

King Island's Food, History & Culture

With Trade Travel

4 Days / 3 Nights

Tour Departs: Thursday 5 March - Sunday 8 March 2020



TRADE TRAVEL
Group Travel Specialists



Day 1 Thu 5 Mar: Melbourne - King Island

Lunch & Dinner

This morning we arrive at Melbourne Airport for check in and flight to King Island.

Flight Rex Air ZL3871 Melbourne to King Island 1105 - 1200

On arrival into King Island we are met by Matthew, a 5th generation King Islander born and bred who will be our expert local guide this week. Matthew will transfer us to our motel for check in and to meet our lovely hostess, Julie, who is the manager of the **Island Breeze Resort** and will make our stay a truly wonderful experience. We enjoy lunch followed by a **guided tour of the main township of Currie** taking in kelp drying racks, the fishing harbour, Currie Lighthouse and some of the Islands shipwreck history. Return to the motel for a short rest before transferring to **Bischoffs Cafe Restaurant** for dinner.

Overnight Currie: Island Breeze Motel

Day 2 Fri 6 Mar: Northern King Island

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning after breakfast we begin touring the northern region of King Island. First destination is **Shag Lagoon Bird Hide** to view some of King Island's beautiful water fowl. Head further north whilst keeping a keen eye out for bird species such as pheasants, peacocks and turkeys which are plentiful in this area. Enjoy morning tea at **Quarantine Bay** while taking in the views and interesting history of **Christmas Island** and **New Year Island** located just off the coast. Visit the mouth of **Yellow Rock River**, the wreck site of the **Shannon** to hear Captain Johnson's unfortunate story. We then enjoy a **Meat Your Beef** tour with Tom and Anna Perry at their beef farm to discuss how they farm on King Island, followed by lunch on their property all made using their own produce. After lunch we continue across to **Penny's Lagoon**, a rare perched lake found in only three locations in the world. It's freshwater is held by compacted sand and organic matter and is a favourite swimming spot for locals and visitors. From here we visit **Martha Lavinia Beach**, a world class beach break on King Island in Bass Strait. The wave park has been voted one of the Top 10 Surf Breaks in Australia and is frequented by pro surfers when in the region for the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach Classic. Continue up past Lake Flannigan and on to **Disappointment Bay** which is anything but a disappointment - in fact it's one of King Island's most beautiful locations. At the most northern point of King Island we view the **Cape Wickham Lighthouse**, the tallest granite lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere which overlooks one of Australia's top ranking golf course's, the beautiful Cape Wickham Links Golf Course. We drive through **Egg Lagoon**, once a massive lagoon and now used for farming and make our return to Currie, visiting the **King Island Dairy** for cheese tastings and to learn about dairy production on King Island. Return to our accommodation for a short rest and freshen up prior to dinner at **Wild Harvest Restaurant**, one of the best on King Island and showcases the Islands best produce. After dinner we view the **local fairy penguin colony**. On dusk the penguins waddle out of the water to go to their burrows where they are able to keep safe from predators to nest, rest and moult.

Overnight Currie: Island Breeze Motel



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Day 3 Sat 7 Mar: East Coast & Southern King Island

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we begin with a visit to **King Island Kelp Industries** where we learn about its harvesting, its refining and what it is used for and why King Island is the major player in kelp. We make our way across to the east coast settlement of **Naracoopa** for morning tea, as well as learn about the area and early history including the controversial jetty built in 1915/16. After taking in the stunning views, travel south through some of the most productive farming land on King Island. En-route our guide Matthew will enlighten us on all things farming, rain fall differences and effects between the north and south of the island. On arrival into **Grassy** we discover the **scheelite mining heritage of King Islands Dolphin Mine** which operated between 1917 and 1992, its closure due to extremely low tungsten prices, rather than a lack of reserves plus hear the news of its possible future. From here we make our way down the hill into the deep water port of Grassy to discuss King Island's shipping and fishing fleet before enjoying lunch at the **King Island Boat Club** harbour-side. The King Island Boat Club is iconic to yachters of the **Queenscliff to Grassy Yacht Race**, first sailed in the 1970's and since then has become a major fixture on the Australian Ocean Racing calendar. Discover **Surprise Bay**, the southernmost settlement of King Island, where Matthew will provide us with the history of the first settlement of King Island. Hear the **amazing story of the Bowling family**, including stories of "Fizz" Bowling and his great-grandmother, Elizabeth Bowling, and three of her sons who were the first people to take up land on King Island for farming and settlement in 1889. Visit a very rare forest with views over some of King Island's most spectacular coastline which has had a chequered history, including the worst peacetime maritime disaster in Australia's history. It claimed the lives of 400 people, a great many of whom were women and their children, when the British barquentine "schooner" **Cataraqui** was wrecked in a winter storm. Move onto the **Calcified Forest** enjoying a leisurely 30-minute return stroll that takes us to a viewing platform to survey the fossilised stumps of rainforest trees. Those not up for the walk can relax and enjoy a cuppa from the coach. Discover one of King Island's most dramatic parts of the coast, **Seal Rocks Lookout**, which was used by Dutch and French sealer's to spot pods of seals. We then begin our drive back up to Currie via **Ettrick Bay** and **Millers Bay** and the **Hybrid Power Station** before returning to our motel. This evening we are fortunate to have one of King Island's best chefs prepare our farewell dinner whilst taking in the beautiful views of the **Currie Lighthouse** and Currie Harbour. This is a great opportunity to discuss with Matthew our favourite moments and places visited whilst on the island.

Overnight Currie: Island Breeze Motel

Day 4 Sun 8 Mar: King Island - Melbourne

Breakfast & Lunch

Flight Rex Air ZL3882 King Island to Melbourne 1720- 1815

This morning after breakfast and check out, we farewell our host Julie. For the last day on the island we begin with a stop to the **King Island Historical Society Museum**. The museum was established in a former lighthouse keeper's cottage in 1980. All aspects of the Island's history are represented in the displays at the King Island Museum including the original lens from Cape Wickham Lighthouse made from crystal. Relics from the large number of shipwrecks around the coastline of the Island are also featured. Then it is off to the **Currie Boathouse** (also known as the "Restaurant With No Food") for a local produce lunch catered by chef Dwayne Rooks. We then head to the **King Island Cultural Centre** located at the Currie Wharf to view local craft, art and cultural displays that help tell the story of this beautiful island from many different perspectives. It's then some free time in the main township of Currie before we make our way to the King Island Airport for check in and flight home to Melbourne after a wonderful time away on King Island with **Trade Travel**.



King Island

History - Culture - Food - Beauty



Tour Highlights:

Currie Discovery Tour; Shag Lagoon Bird Hide; Quarantine Bay; Christmas Island & New Year Island; Yellow Rock River & Shannon Shipwreck Site; Meat Your Beef Tour; Intriguing Penny's Lagoon; Martha Lavinia Surf Beach; Scenic Disappointment Bay; Cape Wickham Lighthouse; King Island Dairy Tour & Tastings; Wild Harvest Restaurant; Fairy Penguins; King Island Kelp Industries Tour; Naracoopa Settlement; King Islands Dolphin Mine; Sea Port of Grassy & King Island Boat Club; History of Surprise Bay; Calcified Forest; Seal Rocks Lookout; Ettrick Bay & Millers Bay; Hybrid Power Station; King Island Historical Society Museum; Currie Boathouse Restaurant With No Food catered lunch; King Island Cultural Centre and more.

Tour Price Includes:

- Return flights ex Melbourne
- Coach travel
- 3 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (10 Meals)
- All entry fees & guides as per itinerary

Tour Price Excludes:

- Return group airport transfers - POA
- Return flights to Melbourne from your capital city - POA

Tour Cost: \$1965.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$260.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 10 pax

The tour prices are valid for travel in 2020. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Deposit: \$200 per person is due on booking along with your completed & signed booking form to confirm your place on the tour.

Final Payment: Due no later than Friday 29 November 2019.

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

Trade Travel 1800 034 439

email: joanna@tradetravel.com



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