

Iconic Tasmania

With Trade Travel & McDermotts Tasmania

13 Days / 12 Nights

Departs: Monday 13 September - Friday 24 September 2021



TRADE TRAVEL
Group & Private Tour Specialists



Day 1. Mon 13 Sept: Bris/Syd/Melb - Launceston

Dinner

Today after our flight into Launceston we meet up with our local coach captain before boarding our coach and making our way to the **Cataract Gorge Reserve** for the beginning of our **'Iconic Tasmania Tour'** that will have us circumnavigating Tassie. On arrival it's all aboard the **Lady Launceston** to embark on our **Cataract Gorge cruise** that explores the old and new facets of the Launceston Seaport precinct of today. After our cruise enjoy some time to stretch the legs and take a stroll around the seaport precinct before transferring to our accommodation for check in and dinner.

Overnight Launceston: Best Western Plus Launceston

Day 2. Tues 14 Sept: Launceston - Heritage Highway - Esk Valley - Bicheno

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we depart from Launceston travelling down along the **'Heritage Highway'** via **Campbell Town and Ross** before heading across to the east coast. **Campbell Town** has an impressive collection of colonial buildings with many antique and speciality shops, it's also full of colonial history and a self-guided walk that follows the **Convict Brick Trail** along High Street reveals the individual stories of Tasmania's convicts. There are some impressive colonial structures to admire along the way, including the famous **Red Bridge**, built by convicts in the 1830s. The **Eddie Freeman chainsaw tree sculptures** are also worth a look. Leaving Campbell Town continue south to **Ross** visiting the **Tasmania Wool Centre**, home to the Wool and Heritage Gallery and Retail Shop one of the largest retailers of woollens in Tasmania. Situated just 50 metres down the road is **Classwood** a bright and chirpy gift shop "with a touch of class in wood" that is well worth a visit. Morning tea can be purchased on arrival at the Ross Village Bakery or across the road at the Wisteria Cafe and Gift Shop. We also take a drive across the **historic Ross Bridge** and take in the history at the site of the **Ross Female Factory**, one of four built in Tasmania between 1847 and 1854. After leaving Ross we travel through the delightful Fingal Valley, gateway to the beautiful East Coast via the small townships of Avoca and Fingal. Stop by the **Cow Shed** in Avoca for a treat before arriving in St Marys for a unique stop at **Cranks and Tinkerers** to catch up with Ian and well let's just say wait and see. Our last stop for the day prior to reaching Bicheno is at the beautiful White Sands Estate where we find the **Iron House Brewery** and get to taste some hand-crafted brews and wines. We then continue down into the fishing village of Bicheno to check in to our accommodation and unwind before dinner. **Optional: Bicheno Penguin Tour**

Overnight Bicheno: Beachfront at Bicheno

Day 3. Wed 15 Sept: Freycinet National Park - East Coast - Port Arthur

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we travel down into the magnificent **Freycinet Peninsula** and out to **Cape Tourville** taking in the spectacular and rugged coastal views from the easily accessible boardwalk. The elevated track loops around the **automated lighthouse at Cape Tourville**, with much of the walk on a raised boardwalk which, at times, takes us right to the cliff edge, offering amazing views of the **Hazards, Wineglass Bay** and nearby offshore rocks known as **The Nuggets**. Enjoy a cuppa from the coach before continuing our drive down the **spectacular East Coast** and across the isthmus into the **Port Arthur historic site** stopping en-route for lunch at the **Fish Van in Triabunna**. Experience a guided **short walk and talk on the history of this penal colony and a short harbour cruise past the Isle of the Dead**. Later this afternoon we check in to our Port Arthur accommodation taking time to unpack and freshen up before dinner in the motel restaurant.

Overnight Port Arthur: Port Arthur Motor Inn



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Day 4. Thurs 16 Sept: Port Arthur - Eagle Hawk Neck - Richmond - Hobart

Breakfast & Dinner

Today we travel up to Hobart via the **scenic little village of nearby Nubeena, Federation Chocolate** and the **Tasman Bay National Park Lookout**. Our journey up through Eaglehawk Neck take us to the geological features known as **Tasman Arch, Devil's Kitchen** and the **Tessellated Pavement**. On arrival in Richmond we become part of Tasmania's history with the sights and sounds of early prison life inside the **Richmond Gaol**. Read the stories of the men and women who passed through these doors, step inside solitary confinement cells and experience the isolation of imprisonment, listen to the special sound effects to enhance the experience, creating an atmosphere beyond description. Following our tour enjoy some free time to **purchase lunch and soak up the village history**, which boasts Australia's oldest bridge, built in 1823 and more than 50 19th Century Georgian buildings. Mid-afternoon it's across to Hobart where we check into our **deluxe harbour view rooms at Wrest Point** with time to rest up before dinner in the Boardwalk Bistro.

Overnight Hobart: Wrest Point - Deluxe Harbour View Rooms

Day 5. Fri 17 Sept: Bruny Island Exploring

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast we make our way down to Kettering to board the ferry across to **Bruny Island**. Once here we begin our **Bruny Island Explorer Tour**, exploring the beautiful scenery and sampling the delicious gourmet produce made on Bruny Island. We will be engaging with local producers from the island such as a cheese maker, oyster farmer, fudge maker and honey producer to hear the stories behind their harvests. **Our Bruny Island Traveller experience** will include visits to **Bruny Island Cheese Co** where we meet the cheese maker and share in a platter of their award-winning cheeses and hand crafted beer. **Get Shucked Oyster Farm** to savour the clean salty flavour of oysters straight from the shell. For lunch we visit the **Bruny Island Seafood Restaurant** and enjoy stunning views of Adventure Bay while dining. Next up is **Bruny Island Fudge and Chocolate Factory** home to handmade fudges, chocolate and truffles. **Bruny Island Honey** is where we sample the highly prized **Manuka honey** and shop for all things honey including personal care products, candles and more! During the day we may see white wallabies, native wildlife and birds in their natural habitat. At the Neck, we'll stand at the top of **Truganini's Steps** and see the narrow isthmus stretch away south in graceful curves. At the end of our day on Bruny Island we board the ferry once more, returning to the mainland and back to our accommodation for dinner.

Overnight Hobart: Wrest Point - Deluxe Harbour View Rooms

Day 6. Sat 18 Sept: Mt Wellington - Hobart

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

On top of **Mount Wellington** (weather permitting) take in the full panorama of Hobart and across the Derwent River then experience the sights, sounds, action and colour of the **Salamanca Market**, one of Australia's best markets with over 300 stalls offering all things Tasmanian. Lunch will be at the **Cascade Brewery Company**, established in 1824 it is Australia's oldest operating brewery that crafts a range of exceptional beers for the country. Here we step inside and learn how Cascade has been crafting beer as our guides share Cascade's fabled recipe; a dash of history, a healthy dose of Tasmania's finest ingredients and a generous amount of brewing craft. **The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens** is our next stop to gently walk off lunch with a 50 minute guided walking tour. Departing from The Hub we take in the Garden's highlights, bringing to life the stories behind its creation and providing an insight into the conservation work they do to preserve Tasmania's unique species for the future. Late afternoon return to our accommodation at Wrest Point to relax before dinner.

Overnight Hobart: Wrest Point - Deluxe Harbour View Rooms

Day 7. Sun 19 Sept: Tarraleah - Queenstown

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

We depart Hobart today and travel up to **Shene Estate and Gin Distillery** for an exclusive behind-the-scenes **Butler's Bounty Tour**. After our tour, gin tasting and morning tea we make our way to the beautiful **Tarraleah Estate**, a special place with stunning views of the Tasmanian highlands and wilderness, and once the home of hundreds of hydroelectric pioneers. Enjoy a light lunch before travelling west to Derwent Bridge home to the amazing **Wall in the Wilderness**, Greg Duncan's commemorative wooden carvings of the indigenous people, the pioneering timber harvesters, pastoralists, miners and hydro workers who helped shape the past and present of Tasmania's central highlands. After leaving Derwent Bridge we travel across to **Queenstown** driving through the **Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park** showcasing some of the state's most spectacular lakes and mountain areas. Our steep descent into Queenstown is an eerie highlight in itself, surrounded by mountains, which were once covered in vegetation but now strangely bare and stained by the sulphur fumes from mining processes. Bushfires, logging and heavy rain have combined to wash the soil away and stripped many of the hills of vegetation and created Queenstown's famous "moonscape". We check in to our accommodation and enjoy a rest before heading out for a unique evening at the restored **Paragon Theatre** enjoying dinner and "golden oldie" movie night at the beautifully restored art-deco theatre.

Overnight Queenstown: Comfort Inn Gold Rush

Day 8. Mon 20 Sept: Gordon River Cruise

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we travel down to the small **fishing village of Strahan** and begin our delightful wilderness lunch cruise on the multi-million dollar state-of-the art World Heritage Vessel. Our cruise has us making our way across Macquarie Harbour and up along the famous Gordon River via Hells Gate, the harbour entrance to the great southern ocean, pass by Salmon farms before arriving at the dreaded Sarah Island. This infamous piece of land became the largest ship yard in British colonies, turning out 113 vessels in 12 years. We then enter the majestic Gordon River, well known for its stunning mirror like reflections, up to 2000-year-old Huon Pines and wilderness boardwalks. After our cruise spend time in Strahan Village with a chance to visit **Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill and Gift Shop**, a family sawmill operation specialising in the unique Huon Pine timber. Later in the afternoon we return back up to Queenstown to rest up before dinner.

Overnight Queenstown: Comfort Inn Gold Rush

Day 9. Tues 21 Sept: West Coast Wilderness Railway - Cradle Mountain

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

A spectacular half-day wilderness steam train journey is ahead of us today as we depart Queenstown Station travelling to Dubbil Barril along the steep grades of the rack and pinion, for which the **West Coast Wilderness Railway** is renowned. Sit back in comfort as our guide brings stories of the railway and its resilient people to life and discover how the feud of the Irishmen helped shape the wild West Coast. Once on board **enjoy a welcoming glass of sparkling wine, canapés, complimentary hot beverages, morning tea and a light lunch** while getting up close to the rain forest with access to the open balcony. After our rail journey we farewell Queenstown and travel through the old mining towns of **Rosebery** and **Tullah** to **Cradle Mountain** for check in and dinner.

Overnight Cradle Mountain: Cradle Mountain Hotel

Day 10. Wed 22 Sept: Cradle Mountain - Stanley

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After check out we make our way across to the Visitors Centre and board the **Park Explorer Tour** before making our way into the world class national park. Arrive at **Dove Lake** and develop a new understanding of glacial lakes and deep rugged gorges, see the alpine flora and fauna which flourishes in this unique environment. View Buttongrass plains to temperate rainforest and King Billy Pines thousands of years old. Dove Lake offers some of the most beautiful scenery and our **'personally guided tour'** will prove to be one of the highlights of our time in Tasmania. After our tour and **light lunch at the Cradle Mountain Hotel** we experience the **Devils at Cradle "Daykeepers Tour"**. The sanctuary houses a large number of adult, sub-adult and baby devils within a range of naturally landscaped viewing enclosures where we can see the devils daylight habits, sleeping in their dens, sunbathing, play fighting or fossicking for food. Early afternoon **depart Cradle Mountain** and make our way to the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens** for afternoon tea and a tour of the beautiful gardens in all their seasonal glory. From the gardens its approx 90km up to **Stanley** nestled at the foot of a volcanic core called **"The Nut"**, a rocky outcrop towering above the town, those wishing may take a ride on the chair lift (own cost) before dinner.

Overnight Stanley: Stanley Seaview Inn

Day 11. Thurs 23 Sept: Stanley - Table Cape - Leven Canyon - Launceston

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we explore the **Highfield Historic Site**, a stunning example of early colonial architecture from the Regency Period (1811-1820). From the large French windows of the homestead, we are treated to dramatic views of the rugged coastline and Bass Strait beyond. Construction of what is now the Highfield Historic Site marked the first European occupation in North-West Tasmania. From Stanley we follow the coast across to the **magnificent plateau of Table Cape** which is by far Wynyard's most remarkable natural wonder offering spectacular views of Tasmania's coast and agricultural farmlands. From the **viewing platform**, on a clear day, we can see George Town's Low Head and mountain ranges over 175 kilometres away. Take a short stroll along the cliff-top walking track to the **Table Cape Lighthouse**, the only operating lighthouse in mainland Tasmania which was built in 1888. **Table Cape is also home to the Table Cape Tulip Farm where acres of patchwork fields explode with colour each spring providing a breathtaking sight for all to enjoy.** At **Hellyers Road Distillery** sit back in the **Distillery Cafe** and take in the views of the rolling tranquil landscape of the picturesque Emu Valley while enjoying **lunch** then experience a behind-the-scenes tour of the working distillery. En-route from Hellyers back to Launceston we travel via the **spectacular Leven Canyon**. It is rare in the world to find such a powerful place, both stunningly wild and easily accessible. Both **Cruickshanks and Edge Lookouts** offer spectacular and expansive views of the river and canyon. We then wind our way back up to the north coast towards Devonport and back down into Launceston to our accommodation for check in and dinner.

Overnight Launceston: Best Western Plus Launceston

Day 12. Fri 24 Sept: Tamar Valley

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

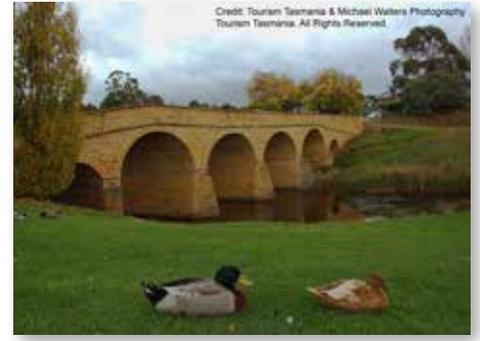
Today experience the scenery of the **Tamar Valley and Beauty Point**, with our first stop at **Platypus House** which offers a rare chance to see up close the unique Tasmanian Platypus and Echidna. Watch platypuses feeding and playing, see echidnas foraging in a bushland setting, visit the Interpretation Centre explaining the biology of both platypuses and echidnas and view a 15 minute film on platypuses. **Seahorse World** also offers up close viewing of seahorse while the working farm and aquarium provide an insight into the mystical and elegant seahorse at various stages of development, along with the leafy sea dragon and the pipefish. After our tour and lunch in the upstairs dining room we travel to **Beaconsfield** the famous site of the great escape by Todd and Brant. We stop at the mine site and also visit the **Mine and Heritage Centre**, which occupies the site of Tasmania's largest gold mine, which between 1877 and 1914 produced \$450 million worth of gold - at present values. Next take in the panoramic views of the Tamar River and valley from **Bushranger Brady's Lookout** and again at the beautiful **Tamar Ridge Cellar Door** while sampling some of their fine wines. Our farewell dinner tonight is back at the motel before a good nights rest prior to our last day of touring.

Overnight Launceston: Best Western Plus Launceston

Day 13. Sat 25 Sept: Brickendon Estate - Gourmet Sauce Company - Melb/Syd/Bris

Breakfast & Lunch

This morning after checkout we travel down to Longford home to the World Heritage listed **Brickendon Estate** which provides a rare insight into the early colonial and convict history of Australia. Being one of the earliest farming areas in Van Diemen's Land, the farm village of Brickendon was developed by William Archer as a mixed enterprise with sheep, cattle and cropping. Explore the convict buildings and gardens which offer an amazing array of plants, some of the oldest trees in Australia to the most scented old fashioned roses, shrubberies, walks and planted beds. The gardens have been tended by members of the Archer family since 1830 and currently Angela and Kerry Archer (5th generation) tend to the gardens. After our tour and morning tea we head across to the **Tasmania Gourmet Sauce Company** to enjoy the beautiful **gardens, tasting** and a **delicious lunch**. This is the last highlight of our time in Tassie and concludes our **"Iconic Tasmania Tour"**. It's now time to transfer to the Launceston Airport for check in and flights back home after a wonderful few days touring Tassie with Trade Travel and McDermotts Coaches Tasmania.



Flight Details (Subject to change and availability)

Ex Melb: VA1368 Melbourne 1310 - Launceston 1415
VA1371 Launceston 1450 - Melbourne 1550

Ex Syd: VA834 Sydney 1100 - Melbourne 1235 & VA1368 Melbourne 1310 - Launceston 1415
VA1093 Launceston 1505 - Sydney 1640

Ex Bris: VA322 Brisbane 0955 - Melbourne 1220 & VA1368 Melbourne 1310 - Launceston 1415
VA1093 Launceston 1505 - Sydney 1640 & VA973 Sydney 1800 - Brisbane 1930

Tour Highlights: Cataract Gorge Cruise; Tasmanian Wool Centre; Village of Ross; Cranks & Tinkers; Iron House Brewery; Freycinet National Park - Cape Tourville - Wineglass Bay, Hazards, The Nuggets & Cape Tourville Lighthouse; Notorious Convict Settlement of Port Arthur; Tasman Bay National Park Lookout; Richmond Gaol; Mt Wellington Lookout; Salamanca Markets; Cascade Brewery; Hobart Royal Botanical Gardens; Full Day Bruny Island - Cheese Company, Get Shucked Oyster Farm, Seafood Restaurant, Fudge & Chocolate Company; Bruny Island Honey; Shene Estate Distillery & Butlers Bounty Tour; Lunch Tarraleah Estate; Wall in the Wilderness; Gordon River Wilderness Lunch Cruise; Morrison's Huon Pine Sawmill; West Coast Wilderness Railway; Cradle Mountain Explorer Tour - Dove Lake; Devils at Cradle; Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens; Stanley "Nut"; Highfield Estate; Table Cape Lighthouse & Tulips; Hellyers Road Distillery; Spectacular Leven Canyon Lookouts; Tamar Valley Day - Platypus House, Seahorse World, Grubb Shaft Gold & Heritage Museum, Bushranger Brady's Lookout, Tamar Ridge Estate Cellar Door; Village & Gardens of Brickendon Estate; Gourmet Sauce Company plus lots more.

Tour Price Includes:

- Luxury coach travel
- Quality accommodation (12 Nights)
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (34 meals)
- All attractions including entry fees and guides as per itinerary

Tour Price Excludes:

- Return flights from your capital city - POA

\$4758.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$984.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 20 pax

The tour prices valid for travel in 2021. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Deposit: A deposit of \$250.00 per person is due on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed & signed booking form!

Final Payment: Due no later than **Friday 30 July 2021**

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

Trade Travel 1800 034 439

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