

PORT ARTHUR:

WHERE HISTORY AND NATURE AWAIT YOUR DISCOVERY

When I first traversed the isthmus of Turrakana/Tasman Peninsula in Tasmania, I didn't expect Port Arthur to captivate me quite as it did.

I expected stories of convicts and crumbling ruins, but what I found was so much more. Originally home to the Pydarerme People, this living, breathing place melds history, nature, adventure and local charm seamlessly together and has inspired my curiosity and left me enchanted.

You've probably heard of Port Arthur Historic Site—it's hard not to when talking about Tasmania. But this town is more than a historical footnote. It's layered with beauty and resilience, presenting experiences that speak to the soul. Whether you're a history buff, nature lover or just someone in need of a real escape, Port Arthur has a way of drawing you in, making you feel like you've discovered something truly special.



Tessellated Pavement Eaglehawk Neck
- Jules Witek



Port Arthur Historic Site - Hype TV

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Walking through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Port Arthur Historic Site** is like stepping back in time. The well-preserved buildings of this former penal colony are hauntingly beautiful, echoing its tumultuous past. Once home to some of Australia's most notorious convicts—and yet

the quiet grace of the place is undeniable.

Joining a **complimentary guide talk** (and later, a lantern-lit **Ghost Tour**), I learned about punishment and hardship, and about the enduring human spirit. These powerful stories linger with you, long after you leave.

WALKING THROUGH WONDERS

Whether you prefer leisurely walks or more rugged adventures, Port Arthur delivers. I ventured to **Remarkable Cave**, where the ocean crashes through a tunnel carved into the cliff face—truly a sight to behold.

Tessellated Pavement is like nowhere else, a coastal natural marvel waiting to be appreciated. A short drive away, the **Coal Mines Historic Site** offered another deep dive into the convict past, wrapped in the quiet hush of bush and sea.

Every walk here feels like a chance to breathe more deeply, see more clearly, and just be.

WILD WATERS AND UNTAMED CLIFFS

Port Arthur's beauty isn't confined to land; the wild surrounding waters pulse with breathtaking secrets waiting to be discovered. Embarking on a comfortable 90-minute **Cape Raoul Cruise** with Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, the towering cliffs, hidden caves and cheeky fur seals sunbathing on rocky outcrops left me in awe.

For the adventurous, and those with more time, there's the three-hour **Tasman Island Cruise**—an exhilarating ride along wild coastline witnessing dolphins and seabirds.

Image left: Cape Raoul Cliffs
- Pennicott Wilderness Journeys



WILD ENCOUNTERS OF THE TASSIE KIND

Now, let's talk about devils—Tasmanian devils, that is. I stopped by the **Tasmanian Devil Unzoo**, a place that redefines the idea of a zoo. Here, wildlife roams more freely, and it feels more like being a guest in their home than a visitor at an exhibit. Watching Tasmanian devils during feeding time was a real highlight, and hand-feeding a parrot at the Birds of the Bush presentation was a fun surprise!

Image right: Tasmanian Devils at the Tasmanian Devil Unzoo
- Neville Hodge



WHAT MAKES PORT ARTHUR UNFORGETTABLE?

Port Arthur isn't just the attractions—it's the undeniable spirit of the place. From the local vibe at the **Pear Shed Gallery**, I could feel the keen sense of community, care for the environment, and pride in doing things the Peninsula way. In this town, locals greet you with a smile and gift you a story.

I stayed in a cosy safari tent at the **NRMA Port Arthur Holiday Park**, where clear night skies made me feel I could touch the stars. The morning coffee at **Cubed Espresso Bar**, served with a side of sunshine and a chat was the best of my Tassie trip!

RELAXING AND SAVOURING LOCAL DELIGHTS

Port Arthur knows how to help you unwind. I visited **Port Arthur Lavender**, where the calming scent of lavender filled the air and popular lavender pancakes were a true treat. A short drive away, at the **Tasmanian Chocolate Foundry** I was tempted by many handmade chocolates, including a unique apple-flavoured variety I couldn't resist.

The local food and wine offering will tempt your tastebuds. I lost time sipping cool-climate wines at **Bangor Vineyard Shed** watching the sun sparkle over the bay, and at **Premaydena Hill** whilst black angus cows grazed - oblivious to the stunning panoramic views. **McHenry Distillery**, just off the beaten path, offered a behind-the-scenes look at their fine whisky and gin, crafted from fresh spring water from the property. Local fare at **1830 Restaurant & Bar**, **Lucky Ducks Café**, **On The Bay Restaurant** and the **Pickers Pantry** was fresh and cooked to perfection.



YOUR TURN TO DISCOVER IT

If you're seeking a place to truly unplug, explore at your own pace and connect with nature, history and community — Port Arthur is calling. This little corner of Tassie, with welcoming locals, breathtaking landscapes, and unforgettable experiences will tug at your heartstrings and leave an impression on your very soul.