

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 Getaway



Highlights

📍 Local Connection

Whether meeting the growers at Bridestowe Lavender Estate or spotting wildlife on a Wineglass Bay nature cruise, in-the-know locals offer eye-opening insights.

🗝️ Insider Knowledge

Hobart is one of Australia's coolest little capitals. Your Travel Director knows all the best places to wine, dine and explore.

🏛️ Cultural Immersion

Port Arthur's heritage shaped modern-day Australia. The best way to understand its significance? With a historian guiding you through the World Heritage Site.

🌱 Sustainable Footprints

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Ensure Tassie's wilderness areas stay pristine by assisting horticulturists with propagating seeds, which will be planted to regenerate the site at a former wood chip mill.

🦋 Wildlife & Nature

Wander a few steps from Launceston and you're in the natural wonderland that is Cataract Gorge, where rivers carve a landscape of rolling green fields and ferns.



1 Welcome to Launceston

Tasmania's second-largest city, Launceston sits pretty on the banks of the Tamar River. Arrive early? Distractions are endless. We suggest jumping on a boat to cruise the waterway, gliding through the Tamar Valley or up into Cataract Gorge. 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 scenic chairlift, zipping you over the water to a lofty lookout. Consider yourself a bit of a gourmand? Some of Tassie's top wineries are within easy reach. Sip your way around the Josef Chromy estate, Swinging Gate or Jansz before meeting the adventurous souls that will keep you company over the next week. Meet your Travel Director at a Welcome Reception and dinner before embarking on your journey along Tasmania's glorious east. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor. DW**

2 Launceston – Bicheno

Arriving at Bridestowe Lavender Estate, you could be forgiven for thinking you've been transported straight to Provence. This bucolic patch of purple is a feast for all the senses (did you know lavender is a great sleep aid?). Then taste the wares, whether in lavender ice-cream or honey made from the 500,000 very happy bees that live here. Moving moments await at Legerwood Carved Memorial Trees, an avenue of sculpted trees, carved in homage of fallen WWI soldiers. It's a poignant reminder of just how privileged we are to have Tasmania's scene-stealing landscapes to gaze over today. Head out tonight to catch a glimpse of the little penguins that call Bicheno home. **Hotel: Diamond Island Beach Resort. B DW**

3 Freycinet National Park & Wineglass Bay Cruise

Embarking on your Freycinet adventure, you may think someone has taken the glasses off your nose and cleaned them for the first time. The towering Hazards Range that backdrops your base gleams pink in the morning sunshine. Fun fact: the prized granite here was used to build the foyer of New York's Empire State Building. The brilliant blue ocean curves into coves dusted with golden sand. And dusty greens patchwork Cape Tourville's virgin eucalypt forest, stretching as far as the eye can see. Amid it all is Wineglass Bay, a gem-like crescent with gin-clear water. Rest up – you're taking this in over a lunchtime cruise. **Hotel: Eastcoaster Tasmania. B L DW**

4 Triabunna – Hobart

Freestone Point was once home to the world's largest wood chip mill, built on the unceded lands of the Paredarmerne people. It's had a philosophy change, and is now intent on charting a sustainable path. Today's onward journey takes you to Hobart, but before you arrive in the Tasmanian capital, you're treated to a Welcome to Country by the Traditional Owners of Oyster Bay. If you thought the industrial setting is beyond repair, wait till you see the organic gardens – help horticulturalists propagate seeds that will be returned to the mill's grounds. Richmond impresses in a different way – this historic town is like stepping back in time. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor (Harbour View Room), 3 nights. B**

5 Port Arthur Historic Site

Isle of the Dead, Pirate's Bay Lookout, Devil's Kitchen... the attractions around Port Arthur Historic Site give away the region's grim convict heritage. But don't be put off by the colourful names; the rolling green countryside, rugged cliffs and dramatic rock formations make this one of the most postcard-perfect pockets of the state. Explore what remains of the World Heritage Site with a historian – they know all the secrets that took place behind these walls – then enjoy a different perspective from the water on a scenic cruise. Tonight is at your leisure. We can recommend any number of stellar restaurants and wine bars to while away the evening in. **B**

6 Hobart Free Time

Today is one of decisions. Do you fancy lingering in Hobart's city centre, exploring gallery-lined streets and taking in glorious Georgian architecture, either at your leisure or with a guide? Or perhaps you're inclined to explore the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, occupying one of Australia's most historically significant sites and home to an eye-watering 800,000 objects ranging from fossils to fine art. Maybe you want to end your Tassie adventure the way it began, savouring the state's end-of-the-Earth wilderness areas. Take on Mount Wellington, with its glorious views of Hobart and beyond, or cruise to spot playful sea lions and ogle Australia's highest sea cliffs around Bruny Island. The choice is yours. **B FD**

