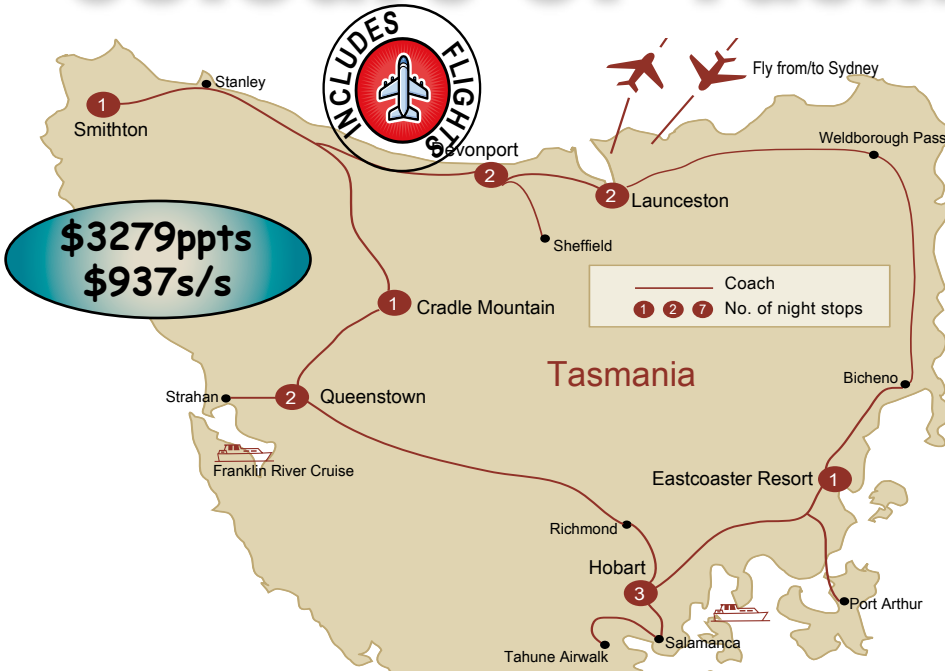


Colours of Tasmania

8 March 2010
13 Days



Our Unique Highlights Include:

- 32 Quality Meals
- Franklin River Cruise
- West Coast Wilderness Rail
- Port Arthur
- Tahune Airwalk
- Sheffield
- Beaconsfield
- Salamanca Markets
- Cradle Mountain Overnight
- Mount Field National Park
- Bonorong Wildlife Park
- Freycinet Peninsula

Day 1: Home—Launceston (D)

Our coach will depart Thornton picking up enroute to Hornsby, and Sydney Airport. On arrival in Launceston our coach will take us for a tour of this beautiful heritage city. Our motel is at **Grindewald**, a Swiss Themed village resort just outside Launceston.

6 Tamar Valley Resort 03 6330 0400 (2 nights)

Day 2: Launceston—Beauty Point—Tamar (BLD)

Today we will explore the **Tamar Valley** with our first stop being **Brady's Lookout**, named after the bushranger. At Beaconsfield we will visit the **Grubb Shaft Mine and Museum** and at Beauty Point the **Sea Horse Farm and Aquarium**. We return via the eastern side of the Tamar River visiting a strawberry farm for **wine and cheese tasting** and the opportunity to purchase strawberry sundaes.

Day 3: Launceston—Orford (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 stop and take a walk amongst the ancient myrtle trees. We will enjoy **a country lunch and Devonshire Tea with lashings of jam and double cream** at the **Pyengana Cheese Factory**, before an informative talk. We pass through the crayfish town of Bicheno, fast becoming one of Tassie's popular tourist spots. Continuing down the coast past Oyster Bay and **Freycinet Peninsula**, we will have a photo opportunity at **Spikey Bridge**.

Eastcoaster Resort Orford 03 62571172



Day 4: Orford—Hobart (BD)

This morning we will stop at **Buckland Church** with its old stained glass window (dated back to the 16th century). Morning tea is at the **Copping Museum** - a nostalgic collection of trash and treasure. From here it is around to "**Doo Town**" and its clever wit. Next the beautiful yet rugged coastline at the **Tasman Arch** and the **Devil's Kitchen** before arriving at **Port Arthur**. At the centre we will have 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. Tonight we will be heading to Hobart for the next 3 nights.

Fountainside 03 6324 2911 (3 nights)

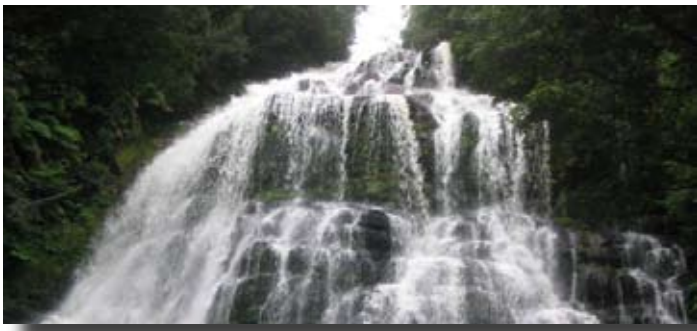


Day 5: Tahune Airwalk Huon Valley Derwent Cruise (BLD)

We stop at **Mount Nelson Lookout** for a spectacular view over the Derwent River and the City. The **Huon Valley**, is home to many orchards and forests. We will stop for morning tea at Geeveston with time at the **Southern Forest & Furniture Gallery**. Displays include beautiful wood works from small cheese boards right up to the complete bedroom settings, made from Huon pine and Sassafras. At the **Tahune Forest Air Walk**, we will walk through the tree top canopy - 37 metres above the forest floor for 570 metres long. This is relatively flat with hand rails all the way along. After a **BBQ lunch** we will explore the river bank Huon Pine Walk and return to Hobart to enjoy a relaxed **dinner cruise on the Derwent River**.

Day 6: Salamanca Markets, Free Day (B)

This morning we will have time to enjoy the famous **Salamanca Markets** to taste the local produce and maybe purchase a souvenir. The afternoon and evening is free. Perhaps take the opportunity to enjoy the Mall, Botanical Gardens, Battery Point, do some optional tours like the seaplanes, wine tasting, jet boating, sailing on the old ships, mountain bike riding, brewery & ghost tours, or hire a car and visit Bruny Island. Your travel consultant will be able to help you pre-book any attractions you are interested in seeing. Tonight you have the opportunity of trying the local cuisine ranging from our Hotel restaurant, Muir's Seafood restaurant which caters for fresh fish & chips to crayfish and fine dining.



Day 7: Hobart, Bonorong Wildlife—Queenstown (BLD)

Bonorong Wildlife Park is our first stop this morning, to see the **Tassie Devils** in action. Morning tea will be at **Historic Richmond** with plenty of arts and crafts and one of the best bakeries on the island. Then we head towards the west coast. The township of Tarraleah overlooks steep and deep gullies, the basis of the Hydro power scheme. Before arriving in Queenstown we take a short walk to beautiful **Nelson Falls**. We settle into the moonscape of the old copper mining town of **Queenstown**.

Chancellor Inn Queenstown 03 6471 1033 (2 nights)

Day 8: Franklin River Cruise & ABT Railway (BLD)

Today we cruise the **Gordon River** into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness. We cross the **Macquarie Harbour**, passing salmon farms and **Sarah Island**. At Heritage Landing we 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 **ABT Wilderness Rack Railway**, an engineering feat completed in 1896 to carry ore from Queenstown to Strahan. Our fully restored carriage is destined for Queenstown. We follow the **King River** past tall trestle bridges and steep gorges to rainforests with stands of man ferns.

Day 9: Queenstown—Cradle Mountain (BLD)

We make our way to **Cradle Mountain NP**, and take the boardwalk to **Pencil Pine Waterfalls** before making our way into **Dove Lake** at the foot of Cradle Mountain. We will enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery of jagged peaks and hear about pioneer Gustav Weindorfer, who lobbied to have the area set aside as a National Park. After lunch walk part or all of the **Dove Lake Walk** (3km boardwalk, 3km gravel track). A regular shuttle bus pass is included to allow you to return to National Park Headquarters as you wish. We stay at the **4 Star Cradle Mountain Chateau** with its own **Wilderness Art Gallery**.

Cradle Mountain Chateau 03 6492 1404

Day 10: Cradle Mountain—Smithton (BLD)

We will have more photo opportunities and time for a walk along the new boardwalk to the National Park or visit Gustav Weindorfer's home "**Waldheim**". Departing Cradle Mountain we will head through Tasmanian hardwood eucalypt plantations of blue gum, harvested every 12-15 years for paper. **Smithton** is home to Simplot vegetables (Edgells, McCain). Remember to bring your swimmers as this **4 star resort** has one of the nicest **indoor heated pools** that you will ever see.

Tall Timbers Motel 03 6405 2755

Day 11: Smithton—Devonport (BLD)

Our first stop today will be **Stanley** with its backdrop of **the Nut**, an ancient volcano core. A **chair lift ride** to the top of the Nut offers numerous lookouts and walks. Leaving town via Highfields we go past some of the original buildings used by the **Van Dieman's Land Company**. We will take the scenic coastal route past Circular Head into **Boat Harbour** for lunch. From here we head out to **Table Cape**, a region rich in agriculture where potatoes, beans, onions, pyrethrum daisies to opium poppies and tulips can all be seen. The last section from Penguin to Ulverstone offers lots of flowers growing along the coast.

Gateway Motel 03 6424 4922 (2 Nights)

Day 12: Devonport—Sheffield—Deloraine (BLD)

The small town of **Sheffield** has had a remarkable revival due to the colourful murals painted on the buildings. The murals depict **7** the history, flora and fauna of the district. We will head through **Railton to Deloraine** where we visit **Yarns**, a magnificent silk tapestry depicting the four seasons of this Great Western Tiers community. At La Trobe we visit **Anvers Chocolate Factory** to sample and the chance to buy. At Devonport we visit **Homehill**, residence of Tasmania's only Prime Minister, Joe Lyons.

Day 13: Devonport—Launceston—Home (B)

Returning to Launceston, we will visit **Cataract Gorge**. This popular picnic spot has been used the locals for many years and the chair lift over the swimming pond is a favourite attraction. Later in the morning we take our flight to Sydney where our coach will meet us and drop off between Hornsby and the Hunter.



**OVERNIGHT TOUR
Hunter & Hornsby:
20 & 27 Feb - Hurry!
Thornton & Sydney:
6 & 20 March - Central!**

Masterpieces from Paris - Ex Hunter & Sydney

Day 1: Home—Canberra (LD)

This morning depart from your pick up point on your way to Canberra, enjoying **Robert's Famous Home Made Morning Tea** on the way. We have lunch enroute to Canberra, before we check into our accommodation to freshen up. Make our way to the National Gallery to visit the exhibition and the rest of the Gallery. The **Masterpieces from Paris: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Beyond** Exhibition at the **National Gallery of Australia**. The Exhibition is one of the most extraordinary exhibitions ever to be held in Australia. It will be exclusive to the National Gallery of Australia, which means you must travel to Canberra in order to see it! After our viewing, we return to our motel for dinner.

Rydges Eagles Hawk Resort 02 6241 6033

Day 2: Canberra—Home (BL)

After a hearty breakfast enjoy an **orientation tour of Canberra**, then visit the award winning indoor markets, the **Old Bus Depot Markets**, next door to the **Canberra Glassworks**, where you can take a free self-guided tour. Then the **Australian National Botanical Gardens**, for lunch in the cafe. After lunch we commence our journey home.

**\$269ppts
\$55s/s**

**SPECIAL DEPARTURE 6 & 20 March
FROM EDDY STREET, CENTRAL STATION -
CALL NOW FOR MORE DETAILS: 1800 623 068**