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FREMANTLE PRISON LAUNCHES NEW DAY TOURS

Fremantle Prison will this week launch three new day tours that explore the Prison's early convict history, its notorious inmates, and the Prison's more recent history as a maximum-security prison.

The new 'Convict Prison', 'Behind Bars' and 'True Crime' tours are themed around the key stages of the Prison's history.

Fremantle Prison Director Paula Nelson said "Fremantle Prison has so many stories to tell and a myriad of remarkable spaces. The new tours will allow for more of the Prison's fascinating past to be shared."

'Convict Prison' focuses on the history of Fremantle Prison from its construction in the 1850s to the end of the convict-era in 1886, and will highlight how convicts helped shape the development of the state.

"Fremantle Prison is Perth's first and only World Heritage site, as part of the Australian Convict Sites, so having a tour dedicated to the convict story is an engaging way to share this significant part of Western Australia's history", Mrs Nelson said.

'Behind Bars' explores the modern-era history of the Prison, discussing the transition of the Prison from a convict-built gaol into Western Australia's maximum-security prison. Participants will get a taste of prisoners' daily routines, punishment, executions, escapes and prisoner riots, until its closure in 1991.

'True Crime' recounts some of Fremantle Prison's more notorious inmates, from bushrangers, thieves and murderers, to serial killers, bank robbers and escape artists, and the impact their crimes had on the consciousness of the community.

"The new tours allow us to keep the Prison relevant to previous visitors by continuing to offer different stories, experiences and exhibitions. It gives people a reason to revisit the Prison," Mrs Nelson said.

Income generated from tourism activities go directly to help fund conservation work on the vast heritage site.

The program of new day tours are available to the public from Wednesday 14 February.

Fact File

- Fremantle Prison opened as an attraction in 1992 and welcomes approximately 200,000 visitors annually
- In 2010 Fremantle Prison became the only World Heritage listed building in Western Australia
- In 2010 Fremantle Prison was inducted into the Major Tourist Attractions Hall of Fame at the WA Tourism Awards
- In 2018 Fremantle Prison will be inducted into the Cultural Tourism Hall of Fame after securing back-to-back wins in 2015, 2016 and 2017 at the Western Australian Tourism Awards