

Islands of Tasmania

22nd to 28th March 2017



Touring Programme

This 7-day tour by chartered aircraft visits five of the Tasmanian islands: Flinders, King, Maria, Bruny and Sarah, with comprehensive guided sightseeing throughout the tour. Experience the diversity of Tasmania's islands, their unique Aboriginal and colonial history and rugged natural beauty. Enjoy delicious local food and wine of Tasmania and get up close with nature in the comfort and warm hospitality of an Insights Tour.

We look forward to welcoming you on *Islands of Tasmania*.

John and Paul Tuckerman

Day 1 Wednesday 22nd March Wollongong to Flinders Island

This morning we depart Wollongong Regional Airport for our 3-hour flight to Flinders Island in Bass Strait, stopping en route at Bairnsdale for a comfort and refuelling stop.

Flinders Island was named after the English sea captain Matthew Flinders and is the largest of the Furneaux Group of islands which stretch across eastern Bass Strait. The Furneaux Group formed when the land bridge which once joined Tasmania to the mainland flooded at the end of the last ice age, isolating the mountain tops and creating the present day chain of islands. You will see many of these islands as we fly to Flinders Island.

After checking-in at the Interstate Hotel situated in the centre of Whitemark, the 'capital' of Flinders Island, our touring starts with a visit to Trousers Point and the township of Lady Barron. Late afternoon, we cruise Franklin Sound to see the flocks of shearwaters returning to their nests.

Two nights at the Interstate Hotel, Whitemark, Flinders Island.

Day 2 Thursday 23rd March Flinders Island

We continue exploring Flinders Island today, starting at the Wybalenna Historic Site, to which Aboriginal people were forcibly removed from mainland Tasmania between 1834 and 1847. The chapel, at one time used as a shearing shed, has been restored and the area returned to Aboriginal management. At Emita, a coastal village halfway between Whitemark and Killiecrankie, we visit the Furneaux Museum, run by volunteers with the Furneaux Historical Research Association, which showcases the natural and cultural history of Flinders Island.



On the north coast, we visit Killiecrankie, enjoying a scenic picnic lunch and travelling on the Coast Road to Palana, the site of coastal surveillance during WWII, and North East River. On the return journey to Whitemark we stop off at the Castle Rock at Marshall Beach, and Sawyers Bay. The day's touring concludes in Whitemark, with a visit to Bowman History Room in the E M Bowman and Co general store, the longest established retailer on the island, and the Gem Shop, which sells the famous Killiecrankie "Diamonds".

Day 3 Friday 24th March Flinders Island to Bruny Island

Leaving Flinders Island, we fly over the east coast of Tasmania, including the Bay of Fires National Park and the iconic Wineglass Bay and land on Maria Island (subject to government approval), where we take a fascinating walking tour of Darlington, with its convict and industrial past.



Taking to the skies again, we fly south over the dramatic dolerite cliffs of the Tasman Peninsula – during our flight, both Eaglehawk Neck and Port Arthur Historic Site will be visible – arriving on Bruny Island for lunch. On our guided tour of Bruny Island we learn more about the island's maritime and scientific history – French, English and Dutch sailors who regularly called here to resupply their sailing ships and undertake scientific work – and see the sensational cliff top views and the natural rugged environment, including The Neck, a very narrow isthmus connecting North and South Bruny Island. After dinner we take a night tour to view the Little Penguins and Short-tailed Shearwaters returning to their burrows at the seabird colony. You may also spot possums, wallabies and quolls.

Overnight at Inala Wildlife Sanctuary, Bruny Island.

Day 4 Saturday 25th March Bruny Island to Strahan

In the morning we explore North Bruny Island and enjoy a light lunch before departure. Our flight path takes us over South Cape, within sight of Maatsukyer Island home to Australia's most southerly lighthouse and on to Cox Bight, Bathurst Harbour and Port Davey on the remote and rugged South West National Park, part of the wild and pristine Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. We land in Strahan mid-afternoon, giving you time to relax and take a stroll through this picturesque town.



Overnight at Strahan Heritage Hotel.

Day 5 Sunday 26th March Strahan to King Island

This morning will feature a cruise on the Gordon River and Macquarie Harbour, with a landing at the infamous former penal colony, Sarah Island, and if sea conditions permit we'll also cruise through Hell's Gates at the entrance to Macquarie Harbour. Lunch on board. In the afternoon we fly via Wynyard to King Island, arriving mid-afternoon. Dinner tonight features local King Island produce.

Two nights at Green Ponds Gueshouse, Currie, King Island.



Day 6 Monday 27th March King Island

Today we have a full day tour of the island. We start with a visit to the Catarauqui Memorial overlooking the site of Australia's worst civil disaster, the sinking of the barque Catarauqui in 1845 and the loss of 400 lives. After a walk through the unusual 7000-year old calcified forest, we head to the township of Grassy and the nearby open cut scheelite mine and then lunch at a local cafe, with a chance of spotting a platypus. We'll also see Penny's Lagoon, one of only three suspended lakes in the world, and visit the very northern tip of King Island, Cape Wickham, where we see the tallest lighthouse in the southern hemisphere. We learn about the history of the lighthouse, and the wreck of the Lochleven in 1871.

Day 7 Tuesday 28th March King Island to Wollongong

Without doubt the King Island Cheese Factory is the most recognisable industry of King Island and we visit there for cheese tasting (and purchasing!). We stop at Kelp Industries where we learn about the harvesting of kelp from King Island's beaches, an important part of King Island's economy, and visit the King Island Museum, whose collection dates from the early sealers to the present day, with a focus on the island's maritime history. Finally we head across the East side of the island to Naracoopa, where the French and the British each landed at different times.

We take off for the crossing of Bass Strait to Cape Otway, over the Great Ocean Road area and the Twelve Apostles. We then head for the Gippsland region of Victoria and land at Bairnsdale for refuelling and a light lunch at the airport. Mid-afternoon we fly along the spectacular coastline to arrive at Wollongong airport about 4pm.

General Information & Booking Conditions

Cost

The cost of this tour is **\$5,975 AUD**.

The cost includes:

- ✿ chartered aircraft travel as per the itinerary
- ✿ comfortable hotel or bed and breakfast type accommodation on a twin-share basis
- ✿ all meals
- ✿ services of Insights Tours' tour-escort throughout the tour
- ✿ all road transport in a chartered air conditioned coach
- ✿ all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees
- ✿ to all places as specified in the itinerary
- ✿ all taxes, fees and charges
- ✿ complimentary reusable metal water bottle

Additional costs

Drinks and items of a personal nature and anything not specified above.

Single supplement

Very limited single accommodation is available for an additional cost of \$195.

Booking

Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Places on the tour require a \$500 deposit.

The balance will be due by Friday 17th February 2017

Cancellation Policy

For cancellations on or before Friday 17th February 2017

If you need to cancel your booking prior to or on Friday 17th February 2017, the cancellation fee is \$200 per person.

For cancellations after Friday 17th February 2017

If you need to cancel your booking after Friday 17th February 2017, the cancellation fee is 100% of the total tariff, that is, there is no refund of the total tariff.

Insights Tours strongly recommends that you consider travel insurance in case you need to cancel.

Insurance

We strongly recommend considering travel insurance to cover cancellation fees as well as medical emergencies, lost luggage and unforeseen delays during the tour. Insights Tours can provide information about obtaining insurance. We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance.

Viability of Tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Monday 20th February 2017 and we will refund in full any money paid.

Accommodation

The accommodation for this tour is partly to permit you to experience the authentic island experience of meeting with local people.

On Flinders Island we have ensuite rooms on the first floor of the Interstate Hotel, Whitemark. The hotel is the most imposing building in the town and is a meeting point of social activity and is owned and operated by a 4th generation Flinders Island family.

On Bruny Island, Inala Nature Tours who will be guiding us on the island, have their own accommodation on their 600 hectare property and we stay in their 4-star guesthouses. One is a 3 bedroom house and the other has 2 bedrooms. Some rooms have ensuite and the remaining rooms have shared facilities adjacent to the rooms. Accommodation on Bruny Island is extremely limited.

At Strahan we have ensuite rooms on the first floor of the Heritage Hotel. This is an heritage style hotel with the special character of Strahan.

On King Island our accommodation is at Green Ponds Guesthouse. It consists of a 4 bedroom house with 3 bathrooms, adjacent to the rooms.

Road transfers and tour vehicles



We fly in a turbine powered Cessna Caravan aircraft which is certified as one of the safest single engine aeroplanes. It is equipped with 8 passenger seats though we will have maximum 6 guests, so everyone has a window seat and we fly at altitudes which afford the best views commensurate with safety and operational requirements.

On Flinders Island we have arranged a chartered 12 seat vehicle

On Bruny Island – our agent, Inala Tours will provide 2x four-wheel drive vehicles

At Strahan we will utilise the local taxi service

On King Island we have arranged a chartered 12 seat vehicle or similar.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to 1 suitcase and 1 piece of hand luggage per person. The maximum weight for your luggage is 15kgs.

Guides

Insights Tours has engaged our own proficient guides wherever we have advertised a guided tour in the itinerary.

Water

Insights Tours will provide a complimentary water bottle which can be refilled as you require.

Meals

All meals are included and are a set menu. We take care to ensure that the menu is varied throughout the tour. Please ensure that you carefully note any dietary or any other requests on your booking form so that we can oblige your requirements.

Changes to the itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Image credits

Cover:

- Trousers Point, Tourism Tasmania & Steve Lovegrove
- Commissariat Store, Darlington Probation Station, Tourism Tasmania and Rob Burnett
- Calcified Forest, Tourism Tasmania and Rob Burnett
- Little Penguins, Tourism Tasmania & Chris Bell

Day 2:

- Aerial view of Trousers Point Beach, Stu Gibson
- Topaz - Killiecrankie Diamonds, Tourism Tasmania & Steve Lovegrove
- Trousers Point, Flinders Island, Sean Scott

Day 3:

- Cape Bruny Lighthouse, Tourism Tasmania & Rob Burnett

Day 4:

- Bathurst Harbour, John Tuckerman

Day 5:

- Sarah Island, Wai Nang Poon
- Cape Wickham lighthouse, Tourism Tasmania & Beth Vellekoop
- Cheese maker, King Island Dairy

About Insights Tours



Is a tour company operated by Paul and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide passengers with spacious and comfortable accommodation. Our philosophy is to provide a tour with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. Insights Tours engages our own guides to ensure that our passengers have the best insight into the location being visited.

Guest numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour is for a maximum of 6 guests. Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are being taken care of. This tour will be escorted by John Tuckerman.

If you would like details or assistance with any booking, please contact Paul:

Telephone: (61) 02 4267 2535

Facsimile: (61) 02 4267 5530

Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180

Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: 14 Allenby Parade, Bulli

(please make an appointment to ensure our office is attended when you visit)

Islands of Tasmania

Booking Form

Wednesday 22nd to Tuesday 28th March 2017

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Name		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		
Emergency Contact Person & Telephone		
Any special requirements or requests (especially dietary)		
Room type (please circle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Twin (2 beds) <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 large bed) <input type="checkbox"/> Single supplement (additional \$195)	
Deposit	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed - Please make cheques payable to "Insights Tours" - or - <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer/direct deposit Account Name: Insights Tours Client Travel Account BSB: 062607 Account Number: 10131313	

I/we acknowledge the terms and conditions of booking

Signature/s

Guest 1

Guest 2

Please return to: Insights Tours
PO Box 180
THIRROUL NSW 2515
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