

8 Day Tasmanian Tour

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 8.00pm. 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 – Hinterland - Bass Highway - Launceston BD



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 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 Hadspen. 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 West Tamar – Tasman Highway 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, Branxholm 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 Bichenor for overnight accommodation overlooking the blue waters of the Tasman Sea.

Day: 4 Tasman Highway - Port Arthur 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 townships of Sorell and Midway Point along the Arthur Highway, taking in the magnificent views of the Tasman Peninsula. Continue through to Port Arthur before checking into your overnight accommodation. After dinner you may choose to join a unique lantern lit guided Ghost Tour around The Convict Settlement. (Optional - own expense)

Day: 5 **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 to 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 before heading to the City of Hobart. Take in your first view of Mt. Wellington and the Tasman Bridge before heading to the magnificent Royal Botanical Gardens. Stroll the beautifully landscaped site and discover Peter Cundall's veggie patch, then head into Hobart and your accommodation.

Day: 6 **Huon Valley** **BLD**



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. 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: 7 **Heritage Highway - Oatlands - Ross - Campbell Town** **BD**



Today you will have to opportunity to do some last minute shopping in Hobart before we say goodbye and make our way along the Heritage Highway to Devonport. First stop is the historic village of Oatlands and a visit to the newly restored Flour Mil then onto one of the last working knitting mills in Australia. Visit Ross and Campbell Town with its wonderful tree carvings. Stop for raspberries and ice cream along the way before arriving in Devonport. Enjoy and early dinner at a local restaurant then board the Spirit of Tasmania for your return journey back to Melbourne.

Day: 8 **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