



Peter O'Leary & Specialty Travel presents

BEST OF TASMANIA IN AUTUMN

Thursday 18 March to Monday 29 March, 2010

Day 01: Thursday 18th

ROCKHAMPTON TO HOBART

(D)

Depart: Yeppoon Rail 7.45am, Emu Park 8.05am, Northside Plaza 8.45am South Mobil 9.00am, Gracemere 9.15am Airport 9.30am. Depart Flight DJ1238 @ 10.25am

Welcome to our special 12 day tour to beautiful Tasmania. Today is a travel day as we depart Rockhampton on Virgin DJ1238 at 10.25am to Brisbane. Arrive Brisbane 11.25am Depart 12Noon DJ946 to Arrive Sydney 2.30pm. Depart Sydney 3.30pm on DJ1534 to Hobart arriving at 5.25pm. Here we will be met by our Coach Captain and transferred directly to our hotel where we reside for the next 4 nights.

Fountainside Motor Inn, Hobart - 03 6234 2911

Day 02: Friday 19th

EXPLORING HOBART

(BLD)

Following a hearty breakfast we depart on today's touring. Set between the towering peak of **Mount Wellington** and the **Derwent River, Hobart** is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Founded in 1804, **Hobart** is Australia's second oldest capital and everywhere you go the past steps out to meet you. **Sullivans Cove** is lined with sandstone warehouses reflecting the area's rich maritime history and at **Battery Point** tiny cottages vie for space with grand mansions and Victorian terraces. This morning we are joined by a local guide who will show us the sights of this historic city - and, weather permitting, Mt. Wellington for a magnificent view of **Hobart** and the Harbour.. We say goodbye to our guide and have some free time to wander through the city shops. Early afternoon, we're on the road again to **New Norfolk** where we enjoy our picnic lunches then we head to nearby **Hamilton** and **Curringa Farm**. Tim and Jane Parsons are sixth generation farmers in the **Derwent Valley** of Tasmania. The property covers 750 acres of rolling hills and country views, lake frontage with natural bush and a strong Landcare focus. There are 3000 sheep producing 12,000 kilograms of wool per year, mixed cropping of cabbages, pasture seed, peas and alkaloids. Curringa Farm is a perfect place for visitors to learn about Tasmanian wool production and farming activities. Tim and Jane run the property with ecology in mind. Providing habitat for native birds and animals whilst nurturing crops and pastures to obtain quality produce that is expected from clean green agriculture. During the visit to their farm, learn about current best practice and how they integrate tourism with agriculture for a unique experiential occasion. It's also our afternoon tea stop and today we can enjoy a piece of the now famous "**Shearers Cake**". The farm is home to the internationally acclaimed Royal Danish Sweetheart Cake. Jane's mouth watering recipe was selected from three Tasmanian nominations by the oldest bakery in Denmark, Conditori La Glace. The **Sweetheart Cakes** originated in 1870, when Conditori La Glace was founded in the middle of Copenhagen. At that time the Sweetheart Cakes were a kind of bun with a "conditor devise" put inside, which was a love poem. This enabled you to give your loved one a greeting without embarrassment. As Princess Mary is from Tasmania, a Tasmanian recipe was required for the tradition. This recipe and cake will remain prominent in the bakery and be a focal point for lovers and sweethearts, until the descendants of Mary and Frederick become engaged. After a great day we return to Hobart and our hotel for dinner.

Fountainside Motor Inn, Hobart - 03 6234 2911

Day 03: Saturday 20th

HOBART & HUON VALLEY

(BD)

We're lucky enough to be in Hobart on a Saturday, so this morning we visit the famous **Salamanca Markets** which are held every week. Later in the morning, we reboard the coach to spend the rest of the day in 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. We join the Channel Highway to the southern suburb of **Kingston** and then across to Grove where we stop to visit the **Huon Valley Apple and Heritage Museum**. From here it's only a short drive to **Huonville** in the hub of the valley and further on to **Geeveston**. Nearby is the **Tahune Forest** where we'll experience the new **Tahune Forest Airwalk**, high in the tree top canopy. We then make our way back to Hobart.

Fountainside Motor Inn, Hobart - 03 6234 2911

Day 04: Sunday 21st

PORT ARTHUR

(BD)

This morning we head to **Port Arthur Historic Site**. The penal settlement at Port Arthur 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. When we arrive, 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**. After lunch we 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 buried. We leave the Tasman Peninsula later this afternoon but not before a brief stop just south of Eaglehawk Neck to see two dramatic natural coastal attractions - the **Tasman Arch** and the **Devils Kitchen**. Even more dramatic when there is a rough sea running! After a sobering but interesting day, we return to our hotel for dinner this evening.

Fountainside Motor Inn, Hobart - 03 6234 2911

Day 05: Monday 22nd

HOBART TO THE WEST COAST

(BLD)

We say farewell to our hosts early this morning and begin our journey to the **West Coast**. The area to our immediate left is part of the huge **South West National Park**, which, combined with the **Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park** makes up almost a full, one third, of the land mass of **Tasmania**. Of course much of this area is now World Heritage Listed. We stop at the beautiful **Russell Falls** in the **Mt Field National Park** for our morning break – and a great photo opportunity. We then continue on to Derwent Bridge (the geographical centre of Tasmania) where we stop to view a brand new attraction - **the Wall in the Wilderness**. The “wall” is a work in progress which will take another 5-7 years to complete. After a late lunch at the **Wilderness Hotel** 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.

Comfort Inn Goldrush Motor Inn, Queenstown – 03 6471 1703

Day 06: Tuesday 23rd

MACQUARIE HARBOUR CRUISE

(BLD)

We have a fascinating day today. First we travel about 40 kilometres to **Strahan** on the shores of **Macquarie Harbour**. This region, 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. Our cruise today includes a buffet lunch. On our return to the wharf we have some free time to explore the village before returning to Queenstown. (Possible optional ride on Wilderness Railway to Queenstown)

Comfort Inn Goldrush Motor Inn, Queenstown – 03 6471 1703

Day 07: Wednesday 24th

CRADLE MOUNTAIN

(BLD)

Queenstown was established as a result of the discovery of gold and other minerals at **Mount Lyell** last century. The town is surrounded by mountains which were once covered in vegetation but which are now strangely bare and stained purple, grey and pink by from sulphur fumes from mining processes. Bushfires and logging, combined with heavy rain that washed the soil away, have stripped the hills of vegetation and created Queenstown's famous “moonscape”. After an early breakfast, we are joined by our local guide for a tour of **Queenstown** and an explanation for the almost treeless hills that surround it! The story that unfolds tells of forgotten railways and towns of a colourful past and includes a visit to the “ore” inspiring remains of the **West Lyell Open Cut Mine**. Following our tour, we depart Queenstown and travel through Rosebery and Tullah and into the **Cradle Mountain National Park**. Our first stop here is a visit to **Devils @ Cradle**, a new Tasmanian Devil interpretation centre. Our guide will introduce us to the lifestyle of the alpine Tasmanian devil. We then enter a special viewing area for our encounter with the real thing. We may see the devils sunbaking, sleeping in the dens or running around in their enclosures. Our guide will gently handle some of the devils during our tour, and there may be an opportunity for us to touch one. The centre operates a successful captive breeding program, ensuring the ongoing survival of Tasmanian Devils in healthy numbers in the wild. We then enjoy lunch at the nearby **Cradle Mountain Chateau** and have plenty of time to look at the stunning **Wilderness Gallery**. This afternoon, we have arranged a tour of the National Park including Waldheim and Dove Lake. From here, we make our way north and check into our accommodation with some free time to relax before dinner.

Waterfront Wynyard Motor Inn, Wynyard - 03 6442 2351

Day 08: Thursday 25th**THE NORTH WEST****(BD)**

We have a more leisurely day today, starting off with a later breakfast. Some of us may wish to take a walk along the beach before we leave. This morning, begin our touring with a stop at **Table Cape Lookout** for magnificent views along the coast. We then make our way to historic **Stanley**. A village atmosphere with small craft shops, historic houses (including the cottage where Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was born) and tea houses makes this an ideal stop. A chairlift operates to the summit of the Nut (optional). We have plenty of time here to take the chairlift or mooch around the shops and purchase lunch. Later this afternoon, we visit **Allendale Gardens** near Edith Creek. Covering an area of 5 acres the gardens have been designed and landscaped as a series of gardens within a garden with each area leading naturally to the next. We return to the motel with time to relax, or once again, take a stroll along the water's edge.

Waterfront Wynyard Motor Inn, Wynyard - 03 6442 2351

Day 09: Friday 26th**WYNYARD TO LAUNCESTON****(BLD)**

Our journey today takes us through **Burnie** then down to **Sheffield**, a delightful township which sits in the shadows of Mt Roland and the Western Tiers. The town centre features many murals depicting the history of the area. Following some free time to discover the murals, and perhaps have a morning cuppa, we drive Elizabeth Town and stop for a light lunch at the **Christmas Hill Raspberry Farm**. This afternoon we drive through Deloraine onto **Launceston** where we welcome a local guide aboard our coach. We also spend some time in lovely **Cataract Gorge** - a magnificent Reserve in the city centre. There are some pleasant walks through the landscaped gardens to the tea rooms, or those who are interested can take a ride on the chairlift (own expense) which crosses the gorge. Of the overall length of 457 metres, the 308 metre 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. We then check into our next two night's accommodation.

Balmoral on York, Launceston - 03 6331 8000

Day 10: Saturday 27th**THE TAMAR VALLEY****(BLD)**

Launceston is the centre of Tasmania's north, situated at the point where the South and North Esk Rivers meet to become the Tamar River, which then flows away to Bass Strait. The city nestles in the wide valleys formed by the river systems and is surrounded by mountains. Today we discover the **Tamar Valley** as we drive along the west side of The Tamar River to **Grindelwald** which is a **Swiss style village** with breathtaking views across the valley. After spending some time in the village, we travel further north through some rich country to **Beaconsfield**, site of Tasmania's largest gold discoveries and now famous for the rescue of the two mine workers who were trapped underground in 2006. We visit the **Beaconsfield Gold Mine and Heritage Museum** (housing Australia's only waterwheel-driven stamp battery) and then cross the **Batman Bridge** for a close up view of the mighty **Tamar River**. Following a stop for our picnic lunches, we drive through the wine growing area of Pipers Brook which takes us to Nabowla and the **Bridstowe Lavender Farm**. This Estate is well worth a visit – just to overlook the farm from the gift shop. Perhaps some of us would like to try the lavender icecream while we're here. Our final stop for the day is the **Hillwood Strawberry Farm & Fruit Wine Centre**. Here we enjoy some fruit wine, cheese and vinegar tastings and have the opportunity to stock up on some Tasmanian honeys, homemade jams and gourmet fruit sauces. We return to Launceston late afternoon with time to freshen up before dinner.

Balmoral on York, Launceston - 03 6331 8000

Day 11: Sunday 28th**THE MIDLAND HIGHWAY****(BD)**

Following another hearty breakfast, we depart on our days travel down what was the finest highway in Australia in its day. It was first known as the **Main Road** through **Van Diemen's Land**, linking Hobart and Launceston - then for some 55 years, the **Midland Highway** and now **Highway One** or the **Heritage Highway**. Our first stop today is at Longford - an historic property called **Woolmers Estate** which was settled by Thomas Archer in 1816 and is the oldest property in Australia to have been owned by the one family. We enjoy a tour and morning tea before continuing south to **Campbell Town** which began as a staging town on the Elizabeth River. 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. We have plenty of time to stretch our legs and explore this gorgeous village and purchase lunch. From here, we continue onto another historic town - **Richmond**. **Richmond** was proclaimed a township in 1824 and is probably Tasmania's best known man made tourist attraction. 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 and a gaol that 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 bridge in Australia. We have plenty of time to mooch around the shops, take a photo of the bridge or perhaps enjoy some afternoon refreshments. We then head back to Hobart, not far from here, for our final night on tour.

Fountainside Motor Inn, Hobart - 03 6234 2911

Day 12:– Monday 29th

HOMEWARD BOUND

(B)

All good things must come to an end unfortunately. After a lazy morning we say farewell to Tassie and connect with our flights home – ex Hobart 12.50pm on Flight DJ705 to Brisbane. Ex Brisbane 3.15pm Flight DJ1245 to arrive back in Rockhampton with some wonderful memories!

Depart: Airport 5.00pm, South Mobil 5.15pm, Gracemere 5.30pm, Northside Plaza 5.50pm, Emu Park 6.30pm, Yeppoon Rail 6.50pm

TOUR COST: \$3345.00 Per Person all Inclusive!!
\$529.00 single supplement

Tour Inclusions

- 11 nights motel accommodation as per confirmation
- 11 cooked motel breakfasts
- 11 motel dinners
- Locally guided tour of Hobart
- Picnic lunch ex Hobart for New Norfolk
- Visit to Curringa Farm, Hamilton for guided tour, afternoon tea and demonstration
- Entry to the Apple & Heritage Museum, Huon Valley
- Entry to the Tahune Forest Airwalk, Huon Valley
- Entry to Port Arthur Historic Site for guided tour and cruise around the Isle of the Dead
- Russell Falls - Mt Field National Park fee
- Entry to The Wall in the Wilderness, Derwent Bridge
- Lunch at the Wilderness Hotel, Derwent Bridge
- World Heritage Cruises with lunch, Strahan
- Surface mine tour with Mt Lyell Enviro Tours, Queenstown
- Entry, talk & tour to Devils@Cradle, Cradle Mountain
- Lunch at The Cradle Mountain Chateau & entry to Wilderness Gallery
- Cradle Mountain National Park fee
- Locally guided tour of Cradle Mountain
- Entry to Allendale Gardens, Edith Creek
- Light lunch at the Christmas Hill Raspberry Farm, via Elizabeth Town
- Locally guided tour of Launceston
- Entry to the Beaconsfield Gold Mine and Heritage Museum
- Picnic lunch ex Launceston for Tamar Valley
- Visit to the Bridstowe Lavender Farm
- Tour of Woolmers Estate and morning tea, Longford

***For bookings please fill out attached booking form and return to Peter with a \$500 Deposit.
Final Balance due 45 Days before Departure by 29th January***

***Please Note Travel Insurance is not included but is highly recommended.*
20% Discount on all Insurance for this tour!!**

Any queries please phone Peter on 0749112644

SpecialtyTravel Lic. – TAG1430 Member of Travel Compensation Fund

Terms & Conditions

Specialty Travel reserves the right –

To vary the itinerary in anyway at anytime it deems necessary.

To amend the price subject to any changes imposed by other operators and carriers included in the itinerary.

The operation and provision of services from other operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operations and no responsibility is taken by Specialty Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service.

To cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control that in the opinion of the company would adversely effect the operation of the tour

The company accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal belongings and suggests that suitable insurance be attained for protection of the same.

The company does not accept responsibility or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connection tours operated by this company.

Cancellations

Cancellation fees may be levied in accordance with notice given. Unless specifically advised at the time of booking there will be no fee for cancellations made more than 2 months prior to travel. For cancellations between 1 and 2 months of the date of travel, cancellation fees **may** apply as per conditions imposed by other suppliers of services included in the tour. For cancellations between 30 and 14 days, a cancellation fee of up to 30% of the fare **may** apply. For cancellations less than 14 days, a cancellation fee of up to 50% of the fare **may** apply. For no shows a 100% cancellation fees **may** apply.

No cancellation fees will apply if someone else replaces you on the same tour

Fares & Payments

Fares quoted are subject to alteration. However no change will be made after the final balance has been paid.

A deposit of \$500 is required to confirm your booking with the balance due at least 45 days prior to departure. (Please be advised your booking is not guaranteed until we receive deposit)

Inclusions

Inclusions for each tour are shown on the itinerary. As a general rule, tours include dinner, bed, breakfast and entry fees to various attractions and cruises etc. Meals included are identified by the symbols, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

Exclusions

Meals not specified, optional tours, room service, telephone calls, drinks and other items of a personal nature.

Accommodation

Wherever possible, rooms are self-contained with private bathroom, colour television, tea and coffee making facilities and heating/air conditioning. Persons wanting a single room must pay a single supplement.

Departure Details

Passengers are requested to ready for departure at least 15 minutes prior to departure time. Departure details and times will be advised either at the time of booking or final payment.

Travel Insurance

Is not included but is strongly recommended and available if required for an additional cost