

CONVICT TO COALFACE

Exciting new tour product from Port Arthur



Exploring the Coal Mines Historic Site

This exclusive new tour allows participants to experience the Port Arthur Historic Site and the Coal Mines Historic Site, two of the 11 sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property.

The Coal Mines Historic Site

Located in a now peaceful bush landscape about 30 minutes' drive from Port Arthur, the Coal Mines is a little known element of the great experiment in crime and punishment on which the Australian nation was founded.

Led by a knowledgeable guide, participants will explore the ruins of houses, barracks, offices and dark, damp underground cells of those who once lived and worked at the Coal Mines, a place where the 'worst of the worst' convicts were sent for punishment.

Walking along the mining tramways and convict roads, a thought should be spared for those who faced the danger of working in unstable mine shafts, or those held in solitary confinement in dark, damp, cold underground cells that can be entered and experienced to this day.

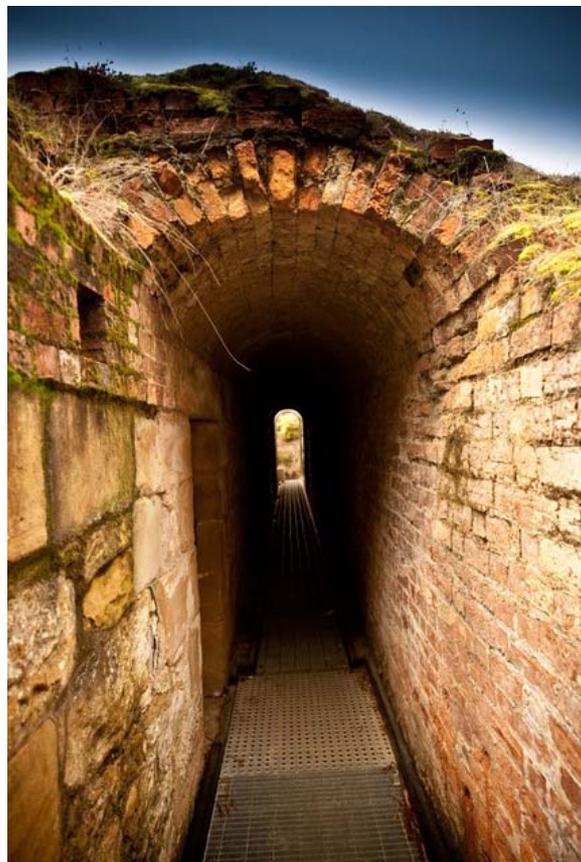
"I contemplated the naked figures, faintly perceptible in the gloom, with feelings of horror."

- William Thompson

William Thompson was a convict who spent twelve months working underground at the Coal Mines, harnessed with three other men to drag loaded coal carts. There, he saw things that marked him for life.

Take part in this guided tour of the Coal Mines Historic Site to discover what it was that made such an impact on William Thompson.

Your guide will reveal the stories and features of this heritage landscape that might otherwise elude the casual visitor.



Entrance to underground cells at the Coal Mines

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The Port Arthur Historic Site

Port Arthur was a key part of the colonial system of convict discipline. Remote, harsh, with no chance of escape, this was the perfect destination for hardened, repeat offenders.

But Port Arthur was much more than a prison.

As you walk within the Site, the powerful, personal stories of convicts, soldiers, free settlers and their families will reveal themselves to you. Port Arthur's tale is told in many ways. It will stay with you long after you have departed.

Port Arthur is a place that should be visited by every Australian, and by all international visitors with a wish to understand more of Australia and Australians.



Port Arthur's historic convict church

Inclusions

- Return coach transfers between the Port Arthur and the Coal Mines Historic Sites
- Tour of the Coal Mines Historic Site with an expert guide
- A Tasmanian inspired gourmet morning or afternoon tea served at the Coal Mines Historic Site
- Port Arthur Historic Site Introductory Tour with an expert guide
- Port Arthur Historic Site Harbour Cruise
- Complimentary printed visitor guides to both sites

Duration

The tour components in total run for approximately 4 hours. Group members also have the option to self explore the Port Arthur Historic Site.

The tour can be taken either as a morning or afternoon option with the morning tour leaving at 8.30am or afternoon at 1.30pm. These times can be negotiated for groups.

Cost: \$135 (nett) per person. A minimum of 12 are required to confirm this tour.

Reservations

The Convict to Coal Face Experience is an exclusive group tour. Booking notice of a minimum of 6 weeks is preferred.

Please contact our Visitor Services team for more information - 1800 659 101 (a free call from within Australia) or +61 3 6251 2310 from overseas.