



BACKYARD JOURNEYS

TASMANIAN CIRCLE

HIGHLIGHTING THE HEART OF THE ISLAND

6 DAYS





Port Arthur

Designed to fit neatly into a calendar week this tour is our best option for sampling Tasmania in its entirety. Covering approximately 1500 km we explore many of Tassie's premier attractions, moving fast enough to provide a fantastic overview of the island, yet slow enough to enjoy the sights! Suitable for all ages and fitness levels this is truly an amazing, small group travel experience with a maximum of 15 people, and operating with just 2.

SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ✓ The stunning panoramic views from Mt Wellington Summit.
- ✓ Visit a winery in one of Tasmania's most famous wine regions the Coal Valley.
- ✓ Fully guided tour of Australia most famous culturally historic site – Port Arthur.
- ✓ 25min Harbour Cruise of Port Arthur aboard the the spacious catamaran vessel Marana.
- ✓ Tasmania's east coast and the incredible Bay of Fires.
- ✓ Visit the award winning Nature World for an interactive experience with Tasmania's native animals including the Tasmanian Devil.
- ✓ Sampling some of the best & freshest food and wine in all of Australia.
- ✓ Stroll through the lovely grounds of Cataract Gorge in Launceston.
- ✓ Fully guided tour at the unique Marakoopa show Caves, includes viewing some of the best Glow Worms in Australia.
- ✓ Majestic Cradle Mountain and its stunning highland scenery.
- ✓ Evening animal spotting adventure in Cradle Mountain including Wallabies, Pademelons and our favourite the Wombats!

INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation
- ✓ All breakfasts and lunches provided
- ✓ Bottled water provided on tour.
- ✓ FREE wine, cheese, chocolate, oyster & honey at selected tastings.
- ✓ Daily afternoon tea, coffee & biscuits stops included FREE.
- ✓ Complimentary pick-up and drop-off at any Hobart CBD Hotel.
- ✓ 1 x evening meal provided at Cradle Mountain
- ✓ All accommodations provided 3.5-4 star rated.
- ✓ All attractions, entry fee's and National Parks passes provided.
- ✓ The only additional expenses incurred are 4 x evening meals & and any spending money.

DATES:

Departs Hobarts every Monday

PRICES:

PER PERSON TWIN SHARE: \$1,895
 PER PERSON SOLE USE ROOM: \$2,390
 PER PERSON TRIPLE SHARE: \$1,895

Prices correct at 04 November 2020, and subject to change.



DAY 1. HOBART - PORT ARTHUR
 Pick up from any Hobart CBD accommodations for the start of our 6 Day journey. Explore the Hobart waterfront area before heading to the summit of Mt Wellington (1270 m) boasting spectacular panoramic views in every direction. Further exploration through town sees us take in the historic Female Factory & Cascade Brewery while viewing many of Australia's oldest convict built structures.

Heading east we meander into the Coal River Valley, one of Tasmania's premier wine regions. Naturally we will lunch at a lovely, family operated winery, sampling some of Tassie's best wine & local produce before continuing on to the historic township of Richmond, one of Tasmania's cleanest settlements. We'll see the beautiful Richmond Bridge, built by convicts in 1823 it is Australia's oldest

operating bridge still in operation. It's then on to the Tasman Peninsula for our first taste of the east coast. The Tasman National Park boasts towering sea cliffs and a wealth of cultural history as we venture south. A beautiful lookout point over Pirates Bay provides the ideal location for a scenic, mid-afternoon tea/coffee break. Learn about Eaglehawk Neck – the site of the infamous Dogline – as we cross onto the Tasman Peninsula. We then explore some of nature's true wonders with short, scenic walks at Tasman's Arch & Devils Kitchen. Continuing on we squeeze in a stop at the colourful Port Arthur Lavender Farm before overnighting right on the cusp of the Port Arthur World Heritage Historic Site.

Accommodation:
 Port Arthur Motor Inn or similar

Meals: L

DAY 2. HOBART - EAST COAST - BICHENO
 Our day begins with a 2.5 hour fully guided tour around the Port Arthur Historic Site. Explore many of the original buildings as we learn about the early convicts and the role they played in Tasmania's history. Learn about Point Puer (the juvenile boys prison), the Isle of the Dead graveyard and the Port Arthur timber industry while enjoying a short, scenic harbour cruise to view the site as incoming convicts would have.

Much to everyone's delight we stop at the boutique Federation Chocolate factory for some sampling of fresh, hand made chocolates. The flavours change depending on the season and the produce available! Next we leave the Tasman Peninsular for our journey up the very east coast of the island. At Raspins Beach we view the imposing Maria Island off the coast of Orford before stopping to see the unique



convict built Spikey Bridge and the captivating coastline at Spikey Beach over tea, coffee & biscuits.

Next up is Swansea – a beautiful East Coast town – and the Great Oyster Bay area. At Freycinet National Park we take one of Tasmania's best and most scenic short walks to view the famous Wineglass Bay from Cape Tourville Lookout. Perhaps we will spot the Sea Eagle, Australian Fur seals, a pod of Dolphins or even whales migrating up & down the coast? Arriving in Bicheno for our evening accommodations we will squeeze in one last feel good activity by spotting the cute little Fairy Penguins arriving ashore right in Bicheno township.

Accommodation:
Beachfront Bicheno or similar
Meals: (B, L)

DAY 3. BICHENO - BAY OF FIRES - LAUNCESTON

Start the day at the amazing Blow Hole on the rocky coastline of Bicheno. Visit the multi-award winning East Coast Nature World wildlife park to see many of our native animals and in particular – the feeding of the iconic Tasmanian Devil. Learn about this amazing animal and its recent struggle for survival. Pat wombats and hand-feed kangaroos, geese and ducks – this is a wonderful and interactive morning.

Enjoy travelling Tasmania's most scenic coastal road with breathtaking views of the east coast en route to one of Tasmania's premier attractions – the Bay of Fires. At Binalong Bay we will stroll along the pure white sandy beaches and snap photos of possibly

the most colourful spot on the island.

Visit a working oyster farm, see their farming techniques and enjoy the freshest possible oysters. In the afternoon we proceed towards Launceston stopping at Pyengana, the award winning cheese factory and dairy. We then twist our way through an ancient Myrtle Rainforest and cross the trail of the dragon, an old mining area centred around the town of Derby. The carved memorial trees at Legerwood are one of Australia most unique & tasteful memorial sites, this will be our tea & coffee break for today before arriving in Launceston CBD for our evenings lodgings.

Accommodation:
Best Western Launceston CBD or similar
Meals: BL

DAY 4. LAUNCESTON - CRADLE MOUNTAIN

Today we will spend the morning exploring downtown Launceston – Australia's 3rd oldest capital city behind Sydney & Hobart. We will see the King Bridge, City Park, inside the beautiful old Heritage listed Post Office and of course take a 40 minute stroll through a jewel in the city – Cataract Gorge Reserve. Soon after we head westward into the Meander Valley which is an absolutely stunning farming and pastoral area. Try local made ice-cream and honey tastings of more than 50 flavours at the renowned Melita Honey Farm in Chudleigh before learning about Tasmania's oldest and biggest Leatherwood Honey producer R. Stephens Honey in Mole Creek.

Our lunch stop today is a true gem hidden in the forest at 41° Degrees South Salmon Farm. After lunch a truly unique attraction follows with

a guided tour of the Marakoopa Caves, exhibiting limestone & crystal formations millions of years old, along with a completely natural population of resident glow worms! From here we will snake our way up onto the central highlands plateau to Cradle Mountain National Park to partake in some wombat & animal spotting at dusk before an Aussie BBQ banquet dinner. Tonight's accommodation gives a real mountain experience in our comfortable and very cosy cabin lodgings.

Accommodation: Discovery Parks – Cradle Mountain or similar
MEALS: BLD

DAY 5. CRADLE MOUNTAIN - QUEENSTOWN

Start the day with a full buffet hot and cold banquet breakfast at Cradle Mountain Hotel. Inside the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park – a photographers paradise – drive to the gorgeous Dove Lake for breathtaking views of Cradle Mountain. Take a short walk to glacier rock and then on to the appropriately named Enchanted Walk to see beautiful cascades and the Pencil Pine waterfall. Visit the old "Waldheim Cottage" of pioneer Gustav Weindorfer who made Cradle Mountain world famous.

En route to Strahan we pass through beautiful Lake Rosebery, old mining towns such as Zeehan and view the Southern Ocean from one of the best lookout points on the west coast – how far can you see – perhaps Argentina? This is some of the freshest air on Earth. Arriving in the historic settlement of Strahan we see the historical train station at Regatta Point, visit an old though still operational saw mill and

the award winning Woodcraft Centre with beautifully designed woodworks on display. Continue on to our evenings lodgings at the infamous west coast township of Queenstown.

Accommodation: Queenstown Motor Lodge or similar
Meals: BL

DAY 7. QUEENSTOWN - HOBART

Queenstown is an old mining town reflecting past glory and surrounded by colourful, mineral rich mountains. Start the day by seeing off the Wilderness steam engine for its trip across to Strahan. We will take in panoramic views over Queenstown from the Iron Blow lookout at the top of Mt Lyell before a lovely rainforest drive right through the World Heritage Franklin-Gordon National Park.

Take a stroll into possibly Tasmania's most photogenic waterfall – Nelson Falls, the 30 minute return walk is one of the west coasts best. We then travel through picturesque valleys and mountains, pristine forests, cross wild rivers before winding our way up Mt Arrowsmith to the geographical centre of Tasmania. Button grass plains, Eucalyptus forests, majestic mountains and spectacular lakes are in every direction here.

Turn at Derwent Bridge to see Lake St Clair – Australia's deepest freshwater lake and the inception of the mighty Derwent River. Next up is lunch at one of the states premier cultural experiences – The Wall, an amazing ongoing work by artist Greg Duncan, depicting stories of Tasmanian history hand carved in Huon pine – our most famous timber.

Following lunch we have a close-up look at Tasmania's Hydro-Electric Power scheme in the township of Tarraleah, before pushing further east into the Derwent Valley. A mid afternoon coffee stop is in order at Lake Meadowbank before detouring into Mt Field National Park to visit the delightful 3 tier Russell Falls. Our final drive leg wanders along side the Derwent River bringing us back to Hobart for the conclusion of our adventures. Drop off at your nominated CBD Hotel approximately 6 pm.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

Please call 1300 738 168, or email enquiries@forwardtravel.com.au with any questions and to book your place.

A \$500 per person deposit is due within 3 days of booking.
Balance is due 60 days before departure.

We will send you a booking form to be completed and returned along with a copy of the information page of your passport, or other form of photo ID.,

Deposits are non refundable for change of mind so we suggest you take out suitable travel insurance .

If border closures prevent you from travelling, your payment will be held in credit for future travel. No refund will be offered.

Please see the website for full terms and conditions. www.forwardtravel.com.au

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is HIGHLY recommended that passengers take out travel insurance. Most claims arise from either personal or close-family illness before departure resulting in cancellation charges. As a valued customer we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to purchase discounted travel insurance.

HOW MANY GUESTS WILL BE ON TOUR

The vehicle you will travel in depends on passenger bookings. There are 3 different size vehicles. 'Maximum Passengers' policy is: Hyundai iMax – Licensed to carry 8, no more than 5 Toyota HiAce – Licensed to carry 14, no more than 11 Yutong Coach – Half size coach bus. Licensed to carry 23, no more than 15

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Generally, the weather over the tourist season is warm during the day and cool at night. It is recommended to pack a warm jacket for Tasmania regardless of the time of the year you are travelling. Digital camera or camcorder Walking shoes. Although most walking tracks are easy and established, good walking shoes will come in handy. A pair of jeans or similar, a pair of shorts in summer.



Contact us today to start planning your own Backyard Journey



Ph: 1300 738 168
www.forwardtravel.com.au
enquiries@forwardtravel.com.au
PO Box 242, Penshurst NSW 2222

ABN 33 164 700 832