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FREYCINET TASMAN EXPLORER

5 DAYS | 27.4 KM HIKE

CLIMB ST PATRICKS HEAD ON THE WAY TO THE COAST, SPEND A FULL DAY AMONG THE GRANITE PEAKS OF FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK, CRUISE TO CAPE RAOUL, EXPLORE PORT ARTHUR AND WALK THE DOLERITE SEA CLIFFS OF CAPE HAUY.

Pink and orange granite rising out of turquoise bays. The white curve of Wineglass Bay beneath the Hazards.

Dolerite columns forming Australia's highest sea cliffs. Tasmania's East Coast is all colour and light and this is the way to see it on foot.

No two days are the same. Over five days and four nights we travel from Launceston to Hobart, climbing St Patricks Head, spending a full day in Freycinet National Park, cruising beneath the sea cliffs of Cape Raoul, stepping into the convict history of Port Arthur and walking out to the clifftops of Cape Hauy.

Some of the cleanest air on Earth. Wallabies graze at Fortescue Bay, and from the water you may see seals, dolphins and when in season, migrating whales.

You carry only a day pack and return each evening to a comfortable bed including two nights in Coles Bay and two on the Tasman Peninsula.

Groups are small, many of our guests travel solo and your guides take care of every detail.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2 professional wilderness guides.
- 2 nights beach house style accommodation in Coles Bay
- 2 nights motel/hotel style accommodation, Tasman Peninsula.
- 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners.
- All delicious snacks on the trail
- Transport from Launceston to Hobart.
- Cape Raoul cruise.
- Short guided tour of Port Arthur Historic Site.
- National Park fees.
- Emergency communications & group first aid kit.
- Alcohol is not included.

TREK GRADING : MODERATE TO CHALLENGING TREK

See: www.trektoursaustralia.com.au/trek-grading for more information about gradings

IMPORTANT NOTES

Our 5 day Freycinet Tasman Explorer is a moderate to challenging walking holiday, mixing full-day coastal walks with a summit climb, a cruise and shorter sightseeing walks.

We advise you to do as much training as you can before your tour with us, particularly on hills and steps. The more you train for the walk, the easier you will handle the terrain and the more you will enjoy this wonderful part of the world. It's also important to come along with an open mind, ready for an awesome experience whatever the weather, whoever the group.

Coastal weather on the East Coast and Tasman Peninsula can change quickly, and exposed clifftops and granite slabs are affected by wind and rain. Our guides may adjust routes, timings or the order of activities to keep the group safe. If you are at all concerned about your ability to complete this walk, please contact us for more information/advice.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change with any change in regulations, access arrangements and natural circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 1: LAUNCESTON TO COLES BAY

We collect you from your Launceston accommodation around 7:30am and travel east through the Fingal Valley, a quieter, rural side of Tasmania, to the historic township of St Marys. Our first walk climbs St Patricks Head, a distinctive peak above the surrounding valleys. The climb is steep in places, and as we gain height the country opens out, with views towards the East Coast on one side and across the inland valleys on the other. We cross Elephant Pass and come down to the coast, with a visit to a local winery where you may wish to enjoy an afternoon wine tasting, then continuing to Coles Bay, beside Freycinet National Park our base for the next two nights. Tonight your guides prepare dinner and there is time to get to know your fellow walkers.

St Patricks Head – 3.4km
Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2: FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK

Freycinet became one of Tasmania's first national parks in 1916, and today we spend the full day walking in it. The Hazards – a line of granite peaks that glow pink and orange in low light – rise straight from the water, with Wineglass Bay curving away on one side and Great Oyster Bay on the other. Our walk is the Wineglass Bay and Hazards Beach circuit. The track climbs steadily over granite and gravel to the saddle above Wineglass Bay, then descends to the beach itself. We cross the wide, sandy isthmus to Hazards Beach, the halfway point, before returning along the coast through she-oak forest and coastal woodland beneath Mount Mayson.

For experienced walkers, and only in dry, settled weather, Mount Amos may be offered instead a short but very steep climb over bare granite to an exposed summit above Wineglass Bay. Your guides will decide on the day whether it is an option. We return to Coles Bay for a relaxed evening and dinner prepared by your guides.

11km circuit | 4-5hrs (or Mount Amos: 3.6km return | approx. 3hrs)
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 3: COLES BAY TO THE TASMAN PENINSULA

An early start takes us south along the East Coast, through small towns and farmland to Orford, and on to the Tasman Peninsula – a near-island joined to the rest of Tasmania by the narrow isthmus at Eaglehawk Neck. In the early afternoon we board a cruise to Cape Raoul, where columns of dolerite rise straight out of the Southern Ocean. Seen from the water, the scale of these sea cliffs is hard to take in.

Afterwards we join a short guided tour of the Port Arthur Historic Site. Port Arthur operated as a penal settlement from 1830 to 1877 and is one of the sites that together form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property. There is time to explore the grounds and buildings at your own pace, and to understand the lives of the people who were sent, held and worked here, before we settle into our accommodation on the peninsula and head out for dinner at a local pub.

Short walks around the historic site
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: CAPE HAUY AND FORTESCUE BAY

Today we walk one of the Tasman Peninsula's great coastal tracks. From Fortescue Bay, the Cape Hauy track heads out through coastal woodland and open heath, the sound of the sea growing as we go.

The track drops down a steep flight of mostly stone steps before climbing again towards the cape, a pattern that makes this a proper walk rather than a stroll, and one we repeat in reverse on the way back.

As we near the end of the cape, the land narrows and the view opens. Columns of dolerite rise from the ocean and plunge straight into the water, including the slender sea stacks known to rock climbers as the Totem Pole and the Candlestick. Along the way, our guides explain how dolerite forms these columns and point out the plants that survive on exposed coastal heath.

After the walk there is time to enjoy the quiet, sheltered water of Fortescue Bay before we return to our accommodation for a pub dinner.

9.4km return | approx. 4hrs
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: TASMAN PENINSULA TO HOBART

On our final morning we visit three of the peninsula's best-known landmarks near Eaglehawk Neck. Tasman Arch is a natural bridge of rock high above the water; Devils Kitchen is a deep, narrow cleft where the sea surges below and at the Blowhole, swell forces water through a tunnel in the rock. Short, well-formed tracks link the lookouts, and our guides explain how waves exploit weaknesses in the rock to carve each feature.

We then travel to Hobart, where we farewell our fellow walkers, having journeyed from Tasmania's north through the granite mountains of Freycinet to the sea cliffs of the Tasman Peninsula.

If you would prefer to finish in Launceston, you can travel back with your guides on request – please expect a late arrival, around 8–9pm.

Short lookout walks
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch