



Wild Tasmania – Marsupials, Flora and Wilderness

Departing Hobart November 28th 2021



FOREST & BIRD TOURS SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

This is a fundraising tour for Forest & Bird. A base fee contributes to the advocacy of Forest & Bird, along with all profits from the trip.

The tour is being led by **Mark Hanger**, President of Forest & Bird, and a nature tour leader in New Zealand since 1985, and in Tasmania since 2006.



Tasmania is a dramatically beautiful island combining attributes of both Australia and New Zealand, yet with its own very distinctive character, landscapes and attractions.

Tasmania, through a combination of isolation and its rugged mountainous terrain, is still home to a great array of Australian mammals, many of which are now hard to see on the mainland. Marsupials such as the archetypal Tasmanian Devil, Wombats, Kangaroos, Wallabies, Quolls, and Pademelons are foci on this trip; while there are excellent opportunities to view the bizarre Platypus and Echidna, and to view a wonderful diversity of birds such as Fairy Wrens, Cockatoos, Rosellas, Scarlet Robins and Fairy Penguins.



Our circuit around and through the island will also enable a celebration of the Tasmanian high country along with its special plants. Many are floriferous shrubs in multi-coloured profusion, and most are confined to Tasmania. Highlights of sub-alpine and alpine Tasmania will be visits to Mount Field National Park, Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Ben Lomond and Mount Wellington.

Coastal regions such as the Macquarrie Harbour in the west, and Freycinet National Park in the east, match the mountain splendour. Well known Cradle Mountain is stunning, but so too is the rocky coast of Freycinet. Great lodgings enable us to enjoy these areas to the full, while at the same time being able to relax in magnificent surroundings.



Travel is by comfortable small mini-vans equipped with excellent reference libraries.
Accommodation is in pleasant hotels with private facilities.

There will be a maximum group size of 20.

Tour Duration is 17 days ex Hobart.



A Guided Nature Adventure in Tasmania

Price : price are GST inclusive and are per person for 17 day/16 night tour
\$(NZ)6300.00

Includes:

Services of tour naturalist, Mark Hanger.

All tour travel departing and terminating in Hobart. All meals excepting lunch and dinner on free day in Launceston. All accommodation, twin-share with private facilities in quality hotels and lodges.

Admission fees where applicable – national park concession fees.

Excursions – Bruny Island ferry, Bruny Island excursion, Platypus excursion.

Information booklet with background ecological information & species lists.

Goods and Services Tax of 10%.

For Single Room add \$(NZ)1200.00 per person.

To book, complete booking form along with a deposit of \$(NZ)900.00.



Daily Itinerary

Nov 28 Arrive Hobart, and transfer to central Hobart accommodation. Stay three nights at The Woolstore Hotel.

Nov 29 The Huon Valley lies south of Hobart. This valley and the nearby Hartz Mountains are our foci today. The canopy walkway at Tahune will feature and enable greater insight to be gained into the myrtle and sassafras forest, while the productive heartland with its picturesque orchards provide a delightful contrast.

Nov 30 Mt Field National Park lies an hour's drive west of Hobart. It features alpine moorlands, spectacular mountain scenery, and an excellent diversity of alpinas including several Richea, Ewartias, and Tasmanian Celmisias. We spend the day at varying altitudes in this national park, enjoying the walk to the Russell Falls, and wandering amidst the sub-alpine flora. Good opportunities for Echidnas and wallabies today along the road verge. Return to Hobart.



Dec 01 This morning take the ferry to the renowned Bruny Island. Travel south to Inala, a 'Land for Wildlife' private reserve. Evening excursion to view wildlife, Possums, Pademelons and Quolls tonight. Stay Bruny Island tonight.

Dec 02 Explore Inala and gain further insights into the endemic wildlife and birdlife of this unique region. It is home to 90 bird species (including all the Tasmanian endemic species), an amazing diversity of plant species and many mammals, reptiles and amphibians. South Bruny National Park encompasses the wild and spectacular southern coast of the island. Take afternoon walks through coastal forest, in particular to view the renowned 'Christmas bells' – *Blandfordia punicea*. Return to Hobart.

Dec 03 Depart for western Tasmania, and Lake St Clair National Park, on the central highlands. We walk through black peppermint forest on the shores of the lake, watching for echidnas. We shall also discover montane banksia woodland, and lakeshore turf flora. Stay Lake St Clair tonight.



Dec 04 This morning, drive through the pass between the Cradle Mountain region and the Franklin-Gordon River National Park. On King William Saddle look for giant irises, asteliads and trigger flowers. This shall bring us to the mining regions in the west, centred on Queenstown. Mining remains an important part of Tasmanian life, but there are continuing conflicts with conservation values. We continue to Strahan on the shores of the MacQuarrie Harbour. Stay Strahan tonight.

Dec 05 Optional cruise on this beautiful harbour and into the Gordon River World Heritage Area. Good opportunities for Rough Faced Shag, Osprey, Snakes, and Huon Pines (Approx. \$A95.00). Mid afternoon drive on to Cradle Valley, and Cradle Mountain National Park. Good opportunities for Echidnas later today along the road verge. Stay Cradle Mountain two nights.

Dec 06 Lake Dove and vicinity. Great hikes to Crater Lake and Cradle Mountain depart from this area. Evening excursion to find Wombats, Pademelons, Bennett's Wallabies, and possible Quolls.



Dec 07 Morning walks along the Cradle Valley boardwalk or walks through Pencil Pine and King Billy Pine dominated forest. We depart Cradle Mountain and travel north towards the coast. This evening you may opt to visit a Short-tailed Shearwater colony on The Nut, or the Fairy penguins that come ashore at the base of the headland. Stay Stanley tonight.

Dec 08 Travel along the coast then inland to Loongana. In an idyllic setting, this locality is unsurpassed for viewing Tasmanian Devils in their natural state, while platypus swim up and down the adjacent river. Stay Mountain Valley Resort.

Dec 09 This morning we shall seek the Platypus in the wild as it glides through the ponds at the Tasmanian Arboretum. Later we travel to Narawntapu National Park. We walk in this coastal park with its abundant marsupial wildlife – good opportunities for Forester's Kangaroos, Tiger Snakes, and to view dune flora and melaleuca-sheoak woodland. Late afternoon arrive Launceston. Stay two nights.



Dec 10 Free day in Launceston. Lunch and dinner not provided today. You may opt to walk and explore in the spectacular Cataract Gorge, or the art and woodcraft galleries in the town.

Dec 11 Day excursion to Ben Lomond National Park. We drive up through eucalyptus forest and past the organ pipes to reach a high elevated plateau at 1500m. Make the most of magnificent scenery, plateau walking and unsurpassed alpine flora. This afternoon travel south through the Midlands to Eastern Tasmania. Stay Bicheno two nights.

Dec 12 Today we discover the delightful surroundings and landscapes of Freycinet National Park. Walk to Wineglass Bay. Granite outcrops, rugged peaks, crystal clear water, stunning orchids and wonderfully barked local eucalypt trees abound. Explore the eastern coastline of the Freycinet Peninsula before returning to Bicheno late afternoon.



Dec 13 Morning drive to Hobart for final night. Mt Wellington provides a dramatic backdrop to the city of Hobart. We gain our final insight into the Tasmanian alpine environment followed by walks through montane dry sclerophyll forest mid-altitude. Stay our final night in Hobart.

Dec 14 Fly on to Melbourne or Sydney this morning to connect with international flights.

**FOREST & BIRD
TOURS
SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION**



**Forest
& Bird**
TE REO O TE TAIAO
Giving Nature a Voice

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Mark Hanger 021 680 524 or email
m.hanger@forestandbird.org.nz**

Fundraising for Forest & Bird
Profits from all of these tours will go to the Society.