



15 Day Tasmania Highlights Tour
Saturday 10th to Saturday 24th October 2020
\$4,750 per person twin / double share
\$5,700 single room

Day 1: Saturday 10th October

Welcome to our tour of Tasmania. Once we have completed our passenger pickups, we are ready to go! We head south stopping for lunch along the way. We continue through to Yass for our first night on tour.

Overnight: Swaggers Motor Inn, Yass

Morning tea and dinner included

Day 2: Sunday 11th October

Today we make our way to Melbourne for our evening departure on the Spirit of Tasmania from Station Pier at Port Melbourne. On arrival into Melbourne we have free time at the Queen Victoria Markets. While the coach is being loaded onto the cargo deck we can board, the cabins on the Spirit are quite small but very comfortable, with twin bed accommodation and ensuite bathroom. The facilities on the vessel are extensive with lounges, bars, shops and viewing areas. Once we have had a look at our cabins, we can make our way to dinner.

Overnight: Spirit of Tasmania

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 3: Monday 12th October

After a good night's sleep, we are ready to begin our Tasmanian touring. On arrival in Devonport this morning, our coach is unloaded, and we head to our breakfast stop at the Argosy Motor Inn. Our destination today is Wynyard. We begin our touring with a stop at Table Cape Lookout for magnificent views along the coast. We then make our way to historic Stanley. A village atmosphere with small craft shops, historic houses (including the cottage where Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was born) and tea houses makes this an ideal stop. A chairlift operates to the summit of the Nut (optional, own expense). We then have time in Stanley to purchase lunch before our visit to Highfields House.

Overnight: The Waterfront Wynyard Motor Inn

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 4: Tuesday 13th October

Departing Wynyard, we make our way through to the Cradle Mountain National Park. We take a tour of the National Park including Waldheim and Dove Lake. We enjoy our lunch in the nearby Cradle Mountain Hotel and time to look at the stunning Wilderness Gallery. Tonight, will be spent in Strahan, overlooking Macquarie Harbour.

Overnight: Strahan Village Motel

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 5: Wednesday 14th October

We have a fascinating day today. After breakfast we travel to Strahan wharf, below the motel on the shores of Macquarie Harbour. This region which today produces magnificent Ocean Trout, treats visitors to spectacular scenery and protects its ancient Huon Pines was once known as “hell on earth” when Sarah Island was established as Tasmania’s first and most brutal penal settlement. Our cruise takes us through Hells Gates, the narrow entry into the harbour from the Southern Ocean and a dramatic cruise on the Gordon River. The Huon Pine which can be found in this area is commonly known to live for 2000 years. The age of an ancient tree recently “discovered” was put at 10,000 years and if verified will be recognized as the oldest on earth. We have the opportunity at Heritage Walk to see these and other trees of the dense forest close up. It’s a great day topped off with a beautiful lunch. We return to Strahan mid-afternoon and have some free time to explore the wharf and some of the local shops. We return to the motel to freshen up as tonight we are heading out to watch the performance of “The Ship that never was”. The play tells the dramatic and hilarious true story of the Great Escape from Sarah Island! It’s January 1834. The Frederick, the last ship built at the rare chance to see seahorses in captivity. The working farm and aquarium give a rare insight into the mystical and elegant seahorse at various stages of development, along with the leafy sea dragon and the Pipe Fish. We also stop at Platypus World right next door. We cross the Batman Bridge for a close-up view of the mighty Tamar River before driving down the eastern side visiting Low Head before returning to our motel.

Overnight: Strahan Village Motel

Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included

Day 6: Thursday 15th October

We say farewell to our hosts early this morning and begin our journey to Hobart. This morning, we drive through the pristine wilderness of the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and stop off at Nelson Falls. There is a steep drive out of Queenstown, a town which was established as a result of the discovery of gold and other minerals at Mount Lyell last century. Queenstown is surrounded by mountains, which were once covered in vegetation, but which are now strangely bare and stained purple, grey and pink by from sulphur fumes from mining processes. Bushfires and logging, combined with heavy rain which washed the soil away, have stripped many of the hills of vegetation and created Queenstown’s famous “moonscape”. The area to our immediate left is part of the huge South West National Park, which, combined with the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park makes up almost a full, one third, of the land mass of Tasmania. Of course, much of this area is now World Heritage Listed. We travel on to Derwent Bridge (the geographical centre of Tasmania), we then enjoy lunch at the Wilderness Hotel. After lunch we stop to view - the Wall in the Wilderness. The “wall” is a work in progress which will take several more years to complete. The panels, when complete, will measure 100 metres in length. In the reception area, there are many three-dimensional sculptures to view.

Overnight: Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart *Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included*

Day 7: Friday 16th October

Following breakfast, we meet our local guide who will show us the sights of historic Hobart. Set between the towering peak of Mount Wellington and the Derwent River, Hobart is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Founded in 1804, Hobart is Australia's second oldest capital and everywhere we go, the past steps out to meet us. With our sightseeing tour concluded we arrive at the Maritime Museum of Tasmania. We have some free time to look through the museum and then make our way to the waterfront for some free time to purchase lunch. The remainder of the afternoon is free.

Overnight: Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 8: Saturday 17th October

We're lucky enough to be in Hobart on a Saturday so this morning we head to the famous Salamanca Markets. We have some free time here to wander and perhaps buy a souvenir of our holiday. Late afternoon we return to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 9: Sunday 18th October

Leaving Hobart this morning we are in for a wonderful days touring. We now drive to the historic town of Richmond. Richmond was proclaimed a township in 1824 and is probably Tasmania's best-known man-made tourist attraction. Its streets are paved with history and many of the fine colonial buildings have been adapted for use as art galleries, craft shops and restaurants and a jail that predates Port Arthur by five years! It is one of the best-preserved colonial prisons of Australia. The convict-built Richmond Bridge over the Coal River is the oldest bridge in Australia. We have arranged a visit to Old Hobart Town Model Village. This Tasmanian award-winning attraction is a large outdoor historical model – come and walk the streets of the early settlement of Hobart, learn of its history and visualize the town as it once was. We will have time to purchase lunch here, we will then travel down through to Eagle Hawk Neck and visit Doo Town and the Devils Kitchen. After a great day, we make our way to Port Arthur to check-in for the next two nights.

Overnight: Port Arthur Motor Inn

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 10: Monday 19th October

Our morning is spent at the Port Arthur Historic Site. The penal settlement is a stark reminder of the harsh conditions endured by the earliest European inhabitants of this one-time island jail. The ruins are the greatest single tourist attraction in Tasmania and the place where up to 12,000 prisoners were kept in an atmosphere of hopelessness and misery. Even though the Tasman Peninsula is spectacular, we can imagine the conditions, especially on a cold winter's day, endured by the prisoners 150 years ago. The first part of our tour involves time at the Visitor Interpretative Centre where we take a fascinating journey, retracing the life of a convict from the time of his petty crime in England, to his transportation to Port Arthur and finally his life in the penal colony. We then take a guided walking tour through the Penal Settlement before plenty of time to explore on our own. We meet together for lunch in the café on site. Tonight, we are in for a different experience, a lantern lit Ghost tour! Are there ghosts? Truth or myth? Either way, the silence and soft glow of the lantern light can sometimes make those long gone seem very close at hand. This is truly a different experience from the one we had earlier in the day!

Overnight: Port Arthur Motor Inn

Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included

Day 11: Tuesday 20th October

After breakfast today we travel north to make a stop in Ross. While in Ross we visit the Tasmanian Wool Centre. The wool exhibition and history museum both feature audio-visual displays and many interesting artefacts. The feel-and-touch wool display allows us to experience wool produced by a range of sheep breeds, and of course features the superfine merino wool the region is renowned for. We have time to purchase lunch before continuing through Campbell Town and continue into Launceston where we can spend the rest of the afternoon in Cataract Gorge - a magnificent Reserve in the city Centre. These gardens have evolved for over a century and are still one of the most popular places in the city to relax in and enjoy the nature. The area is laced with pathways for walks that have seasonal contrasts and the stroll through the trunks of the giant rhododendron stand, which gives a quite different viewpoint to the smaller specimens that are seen in the average garden. There are some pleasant walks through the landscaped gardens to the tea rooms, or those that are interested can take a ride on the chairlift (own expense) which crosses the gorge. Of the overall length of 457 metres, the 308-metre central span is claimed to be the longest single span in the world. We then check into our accommodation and freshen up for dinner.

Overnight: Best Western Plus, Launceston

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 12: Wednesday 21st October

After breakfast we make our way through to Beaconsfield. Beaconsfield is the site of Tasmania's largest gold discoveries and of course more recently the incredible rescue in 2006 of two miners trapped underground. Here we visit the Beaconsfield Gold Mine and Heritage Museum, home to Australia's only waterwheel-driven stamp battery and features an extensive collection of memorabilia and artefacts. We have time to purchase lunch before heading to Beauty Point. It is here we visit Seahorse World which offers a convict settlement of Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour, is about to sail for the new prison at Port Arthur. Ten convict shipwrights have other ideas. So begins the story of an amazing escape, an extraordinary voyage and an intriguing twist in the tale of The Ship That Never Was. We return to our accommodation for a slightly later dinner this evening.

Overnight: Best Western Plus, Launceston

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 13: Thursday 22nd October

After breakfast we farewell our hosts and load our luggage back on to the coach. We head west to Deloraine where we have arranged a visit to Yarns: Artwork in Silk. The main highlight of this attraction is the light and sound show presentation in the auditorium. Afterwards we have time to explore the indoor and outdoor museum. Next is a stop in Elizabeth Town where we visit Ashgrove Cheese for a presentation on the cheese making process and, of course, a tasting. We have the opportunity to purchase some lunch in Elizabeth Town before continuing through to the delightful township of Sheffield. Sitting in the shadows of Mt Roland and the Western Tiers, the town features many murals depicting the history of the area. From here we retrace our steps to Railton – watch out for the topiaries, then back up to Devonport. Our final stop for the day is at the Bass Strait Maritime Centre. The facility opened in April 2013 and centres around the story of Bass Strait. We can enjoy the centre and the 12 exhibition areas at leisure including the chance to take the helm of the life-sized steamer bridge and steer out of the Mersey River! From here we head to the port to board the Spirit of Tasmania for our crossing back to Melbourne. Dinner will be enjoyed on board.

Overnight: Spirit of Tasmania

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 14: Friday 23rd October

The "Spirit of Tasmania" sails through the Port Phillip Heads and into Melbourne for an arrival at around 7.00am. It may be a little cold on the outside deck but the views of the city of Melbourne are well worth the discomfort! We head off as soon as we are unloaded stopping along the way to purchase breakfast and then later in the day for lunch. We travel through to Goulburn for our final night on tour.

Overnight: *Mercure Goulburn*

Breakfast, morning tea and dinner included

Day 15: Saturday 24th October

After breakfast we travel through the outskirts of Sydney and back up the coast to Coffs Harbour completing a sensational 15-day tour with many wonderful memories of our holiday in Tasmania.

Breakfast and morning tea included

For bookings or further information
please contact Karen at Travel Y's
Booking agent for Newcombe Coach Lines
Mobile: 0413 522 171
Email: karen@travelys.com.au

Tour Highlights

- Spirit of Tasmania
- Stanley
- Cradle Mountain
- Gordon Franklin Cruise
- Hobart
- Port Arthur
- Tasmania Wool Centre
- Seahorse World

Price Includes

- Return luxury coach travel
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- All admission / attraction fees

**\$4,750 per person
Twin / Double Share**

**\$5,700 per person
Single Room**

Tour payments:

*Non-refundable deposit of \$950 per person required seven days after a booking is made

*Final payment will be required by no later than Wednesday 26th August 2020

Cancellation Charges:

45 Days or more \$950.00 per person

30-44 days 20% of fare

14-29 days 50% of fare

6-13 days 75% of fare

Note: Less than 6 days there is no refund

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended

We advise passengers to take out travel insurance to cover for any unforeseen circumstance which may arise.

Departure Details

Coffs Harbour Coach Terminal

Port Macquarie Highway Service Centre

Additional pick up's available on request.

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions e.g. churches, wineries etc.

We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures or inclement weather.