

the great tasmanian traverse



trip highlights

Walk 4 of Tasmania's greatest multi day treks.

Explore deep forests, sub-alpine plateaus and spectacular highland landscapes

End each day at scenic campsites in the remote wilderness

Summit iconic Cradle Mountain and Tasmania's highest peak, Mt Ossa

Enjoy close encounters with the wildlife and amazing endemic wildflowers

Travel with the most experienced operator on Tasmania's iconic trails and the Franklin River

Enjoy delicious meals prepared by your guides in the evenings

Enjoy a scenic flight over the wild west coast into Melaleuca

Raft the Franklin River



Trip Duration	38 days	Trip Code: TTC
Grade	Challenging	
Activities	Trekking with a Full Pack, Rafting	
Summary	20 days tent based camping, 9 days sleeping under a canopy on the Franklin River, 8 nights at cabin style/hotel accommodation between sections	

Tasmanian Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our The Great Tasmanian Traverse 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 Tasmanian 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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trip dates

2027 23 Jan - 01 Mar

important notes

DN1 - For this trip you will be required to pay a 10% deposit at the time of booking. The balance of the tour price is payable 70 days prior to departure.

Tasmanian Expeditions does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same sex and if we cannot match you up we will provide a single room (or tent if applicable) at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share, a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room (or tent if applicable) pending availability. Please refer to our website for the additional cost.

the trip

The Tasmanian Traverse is a unique annual adventure which combines Tasmanian and World Expeditions' five most highly rated and popular trips over a five-week period. We travel by trail, raft, light plane and yacht to cover Tasmania from the quiet, rural communities of the North to the wild and isolated South.

On this epic adventure we trek from the sandy beaches of Penguin, through valleys and canyons, gradually climbing up to the highlands over six days on the Coast to Cradle Trail. We then walk the world renowned Overland Track which journeys through the middle of Tasmania, including our highest peak (Mt Ossa) and our most famous (Cradle Mtn). After the dolerite dominated landscape of the Overland, we kick off our hiking boots and pull on wetsuits for eight days Rafting the Franklin River. While on the river we will take advantage of the access the Franklin River offers to the prized summit of the Frenchmans Cap. We trek into quartzite country on the Frenchmans Cap Trek, aiming to summit this amazing peak.

At the end of the Franklin River, the famous Stormbreaker yacht will sail us down the Gordon River to Strahan on the mid-west coast. From here we board a light aircraft to fly over the West Coast into Southwest World Heritage Area. The final leg of this journey treks the South Coast Track, a rugged and wonderfully rewarding trail that weaves over and around mountains, beaches and rivers to Cockle Creek – Tassie's most southern township. The traverse ends in Hobart, our beautiful capital city. Between each trip you will have two or three nights in comfortable accommodation to relax, reflect on the journey so far, and recharge for the next section. Your guides for each section are extremely passionate about the unique areas and delight in sharing their knowledge and uncovering the hidden stories of the land with you. There is scope to return year-after-year to complete different sections if you are unable to join in its entirety.

By adventuring via land, sea and air you will come away with a complete understanding and appreciation of what makes this magnificent state just so special, and why it is known as having some of the best trekking in the world.

at a glance

A COMPULSORY PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING IS HELD ON DAY 1 OF THE ITINERARY AT TASMANIAN EXPEDITIONS OFFICES - 3/33 CHURCHILL PARK DRIVE, INVERMAY, LAUNCESTON. PLEASE SEE ITINERARY BELOW FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

DAY 1	PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING
DAY 2	TRANSFER LAUNCESTON TO PENGUIN, WALK PENGUIN TO WALLOA CREEK CAMP
DAY 3	WALLOA CREEK CAMP TO BLACKWOOD CAMP
DAY 4	BLACKWOOD CAMP TO LOONGANA
DAY 5	LOONGANA TO PADDYS LAKE (BLACK BLUFF)
DAY 6	PADDYS LAKE TO FOUR WAYS CAMP
DAY 7	FOUR WAYS CAMP TO CRADLE MTN. VISITOR CENTRE
DAY 8	RELAXING AT CRADLE MOUNTAIN ACCOMMODATION
DAY 9	WALDHEIM TO WATERFALL VALLEY
DAY 10	WATERFALL VALLEY TO LAKE WINDERMERE
DAY 11	LAKE WINDERMERE TO PELION PLAINS
DAY 12	PELION PLAINS TO KIA ORA
DAY 13	KIA ORA TO WINDY RIDGE (BERT NICHOLS)
DAY 14	WINDY RIDGE (BERT NICHOLS) TO ECHO POINT
DAY 15	ECHO POINT TO CYNTHIA BAY
DAY 16	RELAXING AT DERWENT BRIDGE ACCOMMODATION
DAY 17	RELAXING AT DERWENT BRIDGE ACCOMMODATION
DAY 18	TRANSFER TO COLLINGWOOD BRIDGE, BEGIN PADDLING

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DAY 19	RAFT TO IRENABYSS
DAYS 20-21	FRENCHMANS CAP CLIMB
DAY 22	RAFTING THE UPPER FRANKLIN
DAY 23	THE GREAT RAVINE
DAY 24	THE GREAT RAVINE TO RAFTER'S BASIN
DAY 25	PROPSTING GORGE TO NEWLANDS CASCADES
DAY 26	RAFTING THE LOWER FRANKLIN
DAY 27	THE LOWER GORDON RIVER
DAY 28	TRANSFER BY YACHT TO STRAHAN
DAY 29	RELAXING AT STRAHAN ACCOMMODATION
DAY 30	FLY TO MELALEUCA, WALK TO COX'S BIGHT (POINT ERIC)
DAY 31	COX'S BIGHT (POINT ERIC) TO LOUISA RIVER
DAY 32	LOUISA RIVER TO LITTLE DEADMAN'S BAY VIA THE IRONBOUNDS
DAY 33	REST DAY AT LITTLE DEADMAN'S BAY
DAY 34	LITTLE DEADMAN'S BAY TO OSMIRIDIUM BEACH
DAY 35	OSMIRIDIUM BEACH TO GRANITE BEACH
DAY 36	GRANITE BEACH TO SOUTH CAPE RIVULET
DAY 37	SOUTH CAPE RIVULET TO COCKLE CREEK, TRANSFER TO HOBART
DAY 38	BREAKFAST AND HOBART

additional deposits required

This trip requires a 10% deposit which is non-refundable. This payment is required at the time of booking. This prepayment should not be viewed as an additional cost. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.

what's included

- 2-3 professional wilderness guides
- 20 nights tent based camping, 9 days camping under a tarp on the Franklin
- 8 nights of cabin style accommodation between trip sections
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners for the duration of the trip
- Food drop provisions along the track
- Transport by private minibus
- National Park fees
- Overland Track Permit
- Tent, backpack and gaiters
- Sleeping bag, inner sheet & inflatable sleeping mat
- Group camping equipment including all cooking & eating equipment
- Emergency communications & group first aid kit
- Gordon River yacht transfer
- Scenic flight from Strahan or Hobart to Melaleuca
- Rafting gear and equipment
- Complimentary gear cleaning between sections

what's not included

- Travel to Launceston/from Hobart
- Travel insurance
- Travel to Hobart airport
- Items of a personal nature - alcoholic beverages, car parking etc
- Admission fees to other sites during days in between sections

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fast facts

Private Groups:

Group Size Min:

3

Group Size Max:

8

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

Brochure Reference:

Tasmanian Expeditions

responsible 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

→ Face masks and hand sanitiser

detailed itinerary

The Great Tasmanian Traverse commences with a **COMPULSORY** pre-departure briefing at Tasmanian Expeditions Office at 3/33 Churchill Park Drive, Invermay at 10:30 am on Day 1 of the itinerary. It is **ESSENTIAL** that you make your travel arrangements to enable you to attend this briefing and that you bring along all of the gear/clothing required for your expedition with you.

The briefing will be approximately 6 hours in duration and will include the following:

- An opportunity for you to meet your fellow group members over a complimentary hot beverage
- An outline of the general itinerary/objectives of the tour
- A cross-check of essential gear and clothing required
- Distribution and packing of all hire gear included in the tour price and/or requested
- 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 conditions
- An opportunity to pack your backpack with everything required for the trip, leaving it behind, ready for the following days departure

DAY 1 Pre-departure briefing

Today you need to make your way to our office at 3/33 Churchill Park Drive, Invermay.

The briefing will commence at 10:30 a.m sharp and will cover all aspects of the trip including an overview of the itinerary, a comprehensive gear check, rafting gear fittings and details of accommodation/transfers included in your trip.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet some of the different guides who will be leading the various sections of the traverse.

A lunch will be provided as the briefing is expected to go from mid to late afternoon.

Afterwards you will be transferred to your accommodation where you will be able to relax before the evenings dinner.

Briefing: 4-6 hours

meals: L,D

DAY 2 Transfer Launceston to Penguin, walk Penguin to Walloa Creek Camp

This morning you will be transferred to Northern Tasmania and the start of the Coast to Cradle trail. Our trek begins at sea level in Penguin, a small seaside village, then heads south and slowly but surely higher until finishing six days later in the highlands of Cradle Mountain National Park. We wave goodbye to the vehicle, don our packs and start trekking. Today's route takes us out of Penguin village and into the Dial Range. Following Myrtle Creek, Keddies Creek, and River Leven we trek along valleys then head upwards to Mt Lorymer Lookout. After enjoying lunch we descend to Walloa Creek for our first night under the stars.

Walking: 17km, 8 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Walloa Creek Camp to Blackwood Camp

Your guides will have you up early this morning for breakfast as we have a big walk ahead. We emerge from the rainforest of Walloa Creek to Gunns Plains, a rural farming community. We cross through the Plains on back roads before reaching the Northern Gates, the entrance to the stunning Leven Canyon. After lunch we enter the canyon where you'll experience breathtaking views of the

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Challenging

This trip involves trekking and rafting for an average of 6 to 8 hours a day at a steady pace, on the South Coast Track section there is a day walk of up to 10 hours. The trip involves 21 days of hiking and 8 days rafting, so you will need to have a good level of endurance. You will need an excellent level of fitness and must be in good health. Treks usually involve carrying a full pack weighing between 18-22kg. Depending on river levels some portage may be required on the Franklin. Be prepared for potential variable weather conditions. The terrain covered on The Great Tasmanian Traverse is varied, but will include many steep ascents and descents. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. You should be prepared for creek and river crossings. Over the trip you will walk along boardwalks, along beaches, up and down steps, through overgrown forests, through muddy sections and scramble over rocks.

For the rafting portion of the trip we require that all participants should feel confident in swimming with a buoyancy vest should they fall out of the raft. The degree of difficulty of the rafting will depend on the water levels we encounter, but generally rafting is an activity that any reasonably fit person can participate in.

Suggested preparation: We recommend one hour of strenuous exercise 4 times per week (this can be cycling, jogging, walking or rowing) interspersed with relatively demanding bushwalks carrying a full pack weight (up to 20kgs). At least once a week, you should walk with a weighted day pack (5-7kg) for several hours for leg strengthening and aerobic fitness. The best exercise for our challenging treks is multi day bushwalking involving relatively steep ascents and descents and in variable weather conditions. Spending some time paddling or on a rowing machine would be beneficial for the rafting section.

Leven River rushing below. An hour or so before reaching camp we cross Tulip-tree Creek. Tulip-tree is an early name for the Tasmanian Waratah—one of our most intricate and intriguing endemic plants. The challenging walk hugs the wall of the canyon before descending to leafy Blackwood Camp. Tonight we pitch our tents beside the River Leven, sheltered by the peaks of The Three Brothers and Griffiths Ridge.

Walking: 21km, 9 hours

meals: **B,L,D**

DAY 4 Blackwood Camp to Loongana

Today's trek is physically challenging as we make our way into the heart of the Leven Canyon. The day is full of amazing views both from high on the canyon wall edge and the river bank itself. The forest along the ancient river course is simply stunning. We pass a boulder filled gully on the right, this is where the river once flowed through; a huge landslide changed the course of the river to where it is now. The afternoon takes us over Griffiths Ridge, then downwards past a footbridge. Descending towards Loongana you are greeted with the amazing sight of Leven Falls, a series of majestic cascades. You may like to soak your hardworking feet in the creek beside our camp as your guides prepare a hearty evening meal.

Walking: 7km, 7 hours

meals: **B,L,D**

DAY 5 Loongana to Paddys Lake (Black Bluff)

This morning we trek up the foothills of Black Bluff. As we climb the vegetation changes from tall eucalypt forest to shorter Tea Tree and Banksia communities, before emerging in pristine sub-alpine landscape at Paddys Lake. After setting up camp the afternoon offers us the chance to make a side trip to the summit of Black Bluff (1339m). From the top you are rewarded with one of the most spectacular views in Tasmania! The 360-degree vista allows you to take in all of the ranges from Bass Straight to the Central Plateau. In clear weather even iconic Cradle Mountain and Mount Ossa (Tasmania's highest peak) are visible, and if you look a little further you may see the Southern Ocean meeting the ancient Tarkine coastline.

Walking: 9.1km, 4.5 hours (or 10.2km, 6 hours with Black Bluff side trip)

meals: **B,L,D**

DAY 6 Paddys Lake to Four Ways Camp

The track today is relatively gentle. We are up high, following the Black Bluff Range south. Amongst a diversity of other alpine flora you will witness examples of three of Tasmania's most vibrant cushion plant communities. In the afternoon the vegetation opens up to vast buttongrass plains, and we trek over Prospect Mountain, the summit of which is marked with the original cairn laid by Henry Hellyer in 1831. Tasmanian's are proud of Mr Hellyer, an English surveyor and architect who made the most comprehensive maps of the area in his time. We sidle around the peak of Rocky Mountain, over the foothills of magnificent Mount Beecroft, then descend to Vale River. Our last night out here on the Coast to Cradle Trail is spent at Fourways Camp, a beautiful sheltered spot beside the river.

Walking: 19.6km, 8.5 hours

meals: **B,L,D**

DAY 7 Four Ways Camp to Cradle Mtn. Visitor Centre

Today we pack our backpacks for the final day on the track, which takes us through magnificent cool temperate rainforest. The track gently climbs over the rolling plains that mark the beginning of the Cradle Valley, giving us an opportunity to take in views of the mountains and ponder what we have achieved. Six days ago we left the beaches of Northern Tasmania and today we arrive – by

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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.

foot – in the alpine highlands of Cradle Mountain National Park. The first section of our Tassie Traverse concludes here at Cradle Mountain where accommodation will be provided for the next two nights, and fresh gear supplied for your next trek!

Walking: 7.7km, 4 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Relaxing at Cradle Mountain accommodation

The Cradle Mountain area offers many options for a bushwalker in need of rejuvenation! You may like to visit the Wilderness Gallery, treat yourself to lunch by the roaring wood-fire at The Lodge or learn more about the National Park at the Interpretation Centre. You could take a short (pack-free!) walk to look for wildlife, see Tasmanian Devils being fed at Devils at Cradle, or simply kick back in your accommodation drinking endless cups of tea and watching the ever-changing weather from the comfort of a couch... The choice is yours!

meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 Waldheim to Waterfall Valley

You will be collected from your accommodation by your fellow walkers for the next exciting part of the journey. Over the next seven days you will have the opportunity to climb some of Tasmania's most well known peaks such as Cradle Mountain and Mt Ossa, and walk around Lake St Clair. The Overland Track is famous for its spectacular diversity, glaciated landscapes, ancient rainforests and unique alpine vegetation. Every day will provide a new discovery and your expert guides infuse you with their enthusiasm and love for this very special area.

Waldheim, 'forest home', is where our Overland Track begins. We spend the morning trekking our way across button grass plains and through a small patch of special rainforest. Fill your water bottle in the magical, clear cascade coming from Crater Lake and keep your eyes out for wombats! A steep climb gets us to the top of the Cradle Plateau where we are rewarded with views of Dove Lake and an endless horizon of impressive mountain ranges. After lunch, weather and time permitting, we may opt for a side trip to the craggy summit of Cradle Mountain before making our way to our first camp at Waterfall Valley.

Walking: 10km, 5 hours + side trips

meals: B,L,D

DAY 10 Waterfall Valley to Lake Windermere

After coffee at our campsite we continue south to Lake Windermere. A leisurely day that offers time for a side trip to Lake Will - named for Joseph Will, a coal prospector in the 1800s. There is opportunity to have lunch and swim from the sandy shores of Lake Will. Returning to our packs we head back across the rolling buttongrass plains to our stunning campsite. We spend the afternoon relaxing, taking in the fabulous views, and maybe having another refreshing swim in the lake.

Walking: 8km, 3 hours + side trips

meals: B,L,D

DAY 11 Lake Windermere to Pelion Plains

Listen for the birds calling from high up in the eucalypts surrounding the campsite as you wake up in your tent this morning. On the track it's a wild day of moorlands and mountain views. Our morning takes us across Pine Forest Moor offering spectacular views across the Forth River Valley to the heights of Mt Oakleigh. If you look carefully you can see today's destination on the other side of the huge valley: New Pelion Hut. We descend around Mount Pelion West to a popular lunch spot at Frog

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Flats. Our afternoon takes us up through tall, mossy forest onto the Pelion Plains. We have the option of a short side trip to Old Pelion Hut to gain a deeper understanding of the history of this area. Our main food drop is hidden near here and your guides will spend time collecting supplies.

Walking: 17km, 7 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 12 Pelion Plains to Kia Ora

From camp we continue walking south through Myrtle forest, past tufted Pandani trees, then up to the saddle (1113m) between Mount Pelion East and Mount Ossa. This is the perfect place for a well deserved rest. In fine weather climbing Mount Ossa - Tasmania's highest peak at 1617m - is without a doubt one of the highlights of the Overland Track. With magnificent views in all directions we continue south into Pinestone Valley to our creek-side campsite overlooking the grand spires of Cathedral Mountain.

Walking: 9km, 5 hours + side trips

meals: B,L,D

DAY 13 Kia Ora to Windy Ridge (Bert Nichols)

Today we walk through towering rainforests of Leatherwood and Sassafrass trees, heading towards three of Tasmania's largest and most spectacular waterfalls. The first we visit is Fergusson Falls, named after a former ranger at Lake St Clair. Then we can visit Dalton Falls, and finally Hartnett Falls which is named after Paddy Hartnett, an eccentric Irish bushman who was rarely seen without his bowler hat. We make camp in the afternoon at Windy Ridge (don't worry - our campsite is not as windy as it sounds!)

Walking: 10km, 4 hours + side trips

meals: B,L,D

DAY 14 Windy Ridge (Bert Nichols) to Echo Point

A gently undulating track today allows you more time to listen to the bubble of tannin-stained creeks, take photos, and admire the wildflowers. As we near Lake St Clair we can gaze up to the peaks of Mt Ida and majestic Mount Olympus. Standing on the small suspension bridge that crosses Narcissus River with the cliffs of Mount Olympus as backdrop is an impressive photo spot - your guides are always happy to capture the moment with your camera! Tonight we camp next to Lake St Clair, the deepest natural lake in the southern hemisphere. As your guides prepare your last evening meal on the Overland Track, you can take your cup of tea down to the edge of the lake. There is a small jetty here which is a wonderful spot to sit and watch for platypus as the sun sets.

Walking: 15km, 6 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 15 Echo Point to Cynthia Bay

Today we pack our backpacks for the final day on the Overland Track and continue south-east on a pleasant sheltered track along the western side of Lake St Clair. The tall Myrtle forest with its open under storey gradually changes into eucalyptus with a dense ground cover of ferns. This is a special section of the Overland Track as most walkers do not trek this section, instead opting to catch a boat across the lake. We will be some of the few to trek this last official section of the Overland. Through gaps in the forest you can see Cynthia Bay and the roof of the visitor centre - our final destination. We cross Watersmeet on a high timber bridge and soon after come out amongst the other hikers and day-trippers exploring the visitors centre. Congratulations! Now time to celebrate with a drink, hot meal, clean clothes, and three nights relaxing and reflecting at your Derwent Bridge accommodation.

Walking: 10km, 3 hours

meals: B,L,D

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DAY 16 Relaxing at Derwent Bridge accommodation

Lake St Clair is only a short distance from Derwent Bridge and offers a wide range of walks, dining options and sensational views. Or you may opt to view the Wall in the Wilderness; a 100 metre bass relief carved on local timbers detailing the rich history of the region.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 17 Relaxing at Derwent Bridge accommodation

The second day at Derwent Bridge can be spent as you desire before starting the next exhilarating section of your journey.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 18 Transfer to Collingwood Bridge, begin paddling

This morning we will 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.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 19 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 20-21 Frenchmans Cap Climb

Weather permitting we climb to Frenchmans Cap from our base camp at Irenabyss. Trekking to the peak is challenging and immensely rewarding; an absolute highlight of Tasmanian bushwalking. The incomparable views from the top take in a vast expanse of the wild and rugged south-west World Heritage Area. Having two days set aside allows us some flexibility and gives us maximum chance of climbing Frenchmans in fine weather.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 22 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 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 23 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 Frenchmans Cap from the river. Your 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

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DAY 24 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 25 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 Franklins 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 26 Rafting the Lower Franklin

Wake up with a cup of tea and watch 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 1980.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 27 The Lower Gordon River

Today our adventure takes us 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 a delicious evening meal.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 28 Transfer by yacht to Strahan

This morning you are collected by Stormbreaker yacht and cruise down the length of the river before reaching Macquarie Harbour. Take the chance to kick back on the deck and enjoy the views over the broad expanse of the Gordon River. The vessel docks at Strahan Wharf where you will say farewell to the wetsuit and rafts that have been your trusty adventure-companions for the past week. The next two nights will be spent on dry land at your accommodation in Strahan before commencing the final stage of your trip.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 29 Relaxing at Strahan accommodation

Your day at the famous tourist destination of Strahan can be spent with a well deserved sleep in followed by a hearty breakfast. The day is yours to enjoy as you will, but there is plenty to keep you entertained such as a relaxing wander up to Hogarth Falls, a visit to the Huon Pine mill, check out the quality local arts and crafts or just relax near the harbour and enjoy a pleasant drink.

meals: B,L,D

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DAY 30 Fly to Melaleuca, walk to Cox's Bight (Point Eric)

Today you will either experience a scenic flight from Strahan air strip which follows the wild and rugged West Coast or you will be transferred to Hobart to enjoy your scenic flight over the capital of this unique state and into the Southwest National Park. The flight will land at Melaleuca where you will be met by the rest of your walking companions. From here you will embark upon a true wilderness expedition on one of the most remote and pristine hiking trails to be found in Australia. Secluded beaches, mountain ranges and mesmerizing views of this stunning coastline are just some of the highlights of this walk. On arrival at our waterfront campsite we pitch our tents, collect drinking water and settle in with a hot drink and time for a game of beach cricket, a swim, or just wander along the beach before dinner.

Walking: 12km, 3-4 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 31 Cox's Bight (Point Eric) to Louisa River

After breakfast and packing up camp we head out along the beach. Tides dictate this morning's timing as we skirt around a rocky headland before climbing up onto Sedge and Melaleuca clad plains that draw us inland. There are a number of suitable lunch spots where the tannin-stained freshwater trickles through the ancient quartzite hills. We have a short but steep climb then descent over Red Point Hills and will enjoy wonderful panoramic views from the top – today's high point. In the afternoon we make our muddy way toward the beautiful watercourse of Louisa Creek and onwards to Louisa River flowing close by the impressive Ironbound Range where we will make our camp in the wonderful eucalypt forest, ready for tomorrow's early start.

Walking Distance 17km | Walking Time 7-9 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 32 Louisa River to Little Deadman's Bay via the Ironbounds

The mighty Ironbounds!!! Our high point is almost a thousand metres above where we start and finish today. Your guides will have breakfast ready in the predawn darkness and be busy getting the group on the track by sun-up. We climb up the exposed western slopes, over open ground and vegetation stunted by the prevailing westerlies. In fine weather there are plenty of great rest spots where the views are spectacular beneath us. From the top of the range we may be lucky enough to see the Eastern and Western Arthur Ranges including Federation Peak, through to Mount Anne and all the way to the formidable South West Cape and Maatsuyker Island. The broad top of the Ironbound Range commonly receives the harshest conditions known in Tassie and snowfalls, gale force winds and pelting sleet are never unexpected. This is a long and demanding day and the top is not even half way, the slippery and muddy descent is through a tangle of lush rainforest which in turn becomes thick Teatree bush as the last few kilometres follow the coastline to a very welcome sight – our campsite at Little Deadman's Bay.

Walking: 13km, 7-10 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 33 Rest day at Little Deadman's Bay

Today is a well deserved day on the tour and the only place along the track where an open fire is permitted. It's a wonderful treat to sit by the glowing embers, read a book, play some cards and let your body relax and recover from the last few days' activity. Your guides will spend some time today re-supplying from our nearby food-drop.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 34 Little Deadman's Bay to Osmiridium Beach

Feeling refreshed, we look forward to tackling some of the track's best mud holes, a challenging rowboat lagoon crossing and walking along the coast's longest beach. We trek over broad sand dunes, wade across watercourses and climb over headlands letting no obstacles stand in our way! There are a

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few campsite choices for tonight and your guides will decide where to stay based on the availability of fresh water, the fitness of the group members and the guides personal favourite spots where they may know special sights and hidden points of interest.

Walking: 11km, 4-5 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 35 Osmiridium Beach to Granite Beach

This is a favourite day for many people as we wander through wet sclerophyll forest from beach to beach. Today's short distance means a leisurely lunch with time to wriggle your toes in the sand, swim in the ocean, search for Devonian Fossils, or just sit back and relax. A favourite lunch spot is Surprise Beach, which is just a short distance, if not a little steep, to our afternoons destination Granite Beach. As we descend onto this bay our eyes are drawn out to the incredible fluted dolerite columns of South Cape. At the eastern end of the bay our campsite is perched above the cliffs beneath the Tea Tree and eucalypt canopy. Our water source here cascades off the cliffs onto the beach to make a wonderful, refreshing shower.

Walking: 10km, 4-5 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 36 Granite Beach to South Cape Rivulet

A big day in the hills – we get an early start to make our way over the South Cape Range to our final night's camp at South Cape Rivulet. We begin with a lengthy climb through the moist forest to the day's highpoint about 500m above sea level. If we are lucky there are obeatiful views back along the coast as far as South West Cape to the mountains of Pindar's Peak, Mount LaPerouse and Mount Lilateah. This is a deceptive day with our high point being the first of seven hills that we climb and descend before stepping into the sand of South Cape Rivulet where we cross the sometimes deep, outlet of the lagoon to our campsite. This is a wonderful day of wet and dry forests, buttongrass plains, Tea Tree swamps and dazzling coastal views. The beach at our camp is one of the best along the South Coast for a swim and not many can resist taking an invigorating plunge!

Walking: 8km, 6-8 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 37 South Cape Rivulet to Cockle Creek, transfer to Hobart

Today is a gentle end to an amazing trip. The morning has us strolling along a couple of picturesque beaches and then up over a headland. The top of the cliffs is a perfect place for a rest while the waves crash below. Our Tassie Traverse concludes at Cockle Creek, Australia's southernmost town. This quiet blissful bay has a couple of holiday homes, an information shelter and is where you will be met by our friendly bus driver and transferred to Hobart. Accommodation and dinner is included for this final night of your remarkable journey. After a shower and some clean clothes the night will most likely be spent celebrating your amazing achievement of completing Tasmania's five most famous and exciting wilderness adventures with your fellow walkers.

Walking: 11km, 3-4 hours

meals: B,L,D

DAY 38 Breakfast and Hobart

This morning is the conclusion of your trip. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast provided at your accommodation and then spend your remaining time enjoying Australia's southernmost capital, Hobart.

Own arrangements are needed to get to the airport or next destination.

meals: B

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

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making your way to the briefing rooms

You will need to make your own way to the Tasmanian Expeditions offices for your pre-departure briefing but at its conclusion your guides will be happy to transfer you back to your central city accommodation.

Please refer to the following options:

WALKING:

We suggest walking along the Esk River Walkway, watching out for the Tasmanian Expeditions sign as you approach the end. Depending on where you start walking it will take between 15-30 minutes, a good warm up for the walks you will experience on your tour.

TAXI:

Please take a taxi to 3/33 Churchill Park Drive, Invermay. Your taxi fare should be approximately \$10 from the city centre.

am i suitable for this trip?

This is one of our most challenging trips. You will be carrying a full pack while trekking in remote areas for up to 8 to 10 hours a day. Previous multi day hiking experience is essential, as is previous experience on a full pack trek. Given the challenging nature of this trip it is also essential that you will have time to train in the lead up to this trek. If you have any questions about your suitability please give us a call and speak with one of our staff members. We are more than happy to discuss additional information about what you can expect.

Physical and mental preparation for your trip cannot be highlighted enough. Along with your physical preparation, you should come open minded and ready for a wonderful experience whatever the weather, whoever the group, whatever your preconceived ideas. Your guides will be working to enhance your trek and maximise your safety.

physical fitness

For a challenging program physical fitness should be an ongoing thing, which should start from a base at around 4 to 6 months prior to departure and increase to build maximum endurance, stamina, flexibility and familiarity with the anticipated routine as much as possible by your trip commencement. Three to five hard sessions of 40 to 60 minutes of physical exercise per week such as running, hill walking, swimming, cycling or gym work will build excellent aerobic capacity and overall endurance and stamina which are so important in trekking.

Day walks with a full pack, along with overnight or multi day bushwalks (on rough, loose and rocky terrain) should be incorporated in your training regime also. These walks are best undertaken on walking tracks involving relatively steep ascents and descents and in variable weather conditions.

Rest and recovery, whilst at the same time steadily increasing your routine and incorporating variety, are just as important parts of the process if you intend to maintain and enjoy the regime for any duration. Plan early with us and prepare yourself physically on a continuing basis right the way through, rather than putting it off for periods.

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.

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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.

a typical day

Each day, each group, each guide may influence itinerary details but the following will give you an idea of daily timing.

Mornings will start with a hot drink call from your guides. They will then prepare breakfast, whilst you get ready for the day and pack up all your equipment. After breakfast the guides will finish their last minute packing and then set off for the day's walk.

Each day is different but usually the morning walk is 3-4 hours in duration with numerous snack, photo and water breaks along the way. A leisurely lunch is served which provides the chance to put your feet up, take photos, or simply enjoy the magnificent scenery around you. The afternoon walk is usually shorter than the morning walk getting us to camp with plenty of daylight and time for exploring, relaxing or just enjoying a welcome hot drink and a chat. A hot dinner and dessert is served around 7pm with time to tell a few stories and hear a brief on the following day's activities.

Your guides will not expect any assistance but will appreciate it if you have the energy to help collect drinking water when arriving at camp, wash up the lunch dishes in readiness for the evening meal etc.

meals during the trek

Tasmanian Expeditions aims to provide quality wilderness meals to meet the satisfaction of all our guests. Our guides have remarkable wilderness culinary skills and pride themselves on the variety, quality, nutritional levels and their ability to cater to a wide range of dietary requirements. Each guide is able to select their own menu for the destination. Depending on the length of the expedition, some meals will use dehydrated product to lighten loads carried by the group. You will be given your own personal bag of snacks to consume at your leisure throughout the trip so you always have a source of energy ready at hand. Please feel free to bring along your own favourite snack to complement the ample food provided.

- Breakfasts - ranges from cereals to delicious porridge accompanied by a steaming hot pot of 'bush' coffee.
- Lunches - variation each day, wraps, rice cakes or fresh salad rolls with an assortment of cold meats.
- Dinners- varies from trip to trip, 2-3 courses, fresh Tasmanian foods where possible. There will be some nights on most camping trips when an entree or dessert won't be cooked (may be cheese and dips for entree, or biscuits for dessert).

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.

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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.

*Toilet paper is supplied on every tour and most bushwalking tours will have composting toilets available. On remote expeditions there is the need to dispose of waste as per leave no trace principles which will be discussed at your pre-departure briefing.

*On many of our bushwalking tours there will be the opportunity to have a swim or bathe in nearby suitable lakes & streams. A quick drying micro/travel towel is recommended for washing/drying.

*On remote bushwalking expeditions personal hygiene can be 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/cabins. Having a small personal quantity is also recommended – approx 60ml is sufficient.

accommodation on the trip



The main duration of the tour will be spent camping at designated campsites on tracks and along the riverside. Some of these areas have timber platforms for our tents to be pitched on and nearby rainwater tanks and composting toilet facilities. Accommodation between sections will be basic cabin style.

Tasmanian Expeditions provides strong, 2 person, bush walking tents (twin share), which provide each occupant with a personal access door and vestibule for individual use. Our tents weigh between 2.0 and 2.5 kg and this weight is shared equally by each occupant. We use a range of high quality 3-4 season tents which have been trialled and tested to withstand all weather conditions that may be encountered on our adventures.

While rafting the Franklin River our camps will be more basic. A group tarp shelter or rock cave where your thermarest can be rolled out on a foam mat while be the extent of our camp. (there are no tents on the Franklin River section).

equipment provided

We provide you with good quality equipment however you may choose to bring your own gear.

what you carry

For your expedition you will need to carry all equipment in a full trekking backpack that is 80-90 litres in capacity. This will need to include the following items:

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- Sleeping bag
- Inflatable mat
- Portion of the shared tent
- Portion of the groups food
- All personal items that you have decide to bring along
- All wet weather gear

Depending on the quantity of personal gear the average pack weight will be 18-22kg.

A comprehensive gear list is available from the reservations office that details what clothing and equipment is required for each expedition. It is specific to each type of trip and clearly sets out what equipment is included in the tour cost and what you will need to supply.

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.

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.

get social

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)

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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

WORLD EXPEDITIONS:

Australia: 1300 720 000

United Kingdom: 0800 0744 135

New Zealand: 0800 350 354

Canada and USA: 1 800 567 2216