

Taste of Tasmania

7 April 2010
12 Days



\$3034ppts
\$692s/s



Unique Highlights Include:

- 27 Quality Meals
- Franklin River Cruise
- West Coast Wilderness Rail
- Port Arthur
- Tahune Airwalk
- Cadbury's Chocolate Factory
- Beaconsfield
- Frogmore Winery
- Salamanca Markets
- Visit Cradle Mountain
- Mount Field National Park
- Allendale Gardens
- Stanley & the Nut
- Boat Harbour

18 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 to the Tamar Valley to **Beaconsfield** and **Beauty Point**, where we will visit the **Sea Horse Farm and Aquarium**, with its thousands of tiny seahorses. We will return to Launceston via the eastern side of the Tamar River, enjoying a **wine & cheese tasting at a strawberry farm** with the opportunity to purchase a strawberry sundae.

[Earlington Mercure Launceston 03 6333 9999 \(APRIL\)](#)

Day 2: Launceston—Orford (BLD)

This morning our journey will take us to Legerwood with its **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**, and later an informative talk. The crayfish town of **Bicheno** is fast becoming one of Tassie's hot spots. Continuing down the coast we pass Oyster Bay and Freycinet Peninsula, with a stop at the **Spikey Bridge** near Swansea.

[Eastcoaster Resort Orford 03 62571172](#)

Day 3: Orford—Port Arthur (BD)

This morning we will stop at **Buckland Church** and view its **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 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 the experimental prison system. We have a full afternoon to explore and experience this important place.

[Parsons Bay Lodge 03 6250 2171 \(APRIL\)](#)

Day 4: 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, mountainbike riding, brewery & ghost tours, or hire a car and visit Bruny island. We can help you pre-book any attractions to make sure you don't miss out! 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 crays and fine dining.

[The Old Woolstore 03 6235 5355 \(3 nights\)](#)



Day 5: Huon Valley Tahune Air Walk, Derwent River Cruise (BLD)

We stop at **Mount Nelson Lookout** for a spectacular view over the Derwent River and the City. We go to the attractive Huon Valley, 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 a hand rail all the way along.

After a **BBQ lunch** we will explore the river bank Huon Pine Walk and then return to Hobart. Tonight we enjoy a relaxed **dinner cruise on the Derwent River**.

Day 6: Hobart (B)

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. Our afternoon will be at **Historical Richmond** and **Frogmore's Winery**.



Day 7: Hobart—Queenstown (BLD)

We will travel north west through New Norfolk and into **Mount Field National Park**, for morning tea and an easy walk to **Russell Falls**. From here we head into the Lakes country. The township of Tarraleah overlooks some of the steep and deep gullies which form the basis of the Hydro power scheme. A detour into **Lake St Clair** will break up the afternoon, along with a short walk at beautiful **Nelson Falls** before we reach the old copper mining town of **Queenstown**.

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



Day 8: Strahan, Franklin Gordon River Cruise— ABT West Coast Wilderness Railway (BLD)

Today we will cruise the **Gordon River** into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness. Crossing **Macquarie Harbour**, we pass 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 ancient Huon Pine, Sassafras and Myrtle. After a **smorgasbord lunch on board** we will return to Strahan Village. Here we will board the **ABT West Coast 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. We return to Queenstown on this unique train.

Day 9: Queenstown—Wynyard (BLD)

We will make our way to **Cradle Mountain NP**, 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 Weindorffer, who lobbied to have the area set aside as a National Park. In the afternoon we continue through the Blue Gum Paper forests to **Burnie**, the deep water harbour of the North Coast, visited by many international cruise ships.



Our accommodation for the next two nights is at **Wynyard** offering great views of the **Inglis River**, a popular fishing spot as well as many walking tracks around to the bluff.

[Wynyard Waterfront Motel 036442 2351 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 10: Stanley, the Nut, Allendale Gardens, Wynyard (BLD)

Today we will spend the first part of the morning enjoying the magnificent views from Table Cape to the south and the rich agriculture area stretching all of the way to the coast. This region is also renowned for its Poppy and Tulip farms. We continue to **Boat Harbour** and then the historic Circular Head region and village of **Stanley**, nestling at the foot of an ancient volcanic core known as the "Nut". We will take the **chair lift ride** to the top for breathtaking views. We continue our day with a drive through the old Van Diemen Company Headquarters of Highfields. Our final visit for the day will be **Allendale Gardens**, an old dairy farm which is now a huge cottage garden of natives and annuals.

Day 11: Wynyard—Launceston (BLD)

The town of **Devonport** is home to the Spirit of Tasmania and there will be a good chance of one of the ferries being at the wharf. The town also boasts one of the best craft shops on the island. We will visit **Sheffield**, which has had a remarkable revival due to the colourful murals painted on the buildings. The murals depict the history, flora and fauna of the district. We will head through **Railton** complete with its hand shaped topiary shrubs. In Deloraine we will visit **Yarns**, a magnificent silk tapestry which depicts the four seasons of this Great Western Tiers community.

[Earlington Mercure Launceston 03 6333 9999](#)



Day 12: Launceston—Home (B)

This morning we will take a walk around **Cataract Gorge**, a popular picnic spot ever since the town was established, with the opportunity to take the chairlift over the lake. Flying out of Launceston our coach will then meet us in Sydney for our return transfers back to Hornsby, Tuggerah and the Hunter.