

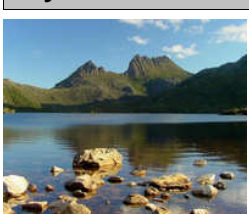


## 12 Day Tasmanian Tour

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Port Melbourne – Spirit of Tasmania</b>	<b>D</b>
	<p>Travel to Port Melbourne and Station Pier to board Spirit of Tasmania for the overnight cruise across Bass Strait to Devonport. Explore the on-board features and enjoy a buffet dinner while cruising down Port Phillip Bay. Settle into your twin ensuite cabins for a refreshing sleep before waking up with Tasmania in sight.</p>	
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Sheffield - Table Cape - Stanley - Smithton</b>	<b>BD</b>
	<p>After berthing in the Mersey River, disembark to be welcomed by your Tour Guide and escorted to your coach. Travel to a nearby venue for breakfast before touring the hinterland dominated by the majestic Mt. Roland. Spend time in the town of Sheffield to admire the wonderful out-door art gallery of impressive murals, then follow the scenic coastal drive through Ulverstone and Penguin. Marvel at the breathtaking views from Table Cape with its amazing diversity of crops and farms. Visit the historic village of Stanley nestling at the foot of an ancient volcanic core known as 'the Nut'. Tour past Highfield, historical headquarters of the early Van Diemens Land Co. and explore the quaint town with its terraces and chairlift access to the top of the Nut</p>	
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Cradle Mountain - West Coast</b>	<b>BLD</b>
	<p>Departing Circular Head this morning tour via picturesque Hellyer Gorge, with it's West Coast rainforest then journey through button grass plains to reach Cradle Valley. Board the Shuttle Bus into picturesque Dove Lake at the foot of Cradle Mountain and visit Waldheim forest home of pioneer Gustav Weindorfer. Enjoy lunch at a local hotel and browse through the Wilderness Gallery before continuing through mountain ranges, past swift-flowing rivers, steep gorges and former mining towns en route to Strahan for the next two nights.</p>	
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Macquarie Harbour - Gordon River Cruise</b>	<b>BLD</b>
	<p>This morning cruise the incomparable Gordon River into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness. Cross vast Macquarie Harbour, past Sarah Island, worst convict settlement of all - and follow the Gordon through stands of ancient Huon pine, sassafras and myrtle rainforest to step ashore for a wilderness board-walk at Heritage Landing. Voyage to Hell's Gates, the aptly named harbour entrance where many early ships were destroyed by ferocious ocean swells. On return to Strahan, there will be opportunity to explore the Village including the Visitor Centre and Huon Pine saw mill. As an optional extra, you may choose to ride the unique Abt Wilderness Railway to Queenstown.</p>	

**Day 5** **Lyell Highway - Central Highlands - New Norfolk - Hobart** **BD**



Depart Strahan via Queenstown, Mt. Owen, Gormanston Hill and the ghost towns of the Chamonoi Valley. Cross Lake Burbury to enter the Wild Rivers National Park and experience the wonders of Gondwanaland during a short rainforest walk to Nelson Waterfalls. At Derwent Bridge visit "The Wall in The Wilderness", an extraordinary work of art being crafted telling the story of Tasmania's Central Highlands. In Tarraleah Gorge view the penstocks and workings of an early Hydro-electric installation before crossing the Central Plateau. Descend through hills and hop fields to historic New Norfolk. Follow the picturesque Derwent Valley to the City of Hobart and tour historic Battery Point, Salamanca Place and Constitution Docks before checking in at accommodation for the next 4 Nights.

**Day 6** **Port Arthur – Richmond - Hobart** **BD**



This morning we head to the Port Arthur Convict Settlement where within its 40 hectares of landscaped grounds lies a rich history of Australia's past. Included in the entry is a guided walking tour, a short cruise across the harbour, access to the Visitor Centre and Interpretation Gallery as well as more than 30 buildings, ruins and restored gardens and houses - explore as you wish before departing the Historic Site to tour the geological sites of the Tasman Arch, Devils Kitchen and Eaglehawk Neck. Continue along the Highway taking in the Norfolk and Frederick Henry Bays heading before heading back to Hobart.

**Day 7** **Huon Valley** **BLD**



This morning we visit Cadburys Chocolates at Claremont to learn all about that great 'chocolate taste' followed by opportunity to purchase your favourites at the Chocolate Shop. Tour the apple orchards and fruit growing regions of the Huon Valley, through Huonville, Franklin, and Geeveston to Tasmania's southern eucalypt and Huon pine forests. Along the way visit the wooden boat centre and apple museum. A major attraction has been established in the Tahune State Forest at the junction of the Picton and Huon Rivers. Explore the Visitor Centre and take a unique view of the environment during the 570 metre long walk between the magnificent canopies of the Tahune Forest high in the tree tops at Tahune Forest Airwalk. Visit the Forest & Heritage Centre at Geeveston and return to Hobart for overnight.

**Day 8** **Hobart - Richmond** **BD**



A relaxed day around the City of Hobart includes historic Battery Point, Salamanca Place, Constitution Docks and the waterfront. As it is Saturday morning, take the opportunity to explore the famous Salamanca open-air Market with its bustle and buskers, colour and excitement. Tour Mt. Wellington (weather permitting) for panoramic views of the city and estuary before crossing the Derwent to the historic village of Richmond, where you can view the spire of Australia's oldest Catholic Church from beneath the arches of our oldest stone bridge. Before returning to accommodation, enjoy some quiet moments in Hobart's Royal Botanical Gardens, vibrant with summer colours and blooms. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore as you wish.

**Day 9** **Tasman Hwy - Bicheno - ECNW - St Helens** **BD**



Say farewell to Hobart as we follow the Tasman Highway via Orford and Triabunna to tour north beside the blue waters of the Tasman Sea. Pause at the convict built, enigmatic Spiky Bridge then continue on to gain magnificent views of picturesque Freycinet National Park with its jagged pink granite peaks, crystal clear waters and white sandy beaches. Continue through Swansea to Bicheno, view the 'Gulch' fishing harbour and the ocean blowhole. At the East Coast Nature World learn about the threat to the Tasmanian Devil and take an informative ride on the 'Pelican Express' before touring north to St. Helens and overnight accommodation beside beautiful George Bay.

**Day 10****North East - Beaconsfield - Launceston****BD**

This morning we tour the hinterland and myrtle rainforest of Weldborough Pass, through the former tin mining area of Derby and detouring to Legerwood to admire the tree carvings commemorating the war heroes of the region. Travel via the rich agricultural region of Scottsdale, across the unique A-frame Batman Bridge spanning the Tamar River and continue to Beaconsfield where we tour the Gold Mine Heritage Museum, site of the mine disaster and miraculous rescue. Gain views of the picturesque Tamar Valley as we tour through Grindelwald Swiss Village with its alpine style houses and unusual wood carvings. Continue to our overnight accommodation at Launceston.

**Day 11****Launceston - Cataract Gorge - Woolmers - Spirit****BD**

This morning explore Launceston's City Centre and magnificent Cataract Gorge with its cliff-side gardens, peacocks, pools, suspension Foot Bridge and one of the longest single span chairlifts in the world – (ride is optional and own expense.) Stroll in City Park and the John Hart Conservatory noted for displays of begonias, cyclamens and other hot house blooms. Travel to Longford and tour the historic Woolmers Estate and National Rose Garden. Joining the Bass Highway continue to Ashgrove Farm Cheese Centre for an informative visit and tasting en route to the city of Devonport. Enjoy an evening meal before boarding Spirit of Tasmania for the cruise across Bass Strait to Melbourne.

**Day 12****Bass Strait – Melbourne – Home****B**

Early risers may witness the entry through The Heads into Port Phillip Bay and watch the Melbourne City skyline come into view during the cruise up the bay to Station Pier. Disembark on arrival around 6.00am to enjoy breakfast at a local venue before travelling home, reflecting on your holiday to the 'island of inspiration'. Thank you for your company.

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner