

TASMANIA – 10 DAYS

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2020



PO BOX 83, ARARAT. VIC 3377

Freecall: 1800 981 187

email: brendanstours@bigpond.com

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER D. OVERNIGHT CRUISE - SPIRIT OF TASMANIA

After pick up from your home, join our luxury coach enroute to Melbourne. On arrival at Station Pier, receive your boarding passes and cabin keys for your Bass Strait overnight cruise on the "New Spirit of Tasmania". On board, settle into your cabin and then browse around the ship's museum and shop before making your way to an outside deck for panoramic views of Melbourne's city skyline as the "Spirit of Tasmania" sails out into Port Phillip Bay. Dinner tonight is a buffet on board the Spirit of Tasmania. Accom: Spirit of Tasmania – Bass Strait.

(IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PACK A SMALL OVERNIGHT BAG ONLY FOR THE OVERNIGHT CRUISE ON THE SHIP. LEAVE YOUR LARGE SUITCASE ON BOARD THE COACH).

DAY 2: THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER B.D. DEVONPORT TO LAUNCESTON

Weather permitting this morning, the early risers can take in the views of the "Holiday Island". On arrival at the "Gateway to Tasmania", we disembark and assemble in the Terminal Foyer before reboarding our coach. Travel via the Exeter Highway through the Delgarth Forest Reserve Pine Plantations. Learn why the unique Batman Bridge was built the way it was before passing through the Tamar industrial centre of Bell Bay with the Longreach Woodchip Mill and the Comalco Aluminium Plant to George Town, a flourishing commercial centre close to the mouth of the Tamar River. Departing George Town we join the West Tamar Highway to Bushranger Brady's Lookout with its panoramic views of the Tamar Valley. Further onto Grindelwald, a picturesque Swiss Village nestled in the rolling hills of the Tamar Valley. We have a lunch stop at Grindelwald while we enjoy the spectacular surroundings. After lunch, we arrive in Tasmania's second largest city, Launceston Visit the City Park and enjoy the many features of interest including the Conservatory and Monkey Island. Enjoy a short city tour before moving on to Cataract Gorge and Basin. Marvel at the magnificent scenery as we take a Gorge walk, which is our last stop today before settling into our overnight accommodation. Accom: Quality Hotel Colonial Launceston Ph: 03 6331 6588

HIGHLIGHTS

- * CRUISE BASS STRAIT ON "SPIRIT OF TASMANIA"
- * PORT ARTHUR
- * "THE MURALS"
- * BATMAN BRIDGE
- * SWISS VILLAGE OF GRINDEWALD
- * LAUNCESTON
- * WREST POINT CASINO
- * GORDON RIVER CRUISE
- * ZEEHAN
- * QUEENSTOWN
- * TASMANIAN WOOL CENTRE
- * SALAMANCA MARKET
- * THE MAKERS' WORKSHOP
- * SWANSEA BARK MILL
- * HOBART
- * HUON VALLEY
- * "THE NUT"
- * BURNIE
- * CASCADE BREWERY
- * THE WALL
- * STANLEY
- * LAKE ST CLAIR

DAY 3: FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER B.D. LAUNCESTON TO HOBART

Travel south this morning along the Midland Highway through world-renowned premier wool country, through the historic township of Campbell Town to Ross. Visit the Tasmanian Wool Centre. A dominant feature of this pretty township is Ross Bridge, built by convict labour. The unique carvings on the arches earned the convict stonemason, Daniel Herbert, a free pardon. Admire the many other colonial buildings in Ross before travelling to the east coast via the Kalangadoo Forest Reserve. Marvel at the views of Freycinet Peninsula with the spectacular "Hazards" and Great Oyster Bay at Swansea, centre of the oldest rural municipality in Australia. Visit Swansea Bark Mill, built in 1885, the mill depicts the processing of Black Wattle Bark, the basic ingredient for tanning leather in the pioneer days. Try to fathom the logic behind the Spiky Bridge as we journey south along the Tasman Highway to Triabunna, the second of Tasmania's woodchip plants. Continue through Orford to Buckland and learn of the mystery of the coloured pane window in the church before travelling over "Bust-Me-Gall Pass" to Sorrell then over the Tasman Bridge to Australia's most southern capital, Hobart, home for the next four nights.

Accom: Hotel Grand Chancellor Ph 03 6235 4535

DAY 4: SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER B.D. HOBART- SALAMANCA MARKETS - HUON VALLEY

This morning we visit Salamanca Place, which comes alive with the famous Salamanca Market. Over 300 stallholders sell fresh and gourmet produce, arts, crafts and handiwork crafts from all over Tasmania. Regarded as one of the top attractions in Tasmania the market is not to be missed. Later we will travel south of Hobart to Kingston, and the lush Huon Valley, we learn of Tasmania's apple industry and heritage of this region, before continuing through Huonville to Geeveston. Visit the Esperance Forest and Heritage Centre and travel the Arve Forest Drive with Big Tree and Keogh Creek Forest Boardwalk. Visit the Tahune Air Walk and enjoy an amazing walk in the tree tops. Return to Hobart via Cygnet, a large fruit growing district and named because of the large number of swans in the bay. We travel via Snug and some of the upper class areas of Hobart, Taroona and Sandy Bay, one of the oldest areas of Hobart.

**DAY 5: SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
PORT ARTHUR**

B.D.

Today we travel the Arthur Highway to the historical town of Richmond. Visit Australia's oldest Catholic Church and Bridge. Visit the model village of Old Hobart Town and spend some time strolling through the many colonial stores and craft shops. Continue to the penal settlement of Port Arthur, arguably Australia's best known historic site. A guided tour by one of Port Arthur's very entertaining and knowledgeable guides takes you around the grounds with all its history and gruesome tales. Join the ferry for a cruise of the harbour viewing two of the famous islands of Port Arthur. After the cruise the rest of the afternoon is free for you to visit the many colonial buildings, the Commandants Cottage, the Dispensary, the Model Prison and the Church just to mention a few. Depart Port Arthur and travel to Doo Town. Visit the Blow Hole, Tasman's Arch and Devils Kitchen. Farewelling the Tasman Peninsula we travel back along the Arthur Highway to Sorell before crossing the Derwent River over the Bowen Bridge.

**DAY 6: MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER
HOBART SIGHTSEEING**

B.D.

This morning we take a trip to the summit of Mt. Wellington, one of the states highest points to take in the spectacular views of Southern Tasmania. Later we travel to visit the Cascade Brewery. Here we learn about Australia's oldest brewery, its finest beers, and the brewing process. After lunch, we tour Hobart's oldest and untouched suburb, Battery Point where the original Signal Station, old Ammunition Barracks plus much more are located. From Battery Point we travel up to Mt. Nelson for views over the Derwent River before spending some time strolling through the beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens, renowned for their collection of exotic trees, conservatory displays and the fuchsia and cactus house. From here, we cross the Tasman Bridge to the eastern shore where we visit the town of Bellerive and Montagu Bay. Dinner tonight is at Wrest Point Casino.

**DAY 7: TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER
HOBART TO STRAHAN**

B.D.

Depart the south of Tasmania later this morning and follow the Derwent Valley through New Norfolk. Continue on to Bushy Park where we pass Tasmania's largest hop farms. Travel further west through the colonial townships of Hamilton and Ouse before climbing onto the State's Central Plateau where we visit the Hydro Electric Power Stations of Tarraleah and Tungatinah. Leaving the power stations, we travel past the many lakes that supply the power stations before pausing at the geographical centre of Tasmania. Visit The Wall in the Wilderness, an inspirational tale carved from the mountains and rivers of the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Enjoy the majestic views of Australia's deepest natural lake, Lake St Clair, before rejoining the Lyell Highway and enter the Wild Rivers National Park. Travel down Mt. Arrowsmith Pass and marvel at the breath taking views of Surprise Valley. We pause to take a short boardwalk into Nelson Falls before continuing through the ghost town of Linda and Gormanston and the famous "Gormy Hill", descending into the lunar like landscape of Queenstown. Queenstown is the gateway to the South-West world heritage wilderness area. The town was literally carved out of the mountain and mining has been continuous since 1888. We travel further onto Strahan for our overnight stop.

Accom: Strahan Village Ph: 03 6471 4200

**DAY 8: WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER
GORDON RIVER CRUISE**

B.L.D.

This morning we cruise on Macquarie Harbour. This is Australia's second largest harbour and we join the Gordon River Explorer cruising out into Macquarie Harbour passing the penal settlement of Sarah Island, the island referred to in the book "For The Term of His Natural Life". From here, we enter the Gordon River where the mirror like reflections makes us wonder

where the water edge is. Take a short boardwalk through a Huon Pine forest before returning down the river back into Macquarie Harbour and out through "Hells Gates" and the Southern Ocean and back to Strahan. Depart Strahan and follow the old railway lines and the Henty Sand Dunes to the once booming mining town of Zeehan. Continue north through the mining town of Roseberry where zinc, silver and gold are still mined today. Continue over Mt Black, through dense rainforests and the Surrey Hills eucalypt and pine plantations to the thriving port side city of Devonport situated at the mouth of the Mersey River. Accom: Gateway Inn Hotel Ph: 03 6424 4922

**DAY 9: THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER
NORTH COAST**

B.D.

We begin our last day by visiting some of the richest agricultural land in Tasmania. The rich volcanic soil of Circular Head is where the majority of potatoes are grown for Edgells, McCains and McDonalds all over the world. This is the prime dairy cattle region, which supplies around 75% of the milk to the Cadbury Factory and the Lactos Cheese Factory in Burnie. Visit the historical town of Stanley with its famous "NUT", Table Cape Lookout. Return through the rural township of Wynyard before visiting the Pioneer Village Museum in Burnie. We see Burnie's newest visitor attraction, the Makers' Workshop. It is a place that honours Burnie's history, makers, innovators and artists. Here we are invited to try our hand at making paper under the guidance of experienced and informative paper makers. Then following the coastline we travel inland to Australia's largest outdoor art gallery "The Murals", at Sheffield. From Sheffield, we travel through the Spreyton Apple Orchards to Devonport where we board the "Spirit of Tasmania" for our return voyage to Melbourne. Dinner tonight is a buffet on board the "Spirit of Tasmania".

Accom: Spirit of Tasmania - Bass Strait

**DAY 10: FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER
HOMEWARD BOUND**

B.

Early risers will be able to view the south-eastern coastline of Victoria and Port Phillip Heads before disembarking and rejoin our coach. Stop for breakfast in Melbourne before the final leg of our journey home.

Please note with this tour, the four nights superior accommodation and views in Hobart is at the Grand Chancellor, being a premium hotel offering accommodation right alongside Hobarts Waterfront and Salamanca Place.

PRICE: \$ 4860.00

SINGLE SUPP: \$ 1020.00 Prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

Luxury Coach Travel

Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag and Wallet

Motel Accommodation Twin Share

Admissions & Cruises as per Itinerary

Return Fare on the Spirit of Tasmania

All Meals as Specified

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Pick up and return to your home.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.