

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

8th to 26th January 2027 (19 days)

TASMANIA

marsupials and wilderness wildlife

"the holiday was
wonderful"

"brilliant - something new
and interesting every day!"

Tasmania 2016

Iconic Australian wildlife amidst the spectacular scenery of this wilderness island.

Isolated from the mainland since the last glaciation, Tasmania is an island of **stunning landscapes**, beautiful untouched wilderness areas and a unique flora and fauna. Our tour will explore the key habitats to give a thorough introduction to the **island's special wildlife**.

The native mammal life of the island is still plentiful and we will be making a particular effort to catch up with some of these special beasts: our trip should give us a good chance of sighting such iconic animals as the **Tasmanian Devil** and Platypus, as well as Short-beaked Echidna, Eastern Quoll and various possums and wallabies.

There is much more to Tasmania than 'just' marsupials and monotremes, of course: the island is home to over 600 **endemic plants** and more than 200 birds, with 14 endemics including the delightfully named Forty-spotted Pardalote: our leaders will do their best to ensure we don't leave the island without finding as many as possible!

We start in the island's capital Hobart, from where we will enjoy the alpine flora of Mount Wellington and the endemic birdlife of **Bruny Island**. Our circuit of the island takes in Gordon River World Heritage Site, Cradle Mountain National Park, the remote Tarkine wilderness and the beautiful **Freycinet peninsula**, via a dusk encounter with 13,000 Short-tailed Shearwaters at their nesting colony on 'the Nut'.

Our guide for this trip is **Mark Hanger**, a renowned naturalist guide and leader of our very popular New Zealand holidays. Mark's expert guiding will ensure we have a wonderful wilderness experience.



Price

£6,385

Single Room Supplement

£1,100

(does not include flights)

Full board

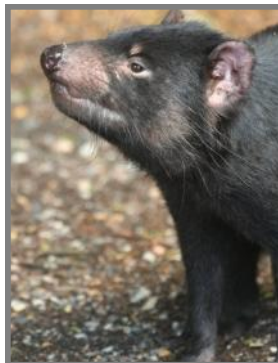
Day 1 arrive Hobart
Day 2 Mount Field
Day 3-4 Bruny Island
Day 5 Huon Valley/Hartz M'tns
Day 6 Lake St Clair
Day 7 King William Saddle
Day 8 Strahan, Gordon River
Day 9 Tarkine, Stanley
Day 10-11 Cradle Mountain
Day 12 Mountain Valley Resort
Day 13 Narawntapu
Day 14 Launceston
Day 15 Ben Lomond
Day 16 Freycinet Peninsula
Day 17 Eaglehawk Neck
Day 18 Mount Wellington
Day 19 Hobart, end of holiday

Leaders

Philip Precey
and Mark Hanger

Group size

min 4, max 14



ITINERARY

Please note that we may change the itinerary to suit local weather and road conditions or for other practical reasons, at the leaders' discretion.

Day 1 Fri 8th January The holiday starts at **Hobart**, where we will meet up at our central Hobart hotel in time for dinner. o/n Hobart

PLEASE NOTE *International flights and travel to/from Hobart are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements. Virgin and Qantas both fly to Hobart.*

Day 2 Sat 9th January Lying just an hour west of Hobart is **Mount Field National Park**, with alpine moorlands, spectacular mountain scenery and an excellent diversity of alpine species including several *Richea*, *Ewartias*, and *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. For the mammal enthusiast, there will be good opportunities for spotting our first marsupials or monotremes, with Short-beaked Echidna and Bennett's Wallaby likely today along the road verge. Birds today could include our first Tasmanian endemics: Black Currawong, Scrubtit and Yellow Wattlebird. Return to Hobart late afternoon. o/n Hobart

Day 3 Sun 10th January This morning we will leave the 'big city' of Hobart behind us, as we take the 20 minute ferry across to the renowned island of **Bruny**. After dinner, we will have our first evening excursion: various marsupials including Rufous-bellied Pademelon, 'golden' Brush-tailed Possum and the wonderful Eastern Quoll are possible, as well as lovely Little Penguins at their nest sites at 'The Neck'. o/n Bruny Island

Day 4 Mon 11th January We will spend today exploring Inala, a 'Land for Wildlife' property on South Bruny, and gain further insights into the endemic wildlife and birdlife of this unique region. Inala is a 205 hectare property, home to 90 bird species, including all but one of the Tasmanian endemic species: we hope to track down the tiny Forty-spotted Pardalote and Swift Parrot, amongst others. The property is also home to almost 40 species of native terrestrial orchids, an amazing diversity of plant species and several species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

South Bruny National Park encompasses the wild and spectacular southern coast of the island: our afternoon walk here will take us out to Cape Bruny, where we will look for the renowned 'Christmas Bells' *Blandfordia punicea*. o/n Bruny Island

Day 5 Tue 12th January An early morning departure sees us catching the ferry back to the mainland, where we travel south to the Huon Valley and the nearby **Hartz Mountains**. A visit to the canopy walkway at Tahune will give us greater insight into the myrtle and sassafras forests. o/n Hobart



Day 6 Wed 13th January We leave Hobart for western Tasmania. In **Lake St Clair National Park**, on the central highlands, we take a walk through Black Peppermint forest on the shores of the lake. We will explore montane Banksia woodland and lakeshore turf flora. o/n Lake St Clair

Day 7 Thu 14th January This morning we drive over the pass between the Cradle Mountain region and the Franklin-Gordon River National Park. On **King William Saddle**, we will look for *Billardiera*, *Callistemon* (Tasmanian Bottlebrush) and *Diplarraena*. Our journey brings us to the mining regions in the west, centred on Queenstown. After learning of the significance to Tasmania of the minerals formerly and, in places, still extracted from these hills, we continue to Strahan on the shores of the MacQuarrie Harbour. o/n Strahan

Day 8 Fri 15th January This morning we have the chance to take an optional cruise in the beautiful harbour and into the **Gordon River World Heritage Area** (approx. cost \$A125.00). As well as being scenically spectacular, the cruise gives good opportunities for viewing Black-faced Shag and Osprey as well as the Huon Pine which can reach in excess of 2,000 years in age. Alternatively you may opt to visit Strahan airstrip, home to the endangered Eastern Ground Parrot; or just relax around town. Mid afternoon we will drive up to Stanley, on the north coast. o/n Stanley

Day 9 Sat 16th January Situated in Tasmania's north-west, the **Tarkine Forest Reserve** is a huge area of wilderness with strong links to Tasmania's aboriginal people. Although not a designated national park, the Tarkine contains a wildly diverse landscape, including Australia's largest area of temperate rainforest, as well as wild rivers, buttongrass moorlands and a rugged coastline with long sandy beaches and coastal heathland.

This evening we visit **The Nut**, an ancient volcanic plug on the edge of Stanley. As the sun sets, Short-tailed Shearwaters (also known as Muttonbirds, after the local tradition of collecting the young for food) return to their nest burrows. o/n Stanley

Day 10 Sun 17th January After some time to relax a little in Stanley village, we will drive inland, to Cradle Valley and **Cradle Mountain National Park**. This afternoon, there will be time for a walk along the Cradle Valley boardwalk, through forests dominated by Pencil Pine and King Billy Pine. o/n Cradle Valley



Photos: (clockwise from top). *Dipodium roseum*, Short-beaked Echidna, view from The Nut, Eastern Quoll, Shouldered Brown, Common Wombat, Yellow-throated Honeyeater

Day 11 Mon 18th January We travel into the heart of the National Park, to the vicinity of **Lake Dove**. We will explore the area, with great hikes departing from here to Crater Lake and Cradle Mountain. There is also the possibility for an optional visit to the Tasmanian Devil breeding centre. Today's evening excursion will be looking for Common Wombat, Bennett's Wallaby and, with luck, Spotted-tailed Quoll. o/n Cradle Valley

Day 12 Tue 19th January Today we head along the coast and then inland to the **Mountain Valley Resort**. In an idyllic setting, an evening here offers us the best chances anywhere on the island of watching Tasmanian Devils in the wild, now a very rare opportunity. o/n Mountain Valley Resort

Day 13 Wed 20th January Our target this morning will be the graceful Platypus, which we will look for first in the creeks adjacent to the resort and then in ponds at the Tasmanian Arboretum. Then it is off to the northern coast and the **Narawntapu National Park**. This park has abundant marsupial wildlife, including Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Southern Bettong and Common Wombat. o/n Launceston

Day 14 Thu 21st January A **free day in Launceston**, time to relax around town, visit the nearby Tasmania Zoo, with its breeding programme for Tasmanian Devils or maybe walk the spectacular Cataract Gorge. *Lunch and dinner not included today.* o/n Launceston

Day 15 Fri 22nd January Today we spend the day exploring **Ben Lomond National Park**. The ski-field access road gives us access to the high elevated plateau at 1,500m. We will make the most of the magnificent scenery and unsurpassed alpine flora. After our time on the plateau, we travel south through the Midlands, visiting the historic settlement of Ross en route to Bicheno, in the scenic Freycinet National Park. o/n Bicheno

Day 16 Sat 23rd January We relax amidst the delightful surroundings of our oceanside lodge by Coles Bay, then walk to the famous **Wineglass Bay**, with its almost circular sweep of white sandy beach. Granite outcrops, rugged peaks, crystal clear water, stunning orchids, wonderfully barked local eucalypt trees and Oyster Bay Pines, all combine to make this a superb locality from which to enjoy the coastal natural heritage. o/n Bicheno.

Day 17 Sun 24th January Today we travel to the Tasman Peninsula, from where we will take a two hour boat trip along the impressive coastline between **Eaglehawk Neck** and Cape Hauy. With our small vessel we can nose deep into colourful caves and get within a whisker's-length of fur seals. Along the way we will look out for dolphins and albatrosses, along with various other seabirds. o/n Tasman Peninsula

Day 18 Mon 25th January A morning drive takes us back down to Hobart. **Mount Wellington** provides a dramatic backdrop to the city, and we will head up to the summit, for our final walk through the montane sclerophyll forests below the peak. o/n Hobart

Day 19 Sun 26th January Our time on 'Tassie' comes to an end, as we return to Hobart airport for onward flights.



OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP VICTORIA EXTENSION

**PRICE £765 per person,
Single room supplement £170**

Day 01 Wed 6th January After arriving at Melbourne Airport, transfer to central Melbourne hotel. o/n Melbourne

Day 02 Thu 7th January We begin a two day excursion west of Melbourne. We start by heading into the **You Yang Ranges**, where we will look for Koala amongst the eucalypt forest, and learn about the conservation research being carried out here.

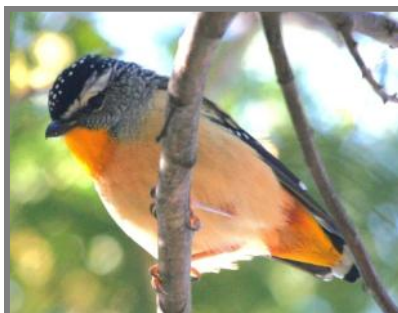
Birdlife of these dry bushlands we can expect to find include the White-winged Chough, which lives in social groups roaming the forest floor, along with noisy Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Galah.

In the nearby **Serendip Sanctuary** we will look for more iconic Australian species, including Emu and Eastern Grey Kangaroo, while the 'billabong' wetland is home to Magpie Goose. o/n Melbourne

Day 03 Fri 8th January Today we travel to the **Dandenong Ranges**, where we will visit the cool temperate rainforest and tall mountain ash forest to look for Superb Lyrebird, King Parrot and various other eastern species we won't have the chance to see on Tasmania. We also visit a large 'camp' of Grey-headed Flying Fox at their daytime roost on the banks of the Yarra River.

In the afternoon, we travel back to Melbourne Airport, for our onward flight across to Hobart.

For those joining us on the pre-trip extension, we will co-ordinate flight bookings to travel to Hobart together.



Photos: (from top) Spotted Pardalote, Musk Lorikeet, Superb Fairy Wren, Galah, Grey-headed Flying-Fox, Koala, *Richea pandanifolia* at Cradle Mountain



Leaders and guides

Philip Precey will be familiar to our travellers as an experienced Wildlife Travel leader, having led more than 90 of our holidays over the past 20 years, from Norfolk to New Caledonia. This will be Philip's third visit to Tasmania.

Our guide for this thorough exploration of Tasmania will be **Mark Hanger**. Mark was employed with the New Zealand National Parks and Reserves Service in Otago for seven years, before starting NatureQuest New Zealand in 1988. Mark is a renowned naturalist guide, who led our previous two visits to Tasmania, as well as our visits to New Caledonia, Western Australia and his home country of New Zealand.

Weather

Tasmania's summer months are December to February, bringing high temperatures and sunshine. Days are long and sunny, nights are mild. Summer is an excellent time for walking in the bush and a variety of other outdoor activities. Tasmania has a relaxed lifestyle, so dress will be informal at all times. Bring comfortable clothing and anticipate a similar range of temperatures to Britain - it should be pleasantly warm/hot in the east of the island but, as in all mountainous areas, expect some cold and windy weather in the West. Rain is possible at all times. Comfortable footwear is essential -as it must be strong enough to withstand rough ground underfoot; walking boots or stout shoes are recommended. Likely temperature range is 10 C to 25 C.

Health and Fitness

This is an 19-day tour, stopping at several locations, and you therefore need to be generally fit and able to cope with 'living out of a suitcase' and frequent journeys between areas, with some long travel days (albeit with regular stops to stretch our legs).

On some days we will not be walking very far, but on others we will take longer walks. We do not do any strenuous hikes but we may be out for a few hours at a time on some days. Most walking will be at a slow pace to give us the time to enjoy the plants, scenery and wildlife. If you are a slow walker however, please ring us to discuss whether any of the walks will be a problem. All walks are, optional, with less energetic options available.

To see the best of the flowers, it is necessary to walk on rougher **ground and up small slopes**. Comfortable footwear is essential, and it must be strong enough to withstand rough or rocky ground underfoot: walking boots or stout walking shoes are recommended.

The sun can be very strong and **sun protection is essential**. Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover is essential for this trip. Safety advice given by the leaders must be heeded at all times particularly when walking in the countryside. We will send you advice on health and safety issues before the tour.



Travel

We shall be using an air-conditioned coach throughout with microphone, ample luggage storage in the trailer, and tea and coffee provisions. The coach will travel on the Bruny Island ferry with the group.

Accommodation and Meals

All accommodation is of a very comfortable standard and all rooms have en-suite accommodation. In most locations it is average to good standard, 3 star equivalent, although higher than this on occasion.

All meals are included in the holiday price, with the exception of lunch and dinner on day 14, your free day in Launceston.

Entry requirements

To enter Australia, your passport must be valid for the length of your planned stay. If you are transiting another country on your way to or from Australia, check the entry requirements for that country. Many countries require at least 6 months validity remaining on your passport, even if you're just in transit and do not pass through immigration.

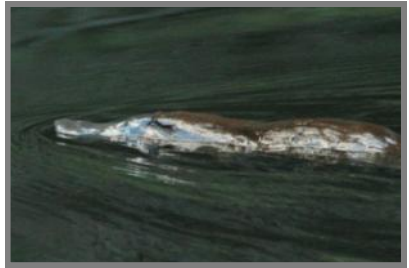
British passport holders must apply for an eVisitor visa before arranging their travel to Australia. The eVisitor is free, and can be applied for at www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisa

For up to date information, please check **www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/australia**

Holders of other passports should check with the relevant embassy.

Photos: (clockwise from top)

Platypus, *Xerochrysum subundulatum*, Green Rosella, *Banksia marginata*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, New Holland Honeyeater, *Epacris impressa*, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, *Bellendenkera montana*



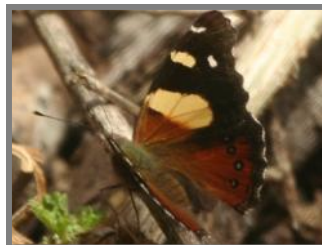
Travelling to Tasmania

PLEASE NOTE International flights and travel to/from Hobart are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements. You may want to extend your holiday in Tasmania, spend time elsewhere in Australia or have a stopover in Asia. We can arrange extra nights' accommodation in Hobart or Melbourne, before or after the tour.

If you would like Sunvil to book your flight, please ring their Sales Department on 0208 847 3041. The flight will be invoiced and needs to be paid for separately. Other travel agents are, of course, available to book your flights.

Insurance

Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover is essential for this trip.



TO BOOK: Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Then complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT PER PERSON £500, SECOND INSTALMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £1,500 (to cover committed costs)
BALANCE DUE BY 09/10/2026**

INCLUDED: Local transport as specified in the itinerary. 18 nights accommodation (extra 2 nights pre-trip extension), full board basis: all meals from dinner day 1 to breakfast day 19, EXCEPT lunch and dinner on Day 14. All excursions as described in the itinerary, except those shown as optional. Admission fees and National Park permit fees, where appropriate. Services of leaders and guides.

NOT INCLUDED: International flights, to/from Hobart. Optional activities (eg Gordon River boat trip). Lunch and evening meal on Day 14. Refreshments. Entrance fees during any optional sightseeing. Items of a personal nature. Gratuities. Travel insurance. Visa costs.

Deposit, second instalment and cancellation amounts are set in order to allow us to confirm the holiday as soon as possible based on the minimum number of clients needed to cover shared costs and to prevent us from having to cancel the holiday if any individual bookings are cancelled thereafter.

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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Photos (front): Bennett's Wallaby on Bruny Island; Tasmanian Devil; *Blandfordia punicea* at Cape Bruny; Cradle Lake, Cradle Mountain National Park. (above): Rufous-bellied Pademelon, Yellow Admiral. Trip reports from our previous visits to Tasmania can be found on our website, along with a gallery of photos on our Flickr pages.