

“2019 TASSIE TEMPTATIONS”

Day 1: (L) HOME TO SPIRIT OF TASMANIA: Thursday 28 February 2019

Welcome to our fabulous Tassie adventure, we depart our Depot **at 6.00am** we then head to Melbourne to connect with our departure on the ***Spirit of Tasmania***, Stopping for morning Tea and lunch. While the coach is being loaded onto the cargo deck we can board the ship, the cabins on “the Spirit” are quite small but very comfortable, with a porthole, twin bed accommodation and en-suite bathroom. The facilities on the vessel are extensive with lounges, bars, shops and viewing areas. Dinner tonight will be “own arrangements” on-board. (*dinner own arrangement & cost*).

Spirit of Tasmania, (Porthole Cabins) PH: 1800 635 877

You will need to pack an overnight bag for The Spirit of Tasmania all Large Bags will be locked away in the coach.

Day 2 (BLD): TO LAUNCESTON – Friday 01 March 2019

After a good night’s sleep we are ready to begin our Tasmanian touring. On arrival in **Devonport** this morning, our coach is unloaded and we head to our **breakfast** stop at the **Argosy Motor Inn**. We’ll now have a look at Devonport - there are some excellent views over the Mersey River of the “Spirit of Tasmania” tied up at the wharf. Heading out of Devonport we make our way to **Deloraine** for a visit to the visitor centre to look at **Yarns: Artwork in Silk** – a large artworkpiece depicting the story of the valley. Our morning tea break is at **Cruizin in the 50’s Diner**. Step back in time and browse through this fascinating collection of 50’s and 60’s memorabilia that will make you feel like you have walked into the classic American 1950’s diner. Not far away is **Pearns Steam World**. In the 1950s, the Pearn’s recognised the passing of the steam era and began collecting engines, tractors, equipment and memorabilia. They now have a collection of over 200 major items and claim to be the best in the southern hemisphere. Since its establishment in the 1980s, the museum has been run by volunteers and family members dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the collection. At Hadspen, we visit **Entally Estate**, one of Tasmania’s most historic Trust houses, thought to have been built in 1819. Entally Estate was opened to the public in 1950 and is justly proud of its magnificent collection of Regency furniture and fine silverware. Set in superb grounds and gardens, Entally has a green house, chapel, coach house and stables. Here we enjoy a light lunch and introductory talk and plenty of time to look around. This afternoon we drive into **Launceston** - the second largest city in Tasmania. It’s the centre of Tasmania’s north and is situated at the point where the South and North Esk Rivers meet to become the Tamar River, which then flows away into **Bass Strait**. Then we spend some time in **Cataract Gorge** – a magnificent reserve in the city centre. There are some pleasant walks through the landscaped gardens to the tea rooms, or take a ride on the chairlift (*own expense*) which crosses the gorge. Of the overall length of 457metres, the 308metre central span is claimed to be the longest single span in the world. We have some free time here to take the walk or enjoy an afternoon refreshment. (*Breakfast at Argosy Motor Inn, light lunch at Entally Estate, dinner in the Hotel*)

Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston, PH: 03 6334 3434

Day 3 (BLD): The Tamar Valley – Saturday 02 March 2019

We have planned to join **Tamar River Cruises** aboard the Lady Launceston this morning as we explore the Old Launceston Seaport before cruising to Kings Wharf viewing historic vessels and Launceston’s delightful riverfront precinct. The highlight of the experience is then cruising into the spectacular Cataract Gorge as we engage the Lady Launceston’s unique and silent electric drive. View the sheer cliffs and cascades from our seats on this 1890’s style vessel. We’ll enjoy the skippers captivating commentary on the history of this fascinating area. Back on dry land, we head into the **Tamar Valley** – just to the north of Launceston. There are three very interesting attractions here that we want to take a look at. The first is the **Low Head** area at the mouth of the Tamar where we break for lunch in **Georgetown**. We then cross to the western side of the river via the Batman Bridge to **Seahorse World** at Beauty Point. The seahorse – a mythical creature of legend, that Greek poets once spoke of as “half fish”

on which the sea gods rode! Over fishing and habitat destruction has led to the numbers of seahorses dwindling significantly throughout the world. Here we have the opportunity to experience the mystery that is the Pot Bellied Seahorse (*hippocampus abdominalis*). This is a high tech working seahorse farm. There is a boutique, first class aquarium featuring seahorses, leafy sea dragons, pipefish and fresh water lobsters. Just south at Beaconsfield is the **Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum**. Who can forget those dramatic television pictures on the morning of Tuesday May 09, 2006 when Todd Russell and Brant Webb emerged from the mine 14 days after being trapped almost 1 kilometre underground. It will be a most interesting day! *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston, PH: 03 6334 3434

Day 4 (BLD): THE NORTH EAST: Sunday 03 March 2019

We farewell Launceston this morning and make our way east towards **Scottsdale**, the main centre in this area, serving some of the richest agricultural and forest country in the State. Near here, located in Nabowla, is the **Bridestowe Estate Lavender Farm**. We take a tour of the farm, one of the world's largest single commercial lavender farms, producing the finest quality lavender flowers and lavender oil. Continuing our journey, we veer off to a little place called **Ledgerwood**. There are some incredible tree carvings here. On 15th October 1918 a ceremony was held in the railway reserve at Ringarooma Road (Renamed Ledgerwood in Dec.1918). Nine trees were planted to honour soldiers killed in World War I. In 2001 a report on the condition of the trees showed that they were no longer safe and the community was devastated that their memorials would be lost. In 2004 it was suggested that the stumps be carved into a likeness of each soldier the trees represented. Eddie Freeman, a chainsaw carver from Ross, was employed to sculpt the masterpieces we will see today. Lunch today is at the **Pub in the Paddock** before we reach the coast near St Helens where we have time for a stroll and then drive through to **Scamander** for our overnight stay. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

Scamander Beach Resort Hotel, PH: 03 6372 5255

Day 5 (BLD): EASTERN TASMANIA – Monday 04 March 2019

After breakfast we travel through **Campbell Town** which began as a staging town on the Elizabeth River. Here there are over 100 buildings, all more than a century old. Then it's onto **Ross**, a garrison town with a Government Stock Run, a race course and the four corners: - Temptation, Salvation, Damnation and Recreation and the most beautiful of the remaining old bridges in Australia. Whist in Ross we visit the **Tasmanian Wool Centre**. The wool exhibition and history museum both feature audio-visual displays and many interesting artefacts. The feel-and-touch wool display allows us to experience wool produced by a range of sheep breeds, and of course features the superfine merino wool the region is renowned for. From Ross we make our way across to **Coles Bay**, a pretty little holiday village where we stop for lunch at the **Iluka Tavern**. This afternoon we enter the Freycinet National Park and head to the **Cape Tourville Lighthouse** for some great views across to Lemon Rock and along the Freycinet Peninsula. The scenery is less stark than other wilderness areas such as Cradle Mountain, but no less spectacular. We spend time taking in the sights before we travel via **Swansea** and arrive at our accommodation in Orford that looks out to **Maria Island**. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch at Iluka Tavern)*

Eastcoaster Resort, Orford, PH: 03 6257 1172

Day 6 (BLD) MARIA ISLAND – Tuesday 05 March 2019

We have a relaxed breakfast before we start our sightseeing of **Maria Island**. Once a penal settlement, but abandoned in favour of Port Arthur in 1842, the island was named by Abel Tasman in honour of Maria Van Dieman, the wife of the Governor of Batavia. Our cruise departs from the resort and we take in some sights around the Island before going ashore for a look at the original convict settlement of Darlington. We return to the resort for lunch and have some free time to relax this afternoon. *(Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Resort)*

Eastcoaster Resort, Orford, PH: 03 6257 1172

Day 7 (BLD) TASMAN PENINSULA TOURING – Wednesday 06 March 2019

From Orford we continue south to **Dunalley**, which was severely impacted by the 2013 bushfires. We stop for morning tea at the **Bangor Vineyard Shed** that overlooks East Bay and the small township of Dunalley. Our next visit is at the **Tasmanian Devil Unzoo**, which is the world's first intentional Unzoo—a revolutionary project to create a model wildlife and nature experience of the future. During your time here you'll be inspired, intrigued, challenged and entertained. Come face-to-face with the resident Tasmanian devils in four unique habitat areas, and have a nose-to-nose encounter with a devil in our innovative **Devil Den**. See delightful little eastern quolls and brushtail possums, and hand feed the gentle wallabies, kangaroos and pademelons as you wander over two kilometres of nature trails, using self-guided maps and bird and animal checklists. From here it's a short drive to our lunch venue at the **Port Arthur Lavender Farm**. This afternoon we visit several of the Tasman Peninsula's natural attractions, such as **Tasman Arch**, **Devils Kitchen** and **the Blowhole**. We head to our hotel mid-afternoon and have some free time before dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner at the Hotel, lunch at Port Arthur Lavender Farm)*

Lufra Apartments and Hotels, Eaglehawk Neck, PH:03 6250 3262

Day 8 (BLD) TASMAN ISLAND CRUISE & PORT ARTHUR – Thursday 07 March 2019

We have a fabulous day in store today. This morning we join **Tasman Island Cruises** for one of their world class eco-adventure cruises along the spectacular coastline of the Tasman National Park between Port Arthur and Eaglehawk Neck. This is a remote area not seen by many visitors. One of the highlights of the cruise is Blowhole etc Woolnorth Station and Stan Tasman Island, a great landmark of the Southern Ocean – its slender white lighthouse is still a beacon for seafarers entering Storm Bay including during the famous annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Few places on earth have such a rich variety of marine wildlife and seabirds. The Continental Shelf runs close to Tasman Island and an upwelling of nutrient from the ocean's depths creates a smorgasbord for all the creatures in the complex food chain of the sea, from plankton and birdlife such as albatross to sharks, dolphins and southern right whales. Wow – this cruise will be a highlight of our tour! We arrive at the **Port Arthur Historic Site** with a light lunch all ready for us. . The penal settlement is a stark reminder of the harsh conditions endured by the earliest European inhabitants of this one time island jail. The ruins are the greatest single tourist attraction in the Tasmania and the place where up to 12,000 prisoners were kept in an atmosphere of hopelessness and misery. Even though the Tasman Peninsula is spectacular, you can imagine the conditions, especially on a cold winter's day, endured by the prisoners 150 years ago. The first part of our tour involves time at the **Visitor Interpretative Centre** where we take a fascinating journey, retracing the life of a convict from the time of his petty crime in England, to his transportation to Port Arthur and finally his life in the penal colony. We then take a guided walking tour through the Penal Settlement. If we wish, we can also take a cruise around the harbour where we pass the **Isle of Dead**. It was here that around 1000 convicts and ex-convict paupers were mostly buried in unmarked graves. *(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel/lunch at Port Arthur site)*

Lufra Apartments and Hotels, Eaglehawk Neck, PH: 03 6250 3262

Day 9 (BD): RICHMOND TO HOBART – Friday 08 March 2019

We are off to historic **Richmond** today – one of Tasmania's best known man made tourist attractions. Its streets are paved with history and many of the fine colonial buildings have been adapted for use as art galleries, craft shops and restaurants. The gaol here predates Port Arthur by five years and is one of the best preserved of Australia's colonial prisons. The convict-built Richmond Bridge over the Coal River is the oldest in Australia! We have plenty of time to explore and purchase lunch. We arrive into **Hobart** this afternoon and take a drive around to see the sights before we settle in to our hotel in Hobart that is conveniently located on the water with plenty to see nearby. *(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel/lunch at own expense)*

The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, Hobart, PH: 03 6235 5355

Day 10 (B): FREE DAY – Saturday 09 March 2019

Today we have the day to ourselves. We're lucky enough to be in Hobart on a Saturday, so this morning perhaps visit the famous **Salamanca Markets** that are only about 10 minutes' walk from our hotel. Hobart has plenty to see, so for those interested you might like to book on a tour to **Bruny Island**, or visit **MONA**, or just relax and do nothing! This evening is also free to enjoy one of the local restaurants. *(Breakfast in the motel/lunch and dinner own arrangements and expense)*

The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, Hobart, PH: 03 6235 5355

Day 11 (BLD): HUON VALLEY – Sunday 10 March 2019

A pleasant drive this morning takes us into the **Huon Valley**, an area to the south of Hobart. The Huon Valley and D'Entrecasteaux Channel provide some of the most picturesque touring in Tasmania. Our first stop is at Grove – home to the **Apple Shed Museum & Willie Smith Organic Cider**, where will experience a guided tour and cider tasting. We then travel onto Geeveston where we stop briefly at the **Forest & Heritage Centre**. This afternoon, we head into the Tahune Forest where we enjoy a BBQ lunch and the **Tahune Forest Airwalk**. What an exhilarating experience to take a walk high in the tree top canopy! Later this afternoon we will be back in **Hobart** for some leisure time. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, Hobart, PH: 03 6235 5355

Day 12 (BLD): TO THE WEST COAST – Monday 11 March 2019 (very early start – 0730)

We farewell our hosts early this morning and begin our journey to the **West Coast**. In **New Norfolk** we stop for a look inside **St Matthews Anglican Church** which is said to be the oldest church in Tasmania and possibly Australia. Our next stop is at **Derwent Bridge** (the geographical centre of Tasmania) where we visit the **Wall in the Wilderness**. The "wall" is a work in progress which will take a few more years to complete. In the reception area, there are many three dimensional sculptures to view. We then enjoy a late lunch at the **Wilderness Hotel**. This afternoon, we drive through the pristine wilderness of the **Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park**, through some of the state's most spectacular lakes and mountain areas before the steep drive into **Queenstown**, a town which was established as a result of the discovery of gold and other minerals at Mount Lyell last century. Queenstown is surrounded by mountains which were once covered in vegetation, but which are now strangely bare and stained purple, grey and pink by sulphur fumes from mining processes. Bushfires and logging, combined with heavy rain which washed the soil away, have stripped many of the hills of vegetation and created Queenstown's famous "moonscape. We drive through to **Strahan** for our 2 day stay. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

Strahan Village Hilltop Motel, Strahan PH: 03 6471 7160

Day 13 (BLD): STRAHAN & THE GORDON RIVER –Tuesday 12 March 2019

We have another fantastic day planned today! **Macquarie Harbour** and the **Gordon River** area which today produces magnificent Ocean Trout, treats visitors to spectacular scenery and protects its ancient Huon Pines was once known as "hell on earth" when Sarah Island was established as Tasmania's first and most brutal penal settlement. We depart from Strahan with **World Heritage Cruises (Premium seating)** and head across Macquarie Harbour—a vast body of water that measures six times the size of Sydney Harbour. First navigated by Captain James Kelly and four companions in 1815, these wild and remote waters offer the only safe harbour on Tasmania's west coast. Our cruise includes a dramatic cruise on the **Gordon River**. The Huon Pine, which can be found in this area, is commonly known to live for 2000 years. The age of an ancient tree recently "discovered" was put at 10,000 years and if verified will be recognised as the oldest on earth. We return to Strahan mid-afternoon for some free time to enjoy the village. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included in cruise)*

Strahan Village Hilltop Motel, Strahan PH: 03 6471 7160

Day 14 (BLD): TO CRADLE MOUNTAIN – Wednesday 13 March 2019

We are off to **Zeehan** this morning where stop for a look at the fascinating **West Coast Heritage Centre**. We continue north through the mineral rich mountains, crossing the Vale of Belvoir and alpine cattle country to reach the jagged contours of **Cradle Mountain National Park**. We can relax over lunch at the hotel before our afternoon touring. This afternoon we have a look around the National Park including the spectacular Dove Lake. Back on the road we leave the park and drive north to **Wynyard** for the next 2 nights. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

The Waterfront Wynyard Motor Inn, PH: 03 6442 235

Day 15 (BLD): THE WILD WEST – Thursday 14 March 2019

We explore the wild west today as we head out of Wynyard to **Stanley**, with its small craft shops and historic houses (including the cottage where Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was born). A chairlift operates to the summit of **The Nut**, which we have a chance (optional) to ride if anyone wants to see some great views! Next up we make our way out to **Woolnorth Station** for lunch and a tour. Woolnorth covers more than 22,000 hectares in the far north west corner of Tasmania. This property is owned by the **Van Diemens Land Company** which began in 1825 from a Royal Charter from King George IV. It is the only company in the world still operating under such a charter. Most of Tasmania's native animals abound on Woolnorth Station including wallaby, wombat, echidna, bandicoot, platypus, sugar gliders, quolls, Tasmanian Devils and others. In fact the last four Tasmanian Tigers ever captured were caught at Woolnorth and sent to the Domain Zoo in Hobart. We will breathe the world's freshest air at Cape Grim and enjoy a brief but spectacular coastline walk around Woolnorth Point – from the west coast around the point to the east coast! We meander back to Wynyard for our final night in Tassie. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch included)*

The Waterfront Wynyard Motor Inn, PH: 03 6442 2351

Don't forget to pack your overnight bag for the Spirit of Tasmania for the next night

Day 16 (BL): WYNYARD TO DEVONPORT – Friday 15 March 2019

We wave goodbye to Wynyard this morning and head to Burnie. Here we visit the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden**, a garden widely known internationally and its unique design makes it one of Australia's major rhododendron gardens. We make our way along the coast road, discovering towns like Penguin and Ulverstone along the way. Then we head to the delightful town of **Sheffield** that has been made famous by the numerous murals that depict the early history of the area. After a relaxed day we board **The Spirit of Tasmania** for our departure this evening back to Melbourne. Once again, we can purchase dinner ourselves either at Leatherwood Restaurant or the more casual Captain's Table. Then the evening is ours to enjoy a drink in the bar or watch a movie. *(Breakfast in the motel /lunch at Sheffield /Dinner own cost on Spirit of Tasmania)*

Spirit of Tasmania, (Porthole Cabins) PH: 1800 635 877

Day 17: (LD): MELBOURNE TO ALBURY – Saturday 16 March

The Spirit of Tasmania arrives back at Station Pier at about 7.00am. As we pass through the Heads into **Port Phillip Bay**, it is a great view of Melbourne. After the coach has been unloaded we head off for breakfast and shopping at the **Queen Victoria Markets**. We make our way to Albury for our final night on tour. *(Breakfast on own/ lunch included/dinner in the motel).*

Quality Resort Siesta, Albury, PH: 02 6025 4555

Day 18: (BL): ALBURY TO HOME – Sunday 17 March 2019

Today we travel home, arriving later this afternoon to complete a fantastic holiday to **Tasmania**. *(Breakfast in the motel/ Lunch at Gunning Pub).*

Stuarts Travel Pty Ltd

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TOUR CONDITIONS

- Tour includes all transportation by luxury air conditioned coach.
- Accommodation on a share room basis in Motels, Hotels and the like.
- Accommodation named may be altered without notice. Meals are supplied throughout the tour except for dinners on day 1, 10 and 16; lunch on day 9 and 10 also breakfast on day 17.
- The right is reserved to amend or modify the itinerary at any time without notice for unpredictable weather or road conditions or for any other reason beyond our control.
- We make every effort to provide Twin Share accommodation
Single Supplement will apply if a Twin Share Room is not available.
- No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour after departure.
- Cancellation Fees : 60 days or more prior to departure loss of deposit.
Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure 50% of tour price.
Less than 7 days prior to departure 100% of tour price.
- Stuarts Travel will not be responsible and will be excluded from any liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, rail travel, hotels/motels or attractions used in connection with the tour.

DEPOSIT of \$500.00 per person upon booking.

BALANCE: 1st December 2018

TOUR COST: **\$5990.00 P.P Twin Share**
\$7655.00 Single Supplement

Insurance is advisable. Please label all luggage clearly



THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

ICAST MY PEBBLE ONTO THE SHORES OF ETERNITY
TO BE WASHED BY THE OCEAN OF TIME.
IT HAS SHAPE FORM AND SUBSTANCE,
IT IS ME.
ONE DAY I WILL BE NO MORE
BUT MY PEOPLE WILL REMAIN HERE
ON THE SHORE OF ETERNITY,
MUTE WITNESS FOR THE AEONS
THAT TODAY I CAME AND STOOD
AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.

(author Brian Inder, Promised land, Tas.)