



## MURRAY BRIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Welcome us to  
**THE TOP END OF TASSIES'  
BLOOMIN' GARDENS**

*Tasmania is beautiful at any time of the year but in October the top end is simply magnificent!*

### Day 1 (D): HOME TO SPIRIT OF TASMANIA

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018



Welcome to our fabulous tour to Tasmania! With **Victor Tours Travel & Cruise** at the helm 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.

*(Lunch own expense, dinner on Spirit of Tasmania)*

**Spirit of Tasmania – Port Hole Cabins**

### Day 2 (BLD): DEVONPORT TO STANLEY

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 18



We arrive in East Devonport on the North Coast at around 7.00am. It will take about 30 minutes before the coach is unloaded and we are on our way. First things first – 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. We now head to Sheffield via **Railton**, which is home to Tasmania’s “outdoor Art Gallery” – look out for the topiaries around the town that are in various stages of growth. In

**Sheffield**, we have time to wander around the town to look at the many murals that Sheffield is well known for. Most depict the early history of the area painted on every available blank wall. Our next stop is in Nietta at the **Kaydale Lodge Gardens**. Here we enjoy the visual delights of this acclaimed

two-hectare landscaped garden with unique features such as woodland ponds, streams, waterfalls, pearwalk, stonewalls, fritillaria meadow, massed trilliums and a dry zen garden. This is also our lunch venue. This afternoon, we rejoin the coast road driving through towns like Ulverstone, Penguin and Wynyard along the way. Our destination is **Stanley** for the next 3 nights, so we have time to unpack and settle in before dinner. (*Breakfast Argosy Motor Inn, Lunch at Kaydale Lodge, dinner in the hotel*)

### **Stanley Seaview Inn, Stanley - 03**

#### **Day 3 (BLD): NORTH WEST**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018**



This morning we spend some time in **Stanley**, a village with small craft shops, historic houses (including the cottage where Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was born) and tea houses. A chairlift also operates to the summit of the **Nut** (optional). Our next visit is to **Highfield House** for a self-guided tour of the mansion which may regard as the birthplace of European settlement in the North West of Tasmania. Built from 1832 to 1835 as a residence for the chief agent of the

Van Diemens Land Company, Edward Curr, it represents an important part of Tasmanian historic heritage. It seems hard to believe this area was once a convict enclave but the proof is all around us in the convict barracks, cottages, chapel, pigsties and barns. Our **picnic lunch** is onboard so we can enjoy that anytime we wish. In 1980 Max Cross gave his wife Loraine a paddock, in fact she was allowed to choose any paddock from the whole of his dairy farm - he says she chose the best one! It now covers an area of over 6 acres and is named **Allendale Gardens**. Over the years they have worked together to create a place of beauty, peace and tranquillity. Be inspired here by the combination of flower and foliage with trees and conifer indigenous to countries from around the world planted as an art form to create a series of garden rooms. With all flat easy walks arranged in loops back into the garden this is the ideal place to wander around at our own pace to spend time at the areas of particular interest to us. Meeting back at the entry at a set time we return to our motel with pictures to swap over dinner. (*Breakfast and dinner in motel, picnic lunch*)

### **Stanley Seaview Inn, Stanley - 03**

#### **Day 4 (BLD): ARTHUR RIVER CRUISE**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**



This morning we head to a truly remote and beautiful part of Tasmania. On the far north-west coast, the **Arthur River** winds through pristine wilderness. The Arthur River is one of the State's seven major rivers, but it is the only one which is completely wild, having never been logged, dammed or had a hot fire through the rainforest for almost 650 years. During our cruise on the river, the local guides will impart a wealth of knowledge on the plant life, the history of the area and of the Aboriginal tribes who

once lived here. The sea eagles, which we will feed, are completely wild and nest on the bank of the river. A BBQ lunch is supplied. Back on dry land, we return to the hotel to freshen up for dinner. (*Breakfast and dinner in the motel, BBQ lunch on the Arthur River*)

### **Stanley Seaview Inn, Stanley - 03**

#### **Day 5 (BLD): THE GARDENS OF BURNIE**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

We farewell our Smithton hosts this morning and drive **Table Cape Tulip Farm**, the home of **Van Diemen Quality Bulbs**. This truly spectacular farm just explodes in colour! We will be met on arrival by a staff member (this may be a festival day which means we won't have staff member to tour us but look around at the festivities in Wynyard instead) who will tell us all about the farm and tulips. There will be a fantastic show of tulips in the fields, one of which is open for us to walk in,



rows and rows of beautiful bright colours - a perfect spot for a group photo. We can venture inside to view the stunning floral arrangements. Our next stop is at the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens**, one of Australia's major rhododendron gardens. There are over 23,000 rhododendrons and other select plants set among 13ha with a series of 'countries' from which the wild rhododendrons originate, within authentic built environments. We have time to wander through the gardens. It's not very far to travel to our next garden – the **Annsleigh Gardens and Café**. As the name suggests, this is also our **lunch** venue but have plenty of time to explore this garden; a profusion of colourful trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs, with cherry blossom, wisteria, camellia and laburnum walks; rhododendrons, rose garden and colonial section. Our final stop in Burnie is at **Creative Paper**. This is a modern facility with interpretive displays and studios for working artists. We enjoy time to look around at the techniques that are used to create beautiful, eco-friendly Tasmanian papers. It's now time to make our way to Devonport where we check into our accommodation. *(Breakfast and dinner in the*

*motel, lunch at Annsleigh Gardens Café)*

**Argosy Motor Inn, Devonport - 03**

#### Day 6 (BD): DEVONPORT TOURING

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**



Our first stop this morning is **Home Hill**, the 1916 family homestead and gardens of Australian Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, his wife Dame Enid Lyons – the first woman elected to Australia's federal parliament – and their 12 children. We enjoy a guided tour of the house and gain an unexpected insight into the political and personal lives of two people who dedicated their lives to public service and their family. We now head across

to Port Sorell, Hawley Beach to be specific. Here the **Hawley House Gardens** are set on a peninsula and buffeted by salt-laden winds. The gardens have been literally scraped from the beachside bedrock and encompass an extensive range of exotic plants from cool temperate to sub-tropical. We make our way back to Devonport to enjoy a ride on the **Don River Railway**, one of Australia's finest heritage passenger carrying railways. Our ride takes us along the picturesque river bank of the Don River and return. We now have time for a walk through the **Tasmanian Arboretum**. "Only a few kilometres from Devonport but a million miles from care", the 66 hectares of landscaped Arboretum and natural bushland was founded in 1984. It offers the opportunity to walk among collections of woody plants from around the temperate world, including many of Tasmania's specimens. Set in a peaceful and beautiful valley, we may see some of Tasmania's wildlife, such as swift parrots and platypus if we are lucky. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, lunch own expense)*

**Argosy Motor Inn, Devonport - 03**

#### Day 7 (BD): DEVONPORT TO LAUNCESTON

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**



Setting off after check out this morning, we make our way south to Moltema where we visit the **Villarett Gardens and Café**. The gardens at Villarett date from early last century when beech, holly and oak trees were planted. Four hectares of garden have been developed comprising exotic shrubs and trees, roses, herbs and bulbs. It is not far now to **Elizabeth Town** where we visit **Ashgrove Cheeses** for a talk about how the cheese is made, viewing the maturing rooms and a tasting. We now have time to purchase our lunch from the **Elizabeth Town Bakery** – an icon in the area for locals and visitors alike. Next visit is in **Deloraine** at **Yarns (Artwork inSilk)**. Housed in a

purpose built auditorium this facility is quite fascinating. There is an audio presentation with lighting effects that provides information about the panels. This is like walking through a garden of silk, it is so beautiful! Our final destination is Launceston, where we spend our last night on solid ground. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, lunch own expense)*

### **Quality Hotel Colonial, Launceston - 03**

## **Day 8 (BD): LAUNCESTON TO DEVONPORT**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**



Pack our bags for check out after breakfast as we are on the move, with our first visit to **Cataract Gorge**. These gardens have evolved for over a century and are still one of the most popular places in the city to relax in and enjoy the nature. 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 head north to **Brady's Lookout** - a wonderful place to appreciate the diverse beauty of the Tamar Valley. We have a chance to purchase

lunch before our next visit which is always an interesting one. In Beaconsfield we visit the **Gold 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? We have arranged a tour and some time to look at the displays ourselves while here. We end our time in the Tamar Valley at **Seahorse World**. This venue showcases 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. We return to **Devonport** for our dinner this evening before reboarding the “**Spirit of Tasmania**” service back to **Melbourne**. *(Breakfast at motel, lunch own expense, dinner Devonport)*

### **Spirit of Tasmania, Port Hole Cabins**

## **Day 9: (B): MELBOURNE TO HOME**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

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. We arrive home late this afternoon to complete a bloomin' good holiday to **Tasmania!** *(Breakfast supplied, lunch own expense)*



<i>Based on 20 passengers – Port hole cabin on the Spirit of Tasmania</i>	<i>\$2695.00pp</i>
<i>Based on 20 passengers – Inside cabin on the Spirit of Tasmania</i>	<i>\$2645.00pp</i>
<i>Based on 30 passengers - Port hole cabin on the Spirit of Tasmania</i>	<i>\$2395.00pp</i>
<i>Based on 30 passengers – Inside cabin on the Spirit of Tasmania</i>	<i>\$2345.00pp</i>
<i>Single Supplement please add</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>

## **Tour Inclusions**

- 8 nights accommodation, subject to confirmation
- 8 cooked breakfasts
- 8 dinners
- Return passenger accommodation on Spirit of Tasmania
- Kaydale Lodge Garden visit
- Lunch at Kaydale Lodge
- Tour and morning tea at Woolnorth Station including Wind Farm
- Full day Arthur River cruise including morning tea and BBQ lunch
- Entry to Table Cape Tulip Farm
- Entry to Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens
- Entry and light lunch at Annsleigh Gardens and Café
- Entry at Makers Workshop, Burnie
- Entry to Home Hill national trust property
- Entry and 30 minute train ride at Don River Railway Museum
- Entry to Tasmanian arboretum
- Tour and tasting at Ashgrove Cheeses, Elizabeth Town
- Entry to Yarns: Artwork in Silk, Deloraine
- Guided tour at Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum
- Entry and tour at Seahorse World

**BOOKINGS** – A \$200.00 per person deposit is required at the time of booking to secure your seat. Please find below a Victor Tours booking form that can be posted or emailed.

*All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times or delays of some attractions. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures or inclement weather.*