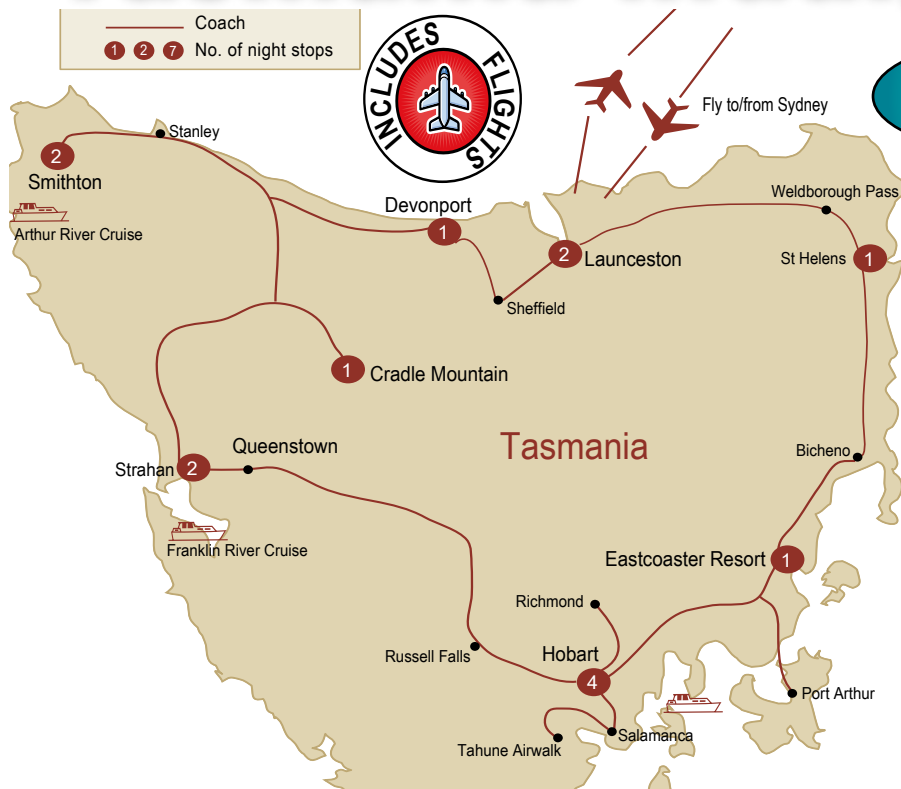


Tasmania Indulgence

21 March
2010
15 Days



\$3869ppts
\$948s/s

Our Unique Highlights:

- 37 Quality Meals
- Quality Accommodation
- Revolving Restaurant at Wrest Point
- Franklin River Cruise
- West Coast Wilderness Rail
- Arthur River Cruise - Exclusive!!
- Port Arthur
- Tahune Airwalk
- Freycinet National Park
- Mount Field National Park
- Lake St Clair
- Salamanca Markets
- Cradle Mountain Overnight
- Tamar Valley & Beaconsfield
- Pyengana Cheese Factory

Day 1: Home—Launceston (D)

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Our coach will depart from Thornton picking up enroute to Hornsby then to Sydney Airport. We will meet our fellow travellers at the airport. On arrival in Launceston, our coach will take us for a tour of this beautiful heritage city, including **Cataract Gorge**.

[Tamar Valley Resort \(2 nights\) 03 6330 0400](#)

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

We 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 & Museum**. At Beauty Point we will visit the **Sea Horse Farm and Aquarium**. We will return on the eastern side of the Tamar visiting a local **Strawberry Farm** for wine and cheese tasting as well as the opportunity to purchase a strawberry sundae.

Day 3: Launceston—St Helens (BLD)

We will call into **Bridestowe Lavender Farm** before continuing through potato and hop farms. This morning our journey will take us to Legerwood to photograph their unusual **wooden sculpture park**. We will continue on past the tin mining town of Derby to **Weldborough Pass** where we 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**, followed by an informative talk and tastings. Tonight we stay at the coastal fishing town of **St Helens**.

[Tidal Waters 03 6376 1998](#)

Day 4: Freycinet National Park—Orford (BLD)

We will stop at **Bicheno**, famous for its crayfish and as a holiday destination. We will continue south towards **Wineglass Bay**, one of Tasmania's most popular National Parks. From the lookout path we can admire the beautiful pink granite of the cliffs and the renowned colour of Wineglass Bay. Lunch will be at **Freycinet Lodge** with time to explore the waters edge of **Coles Bay**. We continue to Swansea and the **Spikey Bridge**.

[Eastcoaster Resort 03 6257 1172](#)

Day 5: Orford—Port Arthur—Hobart (BD)

This morning we will stop at **Buckland Church** with its old stained glass window (dating back to the 16th Century). Morning tea will be 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 of the **Tasman Arch** and the **Devil's Kitchen** before arriving at **Port Arthur** for a guided tour and a short cruise around the **Isle of the Dead**. We will learn how the convicts lived, worked and died under the threat of the lash, in an experimental system which often drove them to madness. A full afternoon to explore the heritage listed ruins and experience the lives of the convicts and their masters. Our motel is located close to **Constitution Dock**, the town centre and Salamanca Place. We will enjoy dinner at our hotel tonight.

[Old Woolstore 03 6235 5355 \(4 nights\)](#)

Day 6: Hobart—Huon Valley—Derwent Cruise (BLD)

On our way south we will call into **Mount Nelson** lookout for a view over the Derwent and the City. **Huon Valley**, is home to many orchards and forests, with morning tea at **Geeveston**. On display are beautiful wood works from small cheese boards to 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 all relatively flat with a hand rail all the way along. After a **BBQ lunch** we will explore the river bank Huon Pine Walk. Tonight we dine in the **Revolving Restaurant on the top of Wrest Point Casino** this restaurant offers unparalleled 360 degree views of the City & Harbour.

Day 7: 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. Free time this afternoon allows you to take the opportunity to enjoy the Mall, Botanical Gardens, Battery Point, or optional tours like the seaplanes, jetboarding, sailing on the old ships, brewery and ghost tours or hire a car and visit Bruny Island. Your travel consultant can help you make a booking to ensure you don't miss out on any attractions. Tonight you may try the local cuisine from one of the many restaurants.

Day 8: Hobart Vineyard, Richmond, Cadbury's (BD)

This morning there is time to visit the Hobart Mall in particular the Cat and the Fiddle clock tower before we make our way to **Cadbury's** for a tour and tastings as well as opportunity to purchase some bargains from the shop. We will travel to **Historical Richmond**, before visiting **Frogmore's Vineyard**, in the heart of Hobart's winery district, for wine tasting. We are going out for dinner tonight to at the **Boat House Restaurant**. This restaurant is on Cornelian Bay, overlooking the sailing club and Tasman Bridge and won numerous awards for their culinary fare, a great way to end our Hobart visit.

Day 9: Mount Field National Park—Strahan (BLD)

We will leave Hobart and travel north west through **New Norfolk** and the hop growing region. Rugged forests, steep gullies and lakes dominate our drive further along the West Coast Highway, the basis for the Hydro Electric Scheme. Our lunch stop will be at **Lake St Clair National Park**. We will have a short walk into **Nelson Falls**, a beautiful walk. In the copper mining town of Queenstown, we will board the **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 down to **Macquarie Harbour**.
[Strahan Village Hilltop Units 03 6471 4200 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 10: Franklin Gordon River Cruise (BLD)

Today we will cruise the **Gordon River**. We cross **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**. At Heritage Landing we take the boardwalk through stands of Huon Pine, Sassafras and Myrtle Rainforest. After a **smorgasbord lunch onboard** we will return to Strahan Village, with free time to visit the mill, galleries and shops.

Day 11: Strahan—Cradle Mountain (BLD)

We will make our way to **Cradle Mountain National Park**, taking 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 you can walk part or all of the Dove Lake Walk (3km boardwalk, 3km gravel track).

A regular shuttle bus service pass is included, to allow you to return to National Park Headquarters when you wish. We will stay at the **4 star Cradle Mountain Chateau** with its own **Wilderness Art Gallery**. Settle back at the Chateau by the fire before our **buffet dinner**.
[Cradle Mountain Chateau 03 6492 1404](#)

Day 12: 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 Weindorfers' home "**Waldheim**". Departing Cradle Mountain we drive through Tasmanian hardwood eucalypt plantations of blue gum (harvested every 12-15 years for paper) and arrive in **Smithton**, home to Simplot vegetables (Edgells). Our **4 Star Resort** has a beautiful **indoor heated pool**.
[Tall Timbers Motel 03 6405 2755 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 13: Smithton (BLD)

Today we will visit the **Edge of the World**, with the next landfall being the East Coast of South America. We will enjoy cruising the Arthur River on the **MV George Robinson**, a replica vessel built in 1985 in the style of a Sydney Ferry. This river meanders through some of the most rugged and pristine northwest country in Tasmania. We will have a **guided walk by a passionate local** along the edge of the river, learning about the flora and fauna of this wilderness whilst our **BBQ lunch is cooked, complete with a glass of wine**, before our return cruise.



Day 14: Smithton—Devonport (BLD)

Our first stop today will be **Stanley** with its backdrop of the **Nut**, an ancient volcano core. A **chairlift 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 continue to **Table Cape**, a region rich in agriculture where potatoes, beans, onions, pyrethrum daisies, opium poppies and tulips in season, can all be seen. The last section from Penguin to Ulverstone offers lots of flowers growing along the coast. In **Devonport** there will be time to visit one of the island's best craft shops and a photo opportunity to see the *Spirit of Tasmania* preparing to return to Melbourne.
[The Gateway Inn 03 6424 4922](#)

Day 15: Devonport—Home (B)

The small town of **Sheffield** has had a remarkable revival due to the colourful murals painted on the buildings, just like its inspiration, Chemainus, in Victoria, Canada. The murals depict the history, flora and fauna of the district. From here we will continue to **Launceston** to join our return flight to Sydney. Our coach will then transfer us to Hornsby and the Hunter.