

## Austrips Short Tour - East Coast

### Day: 1

#### Port Melbourne ~ Spirit of Tasmania



Your island adventure begins on board the Spirit of Tasmania ferry which departs Port Melbourne's Station Pier at 7.30pm. Explore the many onboard facilities including bars, a cafeteria, restaurant and lounges. Enjoy the cruise down Port Phillip Bay and settle into a comfortable twin cabin with private facilities.

### Day: 2

#### Devonport ~ Sheffield ~ Launceston

**BD**



After berthing in the Mersey River, disembark to be welcomed by your coach captain 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 and admire the wonderful out-door art gallery of impressive murals. Wind your way back through the township of Railton where you can view the many displays of Topiary throughout the town. Travel the Bass Highway to Ashgrove Farm Cheese for an informative visit and tasting en-route to Deloraine. Admire the fascinating history of the region woven into silk quilts before travel along the Old Highway through Westbury, Carrick and Hadsden. Tour to the city of Launceston where highlights include the 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. Continue to overnight accommodation in Launceston.

### Day: 3

#### North East ~ East Coast

**BD**



This morning we tour the picturesque Tamar Valley to the Mine & Heritage Museum in the gold mining town of Beaconsfield, site of the mine disaster and miraculous rescue. Cross the unique A-frame Batman Bridge and tour the north east through agricultural Scottsdale, Branhholm and former tin-mining centre of Derby. Visit Legerwood and view the War Memorial Tree Carvings, honouring the fallen soldiers of the region. Tour the myrtle rain forest of Weldborough Pass before descending to the East Coast at St. Helens and continuing to Bicheno for overnight accommodation overlooking the blue waters of the Tasman Sea.

### Day: 4

#### Devils ~ Tasman Highway ~ Richmond ~ Hobart

**BD**



Travel this morning beside the Ocean, stopping off at the East Coast Nature World to meet a Tasmanian Devil and ride the 'Pelican Express'. Continue to the Gulch Fishing Harbour and view the Blowhole before taking in views of the jagged, granite peaks of Freycinet Peninsula, Moulting Lagoon and Maria Island. Pass through Swansea and pause at the enigmatic, convict built Spiky Bridge. From Orford follow the Prosser River Valley through historic Buckland before heading for the historic town of Richmond. Here you may view the spire of Australia's oldest Catholic Church from beneath the arch of our oldest stone bridge still in use. Wander the streets of this delightful Georgian town and discover the arts and crafts, bakeries and tea rooms. Travel into Hobart nestled at the foot of majestic Mount Wellington, where you will explore the second oldest city in Australia including historic Battery Point, Salamanca Place, Constitution Docks and the waterfront before settling into your accommodation.

<b>Day: 5</b>	<b>Salamanca Market ~ Port Arthur or free time</b>	<b>BD</b>
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As it is Saturday morning, take the opportunity to explore the famous Salamanca open-air market with its bustle and buskers, colour and excitement. Afterwards we journey 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 travel along the highway taking in the Norfolk and Frederick Henry Bays. If you prefer not to visit Port Arthur Historic Site, enjoy free time in Hobart where there are so many things to see and do including shopping, visiting museums, art galleries or just enjoying Tasmania's capital city.

<b>Day: 6</b>	<b>Botanical Garden ~ Huon Valley ~ D'Entrecasteaux Channel</b>	<b>BD</b>
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Today will be a relaxing day starting with you enjoying some quiet moments in Hobart's Royal Botanical Gardens, vibrant with Summer colours and blooms. Then 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. Visit the Forest & Heritage Centre at Geeveston then wind your way along the D'Entrecasteaux Channel through the sleepy towns of Kettering and Snug. On return to Hobart, take in the panoramic views of the city and estuary from Mt Nelson before heading back to your accommodation.

<b>Day: 7</b>	<b>Cadbury's ~ Heritage Highway ~ Oatlands ~ Sail Home</b>	<b>B</b>
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This morning we visit Cadburys Chocolates at Claremont to learn the history of that great chocolate taste, followed by an opportunity to purchase your favourites from the Chocolate Shop. We say goodbye to Hobart and make our way up the Heritage Highway to Launceston. Stop at Oatlands and have a tour of Casaveen one of the last knitting mills in Australia then take a guided tour of the historic village of Ross by a friendly local. Return to Devonport where we will board the Spirit of Tasmania and relax in your cabin for your journey back to Melbourne.

<b>Day: 8</b>	<b>Bass Strait ~ Melbourne ~ Home</b>	
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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 travel home, reflecting on your holiday to the 'island of inspiration'. Thank you for your company.

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner