



THE CONVICT HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

9 DAY/8 NIGHT TOUR

Day 1 SYDNEY ARRIVAL

Your personal tour guide will meet you on arrival at Sydney International Airport and escort you to your hotel near Sydney's waterfront. Spend the rest of the day taking in Sydney's well known sites – the Rocks, Circular Quay, the Opera House and the Botanical Gardens. A welcome dinner will be enjoyed at a charming restaurant near your hotel.

Overnight Harbour Rocks Hotel (or similar)

L/D

Day 2 HYDE PARK BARRACKS MUSEUM – COCKATOO ISLAND

The next two days will be a journey of discovery of Sydney's convict and colonial history. First stop will be at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum which was originally built to house convict men and boys, and later on female immigrants, but was then used for government departments until it was turned into a museum in the latter part of the 20th century. In the afternoon, travel by ferry to Cockatoo Island, the largest island in Sydney Harbour, for a tour of the prison buildings which have recently been added to UNESCO's World Heritage list. Cockatoo Island was also the site of one of Australia's largest shipyards and the large workshops, slipways, wharves and residences retain the character of its industrial past. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Overnight Harbour Rocks Hotel (or similar)

B/L

Day 3 THE ROCKS DISCOVERY MUSEUM – OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

After breakfast, visit the Rocks Discovery Museum with its unique collection of archaeological artefacts and images which portray the history of this area from the time of the traditional custodians through to industrial protests in the 1970's. After a light lunch, take the River Cat to The Old Government House, where a tour of the house and its beautiful gardens will give an insight into colonial life in the 19th century. Return to your hotel and later in the evening enjoy a stroll along Sydney's waterfront with its large selection of fine restaurants.

Overnight Harbour Rocks Hotel (or similar)

B/L

Day 4 SYDNEY – HOBART

After a leisurely breakfast and some free time, depart for Sydney Airport and your onward journey to Tasmania. On arrival in Hobart, you will be transferred to your hotel. After checking in, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Hobart taking in the historic Battery Point and Hobart's waterfront district as well as the lovely Salamanca Place with its Georgian warehouses now converted into



trendy restaurants, art galleries and chic boutiques. Complete your afternoon with a drive to the summit of Mt. Wellington (weather permitting) for panoramic views over the city and southern Tasmania.

Overnight The Lenna of Hobart, Hobart (or similar)

B/L

Day 5 CASCADDES FEMALE FACTORY – PENITENTIARY CHAPEL – RUNNYMEDE HOUSE

Start your morning with a drive to the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site where, from 1828-56 approx, over 5,000 female convicts spent time either serving a sentence or awaiting an assignment or confinement. Learn some of the stories of these convict women. The Factory was recently declared a World Heritage Site.

Continue to the Penitentiary Chapel in downtown Hobart, which was built for the growing convict population but included punishment cells and later became the Hobart Gaol. Join a tour for insights into the many facets of this forgotten part of Tasmania's penal system. Lunch will be enjoyed at Mt. Nelson which offers beautiful views over Hobart. In colonial times, the Mt. Nelson Signal Station was part of the chain of signal stations linking Hobart to Port Arthur. After lunch, travel to Newtown - one of Hobart's oldest suburbs, for a visit of Runnymede House and its gardens which were owned by a 19th century whaling family. The contents, furniture, collectibles and artworks which belonged to the whaling family but also the two previous owners - a prominent lawyer and the first Anglican Bishop of Tasmania - give an insight to life as it was in Hobart at the time. Enjoy a free evening in Hobart.

Overnight The Lenna of Hobart, Hobart (or similar)

B/L

Day 6 PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE – COAL MINES - TASMAN PENINSULA

Leave Hobart after breakfast for the Tasman Peninsula and Port Arthur, recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Historic Site was originally a penal site for secondary offenders with the aim to produce useful goods and reform the men so they could be integrated into the society. As you tour the site, you will understand how life was in the settlement for both the convicts and the officers who guarded them. Tour Point Puer where 3,500 convict boys were sent to be rehabilitated over a 15 year period, and Isle of the Dead where you will hear stories about some of the people who were buried there. Later in the afternoon, drive to north western tip of the Tasman Peninsula for a walk through the Coal Mines Historic Site, also recently declared a World Heritage Site, which will give you another perspective on Tasmania's convict history. The site was developed to limit the colony's dependence upon imported coal from New South Wales, and also served as a place of punishment for the "worst" convicts from Port Arthur. Check into your accommodation at an idyllic waterfront location at the end of the day. *An optional Ghost Tour at Port Arthur is on offer at extra cost.*

Overnight Cascades Colonial Accommodation, Tasman Peninsula (or similar)

B/L/D



Day 7 MARIA ISLAND – DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION - RICHMOND

Leave the Tasman Peninsula early in the morning, heading up the east coast to the small town of Orford, where you will take a ferry to Maria Island National Park and the World Heritage Site of Darlington Probation Station. This was considered an ideal location as it was away from free settlers, had natural resources that could be exploited by the convicts and was thought to be a difficult place from which to escape. Under the probation system, convicts progressed through separate classes which determined both their living and working conditions. Darlington is an intact example of a probation station and you will spend the day exploring it as well as the natural beauty of Maria Island. Return to the mainland in the late afternoon and your accommodation in Richmond, a village with immaculate sandstone architecture.

Overnight Prospect House, Richmond (or similar)

B/L

Day 8 HISTORIC MIDLANDS: RICHMOND - OATLANDS - ROSS

Start your day with a walking tour of Richmond with its interesting colonial and convict history, taking in the convict gaol and Australia's oldest bridge and Catholic Church. Leave Richmond, travelling along the Heritage Highway which follows the same route as horse-drawn coaches did in the colonial days. Towns along the way, such as Oatlands, Ross and Campbell Town reflect the rich history of the pioneers, convicts and graziers who forged this land. Stop in Oatlands, a historic town with the finest collection of Georgian buildings in Australia. Admire the 1837 Callington Mill which now grinds flour as it did nearly 200 years ago and which the local bakery turns into superb organic sourdough bread. Continue to Ross, for a walk back in time. Ross sits on the banks of the Macquarie River and is a picture perfect town with its cobble-style paths, tall trees lining the main road and beautiful bridge. Visit the ruins of the Ross Female Factory which served as a hiring depot and overnight station for female convicts travelling between the settlements. Continue your journey north to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Brickendon Estate. Enjoy a farewell dinner in Tasmania's northern city of Launceston.

Overnight Brickendon & Woolmers Cottages, Longford

B/L/D

Day 9 BRICKENDON & WOOLMERS ESTATES – RETURN TO MAINLAND

This morning you will tour both the Brickendon & Woolmers Estates, where convicts were assigned to work the land of free settlers in exchange of food and clothing. The estates were owned by the Archer brothers and Brickendon is still owned by the descendants of the original family. Although a working farm, Brickendon offers a view into the life in colonial and pioneering Tasmania. Woolmers was owned by the same family until the 1990's and is now owned by a private trust. It gives an accurate depiction of colonial life and Tasmanian heritage in an authentic setting. Enjoy lunch at Woolmers before departing for Launceston airport in time to connect to your flight to the Australian mainland. Your tour manager will assist you with checking in and bid you farewell.

B/L



The Tour includes:

8 nights accommodation, 8 x breakfast, 9 x lunch, 3 x 2-course dinner, transport in comfortable vehicle, history specialist tour manager, in Sydney - entries to Hyde Park Barracks and Old Government House, in Tasmania - entries to Female Factory, Penitentiary Chapel, Runnymede House tour, Port Arthur Historic Site, Maria Island Ferry, Richmond Gaol, Tours of Brickendon & Woolmers Estates, Ferry in Sydney, airport transfers and National Park passes

Airfares not included

(small program changes possible without notice)