

Tasmania east coast and cradle mountain including Hobart and Launceston

Depart Cairns 15th October at 5.45AM arrive Brisbane 8.00AM - Virgin

Depart Brisbane 15th October at 8.30AM arrive Hobart 12.20PM - Virgin

Accommodation: Wrest Point Casino Hobart IN: 15th October OUT: 18th October

Commence the following tour in Hobart on the 18th October and ending in Launceston on the 22nd October

Day 1 – Hobart to Port Arthur

Pick up from any Hobart CBD accommodations for the start of our 5 Day journey. Explore the Hobart waterfront area before heading to the summit of Mt Wellington (1270 m) boasting spectacular panoramic views in every direction. Further exploration through town sees us take in the historic Female Factory & Cascade Brewery while viewing many of Australia's oldest convict built structures. Heading east we meander into the Coal River Valley, one of Tasmania's premier wine regions. Naturally we will lunch at a lovely, family operated winery, sampling some of Tassie's best wine & local produce before continuing on to the historic township of Richmond, one of Tasmania's cleanest settlements. We will see the beautiful stone arch construction of the Richmond Bridge, built by the convicts in 1823 this is Australia's oldest bridge still in operation.

It's then on to the Tasman Peninsula for our first taste of the east coast. The Tasman National Park boasts towering sea cliffs and a wealth of cultural history as we venture south. A beautiful lookout point over Pirates Bay provides the ideal location for a scenic, mid-afternoon tea/coffee break. Learn about Eaglehawk Neck - the site of the infamous Dogline - as we cross onto the Tasman Peninsula. We then explore some of nature's true wonders with short, scenic walks at Tasman Arch & Devils Kitchen. Continuing on we squeeze in a stop at the colourful Port Arthur Lavender Farm before overnighing right on the cusp of the Port Arthur World Heritage Historic Site.

Day 2 – Port Arthur to Bicheno

Our day begins with a 2.5 hour fully guided tour around the Port Arthur Historic Site. Explore many of the original buildings as we learn about the early convicts and the role they played in Tasmania's history. Learn about Point Puer (the juvenile boys prison), the Isle of the Dead graveyard and the Port Arthur timber industry while enjoying a short, scenic harbour cruise to view the site as incoming convicts would have.

Much to everyone's delight we stop at the boutique Federation Chocolate factory for some sampling of fresh, hand made chocolates. The flavours change depending on the season and the produce available! Next we leave the Tasman Peninsular for our journey up the very east coast of the island. At Raspins Beach we view the imposing Maria Island off the coast of Orford before stopping to see the unique convict built Spikey Bridge and the captivating coastline at Spikey Beach over tea, coffee & biscuits.

Next up is Swansea – a beautiful East Coast town - and the Great Oyster Bay area. Arriving in Bicheno for our evening accommodations we will squeeze in one last feel good activity by spotting the cute little Fairy Penguins arriving ashore right in Bicheno township.

Day 3 – Bicheno & Bay of Fires to Launceston

Start the day at the amazing Blow Hole on the rocky coastline of Bicheno. Visit the multi-award winning East Coast Nature World wildlife park to see many of our native animals and in particular - the feeding of the iconic Tasmanian Devil. Learn about this amazing animal and its recent struggle for survival. Pat wombats and hand-feed kangaroos, geese and ducks - this is a wonderful and interactive morning.

Enjoy travelling Tasmania's most scenic coastal road with breathtaking views of the east coast en route to one of Tasmania's premier attractions - the Bay of Fires. At Binalong Bay we will stroll along the pure white sandy beaches and snap photos of possibly the most colourful spot on the island.

Visit a working oyster farm, see their farming techniques and enjoy the freshest possible oysters. In the afternoon we proceed towards Launceston stopping at Pyengana, the award winning cheese factory and dairy. We then twist our way through an ancient Myrtle Rainforest and cross the trail of the dragon, an old mining area centred around the town of Derby. The carved memorial trees at Legerwood are one of Australia most unique & tasteful memorial sites, this will be our tea & coffee break for today before arriving in Launceston CBD for our evenings lodgings.

Day 4 – Launceston & surrounds to Cradle Mountain

Today we will spend the morning exploring downtown Launceston - Australia's 3rd oldest capital city behind Sydney & Hobart. We will see the King Bridge, City Park, inside the beautiful old Heritage listed Post Office and of course take a 40 minute stroll through a jewel in the city - Cataract Gorge Reserve.

Soon after we head westward into the Meander Valley which is an absolutely stunning farming and pastoral area. Try local made ice-cream and honey tastings of more than 50 flavours at the renowned Melita Honey Farm in Chudleigh before learning about Tasmania's oldest and biggest Leatherwood Honey producer R. Stephens Honey in Mole Creek.

Our lunch stop today is a true gem hidden in the forest at 41 Degrees South Salmon Farm. After lunch a truly unique attraction follows with a guided tour of the Marakooa Caves, exhibiting limestone & crystal formations millions of years old, along with a completely natural population of resident glow worms! From here we will snake our way up onto the central highlands plateau to Cradle Mountain National Park to partake in some wombat & animal spotting at dusk. Tonight we stay at the acclaimed, 4-star Cradle Mountain Hotel.

Day 5 – Cradle Mountain & return to Launceston

Start the day with a full buffet hot and cold banquet breakfast at Cradle Mountain Hotel. Inside the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park - a photographers paradise - drive to the gorgeous Dove Lake for breathtaking views of Cradle Mountain. Take a short walk to glacier rock and then on to the appropriately named Enchanted Walk to see beautiful cascades and the Pencil Pine waterfall.

Visit the old "Waldheim Cottage" of pioneer Gustav Weindorfer who made Cradle Mountain world famous. After a scrumptious lunch and viewing of the Cradle Mountain Hotel Gallery return to Launceston via the lovely town of Sheffield - the town of Murals. This is a peaceful, meandering drive through rolling green hills arriving in Launceston to conclude your 5 Day tour around 5pm.

Accommodation: Leisure Inn Penny Royal Launceston IN: 22nd October OUT: 25th October

Depart Launceston 25th October at 6.20AM arrive Melbourne 7.20AM – Virgin

Depart Melbourne 25th October at 8.55AM Arrive Cairns 11.20AM – Virgin

Cost per person \$3124.00 and includes the following:

Airfares

Airport taxes

5 day tour including 4 nights accommodation at 3.5 - 4 star rated lodgings

- All breakfasts and lunches provided.
- Bottled water provided on tour.
- FREE wine, cheese, chocolate, oyster & honey tastings.
- Daily afternoon tea, coffee & biscuit stops included FREE.
- Complimentary pick-up and drop-off at any Hobart & Launceston CBD Hotel.
- All attractions, entry fee's and National Parks passes provided.

3 nights accommodation in Hobart

3 nights accommodation in Launceston