THE MINER’S APARTMENT HOUSE (1837-42)

The cloistered back lane, originally named Mill Street, was closed off in 1998. The Miners’ Apartment House was built in 1837 for the miners who worked above ground in the Coal Mines. The two-storey house has six rooms, five of which face onto the lane behind the house. The sixth room is a large kitchen facing onto the street. The house was built to provide accommodation for the miners who worked in the Coal Mines, and it was designed to be self-sufficient, with its own water supply and sanitation facilities. The house was built to provide a safe and comfortable living environment for the miners, who worked long hours in dangerous conditions.

THOMPSON AND JONES

William Thompson described how he and Jones were transported to the Coal Mines. They were given a choice of transportation: either to walk or to ride on horseback. They chose to walk, as they believed it was healthier. They were taken to the Coal Mines by a coachman who drove them through the countryside. The journey took several days, during which time they were given little food and water. When they arrived at the Coal Mines, they were given a choice of accommodation: either to live in the miners’ huts or to live in the miner’s apartment house. They chose to live in the apartment house, as they believed it was safer and more comfortable.

SIGNAL STATION (c1836)

A signal station was established at the entrance to the Coal Mine to control traffic. The station was located on a hilltop, and it was equipped with a semaphore system. The semaphore system was used to communicate with the flagmen at the entrance of the mine. The signal station was manned by up to six men at a time. It was a dangerous and isolated position, as it was located in a remote and mountainous area. The men who worked at the signal station were paid well, and they were given a comfortable living environment.

THE SETTLEMENT OR ‘SQUARE’ (1838)

The settlement, known as the ‘Square’, was built to provide accommodation for the convicts who worked at the Coal Mines. The settlement was located on a hilltop, and it was designed to be self-sufficient, with its own water supply and sanitation facilities. The settlement was divided into separate apartments, each of which was occupied by a family of three or four people. The apartments were simple and basic, and they were equipped with beds, tables, chairs, and cooking utensils. The settlement was designed to be self-sufficient, and it was equipped with its own water supply and sanitation facilities.

THE MILL (c1836)

The mill was used to grind flour for the convicts who worked at the Coal Mines. The mill was a large wooden structure, and it was equipped with a water wheel. The water wheel was used to power the millstones, which were used to grind the flour. The mill was equipped with a system of buckets and a rope and pulley, which were used to raise the flour to the top of the mill. The flour was then stored in the mill, and it was used to make bread for the convicts who worked at the Coal Mines.
Welcome to the Coal Mines Historic Site.

The Coal Mines Historic Site is part of the epic story of the European settlement of this country. The Paddymere people were the traditional owners of this land. Middens and other cultural sites from many thousands of years of occupation still remain in the area and we ask that you assist us in caring for them.

No bookings are required and entry is free. The Coal Mines Historic Site is open daily.

The Coal Mines Historic Site is part of the system of convict discipline and punishment on Van Diemen's Land. It was used extensively in government offices, but householders and proprietors who committed felonies were also transported to the Coal Mines. While all this industry was carried on in the area, it served a larger aim. More and more, it was considered necessary to remove the thousands of convicts who had passed through a number of penal colonies, and where did they go? To Government stores and private employers, everything from whaleboats to shoes – tanners, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors and even carpenters – worked at their trades. Skilled convicts – carpenters, masons, joiners, curriers, tanners – worked at the coal face. They dug an underground world and worked the coal. They dug the tunnels of the convict era, the Mine of Death, and the Mine of Hope.

What was this place like? What was the experience for the convicts who toiled and suffered underground? How did they endure. How did they persist? How did they feed themselves and their families? How did they escape? How did they celebrate the end of their days? How did they react to the terms of punishment? How did they apply for parole? How did the authorities punish and reform? What was it like to be in solitary confinement? Did they want to come home? Did they want to be reformed? What was it like to be a prisoner? What was it like to be a Governor? What was it like to be a Guard? What was it like to be a law officer? What was it like to be a witness? What was it like to be a convict?

The Coal Mines are a live, rural site, with cellars and workshops, workshops and miners’ huts, and a museum and research centre. There are no tickets, written or otherwise. We ask that you assist us in caring for these precious and historical artifacts. Please observe the site taking care to avoid disturbing the past.

The ground is uneven in many places, so sturdy walking shoes are recommended. There are no shelters, water or other facilities. Services on this site are minimal. The ruins are unstable and the site is subject to weather and season. The ruins may collapse, so please make sure you check the weather forecast before you visit the site. We ask that you use care and not disturb the site. The Coal Mines Historic Site is managed by the Port Arthur Conservation Fund and the Port Arthur Historic Site is supported by substantial funding from the Tasmanian Heritage Fund and the Port Arthur Conservation Fund. How can I help to protect and support the Coal Mines Historic Site? See Walk 1.

How can I help to protect and support the Coal Mines Historic Site? See Walk 1.

Follow the Coal Mines Historic Site road and turn left onto the B37. At the Premaydena shop, continue past Port Arthur to Nubeena and Premaydena, then turn left onto the B37. At the Premaydena shop, continue as above. Alternatively, you may visit the convict road to Plunkett Point, return to the main road and continue as above. Information or download it from our website. For your own protection, water, warm clothing, Mobility issues.

Walk 1: 1 hour 20 minutes one way
Walk 2: 2 hours return
Walk 3: 3 hours return
Walk 4: 4 hours return
Walk 5: 5 hours return
Walk 6: 6 hours return
Walk 7: 7 hours return
Walk 8: 8 hours return
Walk 9: 9 hours return
Walk 10: 10 hours return
Walk 11: 11 hours return

WALK OPTIONS

Water bottles and food are available at the Coal Mines Historic Site.

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