



WILD TASMANIA



TRIP DATES

Winter 2005-Spring 2006 Season

November 13-22, 2005

February 12-21, 2006

March 12-21, 2006

Winter 2006-Spring 2007 Season

November 12-21, 2006

February 11-20, 2007

March 11-20, 2007



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THE GREATEST ATTRACTION of Tasmania lies in its lavish swaths of protected wilderness, which preserve most of the earth's last temperate rainforests. The western side of this island is wild, wooded, and mountainous, while the eastern side, more settled, has old-fashioned farms and villages in a tranquil setting that resembles the English countryside bathed in vivid "down under" light. In our circuit of Tasmania, coastal and rainforest hikes immerse us in the island's other-worldly landscapes, and all along the way we soak up the island's colorful history and charming Tassie hospitality. Our accommodations range from cozy wilderness lodges warmed by roaring fires to luxurious cabins overlooking the sea.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Meals included are specified at the end of each itinerary day as "B," "L," or "D" (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 1 *Launceston, Tasmania (via Sydney or Melbourne)*

Arrive in Launceston, Tasmania (via connecting flight from either Sydney or Melbourne) in the afternoon and transfer on your own to our hotel, the Penny Royal Lodge, adjacent to spectacular Cataract Gorge. Afternoon free to take a stroll through town or along the gorge itself. Welcome dinner and group orientation in the evening...**D**

Day 2 *Tamar Valley / Asbestos Range National Park*

Our adventure begins with a gentle bicycle ride up the Tamar Valley, one of Tasmania's premier wine regions, and wine-tasting and a delicious lunch in a vineyard setting. In the afternoon, we explore nearby Asbestos Range National Park with a walk along Bakers Beach. As evening nears, we have a barbecue dinner and a chance to view some of the local wildlife such as Forester kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and pademelons (a smaller cousin of the wallaby) as well as a variety of birdlife at close range. Return to our hotel in Launceston...**BLD**

Days 3-4 *Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park*

Leaving Launceston, we drive west, passing through the picturesque colonial towns of Deloraine and Sheffield. We climb along mountain roads to reach Cradle Valley and the entrance to Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park. Scenic lakes, alpine moorlands, deep gorges, crystal clear streams, forested valleys, and rugged mountains make this park an ideal destination for bushwalking. Tasmania's highest peak, Mt. Ossa (5,300') is here.

Cradle Mountain, a World Heritage site north of the park, is a place of open alpine moors and windswept heaths broken by rocky gorges and deep, forested valleys. There are many waterfalls and small but beautiful lakes. Trails climb to the Cradle Plateau, a high, rocky region at 4,000 feet. Above this plateau rises the ridge of Cradle Mountain (5067') and, to the south, Barn Bluff. The sharp-edged spires and angular precipices of the cliffs of these highest peaks contrast sharply with the rounded edges and slopes of the plateau and lower ranges.

After lunch on Day 3, we take an afternoon walk around Dove Lake at the foot of Cradle Mountain. The next day we have a choice of a gentle or more challenging hike, with a chance to walk amongst some of the region's unique enchanting forests and alpine scenery. After dinner at the lodge, depending on the weather, we may take a night walk in search of Tasmanian Devils and other nocturnal marsupials. Overnights at the award-winning Cradle Mountain Lodge...**BLD each day**

Day 5 *West Coast: Macquarie Harbor / Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park*

After an early breakfast, we leave Cradle Valley and drive to the picturesque fishing port of Strahan, the only sizable town on Tasmania's wild west coast. This remote part of the island is made up of rugged mountainous coastline, steep gorges, and ghost towns. Strahan is the embarkation point for our cruise across Macquarie Harbour to Kelly Basin. Aboard the 60-foot ketch *Stormbreaker*, we learn about the interesting history of this beautiful area and enjoy lunch on board of fresh local lobster and salmon. Our voyage passes close to infamous Sarah Island, once one of the most fearsome convict settlements in the colonies.

From Kelly Basin we take a stunning walk through the ancient forests of Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. Our trails lead through thick rainforest and open fern bracken to reach the ruins of Pillinger, a long abandoned mining town on the shores of Macquarie Harbour—now overgrown by the forest. Emerging from this walking track, we drive to the mining town of Queenstown then on to lovely Lake St. Clair. Overnight at the modern Lake St. Clair cabins, with dinner at a nearby lodge...**BLD**

Day 6 *Mt. Field National Park / Hobart*

En route to Hobart, we stop at Mt. Field National Park for a hike through a forest of towering tree ferns along a level path to beautiful Russell Falls—a three-tiered waterfall that is certainly one of the prettiest in

Tasmania. A bit farther on we enter the “Land of the Giants,” where eucalyptus regnans trees, the tallest flowering plant in the world, tower up to 250 feet above the forest floor.

Later we continue on to Hobart via the beautiful Derwent Valley. Tasmania’s charming capital is located in the heart of this valley, guarded by the brooding flank of Mt. Wellington. Hobart is Australia’s southernmost and smallest (pop. 130,000) capital city, with a busy harbor, beautiful Georgian buildings, and a relaxed atmosphere. On arrival we head down to the docks and Salamanca Place for a stroll by the boats, craft shops, galleries, and outdoor cafes. We spend the next two nights at the lovely Macquarie Manor, a historic gem (a National Trust building, circa 1875), in elegant Edwardian and Victorian rooms with all modern conveniences. Today we have some time for independent shopping and exploring, with dinner on your own for a chance to sample some of Hobart’s many fine dining spots...**BL**

Day 7 *Hobart / Salamanca Market*

After breakfast, we visit the vibrant Saturday Salamanca Market, which has a wonderful variety of local crafts and produce as well as numerous musicians and street entertainers. We then take a pack lunch and a short drive to the Organ Pipes, the starting point of our traverse to the summit of Mt. Wellington, with its unsurpassed views of Hobart and the entire southeast region of Tasmania. After the hike, we head south into the picturesque Huon Valley, passing through Huonville and Cygnet for close-up views of some of Tasmania’s unique marsupials such as the Tasmanian devil, wombats, quolls, bandicoots, wallabies, and maybe even a platypus. Return to Hobart for dinner at a local restaurant, and overnight at the Macquarie Manor...**BD**

Days 8-9 *Freycinet Peninsula*

After an early departure from Hobart, we head east to the Tasman Peninsula, where we take a private tour of well-preserved ruins of Australia’s most notorious prison—the Port Arthur penal colony. In 1830, Governor Arthur called the Tasman Peninsula a “natural penitentiary” because it was connected to the mainland by just a narrow strip of land less than 350 feet wide. 12,500 convicts served sentences at Port Arthur between 1830 and 1877. After lunch we journey along the stunning east coast, passing Maria Island and Swansea, a seaside town on the shores of the Great Oyster Bay. As we venture out onto the Freycinet Peninsula, we walk along the wild and pristine Friendly Beaches. This is Tasmania’s sunniest region, with a climate more mild and Mediterranean than Austral.

We spend the next two nights on Coles Bay, gateway to Freycinet National Park’s more “off the beaten track” pleasures. Freycinet is Tasmania’s premier coastal park. It features striking granite peaks, sheltered blue waters, white beaches, and rocky shores. Coles Bay itself offers fine beaches for swimming, and excellent bushwalking opportunities. There is a wide variety of local flora, and the permanent inhabitants (possums and wallabies) are bold enough to take close-up looks at their human visitors.

On Day 9 we enter the national park proper, beginning our day with a climb up to a saddle beneath Mt. Amos for our first view of stunning Wineglass Bay. We hike past secluded bays, sandy beaches, and sheer pink granite cliffs. Along the way we should be able to spot many different bird and mammal species, possibly including the Tasmanian pademelon, black cockatoo, swift parrot, and the queen rosella. After a picnic lunch we continue our circuit hike following the Isthmus Track to Hazards Beach and Lemana Lookout, for terrific views of the peninsula and Schouten Island.

Overnights at Freycinet Lodge, a lovely resort just outside the park. Here one can enjoy the delights of fresh Tasmanian produce while watching dolphins play beneath the deck overlooking Great Oyster Bay, or sit on a lofty pink boulder at dawn, watching the sky change from cobalt through to coral, smoked orange, and pale blue. The lodge features luxury cabins harmoniously built into in a bushland setting (this resort has won numerous ecotourism design awards). Farewell Aussie barbecue on our last night...**BLD each day**

Day 10 *Launceston / Depart*

Morning drive from Freycinet directly to the airport at Launceston for afternoon or evening departure on US-bound flights...**BL**

Tour Cost & Important Trip Details

*LAND COST: WINTER 2005 / SPRING 2006 SEASON

\$3895 (9-10 members)
\$4195 (7-8 members)
\$4395 (5-6 members)

Single supplement: \$695 limited availability (*not available at Lake St Clair*)

Please call for Winter 2006 / Spring 2007 Season prices

Our trips are budgeted for a full or nearly full sign-up. To avoid having to cancel trips with fewer members, we charge more for smaller groups, to cover the fixed costs of the trip. Costs are based on double occupancy; if you are traveling alone and wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. If you are willing to share accommodations we will match you with a roommate if one is available. If you are willing to share accommodations but we cannot match you with a roommate, the "forced single supplement" will be 50% of the single supplement listed above.

LAND COST INCLUDES:

- C all accommodations
- C welcome and farewell dinner and all meals as specified after each itinerary day
- C services of Trip Leader and local guides
- C all land and boat transportation, airport transfers for passengers on group flights, and baggage handling

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

international airfare, transfers for *independent* arrival or departure, any meals *not* specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, *optional activities*, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (liquor, laundry, etc.).

*CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Australia by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Australian Dollar. In the spring of 2005, when we set the rates for our *Winter 2005/Spring 2006* program, the US Dollar equaled 1.26 Australian Dollars. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or lower our trip price; if so, your final invoice, sent out 75 days prior to departure, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Australian Dollars, the remainder of our expenses are paid in dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Australian Dollar were to rise in value, the land price would rise less than might be expected, and if the Australian Dollar were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	\$500
120 days prior to departure	\$500
60 days prior to departure	Balance

CANCELLATION FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee	\$0
46-90 days prior to departure	25% of land cost
45 days or less	100% of land cost

AIR TRAVEL

You will need to make your own airline reservations directly with the airlines or via the Internet. Once you have booked your flights, please fax or mail us a copy so that we can inform the Trip Leader of your flight times.

ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Launceston is the meeting point for *Wild Tasmania*. ON Day 1, you transfer on your own to the group hotel. At the end of the trip, you are transferred to the airport in Launceston for departure on afternoon or evening flights. Our *Arrival & Departure Logistics* memo, included in your confirmation packet, has detailed information.

LEADERSHIP

James Fuss is a trekking guide, photographer, bicyclist, and chef extraordinaire. Born and bred in South Australia, James acquired his wanderlust early while exploring Australia extensively on camping trips with his parents. His love of the cooking arts began early, as well, and after embarking on a career as a chef, he headed to Europe in the 1980s to extend his culinary repertoire. While there, he developed a real passion for the wilds of the British Isles and the Alps and spent four years travelling, backpacking, and cycling. He returned to Australia in 1990 to become a guide in the Outback. Since 1995, James has guided seasonally on three continents for us. “It’s a joy to be able to guide in such divergent places. I love the gastronomic diversity of Europe, especially France. In Nepal, it’s not just the Himalayas but the genuine warmth of the people and the cultural wealth that brings me back. And I’m always happy to head back to Oz to help trip members discover my country’s pristine wilderness, unique wildlife, bountiful seafood, and superb wines. Wherever I’m guiding, I try to make a journey a once in a lifetime experience for people.” James helps develop trips for us in Australia and Europe and has conducted cooking seminars for our Nepal camp staff. When not guiding, James will usually be found back at home camping, boating, fishing with family and friends, and “chucking a few shrimps on the barbie.” He is conversant in French, German, and Nepali.

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This active outdoor adventure is rated 2, easy to moderate, according to our trip grading system, with hikes planned for most days. Anyone in a reasonable state of fitness, accustomed to outdoor adventures, should be able to fully enjoy the planned activities. Participants should be prepared for at least 1-5 hours of hiking each day over uneven terrain (carrying a daypack only).

Vehicle touring is mostly over good roads in a comfortable van or minibus. The trip features a variety of accommodations chosen for their character, size, and location. Overnights range from “bed and breakfast” inns to cabins, historic inns, and more luxurious lodges.

As the weather in Tasmania is often variable, we must occasionally wait for it to change to participate in our planned activities. In such a case, we may rearrange the daily itinerary to accommodate the weather.

REFERENCES

We are proud to have an exceptionally high rate of repeat travelers. We’d be happy to put you in touch with a client who has traveled with us in Tasmania.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. *If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Pacific Manager, or email us at pacific@wildernesstravel.com.*

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Tasmania is located in the notorious “Roaring Forties,” a belt of brisk winds that encircle the globe. By virtue of its size—it is an island about the same size as Switzerland, the Irish Republic, or West Virginia—and because it is surrounded by the sea, the climate is a maritime one, rarely extremely hot or extremely cold. The seasons are opposite to that of the northern hemisphere. Summer is from December to February when the average maximum temperature is 70°F. Winter is from June to August with an average maximum temperature of 40°F. (In late spring and fall, when our trips are scheduled, the temperature and rainfall will usually be somewhat moderate in relation to the extremes.) The annual rainfall varies from 24 inches in Hobart to 95 inches on the west coast. The weather on the east coast is nearly always warmer and milder than the rest of the state. Rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year.

DEPARTURE NOTES

Once you have signed up on the trip, we send you Departure Notes that include a complete packing list, relevant medical information, required travel documents, background information, and a reading list.

VISIT US ONLINE

At www.wildernesstravel.com you can find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and special *WT Expeditions* that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access a complete library of our Detailed Itineraries. And while you are there, check out our Guestbook to see what other website visitors and past clients have said, and leave us a comment of your own!

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law which took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. *California Seller of Travel #1007696-40*

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the **General Information** section of the **Wilderness Travel** catalog.

Revised: August 15, 2005