

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



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

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# Perfect Tasmania



## Highlights

### Local Connection

Whether you're cruising the Gordon River and Wineglass Bay or going behind the scenes on a Be My Guest lunch at Mt. Gnomon Farm, in-the-know locals will keep you company.

### Cultural Immersion

You're treated to a Welcome to Country by the Paredarerme people, the Traditional Owners of Oyster Bay, at Spring Bay Mill.

### Sustainable Footprints

Help keep Tasmania pristine, by assisting horticulturists to propagate seeds, which will be planted to regenerate the site at a former wood chip mill.

### Wildlife & Nature

Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is the kind of place that makes you put life into perspective. How can nature be this humbling?

### 1 Welcome to Hobart

You don't have to venture far from your hotel to find inspiration in Hobart, whether you're exploring the harbour or easing into one of the city's applauded galleries and wine bars. Save room for your Welcome Dinner, enjoyed in the company of your fellow adventure-seekers. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor, 2 nights. DW**

### 2 City Sights and Salamanca Market

Your morning excursions delve deep into many of the things that make Hobart great: the Botanical Gardens, historic Battery Point and the Cascade Brewery. End on a literal high at Mt. Nelson Lookout, offering dizzying views over the city. From alpaca throws to woodwork, Salamanca Market unites Tassie talent. Grab a coffee and navigate stalls, wedged alongside the precinct's historic sandstone warehouses. **B**

### 3 Hobart – Strahan

Waterfalls, lakes and ancient moonscapes – today is a journey of contrasts. Not to mention soul revival. Exhale amid the forest enveloping Russell Falls in Mt. Field National Park. Forget your worries at Lake St. Clair, the deepest of its kind in Australia. Sigh as you skirt the World Heritage-protected Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. Then revel in the serenity of Strahan. You're overlooking Macquarie Harbour, seven times the size of Sydney Harbour. **Hotel: Strahan Village. B DW**

### 4 Strahan – Cradle Mountain

No day that involves a cruise is a bad day. Even better if it's the deep, dark waters of the Gordon River. Soak up the silence of this untouched wilderness area en route to Sarah Island, Tassie's oldest convict settlement; today, haunting ruins have been reclaimed by nature. Your commute towards immense Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair National Park takes you through Rosebery – tagline: "welcome to the rainforest, don't complain about the rain" – and tiny Tullah, population 165. **Hotel: Cradle Mountain, 2 nights. B L DW**

### 5 Cradle Mountain

At the heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, Cradle Mountain is all moss-covered ancient rainforests and deep river gorges,

snow-tipped peaks, wild alpine moorlands and glacial lakes – case in point Dove Lake, where you'll likely spot Bennetts wallabies, echidnas and pademelons. Pause at Waldheim Chalet, once the home of Gustav and Kate Weindorfer, the duo pivotal in the park's formation. **B DW**

### 6 Cradle Mountain – Launceston

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. Continue your palate expansion at Mount Gnomon Farm. Farmer Guy Robertson is as passionate about his orchard as he is the cider he makes. Sip your way through a Be My Guest lunch. Continue to quirky Sheffield, the 'Town of Murals' and through the Meander Valley to Launceston. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor, 2 nights. B BG**

### 7 Launceston

Prepare for goosebumps – Cataract Gorge is humbling. Even more remarkable is the fact that this enormous cavern is just a few minutes' walk from the heart of Launceston. Explore at your leisure. By the time you reach Josef Chromy Wines, you'll have worked up a thirst. We've got you covered. This afternoon is yours: an optional cruise along the Tamar River, perhaps? **B L**

### 8 Launceston – Bicheno

You'll smell Bridestowe Estate well before you arrive – this lavender farm welcomes with soothing aromas, and addictive flavours in the form of lavender ice-cream. Moving moments await at Legerwood Carved Memorial Trees, a series of trees carved with sculptures as an homage to fallen WWI soldiers. It's a poignant reminder just how lucky we are to have Tasmania's scene-stealing landscapes to gaze over. Be sure to head out tonight to catch a glimpse of the little penguins that call Bicheno home. **Hotel: Diamond Island Beach Resort. B DW**

### 9 Freycinet National Park & Wineglass Bay Cruise

There's a reason this part of Tasmania takes home top honours for its beaches – they were made for postcards. The brilliant blue ocean follows you through Cape Tourville's virgin eucalypt forests, with golden beaches

as far as the eye can see. Soak in the beauty of the breath-taking Freycinet Peninsula on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience that contributes to the preservation of its wildlife. You'll cruise past granite coastline, towering pink cliffs of the Hazards range, beaches fringed by dense bush, and the gentle shores of Coles Bay. **Hotel: Eastcoaster Tasmania. B L DW**

### 10 Triabunna – Hobart

Freestone Point was once home to the world's largest wood chip mill, built on the unceded lands of the Paredarerme people. It's had a philosophy change, and is now intent on charting a sustainable path. As if your Welcome to Country at Oyster Bay wasn't humbling enough, you'll then have the chance to visit beehives and worm farms, and assist horticulturists in propagating seeds to regenerate the area. The GPS is now set for the historic township of Richmond; explore the convict-built gaol and bridge or browsing the quaint boutique shops in town. This evening is at your leisure in Hobart. **Hotel: Grand Chancellor (Harbour View Room), 3 nights. B**

### 11 Port Arthur Historic Site

While the World Heritage listed Port Arthur Historic Site has a grim convict history, you wouldn't know it today – the countryside is all rolling green fields and ocean views. Only the place names give its heritage away: cruise around the Isle of the Dead, glimpse rugged sea cliffs from Pirate's Bay Lookout, and veer past Tasman's Arch, Devil's Kitchen and the Blowhole. Tonight is at your leisure – we can recommend any number of stellar restaurants. **B**

### 12 Hobart Free Time

There's something about Tasmania's capital that encourages life in the slow lane. You'll quickly fall into step today, yours to spend as you will. Perhaps add on a Bruny Island cruise to spot playful sea lions and ogle Australia's highest sea cliffs? Or enjoy a bird's-eye view on a scenic flight down to the great Southwest? Or get your cultural fix with a visit to the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery. **B FD**

### 13 Farewell from Hobart

If you can still count all the delicious things you have eaten and drunk, and all the epic things you have seen and done, two weeks down the track, we commend you. Now's the time to re-live them with friends and family back at home. **B**

13 DAYS  
16 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 [aatings.com/thlh](http://aatings.com/thlh) or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

## Dining

12 Full breakfasts B  
3 Lunches L  
1 Be My Guest lunch BG  
6 Dinners with wine DW  
1 Farewell Dinner FD

## Flight Information

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

Day 13 – flights to depart anytime from Hobart Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

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

