

O'Shannessy's Tassie All Over Nov 14

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| Day 1 | Tue 18/11/14 | Melbourne ~ Spirit of Tasmania ~ Port Phillip Bay | D |
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Travel to Station Pier Port Melbourne to board the Bass Strait Ferry 'Spirit of Tasmania' for the overnight cruise to Devonport departing at 7.30 pm. Explore the many interesting features of this exciting vessel including the bars, restaurants and entertainment areas. Enjoy dinner at the "Captains Table" before settling into your own en suite twin berth porthole cabin.

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| Day 2 | Wed 19/11/14 | Launceston ~ North East ~ St. Helens | BLD |
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On arrival at Devonport Terminal, disembark to be greeted and escorted to your coach. After enjoying breakfast, tour through picturesque countryside to the northern city of Launceston where highlights include the city centre and beautiful Cataract Gorge with its cliff-side gardens, peacocks, pools, suspension foot-bridge and one of the world's longest single-span chairlifts (ride is optional – own expense). Gain views of the picturesque Tamar Valley before touring the North East to the rich agricultural region of Scottsdale and former tin mining centre of Derby. View the 'tree carvings' at Legerwood and cross Weldborough Pass through the myrtle rainforest before descending to the East Coast at St. Helens with its white sands and fishing fleet. Overnight accommodation is at Tidal Waters Resort in St. Helens overlooking the beautiful Georges Bay.

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| Day 3 | Thu 20/11/14 | Tasmanian Devils ~ Tasman Sea ~ Freycinet ~ Hobart | BLD |
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Tour south beside the blue waters of the Tasman Sea, through fishing and holiday villages of Scamander and Bicheno. We visit East Coast Nature World to learn about the threat to the Tasmanian devil before viewing the 'Gulch' fishing harbour and the ocean blowhole. Continue to picturesque Coles Bay and Freycinet National Park with its jagged pink granite peaks, crystal clear waters and white sandy beaches. Visit the National Park Interpretation Centre and enjoy magnificent coastal views during the easy walk at Cape Tourville to the lighthouse. Early afternoon we rejoin the Tasman Highway, passing through Swansea and pause at the convict built, enigmatic Spiky Bridge. Follow the Prosser River valley through Buckland and Cambridge to cross the picturesque Derwent River into the city of Hobart nestling at the foot of majestic Mt. Wellington. Accommodation for the next four nights is at centrally located Fountainside Hotel.

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| Day 4 | Fri 21/11/14 | Huon Valley ~ Forest Air Walk ~ Wrest Point | BLD |
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This morning we 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. A major attraction has been established in the Tahune State Forest at the confluence 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 before returning to Hobart. Dinner tonight is at Australia's oldest casino, Wrest Point, there will be time for a flutter before viewing the city lights on return to our accommodation.

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| Day 5 | Sat 22/11/14 | Salamanca Market ~ Richmond ~ Gardens | BD |
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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 may 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 autumn colours and blooms. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore as you wish.

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| Day 6 | Sun 23/11/14 | Tasman Peninsula ~ Port Arthur | BD |
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Travel via Sorell Causeway and Midway Point for our full day tour to Tasman Peninsula. Take in magnificent views from the look-out above picturesque Eaglehawk Neck and Pirates Bay before continuing to the Port Arthur Convict Settlement. Within the 40 hectares of landscaped grounds lies a rich history of Australia's convict past. Included in the entry is a guided walking tour, a short Harbour Cruise, 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 beside Norfolk and Frederick Henry Bays back to Hobart.

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| Day 7 | Mon 24/11/14 | Derwent Valley ~ "The Wall" ~ Waterfalls ~ Queenstown | BLD |
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Departing Hobart follow the Derwent Valley through hop fields and hills to historic New Norfolk. Climb the Central Plateau through highland trout-lakes country to Tarraleah Gorge site of an early Hydro-electric Power Station. Visit "The Wall in The Wilderness" an extraordinary work of art being crafted telling the story of Tasmania's Central Highlands. Experience the wonders of Gondwanaland during a short rainforest walk in the Wild Rivers National Park to Nelson waterfalls. Observe the altered landscape of bare, colourful hills as we cross Lake Burbury and descend through the ghost towns of the Chamouni Valley to the copper mining town of Queenstown then continue through to Strahan; a beautiful waterfront holiday village. Accommodation for the next two nights is at Strahan Village.

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| Day 8 | Tue 25/11/14 | Macquarie Harbour ~ Gordon River Cruise ~ Strahan | BLD |
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We cruise the incomparable Gordon River this morning into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness and the edge of World Heritage. 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.

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| Day 9 | Wed 26/11/14 | Cradle Mountain ~ Dove Lake ~ Smithton | BLD |
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Traverse the Reid volcanics for views of the Tyndal range and Lake Plimsoll in the Henty Anthony Valley en route to Tullah. Continue north through rainforest and mineral rich mountains, crossing the Vale of Belvoir and alpine cattle country to reach Cradle Mountain National Park. Board the shuttle bus to Dove Lake at the foot of the crags of Cradle Mountain and visit Waldheim, forest home of pioneer Gustav Weindorfer. Enjoy lunch at Cradle Mountain Hotel and opportunity to visit the Wilderness Gallery before following the highway through mountains and button grass plains to the North West Coast and overnight accommodation at the Tall Timbers Resort in Smithton.

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| Day 10 Thu 27/11/14 | Stanley ~ Burnie ~ Sheffield Murals ~ Spirit of Tas. | BD |
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This morning we visit the historical village of Stanley, nestling at the foot of an ancient volcanic core known as "The Nut". Treat yourself to a chairlift ride (own expense) to the top for great views of the town and northern coastline. Marvel at the breathtaking views from the rich agricultural Table Cape with it's amazing diversity of crops and farms. Tour the industrial city of Burnie and enjoy some free time and a lunch break. Follow the Bass Highway and scenic coastal route through Penguin and Ulverstone to Devonport and venture into the hinterland to the murals town of Sheffield where the local community has recorded the history of the area in life-size paintings on the town walls. Return to Devonport and visit the delicious House of Anvers for a taste of Belgian chocolate before boarding the Spirit of Tasmania where we will enjoy an evening meal at "The Captains Table" while cruising across Bass Strait to Melbourne.

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| Day 11 Fri 28/11/14 | Port Phillip Bay ~ Station Pier ~ Port Melbourne |
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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. Disembark on arrival at Station Pier around 6.30 am. to complete a memorable tour of the 'apple isle'.

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner