



## FACTSHEET

# HIKING HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH AND EASTERN TASMANIA

11 DAYS OF ACCOMMODATED DAYWALKS IN THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS

*An 11-day walking tour visiting many of Tasmania's Northern and Eastern wilderness national parks and reserves and featuring a variety of walking landscapes (alpine, sub-alpine or coastal) grades (challenging or moderate) and gradients (steep or level/undulating). Several destinations offer a variety of walks to suit a range of fitness levels and routes can be varied to suit. The tour commences with an unforgettable cruise on Macquarie Harbour to contrast and vary the style and pace of the subsequent walking activities. The tour is fully catered and accommodation is provided in twin-share facilities.*

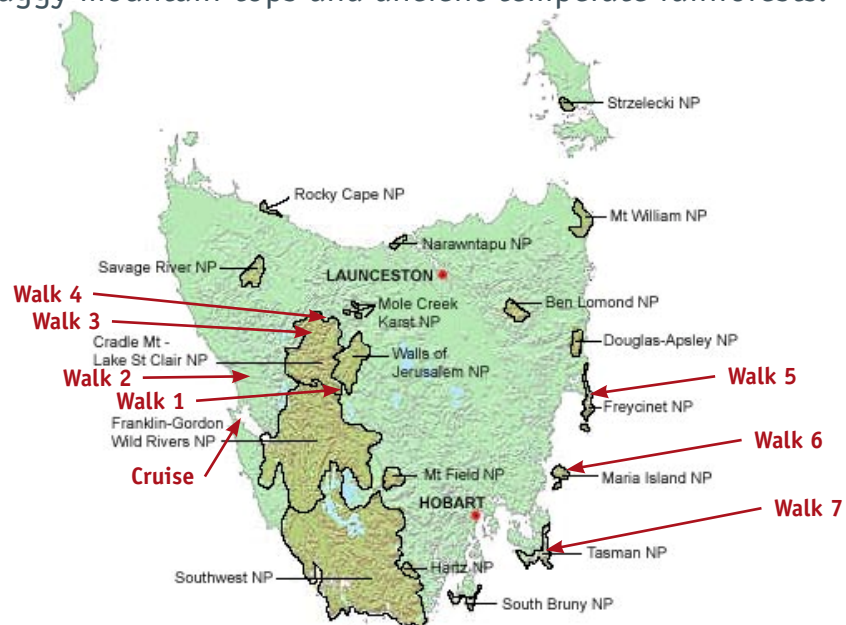
DURATION: 11 days

TOUR GRADE: **T1** **T2** **T3** **T4**

- T1:** Well defined and wide tracks on easy to moderate terrain, in slightly modified natural environments. You will require a modest level of fitness. Recommended for beginners.
- T2:** Narrower but distinct tracks which can be muddy in some places, in pristine natural environments. Facilities are minimal and you will encounter few other walkers. You will require a reasonable level of fitness.
- T3:** Marked but often rough and indistinct tracks, often on irregular ground, muddy and wet, in very remote and wild areas. These are challenging walks needing a high level of fitness and some hiking experience.

## TASMANIA

Tasmania's ancient and varied landscape is worlds apart from the continent it belongs to. Forests of ancient conifers and fagus from the Jurassic Age, along with dramatic dolerite cliffs and mountains, are some of the features that make Tasmania's scenery so special. While it does not have the massive scale of the Himalayas or the remarkable pinnacles of Patagonia, it is the last refuge for several mammals that once populated Australia, and one of the few places on earth where you can walk through pristine wilderness environments that have changed little since the time of the dinosaurs. With over 3000km of world class walking tracks, you can choose to walk through a variety of landscapes ranging from glacial tarns to secluded ocean beaches, craggy mountain tops and ancient temperate rainforests.



**Day 1:  
Hobart**

Hobart is Australia's second oldest capital city. Settled in 1804 on the banks of the Hobart Rivulet at Sullivan's Cove to provide a solution for Britain's burgeoning convict population, it is now a modern, lively city with a very active arts and crafts culture, coupled with superb locally-sourced natural produce.

Its cultural credentials are nowhere better demonstrated than at the refurbished Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), the superbly restored Theatre Royal, or the extravagant Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) at Berriedale. These attractions are contrasted with the relics of its convict heritage at the Port Arthur Penal Settlement and many other convict sites and towns around the State.

On arrival at Hobart, this day is yours to explore and familiarise or reacquaint yourself with Hobart's delights, prior to meeting at the Hobart Mid-City Hotel, corner Elizabeth and Bathurst Streets, Hobart, at 4:00pm, which is our accommodation for this evening and where we'll enjoy a group dinner and tour briefing.

**Day 2:  
Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park**

*A series of short walks to interesting sites en route from Hobart to Queenstown*

Our first stop is the Franklin River nature trail – a short circuit walk in the rainforest alongside the fabled Franklin River (the inspiration for the environmental conservation movement culminating in the salvation of the river and the formation of the Greens Party). This short walk exemplifies the diverse and rich nature of the rainforest in this region of Tasmania in a very high rainfall area (2.5m – 3m/annum).

Our next stop is at Donaghys Hill walk – another short walk to a viewpoint high above the Franklin and Collingwood Rivers with a fine view to the quartzite peak of Frenchmans Cap in the near distance. We walk through a variety of plant communities, including a close encounter with button grass before reaching our viewing platform.

Our last short walk is at Nelson Falls - a pretty waterfall tumbling off the nearby ancient sandstone escarpment.

From here we continue to Queenstown passing through the ghost towns of Linda and Gormanston (dormitory towns for the Queenstown smelter and mine workers early last century) and stop for a brief visit to the Iron Blow – the site of the original copper find at Queenstown.

If time permits, we may take a brief walk up Spion Kop in Queenstown to view the surrounding township and countryside.

Our evening's accommodation is at the West Coaster Motel in Queenstown, and if you're up to it, take in a film at the restored art-deco cinema, the Paragon, it's a great night out!



Day 1: Constitution Dock, Hobart, Tasmania



Day 2: Mt King William 1, Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers NP

**Day 3:**

**Macquarie Harbour**

*An easy day cruising Macquarie Harbour*

We'll leave Queenstown early to catch our cruise vessel operated by World Heritage Cruises and departing from the picturesque Strahan wharf. The cruise includes an exciting passage through Hell's Gates (the narrow and potentially dangerous entrance to Macquarie Harbour), a guided tour of the ruins of the notorious convict station on Sarah Island and a cruise up the tannin-stained waters of the Gordon River to the Heritage Landing Walk where you can view centuries-old Huon Pines. The cruise also features a full buffet lunch.

From Strahan, we'll journey to the mining town of Zeehan where we'll overnight at the Heemskirk Motor Hotel.

**Day 4:**

**Mt Murchison Regional Reserve**

**T3 5km 740m**

*A challenging climb in the remote West Coast Range*

We'll leave Rosebery early for our short drive to the Mt Murchison trailhead for our walk. Mt Murchison (1278m) is a formidable and challenging scramble, with a short climb through a rainforest after the start of our ascent, followed by a further scramble above the glacial cirque – a stark reminder of Tasmania's recent glaciation – and a traverse of a narrow ridge to the summit. We skirt several small tarns on the ascent, flanked by Tasmania's only deciduous tree, the myrtle beech or fagus (*Northofagus gunii*) which may be displaying its vivid autumn colours.

From the summit we can view the Southern Ocean to the west, almost all the Overland Track peaks to the east – a stunning vista – before we pick our way carefully back to our starting point.

We then drive to Cradle Valley, where we'll spend the next two days exploring this region. We'll be staying at the Discovery Holiday Park whilst at Cradle Valley, and dining at Pepper's Cradle Mountain Lodge at their Tavern Bar & Bistro.

On arrival if time permits, there is a pleasant one kilometre stroll that takes us along the banks of Pencil Pine River featuring ancient pencil pines growing for the last millennia, or we can explore Waldheim's forest at the historic Waldheim Chalet site. Also possible is an evening tour to Ronny Creek to observe the abundant nocturnal native wildlife (optional extra cost) or a visit to Devils at Cradle, a conservation park specialising in the conservation effort to save the Tasmanian Devil (again an optional extra cost).

**Alternative Destination:**

**Montezuma Falls, Rosebery**

Montezuma Falls at 104m are one of the highest falls in Tasmania, and are deep in the rainforest near Rosebery. The area is rich in early mining history however little remains now except the bed of an old tramway track built to provide access to the Mts Dundas and Read mining fields, remnant rotting rail sleepers, a fine old suspension bridge, and a mine adit adjacent to the falls.

The 10km walk is predominantly through dense rainforest with a canopy of myrtle, sassafras and leatherwood, an understory of giant tree ferns and laurel, and culminates in a clearing where we can enjoy our lunch before returning by the same route.



Day 3: Macquarie Harbour



Day 8: Mt Murchison Summit Ridge  
(Photo Glen Kowalik)



Alternative Destination: Montezuma Falls Rosebery



**Day 5:**

**Cradle Mountain National Park**

**T1 6km 0m**

*Cradle Mountain National Park is Tasmania's premier national park featuring the iconic Cradle Mountain and a variety of superb walking trails in the region*

Today is a chance to do a full day of walking around Cradle Mountain. There are many options to choose from, ranging from easy strolls to challenging climbs. A visit to Waldheim Chalet gives us an insight into the lives of Gustav and Kate Weindorfer, who pioneered tourism in the area. The two-hour circuit walk around Dove Lake is probably the most popular short walk in the area. It follows the perimeter of this alpine lake under the shadows of the magnificent jagged Cradle Mountain itself, and includes the sombre and tranquil Ballroom Forest.

Those seeking more challenging routes can test themselves with a climb to the summit of Cradle Mountain (1545 m, **T2 11km 620m**) or the nearby Barn Bluff (1559m, **T2 22km 630m**), or walk the Dove Lake circuit climbing Hansons Peak, then traversing the high face track above the lake to join the Overland Track at Kitchen Hut and on to Marions Lookout (**T1 8km 0m**).

**Day 6:**

**Mt Roland Regional Reserve**

**T1 8km 840m**

*A climb to the summit of the dominant mountain on the central north coast*

Mt Roland (1233m), along with Mts Claude and Vandyke, forms the dominating range on the north coast just south of Sheffield. Our trailhead starts from O'Neills Road near the Hydro Village of Gowrie Park and ascends an old 4WD track in a charming eucalypt forest before arriving at O'Neills Creek. From here the track becomes narrower and rougher before emerging from the enclosing forest (now predominantly of myrtles (*Northofagus cunninghamii*)) on the saddle between Mt Claude and Mt Roland. Now in an open sub-alpine landscape, we complete our climb to the summit of conglomerate rock with views north to Bass Strait, west to Table Cape at Wynyard, east to Mt Barrow near Launceston, and south to the Overland Track peaks.

We then continue to the delightful town of Deloraine with the Great Western Tiers as a backdrop for our evening's meal and accommodation at the Mountain View Country Inn.

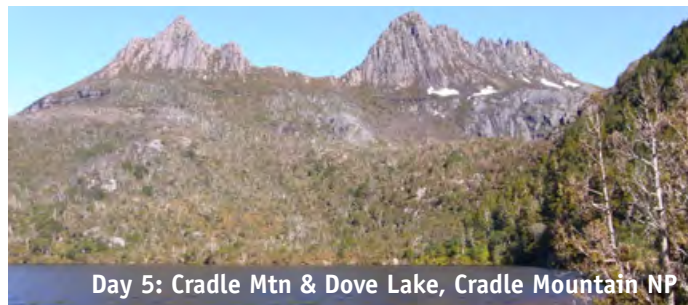
**Day 7:**

**Freycinet National Park**

*Stunningly scenic and iconic destination featuring memorable ocean and bay views, with pristine beaches and crystal clear waters*

The Freycinet Peninsula, on Tasmania's east coast, is the location of the exquisite and renowned Wineglass Bay and the photogenic red granite peaks of The Hazards. It enjoys a mild year-round climate: warm and dry in summer, cool and temperate in winter. It also boasts some of the east coast's most secluded and pristine beaches, with breathtaking views of Wineglass Bay from either the summit of Mt Amos (454m) or the saddle on the track to Wineglass Bay.

On our mid-afternoon arrival from Deloraine we have the option of several short walks prior to our evening dinner at Tombolo's Restaurant before settling down at Iluka on Freycinet at Coles Bay for the night (where we'll stay for two nights). The walk choices include a visit to Honeymoon Bay, the Friendly Beaches, Cape Tourville or Sleepy Bay.



Day 5: Cradle Mtn & Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain NP



Day 6: Mt Roland Summit



Day 7: Honeymoon Bay, Freycinet NP

**Day 8:****Freycinet National Park**

We have several options for our walk today: either a scramble to the summit of Mt Amos (454m, **T2 4km 394m**) for the views (with lunch at the summit), or a walk around Fleurieu Point to Hazards Beach (named after the wreck of Captain Albert (Black) Hazard's whaling vessel, the Promise) and then over the isthmus to Wineglass Bay (for lunch) with a return via the saddle and the lookout between Mt Mayson and Mt Amos (**T1 9km 220m**).

We have an early start the following morning to catch the ferry from Triabunna across the Mercury Passage to the Darlington Settlement at Maria Island NP.

**Day 9:****Maria Island National Park**

*Convict history set in a stunning natural location*

Maria Island National Park is an exquisite jewel on Tasmania's east coast, comprising two small islands joined by a narrow sand isthmus. Discovered by Abel Tasman in 1642, National Park status was conferred on the island in 1972 following a short period as a Wildlife Reserve for the conservation of endangered Tasmanian mammals. This status brought to an end a chequered and varied history of human endeavour on the island that included a succession of abandoned penal settlements and failed agricultural, tourism and industrial pursuits - all set in an isolated landscape of great beauty.

We have many options while on the island: we can explore the forlorn settlement, which features a fascinating mix of former penal activities (dating from two periods: 1825-32 and 1842-50), to later failed tourist endeavours (1884-96) and the visually jarring remains of the failed cement works (1920-28) set amidst the idyllic backdrop of exquisite coastal and mountain vistas; or walk to the remarkable iron-stained Painted Cliffs nearby; or stroll to the convict built reservoir (built over 140 years ago); or visit and explore the Fossil Cliffs high above Fossil Bay (with marine fossils dating back to between 250-290 million years ago); we can scramble up Mt Bishop and Clerk (599m, **T2 12km 590m**) - high above the Fossil Cliffs - with brilliant views from the remarkable "tabletops" of the sheer dolerite columns); or we can just continue our exploration of the Darlington settlement and be entertained by the antics of the Cape Barren Geese, native hens, wallabies, wombats and kangaroos.

At the end of the day we return to Triabunna on the island's catamaran for the 45-minute crossing of Mercury Passage before joining our bus for the trip to Eaglehawk Neck on the Tasman Peninsula where we'll stay at the Lufra Hotel that evening.



Day 8: Wineglass Bay from Mt Amos, Freycinet NP



Day 9: Mt Bishop & Clerk, Maria Is NP

**Day 10:****Tasman National Park**

*A dramatic assemblage of dolerite columns and sea stacks thrusting from the Tasman Sea*

The Tasman Peninsula, just one hour from Hobart, features some of Australia's tallest sea cliffs, and this walk provides an opportunity to view these firsthand as well as enjoy some spectacular coastal scenery. To access the walk, we leave our night's lodging at the Lufra Hotel to cross the infamous narrow isthmus of Eaglehawk Neck (the site of the notorious "dog line" from penal times) to the quiet beauty of Fortescue Bay from where we start our walk to Cape Hauy (pronounced "Hoy").

Starting with a gentle climb up and along the lightly timbered cliff tops of Fortescue Bay until we reach the track turnoff to our destination, the track then descends steeply before we glimpse the 300m vertical sea cliffs of the Cape, and the remarkable detached sea stacks nearby - the Totem Pole and the Candlestick.

The track near the Cape passes very close to some dangerous and vertiginous cliffs, so we need to take care and keep back from the edge here. Once at the Cape we can enjoy the stunning coastal views south to Cape Pillar across the Munro Bight, or seaward to Mitre Rock and the more distant Hippolyte Rocks. We may catch the bellows from a nearby seal colony, or just wonder at the forces that both created and then transformed the Cape in the first place before lunching and returning to our bus at Fortescue Bay. **T2 8km 340m.**

At the conclusion of this, our final walk of the tour, we'll return to Hobart for our evening's accommodation again at the Hobart Mid-City Hotel. And for our last night together we'll enjoy a final group dinner at the Wrest Point Casino to conclude the tour.

**Day 11:****Hobart**

This day is yours to enjoy as you will – visit the Salamanca Market, the Port Arthur Settlement, the Tahune Airwalk at Geeveston (although you might have had enough of rainforests by now), catch an art-house film at the superb and intimate State Theatre in North Hobart, or catch Rob Pennicott's jaw-dropping Bruny Island Cruise before you make your way back to the mainland.

*We hope you've enjoyed your experience in Tasmania and that the wilderness continues to work its magic upon you.*



**Day 10: Cape Hauy, Tasman NP**

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- We reserve the right to modify the walks or select alternative destinations as deemed appropriate by our Guide(s) taking into account prevailing/forecast weather conditions and client safety
- We reserve the right to book alternative accommodation if necessary subject to capacity and bookings
- Payment terms: 10% deposit on booking, balance 7 days prior to tour departure. Please refer to our cancellation policy and general terms and conditions on our website ([www.twe.travel](http://www.twe.travel))
- Airport shuttles are not included in the tour price

### **TOUR INCLUSIONS (What we provide on your tour)**

- Qualified guide/driver
- Mini-bus with luggage trailer
- Twin-share accommodation where nominated however we reserve the right to use alternative accommodation if necessary
- Meals – Day 1: Dinner (2-course); Days 2 – 10: Breakfast (hearty continental), Lunch (packed for bushwalking), Dinner (2-course); Day 11: Breakfast (hearty continental)
- Guided walks as described, but we reserve the right to modify the walk or select an alternative destination as deemed appropriate by our Guide(s)
- All necessary park passes and permits
- Gordon River Cruise and Maria Island Ferry fares
- Comprehensive First Aid Kit
- Emergency communication equipment - PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) and/or satellite phone
- Protective shell clothing (jacket and overpants) if required – please nominate garment size when booking
- Daypacks if required – please nominate when booking

### **TOUR EXCLUSIONS (What you need to bring on your tour)**

- Your own personal medications (including sunscreen, blister protection, insect repellent, analgesics)
- Stout walking shoes (well worn-in)
- Waterproof and windproof hiking parka, overpants and gloves
- Warm fleece jacket
- Long-sleeved shirt (preferably synthetic)
- Long pants (best with zip-off shorts, preferably synthetic)
- Thermal underwear (tops and leggings, preferably synthetic)
- Hat or beanie
- Gaiters (optional)
- Camera, spare film and batteries (plus charger)



## TASMANIA – GENERAL INFORMATION

### TASMANIA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

With over eighteen national parks and a further thirteen reserves and conservation areas readily accessible from Hobart, Tasmania is a bushwalker's paradise.

In fact, over 30% of Tasmania's landmass is protected in these parks and reserves for bushwalkers and visitors to enjoy. Although there is a concentration in the World Heritage Area (a staggering 20% of Tasmania's landmass that also includes the Overland and South Coast Tracks), parks and reserves can be found throughout all regions of Tasmania and provide a large variety of unique nature experiences.

Tasmania's climatic history and topography have sculpted the landscape over time to create a great variety of landforms and environments including: spectacular fluted dolerite coastal cliff formations on the east and south; dry sclerophyll and wet temperate rain forests in the east and south west (containing the tallest hardwood forests on Earth with many trees reaching nearly 100 metres); alpine moorlands in the high and rugged mountain areas with "ice-chewed" remnants from past glaciations; and bleak wind-scoured button-grass plains in the remote far south west.

### TASMANIA'S GEOLOGY

Tasmania is a geologist's dream island – it represents a rich panorama of evolutionary landforms dating back to over one billion years ago; including some of the oldest Pre-Cambrian and Cambrian rocks in the southwest (greater than 500 million years ago) to the more recent Jurassic period (165 million years ago). The break-up of Gondwana enriched this panorama when it triggered massive dolerite intrusions over much of the island. (Dolerite is a dark-coloured igneous rock which defines much of Tasmania and is especially notable in its national parks and reserves). Visitors can also experience some of Australia's biggest and deepest limestone caves, some of which held particular significance for Tasmania's Aborigines, such as the Marakoopa caves.

Since these events, these landforms have been dramatically modified by erosion and glaciation, with the last of three glaciations finishing approximately 12,000 years ago. The legacy of glaciated landforms is pervasive and dramatic: U-shaped valleys; tarns and highland lakes dammed by terminal moraines; deep cirques gouged from mountain sides; boulder "streams" of ice-shattered dolerite blocks; erratic boulders deposited far from their origins by glacier movement; and "ice-plucked" mountain profiles (Frenchmans Cap).

Erosion and glaciation, together with natural earth movements, have shaped the current topography and contributed to the variety of soils and environments that provide such a rich source of the earth's evolutionary history. On our tours you can take the time to explore, absorb and wonder at this dramatic panoramic paradise!

### TASMANIA'S FAUNA

Tasmania's isolation, diverse terrain and climate have allowed many species that did not survive on the mainland to thrive in this unique island environment. Some even hark back to the super-continent, Gondwana, including the burrowing freshwater crayfish (virtually unchanged for the last 200 million years, and are still found today in alpine tarns and creeks in the south west). Tasmania also boasts the largest marsupial carnivores in the world such as the famous (now endangered) Tasmanian Devil, the lesser known spotted and eastern quolls, and the now extinct Tasmanian Tiger. The island has also seen the arrival of Asian invaders some millions of years ago, such as rodents and bats who have now adapted to Tasmania's special environment.





**TASMANIA'S FLORA**

Despite Tasmania's relatively small land mass of approximately 64,000 km<sup>2</sup>, it has a bountiful range of over 2,000 native and introduced flowering plant species, of which over 200 are endemic to the State. Tasmania's mountainous landscapes, with over sixty peaks higher than 900m, generate marked differences in rainfall and humidity from west to east creating a great variety of microclimates and diverse soil types, which provide niches for a huge range of plant species.

Weathered and faulted rock surfaces, sculpted by past glaciers and eroded by heavy rains, also contribute to the range of soil types and plant environments supporting the variety of species.

The World Conservation Union has officially recognised this rich mosaic of vegetation in these regions as an International Centre for Plant Diversity. Few regions in Australia, and indeed the world, offer so much in such a compact and accessible area – come and explore it with us!

**TASMANIA'S WEATHER**

Tasmania lies between latitudes of 40° and 43° south of the equator. However, despite this southerly location it enjoys a temperate and relatively mild climate, especially when compared with northern hemisphere countries that share similar latitudes. This is mainly due to Tasmania's weather extremes being moderated by the surrounding sea, which is no further than 115 km from any point on the island.

The major weather influences are the "Roaring Forties" (the prevailing westerly winds) generating high winds and heavy rainfall on the west and northwest coast, and low pressure systems (which regularly encircle the globe at these southerly latitudes) creating rapid falls in temperature. These low pressure systems are generally short-lived, only serving to briefly punctuate Tasmania's delightfully fresh, clean and invigorating climate. In midsummer daylight lasts for about 15 hours, and about nine in winter. Snow can occur any time during the year in alpine areas (with the heaviest snowfalls in July and August), but there is no permanent snowline.

Tasmania's temperatures range from occasional very hot days in summer to some bitterly cold nights in winter, although typically the weather is extremely pleasant. The table below shows examples of the temperature ranges for the areas we walk in:

Despite these extremes, Tasmania is renowned for having some of the most agreeable conditions in Australia for bushwalking and enjoying the great outdoors, with the "cleanest" air on the planet. Enjoy it with us!

Region	Average Temperature Ranges			
	Summer		Winter	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Coastal	18°C – 23°C	0°C – 15°C	9°C – 14°C	4°C – 6°C
Highland	17°C – 19°C	5°C – 8°C	6°C – 7°C	-2°C – +2°C



*Let us share our love of the extraordinary diversity of Tasmania's unique wilderness areas with you*



Give us a call on **1300 882 293** and we'll gladly discuss your needs and interests. Together we'll work out an exciting walking experience that is designed especially for you.

Or go to [www.twe.travel](http://www.twe.travel) to check out further information online.

**Tasmanian Wilderness Experiences**

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