

FACTSHEET

TARKINE COASTAL EXPERIENCE

6 DAYS OF CAMPING AND COASTAL EXPERIENCE

DURATION: 6 days

TOUR GRADE: T3

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.

We have all spent days relaxing on the beach, however it is only when you meet the rugged, wind-swept Tarkine coastline that you understand the true beauty and power of an untouched landscape. The Tarkine coastline is not only breathtaking, but the expansive ocean beaches and huge surf create a powerful backdrop for the Tarkine Coastal Experience. It is a place of huge historical significance in Australia, with an Aboriginal history dating back thousands of years. Evidence of the takayna people, after whom the Tarkine is named, still remain dotted all over the coastline with some of the largest middens ever found in Australia along our expedition.

Day 1:

Entering the Tarkine Coast

4WD pick up and drive up the coast | Sandy Cape lighthouse | Sweeping beaches | Sheltered coves

From Launceston we begin our journey into our favourite part of the state, the northwest. After a lunch stop and a gear check we wind our way through some of the greener pastures in Tasmania where some of these farm estates have been run by the same families for over 100 years.

As we approach the Tarkine coast, our first marker and the beginning of 6 days of bliss is the magnificent Arthur River. It is here we meet our expert 4WD crew that navigate any obstacle thrown in front of them on our journey to Sandy Cape.

Today is about an introduction to one of the remotest coastal areas in Australia, and preparation for the fantastic experience ahead. When meeting the Tarkine coastline for the first time, explore the sheltered bays and lighthouse, or if you're game take a dive into the pristine waters of the Southern Ocean and see if you can spot an abalone. These unique creatures literally line the rocky boulders that form a large part of the sea floor.

Numerous species of kelp, shellfish, starfish and other colourful marine creatures make for fascinating swimming and diving possibilities. This is where we set up camp for the first night and dinner is served around a roaring camp fire. Allow yourself to be immersed in this wild and rugged landscape whilst breathing some of the cleanest air in the world.

Day 2:

Sandy Cape to Lagoon River | Gentle rivers flowing across wide beaches and headlands | Remote and wild coastline | Secluded bays | Huge middens

Today we head south to Lagoon River, crossing a number of headlands and pristine rivers including the Italian River. The headlands provide spectacular views up and down the coast. The day's walk includes encounters with midden sites and other examples of the Tarkine coast's cultural heritage. The size of the larger middens is simply breathtaking and represents thousands of years of occupation of this land. Sitting high on the headlands are a number of hut depression sites marking the location of where the takayna people established their elaborate shelters.

The last bay we pass is Native Well Bay, a compact and protected bay strewn with giant bull kelp and orange lichen-covered granite boulders. Our camp is located just to the north of the Lagoon River. The coastline is laden with small rocky gulches creating sheltered waters ideal for swimming and observing the myriad of sea life found along the coast. Not far from camp are patches of native grasslands, inhabited by an abundance of local animal residents. We have often seen wombats, echidnas, wallabies and pademelons feeding at dusk on the native grasses surrounding camp.

Some of the photographs sent to us by prior guests of the local wildlife have been simply stunning. The combination of native Tasmanian wildlife feeding with the backdrop of the wild Tarkine coast is a scene that has remained the same, undisturbed for hundreds of years. Again, dinner is served around the campfire overlooking a west coast ocean sunset.

Day 3:

Lagoon River to Interview River | Coastal wilderness views from giant sand dunes
Aboriginal cultural heritage sites | Interview River crossing

Today is a day of giant sand dunes, coastal wilderness views and further evidence of the native Tasmanian's that once ruled this land. The middens we encounter today comprise the discarded shells of abalone, sea snails, bones of wallabies, seals and other prey. They represent thousands of years of inhabitation. According to the Australian Heritage Commission, the region is one of the world's most significant archaeological regions providing tangible connection to the original inhabitants of the country.

For a great overview feel free to stroll to the top of the giant sand dunes. These aren't your standard sand dunes, they are in fact the largest sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. If you are keen to meet the kings and queens of the Tasmanian sky, from the top of these dunes is a great spot for sightings

of the coastal dwelling sea eagle hunting its prey or the mighty wedge-tailed eagle soaring above its empire. We have also regularly seen juvenile Tasmanian devils searching the beach for food.

Upon reaching the Interview River, we find a safe crossing point.

Looking back to the north, the deep blue ocean rolls up against an expansive beach bordered by huge wind-swept sand dunes. The huge swells that relentlessly pound the Tarkine coast are generated thousands of kilometres away deep in the Southern Ocean. The dominant westerly winds, the Roaring Forties, circle the globe driving the swell all the way from South America, sweeping underneath South Africa before thundering onto the Tarkine coast.

Day 4:

Interview River Base Camp

Rest and explore interview river | Swimming

Be a part of our novel research into the Tarkine's carnivorous populations

Today we have the chance to either rest and relax around camp or embark on a day walk. Five minute's walk north of the camp is the Interview River. The Interview River has carved a deep gorge through the surrounding landscape before emptying into a large lagoon directly behind the beach. This shallow lagoon is always warmer than the ocean and is the perfect place for a refreshing swim.

There is also an opportunity today to learn about our world class research into carnivorous populations on the Tarkine coast and in the rainforest.

This research is the first population study ever to be done in the Tarkine area which is amazing considering it is the last disease-free area for the now highly endangered Tasmanian devil.

Today is also a chance to take a trip back in time and explore the impact that European settlement had on Tasmania's indigenous inhabitants. It is here that we learn in detail about George Augustus Robinson, chief protector of the Aborigines and his extraordinary mission along the Tarkine coast.

Day 5:

Walking The Coast

Coastal rock formations

Pristine creek crossings | Expansive beaches

Today we walk for 8 kilometres along the Tarkine coast. Today's walking has been described by some as "the ultimate geologist's playground."

A distinct change in the feel and layout of the land is evident with the beginning of amazing twisted rock formations and majestic rocky outcrops. Along with this rocky landscape comes a myriad of rock pools in which small yet abundant sea creatures reside.

Having lunch amongst these unique rock formations and breathing in the fresh air of the Southern Ocean is the ideal time to reflect on your journey so far. At times, the rocky headlands require us to walk inland. Scattered amongst the rocky landscape lie swathes of marsupial grazing lawns surrounded by wind-hardened coastal banksia, acacia and tea tree.

After lunch, keep your eyes peeled for the endangered and shy hooded plover. Families of this cute coastal bird inhabit the high tide line of the Tarkine's beaches.

Our last night's camp site is 2.5km from the pristine Pieman River. The Pieman River has plenty of stories to tell. It has been commonly believed that the Pieman was named after Alexander Pearce who was involved in one of the very few cannibalism cases in Australia, however this is not correct. In fact it was named after a convict by the name of Thomas Kent, a pastry chef that was deported to Van Dieman's land in 1816. At one stage he escaped and was apprehended at the mouth of the river which now bears his nickname "Pieman."

Day 6:

Leaving the Tarkine coastline

Boat cruise down the Pieman River

Ancient huon pines and the mighty Southern Ocean

Historic mining village of Corinna

Today we bid an early morning farewell to the Tarkine coast but we certainly finish it in style. The mode of transport to Corinna is a 2-hour boat journey down the rainforest flanked Pieman River. One of the boats still operating along the Pieman River is Arcadia 2, the last of the commercial Huon Pine river cruisers. The Arcadia was built in the 1930s and has a rich history of which our Ferryman will give us a detailed account.

On our travels, we cruise through the Pieman Gorge, passing the mouth of the Savage and Donaldson Rivers. These rivers have their origins in the heart of Australia's largest temperate rainforest and are surrounded by ancient Huon Pines.

Upon arrival at Corinna and a welcome BBQ lunch we load into the van for a taste of the rainforest on our journey home. We travel the Murchison Highway with the drive taking us through the heart of the Tarkine, allowing us to experience the diversity of landscapes including rainforests, mountain ranges, buttongrass plains and tall eucalypt forests.

Some of the rainforests we pass through consist of myrtle, sassafras and giant tree ferns that are remnants of the forest that once covered the ancient continent of Gondwana. For the past 60 million years these forests have evolved, surviving vast changes in climatic conditions. The Tarkine is one of the world's last strongholds of this remnant temperate rainforest, hence its international conservation value. It is then onward via Burnie and Devonport on our way back to Launceston.

OTHER INFORMATION & COMMON QUESTIONS

TOUR INCLUSIONS

(What we provide on a fully-guided overnight tour)

- waterproof hiking parka
- waterproof overpants
fleece jacket (choice of 300- or 200- weight fleece)
- waterproof gloves
- gaiters
- two-person tent (shared)
sleeping-bag (synthetic fill, rated to -5°)
silk or fleece sleeping bag liner
sleeping mat (choice of standard or lightweight long; or lightweight three quarter length)
- trekking towel
- inflatable pillow
rucksack (male 75l, female 65l)
- waterproof pack liner
lunches when on the bus to and from tour
meals when on tour (prepared by our guides); beverages; snacks
- plate, bowl and mug; cutlery
- stove and fuel (carried by guides)
- toilet paper; hand sanitiser (alcohol based)
- qualified and knowledgeable guides
comprehensive first-aid kit (carried by guides)
emergency communications – PLB (Personal Location Beacon) and/or satellite phone, carried by guides
national park passes
storage at BCT for your personal effects not required on tour
- free laundry facilities

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

(What you need to bring on your tour)

personal toiletries

medication (include sunscreen, blister protection, insect repellent, analgesics)

underwear (preferably synthetic)

handkerchiefs

thermal top

thermal longs (leggings)

solid leather lace-up walking boots (well worn-in)

woollen socks (three pairs, "Explorer" or equivalent)

long-sleeved shirt (preferably synthetic)
 long pants (best with zip-off shorts, preferably synthetic)
 hat or beanie
 lightweight camera (optional)
 spare film and batteries (optional)
 lightweight head torch (optional)
 book/reading material –lightweight & slim (optional)
 bathers (optional)
 Trekking Sandals/Crocs/Sandshoes (for river crossings)

Pick Up and Drop Off						
Pick up / drop off city	Pick up time	Drop off time	Accommodation on pick up / drop off instructions	Alternative pick up / drop off point	Flying in? Recommended arrival times	Flying out? Recommended departure times
Launceston	8:00am to 8:30am	6:00pm	City centre only	Launceston Backpackers, 103 Canning Street	Prior to 7:30am on the morning of departure	No earlier than 8:00pm

NOTES

1. always choose synthetic fabrics (which dry quickly if wet) rather than cotton or wool (which don't)
2. don't bring any superfluous gear – we aim for the lightest possible load in your rucksack
3. let us know well beforehand if you have any special dietary needs (refer our Tour Booking Form)
4. you are welcome to use your own personal equipment, but call us if you doubt its suitability

ACCOMMODATION

- Twin share quality bushwalking tent
- Single tents are used when there are uneven group members and we also provide single tents on request for single guests.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum of 10 guests per group.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

This is a personal preference however we recommend that you look into purchasing appropriate travel insurance whenever you travel.

YOUR HEALTH

We reserve the right to request medical certificates from our guests to ensure your health and safety on our trips.

COMMON QUESTIONS

1. Pack weight?
 You'll start off with a pack that weighs 15-20kgs but it will get progressively lighter as the trip goes on! This includes a share of your food and tent (5-7kg).

2. Washing clothes?

There are no washing facilities on this trip; we recommend that you bring enough clothes to last the entire trip without needing to wash.

3. Amenities?

Pit toilets are used for the duration of the walk.

4. Mobile phone reception?

There are no reliable spots for mobile phone reception on this track. What a great way to escape the mobile for a few days! We ask that you leave your mobile with any luggage that you leave with our driver.

TRACK GRADING

- The trail has been created and tagged by our expert team of track workers and is located in a very remote and wild area.
- The trail winds its way through mostly open rainforest and the ground is soft and bouncy underfoot.
- There are very few sections of mud and these sections are no deeper than a walking boot.
- There are many small creek crossings, some of which require solid sandals with straps to ensure you do not get wet boots.
- The bulk of the walk is on a forest plateau that has small but regular undulating hills. The ascent to the plateau occurs on days one and two. The ascent is gradual for the most part with a few steep slippery sections.
- The final day's walk is when we negotiate the river crossings and the walk ends on an old forestry trail. There are two river crossings, the Keith and the Arthur, which require sandals and will be safely coordinated by your guides. During the summer months, the river crossings are neither deep nor dangerous and can be safely negotiated under the watchful eye of your guides.
- To make sure you are at your fighting weight, we highly recommend you participate in a pre-trip training program. Please contact our office for details.

TRACK GRADING SYSTEM

We grade this tour according to your experience and fitness level. Please read the itinerary and then pick the category that most suits your experience and fitness level. Please bear in mind that these are simply guidelines. We welcome a call and we can guide you through the itinerary.

We strongly suggest all guests participate in our pre-trip training program. It offers a valuable support to help lift your confidence, strength and fitness. Besides, being fit makes you feel good, so any excuse!

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 km², 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 the 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 to check out further information online.

Tasmanian Wilderness Experiences ABN 65 632 316 265

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