Convicts and wild things in W. Australia

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TRAVEL
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You don’t often get to tour a minimuseum-city prison that captures Australia’s convict past. But before Convict Island, off Fremantle, is just that experience. Now a national historic site, Convict Island is a fascinating place and home to a vivid sense of the times.

The island was a convict settlement from 1829 to 1868. Thousands of convicts, many from the eastern states of Australia, were transported here to serve their sentences. About 400 convicts were forced to work on the island’s wool and sheep stations, and the island was also briefly a major shipbuilding center.

The site has since been restored and is now a popular tourist destination. Visitors can take a guided tour of the island and learn about its convict history.

The island is accessible by ferry from Fremantle, and is open to the public on a regular basis. It is a great place to visit if you want to learn more about the convict past of Australia and the role of the convict system in the country’s early history.