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TOURING

TASMANIA



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CLASSIC TASMANIA HIGHLIGHTS

ABOUT TASMANIA

Tasmania is one of Australia's most sparsely populated and untouched states or territories.

Dubbed 'the Apple Isle', or 'Tassie' colloquially, Tasmania's abundance is renowned. Ancient old-growth forests host a wealth of wildlife - including the iconic Tasmanian devil, hillsides are festooned with vibrant lavender and other flora, and the southern island's producers create everything from fine wines to gourmet cheeses and other farm craft.

Tasmania is particularly suited to wilderness adventures, with national parks and dramatic coastlines offering spectacular scenery through which to wander.

Though occasionally inclement, the island enjoys a reasonable amount of sunshine. Seasons are distinct, though reverse of the Northern hemisphere, winter falling between June and August, summer, from December to February.

Being the southern state, the climate is significantly cooler than the mainland, but this attracts numerous whale and dolphin species from the Antarctic waters, while little penguins and several seal species share the shoreline.

QUICK FACTS:

- Tasmania lies 150 miles (240km) off the southern coast of Australia.
- Ferries leave from Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay for the 11-hour journey across the Bass Strait, though many choose to fly
- Though an island, it is fairly large, about half the size of New York state, or twice the size of Vancouver Island
- Almost half of the state comprises World Heritage areas, national parks or marine and forest reserves
- Tasmania's pristine environment is so clean that it has the only rainwater approved for drinking by health departments globally & the world's cleanest air
- The island has over 1,250 miles (2,000km) of walking tracks - more than enough for even the most avid hiker

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CLASSIC HOBART TOURS

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HOBART HISTORICAL TOUR

First 'discovered' in 1642, Tasmania was originally named Van Diemen's Land. Since that time, it has had a rich history of trade, military activity and as a penal colony. The capital of Hobart has immortalized much of this history in its architecture and landmarks. A guided historical tour of the city gives you the opportunity to glimpse into the past, taking in the famous Salamanca markets and Battery Point, as well as many of the preserved officers' houses that formed the city's garrison. From the city center, you will then be transported to Mount Wellington, a lofty peak that overlooks the entire city. The peak is crowned by a superb observation center, and from the 4,170-foot (1,271m) summit, you will gain breathtaking views of the city and Derwent River.

HOBART NATURE TOUR

Tasmania is home to a wide variety of wildlife, some found nowhere else in the world. Founded in 1818, Hobart's botanical gardens house regional, Arctic and global flora, and the tranquil setting provides serene tranquility at the heart of the city. From the gardens, you will be taken to Bonorong Sanctuary, where orphaned and injured animals are rehabilitated and several of Tasmania's threatened species are protected. Here you can hand-feed a range of curious creatures including Eastern quolls, tawny frogmouths and sugar gliders. You can also meet friendly kangaroos and, as the daylight hours draw to an end, the nocturnal Tasmanian devils awaken and you are invited to feed these ferocious marsupials their dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Battery Point was named for the battery of canons that once stood here to protect the city from invaders
- As with much of Australia, Hobart was established with convict labor, & much of this history is evident throughout the city
- Few predators existed in Australia prior to colonization, but now many endemic species are threatened
- Almost all marsupials - including quolls, sugar gliders, kangaroos & Tasmanian devils - are only found in Australia
- The Tasmanian devil has the highest bite to weight ratio of any mammal, able to crunch bone and even bite through metal

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CLASSIC CULINARY TOUR

HOBART & BRUNY ISLAND DEGUSTATION

Hobart is gaining global renown for its exceptional food and beverages. A fertile environment, balanced climate and wealth of fresh produce are harnessed by world-class chefs and creators for superb dining experiences at every level.

Your tour begins offshore, venturing to Bruny Island, just 20 minutes from the coast, where you will start your day with fresh gourmet coffee and treats at Bruny Island Cheese. Of course, sampling their fare is an essential part of your visit.

Working up an appetite, you are then invited to make the easy hike up to The Neck - the highest point of Bruny that offers 360° views of the entire island. Tasmania is known for its superb oysters, harvested from the pristine ocean waters. You will be able to enjoy freshly-shucked oysters straight from the shell as an appetizer for lunch, washed down with locally-brewed beers or a crisp glass of Tasmanian wine. The small island has its own vineyard, and it is to the Bruny Island Premium Wines estate is your lunch destination.

Sampling their pinot noirs and chardonnays, lunch is a spectacular representation of the fresh local produce that has established Tasmania as a global epicenter of gastronomic excellence.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tasmania is one of the world's premier suppliers of abalone & lobster
- These aren't the only premium seafoods, & the island's oyster & fish stocks - especially its Atlantic salmon - are exceptional
- Honey is naturally flavored by the hive's surrounding blooms, & in Tasmania it is the leatherwood tree, producing a creamy honey with a deliciously unique flavor
- Delicacies are common in Tasmania, & these include local crops of black truffles
- Tasmanians are creators, & bakeries, breweries, distilleries, homemade jams, cheeses, wines & boutique delicatessens are prevalent

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CLASSIC PORT ARTHUR TOUR

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PORT ARTHUR TOUR

The early settlement of Port Arthur gave vibrant rise to development, but its history is much darker, which you will discover on this fascinating historical tour. On the way to the former prison, you will pass Dunalley, the first point of disembarkation by western settlers. Journeying on, you can take in the stunning coastline and visit the Tessellated Pavement, a fascinating geological formation that tumbles into the southern ocean, and other natural landmarks.

The tour begins aboard a modern catamaran, cruising the coastline to take in the region from an oceanic perspective, highlighting sites of note, including the dockyards, Point Puer and the ominous Isle of the Dead, the former burial ground of deceased inmates. As you wander the abandoned ruins of Port Arthur, your guide will explain how it was established to harvest the abundant lumber and the most successful industrial prison and reform institution to date.

Despite this positive legacy, it was a place that instilled fear into the hearts of inmates, your guide divulging tales of hardship and suffering, but also its pivotal role in Tasmania's growth.

Lunch will be enjoyed at a waterfront restaurant, once more highlighting the island's wonderful fresh produce and seafood, as well as a refreshing glass of Tasmanian wine. A sweet treat awaits at the Federation Chocolate Factory and Heritage Museum on the return journey to Hobart.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Isle of the Dead contains the graves of over 1,000 inmates, though also holding strong indigenous significance
- Point Puer was the 'little sister' of Port Arthur - the first reform institution for criminal boys in the British Empire
- Despite the convicts building their own walls, which seems like a recipe for disaster, Port Arthur gained a reputation for being all but inescapable
- It is deemed one of the most haunted sites in the whole of Australia
- Despite its bleak past, the region is stunningly beautiful

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CLASSIC MARIA ISLAND TOUR

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MARIA ISLAND WALK & PICNIC

There are over 6,500 islands around the coast of Tasmania, and Maria Island is one of the most charming and fascinating. Another former penal center, it contains the most intact ruins from the days of convicts, but this is just a small aspect of your excursion.

Maria Island is known for its natural beauty and abundant wildlife. As you stroll around the island, keep an eye out for wombats, kangaroos, Tasmanian devils, and in the ocean, whales and seals. Your guide will keep a keen eye out for the island's many mammal and bird species as you walk from one fascinating landmark to the next.

At Painted Cliffs you can observe the multicolored striations of the sedimentary sandstone cliffs, the red, orange and yellow ribbons creating waves of color across the surface.

The island is bisected by a thin isthmus, and this divides the characteristics of the Southern Ocean. While it can be tempestuous on one side, a short stroll to the other side will reveal a tranquil sea.

The fascinating and aptly-named Fossil Cliffs harbor the remnants of 300-million-year-old lifeforms and your guide will point out and identify several prehistoric creatures immortalized in the rock face.

During your day, you will enjoy a picnic lunch with your guide.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- View the remnants of 300-million-year-old sealife
- Wander through untouched wilderness teeming with life
- Enjoy a picnic on picturesque deserted beaches
- Take a boat cruise & watch out for whales & other marine life
- See nature's artwork in the Painted Cliffs of Maria Island
- Visit the ruins of Australia's best-preserved penal center
- Experience the wonderful serenity of this vehicle-free, undeveloped island sanctuary

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