To gain an understanding of Tasmania’s role in the Australian convict story, we recommend that you visit the other sites that form part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property – the Port Arthur Historic Site, the Coal Mines Historic Site (Saltwater River), Woolmers Estate and Brickendon (Longford) and Darlington Probation Station (Maria Island).

Selected conservation projects have been supported by funding from the Australian Government. Ongoing support for conservation is provided by the Tasmanian Government.

Eliza James
Eliza was a housemaid from Birmingham, transported in 1852, aged 15. Assigned to five masters in three months; she remained with some of them just a few days. According to her record she was guilty of no wrongdoing – but was she? There is no further record of Eliza’s career but the respectable looking matron who appears in this image, suggests she eventually made some kind of law-abiding life for herself.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site is located at 16 Degraves Street, South Hobart, approximately 10 minutes’ drive from Hobart’s CBD and only a short distance from the Cascade Brewery.

By car – Plenty of on street parking is available in Degraves and Syme Streets.

By foot – Follow the walking track along the Hobart Town Rivulet.

By bus – Metro bus numbers 446, 447 and 449 depart from stop N, Franklin Square, Hobart. Alight at stop 13, just past St Johns Hospital, then walk down Apsley Street.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site is open seven days and offers a range of heritage tours and visitor experiences. Open seven days a week, 9:30am–4pm.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site is managed by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

16 Degraves Street, South Hobart, Tasmania 7004 Australia
Tel: +61 3 6233 6656
FREE CALL – 1800 139 478
reservations@femalefactory.org.au
www.femalefactory.org.au

How to get there

Eliza James
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The Cascades Female Factory is Australia’s most significant historic site associated with female convicts. It is located in the shadow of kunanyi / Mount Wellington, a short distance from Hobart’s city centre.

The Cascades Female Factory was a self-contained, purpose-built institution intended to reform female convicts. Inmates provided laundry and needlework services, offsetting some of the Colony’s penal costs.

Thousands of women and children were imprisoned here, and many never left. Visiting the site can be both emotional and rewarding, creating a connection with the stories of female convicts in Australia and their children – stories that are often tragic, but that also inspire hope and resilience.

**HISTORY**

From 1828 to 1856, the Cascades Female Factory operated as an institution intended to reform female convicts, some as young as 11. More than 5000 female convicts are known to have spent time here. Women were incarcerated here as punishment, to be reformed, or while waiting to be assigned.

With staff, women and babies, up to 1000 people lived here at any one time. The Cascades Female Factory was originally established on the site of a failed distillery that was adapted and gradually expanded to comprise five adjacent, rectangular walled yards. After 1856, the site was used for a variety of institutional purposes before being sold in 1904 and subdivided.

**A WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Today the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site incorporates three of the original five yards. It is one of the 11 convict sites that together comprise the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property. Collectively these sites represent an exceptional example of the forced migration of convicts and an extraordinary example of global developments associated with punishment and reform.

Representing the female experience, the Cascades Female Factory demonstrates how transportation was used to expand Britain’s spheres of influence, as well as to punish and reform female convicts.

**HERITAGE TOUR**

A comprehensive guided tour of the Site is available seven days a week. Please contact the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site directly to book or for more information on these activities.

**HER STORY**

Part history lesson, part roaming theatre show, Her Story is a powerful depiction of the harsh life within Yard One of the Female Factory in 1833. Performed by two actors, one portraying the woman whose story is being told, and the other playing the parts of an overseer and a doctor, Her Story helps visitors to fully comprehend the significance of the Site and what happened here. Please call 1800 139 478 for performance times.

Proceeds from admission fees contribute to the ongoing conservation, interpretation and development of our Sites. Allow 45 minutes