

Franklin River and Frenchmans Cap



trip highlights

Trek to the summit of tuynti/Frenchmans Cap for immense views over the South West World Heritage Area

Travel with the company that pioneered rafting on the Franklin River

Visit Rock Island Bend, and the Lost World

Stay at true wilderness campsites right next to the river

Sailboat cruise along the Gordon River to Strahan



Trip Duration	10 days	Trip Code: FRC
Grade	Moderate to Challenging	
Activities	Rafting, Trekking	
Summary	10 day trip, 8 days rafting, 1 day walking, 9 nights camping, 1 day sailing	

welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our Franklin River and Frenchmans Cap trip. Tasmanian Expeditions offers the largest range of active adventure holidays across Australia's island state. With over three decades of experience, our comprehensive range of active trips include every iconic Tasmanian walk, Franklin River rafting expeditions, Self Guided walking and cycling trips, Family and Gourmet Adventures as well as award-winning Multi Activity tours. We also offer a number of carefully selected accommodated walks and day tours operated by trusted partners. All our guided tours are led by highly experienced and passionate guides and include meals, internal transport, accommodation, National Park fees and group camping equipment. If you cannot find the right trip for you we can easily customise a private trip or special itinerary just for your group.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When it comes to experiencing the very best of the Tasmanian wilderness it makes sense to travel with Tasmanian Expeditions. In each and every trip we combine:

- 30 + years experience
- The most experienced professional guides
- An unblemished safety record
- 24 hour backup
- A commitment to sustainable travel practices
- Quality equipment
- Delicious meals sourced from Tasmanian produce

Each and every trip will provide you with a high quality experience that represents unsurpassed value for money. We look forward to helping you explore our amazing wilderness - the right way.



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the trip

For those seeking the most complete Tasmanian wilderness experience, this 11-day rafting expedition combines the world's best river journey with a rare summit of the iconic quartzite dome of tuynti/Frenchmans Cap (1,443m). From the remote riverbank at Irenabyss, a dramatic side-trip leads through ancient rainforest to the peak, offering sweeping views across the vast and untamed south west—an unforgettable reward for those drawn to paths less travelled. Returning to the river, you'll tackle legendary sections like the Great Ravine and Newlands Cascades, navigating ever-changing moods as the Franklin carves its way through wild gorges, tranquil pools and dense temperate forest.

Guided by the most experienced rafting team on the river—who pioneered commercial descents here in 1978—this trip delivers a rare kind of immersion: no phone signal, no crowds, just pure, unfiltered nature. The lower Franklin and Gordon Rivers are a testament to what was saved when the dam proposal was defeated in 1983, and paddling through these ancient landscapes is a powerful reminder of what wilderness truly means. Recognised by Outside magazine as the best river journey on earth, this is an expedition for those who want more than adventure—this is the wilderness at its finest.

at a glance

A COMPULSORY PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING IS HELD THE DAY BEFORE THE TRIP COMMENCES
PLEASE SEE ITINERARY BELOW FOR DETAILS

DAY 1	TRANSFER TO COLLINGWOOD BRIDGE, BEGIN PADDLING
DAY 2	RAFT TO IRENABYSS
DAYS 3-4	TUYNTI/FRENCHMANS CAP CLIMB
DAY 5	RAFTING THE UPPER FRANKLIN
DAY 6	THE GREAT RAVINE
DAY 7	THE GREAT RAVINE TO RAFTER'S BASIN
DAY 8	PROPSTING GORGE TO NEWLANDS CASCADES
DAY 9	RAFTING THE LOWER FRANKLIN AND LOWER GORDON RIVER
DAY 10	TRANSFER BY YACHT TO STRAHAN, RETURN TO LAUNCESTON

what's included

- 2 professional rafting guides
- 9 nights camping
- 9 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 9 dinners
- Transport by private minibus
- Sailboat from lower Gordon River to Strahan
- All rafting and safety equipment
- Wetsuit, paddling jacket and helmet
- 80L waterproof gear bag
- Group camping equipment including all cooking & eating equipment
- Emergency communications & group first aid kit

what's not included

- Travel to and from Launceston before and after the trip
- Accommodation before or after the trip
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, car parking in Launceston etc
- Travel insurance
- Face masks and hand sanitiser

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trip dates

2026 17 Nov - 26 Nov
01 Dec - 10 Dec **H**
14 Dec - 23 Dec **H**
29 Dec - 07 Jan **H**

2027 12 Jan - 21 Jan **H**
25 Jan - 03 Feb **H**
09 Feb - 18 Feb **H**
23 Feb - 04 Mar

important notes

H - High Season

Note: - A high season supplement applies from 1 December to 15 February, and for any trip that overlaps a public holiday.

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Australia

Private Groups:
Private group options are available for this trip*

Leader:
Expert local leader

Advice for people with limited mobility
This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

detailed itinerary

The Franklin River Rafting Tour commences with a pre-departure briefing at Tasmanian Expeditions, 3/33 Churchill Park Drive Invermay at 1:00 pm on the day before departure. It is ESSENTIAL that you attend this briefing and that you bring along all of the gear/clothing required for your expedition with you. Please note that if you do not attend the briefing you may be excluded from the trip on safety grounds. Please make your travel arrangements so that you arrive in Launceston in time to attend the briefing at 1:00 pm.

The briefing will be approximately 2 hours in duration and will include the following:

- An outline of the general itinerary/objectives of the tour
- A cross-check of essential gear and clothing required
- Distribution and sizing of all wetsuits, helmets, pfd's, dry-bags
- Explanations of what is expected from the group and individual participants
- Identification of inherent risks of the trip and outline emergency procedures
- Explanation of Leave no Trace principles and overall conservation strategies
- Forecast weather and river conditions

DAY 1 Transfer to Collingwood Bridge, begin paddling

We pick you up early this morning in Launceston, from one of our two pick up locations. Our first pick up point is at 7:15am from the Grand Chancellor and our second pick up point is at 7:30am at the Penny Royal. We then drive to our put-in point at Collingwood Bridge. We aim to be there around 12:00 noon and here we will inflate and load our rafts. Before getting on the water the guides will provide a safety briefing and instruction in paddling the raft. Our destination this day is the junction of the Franklin and Collingwood rivers or downstream to the Aesthesia Ravine.

*You will need to arrive in Launceston the day before your trip, ensuring that you arrive in time to attend the 1:00pm pre-trip briefing.

meals: L,D

DAY 2 Raft to Irenabyss

Today we will tackle the Log Jam, Nasty Notch, Descension Gorge and float calmly through the Irenabyss and camp just on the side of the river below the gorge. We spend the evening relaxing at our idyllic camp deep in the wilderness. While your guides prepare a hearty evening meal, why not take a cup of tea down to the river to look for the wildlife that comes out at dusk.

meals: B,L,D

DAYS 3-4 tuynti/Frenchmans Cap Climb

Weather permitting we climb to tuynti/Frenchmans Cap from our base camp at Irenabyss. Trekking to the peak is challenging and immensely rewarding; an absolute highlight of Tasmanian bushwalking. The walk is approximately 7km and will take between 8 to 10 hours. The trail is very steep, and is often muddy and slippery. The incomparable views from the top take in a vast expanse of the wild and rugged south-west World Heritage Area, making the effort well-worth it.

Having two days set aside allows us some flexibility and gives us maximum chance of climbing tuynti/Frenchmans in fine weather.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Rafting the Upper Franklin

Today is a long and beautiful day of rafting, with some interesting paddling and numerous campsites along the river banks. The mood of the river depends

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thoughtful travel

Tasmanian Expeditions operates in some of the world's most pristine and beautiful environments, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. Our passion for the Tasmanian wilderness is at the core of our values; we are informed and guided by this, ensuring that everything we do is carefully managed for sustainability. We have an exceptional record of successfully utilising minimum impact procedures to ensure that the wilderness values that inspire us are undiminished by our activities. We invite you to experience the Tasmanian wilderness with us, so that you can experience the transformation that nature can bring, yet be assured that you will not be transforming nature. Our environmental policies together with your help and co-operation will ensure that we can safe guard the pristine wilderness areas in which we operate.

Visit our website to learn more about our Leave No Trace policy.

trip grading

Moderate to Challenging

For most of this trip you will be rafting or walking in remote areas for up to 6 to 10 hours a day, possibly more, with lots of physical activity. The Franklin River Rafting trip is graded moderate to challenging.

Rafting is an activity that any reasonably fit person can participate in. We do ask however, that all participants should feel confident in swimming with a buoyancy vest should they fall out of the raft. Our leaders will prepare you for such an event before we begin the trip.

The degree of difficulty of the trip will depend on the water levels we encounter.

Your guide will teach you the techniques to steer your raft. It will be up to the crew, under your guide's direction to make a successful, exciting trip. Whitewater rafting is one of the most thrilling of outdoor activities and requires a team effort. The raft guides will analyse the river and select the safest and most practical way through the rapids.

For safety reasons we require each crew

completely on how much rain has fallen recently. Keep your eye out for the red flowers of climbing heath cascading down the surrounding rock faces. Tonight we enjoy another feast prepared by your guides, then turn in for a night under the open sky.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 The Great Ravine

We reach the Great Ravine today and the first major portage at the Churn. There are some challenging sections along the river prior to reaching the Churn. We pass Blushrock Falls, named for the red tinge in the rock. As we paddle look out for a view of Frenchman's Cap from the river. Your passionate guides will tell you about the Franklin's famous history, and also intriguing lesser known tales that have come to them over their years of adventuring on this wild river. Tonight we camp at Coruscades Camp within the Great Ravine.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 The Great Ravine to Rafter's Basin

Today takes us to Deliverance Reach, the end of the Great Ravine, and on to Rafter's Basin. After breakfast we paddle and portage through Coruscades, Livingstone's Cut, Thunderush, the Masterpiece and the Cauldron to the Mousehole – a narrow recess with a cat-like boulder overlooking the river. It is only a 2km paddle now from the Mousehole to Rafter's Basin where we camp for the night by Interlude Creek. The terrain around our camp tonight is somewhat of a prelude of the forthcoming Lower Franklin.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Propsting Gorge to Newlands Cascades

Depending on the weather today our destination is The Black Forest or Newlands Cascades. Life on the river is extremely dominated by the weather and your guides are adaptable, with a great plan B no matter what mother nature throws down at them... it's all part of the adventure! Today we paddle through Propsting Gorge and some of the Franklin's best rapids. After lunch we navigate the longest rapid on the river: Newlands Cascades. At the bottom of these rapids there is a long, large overhang which makes a cosy place to spend the night.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 Rafting the Lower Franklin and Lower Gordon River

Greet the morning with a hot drink in hand, watching the sun creep down the sides of the valley towards our camp. Huon Pines and Leatherwood trees drapes themselves elegantly along the banks of the river. Listen and look for the birds that flit amongst their branches. The paddling today is relatively straightforward, to Blackman's Bend through the deep temperate rainforest of the lower river that was protected by the environmental protests of the early 1980s.

We will continue past Double Fall, Big Fall, and Galleon Bluff, which is said to look similar to the sterns of several ships jutting out into the dark water. Shortly after we float under the impressive overhang of Verandah Cliffs. Our camp tonight is at Sir John Falls on the Gordon River, about 5km downstream of the junction of the Gordon and Franklin. The small wharf in front of our campsite is the perfect place from which to have a swim in the Gordon River, and to look out for white bellied sea eagles, as your guides prepare our final evening meal.

meals: B,L,D

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member to wear a buoyancy vest, helmet and footwear. Each raft is guided by an experienced river guide. We take 2-3 rafts on each expedition with 3-4 participants plus a professional guide in each raft.

There is one day of walking where we summit Frenchmans Cap. This is a challenging but rewarding trek. Much of the walk is steep, with sections that require scrambling, and you'll likely encounter mud.

Suggested preparation: One hour of aerobic type exercise, four times a week (including a mix of walking and using a rowing machine).

You should include day walking over steep, uneven terrain in your trip preparation.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with our trained staff.

important note

The above itinerary is to be taken as a guide only. Inclement weather, group fitness and a number of other factors may influence our planned itinerary causing delays and variations. The Tasmanian Expeditions group leader reserves the right to make modifications and or alterations to the trips itinerary in the best interests of all involved.

DAY 10 Transfer by yacht to Strahan, return to Launceston

This morning you are collected by Stormbreaker yacht and cruise down the length of the river before reaching paralungatik/Macquarie Harbour. Take the chance to kick back on the deck and enjoy the views over the broad expanse of the Gordon River. In Strahan we are met by our bus, which will transfer us back to Launceston (driving time is approximately 4.5 hours). Arrival in Launceston may vary from late afternoon to late evening though usually around 5pm. Our two drop-off points in Launceston are the Grand Chancellor and the Penny Royal. We usually celebrate with a group farewell dinner this evening (own expense).

meals: B,L

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

climate

Tasmania is located between Latitudes 40 and 43, with the islands temperature and weather moderated by the surrounding oceans. The cool temperate climate offers four distinct seasons which can interchange on any given day of the year. Summer in-land temperatures average 24 degrees with nights averaging a relatively cool 8 degrees. Rainfall in Tasmania is far higher than any mainland counterpart and averages 2700 millimetres on the west coast and central highlands.

Tasmania's alpine regions can experience heavy rainfalls and temperatures below zero degrees in summer. For group safety and comfort, having adequate gear and equipment for the local conditions ensures accessibility to the wilderness is enjoyed. Tasmanian Expeditions has a specialist gear list available that details what clothing and equipment is required for each of our Tasmanian adventures.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance we are able to cater for vegetarian diets, and can assist with food intolerances. Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us at least a month prior to your trip to determine whether we can cater for your dietary needs. Please note that options are likely to be limited in remote locations or alternatives can be more expensive or unavailable and there may be times when those with special requirements need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut free or allergen free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self administering these medications.

hygiene

Tasmanian Expeditions is deeply committed to ensuring the natural heritage and wilderness values of Tasmania are undiminished for generations to come. The following policies & techniques for personal hygiene in the wilderness will help to reduce our impact and ensure that the trip is sustainable.

-Please keep toiletries to an absolute minimum. If biodegradable products are brought on tour, their suitability will be discussed at your pre-departure briefing. We suggest leaving items such as shampoo, soaps & hair products behind. Natural 100% tea tree oil serves as a good antiseptic soap/shampoo alternative.

-Due to our strict minimal impact procedures we carry out all human waste. We use a specially designed toilet system known as 'The Groover'. Your guides will advise you on all toilet procedures prior to departure.

-On this trip there are of course many opportunities to have a swim or bathe in the mighty

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Franklin River. A quick drying micro/travel towel is recommended for washing/drying.

-Personal hygiene can be further maintained with wet wipes/moist towelettes.

-If possible, organic/natural brands of insect repellent, sunscreen, deodorant and toothpaste are preferred – small quantities are lighter to carry!

-Sanitising hand gel will be provided at mealtimes & around camp. Having a small personal quantity is also recommended – approx 60ml is sufficient.

accommodation on the trip

On the Franklin River you will be camping as a group either in caves and rocky overhangs, or under dry, airy Tarpaulins. There are no toilets or showers along the Franklin – please see the ‘hygiene’ section above for more information. Traditional bushwalking tents are not used on the Franklin as they get wet and do not provide the best shelter for the conditions. Rock shelters and tarpaulins are the most appropriate shelter for this type of expedition. A self-inflating sleeping mat is very useful for comfort in camp. A folding chair-back such as a Crazy Creek chair also adds to comfort in camp.

pre and post tour accommodation

Our preferred hotel in Launceston for pre and post tour accommodation is the Penny Royal Leisure Inn. Once your trip booking has been confirmed your reservations consultant will send you a booking link and a discount code for the hotel. The Penny Royal Leisure Inn offers a discount of 15% for all Tasmanian Expeditions clients. Alternatively we have discounted rates and are happy to book the accommodation on your behalf. Discounted rates are not available during Christmas, New Years, Easter, and other peak periods throughout the year.

what you carry

All personal clothing and equipment is stored in dry-bags that are lashed to a gear frame on the raft. It is possible during portages that participants will need to unpack the rafts and carry loads short distances around rapids.

equipment required

Tasmanian Expeditions has a specialist gear list available that details what clothing and equipment is required for each of our Tasmanian adventures. The gear list is specific to the type of tour you will be joining us on and it provides a clear description of what is included in the tour cost, what items are available for hire and what you will need to bring with you. Brand recommendations and the individual weight of the gear provided is also included.

protecting the environment

Tasmanian Expeditions operates in some of the world’s most pristine and beautiful environments, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It is our priority to leave these places unspoilt and as they were for all future visitors to enjoy.

The Leave No Trace principles and minimal impact practices specific for your adventure will be introduced at the initial group briefing and reinforced by your guides when required out in the field. Following our ‘hygiene’ suggestions listed on these trip notes is a productive first step in helping the environment. Our environmental policies together with your help and cooperation will ensure that we can safe guard the pristine wilderness in which we operate.

In 2013 we achieved Ecotourism Certification at the ECO IV level for all the tours we own and operate. The ECO Certification Program is a world first, developed to address the need to identify genuine nature and ecotourism operators. The program is no being exported to the rest of the world as the International ECO Certification Program.

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visas

Most visitors to Australia require a visa obtained prior to arrival.

Passport holders from the following countries can apply for the Australian Tourist Visa online prior to their arrival which allows you a stay in Australia for up to 3 months:

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

Other nationalities can check their eligibility for an e-visa here:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601#Eligibility>

New Zealand passport holders do not need to obtain a visa prior to arrival they will be granted a visa on arrival.

*All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochure and on our website are just the starting point for many of our private group travellers. We love creating custom designed itineraries for groups of friends, work colleagues, charities, schools and clubs. Our staff will assist you with all aspects of your private group adventure. Contact our office today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

Subscribe to our e-newsletter! Be kept up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news. You can subscribe through our website or by contacting our office.

social networking

You can view photos and grab tips from our community of travellers or be the first to know about deals and special events at [Facebook.com/TasmanianExpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/TasmanianExpeditions) or on [Instagram/TasmanianExpeditions](https://www.instagram.com/TasmanianExpeditions) or at [Twitter.com/TasExp](https://www.twitter.com/TasExp)

trip availability

If this trip sounds right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. Limited space on our small group trips is just one reason why you may not be able to join your desired departure. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf far in advance and the demand is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you contact our reservations team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book this trip, you will need to complete a booking form and pay a non refundable deposit which you can do by using our online booking function, or if you prefer, download a booking form from the website www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au and return to us by email, or mail your booking form and deposit to Tasmanian Expeditions.

If you have any questions please call Tasmanian Expeditions or your nearest World Expeditions office.

TASMANIAN EXPEDITIONS

1300 666 856



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