

Explore Tasmania

27th February - 1st March 2023

\$540.00 Per Person Twin Share **\$140.00** Single Room Supplement

Fully escorted tour in Luxury coach, 2 nights Accommodation, Meals as stated



Day 1: Hobart to Bicheno *Travel to the East Coast*

- **Departing from Hobart**, travel east and just before arriving at Buckland is the Tasmanian Bushland Garden, developed in 2010 from a disused quarry by a group of passionate volunteers. This beautifully landscaped garden features many sculptures and a waterfall. This is truly a hidden Tasmanian treasure.

- **At Orford** we arrive at the east coast and head north. Further up the coast we find the Spiky Bridge, built from field stones and laid without mortar or cement. Sharp stones pointing upwards have been placed to give the bridge a spiky appearance. The bayside town of Swansea is at the heart of the East Coast and offers some of the best views looking across Great Oyster Bay towards the Freycinet Peninsula and the Hazards.

- **Lunch and a wine tasting at Devils Corner** with views to Coles Bay and the Hazards, three spectacular granite mountains which are tinged with pink, they rise straight out of Coles Bay to the height of 454 metres

- **Coles Bay**, located at the north end of the Freycinet Peninsula and at the entrance to the National Park, is a small bayside village which over the years has become very exclusive.

- **Arriving at Bicheno**, this small fishing town is also a favourite holiday destination, for us it is an overnight stay with dinner and breakfast in the motel dining room. There is a great foreshore walk waiting to be investigated and a coastal drive which takes us to the blow hole. At dusk the penguins arriving back after fishing for the day and with some luck you may spot them on the beach.



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Land Voyages

Day 2: Bicheno to Launceston *The east & north coast. The Tamar Valley*

Travel north along the coast drive with ocean views, see the many deserted beaches while passing through the small townships and settlements of Chain of Lagoons, Scamander, and Beaumaris, all with beautiful white sands.

- **St Helens** is sited on Georges Bay which has a shoreline of 50km. Today it is a busy fishing port and the major town and commercial centre on the east coast. Binalong Bay, is at the end of the world famous Bay of Fires. Enjoy the crystal clear azure water, the pure white sands and the burnt orange lichen covered granite boulders which are iconic to this area.

- **Leaving the coast** we climb to the table land along the Weldbough pass, leaving behind the coastal plan and travel through this Derby once dying town has now been reborn and now become a mecca for mountain bikes with 125km of purpose built trails having been developed and has become one of the world's premier set of bike trails.

- **At the little town of Ledgerwood** is a memorial to those who served in WWI. Trees were planted to remember the local servicemen. 90 years later as the trees were deemed unsafe, they were cut down with the stumps being sculpted into shapes of men from the district who served.

- **Bridport**, 19km north of Scottsdale is on the north coast and is a very popular holiday destination for Launceston especially at Christmas time when the population can be five times more than normal. Set on the sand dunes and overlooking Anderson Bay is one of the top 10 in Australia and top 100 golf courses in the world. The restaurant at Lost Farm has timeless views, looking over the greens and out to sea. A perfect place to enjoy lunch.

- **Iconic Bridestowe Lavender Farm**, the largest privately owned farm that produces pure French lavender. Now we travel east to Launceston, passing through timeless and rolling country side. Overnight at Launceston. After dinner the local lodge will host us while the ladies will head to Historic Franklin House for a night tour and a special supper.



Day 3: Launceston to Hobart *The Heritage Highway - towns & bridges*

- **City sight tour of Launceston.** Nestled at the head of the Tamar Valley in the North of Tasmania is Australia's third oldest city, Launceston has many scenic parks, fine early Colonial, Federation and Victorian buildings, all with their distinctive architectural style and these provide an historic ambience. Launceston is positioned where the South and North Esk rivers meet to become the Tamar River, the longest tidal river in Australia.

- **In the heart of Launceston** is the magnificent Cataract Gorge with its tranquil cliffs and lawns with peacocks roaming. While here lets ride the world's longest single span chairlift across the gorge.

- **19km south of Launceston** is the picturesque gentrified town of Evandale, where the annual national Penny-fathing races are held. A little further south is the very grand National Trust property, Clarendon House. Set in 7 hectares of park land on the banks of the South Esk River this magnificent Georgian house is an extraordinary achievement for wealthy farmer and merchant James Cox. We will tour through this magnificent house.

- **Travelling south on the heritage highway** we pass through the town of Campbell Town with its red bridge of 1836 and is the oldest surviving brick arch bridge and is built from 1.5 million red clay bricks and is still part of the states major highway system

- **The Heritage town of Ross**, is noted for its original sandstone buildings, convict history and its fascinating bridge. Built in 1836, it is the third oldest and is decorated with 186 carvings and are said to be sculptures of real people. Merion sheeps were introduced to Tasmania just down the road from Ross and at the Tasmanian Wool centre trace the local history or just admire the wool garments in teh gift shop. The convict built Ross bakery with its wood fired oven is a good place to get a quick lunch (own expense).

- **The town of Oatlands** boasts the largest collection of Georgian sandstone buildings, in fact there are 150 of them.

- **The quaint town of Richmond** with its historic bridge is one of the most photographed sites in Tasmania and it feels as if time has stood still. The Richmond Bridge, convict built and still open to traffic today. We will visit Old Hobart town. Using original plans from 1820 this miniature recreation of Hobart has over 60 buildings and 550 figurines and faithfully depicts life at this time.

- **Arrive in Hobart.**

