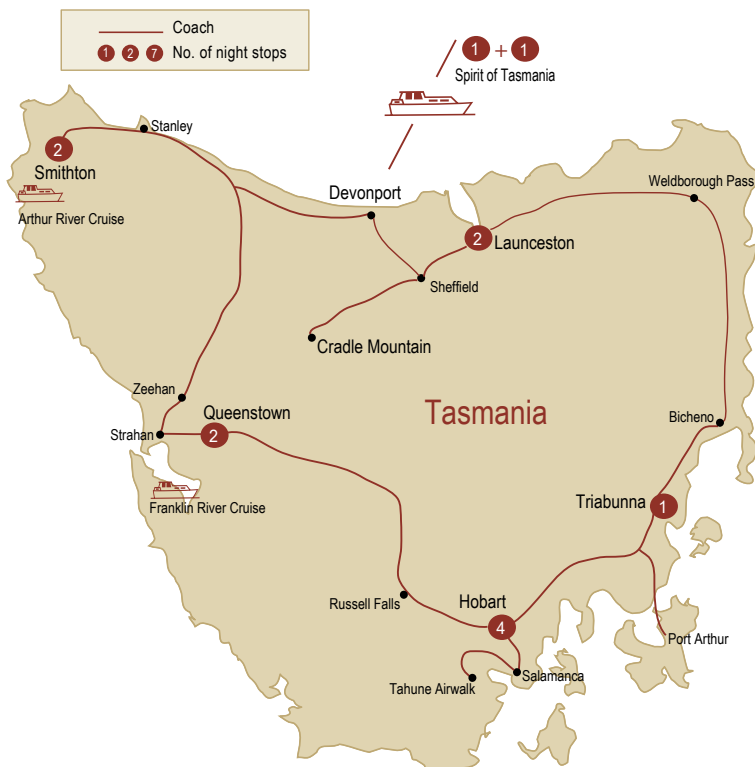



# Tasmania in Spring

11 October  
2010  
16 Days



 **\$3799ppts\***  
**\$1199s/s**  
**Incl: Spirit of Tasmania**  
**\*pensioner price**

Our Unique Highlights Include:

- 39 Quality Meals
- Spirit of Tasmania both ways
- Franklin River Cruise
- West Coast Wilderness Rail
- Arthur River Cruise & Edge of the World - Exclusive!!
- Port Arthur, including Isle of the Dead Cruise
- Tahune Airwalk
- Cadbury's Chocolate Factory & Cascade Brewery
- Beaconsfield & Grubb Shaft Mine & Museum
- Salamanca Markets
- Cradle Mountain
- Seahorse World
- Alpen Rail Miniature Rail Display
- Lake St Clair & Mount Field National Park
- National Axeman's Museum

\*Spirit of Tasmania charges extra for adults/seniors - \$80

## Day 1: Home—Wagga (LD)

80 We will head south from Thornton through to Strathfield then onto our overnight accommodation in Wagga Wagga.  
[Country Comfort Wagga Wagga 02 6921 6444](tel:0269216444)

## Day 2: Wagga Wagga—Spirit of Tasmania (BL)

We will rejoin the Hume Highway near Albury and have our first stop at Glenrowan, Ned Kelly Country, before we continue south. Once in Melbourne we will visit the **Crown Casino** and Southbank where you can buy dinner before we board the **Spirit of Tasmania**. You can settle into your twin berth cabin before we explore the ship and enjoy the sights of Port Phillip Bay.  
[Spirit of Tasmania](http://www.spiritoftasmania.com.au)

## Day 3: Sheffield—Cradle Mountain—Launceston (LD)

We will disembark at Devonport and head to **Sheffield** to enjoy their world famous murals depicting the history, flora and fauna of the Kentish Plains. We will make our way to **Cradle Mountain National Park**, catching the shuttle bus to visit the **Environment Centre** and the boardwalk to Pencil Pine Waterfalls before making our way into **Dove Lake** at the foot of Cradle Mountain. We will enjoy spectacular mountain scenery of jagged peaks. We will have the opportunity to walk some or all of the **Dove Lake Walk** (first 3km boardwalk, last 3km gravel track). After lunch we will turn east and travel through the **Topiary Town** of Railton with its neatly manicured shrub sculptures. Our destination is the unofficial northern capital of the island, **Launceston**. Our motel is located right in the heart of the town near the mall and only a short walk from the town's gardens.  
[Earlington Mecure Launceston 03 6333 9999 \(2 nights\)](tel:0363339999)

## Day 4: Launceston/Seahorse World/Tamar (BLD)

This morning we will have time in the main centre of Launceston to enjoy the antics of the **Japanese monkeys in Central Park**. We will follow the **Tamar River** through Grindewald, a Swiss village resort. We will call into **Brady's Lookout** for magnificent views along the Tamar before arriving at Beaconsfield to visit the **Grubb Shaft Mine & Museum** with over 30 fascinating displays.

The mine here was brought to international attention after the miraculous survival of Todd Russell and Brant Webb on Anzac Day 2006. After lunch we go to Beauty Point to visit **Seahorse World**, a unique seahorse farm and aquarium. We will cross the unusual Batman Bridge to the eastern side of the Tamar River and visit a **Strawberry Farm** for wine and cheese tasting.



## Day 5: Launceston—Triabunna (BLD)

This morning our journey will take us to Legerwood to photograph their unusual **Wooden Sculpture Park**. Continuing on past the tin mining town of Derby to **Weldborough Pass** we will take a walk amongst the ancient myrtle trees. A country Devonshire Morning Tea with lashings of jam and double cream at the **Pyengana Cheese Factory**, followed by an informative talk and tasting. The crayfish town of Bicheno is our lunch destination, you will see for yourself why this is fast becoming one of Tassies' hot spots! Continuing down the coast past Oyster Bay and **Freycinet Peninsula** we will have time for a photo opportunity at the **Spikey Bridge**. This area is also known for its walnut plantations and is the departure point for Maria Island. Passing through more wineries and walnut farms we will stop at **Buckland Church** with its old stained glass window (dating back to the 16th Century), we make our way to our accommodation.

[Tandara Motor Inn 03 6257 3155](tel:0362573155)

## Day 6: Triabunna—Hobart & Salamanca Markets (BD)

This morning we make our way to the **Salamanca Markets**, wander historic Battery Point, the excellent museums or the town centre on your own. In the afternoon we explore **Richmond**, home of the oldest bridge still in use in Australia, and go wine tasting later in the afternoon at **Frogmore's winery**. Our 4 star hotel is located just a couple of minutes walk from Constitution Dock, and very close to the water, the Mall and the Markets.

[The Old Woolstore 03 6235 5355 \(4 nights\)](tel:0362355355)

### Day 7: Port Arthur, Copping, Devil's Kitchen, Tasman Arch (B)

This morning we will make our way to the **Port Arthur Site** for a **guided tour and a short boat cruise around the Isle of the Dead**. We will learn how the convicts lived, worked and died under the threat of the lash and an experimental system which often drove them to madness. We will have a full afternoon to explore and reflect on the hardship experienced by the convicts and their masters. This afternoon we go through "Doo Town" and its clever wit. Next the beautiful coastline at the Tasman Arch and the **Devil's Kitchen**. Later we visit the **Copping Museum**, a nostalgic collection of trash and treasure. We will then return to Hobart where dinner is at own expense at one of the local restaurants.

### Day 8: Huon Valley—Tahune Air Walk (BLD)

We will head south from the city with a stop at **Mount Nelson** with crisp clear views of the Derwent and the Hobart City. From here it is into the attractive **Huon Valley**, home to many orchards and forests, with our first stop at Geeveston for morning tea, with time at the excellent **Southern Forest and Furniture Gallery and undercover working craft market** where we may be lucky enough to see an artist in residence. At the **Tahune Forest Air Walk**, we will walk the tree top canopy - 37 metres above the forest floor. After a **BBQ lunch** we will explore the river bank Huon Pine Walk or for the more adventurous there are the new swinging bridge and cable hang gliding (gliding is additional expense, but watching is free!) in the Forest. Tonight we will be going to the **Wrest Point Casino** for a buffet.

### Day 9: Devils, Cadburys & Harbour Cruise (BLD)

We will start the day with a visit to the **Bonorong Wildlife Park** on the edge of the city. This is home to Tassie natives and in particular the Tasmanian Devil. Our guides will feed these carnivorous scavengers of the bush as they tell us about them. Koalas are still a favourite along with wombats, emus and roos, you can pat and feed them all! Next is a visit to a house where trains have taken over: **Alpenrail**, a unique and excellent display of all gauges of miniature rail. Then to **Cadbury's Chocolate Factory** for a tour, and of course, tastings, with plenty of room in the coach and opportunity to pickup some Christmas bargains! We have lunch in the Factory Canteen before returning to our hotel. This afternoon you can have a tour of **Cascade Brewery** or free time in the city mall shopping (NB there are a number of steps on the brewery tour and closed footwear must be worn). Tonight we will join a local historical ferry for a relaxed **Dinner Cruise on Derwent Harbour**.



### Day 10: Hobart—Queenstown (BLD)

We will travel north west through New Norfolk into **Mount Field National Park**. At morning tea there will be time for an easy walk to Russell Falls. From here we head into the Lakes country. This will be further highlighted as the day goes on. The township of **Tarraleah** overlooks some of the steep and deep gullies which form the basis of the Hydroelectric scheme. A detour into **Lake St Clair** for ice creams will break up the afternoon, with a short walk at the beautiful **Nelson Falls** before we reach the old copper mining town of Queenstown.

[Gold Rush Motel 03 6471 1005 \(2 nights\)](#)

### Day 11: Strahan, Franklin Gordon River Cruise—ABT West Coast Wilderness Railway (BLD)

On our **Gordon River Cruise** into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness we will cross magnificent Macquarie Harbour, passing salmon farms and **Sarah Island**, Tasmania's most brutal penal settlement on our way to **Hell's Gate**, the entrance to the Southern Ocean. We will follow the **Gordon River** to Heritage Landing and take the boardwalk through stands of ancient Huon Pine, Sassafras and Myrtle rainforest. After a **smorgasbord lunch on board** we return to **Strahan Village** to board the newly reopened **ABT Wilderness Rack Railway**, an engineering feat completed in 1896 to carry ore from Queenstown to Strahan. From our fully restored carriages we will follow the King River past tall trestle bridges and steep gorges to rainforests with stands of man ferns.

### Day 12: Queenstown—Smithton (BLD)

Saying goodbye to the Moonscape of Queenstown we head north with a detour into the silver mining town of **Zeehan**, with time in the local museum before continuing onto Roseberry and the North coast. Today we will be travelling through Tasmania's hardwood eucalypt plantations, where blue gum trees are being planted and harvested every 12 years with some of the timber being dressed and the rest exported for paper. The afternoon will see us at **Stanley** with its backdrop of the Nut, an ancient volcanic core. A **chairlift ride** to the top of the Nut is included. From here numerous lookouts and walks can be had before catching the chair lift back down to the town. Leaving town via Highfields we go past some of the original buildings used by the Van Dieman's Company. Our Motel tonight is located in Smithton, home to Simplot vegetables. Bring your swimmers as the motel has one of the best resort indoor pool and spa complexes in Australia.

[Tall Timbers Hotel Motel Resort 03 64525 2755 \(2 nights\)](#)

### Day 13: Edge of the World—Arthur River Cruise (BLD) 81

Crossing over the bridge at **Arthur River** we will arrive at "**the edge of the world**" with a cup of tea as we breathe the purest air in the world looking out to see our nearest neighbour (in South America!). Then it is on to the MV George Robinson, for a **cruise of Arthur River**. This heritage styled ferry meanders through some of the most rugged country in Tassie. If there are any Tassie Tigers left this is where they will be, so keep your eyes peeled! A short bushwalk along the edge of our picnic area will inform and entertain us whilst the BBQ lunch is cooked.

### Day 14: Smithton—Devonport (BL)

Today we will travel along what many regard as the most attractive rural and coastal areas of Tasmania, the North West Coast. We will take the scenic coastal route past Circular Head into beautiful **Boat Harbour** for morning tea. From here we head out to **Table Cape**, a region rich in agriculture from potatoes, beans, onions, pyrethrum daisies to opium poppies and hay making can all be seen. The next section from Wynyard to Burnie offers spectacular coastal scenery. Time to stretch our legs in Burnie, an industrial port that is becoming very popular with the international cruise ships. The last section from **Penguin to Ulverstone** offers a spectacular display of flowers growing along the coast. Having almost completed the full loop there is now time for last minute souvenirs in Devonport before heading out to La Trobe and the **National Axeman Museum**. Our last stop will be at **Anvers Chocolates** for a taste and a tour of their lovely gardens before reboarding the Spirit. Dinner can be purchased on board the boat.

[Spirit of Tasmania](#)

### Day 15: Melbourne—Wagga Wagga (LD)

Back in Melbourne we will reboard our coach and head north, stopping at **Benalla** to visit their famous **Rose Gardens**, with its poignant Sir Weary Dunlop statue, and then onto Wagga Wagga for our last night.

[Country Comfort Wagga 02 6921 6444](#)

### Day 16: Wagga Wagga—Home (BL)

Departing Wagga Wagga, we will travel through Sydney and onto Newcastle, saying farewell to our new friends.