

# TASMANIA – 10 DAYS

DEPARTING TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024



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## DAY 1: TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER D. OVERNIGHT CRUISE - SPIRIT OF TASMANIA

After pick up from your home, join our luxury coach enroute to Geelong. On arrival at the new Victorian terminal at the Spirit of Tasmania Quay in Geelong, 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 Geelong'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: WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 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: Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston Ph: 03 6334 3434

## HIGHLIGHTS

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

## DAY 3: THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 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. The Swansea Bark Mill, built in 1885, 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. A highlight as we will be staying in the Harbour View rooms with stunning views for our four night stay.

Accom: Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart                      Ph 03 6235 4535

## DAY 4: FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER B.D. HOBART SIGHTSEEING

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 this morning we board Hobart Historic Cruises for a cruise up the Derwent River, passing the Botanical Gardens, Government House & cruising under the Tasman Bridge. 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. Dinner tonight is at Wrest Point Casino Hobart.

**DAY 5: SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 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. Following our Air Walk we return to Hobart.

**DAY 6: SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER B.D.****PORT ARTHUR**

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 7: MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER B.D.****HOBART TO STRAHAN**

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: TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER B.L.D.****GORDON RIVER CRUISE TO BURNIE**

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 Burnie.

Accom: Beachfront Voyager Motor Inn Ph: 03 6431 4866

**DAY 9: WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER B.L.D.****BURNIE / STANLEY / NORTH COAST****EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN**

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 Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden that is a remarkable private garden. The 11-hectare property is located 8km south of Burnie and features over 24,000 select rhododendrons and companion plants from around the world, creating a spectacular display of blooms. Today lunch is provided at the Gardens in their Tea Rooms. 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: THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER B.****HOMEWARD BOUND**

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 Geelong 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.**  
**We will be staying in the Harbour View Rooms.**

**PRICE: \$ 5440.00**  
**SINGLE SUPP: \$ 1150.00 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.**