

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# AUSTRALIA

2023-2024 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



**FIRST CHOICE** 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 24**

**BEST BUYS** 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**



# Tassie's Wilderness Icons



## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Do as much (spot wombats and Tassie devils after dark) or as little (sip wine by the fire) as you like. This is your holiday, after all.


### 📍 Iconic Sites

From Cataract Gorge to the Gordon River, Cradle Mountain to 'The Nut', Tasmania is not short on natural attractions.

### 📷 Time For You

The view from the top of Stanley's 'The Nut' is impressive. But if you don't fancy a hike, then explore the atmospheric town at your own pace.

### 🌱 Sustainable Travel

 Your entry fees into the state's national parks assist with the conservation of these pristine natural environments.

### 🏔 Natural Wonders

World Heritage-listed wilderness is your playground in Mount Field National Park, a soul-stirring union of soaring eucalypts and thundering waterfalls.



## 1 Welcome to Hobart

At the mouth of the River Derwent, Australia's southernmost city embraces its history, but has one eye firmly planted on the future. You only need to visit Salamanca Place to see how forward-thinking purveyors and curators have transformed heritage spaces into restaurants, cafés and galleries. Step back in time once again at Battery Point, settled as a defensive outpost in the 19th century, and Constitution Dock – this is where yachts finish when competing in the annual Sydney to Hobart race. Put your destination into perspective from the summit of Mt. Nelson, offering a dreamy outlook over the Tassie capital. **Hotel: Best Western. D**

## 2 Hobart – Strahan

Not many people live in the West of Tasmania – even less visit. This is not for want of appeal. Mount Field National Park dials up the drama from the moment you arrive, delivering World Heritage listed wilderness in the form of soaring eucalypts (some of the tallest on Earth) and thundering waterfalls. Russell Falls will take your breath away in more ways than one. And just when you think nature couldn't get any more humbling, you arrive at Lake St. Clair, the deepest freshwater lake in Australia. It's one of numerous waterways breaking your path to Strahan, gateway to World Heritage listed Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. **Hotel: Strahan Village. B D**

## 3 Strahan – Cradle Mountain

The inky waters of the Gordon River – given its colour by amber button-grass tannins – are as eerie as they are beautiful, the mirror-like surface only broken by your chariot out to Sarah Island. It's hard to reconcile the beauty of this part of the state with its grim history as a penal colony; a place where convicts would fell Huon pines for boat building. Thankfully, they didn't get to the 2,000-year-old pine that still stands proud at Heritage Landing. Early settlers didn't mince their words when they called the treacherous entrance to the river's harbour Hells Gates. You'll understand why when you drift past. Cradle Mountain awaits to the north. If you're content by the fire with a glass of wine – stay there. Otherwise, follow your guide into the night to spot Tassie devils. **Hotel: Cradle Mountain. B L D**

## 4 Cradle Mountain – Smithton

When the first thing you see is 1,545-metre Cradle Mountain, you know you're in for a good day. This is your backdrop as you wander to Dove Lake, a natural magnet for Bennetts wallabies, echidnas, and pademelons. Just when you thought the west coast couldn't get any more dramatic, 'The Nut' appears on the horizon. This 152-metre bluff created by the remains of an ancient volcanic plug guards over Stanley, an atmospheric fishing village with remarkably well-preserved heritage buildings. Browse boutiques at your leisure, or lace up your walking shoes – The Nut summit awaits. **Hotel: Tall Timbers. B D**

## 5 Smithton – Launceston

While you may not see any shy, nocturnal penguins on your visit to the town of Penguin, you will find dozens of statues commemorating just how cute these creatures are. Be sure to snap a picture in front of the 10-metre-high installation. You'll also want to have your camera ready arriving in Sheffield, home to a surprise collection of 60 murals telling the area's history. All this exploring builds an appetite. Refuel at Ashgrove Tasmanian Farm, where happy cows contribute to award-winning cheeses – everything from cheddar and red Leicester to creamy Tasmanian blue are yours for the tasting. **Hotel: Best Western Plus. B**

## 6 Farewell from Launceston

There are few places in the world where you can leave the city behind and within minutes be amid an immense wilderness area. Launceston is one. Blink and you're at Cataract Gorge, a yawning chasm carved by ancient rivers. This rare natural phenomenon unites bushland with neat Victorian gardens, replete with ferns and exotic plants. Get a different perspective of the green cavern on the optional scenic chairlift, zipping you over the water to a lofty lookout. You won't want your time here to come to an end; it's a good thing you have afternoon options. Perhaps linger in Launceston's pretty streets, or get a taste for the region on a Tamar Valley wine tour. How you end your Tasmanian tour is completely up to you. **B**



Cradle Mountain

## 10 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023 continued	2024
Oct 08, 19, 26	Apr 01, 12, 22	Jan 03, 10, 13, 24, 31
Nov 02, 05, 16, 26, 30	May 03, 13	Feb 03, 14, 21, 28
Dec 07, 17, 28	Jun 28	Mar 09, 13, 20
	Jul 26	
	Aug 23	
2023	2023	
Jan 04, 11, 14, 25	Sep 06, 26	
Feb 01, 04, 15, 22	Oct 07, 18, 25	
Mar 01, 11, 15, 22	Nov 01, 04, 15, 25, 29	
	Dec 06, 16, 23	

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 Apr 2024 at [atkings.com](http://atkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

### Dining

5 Full breakfasts B                      4 Dinners D  
1 Lunch L

### Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 12.30pm into Hobart Airport  
Day 6 – flights to depart after 2.00pm from Launceston Airport  
**Flights are not included in the holiday price**

### Upgrade

Start & end your tour in Hobart. See Tasmanian Wonders page 74.



## Extend Your Holiday

### Bruny Island Traveller

If you would like to spend more time in Hobart to immerse yourself in the local flavours of the city, why not book extra nights' accommodation before your guided holiday? Explore spectacular landscapes and gourmet local produce on Bruny Island. This is a delicious day out where every course on the menu is a stop on your journey. Visit the home of Bruny Island's cheese, oysters, fudge, honey, wine and whisky to savour their produce and hear the stories behind the harvest. At every stop sit back, relax and enjoy a fully-inclusive experience. Throughout the day you'll see incredible scenery. Take a stroll and leave your 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. Travel with a local guide, who will show you the very best of what the island has to offer.

We recommend you book your accommodation and optional experience at the same time as your holiday.



- START
- END
- ① Number of night stays
- Sightseeing stops

