



presents a 12-day coach tour
AUTUMN TASSIE TEMPTATIONS!

Back by popular demand, Victor Tours is returning to the beautiful Apple Isle for a sensational 12-day tour!

Emphasis will be placed on the history of Tasmania in the first part of our tour, and highlighting the wilderness and gardens in the second part of our tour. At this time of the year, the trees should look magnificent.

Come and join us for this sensational Tassie Temptations!

All-inclusive price is \$3970.00pp and \$770.00ss

Day 1 (D): TO MELBOURNE – SPIRIT OF TASMANIA – Mon 26th March, 2018

Welcome to our fabulous tour to Tasmania! We have a number of multi-night stays so we can unpack, then explore from our base. The beginning of our tour discovers much of the history of Tasmania, before we explore the National Parks and natural beauty of the island state. Today we make our way to Melbourne, Port Melbourne in fact, to connect with our departure on the **Spirit of Tasmania**. While the coach is being loaded onto the cargo deck we can board. The cabins on the Spirit are quite small but very comfortable, with twin bed accommodation and ensuite bathroom. The facilities on the vessel are extensive with lounges, bars, shops and viewing areas. Dinner will be on the Spirit of Tasmania.

Spirit of Tasmania – Outside Cabins

Day 2 (BD): DEVONPORT TO LAUNCESTON – Tues 27th March, 2018

On arrival in **Devonport**, our coach is unloaded and we are ready to commence our tour of Tasmania. First stop is for a hearty breakfast before we drive to the centre of **Devonport**. From here there are some excellent views over the Mersey River and to the “**Spirit of Tasmania**” tied up at the wharf. This will be the best opportunity to take a photo of the ship. Our destination today is Launceston but this morning, we visit **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 to pretty Deloraine - look out for the sculptures on the gas bottles! On our arrival into **Launceston**, we take a look around before boarding the **Lady Launceston**. 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 your comfortable seat with unobstructed views on our multi award winning 1890's style vessel. Enjoy the skippers captivating commentary on the history of this fascinating area. Back on dry land, we check into our next two night's accommodation.

Best Western Plus Launceston – 03 6333 9999

Day 3 (BLD): THE TAMAR VALLEY – Wed 28th March, 2018

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. This morning we set off to explore **Tamar Valley**. We drive along the west side of the Tamar River brief stop at **Grindelwald**, a village established in 1980 inspired the alpine style architecture of Switzerland. Back on the main we take in the panoramic views of the River and Valley from Bushranger **Brady's Lookout**. Further along the valley is Beaconsfield. This area is the site of Tasmania's largest gold discoveries and of course the incredible rescue in 2006 of two miners, Todd Russell and Brant Webb, who emerged from the 14 days after being trapped almost 1 kilometre underground. We'll visit the **Beaconsfield Gold Mine and Heritage Museum**, home to Australia's only waterwheel-driven stamp battery, featuring an extensive collection of memorabilia and artefacts. We now cross the river via the Batman Bridge and head north to **George Town** and the Low Head area at the mouth of the Tamar. Here we visit the **Low Head Pilot Station** and Maritime Museum which is also our lunch venue. We make our way back to Launceston on the east side of the Tamar River – it will be a most interesting day! Time permitting, we may revisit Cataract Gorge – the magnificent Reserve in the city centre – with time to explore on foot this time. Some of us may like to ride the chairlift which crosses the gorge (own expense). Of the overall length of 457 metres, the 308 metre central span is claimed to be the longest single span in the world.



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Best Western Plus Launceston – 03 6333 9999

Day 4 (BD): LAUNCESTON TO HOBART – Thurs 29th March, 2018

Departing Launceston, we journey down what was the finest highway in Australia in its day. It was first known as the Main Road linking Launceston & Hobart, then for some 55 years became the Midland Highway & now High One or the Heritage Highway. Our first stop is at Longford and the historic **Woolmers Estate**, which was settled by Thomas Archer in 1816; it is the oldest property in Australia to have been owned by the one family. We will then travel through Campbelltown, which began as a staging town on the Elizabeth River. Then onto **Ross**, a garrison town with a Government Stock Run, a race course & the four corners – Temptation,



Salvation, Damnation & Recreation. It also has the most beautiful of the remaining old bridges in Australia, with over 100 old buildings from last century. Early afternoon we continue south to

Richmond. Proclaimed a town in 1824 it is a good example of Tasmania's stark convict heritage and beautiful historic buildings. Nestled in the Coal river valley, this classified historic town is famous for its Georgian architecture and the convict-built Richmond Bridge. The stone buildings now house galleries, craft boutiques and museums. There is also a gaol here that predates Port Arthur by five years and is one of the best preserved Australian colonial prisons. We have time to stretch our legs and purchase lunch before making our way into Hobart. On arrival, we are joined by our **local guide** for a town tour. After our tour, we settle into our accommodation – home for the next 3 nights.



Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart - 03 6225 7000

Day 5 (BLD): BRUNY ISLAND – Fri 30th March, 2018

We have an early breakfast this morning. Today we are in for a fantastic experience with Rob Pennicott's multi-award winning **Bruny Island Traveller**. We spend the full day on Bruny Island, exploring spectacular landscapes and gourmet local produce. This is a delicious day out where every course on the menu is a stop on our journey. We'll visit the home of Bruny Island's cheese, oysters, fudge, berries, wine and whisky to savour their produce and hear the stories behind the harvest. This is more than a tasting tour - at every stop we sit back, relax and enjoy a fully inclusive experience. Throughout the day we'll see incredible scenery. At The Neck, see the narrow isthmus stretch away south in graceful curves. Take a stroll and leave our footprints in the sand of a deserted beach. The light bush of the northern island gives way to the dense rainforest of the south - this pristine wilderness is home to diverse wildlife including rare white wallabies.

Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart - 03 6225 7000

Day 6 (BD): SALAMANCA MARKETS AND THE HUON VALLEY – Saturday 31st March, 2018

We're lucky enough to be in Hobart on a Saturday, so this morning we head to the famous **Salamanca Markets** where hundreds of stallholders set up their stalls along the elm tree lined street every Saturday, drawing large crowds. We have some free time here to wander and perhaps buy a souvenir of our holiday. Mid-morning we rejoin the coach and spend the rest of the day in the **Huon Valley**, the principal apple growing region in the state. The Huon Valley and D'Entrecasteaux Channel also 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!** We will experience a **guided tour** and cider tastings. We then drive on through Geeveston to the Tahune Forest where we experience a walk through the tree top canopy of the **Tahune Air Walk**. After a

great day, we return to Hobart.

Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart - 03 6225 7000

Day 7 (BLD): TO THE WEST COAST – Sun 1st April 2018

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. Our stop for morning tea



this morning will be in Hamilton. We then continue on to Derwent Bridge (the geographical centre of Tasmania) where we stop to view **the Wall in the Wilderness**. 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 from 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". The vegetation is slowly growing back.

West Coaster Motel, Queenstown – 03 6471 1033

Day 8 (BLD): STRAHAN AND THE GORDON FRANKLIN – Mon 2nd April, 2018

We have a fascinating day today. After an early breakfast we travel across to **Strahan**, 40 kilometres away 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 takes us through Hells Gates, the narrow entry into the harbour from the Southern Ocean and 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 have the opportunity at **Heritage Walk** to

see these and other trees of the dense forest close up. It’s a great day topped off with a beautiful lunch. We return to **Strahan** mid afternoon and have some free time to explore the wharf and some of the local shops before transferring back to Queenstown.

West Coaster Motel, Queenstown – 03 6471 1033

Day 9 (BLD): CRADLE MOUNTAIN – Tues 3rd April, 2018

Departing Queenstown, we make our way through Tullah and into the **Cradle Mountain National**



Park. We take a tour of the National Park including Waldheim and Dove Lake. Lunchtime now, so we head to the nearby **Cradle Mountain Chateau** and have plenty of time to look at the stunning **Wilderness Gallery**. Our last stop in this area is a visit to **Devils @ Cradle**, a 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. The guide will gently handle some of the devils

during our tour, and there may be an opportunity for us to touch one. We’ll realise that devils@cradle is committed to the conservation and protection of this now vulnerable species. The centre operates a successful captive breeding program, ensuring the ongoing survival of Tasmanian Devils in healthy numbers in the wild. Leaving the park, we head north and then west for our next two-night stay at **Smithton**.

Tall Timbers Hotel Motel, Smithton - 03 6452 9000

Day 10 (BD): THE NORTH WEST – Wed 4th April 2018

We travel to **Woolnorth Station** this morning. 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 be accompanied by a Station Guide and have morning tea while we are here. 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 now drive to **Stanley**, with its small craft shops, historic houses (including the cottage where Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was born). A chairlift operates to the summit of **The Nut** (optional), which we have a chance to ride if

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anyone wants to see some great views! After time to purchase lunch and explore, we return to Smithton where we have some free time to relax.

Tall Timbers Hotel Motel, Smithton - 03 6452 9000

Day 11 (BLD): SMITHTON TO SPIRIT OF TASMANIA – Thurs 5th April 2018

After a restful night, we begin our day's journey along the north coast. First stop is just before Wynyard, at the flat-topped **Table Cape** for stunning views of hundreds of kilometres of rugged coastline. Our next visit is the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden**. On arrival we have time to wander through the garden. The garden is a non-profit community organisation building and running a multiple award-winning rhododendron garden. It is widely known internationally and its unique design makes it one of Australia's major rhododendron gardens. They offer walking tracks, lakes, bridges and many other unique design features, as well as a resident platypus, echidna and diverse bird life. The Garden is also our lunch venue. This afternoon, we head back to Burnie to visit the **Makers' Workshop**, a great facility with interpretive displays and studios for working artists. We enjoy a papermaking tour with **Creative Paper** and learn how ancient paper making techniques are used to create beautiful, eco-friendly Tasmanian papers. We will also learn how we use materials such as recycled denim jeans, natural plant fibres, apples and even Roo Poo to make paper. Plus, we have the opportunity to make our own sheet of paper! It's now time to start heading back to Devonport so we take the coastal road through pretty Penguin and Ulverston. In Devonport, we board the Spirit and cruise back to Melbourne. Once again, our dinner will be onboard this evening.

Spirit of Tasmania – Outside cabins

Day 12 (BL): MELBOURNE TO VICTOR HARBOR – Fri 6th April 2018

Unfortunately, our holiday is coming to an end. The **Spirit of Tasmania** arrives back at Station Pier early this morning; as we pass through the Heads into Port Phillip Bay, it is a great view of Melbourne. A continental breakfast from the ship will enable us to get on the road straight away. We'll enjoy lunch in **Bordertown** then complete the final leg of our journey back to Victor Harbor. We arrive home late afternoon to complete a fantastic holiday to Tasmania.

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.