

AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

AUSTRALIAN CONVICT SITES INFORMATION SHEET



Quick Facts

- 11 sites in New South Wales, Norfolk Island, Tasmania and Western Australia make up the single property that is included as the Australian Convicts Sites on the World Heritage List.
- The World Heritage Australian Convicts Sites is a serial listing and the most recent addition to the World Heritage List, included in 2010.
- The 11 places are Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta), Hyde Park Barracks (Sydney), Cockatoo Island Convict Site (Sydney) and Old Great North Road (near Wiseman's Ferry) in New South Wales, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island, Port Arthur Historic Site (Tasman Peninsula), Cascades Female Factory (Hobart), Darlington Probation Station (Maria Island), Coal Mines Historic Site (via Premadeyna) and Brickendon-Woolmers Estates (near Longford) in Tasmania and Fremantle Prison in Western Australia.

Why is the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property of World Heritage value?

The Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property was included on the World Heritage List on 31 July 2010 for its outstanding cultural heritage values.

- **It represents the forced migration of convicts – an important stage in human history.**

Between 1787 and 1868, more than 160,000 men, women and children were transported from Britain to Australia. This was the world's first conscious attempt to build a new society on the labour of convicted prisoners.

- **It is a significant example of the global ideas and developments associated with the punishment and reform of criminal behaviour.**

Transportation of convicts was also the means for punishment and to deter crime. The emergence of new forms of punishment shifted from physical punishment to psychological punishment. Punishment and reform were pursued at the same time; blended with ideas from crime management, religion, social planning and freedom to produce influential developments in the philosophy and practice of the treatment of criminals.

Challenges and Management

New South Wales

Old Government House is managed by the National Trust of Australia and the Domain is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust.

Hyde Park Barracks is now a museum managed by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW.



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Cockatoo Island is managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, an agency of the Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Old Great North Road is managed by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service

Norfolk Island

Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area is jointly managed by the Australian and Norfolk Island governments.

Tasmania

Port Arthur Historic Site is managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

The Cascades Female Factory is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the Female Factory Historic Site Ltd.

The Darlington Probation Station is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Brickendon Estate is privately owned. Woolmers Estate is privately owned and managed by the Woolmers Foundation Inc.

The Coal Mines Historic Site is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Western Australia

Fremantle Prison is managed by the Department of Treasury and Finance, WA - Building Management and Works.

Challenges and Management

| Challenges | Management |
|---------------------------|--|
| Condition/ maintenance | The sites are all generally in good physical condition and are maintained through regular repair and maintenance works. Some of the sites are located in marine environments and may be at risk of climate change due to rising sea levels, while others are constructed of relatively fragile materials requiring more specialised attention |
| Tourism | Many Australian and international visitors are likely to visit the Australian Convict Sites. One challenge is finding a balance between providing tourist access and protecting the heritage values represented by buildings and artefacts for future generations. Education and interpretation is an important part of this process, and the Australian Convict Sites provide opportunities for visitors to learn more about why these historic places are important. |

Read more: www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/convict-sites/index.html



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