

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**

Tasmanian Wonders



Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

Discover Tasmania's wild side spotting devils after dark, searching for wombats or following in the footsteps of little penguins. Or just chill out with a glass of wine.

📍 Iconic Sites

From untamed wilderness areas like Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Park to the World Heritage listed Port Arthur, Tassie is not short on attractions.

📷 Time For You

Forward-thinking galleries, cafés, restaurants and parks await in Hobart and Launceston. Explore them at your own pace.

🏠 Sustainable Travel

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

🌲 Natural Wonders

Cruise the Gordon River amid World Heritage listed wilderness, the banks clad with ancient forest, including a 2,000-year-old pine.



1 Welcome to Hobart

The Tasmanian capital of Hobart may be small in size, but it's big in attractions, as you'll discover on a tour around the city. Step back in time at Battery Point, settled as a defensive outpost in the 19th century. Then explore the cobbled streets of Salamanca Place, the site of epic weekend markets. Gaze over boats at 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 endless vistas over Australia's southernmost city. **Hotel: Best Western. D**

2 Hobart – Strahan

Western Tasmania is like nature amplified, a place where the wilderness rules and people are few and far between. Visiting Mount Field National Park is a humbling experience, not only for the fact it's part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, but also because it's home to some of the tallest eucalypts and flowering plants on Earth. Wander amid these giants to reach Russell Falls – take a deep breath; you're officially on holiday. Records continue to be broken at Lake St. Clair, the deepest freshwater Lake in Australia, before you arrive in Strahan, gateway to World Heritage listed Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. **Hotel: Strahan Village. B D**

3 Strahan – Cradle Mountain

The Gordon River is your playground today, the dark waters here given their colour by amber button-grass tannins. The only thing breaking the mirror-like surface is your chariot as you cruise to Sarah Island, a former penal colony 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. Glide past Hells Gates, the treacherous entrance to the harbour, before motoring on to Cradle Mountain. This wilderness area offers one of the best chances of spotting Tasmanian devils in their natural habitat. Opt to head out after dark to spot these elusive creatures. **Hotel: Cradle Mountain. B L D**

4 Cradle Mountain – Smithton

Today has multiple highs – quite literally. The first is 1,545-metre Cradle Mountain, your backdrop as you wander to Dove Lake. You don't need to look too hard to spot Bennetts wallabies, echidnas, and pademelons. The second high is 'The Nut', a dramatic 152-metre plateau created by the remains of an ancient volcanic plug. It guards over Stanley, a tiny village with swagger to spare. You could spend days exploring the town's remarkably well-preserved heritage buildings. But more adventures await around the corner. **Hotel: Tall Timbers. B D**

5 Smithton – Launceston

If there's a town with a cuter name than Penguin, we're yet to find it. Locals embrace its appeal – there are penguin sculptures at every turn, including one measuring 10 metres high. Your journey along the northwest coast also passes through Burnie, Ulverstone and Sheffield, the latter delivering 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. **Hotel: Best Western Plus, 2 nights. B**

6 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. We wouldn't blame you for lingering here, or perhaps sample more of Tassie's finest fare on a Tamar Valley winery tour. This afternoon, the choice is yours. **B**



Richmond Bridge

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17 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		
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. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

9 Full breakfasts B 5 Dinners D
1 Lunch L 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 12.30pm into Hobart Airport
Day 10 – flights to depart anytime from Hobart Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

7 Launceston – Bicheno

You'll smell Bridestowe before you see it, this enormous lavender farm perfuming the Tasmanian countryside. The flowers grown here aren't just used in fragrances – they're also infused into ice-cream, teas and jams. It's a tasty entrée to the Legerwood Carved Memorial Trees, sculpted into World War One soldiers. Little penguins come out to play in Bicheno; sign up to spot them after dark as they waddle to shore from the water. **Hotel: Beachfront Bicheno. B D**

8 Bicheno – Hobart

The colours at Freycinet National Park are so vivid you'll think someone has taken the glasses off your nose and cleaned them for the first time: The patchwork of ocean blues that lap Coles and Wineglass bays. The powdery white of sand. The pink hues of the granite mountains. There's a reason why the peninsula stars on postcards. The other place on postcards is Richmond, its grand 1820s Georgian buildings today home to bijou boutiques, galleries and cafés that appear to be lost in time. **Hotel: Best Western, 2 nights. B**

9 Port Arthur Historic Site

The Isle of the Dead, Devil's Kitchen, Blowhole... the attractions at and around Port Arthur nod to the region's notoriously grim history. This is the best-preserved convict site in Australia, and among the most significant convict-era destinations worldwide. The stories these walls could tell. **B FD**

10 Farewell from Hobart

It took early explorers months to circumnavigate Tasmania. You've done it in 10 days. What a wild ride. **B**



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

