

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 26**

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

Tassie's Parks & Nature

Highlights

Local Connection

Cheese, wine, whisky and cider all await in Tassie. Go behind the scenes with the makers, including farmer Guy Robertson for a Be My Guest lunch.

Cultural Immersion

Listen to local street performers as you taste delicious homegrown produce at Tassie's iconic Salamanca Market.

Sustainable Footprints

Your visit contributes to National Parks and Wildlife, protecting Tasmania's wilderness including the Franklin-Gordon Rivers.

Wildlife & Nature

Carved by ice during glaciations over the last two million years, Lake St. Clair is the deepest of its kind in Australia. Added bonus – it's surrounded by World Heritage listed Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park.



Cradle Mountain

1 Welcome to Hobart

The Tasmanian capital packs a lot of punch into such a small perimeter, from restaurants that garner global praise to moody wine bars, eye-opening galleries, waterside walks and character-filled historic precincts. Explore at your leisure before meeting the adventurous souls over a Welcome Dinner. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor, 2 nights. DW**

2 City Sights and Salamanca Market

This morning you'll see what makes Hobart tick, from the leafy Botanical Gardens, your MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, to historic Battery Point and Cascade Brewery. Your donation to The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens contributes to their conservation projects, Seed Bank, and care and upkeep of these picturesque gardens. It all fits neatly together when you get some perspective from the lofty Mt. Nelson Lookout, gazing over the River Derwent, all the way to Bruny Island in the south. Three hundred – that's the number of stalls you'll navigate this afternoon at Hobart's mighty Salamanca Market. Get your heart started sampling gin and whisky, or order a coffee and pick up made-in-Tasmania arts and crafts. The precinct, amid historic sandstone buildings, is almost as pretty as the produce. **B**

3 Hobart – Strahan

The West Coast of Tassie is wild – in the best possible way. The air seems cleaner, the lakes cooler, the colours brighter, the waterfalls larger... as you'll discover when the mist envelops you at tiered Russell Falls. This is part of Mt. Field National Park, the state's most diverse nature reserve. Speaking of breaking records, Lake St. Clair is the deepest of its kind in Australia, carved by ice during glaciations over the last two million years. Pausing here puts life into perspective. Skirt the World Heritage listed Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, characterised by soaring Huon pines, before arriving in Strahan. Small in population but big in personality, the town overlooks the immense Macquarie Harbour. Did you know it's seven times the size of Sydney Harbour? **Hotel: Strahan Village. B DW**

4 Strahan – Cradle Mountain

Today's watery welcome is the deep, dark Gordon River, its expanse coloured by tannins from button grass. Soak up the silence of this

untouched wilderness area on a cruise out to Sarah Island, a former penal settlement – Tassie's oldest – where convicts laboured under harsh conditions felling pines for boat-building. The haunting ruins that remain have been reclaimed by the rainforest, telling a chilling story of life on the land. As do mining towns Rosebery and Tullah, enveloped by dense forest and volcanic mountains. This is your backdrop en route to immense Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park, a mecca for some of Australia's most elusive wildlife: keep watch for Tasmanian devils and platypuses. **Hotel: Cradle Mountain, 2 nights. B L DW**

5 Cradle Mountain

Cradle Mountain is pristine – it owes much of its protected status to early settlers Gustav and Kate Weindorfer, who were pivotal in championing the conservation of the area. Their efforts are remembered at Waldheim Chalet, their former home, set among myrtles and King Billy pines that gradually give way to moss covered ancient rainforests and deep river gorges, snow-tipped peaks and wild alpine moorlands. This is the heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, carved by glacial waterways like Dove Lake. You can see why Bennetts wallabies, echidnas, wombats and pademelons live here – you, too, will find it hard to tear yourself away. If you're a night person, consider enlisting to spot Tassie's nocturnal animals, whether at a devil sanctuary or in the wild. **B DW**

6 Cradle Mountain – Launceston

Bring your appetite – today you'll try some of the state's standout produce. Tasmania has its fair share of award-winning gin and whisky distilleries, as well as small boutique breweries. Among them is a seaside tap house found in the petite town of Penguin. If there's a place with a cuter name, we're yet to locate it on a map. Sit back and enjoy a tasting paddle of local brew whilst taking in the views overlooking glorious Bass Strait. Steel yourself for the ciders fermented at Mount Gnomon Farm. Here, passionate farmer Guy Robertson will pour brews made from apples grown in his orchard, before you sit down to a farm-to-table Be My Guest lunch. Then you're on your way to quirky Sheffield, the 'Town of Murals', before travelling through the Meander Valley to Launceston. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor. B BG**

7 Farewell from Launceston

Your final day ends on a high in Cataract Gorge, a rare natural phenomenon on the outskirts of Launceston. There's bushland on one side, and a Victorian garden replete with ferns and exotic plants on the other. Get a different perspective of the green cavern on the scenic chairlift, zipping you over the water to a lofty lookout. You can't leave Tassie without sipping a few of its cool-climate wines, perhaps a pinot noir or flute of sparkling enjoyed overlooking the manicured grounds of the Josef Chromy Estate. Sample the range, then settle in with your favourite drop enjoyed over lunch. This afternoon is yours: if you're not heading home yet, we recommend extending your adventure with an optional cruise along the Tamar River. A fitting end to a week of wonderment. **B L**



Mount Gnomon Farm

7 DAYS 11 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 13	Jan 19	Jan 17
Nov 10	Feb 09	Feb 07, 28
Dec 08	Mar 01, 22	Mar 21
	Apr 19	
	Sep 13	
	Oct 11	
	Nov 08	
	Dec 06, 27	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aakings.com/thhl or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

6 Full breakfasts B 2 Lunches L
1 Be My Guest lunch BG 4 Dinners with wine DW

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 3.00pm into Hobart Airport

Day 7 – flights to depart after 5.00pm from Launceston Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

Upgrade

Start & end your tour in Hobart. See Perfect Tasmania page 46.



● START

● END

① Number of night stays

● Sightseeing stops

