



## THE CONVICT HISTORY OF TASMANIA

8 DAY/7 NIGHT TOUR

### Day 1 ARRIVAL HOBART

Your personal tour guide will meet you on arrival at Hobart Airport and escort you to your hotel near Hobart's waterfront. After checking in, enjoy a sightseeing tour of this small city, taking in the historic Battery Point and Hobart's waterfront district as well as the lovely Salamanca Place with its Georgian warehouses now converted into trendy restaurants, art galleries and chic boutiques. Complete your afternoon with a drive to the summit of Mt. Wellington (weather permitting) for panoramic views over the city and southern Tasmania. A welcome dinner will be enjoyed at one of Hobart's charming waterfront restaurants.

*Overnight The Lenna of Hobart, Hobart (or similar)*

*L/D*

### Day 2 CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY – PENITENTIARY CHAPEL – HISTORIC RICHMOND

Start your morning with a drive to the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site where, from 1828-56 approx, over 5,000 female convicts spent time either serving a sentence or awaiting an assignment or confinement. Learn some of the stories of these convict women. The Factory was recently declared a World Heritage Site.

Continue to the Penitentiary Chapel in downtown Hobart, which was built for the growing convict population but included punishment cells and later became the Hobart Gaol. Join a tour for insights into the many facets of this forgotten part of Tasmania's penal system.

Afterwards, travel across the Tasman Bridge to the eastern shores of Hobart. Lunch will be enjoyed at the Barilla Bay Oyster Farm restaurant. In the afternoon, you will visit Richmond, a village with immaculate sandstone architecture and an interesting colonial and convict history which your guide will bring alive as you do a walking tour taking in the convict gaol and Australia's oldest bridge and Catholic Church.

*Overnight The Lenna of Hobart, Hobart (or similar)*

*B/L*

### Day 3 PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE – COAL MINES - TASMAN PENINSULA

Leave Hobart after breakfast for the Tasman Peninsula and Port Arthur, recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Historic Site was originally a penal site for secondary offenders with the aim to produce useful goods and reform the men so they could be integrated into the society. As you tour the site, you will understand how life was in the settlement for both the convicts and the officers who guarded them. Tour Point Puer where 3,500 convict boys were sent to be rehabilitated over a 15 year period, and Isle of the Dead where you will hear stories



about some of the people who were buried there. Later in the afternoon, drive to north western tip of the Tasman Peninsula for a walk through the Coal Mines Historic Site, also recently declared a World Heritage Site, which will give you another perspective on Tasmania's convict history. The site was developed to limit the colony's dependence upon imported coal from New South Wales, and also served as a place of punishment for the "worst" convicts from Port Arthur. Check into your accommodation at an idyllic waterfront location at the end of the day. *An optional Ghost Tour at Port Arthur is on offer at extra cost.*

*Overnight Cascades Colonial Accommodation, Tasman Peninsula (or similar) B/L/D*

#### **Day 4 MARIA ISLAND – DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION - HOBART**

Leave the Tasman Peninsula early in the morning, heading up the east coast to the small town of Orford, where you will take a ferry to Maria Island National Park and the World Heritage Site of Darlington Probation Station. This was considered an ideal location as it was away from free settlers, had natural resources that could be exploited by the convicts and was thought to be a difficult place from which to escape. Under the probation system, convicts progressed through separate classes which determined both their living and working conditions. Darlington is an intact example of a probation station and you will spend the day exploring it as well as the natural beauty of Maria Island. Return to the mainland in the late afternoon and continue your journey to Hobart and your accommodation for the evening.

*Overnight The Lenna of Hobart, Hobart (or similar) B/L*

#### **Day 5 LAKE ST. CLAIR – FRANKLIN RIVER – NELSON FALLS – WEST COAST**

This day will take you into the heart of Tasmania's World Heritage wilderness. On the way, stop at The Wall', a unique art project where sculptor Greg Duncan is creating 100 m long wall of wooden relief sculpture depicting Tasmania's stories. At Lake St. Clair it will be time to step out to enjoy the fresh alpine air along the shores of Australia's deepest lake. Before reaching Queenstown you will stop at either the Franklin River, one of the last wild rivers in Tasmania, and the stunning Nelson Waterfalls. This will give you a lasting impression of Tasmania's wilderness. The journey takes in the lunar landscape of Queenstown, a settlement where the hills were once denuded by the effects of copper mining and ends in picturesque Strahan where you will spend the evening.

*Overnight Franklin Manor B&B, Strahan B/L*

#### **Day 6 GORDON RIVER CRUISE WITH SARAH ISLAND - OCEAN BEACH**

Today's cruise across Macquarie Harbour to the tranquil reaches of the Gordon River is sure to be one of the highlights of your Tasmanian sojourn. First stop is Sarah Island, the site of Tasmania's most remote and notorious convict settlement. This penal colony was established before Port Arthur for secondary offenders and has gained a reputation of being one of the harshest in the history of transportation. It was also considered one of the most secure as it is in the far reaches of the Macquarie Harbour, surrounded by impenetrable wilderness. Hear stories



of escape attempts and the daily life and work of the convicts and soldiers who guarded them. The next stop on the cruise will be at Heritage Landing in the rainforest, where you will see an extraordinary natural attraction - a Huon Pine tree which has lived for 2000 years. Returning to Strahan after lunch aboard there will be time to relax in Strahan Village. In the late afternoon enjoy a walk and the sunset at the wild and stormy Ocean Beach.

*Overnight*                      *Franklin Manor B&B, Strahan*    *B/L*

**Day 7                      WEST COAST – MINING TOWN ZEEHAN – HISTORIC MIDLANDS**

Leave Strahan after breakfast for the old mining town of Zeehan for a visit of the Heritage Museum. Continue along the scenic Murchison Highway and through the forests of the World Heritage Area. Leave the alpine region and travel through lush farmlands, stopping in Sheffield for a rustic lunch and a walk through this village where local artists have created large murals depicting Tasmanian life. Your destination for the evening is the neighbouring estates of Brickendon & Woolmers, both World Heritage Sites, where you will spend the night enveloped by the history of the region. Enjoy a farewell dinner in Tasmania's northern city of Launceston.

*Overnight*                      *Brickendon & Woolmers Cottages, Longford*    *B/L/D*

**Day 8                      HISTORIC BRICKENDON & WOOLMERS ESTATES – DEPARTURE LAUNCESTON**

This morning you will tour both the Brickendon & Woolmers Estates, where convicts were assigned to work the land of free settlers in exchange of food and clothing. The estates were owned by the Archer brothers and Brickendon is still owned by the descendants of the original family. Although a working farm, Brickendon offers a view into the life in colonial and pioneering Tasmania. Woolmers was owned by the same family until the 1990's and is now owned by a private trust. It gives an accurate depiction of colonial life and Tasmanian heritage in an authentic setting. Enjoy lunch at Woolmers before departing for Launceston airport in time to connect to your flight to the Australian mainland. Your tour manager will assist you with checking in and bid you farewell.

*B/L*

**The Tour includes:**

7 nights accommodation, 7 x breakfast, 8 x lunch, 3 x 2-course dinner, transport in comfortable vehicle, history specialist tour manager, entries to Female Factory, Penitentiary Chapel, Richmond Gaol, Port Arthur Historic Site, The Wall in the Wilderness, Zeehan Heritage Museum, Maria Island Ferry, Gordon River Cruise, Tours of Brickendon & Woolmers Estates, airport transfers and Tasmanian National Parks passes  
*(small program changes possible without notice)*