



8 Day Apple of Our Isle

10th - 17th October 2021



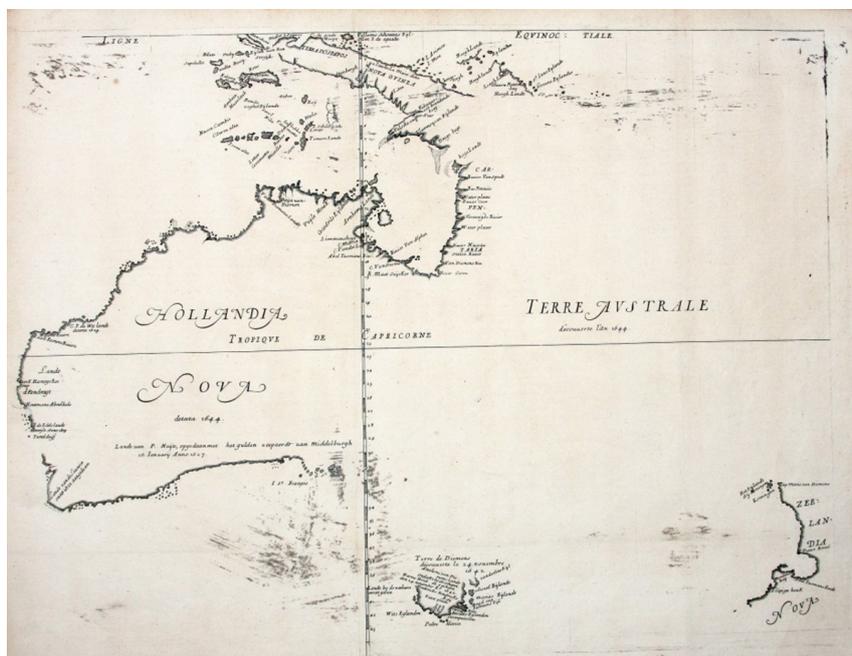
'Tasmania's Identity'

The history of Van Diemen's Land as a convict island dogged its reputation, and after transportation ceased in 1853 the island's name was changed to Tasmania.

The island's cool climate, plentiful rainfall and fertile soils offered settlers a closer approximation to the homes they were leaving in the British Isles, and in the 19th and early 20th centuries many British civil servants posted in Asia came to regard Tasmania as having the ideal climate in which to retire.

However, Tasmania's population has always been small and its economy has been hampered as a result. During negotiations in the lead up to Federation, Tasmania was concerned that the larger mainland states would have more power. So it negotiated a deal that allowed states to retain three quarters of the income generated from tariffs on imports — a significant source of income for the island.

Being an island, Tasmania is sometimes overlooked by mainlanders. The most notorious official instance of this forgetfulness was in 1982 when Tasmania was left off the map at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Brisbane. At the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the swimming team's costume also featured a map in its design, and again, the island state was not shown.



Day 1: Sunday

Once we have boarded the ***Spirit of Tasmania*** (SoT) for our night sailing and settled into our cabins, there will be time to go for a stroll around the ship and purchase some dinner (at own expense).

The TMK Buffet is a great option for dinner or if you would prefer something lighter, The Pantry has freshly prepared 'grab and go' sandwiches, as well as other snack choices available.

On the entertainment side, the SoT has two cinemas onboard, showing current movies (there is a cost for the movie sessions), they have live music, three bars and the Admirals Gaming Lounge.



Day 2: Monday

We disembark the SoT early this morning and board our coach for a busy first day on the **Apple Isle**.

We travel a short distance, to the **House of Anvers** in Latrobe for a delicious breakfast.

We depart Latrobe for **Melita Honey Farm** in Chudleigh, travelling via **Sheffield**, the **town of Murals**. The famous Sheffield Murals trace the history of the area and feature Cradle Mountain Pioneer, Gustav Weindorfer, Tasmanian Tigers and pictorial representations of characters and stories of the past. We enjoy a stroll past the murals before boarding the coach once again.

Melita Honey Farm, situated in the small town of **Chudleigh**, have over 50 varieties of honey, 12 different flavours of honey ice cream and handcrafted artisan nougat, as well as Beeswax products, Health & Wellbeing products and so much more.

After spending time at Melita Honey Farm and sampling their wares, we depart for **Launceston**, where you have time to purchase lunch and have a quick look in the shops (your Coach Captain will advise how long you have to look around), before we travel to **Cataract Gorge Reserve** for a (return) ride on the worlds longest single span chairlift.

In 1972, a magnificent chairlift was built spanning the huge natural basin often filled by the surging waters of the South Esk River.

The chairlift covers some 457 metres and the slow speed of the chairlift enables passengers to appreciate fully and photograph the spectacular views of this ancient rock gorge.

We board our coach for the last time today as we head to our home for the next 5 nights, the **Rydges Hotel, Hobart**.

After a long day, there will be time to settle into your rooms before enjoying a **2-course dinner** in the Hotel dining room.



Day 3: Tuesday

After breakfast this morning, we meet our **step-on Guide**, who will take us on an informative **1½ tour of historic Hobart**.

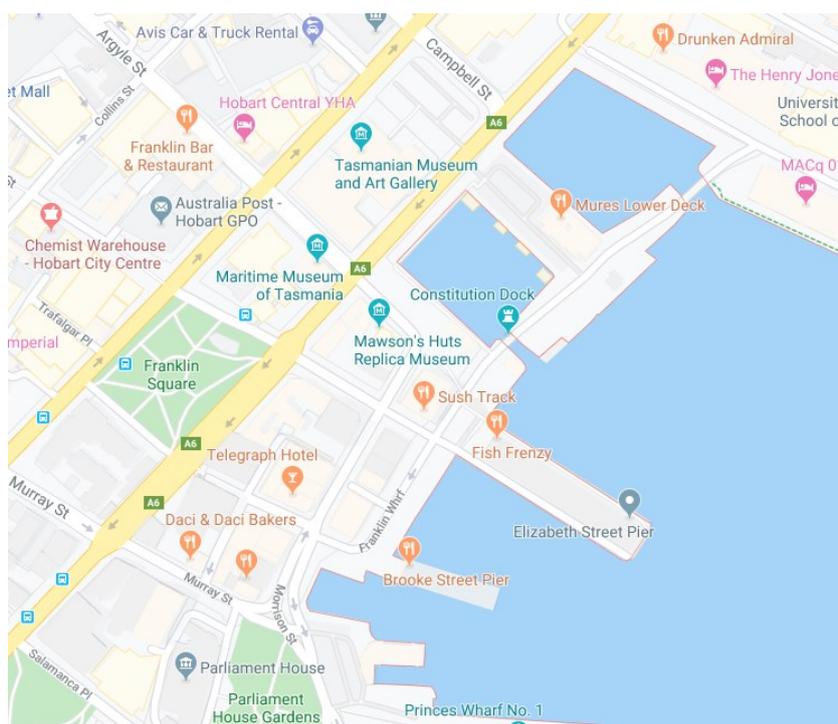


Afterwards we visit the **Museum of Old & New Art** or **MONA**, as it is better known. MONA is Australia's largest private museum and one of the most controversial private collections of modern art and antiquities in the world. The collection includes everything from ancient Egyptian mummies to some of the world's most infamous and thought-provoking contemporary art.

With around 300 art works on display, the collection takes up three floors within a subterranean architectural masterpiece and is guaranteed to impress.

Your Coach Captain will drop you in **Hobart** to purchase some lunch and have free-time to look through shops or perhaps go for a walk along the waterfront.

What better way to finish our day off, than to sit back and relax on a **2-hour Hobart Historic Cruise** on the **Derwent River**, whilst enjoying a **3-course dinner** and a glass of wine.



Day 4: Wednesday

We have a leisurely start to our day, as we enjoy another cooked breakfast before departing for the **Port Arthur Historic Site**.

En-route to Port Arthur Historic Site, there will be some great photo opportunities, as we make a brief stop at the Tessellated Pavement and the Tasman Arch, Devil's Kitchen and Blowhole.

Lunch today is organized in the **Café** at Port Arthur Historic Site (set menu).

Your site entry ticket allows you to explore and enjoy Port Arthur Historic Site's many sites, tours and activities including:-

- ◆ Access to more than 30 historic buildings, ruins, restored houses, heritage gardens and walking trails,
- ◆ A 40-minute guided Introductory Walking Tour,
- ◆ A 25-minute Harbour Cruise,
- ◆ Entry to the Port Arthur Gallery, which includes interactive exhibits and displays that tell the story of the Port Arthur Historic Site and its people.



Enjoy a 2-course BBQ dinner in the Port Arthur Café before commencing your guided **Ghost Tour**.

As darkness falls, Port Arthur's hidden side emerges. This is a different place after sunset, full of mystery and intrigue.

As the sun sets, come out to the dark grounds of the Port Arthur Historic Site for your 90 minute, lantern-lit Ghost Tour. Follow your expert guide through some of the sites more infamous buildings and ruins and hear vivid stories of unexplained events that have baffled and alarmed convicts, free settlers, soldiers and visitors.

More than 1000 people died at Port Arthur during its 47 year history as a penal settlement, and some people say that the souls of the departed have never left. Documented ghost stories have been associated with Port Arthur since 1870 and since that time, many people have added to Port Arthur's haunted reputation with their own accounts of paranormal activity.

As the lantern light guides you through the darkness and strange stories unfold, you'll discover Port Arthur's secrets and decide for yourself if the tales are true.



Day 5: Thursday

After our late night, a more leisurely start to the day is in order! **Bruny Island** is our Day 5 destination. After breakfast we travel to **Kettering** to catch the Sealink ferry to Bruny Island. Docking at Roberts Point, we board the coach and make our way to the **Bruny Island Cheese Company**, to try some of their cheeses.

Founded by Nick Haddow in 2003, Bruny Island Cheese first started making cheeses inspired by Nick's travels and training throughout the great cheese producing regions of the world. Their cheeses are all made and matured using traditional techniques and are highly regarded as being some of the finest artisan cheeses made in Australia. They want their cheeses to reflect the seasonal nature of the Huon Valley farm and their herd of rare breed cows. They want their cheeses to show a distinctly Tasmanian character.

Bruny Island Honey is our next stop. Here we will sample some of their locally produced honey, see a live beehive display, as well as testing of their beauty products.

They have about 900 hives which they move year-round to follow the blossoming flower trail so their bees can collect a variety of nectar from different floral sources. They take the bees to Lake Pedder, to Bruny Island, and to the Huon and Derwent Valleys, where they collect Leatherwood and Bush, Prickly Box and Manuka Honey.



There will be time to look through their shop and make a few purchases before boarding our coach once again.

Today's lunch will be a little different with samplings of locally produced Bruny Island produce, oysters and wines at the **Bruny Island Premium Wines**.



Bruny Island Premium Wines is a family run business that is passionate about providing customers with a unique, enjoyable, local experience with a strong connection between their premium, handcrafted wines and the island's fine produce.

Carved from bush and pastureland on the outskirts of the sleepy little island settlement of Lunawanna on Bruny

Island. Richard and Bernice Woolley bought the Wayaree Estate property in 1997 and they established their vineyard the following year, planting Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines.

We finish our Bruny Island experience with a little sweetness, as we visit the **Bruny Island Chocolate Company**.

Dinner tonight will again be in the dining room at the Hotel.

Day 6: Friday

We have an early breakfast this morning before making our way to **Derwent Bridge** and **The Wall in the Wilderness**.

Step into a story, an inspirational tale carved from the mountains and rivers of the Central Highlands of Tasmania.

Sculptor Greg Duncan is carving the history of Tasmanian Highlands in the form of a sculpted wall. So far, Greg has carved scenes depicting the workers of the Hydro-Electric Scheme and of the forestry industry, and scenes concerning the environmental plight of the wedge-tail eagle and the extinction of the Thylacine (the



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.

As we make our way back to Hobart, we divert slightly for lunch. The **Waterfalls Café & Gallery**, Mt Fields National Park, is our luncheon destination for today. Nestled among towering eucalypts in Mt Field National Park, Waterfalls Cafe & Gallery is the perfect complement to your wilderness experience. Fresh and local is the focus of the cafe menu, featuring plenty of tasty Tasmanian produce.

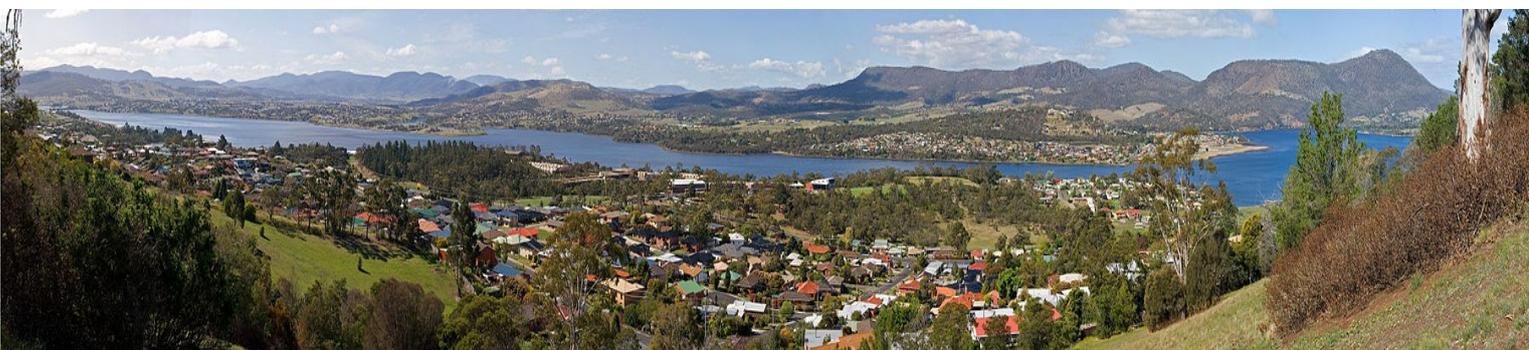
What better way to walk off our lunch, than to take a walk to **Russell Falls**. Arguably Tasmania's prettiest waterfall; it's certainly Tasmania's most photographed and one of the easiest to get to.

One of three falls that share the same watercourse, Russell Falls has a unique character and is the centerpiece of the park. The falls consist of two main drops with a pleasing segmented, vertical appearance. This, along with its size, gives it a personality all its own.

The 30-minute return walk to the falls is on a good track and boardwalk through lovely rainforest. The walk passes through towering swamp gums and species typical of wet forests and cool temperate rainforests such as dogwood, musk and myrtle. Closer to the falls the track is framed by stunning tall tree ferns.

You can return via the same track or follow the creek back by crossing the bridge below the Travelling on the Lyell and National Highways, we follow the **Derwent River** back to Hobart.

Dinner tonight will be a 2-course meal in the Hotel dining room.



Day 7: Saturday

Sadly today is our final day on this beautiful island. After enjoying our last breakfast together on this tour, we load our luggage and depart for Australia's most vibrant and loved outdoor market, **Salamanca Market**.

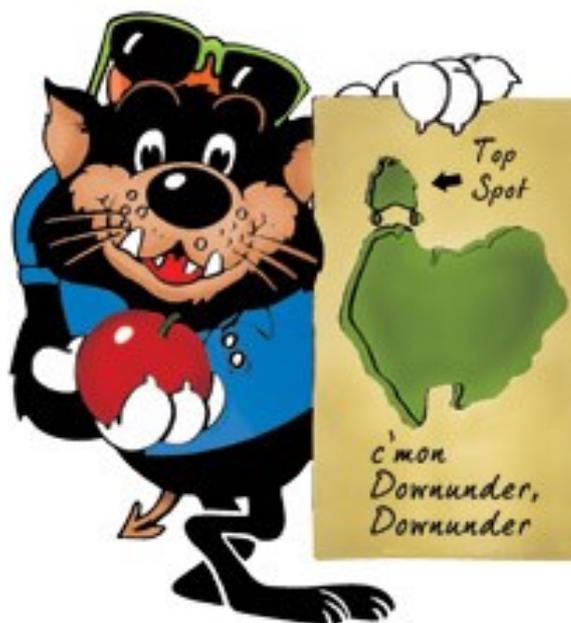
Each Saturday more than 300 stalls pop-up along historic Salamanca Place to showcase arts, crafts, jewellery, fresh food and produce, collectables and homewares.



A more relaxed morning, stroll the aisles of stallholders, purchase some lunch or maybe go for a walk along the waterfront.

Our journey back to Devonport will be more direct. With only one toilet stop, possibly at Valentine Park in **Campbell Town**, we will be back in Devonport in time for our over night sailing to Melbourne, on the Spirit of Tasmania.

As with our journey to Devonport, dinner can be purchased on the Spirit of Tasmania (at own expense)



Day 8: Sunday

We arrive at Station Pier in Melbourne early this morning. For those early rises, you can visit the TMK Kitchen for breakfast (at own expense) before leaving the Spirit of Tasmania.

Once we have disembarked the Spirit of Tasmania, we board the coach for the last time on this tour and make our way to our drop-off points.

Cost:

**From \$2361.00 per person
Twin / Double Share**

**From \$460.00 per person
Single Supplement**

Tour Code: 680-CTA-A

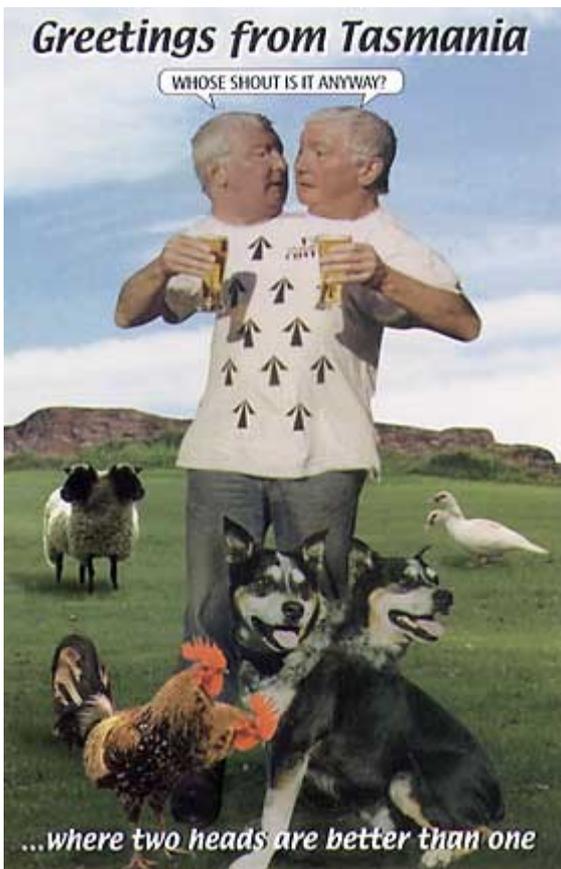
Inclusions:-

- * Luxury Coach Travel
- * Professional & Courteous Coach Captain
- * Friendly & Accommodating Tour Escort
- * Spirit of Tasmania Fare— Melbourne to Devonport
- * Spirit of Tasmania Fare—Devonport to Melbourne
- * 2-Nights Accommodation—Spirit of Tasmania (inside cabin)
- * 5-Nights Accommodation—Rydges Hotel, Hobart
- * All Meals
 - Breakfast Days 2-7
 - Lunch Days 4-6
 - Dinner Days 2-6
- * All Entries/Admissions (as per Itinerary)
- * Bruny Island Ferry Ride

If you are making a booking with us, we highly recommend:-

- You organise Travel Insurance, particularly for accommodated tours.
- You read our Terms & Conditions on our Booking Form carefully before signing and returning to Coach Tours of Australia.

What is the origin of the saying: 'Tasmanians have two heads'



Have you ever heard of a Tasmanian having two heads? Or, if you are a Tasmanian, have you ever been asked, "Where's your scar?"

For centuries, people from Tasmania have been the butt of jokes about having two heads, and one anonymous curious Hobart questioner wanted to know why.

Stefan Petrow, a professor of history at the University of Tasmania, said the joke has long shaped the way other Australians view Tasmanians.

"It's so strongly ingrained in any joke about Tasmania that it often comes up" Professor Petrow said.

There is little reference to two-headed Tasmanians in historical records, with internet research generating myriad blog posts and amateur documentaries.

But there are three theories, the first of which alludes to Tasmania's historically isolated community and limited choice of mating partners.

The second comes from World War 1, when soldiers from the island state, allegedly requested two pillows for their bunks instead of the usual one.

But the most plausible explanation is medical and has its basis way back in the glacial period.

The joke about the second appendage is most likely to have come from the widespread cases of goiter in Tasmania throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.



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For more details on our **8 Day Apple of Our Isle Tour** or if you would like to make a booking, please contact one of our friendly Team:-

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Email: enquiries@coa.com.au