



UNESCO *Tasmanian convict sites*

WORLD HERITAGE LISTED

Maria Island

Tasmania's compelling convict heritage has been officially recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). In July 2010 it was announced that 11 Australian convict sites were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, five of which are Tasmanian.



The Tasmanian sites are Port Arthur Historic Site and the Coal Mines Historic Site on the Tasman Peninsula; the Cascades Female Factory in South Hobart; Darlington Probation Station on Maria Island; and Woolmers and Brickendon Estates near Longford.



Brickendon-Woolmers Estates Tasmania (1820-50s)

Brickendon and Woolmers are two neighbouring estates located on the Macquarie River in northern Tasmania, where convicts were assigned to 'private masters' to undertake agricultural work. The estates, which were owned by the Archer brothers, operated as large farming properties with convict labour from the early 1820s until the 1850s.



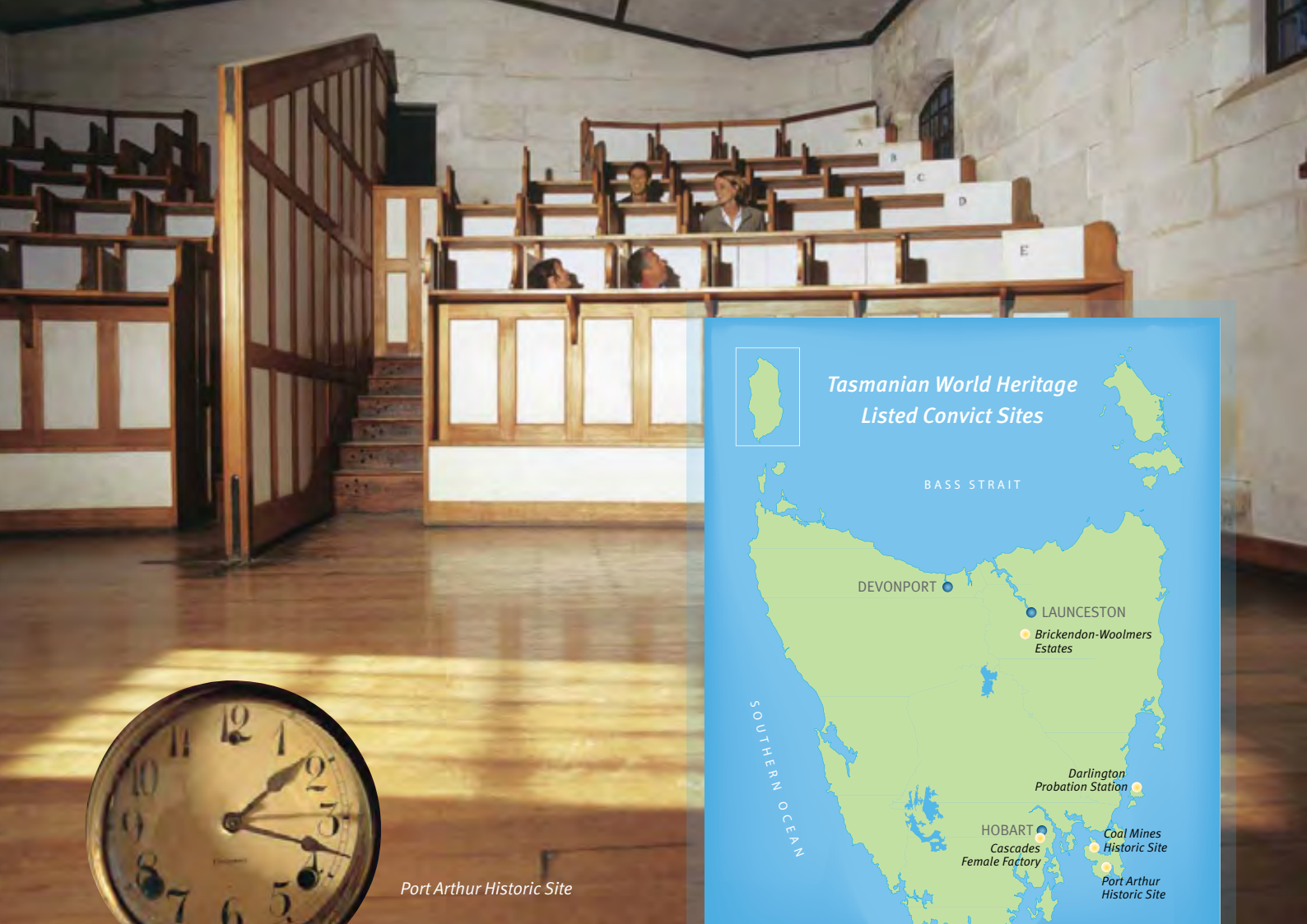
Darlington Probation Station Tasmania (1825-32; 1842-50)

Darlington Probation Station, located within the Maria Island National Park off Tasmania's east coast, initially functioned as a convict station and later as a probation station for male convicts. The convict station operated at Darlington between 1825 and 1832 and was set up to relieve pressures on other penal settlements due to the increasing number of convicts. Following the closure of the earlier station, a probation station reoccupied the site from 1842. The location of Maria Island was ideal for a probation station, as it was located away from free settlements and was a difficult place from which to escape.



Cascades Female Factory Tasmania (1828-56)

The Cascades Female Factory was built in a cold valley at the base of Mount Wellington in Hobart. It was separated and hidden from the main colony, yet played a pivotal role in the penal transportation system. Approximately 25,000 female convicts were transported to Australia, comprising only 15 to 17 per cent of the convict population. However, convict women made an important contribution to the development of the colonies through their labour and their vital role in family formation, ultimately leading to greater social cohesion.



Port Arthur Historic Site



Port Arthur Historic Site Tasmania (1830-77)

The Port Arthur Historic Site, located on the Tasman Peninsula, began as a timber-getting station in 1830. The site then operated as a penal station for secondary offenders between 1833 and 1877. Lieutenant-Governor Arthur envisaged that Port Arthur would be ‘a place of terror’ that combined hard labour and unremitting surveillance. His aim was to produce both useful goods – such as timber and shoes – and useful citizens, with the intent that reformed men rejected their previous lives of crime and embraced a law-abiding future.

Coal Mines Historic Site Tasmania (1833-48)

The Coal Mines Historic Site, which operated as a penal colliery between 1833 and 1848, is located in the north-western corner of the Tasman Peninsula, beside the tranquil waters of Little Norfolk Bay. The Coal Mines played an important role in the development of the colony of Van Diemen’s Land. At its peak the Coal Mines held up to 500 convicts plus another 100 people including officers, guards and their families. In 1840, when the assignment system was abandoned, it was reorganised as one of several probation stations established on the Tasman Peninsula.