

# 5 DAY TASMANIAN WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS ENCOUNTER

## **SMALL GROUP TOUR**

Starts in Launceston and finishes in Hobart





Tasmania, Australia's island state, provides a rare opportunity to encounter unique and endemic wildlife. Renown as a prime area for marsupial spotting, Tasmania is a crucial habitat for many species, including quolls, kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and the most famous resident, the Tasmanian Devil. Tasmania provides sanctuary for an abundance of birdlife, including the twelve endemic species, as well as marine mammals and the only two types of egg-laying mammals in the world, echidnas and platypus. Our focus on this small group tour is to observe wildlife in the wild. It is a soft-adventure tour focusing on wildlife and wilderness but offers a level high level of comfort.

#### Day 1/Tuesday LAUNCESTON – CRADLE MOUNTAIN

Be met today at midday by our local guide and start your journey to UNESCO Word Heritage listed Cradle Mountain National Park. Travel to Latrobe for the possibility to see Platypus in their natural environment. This unique semi-aquatic monotreme is by nature a shy creature and some patience and luck is required to see it. Travel through lush rolling farm pasture before reaching the alpine bush of the Cradle Valley. Enjoy an introduction to this captivating alpine environment before settling in at your accommodation for the night.

Accommodation: Cradle Mountain Hotel (King Split Deluxe room or similar) Meals: ---

### Day 2/Wednesday CRADLE MOUNTAIN AND DOVE LAKE

Today you will be mesmerised by the beautiful alpine landscapes of Cradle Mountain, wherein many places, dolerite cracked into vertical columns has resulted in spectacular sculpted mountains and cliffs. On a clear day, the rugged grandeur of Cradle Mountain is reflected in the tranquil waters of Dove Lake, or you may experience the drama of its craggy peaks through swirling mist. Your guide will introduce you to the many endemic fauna and flora species of the region whilst enjoying picturesque views on your walk beneath the spectacular craggy peaks. Magical forests of Pandani (the tallest heath plant in the world), Sassafras, King Billy Pines and the deciduous Beech can be seen adjacent to spectacular glacial lakes. Birds such as Forest Ravens, Black Currawongs and Wedge-tailed Eagles are present in this area, whilst Echidnas, Platypus, Spotted-tailed Quoll and the Eastern Quoll may also be seen. At dusk, you have the option to join your guide on a night spotlighting tour or simply relax at your accommodation.

Accommodation:Cradle Mountain Hotel (King Split Deluxe room or similar)Meals:Breakfast and Lunch



#### Day 3/Thursday CRADLE MOUNTAIN – CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Depart the Cradle Valley and travel to Tasmania's Central Highlands also known as "The Heart of Tasmania". Here in this alpine environment, the air is noticeably clear and the silence inspiring. In the afternoon, there is an opportunity to explore Lake Ada, discover its history and immerse yourself in this barren but beautiful and unique landscape. On dusk, you may have the chance to observe Wombats, Wallabies and Possums as they turn the area into a hub of activity. With a bit of luck, there could also be the opportunity to see Quolls and Tasmanian Devils in their natural habitat.

Accommodation:	Thousand Lakes Lodge (Lodge King Premium room or similar)
Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

#### Day 4/Friday CENTRAL HIGHLANDS – MOUNT FIELD NP - HOBART

This morning your guide takes you into Mount Field National Park, the oldest National Park in the state. Be mesmerized by the lush forest landscapes, from eucalyptus temperate rainforest to alpine moorland. Explore the green forest canopy where you can crane your neck to see some of the tallest flowering plants in the world. This cool temperate rainforest allows you the opportunity to search for some of Tasmania's 12 endemic bird species including Scrubtit, Black Currawong and Tasmanian Thornbill. After lunch, you may have another opportunity to observe the unique duck bill and webbed feet Platypus in the wild. Return to Hobart in the late afternoon.

Accommodation:	Grand Chancellor, Hobart (Mountain View room or similar)
Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch

#### Day 5/Saturday MARIA ISLAND

This morning, travel to the seaside village of Triabunna and board a ferry to cross the Mercury Passage to Maria Island. This unique island national park sits just off Tasmania's east coast. Enjoy a day of peaceful walking amongst historic ruins, across sweeping bays, rugged fossil cliffs and imposing mountains. This island sanctuary provides an opportunity to view its resident wildlife, including Wombats, Cape Barren Geese, Tasmanian Pademelons, Forester Kangaroo's and even the Tasmanian Devil in their natural environment. In the afternoon, make your way down the east coast to Hobart

This tour ends at approximately 5 pm in Hobart.

Meals:

Breakfast and picnic Lunch

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#### **Tour includes:**

5 days of small group touring with local guide, 4 nights' accommodation, 4 x breakfast, 4 x lunch, 1 x dinner, Entry to Devils@Cradle, Maria Island ferry and all National Parks passes.

(small program changes may possible without notice due to unforeseen circumstances outside of our control)