

Aust-wide Tours

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B. PARKER



Aust-wide Tours Presents, Autumn In Tasmania March 22-April 2 2012



Friendly service in 5-star luxury coach touring

Day 1. Thursday 22th March **Port Melbourne – Spirit of Tasmania Cruise** **D**
Reliable Cars will pick you up from home (in the metropolitan area) in time for our 6.15am departure from Victor Richardson Gates, Adelaide Oval. We will have several comfort stops and a luncheon stop along the way to Melbourne, crossing the Westgate Bridge before arriving at Station Pier Port Melbourne to board Spirit of Tasmania for our overnight cruise to Devonport departing at 7.30pm After enjoying dinner in the Waves Eatery, explore the many interesting on-board features including the shop and entertainment areas. Enjoy the cruise down Port Phillip Bay and settle into your twin berth cabin complete with private facilities
YOU NEED TO TAKE A SMALL OVERNIGHT BAG ON THE COACH WITH YOU AS YOU WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR SUITCASES UNTIL WE REACH OUR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION TOMORROW NIGHT. PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE ALL MEDICATIONS WITH YOU

Day 2. Friday 23th March **Devonport – Hinterland - Launceston** **BD**
After berthing in the Mersey River, disembark to be welcomed by your Tour Guide and escorted to your coach. Travel to a nearby venue for breakfast before touring the hinterland dominated by majestic Mt. Roland to the town of Sheffield to admire the evocative out-door art gallery of impressive murals. Winding your way back through the township of Railton where you can view the many displays of Topiary throughout the town. Heading onto the Bass Highway and continuing on to Ashgrove Farm Cheese for an informative visit and tasting en-route to Deloraine. Travel along the Old Highway through Westbury, Carrick and Hadspen before joining back onto the Bass Highway. Travel to the city of Launceston where highlights include the City Centre and magnificent Cataract Gorge with its cliff-side gardens, peacocks, pools, suspension Foot Bridge and one of the longest single span chairlifts in the world – (**ride is optional and own expense.**) Stroll in City Park and the John Hart Conservatory noted for displays of begonias, cyclamens and other hot house blooms. Continue to overnight accommodation at **The Tamar Valley Resort. Ph: (03) 6330 0400**

Day 3. Saturday 24th March **Tamar Valley – Beaconsfield – Scamander** **BD**
This morning we tour the picturesque Tamar Valley to the Mine & Heritage Museum in the gold mining town of Beaconsfield, site of the mine disaster and miraculous rescue. Cross the unique A-frame Batman Bridge and tour the north east through agricultural Scottsdale, Branxholm and former tin-mining centre of Derby. Visit Legerwood and view the War Memorial Tree Carvings, honouring the fallen soldiers of the region. Tour the myrtle rain forest of Weldborough Pass before descending to the East Coast at St. Helens and continuing to Scamander for overnight accommodation overlooking the blue waters of the Tasman Sea at the, **Scamander Beach Resort. Ph: (03) 6372 5255**

Day 4. Sunday 25th March **East Coast - Tassie Devil – Port Arthur** **BD**
Travel this morning beside the Tasman Sea, stopping off at the East Coast Nature World to meet a Tasmanian Devil and ride the 'Pelican Express'. Continue to the east coast resort town of Bicheno to tour the Gulch Fishing Harbour and view the Blowhole before taking in views of the jagged, granite peaks of Freycinet Peninsula, Moulting Lagoon and Maria Island. Pass through Swansea and pause at the enigmatic, convict built Spiky Bridge. From Orford follow the Prosser River Valley through historic Buckland before heading for the historic town of Richmond. Here you may view the spire of Australia's oldest Catholic Church from beneath the arch of our oldest stone bridge still in use. Wander the streets of this delightful Georgian town and discover the arts and crafts, bakeries and tea rooms before heading through Sorell Point along the Arthur Highway, taking in the magnificent views of the Tasman Peninsula. Continue through to Port Arthur before checking into your overnight accommodation at **The Port Arthur Comfort Inn. Ph (03) 6250 2101** which is adjacent to the historic site. After dinner you may choose to join a unique lantern lit guided Ghost Tour around The Convict Settlement. (**Optional - own expense**)

Day 5. Monday 26th March **Tasman Peninsula - Hobart** **BD**
This morning we head to the Port Arthur Convict Settlement where within its 40 hectares of landscaped grounds lies a rich history of Australia's past. Included in the entry is a guided walking tour, a short cruise across the harbour, access to the Visitor Centre and Interpretation Gallery as well as more than 30 buildings, ruins and restored gardens and houses - explore as you wish before departing the Historic Site to tour the geological sites of the Tasman Arch, Devils Kitchen and Eaglehawk Neck. Continue along the Highway taking in the Norfolk and Frederick Henry Bays heading to the City of Hobart. Take in your first view of Mt. Wellington and the Tasman Bridge before heading to the magnificent Royal Botanical Gardens. Stroll the beautifully landscaped site and discover Peter Cundall's veggie patch, then head into Hobart and your home for the next three nights at the centrally located. **Fountainside Motel. Ph: (03) 6234 2911**

Day 6. Tuesday 27th March **Claremont – Huon Valley – Hobart** **BD**
This morning we visit Cadburys Chocolates at Claremont to learn all about that great ‘chocolate taste’ followed by opportunity to purchase your favourites at the Chocolate Shop. Tour the fruit growing region of the Huon Valley through Huonville, Franklin and Geeveston to Tasmania’s southern eucalypt and Huon pine forests. A major attraction has been established in the Tahune Forest at the junction of the Picton and Huon Rivers. Explore the Visitor Centre and take a unique view of the environment during the walk among the tree tops at the Tahune Forest Airwalk. Visit the Forest & Heritage Centre at Geeveston with its displays of timber craft and forest history before returning to Hobart.

Day 7. Wednesday 28th March **Hobart** **B**
Wake up to a day of rest and relaxation. Today is your day to indulge your own special interests and choices – perhaps you would like to take a Wilderness Flight to the South West? - Or a Cruise on the Derwent River? Maybe you would just like to relax - enjoy some retail therapy - explore the Museums - absorb the history and ambience – the decision is entirely yours

Day 8. Thursday 29th March **Lyell Highway - Queenstown** **BD**
Departing Hobart tour the picturesque Derwent Valley through New Norfolk to climb the Central Plateau. Follow the Wild Way through trout lakes, mountains and gorges and the Wild Rivers National Park. Pass through Tarraleah Gorge, site of early hydro-electric installations and take a tour of “The Wall” – a work in progress depicting the history of the region beautifully carved in Tasmanian timbers. Take a break at Derwent Bridge before crossing Lake Burbury and we take a break and view the Nelson Falls, These delightful falls are reached after a very easy walk, continuing along through the ghost towns of Linda and Gormanston to the copper mining town of Queenstown. Check in to accommodation for the next two nights at the **Gold Rush Motor Inn. Ph: (03) 6471 1005**

Day 9. Friday 30th March **Macquarie Harbour - Strahan** **BLD**
An early departure for the port of Strahan this morning, cruise the incomparable Gordon River into the heart of Tasmania’s wilderness and the edge of World Heritage region. Cross vast Macquarie Harbour, visiting Sarah Island, the worst convict settlement of them all - follow the Gordon River through stands of ancient Huon pine, sassafras and myrtle rainforest to step ashore for a wilderness board-walk at Heritage Landing. Voyage to Hell’s Gates, the aptly named harbour entrance where many early ships were destroyed by ferocious ocean swells. On return to Strahan, there will be opportunity to explore the Village including the Visitor Centre and Huon Pine saw mill. Return to Queenstown. **Optional – extra expense – (if available)**
West Coast Wilderness Railway from Strahan to Queenstown

Day 10. Saturday 31st March **Queenstown – Cradle Mountain – Wynyard** **BLD**
Traverse the Reid volcanic zone for views of the Tyndal range and Lake Plimsoll in the Henty Anthony Valley en route to Tullah. Continue north through rainforest and mineral rich mountains, crossing the Vale of Belvior and alpine cattle country to reach Cradle Mountain National Park. Board the shuttle bus to Dove Lake at the foot of the crags of Cradle Mountain and visit Waldheim, forest home of pioneer Gustav Weindorffer. Enjoy lunch and the visual delights of the Wilderness Gallery at the Cradle Chateau before following the Highway through mountains and button grass plains to the North west Coast and overnight accommodation at **The Waterfront Wynyard. Ph: (03) 6442 2351**

Day 11. Sunday 1st April **Stanley –Table Cape – Bass Strait** **BD**
This morning visit the historic village of Stanley nestling at the foot of an ancient volcanic core known as ‘the Nut’. Tour past Highfield, historical headquarters of the early Van Diemens Land Co. and explore the quaint town with its terraces and chairlift access to the top of the Nut – **(ride is optional and own expense)**. Marvel at the breathtaking views from the rich agricultural Table Cape with its amazing diversity of crops and farms. Continue to the coastal port of Burnie to do some last minute shopping before touring east along the scenic coastal route, passing through Penguin and Ulverstone and on to Devonport to enjoy dinner before settling on board the Spirit of Tasmania in your twin berth Porthole cabins for the overnight cruise to Melbourne.

Day 12. Monday 2nd April

The Heads – Port Phillip Bay – Port Melbourne

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Early risers may witness the entry through The Heads into Port Phillip Bay and watch the Melbourne City skyline come into view during the cruise up the bay to Station Pier. Disembark on arrival around 6.00am to enjoy breakfast at a local venue before travelling home, reflecting on your holiday to the 'island of inspiration'. Thank you for your company.

Highlights

**Spirit of Tasmania - Sheffield Murals
Tassie Devil - Port Arthur - Cradle Mountain
Cadbury's Chocolates - Gordon River Cruise**



Cost (per person twin share) includes
11 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches & 10 Dinners
Accommodation (minimum 3 ½-star)
& all Entrance Fees as listed,

Tasmanian Tour Guide

Pensioners: \$3300p.p. Travel Club: \$3135p.p.

Adults: \$3500p.p. Travel Club: \$3325p.p.

Single Supplement: \$780

Deposit \$500 Balance Due February 1, 2012

Aust-wide Tours' Tour Booking Conditions

CANCELLATIONS: If cancellation occurs after the deposit has been paid the deposit per person will be forfeited. If cancelled 50-25 days before departure will result in the loss of 60% of total fare; 24 days or less 100% of total fare.

SINGLE ROOMS: Single rooms will be provided when requested, if available. If by choice or circumstance a single room is required, the single room supplement will apply. Requested and booked single rooms at the increased cost are confirmed in good faith and the information available at the time.

BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS: Bookings may be accepted where requested on a share room basis on the condition that the person/s requesting the share reservation understands that although every effort will be made to comply with requests regarding age, non-smoking, etc, this is not always possible and the company accepts no responsibility for a share to be found and should ***no share be available at the time of final payment***, the single room supplement is required or ***cancellation conditions will apply***.

RESPONSIBILITY: All tour costs, itineraries, routings and accommodation houses are correct at the time of printing, but are subject to alteration without prior notice due to road, weather or other conditions over which the company has no control. The arrangements of this tour constitute a complete package and, as such, an itemization of costs will not be rendered. No refunds are payable on unused or partially utilised sections of the tour where passengers amend, cancel or otherwise vary arrangements either before or after departure. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of printing, **however the company cannot be held responsible for any printing errors or omissions.**

DEPARTURE POINTS: The scheduled departure points and times are stated on the itinerary. Requests for deviation from these may be taken and confirmed at the discretion of the company in which case failure to load from any point other than the scheduled departure point, remains the sole responsibility of the individual passenger.

SEAT ALLOCATION: Seats will be allocated on a daily rotation basis. If You suffer from travel sickness, REMEMBER to take travel sickness medication prior to departure

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended to cover any cancellation costs due to illness etc

All tour departures are subject to minimum number of bookings
All Prices are in Australian Dollars (AU\$)