


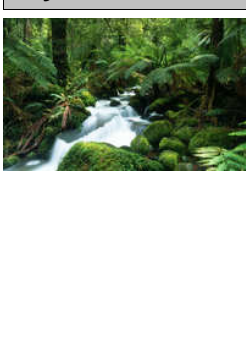


## Austrips Short Tour - West Coast

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|---|---|------------|
| <b>Day: 1</b>   | <b>Port Melbourne ~ Spirit of Tasmania</b>  |            |
|    | <p>Travel to Port Melbourne and Station Pier to board Spirit of Tasmania for the overnight cruise across Bass Strait to Devonport. Explore the on-board features and enjoy a buffet dinner while cruising down Port Phillip Bay. Settle into your twin ensuite cabins for a refreshing sleep before waking up with Tasmania in sight.</p>   |            |
| <b>Day: 2</b>   | <b>Sheffield ~ Cradle Mountain ~ West Coast</b>   | <b>BD</b>  |
|   | <p>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 to admire the wonderful out-door art gallery of impressive murals, then we head to Cradle Mountain. Board the Shuttle Bus into picturesque Dove Lake at the foot of Cradle Mountain and visit Waldheim forest home of pioneer Gustav Weindorfer. Enjoy lunch at the Cradle Chateau and browse through the Wilderness Gallery before continuing through mountain ranges. Travel through mountain ranges, past swift-flowing rivers, steep gorges and former mining towns en route to Queenstown for the next two nights.</p>                  |            |
| <b>Day: 3</b>   | <b>Macquarie Harbour ~ Gordon River Cruise</b>  | <b>BLD</b> |
|  | <p>This morning cruise the incomparable Gordon River into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness. 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. As an optional extra, you may choose to return to Queenstown via the unique Abt Wilderness Railway to Queenstown (optional and own expense).</p>  |            |
| <b>Day: 4</b>   | <b>Lyell Highway ~ Central Highlands ~ New Norfolk ~ Hobart</b>   | <b>BD</b>  |
|  | <p>Depart Queenstown via Mt. Owen, Gormanston Hill and the ghost towns of the Chamonoi Valley. Cross Lake Burbury to enter the Wild Rivers National Park and experience the wonders of Gondwanaland during a short rainforest walk to Nelson Waterfalls. At Derwent Bridge visit "The Wall in The Wilderness", an extraordinary work of art being crafted telling the story of Tasmania's Central Highlands. In Tarraleah Gorge view the penstocks and workings of an early Hydro-electric installation before crossing the Central Plateau. Descend through hills and hop fields to historic New Norfolk. Follow the picturesque Derwent Valley to the City of Hobart and tour historic Battery Point, Salamanca Place and Constitution Docks before checking in at accommodation for the next 3 Nights.</p> |            |

**Day: 5** **Tasman Peninsula ~ Port Arthur ~ Botanical Gardens**



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, pausing at the magnificent Royal Botanical Gardens. Stroll the beautifully landscaped site and discover Peter Cundall's veggie patch before returning to our hotel.

**Day: 6** **Huon Valley ~ Tahune Airwalk ~ Mt Nelson Lookout** **BD**



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 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 via Mt Nelson lookout to Hobart. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore as you wish.

**Day: 7** **Cadbury's ~ Heritage Highway ~ Oatlands ~ Sail home** **B**



Say goodbye to Hobart and make our way along the Heritage Highway to Launceston. First stop is 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 pausing at Oatlands, Ross and Campbell Town where you can see their wonderful tree carvings. Stop at Ashgrove Cheese for an informative talk and tasting before returning to Devonport where we will board the Spirit of Tasmania. Relax in your cabin for your journey back to Melbourne.

**Day: 8** **Bass Strait ~ Melbourne ~ Home**



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