

24 Day Hunter Valley, East Coast & Tassie Combo



Departing: Thursday, 10th November 2022

This delightful combo tour encapsulates the essence of the regions. In the Hunter Valley visit the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens and a special treat is the Hunter Valley Christmas Light Spectacular. Immerse yourself in this magical world with its stunning display of more than three million lights. In Eden, enjoy a whale watching cruise aboard the 'Cat Balou' and cruise through amazing coastal scenery with various wildlife that inhabit the area. Enjoy a delicious smorgasbord lunch at the Bavarian styled Cuckoo Restaurant. Visit the magnificent National Rhododendron Gardens. Explore Tasmania's beautiful Cataract Gorge. Experience the exquisite beauty of the magnificent Freycinet Peninsula on a Wineglass Bay Cruise. Immerse yourself in the colonial history at Port Arthur's infamous prison and historic site and cruise around the Isle of the Dead. Cruise the pristine Gordon River and travel deep into the heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness on the West Coast Wilderness Railway. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

Fitness Level: M – Moderate

Meals: B = Breakfast, M = Morning Tea, L = Lunch, A = Afternoon Tea, D = Dinner

DAY 1 MARYBOROUGH – COFFS HARBOUR D

Thursday, 10th November: Pick up passengers from Hervey Bay to Brisbane Coach Terminal. Continue through the Gold Coast to Coffs Harbour. Stay Opal Cove Resort.

DAY 2 COFFS HARBOUR – MAITLAND BMLD

Friday, 13th October: Depart Coffs Harbour, travel to Urunga for a visit to the Honey Place, then on to Kempsey for lunch and some free time at the Slim Dusty Centre. Pause for an afternoon break at Bulahdelah before arriving in Maitland. Stay Old Maitland Inn.

DAY 3 MAITLAND – HUNTER VALLEY – BOWRAL BD

Saturday, 12th November: Make our way to the Twenty-3-Twenty Chocolate & Fudge Factory for a tasting, then visit the Hunter Valley Gardens. Enjoy a train tour around the gardens followed by some free time to explore. After lunch (own expense), make our way to Bowral. Stay Briar's Country Lodge.

DAY 4 BOWRAL – EDEN BMLD

Sunday, 13th November: A day of scenic splendour as we make our way to Kiama's Blowhole Point with its magnificent view of the coastline. Kiama Blowhole is the largest in the world and the spectacular plumes of water can spout 20 metres or more into the air. Near the blowhole is the Kiama Lighthouse established in 1887. Pause at beautiful Bateman's Bay for lunch, then continue to Eden where we take a scenic drive before settling into our motel. Stay Coachman's Eden.

DAY 5 EDEN – LAKES ENTRANCE BLD

Monday, 14th November: All aboard the Cat Balou for a fantastic whale watching cruise this morning. Admire amazing coastal scenery and the various wildlife that inhabit the area. After lunch, make our way to Lakes Entrance which is known for its vast system of inland waterways. Stay Bellevue on the Lakes.

DAY 6 LAKES ENTRANCE – MELBOURNE BLD

Tuesday, 15th November: This morning take a walk across the pedestrian bridge to Ninety Mile Beach, which stretches along the town's Tasman Sea shoreline. Leaving Lakes Entrance, travel into the Latrobe Valley to Old Gipps town. Step back in time to the 1850's at this heritage park. Stroll

along the streets with authentic old buildings, horse-drawn carriages, agricultural machinery, and general store. After lunch, continue onto Melbourne. Three night stay Crest on Barkly Hotel.

DAY 7 MELBOURNE SIGHTSEEING BLD

Wednesday, 16th November: Today we head into the Dandenong Ranges, visiting William Ricketts Sanctuary, a place of beauty and tranquillity, with its natural setting and the mystical sculptures half hidden amongst the ferns. Continue onto Olinda, in the heart of the stunning Dandenong Ranges, to enjoy a delicious German smorgasbord lunch at the Bavarian styled Cuckoo Restaurant. With the staff dressed in traditional Bavarian costume and with live entertainment, music and a floor show, cow bell rings & some pretty fancy yodelling, it's sure to be a fun filled visit. Reluctantly, we move on to the National Rhododendron Gardens with its unparalleled variety of brilliantly coloured blooms, mainly rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, cherries and daffodils. Returning to Melbourne, visit the Shrine of Remembrance and Botanical Gardens before returning to our motel.

DAY 8 MELBOURNE FREE DAY BD

Thursday, 17th November: A free day in Melbourne to explore the city at leisure before a farewell dinner together.

DAY 9 MELBOURNE – DEVONPORT B

Friday, 18th November: A free day in Melbourne before our late afternoon boarding the Spirit of Tasmania for overnight transfer to Devonport. Tonight enjoy dinner at the Captain's table. Accommodation: Spirit of Tasmania, twin share cabin.

DAY 10 TAMAR VALLEY SIGHTSEEING LD

Saturday, 19th November: Enjoy breakfast aboard ship this morning (own expense) before disembarking at approximately 7.30am at the Devonport Terminal. Make our way to Beauty Point for a guided tour of Seahorse World. Next, visit the amazing Platypus House for a guided tour of the Platypus ponds to watch them feed and play. Enjoy a delicious lunch at the Cormorant Café on the Pier, followed by a visit to the Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre. Stop in for a visit to the Swiss village of Grindlewald before arriving at our motel. Two night stay Hotel Grand Chancellor.

DAY 11 LAUNCESTON SIGHTSEEING BMLD

Sunday, 20th November: Start our day some free time to explore beautiful Cataract Gorge, then visit the historic mansion Woolmers Estate for morning tea and a tour. After lunch and some free time at the City Park it's onto Boags Brewery for an informative tour of the facilities then, for the beer lovers and 'educational' tasting session.

DAY 12 LAUNCESTON – BICHENO BMLD

Monday, 21st November: A delightful day of sightseeing today as we head north to Low Head to explore the historic Low Head Pilot Station. Next, visit Bridestowe Lavender Farm for lunch and a guided farm tour. Head east to Legerwood to view the Carved Memorial Trees. The 25 statues depict the fallen men they were planted for in 1918. The trees were deemed no longer safe in 2001 and in 2004, it was decided that each stump would be carved into the likeness of each soldier. Travel through the lush myrtle rainforest at Weldborough Pass through St Helens and onto Bicheno. Two night stay Beachfront at Bicheno.

DAY 13 WINEGLASS BAY CRUISE BLD

Tuesday, 22nd November: This morning, experience the exquisite beauty of the magnificent Freycinet Peninsula with WINEGLASS BAY CRUISES. Wineglass Bay, nestled underneath the Hazards Mountain range, is a location of primeval peace and beauty. The experienced and friendly crew guide you through the sights and history of the FREYCINET PENINSULA; taking you from the gentle shores of Coles Bay, to one of the world's most beautiful beaches. After this stunning cruise, board your coach and return to Bicheno.

DAY 14 BICHENO – PORT ARTHUR BMD

Wednesday, 23rd November: Travel through Swansea for a photo stop at the amazing Spiky Bridge. The bridge was built by convicts in 1843 using thousands of local fieldstones. Onto Port Arthur for a visit to the Port Arthur Historic Site. Enjoy a fascinating guided walk of Port Arthur's infamous convicts' prison and historic site and a cruise around the Isle of the Dead. Visit the Port Arthur Gallery, which includes interactive exhibits and displays and enjoy access to more than 30 historic buildings, restored houses, heritage gardens and walking trails. Stay Fox & Hound Hotel.

DAY 15 PORT ARTHUR – HOBART BMD

Thursday, 24th November: Farewelling Port Arthur, spend some time exploring. Places of interest include Tasman Arch, Devil's Kitchen and Tesselated Pavement. Continue onto charming Richmond and spend some time exploring this heritage town. On arrival in Hobart, time and weather permitting ascend Mt Wellington for a spectacular view of Hobart and surrounds before making our way to our accommodation. Stay Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart.

DAY 16 HOBART – STRAHAN BLD

Friday, 25th November: Discover the magic of Russell Falls, the jewel in the crown of Mt Field National Park. Next, continue to the pristine World Heritage-listed Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. Visit the Wall in The Wilderness. Take a walk to view magnificent Nelson Falls before travelling through the mining town of Queenstown then Strahan. Two night stay Strahan Village Hilltop.

DAY 17 GORDON RIVER CRUISE BLD

Saturday, 26th November: This morning join World Heritage Cruises for a memorable GORDON RIVER CRUISE where the wilderness comes to the water's edge. You'll be awestruck by the beauty of the dark waters, stained amber by buttongrass tannins, reflecting the untouched wilderness. We stop at SARAH ISLAND and discover the ruins of the brutal penal colony. See Hell's Gate and Heritage Landing, site of the 2,000 year old Huon Pine.

DAY 18 STRAHAN – CRADLE MOUNTAIN BLD

Sunday, 27th November: As we board the West Coast Wilderness Railway this morning we step back in time, travelling deep into the heritage of the Tasmanian wilderness. Listening to the live on-board commentary on this majestic steam train, we hear tales of resilience and triumph over rugged terrain, hardship and adversity. Our journey takes us through historic stations, traversing deep into the chasm of the King River Gorge. We'll see the places where early west coast pioneers lived and worked to create this extraordinary railway. After returning to Strahan we board the coach and travel to the alpine woodland of Cradle Mountain. Stay Cradle Mountain Hotel.

DAY 19 CRADLE MOUNTAIN – SMITHTON BLD

Monday, 28th November: This morning we join a guided tour, walking through the myrtles and King Billy pines at Cradle Valley to Gustav Weindorfer's Chalet. Gain an insight into the early history of the Cradle Mountain area and the people who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the National Park. View picturesque Dove Lake before we depart for the historic village of Stanley, originally established as the headquarters of the Van Diemen's Land Company. Take a chairlift ride to the top of The Nut, the core of an ancient volcano, before checking-in at our hotel. Stay Tall Timbers Hotel.

DAY 20 SMITHTON – CAPE GRIM – LAUNCESTON BMLD

Tuesday, 29th November: Travel to Woolnorth where we visit Roaring 40's Windfarm. Hear about this exciting part of Woolnorth's ever-changing landscape and stand on the impressive west coast at the viewing gallery. From the windfarm we head on to CAPE GRIM which is also on the rugged west coast and has spectacular scenery and where you can breathe the cleanest air in the World. After lunch travel east along the coast through Penguin and Ulverstone to Launceston. Stay Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston.

DAY 21 LAUNCESTON – MELBOURNE BM

Wednesday, 30th November: Travel west along the Bass Highway to MOLE CREEK CAVES for a tour of Marakoopa Cave. On our Underground Rivers and Glow-worms Tour be dazzled by the caves sparkling crystals, reflection pools, stalactites and stalagmites. Listen to the music of the underground streams and soak up the silence of abandoned river passages. Leaving the caves, we head to TROWUNNA WILDLIFE PARK for a guided tour which includes Devil feeding. Next, head to SHEFFIELD, 'THE TOWN OF MURALS' for some free time to purchase lunch and check out the delightful murals, then on to Latrobe's HOUSE OF ANVERS for chocolate tasting. Sadly, our time on the Apple Isle is almost at an end as we make our way to Devonport ready to board the 'Spirit of Tasmania' for our return to Melbourne.

DAY 22 MELBOURNE – WEST WYALONG MLD

Thursday, 1st December: Enjoy breakfast aboard the ship this morning (own expense) before disembarking at approximately 7.30am at the Port of Melbourne. After disembarking, make our way north to Shepparton where we pause for morning tea then on to Jerilderie for lunch at the Royal Mail Hotel. This iconic hotel was once targeted and raided by the Kelly Gang. After lunch, continue north along the Newell Highway to West Wyalong. Stay Club Inn Resort.

DAY 23 WEST WYALONG – MOREE BMD

Friday, 2nd December: Resume our journey along the Newell Highway through Forbes and Parkes to Dubbo where we pause for lunch (own expense). Continue onto Moree for our last night together. Stay Burke & Wills Motor Inn.

DAY 24 MOREE – HOME BM

Saturday, 3rd December: All too soon we are back in familiar territory with arrival in Brisbane mid-afternoon. Northbound passengers stay on board for arrival into the Wide Bay early evening.

Adult: \$9445 pp

Pensioner: \$9397 pp

Past Passenger: \$9373 pp

Single Supplement: \$2441 pp

Final Payment Due: Monday, 26th September 2022