



Roseworthy Agricultural College Reunion Tasmanian Tour 2017

Thursday 2nd March

Arrive Launceston

Travel to Tasmania, and on arrival into Launceston make your own way to the Village Family Motor Inn where the rest of your group will be staying this evening. Dinner is at your own expense.

Stay:

Launceston – Village Family Motor Inn

1 Night

Friday 3rd March

Midlands Highway to Hobart

Enjoy a continental breakfast before checking out. Today you are heading south down the Midlands Highway to Hobart.

- **Ross. One of Tasmania's favourite Historical Townships, Ross is a much see location in the Midlands. In its formative years Ross benefitted from the prosperity of its surrounding land owners who directly employed villagers or supported the businesses that developed. As a result, Ross evolved into the beautiful Georgian village it is today. This story is told in the Wool and Heritage galleries with many artefacts, pictures and documents on display. The smell of sheep's wool pervades the air as you enter the Wool exhibition. A re-created shearing shed complete with thrown fleece on its sorting table and manual wool press provide a glimpse of past times. Many breeds of sheep's wool are also on view to feel and inspect. Then a local expert will board your bus for an informative tour of the town, the Ross Bridge a highlight.**
- **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Hobart. These gardens were established on slopes beside the River Derwent in 1818. Now in the 13.5 hectare site there are 6500 species and varieties of plants, including the largest public conifer collection in the southern hemisphere. There are more than 400 Tasmanian plant species on display, Peter Cundall's vegie patch, a stunning conservatory and a Japanese garden. Beds of annuals provide a changing display four times a year. The Arthur Wall, near the main gate, could be internally heated so that exotic trees and plants could be grown for the kitchen garden. Although its many years since the fires have been lit, the wall retains the sun's warmth for days. Now it supports flowering creepers. Near the wall is a traditional herb garden. A new attraction is the sub Antarctic plant house featuring plants from Macquarie Island. Although 330,000 people a year visit the gardens, the impression of peace and solitude, not crowds, is the one that remains with the visitor. At the Botanical Discovery Centre are interactive displays that include information of the rich and diverse Tasmanian flora, including their distribution and how to propagate them.**
- **Cascade Brewery Tour. It has been called a must-do Hobart experience. Here you'll learn about Australia's oldest brewery, its finest beers, the brewing process and a little something our brewers call 'The Feel'. Intertwine it with some of the brewers' stories and the beautiful 'Woodstock' gardens, before topping it off with a real taste of history - a fresh one directly from the taps.**
- **Dinner tonight will be a buffet dinner in your hotel at the Coffee Shop**

Stay:

Hobart – Wrest Point Hotel (Motor Inn rooms)

3 Nights

Saturday 4th March

Hobart

After a buffet breakfast in the Coffee Shop, spend the day in and around the city.

- ***Mt Wellington. Although protected as a reserve and not a national park, Wellington Park contains a wealth of wilderness right on Hobart's doorstep, with majestic Kunanyi/Mount Wellington towering above the city. Only in Tasmania would you find so much wilderness and natural beauty so close to the city. The 21 km drive to the summit passes through temperate rainforest to sub-alpine flora and glacial rock formations, and ends with panoramic views of Hobart, Bruny Island, the D'Entrecasteux Channel and into the South West Wilderness.***

- ***Every Saturday, Salamanca Place comes alive with the famous Salamanca Market. Set between graceful plane trees and the mellow sandstone facades of historic warehouses, Hobart's famous market at Salamanca Place attracts thousands of locals and visitors, every Saturday of the year. Over 300 stallholders sell fresh and gourmet produce, arts, crafts and handiwork from all over Tasmania, interstate and overseas.***

And even the location itself is spectacular. The simple Georgian warehouses lining Salamanca Place were built in the 1830s to house grain, wool, whale oil and imported goods. Today the warehouses have been reinvented as galleries, theatres, cafes, bars and restaurants. Browse boutiques selling jewellery, fashion and urban design or meander through an underground bookstore.

- ****** Alternative option. Instead of Salamanca Market travel out to Plenty to visit the Salmon Ponds. To the European immigrants in the mid 1800's, the Australian environment was very different to the land they had left behind. To make their new surroundings more like 'home' they introduced European plants and animals. Salmon was one of the many species chosen for introduction, largely because of the popularity of fishing but also because of the unexpected economic benefits.***

After a number of failed attempts to transport them, the first live salmon and a small number of trout eggs arrived at these ponds in May 1864. Originally this hatchery was built to receive salmon eggs (ova) sent from England. Salmon are migratory fish, spending part of their life at sea. It was expected that once released, the fish hatched at Plenty would return to the Derwent River. Several releases were tried, but for some unknown reason, the Salmon never returned. A small number of trout eggs, however, had been included with the first shipment of salmon eggs. They were hatched and raised along with the salmon. Unlike salmon, trout are generally non-migratory and they quickly became established throughout the State's lakes and streams. The foundation of today's valuable recreational fisheries had been laid. Trout ova from Plenty were later used to establish hatcheries throughout Australia and New Zealand. Subject to time, travel back into Hobart and Brooke Street Pier to catch the MONA ferry, but as the coach will drive past MONA, if you are running behind time then the coach will take you straight there to visit the museum (see below).

- ***Lunch is own arrangements***
- ***MONA – Museum of Old and New Art. Museum of Old and New Art - MONA houses a collection that ranges from ancient Egyptian mummies to some of the world's most infamous and thought-provoking contemporary art. At a cost of \$AUD75 million, the building's subterranean design and the owner's unconventional and challenging curatorial approach make it a must-see for any visitor to Australia. The collection is currently valued at \$AUD100 million. MONA takes a different approach to interpretation: there are no labels or wall texts. Instead, visitors are given a touch-screen device, which is sensitive to their location in the***

museum – showing them works in their proximity. Called the ‘O’, it allows visitors to select the level of information they need and to vote for works they ‘hate’ or ‘love’.

Getting there !!!! Make your way to Brooke Street Pier, an easy walk from Salamanca Place, to board the 1.15pm ferry for a short cruise on the Derwent River to MONA.

- *Dinner tonight is own arrangements. Take advantage of one of the many dining options at Wrest Point, or venture to one of Hobart’s many fantastic restaurants.*

Sunday 5th March

Port Arthur

Enjoy your breakfast this morning then it’s off to the South East tip of Tasmania and the Tasman Peninsula. A light lunch is included today. Whilst in the region take time to visit some of the amazing coastal features which have been formed through millions of years of pounding waves from the Southern Ocean.

- *Port Arthur Historic Site. A guided tour will take you around the ruined buildings featuring over 30 buildings including the Asylum, Separate or Model Prison, Penitentiary, Church, Guard Tower, Hospital as well as many cottages. Listen to the guides tell of atrocities to convicts in the attempt to break their spirit, which sent many insane. Read of the petty offences committed resulting in transportation from England. Rumours abound of ghosts, so keep the camera handy just in case.*
- *Light lunch included.*
- *Port Arthur Harbour Cruise. The 20 minute harbour cruise offers a unique interpretation including an introduction to the ship building at Port Arthur, the boy’s prison of Point Puer, the Isle of the Dead and a magnificent coastline which remains unmatched.*
- *Tasman Peninsula Coastal Features. Joined to Tasmania by a narrow isthmus, this peninsula was selected as the site for a penal settlement due to being able to guard it easily. The sheer cliffs, as seen at the Tasman Arch and Devil’s Kitchen, combined with the violent currents shown at the Blow Hole, meant little chance of escape via the sea. Rumours of shark filled waters also discouraged convicts to swim for freedom. Soldiers and fierce mastiff dogs guarded the narrow isthmus. Other attractions to see (time permitting) are the Tessellated Pavement, Doo Town and the Remarkable Cave.*
- *Dinner tonight will be a buffet dinner in the Coffee Shop*

Monday 6th March

Hobart to Scamander

Check out after breakfast, and then it is on the road with today’s journey taking you up the east coast of the island. Today includes some wonderful coastal scenery as you travel up the coastline with breathtaking views over cliffs and white sandy beaches.

- *Richmond. Richmond was proclaimed a town by Lieutenant Governor Sorell in 1824. It played an important role as a convict station and military outpost in the early days of the colony. For much of its history it was the main gateway to the east coast and the Tasman Peninsula. You’ll get the most out of Richmond by wandering its streets. Artists and craftspeople have been drawn to the town for generations, and you’ll find examples of their work in galleries and cafes. See Australia’s oldest freestone bridge, Australia’s oldest Catholic Church as well as many specialty shops that line the narrow streets of this historic village (the lolly shop is a favourite).*
- *Buckland. Settled in 1820 and originally known as Prosser Plains, Buckland is best known for the historic Church of St John the Baptist. Convict built in 1846, the church was constructed as a replica of the church at Cookham Dean in Sussex and is famous for its 14th Century stained glass window. This stunning window is thought to have been originally designed for the Battle Abbey in England .*

- Lisdillon Salt Works.** Although they operated only briefly in the late 1830s, the salt works established by James Radcliff at 'Lisdillon' were well-constructed and technologically innovative. The Lisdillon salt works site is one of only two early salt manufacture works in eastern Australia where substantial remains can still be found.

James Radcliff, a bachelor from Belfast, arrived in Van Diemens Land in 1830. He settled on a 2560 acre grant of land at Little Swanport, which he named Lisdillon.

A succession of lessees and proprietors managed the estate until the early 1850s. By 1854 John Mitchell had acquired the property thus beginning a long association between the Mitchell family and Lisdillon.

In 1920 the Lisdillon estate was bought from the Mitchell family by Sir Henry Jones. His son resided there with his family for many years.

John Hood acquired the property in the 1950s, before selling it to the Cotton family from nearby 'Kelvedon'. The land surrounding the old salt works was subsequently subdivided and sold. The main part of the salt works ruins was returned to the Crown in 1983 and is now managed as part of the Coastal Reserve.
- Spiky Bridge.** It's just a bridge but it's pretty cool. Built by convicts in 1843, this bridge abruptly pops out of the landscape to baffle passers-by with its odd design. The bridge was made from field stones laid without mortar or cement and the parapet features field stones laid vertically, giving the bridge a spiky appearance. It's claimed that the spikes were designed to prevent cattle falling over the sides of the bridge, though no one really knows if this is true. There are also the remains of the Governor's cottage on the hill overlooking the unusual bridge.
- Bark Mill Museum.** The fascinating Bark Mill Museum has long been recognised as one of Tasmania's iconic tourism attractions, winning recognition at both Tasmanian and Australian Tourism Awards. Learn about nineteenth century Australiana and view the fabulous France to Freycinet exhibit while you explore the fascinating Bark Mill Museum. The working steam engine which powered the original Bark Mill on this site is sure to enthral and amaze visitors who will marvel at the ingenuity of our early settlers.

Enjoy lunch here in the Bark Mill Tavern
- Devil's Corner.** The Devil's Corner Vineyard is on the East Coast of the island and has a maritime climate, pristine air and perfect terroir. Sit out on the deck and take in the panoramic views of the majestic Hazards and Freycinet Peninsula as you taste some of the magnificent wines they have to offer.
- Bay Of Fires.** The Bay of Fires on Tasmania's East Coast extends from Binalong Bay in the south to Eddystone Point in the north. This unusual name was given to the area by Captain Tobias Furneaux, in 1773, when he noticed numerous fires along the coast. This led him to believe that the country was densely populated. Abundant evidence of this occupation by Aboriginal people can be seen along the coast today.

Collect some freshly shucked oysters from Lease 65 as you drive in, and stop in Binalong Bay to enjoy them with just a squeeze of lemon juice, while overlooking white sand beach and turquoise blue water.
- 2 course dinner tonight will be at your hotel.**

Stay:

Scamander Beach Hotel

1 Night

Tuesday 7th March

East Coast to Launceston

Enjoy a continental breakfast as the sun rises over the Tasman Sea. Then check out and board the coach and be on your way to Launceston via the north east.

- ***Pyengana Cheese Factory. The Healey Family has been producing English-style cheddar cheese in the Pyengana Valley for three generations and over one-hundred years. Jon Healey, a fourth-generation dairy farmer, operates Pyengana Dairy Company with his wife Lyndall, their three daughters and around 25 staff. Jon started Pyengana Dairy Company in 1992 as a venture to value-add to his family's farm. The beginnings of success came when a cheese wholesaler in Melbourne bought some of the cheese at a tourism event and entered it in a show where it won an award. The resulting national publicity drove demand for Pyengana cheese and production has been continually growing since. You can watch cheese being made, sample some of Pyengana's award-winning produce and perhaps buy your own hearty, mature cheddar. Why not take home a fresh, cloth-wrapped cheese and lay it down to mature.***
- ***Weldborough Pass Rainforest Walk. To the east of Weldborough on the Tasman Highway is a superb and spectacular fern display. Huge ferns line either side of the road interspersed with stands of blackwood, sassafras and myrtle. Weldborough Pass rises to 595 m and Weldborough Pass Scenic Reserve provides an easy 20 minute walk into the rainforest with excellent information signage to explain the flora and fauna.***
- ***Tomahawk. Your tour host, John Hood, has made arrangements for a farming visit today, lunch details to be advised.***
- ***Subject to time, visit Pipers Brook Vineyard for a wine tasting. Established in 1974, Pipers Brook Vineyard is a pioneer and leader in the Tasmanian wine industry. Pipers Brook wines are entirely estate grown and bottled, and take advantage of time-honoured traditional methods as well as advanced oenological developments. This approach allows the utmost integrity of the product throughout the entire process. An uncompromising stance in regards to site selection, and a meticulous approach to viticulture and winemaking create wines which are a distinctive reflection of both the vineyard and region of origin.***
- ***Cataract Gorge. The Cataract Gorge Reserve, or "The Gorge" as the locals call it, is a unique natural formation within a two-minute drive of central Launceston - a rare natural phenomenon in any city. The South Esk River flowing through the Gorge passes below pathways along the cliff face, originally built in the 1890s, down to The Kings Bridge which was floated into place in 1867. The First Basin, on the southern side, features a swimming pool and an open area surrounded by bushland. In contrast, the shady northern side, named the Cliff Grounds, is a Victorian garden where wilderness is created with ferns and exotic plants - nature is enhanced by art. There's rolling lawns and a rotunda, a footbridge and chairlift across the river, peacocks in the trees, wallabies at dusk. This may be the nation's most alluring urban reserve.***
- ***2 course dinner tonight in your hotel, enjoy the wonderful views over the city lights below.***

Stay:

Launceston – Village Family Motor Inn

1 Night

Wednesday 8th March

Launceston to West Coast

Being a small island, the scenery quickly transitions with every corner you take. Yesterday the warm, open sunny east coast. Today your destination will be the rugged wilderness on the west coast. Enjoy a continental breakfast before checking out.

- ***Ashgrove Cheese Factory. Ashgrove Cheese produces a range of quality cheese, milk, butter and cream using farm fresh milk. Nothing added, nothing taken away. Grass, Cow, You. Several generations of Bennett families have been farming the land surrounding the milk and cheese factory since the 1880's. In 1983 brothers Michael and John Bennett formed the Ashgrove Farms partnership. Ashgrove Farms continued the Bennett family tradition of mixed farming operations with a dairy herd, sheep, and vegetable crops. In the late 1980s a decision was made to further develop the dairy operations with the decline in wool prices and the stagnation of the vegetable industry. John and Michael's goal in establishing the factory was to gain independence from the low commodity prices that dominated Tasmanian milk supply and to produce premium quality cheese by on-farm value adding using farm milk. In preparation a significant investment was made in building a new 50 unit rotary dairy in 1990. In 1993 the Ashgrove Cheese factory was built nearby to the rotary dairy and the first vat of cheese was produced on 29 November 1993. From an initial small factory, the factory has grown in size over the years. The factory store which opened in April 1994 has enabled our valued customers and tourists to learn how our cheese is made.***
- ***Ransley Veteran Car Collection. For a nostalgic journey through time, visit the Wonders of Wynyard. Home to a world-class Veteran Car Collection, including the equal oldest Ford in the world – the collection has been lovingly restored and is an outstanding showcase of Australian motoring history. See the 1903 Ford Model A, 1905 Darracq, 1907 Ford Model K, 1911 Brush as well as others.***
- ***Table Cape. Table Cape Lighthouse is located on top of a large promontory with breathtaking and dramatic views over Bass Strait and beautiful rich farmlands. The Lighthouse was built in 1888 and is situated on a 'volcanic plug' formed 13.3 millions years ago. Table Cape Lighthouse is the only operating Lighthouse open for tours in mainland Tasmania. Take a tour with its easy climb up the beautiful spiral staircase. Your guide will take you up the four levels detailing the amazing history of the lighthouse and ending with the exhilarating balcony experience and magnificent views. As we can't all squeeze into the lighthouse at the one time, this is a perfect location to enjoy a packed lunch supplied by your hotel.***
- ***Hellyer Gorge. A delightful wayside stop on the Murchison Highway south, the steeply winding gorge of the Hellyer River is filled with rainforest of tall myrtle beech, encrusted with mosses, fungi and epiphyte orchids. A number of walking tracks along the banks of the Hellyer River (near the rest area) provide a pleasant walk to refresh before journeying on. It is situated in the heart of a mountainous and heavily forested area, near one of the visually most impressive sections of highway in Tasmania.***
- ***2 course dinner tonight will be at your motel***

Stay:

Queenstown – Gold Rush Motor Inn

2 Nights

Thursday 9th March

River or Rail

Today you have the option to enjoy a peaceful cruise across the Macquarie Harbour and up the Gordon River, or a historical train ride through rainforest and over steep gorges.

After continental breakfast either;

- ***West Coast Wilderness railway – Rack & Gorge Ride. Queenstown-Dubbil Barril-Queenstown. Step back in history and climb aboard a majestic steam train at Queenstown Station. Journey deep into the heritage of the wild West Coast, where tales of resilience and triumph showcase the iconic local spirit. Discover how the Feud of the Irishmen helped shape the rugged and isolated region. Listen to the hissing of steam and the shrill of the whistle of our original ABT Locomotives. Authentically restored in our Queenstown Workshops, Abt 1 dates back to 1896, Abt 3 1898 and Abt 5 1938. Pose with a Driver and explore the cab, as the magnificent steamer hauls you along the track.***

Enjoy lunch at Tracks Café before departing for Strahan to collect the cruise people.

Or

- ***World Heritage Gordon River Cruise. Experience one of the most scenic and sought after cruises with Tasmania's largest eco-tourism cruise operator, World Heritage Cruises. Located in Strahan, Tasmania, World Heritage Cruises offers a mix of history, stunning scenery and wonderful hospitality. 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 our narrative, which brings the river and its rich history to life complete what is an unforgettable experience. 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. World Heritage Cruises truly offers the ultimate wilderness cruise experience.***
- ***The Ship That Never Was. It's January 1834. The Frederick, the last ship built at the convict settlement of Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour, is about to sail for the new prison at Port Arthur. Ten convict shipwrights have other ideas. So begins the story of an amazing escape, an extraordinary voyage and an intriguing twist in the tale of The Ship That Never Was. The Ship That Never Was is a live professional theatre production, and it tells the dramatic and hilarious true story of the Great Escape from Sarah Island! Delightful family entertainment not to be missed!***
- ***2 course dinner tonight at your motel***

Friday 10th March

Queenstown to Launceston

Alas your tour is nearing its end. Today travel back to Launceston over the top of the island, the Central Plateau. Departure will be after your continental breakfast.

- **Nelson Falls.** *These delightful falls are reached after a very easy walk. Break the long drive and stretch your legs; you won't be disappointed. Along the boardwalk to Nelson Falls you will come across interpretation panels highlighting the ancient plants you see along the way. Among the forest trees you will discover ancient species that once dominated the Australian landmass, but are now confined to the wetter regions of Tasmania and southeast and eastern mainland Australia. Many of the species of these cool temperate rainforests are only suited to the cool, moist conditions of places such as the Nelson Valley. The species of these rainforests have much in common with the rainforests of New Zealand and South America. Indeed, the ancestors of these plants once flourished on the ancient supercontinent, Gondwana, which comprised today's southern continents. Following the breakup of Gondwana, these species found themselves separated by vast distances. The similarity of the rainforest species of these continents is the legacy of this common origin.*
- **Mt Arrowsmith.** *Much of the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park is remote and rugged. However, along the Lyell Highway (which will take you through the heart of the park), there are a number of facilities available. From King William Saddle the Lyell Highway winds around the southern side of Mt Arrowsmith above Surprise Valley. The Surprise Valley Lookout provides an excellent view across the U-shaped valley. Note how the valley has no spurs - they have been bulldozed away by the advance of immense rivers of ice during past Ice Ages. Indeed, glaciers have shaped much of the Wild Rivers landscape.*
- **Wall In The Wilderness.** *Welcome to The Wall and step into a storyan inspirational tale carved from the mountains and rivers of the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Artist Greg Duncan is creating a stunning sculpture at Derwent Bridge in the heart of Tasmania. The Wall in the Wilderness is Greg Duncan's commemoration of those who helped shape the past and present of Tasmania's central highlands.*
A work in progress, The Wall is being carved from three-metre high wooden panels. The carved panels will tell the history of the harsh Central Highlands region - beginning with the indigenous people, then to the pioneering timber harvesters, pastoralists, miners and Hydro workers. When completed The Wall will be 100 metres long. Greg Duncan's sculpture The Wall will rank as a major work of art and tourist attraction in Tasmania. In the meantime, come and see history in the making at The Wall in the Wilderness.
- **Lunch will be in the Derwent Bridge Hotel**
- **Central Highlands.** *The heart of Tasmania! The locals call it the Central Highlands, the Central Plateau or the Highland Lakes District. This raised up tableland encompasses a vast area of land, the severe alpine weather conditions makes it a harsh environment, and the high rainfall supplies thousands of trout filled lakes. A stark contrast from the scenery anywhere else on the island.*
- ***** alternative option.** *Your host, John Hood, is considering a visit to the home of Henry Foster whose farm is located between Cressy and Campbell Town. To allow for this detour would require the removal of The Wall In The Wilderness from the itinerary. Stay tuned !!!!*
- **2 course dinner tonight at your motel.**

Stay:

Launceston – Village Family Motor Inn

1 Night

Saturday 11th March

Tour ends

So unfortunately the tour has come to an end.

Check out after continental breakfast and make your own way to the airport to return home.

Unless of course you want to stay longer !!

You are welcome to and additional nights can be arranged.

Cost

Twin Share Price Per Person:	\$2008.00
Single Share Price Person:	\$2682.00

Included in Quote

- ✓ Coach and experienced coach captain for duration of stay in Tasmania
- ✓ Twin share 3.5 - 4 star accommodation each night in Tasmania
- ✓ Breakfast each morning
- ✓ Lunch where noted in itinerary
- ✓ Dinner each evening (except one night in Hobart)
- ✓ Entry to all attractions noted in itinerary

Not included in Quote

- ❖ Airfares
- ❖ Some lunches
- ❖ Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- ❖ Things of a personal nature