



## **12 Day Wild Tasmania**

### **Day 1 - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 (D)**

Upon arrival into Devonport, please make your way to our hotel.

We'll meet for our first group dinner this evening, where we'll run over the itinerary and get to know your fellow travelers.

Overnight accommodation- Quality Gateway Inn- Executive room with en-suite

### **Day 2 - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 (B,L)**

You will be collected from your Devonport accommodation or the ferry terminal at 7.30am this morning for your 11 or 14 day adventure through Wild Tasmania.

We head south to Leven Canyon, a spectacular 250m-deep ravine worn over tens of thousands of years by rains and the Leven River which flows at its base. It is estimated that between 45,000 and 70,000 kilolitres of water roars through the canyon every day, which can be viewed from a cliff-face viewing platform, accessible by a short rainforest walk. Or take on the challenge of 697 forest stairs !

Then onto nearby Gunns Plains Caves, where we take a 1 hour tour through the cave, formed by an underground river that still flows and contains freshwater crayfish, fish and eel. Platypus sleep and nest in the sandy banks along the river. It is renowned for its magnificent formations, including calcite shawls and flowstones, and has a glow-worm display.

We now drive along the northern coast towards our accommodation tonight in Stanley. En- route, we visit Dip Falls and Big Tree. The beautiful Dip Falls can be viewed from a viewing platform and a path leads down some steps to the base of the falls and its unique rock formations.

From the car park you can also walk 5 min to the Big Tree in the Big Tree Reserve, which dwarfs the surrounding trees with it's circumference of nearly 17m !

Our destination this afternoon is further west, to Stanley, famous for The Nut, an ancient extinct volcano 152 metres high which offers spectacular views over the Bass Strait and 360 degree views of the township.

Overnight accommodation- Stanley Seaview Inn- motel room

### **Day 3 - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L,D)**

We explore Stanley this morning. You can choose to walk to The Nut plateau (10-20 mins each way) or take the chairlift (extra cost- currently \$16 pp return). Once at the top, soak up the incredible views and there's a 1 hour circuit track around the Nut plateau.

This afternoon we travel to the west coast and Gardiner Point, known as the "Edge of the World" The sea west of Tasmania is the longest uninterrupted expanse of ocean on the globe. From Argentina the currents sweep unimpeded more than halfway around the planet until they hit this point. The wild roaring forties (strong westerly winds) batter this coast from across the Great Southern Ocean, making you truly feel you are at the edge of the world.

Overnight accommodation- Tall Timbers Hotel, Smithton

### **Day 4 - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L,D)**

This morning we explore the Tarkine Wilderness. Our first stop is Trowutta Arch, which was formed by two collapsing cave systems, the arch to one side is filled with water and the other with gigantic Man Ferns. Here we take an easy 10 minute walk to the arch for fantastic photo opportunities.

After stopping at a couple of lookouts, we continue south along the Western Explorer drive to Corinna. The Western Explorer joins the north and the southern ends of the Tarkine, transecting the world's largest remaining stretch of temperate rainforest. From coastal tea tree to button grass plains, from towering eucalypts to the soft myrtle beech and man ferns, from coastal and mountain landscapes, the Western Explorer takes us around and over the Norfolk Ranges and is an experience in itself.

We arrive in Corinna, a remote settlement on the banks of the Pieman river where we'll spend the next 2 nights. *As this is truly the wilderness, there is no mobile phone reception or internet service. Your guide has a satellite phone in the event of an emergency and of course there is a pub/ restaurant as well.*

Overnight accommodation- Corinna Cottages, with en-suites (2 night stay)

#### **Day 5 - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

This morning you'll take the Pieman River Cruise to Pieman Head on the *Arcadia II*, a magnificent 17m craft built of huon pine in 1939. The skipper provides commentary on the unique history, flora and fauna, and takes the *Arcadia* close enough to the banks for guests to actually touch the ancient rainforest, including many specimens of huon pine.

This afternoon is at your leisure to relax and enjoy your surrounds. There are a variety of walks available to you from 5 mins to several hours and the forest is also rich in bird life and wildlife, including the Tasmanian Devil.

Overnight accommodation- Corinna Cottages, with en-suites

#### **Day 6 - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

After breakfast we drive to the small town of Waratah, located on the edge of Lake Waratah. The town has a rich mining past and a magnificent waterfall in the town centre ! Once home to the richest tin mine in the southern hemisphere, we can now visit the restored Stamper Mill.

Our destination today is the Cradle Mountain, Lake St Clair NP and there should be some free time this afternoon, before we depart for the Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary for an evening guided tour. Devils are primarily a nocturnal species therefore far more active at night, so environmentally sensitive lighting is used with a focus on the social interactions and feeding habits of these unique carnivores. The sanctuaries Tasmanian Devil population forms part of the nation-wide Captive Breeding Program, they have a Field Monitoring Program and Orphan Rehabilitation Program.

Overnight accommodation- Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge, Pencil Pine Cabins with en-suites (2 night stay)

#### **Day 7 - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

You have the whole day to explore Cradle Mountain at your leisure. There are a range of walks available from short walks under an hour to longer walks of 4- 5 hours, including the famous Dove Lake Walk ( approx.2 hours) . We would also recommend a visit to 'Waldheim', the rustic chalet that was once home for Gustav Weindorfer, the founding father of the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park. Stop by, and let the displays inside the building tell you the story of its past. The area in which the chalet is set is simply beautiful.

So you can explore at your leisure, today you'll be provided with shuttle bus tickets for the loop bus which operates every 30 minutes through the day making it easy to explore the park.

The park is also fantastic for bird watching and photography.

Overnight accommodation- Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge, Pencil Pine Cabins with en-suites

#### **Day 8 - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L,D)**

Heading further south today we travel through the mining town of Roseberry to Zeehan, where we visit the interesting West Coast Heritage Centre, a museum dedicated to the history and pioneers of the West Coast of Tasmania. The museum attractions include photo galleries, locomotives, mining machinery, blacksmith shop, marine display, Masonic Display, crocote cavern, pioneer womens gallery, the historic Gaiety Theatre (Edwardian films playing daily) and a world class mineral collection.

We now make our way to our accommodation for the next 2 nights in Strahan, a pretty harbour-side village with a dark and fascinating convict past, set on the edge of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Nestled on the shores of massive Macquarie Harbour, Strahan is the gateway to the World Heritage listed Franklin–Gordon Wild Rivers National Park.

We have some free time in the town this afternoon, for you to browse the shops along the waterfront, enjoy the beach, walk to the Water Tower Hill Lookout or through the rainforest to Hogarth Falls. You may also like to see the "The Ship that never was", a 1 ¼ hour play telling the dramatic and hilarious true story of the Great Escape from Sarah Island. The play is staged every night at 5.30pm for approx \$25 pp.

Overnight accommodation- Strahan Village, Standard Hilltop rooms (2 night stay)

### **Day 9 - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

Today you'll take a 6 hour cruise on the Gordon River from 9am- 3pm. See some of Australia's oldest convict ruins on Sarah Island, a settlement which pre-dates Port Arthur by decades. Created to put the 'fear of God' into the convicts of Van Diemen's Land, this tiny outpost of 18th Century British penal history hides a fascinating tale of human triumph over adversity, brought vividly to life by expert guides.

Hear the intriguing story of Macquarie Harbour and its settlement;

Passage through Hells Gates the narrow entrance to Macquarie Harbour named by the convicts on their way to Sarah Island;

See high-tech aquaculture where hundreds of thousands of Tasmania's famous Atlantic Salmon and Ocean Trout are farmed;

Cruise past the majesty of the rugged mountain ranges in Tasmania's World Heritage listed South West Wilderness National Park;

Spend two hours in the serenity of the imposing Gordon River, complete with a stroll into the rainforest, which reclaimed the land after the last Great Ice Age.

Listen to the narrative, which brings the river and its rich history to life complete what is an unforgettable experience on the Gordon River.

Enjoy a sumptuous buffet lunch freshly prepared on board - includes smoked salmon, cold meats, a selection of salads, fresh fruit, Tasmanian cheeses and local bakery bread in Strahan, Tasmania.

Dinner this evening is at your own arrangement and expense.

Overnight accommodation- Strahan Village, Standard Hilltop rooms

### **Day 10 - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

This morning we'll travel to Queenstown....by steam train ! We'll take a ride on the West Coast Wilderness Railway from Strahan, including the King River Gorge, the "rack" section of the railway track, magnificent rainforest and all stations along the way.

Your driver guide will meet us in Queenstown, the Largest town on Tasmania's West Coast and originally developed to service the booming copper fields of Mt Lyell. Whereas Tasmania is known for its greenness, Queenstown is orange/ red !

After viewing the decommissioned Iron Blow Mine (now filled with emerald water) over its spectacular lookout, we'll continue east through the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers NP to Derwent Bridge.

En-route we take a short easy walk to Nelson Falls.

We check into our accommodation and then make our way out to Lake St. Clair, at the southern end of the world famous Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Carved out by ice during several glaciations over the last two million years, this is the deepest lake in Australia and the headwaters of the Derwent River, upon which the capital city of Tasmania is located.

There are a range of walks on offer here.

Overnight accommodation- Lake St Clair Lodge, motel room with en-suite

### **Day 11 - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov (B,L)**

Just out of Derwent Bridge is the Wall in the Wilderness, Australia's most ambitious art project undertaken in recent years. The beautifully carved wood panels depict the history, hardship and perseverance of the people in the Central Highlands and pay homage to the individuals who settled and protected the area.

We continue through the Derwent Valley to Westerway and then travel west towards Gordon Dam, set in Tasmania's wild south-west wilderness and ringed with rugged mountain ranges. Lake Pedder and its companion Lake Gordon, together comprise the largest inland freshwater storage in Australia, covering more than 500 square kilometres and holding more than 37 times the volume of water than Sydney Harbour. Gordon is the largest power station in Tasmania. The water in Lake Pedder provides around 40% of the water used in the Gordon Power Station and the original Lake Pedder was flooded as part of the Gordon power scheme. There was wide spread opposition to this action from conservation groups.

After a walk along the dam wall, we head to our accommodation for the evening at our accommodation on the banks of Lake Pedder.

Overnight accommodation- Lake Pedder Wilderness Lodge, motel room with en-suite

## **Day 12 - Sunday 21st Nov (B,L,D)**

Our final stop in the wild south-west wilderness is Mt Field National Park, one of Tasmania's most loved national parks. Here we can take part of or all of the waterfalls circuit, comprising of Russell Falls, Lady Barren Falls, Horseshoe Falls and the tall swamp gums, amongst the tallest trees in Australia.

After a stop in New Norfolk, we continue into Hobart, Tasmania's capital city and the second oldest capital in Australia, after Sydney. Located at the entrance to the Derwent River, its well-preserved surrounding bushland reaches close to the city centre and beaches line the shores of the river and estuary beyond.

Our final dinner tonight, as a group, is in the hotel restaurant.

Overnight Hobart accommodation- Studio apartment with en-suite at the Old Wool Store Apartments, located in the historic Sullivans Cove area

## **END ITINERARY**

**B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner**

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris, subject to availability road, weather and cultural conditions

**AUD \$7270 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE and \$1750 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Maximum 15 passengers

Tour is suitable for children over 12 years only and child fare is \$300 off adult price, valid for 12-16 years old only.

### **Inclusions:**

- Seat in 6WD tour coach, with professional driver guide & hostess
- Meals, as stated.
- 12 nights accommodation, as listed including 1 night accommodation in Devonport and 1 night accommodation in Hobart
- National park entry fees
- Entry to the West Coast Heritage Centre in Zeehan and the Wall in the Wilderness
- West Coast Wilderness Railway train ride from Strahan to Queenstown
- 6 hour Gordon River cruise
- Pieman River Cruise in Corinna
- Gunns Plains Caves tour
- Evening guided tour at Devils @ Cradle, Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary

### **Exclusions:**

- Arrival/departure flights or ferry into/ out of Tasmania
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol
- Optional extra activities

