions nearby that can be packaged into day and half day Shore Excursions:

- [Tasman Island Cruise](#) - operated by Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
- [Cape Raoul Cruise](#) - operated by Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
- [Tasmanian Chocolate Foundry](#)
- [Port Arthur Lavender Farm](#) and retail outlet
- [Bangor Wine and Oyster Shed](#)
- [Little Norfolk Bay Cooking](#) School – operated by Eloise Emmett
- [Hike to Shipsterns Bluff](#) – world famous surfing (tour in development)

Plus natural and cultural heritage features within 30 minutes of the historic site include:

- Eaglehawk Neck historic site and famous Dog Line
- Tessellated pavement
- 3 Capes Walk track
- Shipsterns Bluff walk
- Numerous bushwalks, swimming and surfing beaches
- Game fishing
- Golf course

Cascades Female Factory Historic Site - Hobart



Located in Hobart is the World Heritage-listed Cascades Female Factory Historic Site which is also managed by Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

The Female Factory tells the story of the displacement, mistreatment and forced migration of convict women and girls, and their contribution to colonisation throughout the history of colonial Australia to the present day. Located only 15 minutes from the Hobart Cruise Terminal, this site brings to life the largely untold story of convict women and the role women have played in the development of modern Australia.

Visitor experiences & services include an exhibition, self-guided audio tour, exclusive tours, accessible Visitor Centre with gift shop & parent room.

Exclusive Shore Excursions:

Defeated & Defiant Women

We tell stories of women that represent the strength, resilience and struggle of many convict women who lived within these walls at Cascades Female Factory.

Hear stories of strength, courage and resilience and explore the attitude and treatment female convicts had to endure, including:

Margaret Fitzgerald story, Margaret from Surrey, England only 22 years old and described as a “good looking girl” and known as a Notorious Sovereign Eater; she would swallow coins to avoid arrest. Margaret endured life in the Cascades Female Factory then to become a loved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother,

Sarah Waters a young girl from Ireland among the first women at Cascades Female Factory, Sarah endured most of the punishments only to find true love in her capture after escaping; Sarah’s story is one of love, hope and endurance.

Christian McDougall was assigned out from Cascades Female Factory seven times, and seven times, she was returned to the Factory for punishment. On her third return to the Female Factory, she was pregnant. Christian had three children inside Cascades Female Factory - one child dies here, one taken to the Orphanage and the third child dies just as Christian leaves this place. Christian marries, moves to Melbourne and becomes known as a ‘pioneering mother of Victoria’.

45 minutes; maximum 40 pax

\$90pp gross



Cascades Female Factory 1854



Cascades Female Factory 2024

Contact

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For more information

For more information on cruise arrival and experience at Port Arthur Historic Site, or to download a copy of this brochure, please use the below QR code to visit the Cruise Industry Information page on our website.

Or visit <https://portarthur.org.au/trade-cruise/>

