

CRUISE TO PORT ARTHUR

Port Arthur cruise ship anchorage

Overview

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 as one of eleven sites comprising the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property.

Port Arthur is located on a tranquil 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.

Cruising Distances

Approx 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 up to four vessel tenders concurrently all day.

Passage plan

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

Port / Guest lecturers

Port Arthur has a range of highly skilled staff (ranging from Collection Managers, Archaeologists and Conservation Managers) 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.

Tourism attributes 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. Included in passenger entry are:

- 40 hectares and over 30 historic buildings, ruins, dockyard and gardens, including fully restored and furnished houses
- Interactive experiences in the Visitor Centre, featuring the Lottery of Life, as well as our Museum and Convict Study Centre
- Fascinating forty minute guided Introduction to Port Arthur walking tour
- Twenty minute Harbour Cruise aboard the MV Marana
- Shuttle buggy service for people with restricted mobility
- Experience the sounds of past boat building industry at the Port Arthur Dockyard

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 and hospitality options. Guide books are available in English, French, German, Chinese and Japanese, and interpreters are welcome and accommodated on guided tours.

Optional tours

Isle of the Dead Cemetery Tour

- The Isle of the Dead is a small island located in the harbour off Port Arthur. Between 1833 and 1877, around one thousand burials took place there.
- Cruise to the island and join a guided walking tour to discover a different aspect Port Arthur's history. This tour offers a fascinating insight into the lives of the people who lived and died at Port Arthur.
- The walking tour lasts approximately 30 minutes but allow an hour to include the ferry trip there and back.
- Tours depart daily except Christmas Day

Point Puer Boys' Prison Tour

- 3,000 boys, some as young as nine years old, were sentenced to the Point Puer Boys' Prison between 1834 and 1849.
- Located across the harbour from Port Arthur, it was the first reformatory built exclusively for juvenile male convicts in the British Empire and renowned for its regime of stern discipline and harsh punishment.
- The walking tour lasts approximately one hour, but allow two hours to include the ferry trip there and back.
- Tours depart daily from September to July, except Christmas Day

iPod Tour

- Explore the Site at your own pace and hear the stories of Port Arthur in the places where they happened
- Our Audio Tour has 25 stops and blends fascinating history, music, interviews and readings.
- Available in English, and Chinese (late 2014)

Historic Ghost Tours

- Darkness descends and another side of Port Arthur emerges. Hear vivid stories of strange occurrences when you join our lantern-lit tour.
- Historic Ghost Tours depart nightly except Christmas Day and last approximately 1½ hours each.

Mini Market

- Showcasing local art, craft and souvenirs
- Local wine and whiskey tastings
- Gourmet BBQ and bar on site
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On request

- Private guided tours
- Behind the Scenes tours
- Private dining in Visiting Magistrates House
- Local oysters and Tasmanian sparkling wine afternoons/evenings
- Convict to Coalface, tours to Coal Mines Historic Site

Nearby attractions that can be packaged into day and half day Shore Excursions

- **Tasman Island Cruise**, operated by Pennicott Wilderness Journeys a popular day excursion from Hobart www.tasmancruises.com.au
- **Tasman Devil Conservation Park**, where passengers can come face to face with endangered devils, meet endemic quolls and pademelons, and hand feed friendly kangaroos www.tasmaniandevilpark.com
- **Federation Chocolate**, offering handmade chocolate tours and timber museum www.federationchocolate.com.au
- **William McHenry & Sons Distillery**, Australia's southern-most whisky distillery, producing gin, whisky and vodka mchenrydistillery.com.au
- **Port Arthur Lavender Farm** and retail outlet www.portarthurlavender.com.au
- **Bangor Wine and Oyster Shed** www.bangorshed.com.au

Nearby natural and cultural heritage features

- Eaglehawk Neck historic site and famous Dog Line
- Tessellated pavement
- Cascades Prohibition Station at Koonya
- 3 Capes Walk track
- Numerous bushwalks, swimming and surfing beaches
- Game Fishing
- Golf course

Services in region

- Accredited tour coaches
- Professional, accredited local guides and tour operators
- Local taxi services

Cruise ship tender berth

Our new jetty provides two separate berths for tender vessels which can be accessed simultaneously and completely independently of the berth used by Port Arthur's harbour cruise ferry.



For more information, please contact us

Port Arthur Historic Site

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