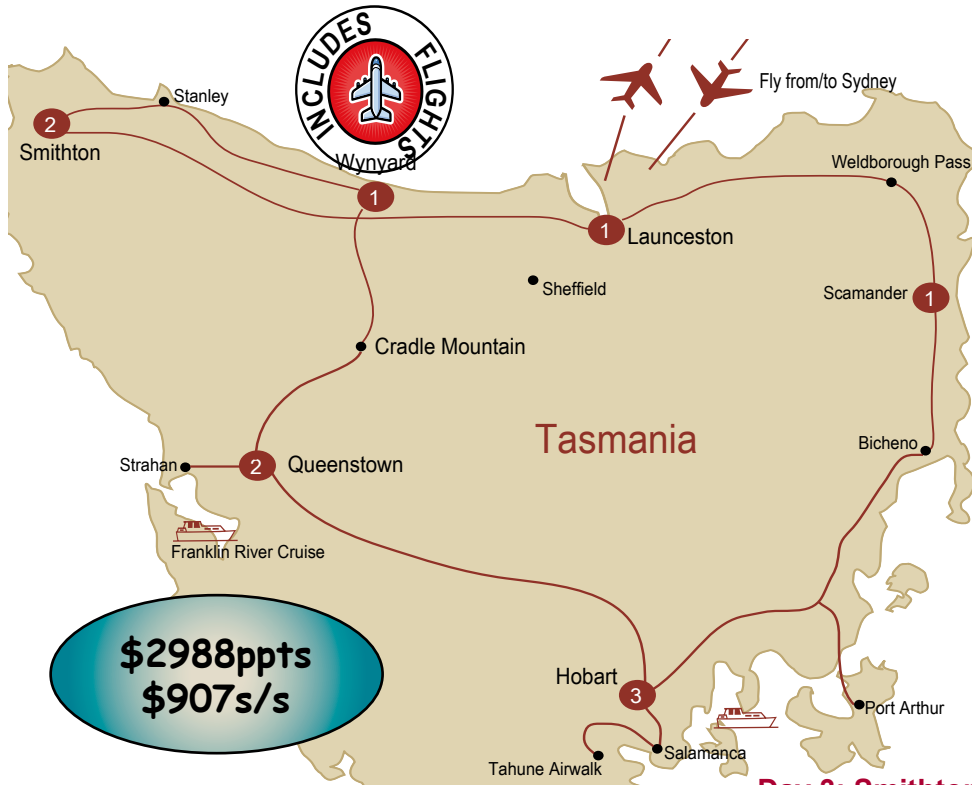


colours of tasmania

20 February

2011

11 Days



Earlybird Discount!

Save up to \$300 per couple if you book and pay in full before Sep 1st 2010

Our Unique Highlights Include:

- ✓ 27 Quality Meals
- ✓ Franklin River Cruise
- ✓ West Coast Wilderness Rail
- ✓ Port Arthur
- ✓ Tahune Airwalk
- ✓ Beaconsfield
- ✓ Salamanca Markets
- ✓ Mount Field National Park
- ✓ Bonorong Wildlife Park
- ✓ Freycinet Peninsula

\$2988ppts
\$907s/s

Day 1: Home—Smithton (D)

66 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, before making our way to **Smithton**, home to Simplot vegetables (Edgells, McCain). Remember to bring your swimmers as our **4 star resort** has one of the nicest **indoor heated pools** that you will ever see.

Tall Timbers Motel 03 6452 2755 (2 nights)

Day 2: Arthur River Cruise (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 country in northwest 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 3: Smithton—Wynyard (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 head to **Table Cape**, a region rich in agriculture where potatoes, beans, onions, pyrethrum daisies, opium poppies and tulips can all be seen. Late afternoon we will wind our way to the pretty seaside village of Wynyard for our overnight stay.

Wynyard Waterfront 02 6442 2351

Day 4: Wynyard—Cradle Mountain—Queenstown (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. You can 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 make our way to Queenstown for the next two nights.

Gold Rush Motel 03 6471 1005 (2 nights)

Day 5: 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 will return to Strahan Village. Here we will 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 6: Queenstown—Hobart (BLD)

Our first stop this morning will be **Nelson Falls**, with morning tea on the **Franklin River**, before making our way through to Tarrleah and Mount Field National Park. We then travel to Hobart and make our way to one of Hobart's premier boutique hotels, the Old Woolstore. In the evening we will visit **Bonorong Wildlife Park for a night feeding experience**. We will watch the animals being fed before enjoying a **BBQ dinner**.

The Old Woolstore 03 6235 5355 (3 nights)



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. 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. Your travel consultant will be able to help you pre-book any attractions you are interested in seeing. Tonight dinner is at your own expense, which gives you the opportunity of trying the local cuisine ranging from our Hotel restaurant, Muir's Seafood restaurant which caters for everything from fresh fish & chips to crays and fine dining.



Day 8: 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 a distance of 570 metres. This is a relatively flat walk with hand rail 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 9: Port Arthur, Bicheno—Scamander (BD)

This morning we visit the historic convict settlement 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. Continuing down the coast past Oyster Bay and **Freycinet Peninsula**, we will have a photo opportunity at **Spikey Bridge**. We then make our way through Swansea and Bicheno, fast becoming one of Tassie's popular tourist spots, to Scamander for our overnight accommodation.

Scamander Beach Resort Hotel 03 6372 5255

Day 10: Scamander—Launceston (BLD)

We will enjoy a **country Devonshire Tea with lashings of jam and double cream** at the **Pyengana Cheese Factory**, before an informative talk. Continuing on past the tin mining town of Derby to **Weldborough Pass** where we stop and take a walk amongst the ancient myrtle trees, we will make our way to **Legerwood** to photograph their **unusual wooden sculpture park**. We will then make our way to Launceston before heading to our Swiss themed accommodation at Grindlewald

Tamar Valley Resort 03 6330 0400

Day 11: Launceston—Home (B)

Today we will explore the **Tamar Valley** with our first stop being at Beauty Point the **Sea Horse Farm and Aquarium**. At Beaconsfield we will visit the **Grubb Shaft Mine and Museum** before making our way to the Airport for our journey home.