

Discovering Tasmania

Dates: Saturday, 16th February to Saturday, 1st March 2008 (15 days)
Cost: \$2,800 **Style:** Accommodated **Start and Finish:** Launceston

Discover some of Australia's wildest and most rugged scenery as well as a number of endemic species, including the world's tallest and some of its smallest flowering plants. Almost a quarter of Tasmania is inscribed on the World Heritage List. This is scheduled to increase with the nomination of Australia's Convict Heritage sites of Port Arthur and Maria Island. Discover Tasmania's scenic grandeur and its outstanding natural values, while appreciating its hospitality and cuisine.

Guides: John Sinclair. Although GO BUSH hasn't offered this safari since 2003, this will be the 15th safari which John will have lead to this scenic island which is so rich in natural and cultural heritage. He will be accompanied by his mate and naturalist extraordinaire, Ian Morris who is straying from the tropics and the Northern Territory keen to discover still more natural wonders of Tasmania.

Style: This safari comprehensively traverses the island state with a maximum of 18 safarists in a coaster bus. Safarists share a variety of budget accommodation venues.

The Season: Tasmania's most golden early autumn weather in early February usually provides the balmiest most comfortable opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Price: Includes all accommodation, meals and access fees, bus transport and Maria Island and Gordon River boat trips.

Draft Itinerary

This itinerary has been well tested, improved and refined over many previous Tasmanian safaris.

Day 1; Saturday, 16th February: Depart. Guests will be collected at their Launceston accommodation starting at 8.00 am. Travel through the north east via Scottsdale, Weldborough Pass to St. Helens (lunch) then on to Bicheno and the magnificent Freycinet National Park.

Accommodation: Coles Bay.

Day 2; Sunday, 17th February: Undertake an exhilarating walk and enjoy the very photogenic Wineglass Bay and Hazards Beach. Experience the magnificent Freycinet scenery at your individual fitness level. Accom: Coles Bay.

Day 3; Monday, 18th February: Learn about eastern Tasmania's history and heritage at Swansea & Mitchell Cottage. Take a ferry to Maria Island National Park, with its convict and industrial relics. Discover interesting fauna including the very rare bird, the 40 spotted pardalote.

Accom: Penitentiary Units Maria Island.

Day 4; Tuesday, 19th February: After exploring Maria Island in the morning return to Triabunna and take a bus ride south to the Tasman Peninsula. including Tasman Arch, the Blowhole and the Tessellated Pavement.

Accommodation: Port Arthur.

Day 5; Wednesday, 20th February: Explore historic and notorious Port Arthur. Inspect "Bangor", a mixed farm to get a farmer's views of Landcare. Accom: Port Arthur.

Day 6; Thursday, 21st February: Explore the State capital visiting Hobart's Botanic Gardens and heritage precincts, Battery Point and Salamanca Place. Then proceed to Maydena via the Derwent Valley. Accom: Maydena.

Day 7; Friday, 22nd February: Enjoy majestic mountain scenery of the South West National Park on the way to Scott's Peak Dam. Range after range see great mountain vistas, the impoundment which flooded Lake Pedder and much more. Accom: Maydena.

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Day 8; Saturday, 23rd February: Explore the many ecosystems associated with different altitudes of Mt Field National Park before visiting historic Midland villages with structures dating back to the convict era. Accom: Poatina.

Day 9; Sunday, 24th February: After exploring the charming Liffey Falls proceed on to the Central Plateau, "The Land of a Thousand Lakes". This glaciated landscape is a relic of the last ice-age and includes the Great Lake. Then on Lake St Clair the deepest lake in Australia, gouged out by one of the glaciers. Accom: Lake St. Clair.

Day 10; Monday, 25th February: All day for walking in Lake St. Clair area, and a boat trip to Narcissus Bay at the northern end of the Lake. Accom: Lake St. Clair.

Day 11; Tuesday, 26th February: Follow the Lyell Highway making short forays at Franklin River, Donaghy's Hill, Nelson Falls and Queenstown. Accom: Strahan.

Day 12; Wednesday, 27th February: Cruise on the magical Gordon River and Macquarie Harbour. Experience Sarah Island. Explore around Strahan. Accom: Strahan.

Day 13; Thursday, 28th February: Via Roseberry to Cradle Mountain National Park to walk to Pencil Pine Falls and around Dove Lake. Accom: Waldheim cabins.

Day 14; Friday, 29th February: Take an all day walk in the Cradle Mountain National Park which can vary from soft options to the most challenging. Accom: Waldheim.

Day 15; Saturday, 1st March: Inspect magnificent World Heritage Marakoopa Cave. Lunch at Sheffield and inspect Entally House. Arrive Launceston about 5.00 pm.