



## MARIA ISLAND WALK

TASMANIA – 4 DAYS (3 NIGHTS) COMMENCING 26TH OCTOBER 2012

### DETAILED ITINERARY

There are few places on the planet that offer the total tranquility and unspoiled natural beauty of Maria Island. It is a very special place - no traffic, no phones, no shops, no stress. Our four day walk is a perfect short break to rejuvenate and recharge your mind and body. The island is a National Park and sanctuary for some of the world's rarest wildlife such as the tiny 4 spotted Pardalote.

The island has a Mediterranean-style climate and a varied landscape that includes rugged coastline, untouched beaches, striking mountains, 15 forest communities and diverse geology. As a national park, it is home to wallabies, wombats, kangaroos, fairy penguins, the world's second rarest goose - the Cape Barren goose - and several other rare and unusual bird species, including 11 of the 12 endemic Tasmanian species. The surrounding waters harbour diverse marine life such as dolphins that chase baitfish through Mercury Passage and whales on their migration path to the Antarctic. The island is 11,550 hectares and is 19.3 km long and 13 km wide.

### DAY 1 - FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER HOBART - THE FIRST STEPS

We start with a hotel pickup in Hobart. After a short drive of just over an hour to the fishing village of Triabunna, we board our boat and explore Mercury Passage en route to Shoal Bay on Maria Island's isthmus, arriving after about 40 minutes to land on the same pristine beach as French explorers did years earlier.

After a delicious lunch and a short walk to Casuarina Beach camp, there is time for an afternoon stroll through the tall eucalypt forest and visit a penguin colony at Haunted Bay. You can also enjoy stunning views and walk through beautiful forests with abundant wildlife. Relax at the delightful Casuarina Beach Camp, take a swim in the sheltered bay and enjoy fresh Tasmanian food and wine.

(Distance: 8 kms)



## **DAY 2 - SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER**

### **FIVE FABULOUS BEACHES**

Wake up to the busy chattering of the wattle birds and, from the comfort of your bed, watch the morning sun sparkle through the forest.

After a morning dip and delicious breakfast, it's time to start your journey from Riedle Bay across the rare land formation of the isthmus to Shoal Bay and walk five beautiful beaches. Look out for dolphins and Wedgetail & Sea Eagles along the way. Explore the convict cells at Point Lesueur and visit an ochre pit at Bloodstone Point – one of the original ochre sources for the Tasmanian Aborigines. We arrive to White Gums Camp by late afternoon for a refreshing swim and then put your feet up for a well earned rest while you while you anticipate a gourmet meal.

(Distance 13 kms)

## **DAY 3 - SUNDAY 28TH OCTOBER**

### **INTO THE HEART, UP TO THE HEIGHTS**

Today we head inland to the heart of the island and discover the rich greens of the grand forests that are a prime habitat for the endangered 40-Spotted Pardalote. You'll wander through the planet's largest stands of giant Tasmanian blue gums. Take the gentle inland track to Hopgrounds Beach and the Painted Cliffs or continue to the 711-metre summit of Mt. Maria for breathtaking 360 views. Or save the mountain climb for Bishop and Clerk, with its fantastic sea and coastline vistas.

That evening you arrive at the enchanting World Heritage settlement of Darlington where you will stay at the elegant Bernacchi House, the historic colonial home once occupied by Italian entrepreneur, Diego Bernacchi. Here you can enjoy hot showers and a final banquet with fine wine and conversation.

(Distance: 9 kms)

## **DAY 4 - MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER**

### **WALK BACK IN TIME**

The final day begins with a delicious breakfast followed by a walk around Darlington. You'll experience Darlington's rich history. The convict years, the industrial era and the fascinating farming history.

Then head off to see the Fossil Cliffs - a short circuit walk through varied woodlands, home to spectacular wildlife. Enjoy a champagne lunch overlooking the distant Freycinet Peninsula and soak up the atmosphere. Return by boat to Hobart followed by a drop off at your hotel. A transfer to Hobart airport is available, connecting with flights departing from 5pm. (Distance: 4kms)



# the island



## INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP

- The 4 day itinerary includes both arrival and departure days
- 3 nights accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Expert Trek Guides
- Provision of ground and boat transport as detailed in the itinerary
- All Bedding & Safety Equipment to cater the needs of the Tour (You will be provided with sleeping bag and pillows).
- Park entrance and trek fees
- Meals as follows:  
Breakfast 3 days (days 2, 3, 4) - Lunch 4 Days (days 1 to 4) - Dinner 3 Days (1 to 3)  
Includes supply of beverages (alcoholic and non alcoholic)



Our meals are delicious and fresh, showcasing Tasmania's world famous produce and seafood. Every evening enjoy dinners in a bush setting under the stars. All meals, including three-course candlelit dinners, are prepared and served by your expert guides and made with an emphasis on fresh, local produce, complimented by fine Tasmanian wines and beer.

**The walk** is on beaches and formed tracks, ranging from 4 - 13 km/day (15 - 17 km for the optional mountain routes). The walk is suited to those who are medically fit and healthy.

**Gear:** Guests carry a light back pack (between 6-8 kg) with their own personal items. Packs, waterproof jackets, silk or cotton sleeping sheets, head torches and sleeping bags are supplied (we do not carry the sleeping bags as they are stored at each camp). Guests should have their own walking boots, well worn in with good ankle support and tread. Light day packs are also available for use on side trips from Casuarina Beach Camp and Bernacchi House.

**Accommodation:** Casuarina Beach Camp and White Gums Camp each provide twin-share accommodation in environmentally sensitive standing camps built on wooden platforms with canvas walls. Raised wooden framed beds with foam mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags are provided - as well as shared hand wash basin and composting toilet. On the final night, guests stay in the beautifully restored colonial Bernacchi House, where hot showers are also available along with fresh linen.



**NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP**

Flights, airport departure taxes, insurance, any optional tours and activities during free time, tips or gratuities and items of a personal nature.



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