

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS

7 days / 6 nights

DAY 1 (D) FLY SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE

Today fly from Sydney to Melbourne for your overnight stay at Batman's Hill on Collins.

DAY 2 (B,L,D) MELBOURNE, SMITHTON, STANLEY

This morning depart Essendon Airport and fly across Bass Strait to the Tasmanian coastal township of Smithton. Drive to the historic township of Stanley, established in the early 1800's and now with a streetscape of genteel colonial buildings. Take the chairlift up to the Nut, a huge monolithic boulder which dominates the township. Enjoy stunning sea and township views.

Visit Highfield Historic Site, established in 1832 as the headquarters of the Van Diemen's Land Co. View the house, grounds and farm complex buildings. Some time to stroll along the main street, soak in the atmosphere. Continue to Smithton and our home for two nights, Tall Timbers.

DAY 3 (B,L,D) ARTHUR RIVER CRUISE

Enjoy absolute Tasmanian wilderness country as we visit the area now known as the Tarkine, a recently named ancient wilderness area where conservationists are hoping to prevent the mining industry from commencing operations.

Join the MV George Robinson, a purpose built steel cruiser fitted with Tasmanian timbers and brass, for a 14 km cruise to the junction of the Arthur and Franklin Rivers. There are often sightings of platypus, kingfishers and a host of other birds as we cruise.

Disembark at Turks Landing, for an easy paced guided walk through the pristine forest to a magical camp among the trees for a barbecue lunch.

DAY 4 (B,L,D) DISMAL SWAMP, STRAHAN

Visit Dismal Swamp, a natural blackwood forest sinkhole, believed to be the only one in the world. This 40 metre deep sinkhole is a unique forest habitat supporting a range of plant and animal species. View the forest from a cantilevered walkway descending to the swamp floor and discover the ancient environment through interpretation signs and artwork.

Take the road less travelled through the Arthur-Pieman Conservation area, Corina and Zeehan to Strahan.

DAY 5 (B,L,D) GORDON RIVER CRUISE, THE SHIP THAT NEVER WAS

Board the Lady Jane Franklin II for a delightful cruise on Macquarie Harbour. Travel Premium Class on the Captain's Deck.

Cruise through Hells Gates and the Gordon River, noted for picturesque reflection. Take a rainforest walk through ancient forests (see a 2,000 year old tree) and visit Sarah Island, a notorious convict settlement.

Later in the day, be entertained by the theatrical delight, "The Ship That Never Was."

DAY 6 (B,L,D) WEST COAST WILDERNESS RAILWAY

Board the historic West Coast Wilderness Railway in the premium Wilderness Carriage on the River and Rainforest tour. Take in the fabulous harbour views as the train follows the foreshore and then the river as you journey deep into the rainforest.

Enjoy a glass of champagne and canapés while you relax and absorb the superb views.

Some free time from mid-afternoon to relax and take in the ambience of Strahan.

DAY 7 (B,L) CRADLE MOUNTAIN, WYNYARD, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY

Travel to Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre and the picture postcard Dove Lake with its breathtaking views. Stroll along the edge of the lake to a nearby viewing point.

Enjoy a final delicious lunch at the splendid Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge.

Continue north to Wynyard and reboard our private aircraft for the homeward bound flight. Fly over Table Cape (home to Tasmania's [legal] opium industry) and the scenic coastline on route to Essendon.

From Melbourne fly to Sydney by commercial flight.

