

Tasmania

An Island Wilderness

A Greentours Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 To Hobart

The evening of Day 2 will see us arriving into Hobart where we'll transfer gratefully to our accommodation in the Woolstore Hotel.

Day 3 The Huon Valley

The Huon Valley lies south of Hobart. This valley and the nearby Hartz Mountains are the foci today. The canopy walkway at Tahune will feature, and enable greater insight to be gained into the myrtle and sassafras forest, while the productive heartland with its picturesque orchards provide a delightful contrast.

Days 4 & 5 Bruny Island

This morning we will take the ferry from the south of Hobart to the renowned island of Bruny. Here on the first evening we'll be able to see some of the local marsupials Bruny is famous for: Possums, Pademelons and Quolls.

The next day we'll explore Inala, a 'Land for Wildlife' property on South Bruny, and gain further insights into the endemic wildlife and birdlife of this unique region. Inala is a 205 hectare (500 acre) property located north of Cloudy. It is home to 90 bird species (including all of the Tasmanian endemic species), almost 40 species of native terrestrial orchids, an amazing diversity of plant species and several species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. South Bruny National Park encompasses the wild and spectacular southern coast of the island. We'll have an afternoon walk through coastal forest to view the renowned 'Christmas bells' – *Blandfordia punicea*.

Day 6 Mount Field National Park

We'll depart Bruny early in the morning on the ferry back to mainland. Mount Field National Park lies forty minutes west of Hobart. With alpine moorlands, spectacular mountain scenery, Mount Field has an excellent diversity of alpinines including several *Richeas*, *Ewartias*, and Tasmanian *Celmisias*. We spend the day at varying altitudes in this national park, enjoying the walk to the Russell Falls, and wandering amidst the sub-alpine flora. There are good opportunities to see Echidnas and wallabies today along the road verges.

Day 7

Lake St Clair National Park

Today we'll depart Russell Falls for western Tasmania. In Lake St Clair National Park, on the central highlands, we take a walk through black peppermint forest on the shores of the lake. We shall also discover montane banksia woodland, and lakeshore turf flora.

Day 8

Franklin-Gordon River National Park and MacQuarrie Harbour

This morning we'll drive through the pass between the Cradle Mountain region and the Franklin-Gordon River National Park. On King William Saddle we'll look for *Billardieras*, *Callistemons* (Tasmanian bottlebrush) and *Diplarraenas*. This shall bring us to the mining regions in the west, centred on Queenstown. After learning of the significance to Tasmania of the minerals, formerly, and in places still extracted from these hills, we will continue to Strahan on the shores of the MacQuarrie Harbour.

Day 9(am)

Gordon River World Heritage Area

This morning we'll take a cruise in this beautiful harbour and into the Gordon River World Heritage Area. There are good opportunities to see Rough-faced Shag, Osprey, snakes, and Huon Pines. Alternatively you may opt for the renowned train journey through the lowland rain forests to Queenstown.

Days 9(pm) – 12(am)

Cradle Mountain National Park

Mid afternoon on Day 9 we'll drive on to Cradle Valley, and Cradle Mountain National Park. There are reasonable chances of seeing Echidnas later today along the road verge. The next day we'll explore Lake Dove and vicinity where we'll walk the start of some of the trails to Crater Lake and Cradle Mountain. In the evening we'll have an excursion to look for Wombats, Pademelons, Bennett's Wallabies, and with luck, Quolls.

The next day we'll visit the Cradle Valley boardwalk. Further gentle walks that afternoon will see us wandering through Pencil Pine and King Billy Pine dominated forests. There is an optional visit to breeding centre for Tasmanian Devils available for today.

Morning of Day 12 we'll depart Cradle Mountain and travel north towards the coast. After following the coast a way we turn inland to Mountain Valley Resort. In an idyllic setting this locality is unsurpassed for viewing Tasmanian Devils in their natural state, while platypus swim up and down the adjacent river. Stay Mountain Valley resort one night.

Day 12 pm

Tasmanian Devils

Mountain Valley Resort has an idyllic setting and this locality is unsurpassed for viewing Tasmanian Devils in their natural state, while platypus swim up and down the adjacent river.

Day 13

Narawntapu National Park

Just after dawn we shall seek the graceful Platypus in the wild as it glides through the water on creeks adjacent to the resort.

We've a morning excursion to the Narawntapu National Park(formerly Asbestos Range NP). This coastal park has abundant marsupial wildlife. There are good opportunities to see Forester's Kangaroos, Tiger Snakes, and to view dune flora and Melaleuca/Sheoak woodland. Later near Launceston a newly created walkway will provide the bird watchers with a variety of waterfowl, estuarine and scrub birds.

Days 14 – 16(am)

Launceston. Cataract Gorge & Ben Lomond National Park

Day 15 is a free day in Launceston. You have the opportunity to walk and explore in the spectacular Cataract Gorge.

The next day we'll visit Ben Lomond National Park. We'll use the ski-field access road to reach a high elevated plateau at 1500m where we'll make the most of magnificent scenery and unsurpassed alpine flora.

Days 16(pm) – 18

Freycinet National Park

We travel south through the Midlands visiting the historic settlement of Ross en route to the fascinating and scenic Freycinet National Park. Whilst in Freycinet we will walk to Wineglass Bay where the Granite outcrops, rugged peaks, crystal clear water, stunning orchids, wonderfully barked local eucalypt trees and Oyster Bay Pines, combine to make this a superb locality from which to learn much more about the coastal natural heritage. We'll also explore the eastern coastline of the Freycinet Peninsula.

Morning of Day 19 we'll drive to Hobart for final night. Mount Wellington provides a dramatic backdrop to the city of Hobart. We gain our final insight into the Tasmanian alpine environment followed by walks through montane dry sclerophyll forest mid slopes on the peak. Stay Hobart.

Day 19**Hobart and Departure**

Morning at leisure in Hobart. Fly on to Melbourne/Sydney this afternoon to connect with international flights.

Day 20**Arrive UK**

If you would like to ask about any other aspect of this holiday, please call 01298 83563 or email us at enquiries@greentours.co.uk.

To Book a on this Holiday please fill in the booking form which you can download from www.greentours.co.uk (also found in the Greentours brochure) and post to Greentours, 8 Eliot Close, Armitage, Rugeley, WS15 4UP, UK. Tel +44 (0)1298 83563. After booking your place you'll receive a confirmation letter and a detailed information pack will be dispatched twelve weeks prior to departure. Flower, bird and butterfly checklists are available.