Tasmania

WWW.TASSIETRADE.COM.AU

Mt Ossa, Overland Track with South Coast Track inset

Tasmania located at the edge of the world isn't ¬only for hardy explorers. The island's ancient World Heritage wilderness, its deserted white sand beaches, and its prolific wildlife can be experienced hand in hand with gourmet food and glass of wine. Walking, Tasmania-style includes architect-designed standing camps and eco-friendly luxury lodges. You'll find the walk is less taxing than the task of choosing of wine to have with your sautéed scallops. Make the right choice and your soul will be as grateful as your taste buds. The simple process of putting one foot in front of the other can lead you through rainforests, past glacial lakes and along deserted beaches to extraordinarily natural highs. Take one of Tasmania's five unhurried walking packages offering one, four to six night journeys along the east coast or through the western wilderness. The environment will be grateful. So will you.

Great Walks of Tasmania

A few years ago it would have been inconceivable to contemplate multi-day walks around Tasmania's national parks and World Heritage Areas sipping on wine and fine food. Noodles, kerosene stoves, wet sleeping bags and fantasies of warmth were far more common than gourmet fare.

Whether by design or good luck great walking businesses have spread themselves across Tasmania. These businesses make up The Great Walks of Tasmania Group, launched in August 2009.

Which means guests can walk with a light backpack and a very satisfied stomach over much of the finest regions in the state, and learn about the local wildlife. The Maria Island Walk, The Freycinet Experience Walk, Cradle Mountain Huts, Bay of Fires Walk, The South Coast Track, The Tarkine Rainforest Track and the Walls of Jerusalem offer walks through World Heritage Areas or national parks savouring fresh local produce and wine along the way. Guests spend restful nights in architect-designed standing camps or luxury eco-friendly lodges.

"It is an exciting new opportunity where operators will work collaboratively to raise awareness of the wonderful guided walk experiences Tasmania has to offer. Our wilderness, our wildlife and heritage are all special points of difference for Tasmania and combining this with friendly and passionate guides, we offer experiences as special as any in the tourism world," said group spokesperson, Ian Johnstone from The Maria Island Walk.
www.greatwalkstasmania.com

Cradle Mountain Huts

The Cradle Mountain Huts six-day 60 kilometre (40 mile) walk follows the iconic Overland Track through Tasmania's World Heritage Area. This fully guided walk mixes Tasmanian wilderness with local food, wine and private, purpose-built cabins. The only walk of its type in the Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park, this journey offers a rare privilege to the average hiker - a walk through ancient and richly varied landscape normally only suitable for the hardy. For at the end of the day, there are hot showers and hikers sleep in private, environmentally-sensitive cabins. The huts designed to complement their sensitive surroundings each contain twin share accommodation, toilets, heating, full kitchen facilities and a living/dining area.

The guides on this unhurried journey share their knowledge of the landscape, the flora and the fauna, to ensure a rich and informative journey. Food, wine and good company can feature as much as the mountains, rainforests and indigenous wildlife.
www.cradlehuts.com.au

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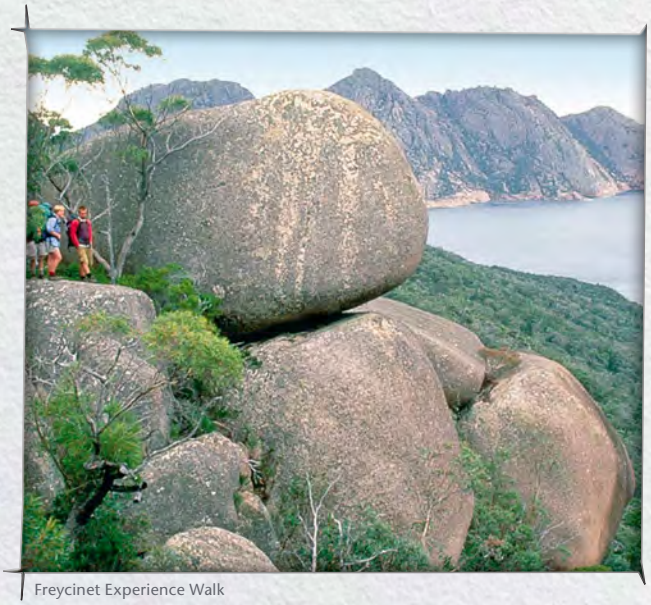
Maria Island Walk

The Maria Island Walk

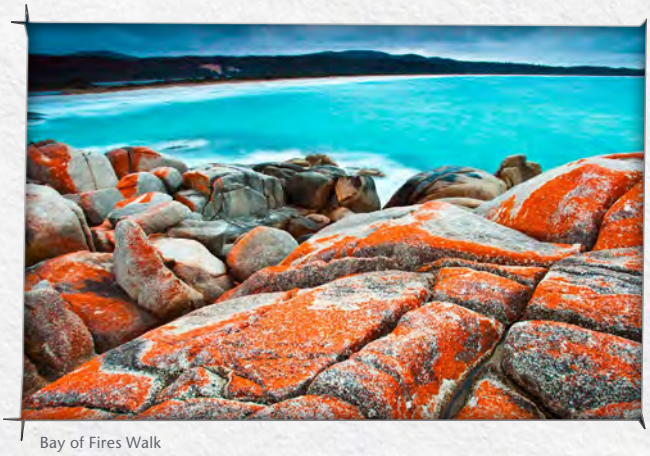
The multi award-winning Maria Island Walk is a four-day guided journey through stunning coastal and mountain landscapes on an island national park. Secluded beaches, marine life, forests, and at the northern tip of the island, a 19th-century convict settlement. The final night is spent in the restored, Bernacchi House at the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Darlington Probation Station. There is candlelight dining each evening and fine Tasmanian food and wine is served in elegant wilderness camps.

Each walk is limited to just eight guests accompanied by two local, knowledgeable and friendly guides. Walking is the usual form of transport on Maria as there is no access for private vehicles. No doubt this is good news for the kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, endemic birds and the two park rangers who also enjoy the island sanctuary.

www.mariaislandwalk.com.au



Freycinet Experience Walk



Bay of Fires Walk

Bay of Fires Walk

The Bay of Fires, on the north-east coast of Tasmania, takes in some 30 kilometres (20 miles) of coastline. You will find more extraordinary white sand beaches than houses here.

The four-day walk features some of Tasmania's best attributes – fine local foods, cool-climate wines and undeveloped landscapes. Guides have regular cooking lessons from one of the best chefs in Tasmania. Besides the eating, drinking and walking – there is also time for guests to swim and snorkel in the Tasman Sea.

There are never more than 10 guests and there are two guides on tour. Your stay is in standing camps – the sleeping 'tents' have canvas roofs and timber floors. Two nights are spent at the Bay of Fires Lodge. The sea-side lodge has become something of an exemplar for stylish and sustainable accommodation. Rainwater is collected and stored for use in the bathrooms and kitchens. Solar panels provide power for all lighting. Yet visitors might remember the lapping waters of the Tasman Sea and encounters with wildlife before the highlights of the sustainable lodge.

www.bayoffires.com.au

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The Tarkine Rainforest Walk

The Freycinet Experience Walk

The four-day Freycinet Experience is a fully-catered walk along the entire length of the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast. The walk allows guests to venture deep into the heart of the dramatic Freycinet National Park and return at night to elegant accommodation and fine food and wine at the secluded Friendly Beaches Lodge. The lodge is not connected to town-water or the electricity-grid and is a winner of awards from the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture for its sustainable design.

The walk covers some 36 kilometres (25 miles) and takes you along deserted beaches, up pink granite monoliths, through the heart of the rich native heath lands of the Freycinet National Park and to spectacular Wineglass Bay.
www.freycinet.com.au

The South Coast Track

Operated by Tasmanian Expeditions, this nine-day walk is the most challenging of the Great Walks of Tasmania. It is a bushwalking expedition into the heart of the magnificent and rugged South West National Park, often compared to the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. Wild unspoilt wilderness, remote untouched beaches, rugged mountain ranges, pristine rivers, and towering rainforests await you on this spectacular adventure.

South Coast Track

Originally an escape route for shipwrecked sailors, the South Coast Track now doubles as an escape route from modern life. The trip begins with a spectacular flight to the remote airstrip at Melaleuca in the heart of the wilderness. From here hikers trek east for nine days along the 80 km track following the coast and finishing at Cockle Creek. The generous time frame allows for side trips and a complete rest day for swimming and relaxing on an empty beach. Amidst this truly wild area hikers will discover a land with a history of early pioneers and indigenous Australians that is occupied by an abundance of wildlife including wombat's, pademelons, quolls and the rare orange-bellied parrot.
www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

The Tarkine Rainforest Track

With no other visitors to the region, journey in small groups through the largest cool temperate rainforest in the southern hemisphere on a custom built walking track. As you walk, ancient wilderness fosters a profound and memorable experience.

The Tarkine Rainforest Track transports people into a foreign world, with its vast tapestry of rich greens. This forms your backdrop for the six-day walk. Towering rainforests, horizontal trees, giant fresh water lobsters and every colour of fungi imaginable all reside within this green wonderland.

The rainforests of the Tarkine wilderness, some 177 000 hectares, include the largest unbroken stand of rainforest in Australia. These rainforests are recognised as being one of the most significant tracts of temperate rainforest on earth. This area was assessed as 'high-quality wilderness' as part of the Regional Forest Agreement and has been

Walls of Jerusalem Experience

recommended for protection and World Heritage nomination on a number of occasions. Recognised globally for its ecological significance, this forest is a direct link to the ancient continent of Gondwana.
www.tarkinetrails.com.au

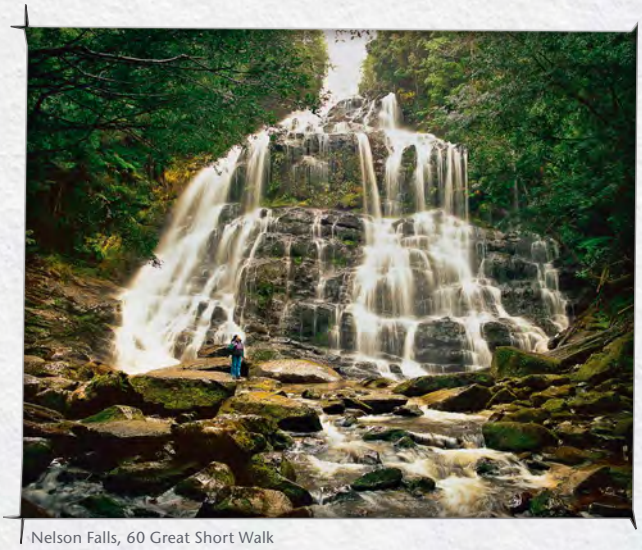
The Walls of Jerusalem Experience

Operated by Tasmanian Expeditions, this introductory bushwalk explores Tasmania's only true alpine National Park, the Walls of Jerusalem. Carrying only the day's necessities you explore soaring dolerite peaks, alpine lakes, ancient pencil pine forests and wildflowers. All from the comfort of the remote base camp. Only accessible by foot, the walk will provide an authentic experience within Tasmania's World Heritage Wilderness Area. This trip is an ideal opportunity to introduce you to wilderness camping without carrying full backpacks over long distances.

Four days are filled with long walks carrying only the day's necessities. Returning at the end of each magnificent day to the comfortable camp. Evenings are yours to relax and enjoy as the guides charm you with their skill in preparing Tasmanian gourmet delights. The perfect trip for anyone who is looking for a true wilderness experience and the rewarding experience of remote camping.
www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

60 Great Short Walks

Tasmania offers walking experiences for all levels of fitness and challenge. The 60 Great Short Walks offers diverse walking opportunities that take you into a range of environments including rainforests, along ancient sea cliffs, beside turquoise seas and over jagged mountain peaks. You can walk the coastal beaches of the Bay of Fires or head deep into the southwest wilderness and feel like the only soul on earth. The walks are located throughout Tasmania and can generally be accessed from major roads.
www.parks.tas.gov.au



Nelson Falls, 60 Great Short Walk