

FMC Travel Club

small group tramping and travel overseas

A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)

Club Convenor : John Dobbs

Travel Smart Napier

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*****Tasmania*****

22nd February to 21st March 2010, 28 days

\$3995 ex. Hobart Leader : John Dobbs

Australia's smallest state packs a huge variety into a relatively small place. Its many national parks and large wilderness areas invite exploration. The mountains, forests, alpine moorland, dramatic sea cliffs, lonely beaches, wild rivers, caves and much more; are balanced by the convict heritage, preserved sandstone buildings, friendliness of the locals – without even considering the array of fascinating animals to be seen! This itinerary is packed to reveal some of the absolute best of this beguiling island – the plentiful tramping and walking is hugely varied and we visit some unusual and forgotten corners too.

PRICE INCLUDES :

- All accommodation (heritage hotel, cabins, hostels, camping)
- All transport (minibus, local buses, boat)
- An eco heritage cruise
- Most meals, including six restaurant dinners
- Airport transfers, entry fees, National Parks Pass, Overland Track fees, other inclusions as per itinerary

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :

- Flights to/from Hobart
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Personal spending outside the itinerary (some meals, internet, souvenirs etc)

Trip Leader :

John is the Travel Club Convenor and a regular tramper with Napier Tramping Club. He considers Tasmania to be the perfect short-haul choice for tramping and adventure trips and this will be his 4th group led trip to the island. His enthusiasm, care and attention to the details will ensure you have a great trip. Other destination trips John has led for the Travel Club include Fiji, Hawaii, Madagascar, Alaska/Canada and Turkey. John welcomes your interest in this trip and can be contacted anytime.

Trip Organisation :

The **tramping programme** is the core of the trip, and has been chosen to provide lots of variety, with day tramps and several 2 – 3 day trips of easy to medium standards. However, these overnight trips do require tents to be carried. The programme builds up to the **Overland Track**, - considered Australia's finest. This track has a succession of well spaced huts, and there is a similar advance booking system to our Great Walks. Specific groups are restricted to a maximum of 8. The process and timing of booking means an advance commitment (bookings for 2010 open in July this year). To secure our places on the dates that we want, an earlier commitment than might otherwise be necessary must be imposed. Places will be filled on a first in first served basis, up to the maximum of 8. Should we have more than 8 wishing to walk the track, then we will try to confirm these as individuals.

At 63kms long, the Overland Track (without worthwhile side trips), is quite long and it traverses an elevated and exposed alpine area, so wet and cold conditions are possible at any time of year. However, the timing of the overall trip is for the usually settled and stable conditions of late summer, the most comfortable season to visit Tasmania.

N.B. Refer to the registration form and booking conditions page for further details about the Overland Track bookings. Please also note that it is NOT essential to walk the Overland Track to join the overall trip! An alternative range of activities could easily fill the days while the main party is on the track. Indicate your intentions on the registration form.

Beginning the programme in Hobart is a warm-up day tramp on the flanks of **Mt. Wellington**, where the views over the city and Derwent River valley from the summit are unequalled.

Then we head southeast to **Tasman National Park**, which has some superb natural features with high sea cliffs and good campsites.

Freycinet National Park is an icon of Tasmania, with its colourful granitic mountains and sublime beaches. This time we include an overnight circuit of the Freycinet Peninsula and an extra day to visit the lesser known features of this park.

Mt. Roland is the dominant feature of north central Tasmania. Looking at its rugged escarpment face it is hard to see how any track could reach the summit, but a relatively easy one does. This makes an excellent day tramp.

Various short walks or tramps will be included in the northwest region, particularly the **Tarkine Wilderness**. This area has many proponents as the next wilderness national park.

Before returning to Hobart, we will complete several short tramps in **Mt. Field National Park**.

Lastly is the **Overland Track**, or an alternative programme for those not tackling the track.

Transport is based around our minivan, hired from Hobart to Hobart. There will also be a lockable watertight trailer for luggage and gear. This combination provides good comfort on a rotating seating basis, and a back up driver.

Local bus services will be used to access the walking tracks on Mt. Wellington in Hobart and also the Overland Track. The Overland Track also includes a boat trip down the length of Lake St. Clair.

A small catamaran will be our transport on the Arthur River eco-cruise.

Accommodation consists of a good variety of hostels and shared cabins in camping grounds, tenting, 4 nights in tramping huts, plus a heritage hotel in Hobart. Not all accommodations are determined at the time of producing this dossier. A full list of accommodations will be supplied after trip confirmation.

Meals. A food kitty operates, which with care will provide most meals, prepared communally. While travelling, we have found that a communal picnic works very well. There are 6 dinners and 6 lunches at your cost and these are noted in the itinerary. Six restaurant dinners and 1 restaurant lunch are included, and this is an enjoyable experience in Tasmania, where the quality of food and beverage is high and prices similar to NZ. Be prepared to add your cooking, shopping and cleaning up skills on a rostered basis.

Gear. A gear list will be supplied. A full size tramping pack plus a day pack would be ideal luggage. Sleeping bags are required, with tents and cookers for overnight camping. We will try to share these around within the group numbers, once the group is confirmed. It is helpful to indicate clearly some of these details on the back of the registration form.

The Programme :

Begin and end in the capital and largest city, **Hobart**. A splendid harbor, the Derwent River valley, omnipresent Mt. Wellington and the lovely old sandstone buildings combine to make Hobart a pleasant and walkable city. Relatively compact, with good restaurants and facilities – its closest relative in NZ would be Wellington. There is time to get a good feel of the city and check out some of the sights.

We embark on a roughly anti-clockwise route, firstly taking in the **Tasman Peninsula and Tasman National Park**. Such features as the Tessellated Pavement, DOO Town, Tasman Blowhole, Tasman Arch and Devils Kitchen lead on to the start of the coastal track. This will provide a good overview of this dramatically scenic area. After a look around the significant **Port Arthur** penal colony site, we will begin the tramp proper. This is reasonably easy tramping following well formed tracks and with several options to extend to viewpoints etc.

We then continue up the east coast which is referred to as the 'sunshine coast' and 'seafood coast' for good reason. The white sand beaches are wonderful and much of the island seafood is caught from this coast.

With a base in the town of Coles Bay, we complete a 2 day circuit of magnificent **Freycinet National Park**. This is also a reasonably easy trip which includes white sand beaches and granitic mountains.

From St. Helens we head through to **Launceston**. Along the way are some fascinating sights and discoveries that reveal more of the character of Tasmania and its people. Launceston is our 'down time' but there is plenty to occupy us. The Tamar Valley region around the city would make an excellent optional day trip which we can compile depending on the interest.

West into the central northern region can be found imposing **Mt. Roland** which will make an excellent afternoon tramp following some of the quizzical features of the area.

Next we strike out for the north coast heading west, a well populated region with more nice beaches and other attractions. This day takes us 'around the corner' into the remote region of the northwest and on to **Arthur River**, in readiness for our eco-cruise the next day.

We are now adjacent to a huge area of wilderness with some areas in reserve protection, but others under threat of logging. A remote and inaccessible pocket has been included as a national park, but a larger swathe of the northwest is under proposal for a new national park.

On our way south to **Strahan** on Macquarie Harbour we will see some of this country.

Another break gives an option to take the iconic boat trip up the Gordon River which includes the Sarah Island penal colony.

The western town of **Queenstown** has a strong mining heritage, so a mining tour to learn something of this part of Tasmania's heritage is included. Returning now to Hobart, we pass through the 20% of Tasmania which is the **South West Protected Area**. This has World Heritage ranking and comprises 5 national parks. We will overnight in one of them – **Mt. Field National Park** and do several sublime short tramps, including the 87m tall trees of the Styx Valley.

Back to Hobart to return the van and complete preparations for the **Overland Track**.

During the summer, the track can only be walked in a north to south direction. The advance booking system is intended to limit crowding and reduce environmental damage. Don't be mistaken that this might appear to be too 'touristy' to be bothered with. On the contrary, it ranks as arguably the finest multi-day tramp in Australia and is a superb representation of the features of Tasmania's wilderness. The rainforest and alpine vegetation, columnar dolerite peaks, waterfalls, buttongrass plains, lakes and tarns are quite stunning. A lesser known section at the end leads to features called 'The Acropolis' and 'The Labyrinth'. A boat trip along the length of Lake St. Clair, to where the transport back to Hobart links up, completes the trip.

Itinerary :

Day 1. Mon 22/02 Hobart

Fly to Hobart and overnight. No meals today.

Day 2. Tue 23/02 Hobart

Hobart orientation. There are many options today! Join me on a walk through some of the more interesting parts of Hobart to pick up the vibe. Visit the parks service office for latest maps and publications. **Options** might include a visit to Cadbury's Chocolate Factory, Cascade Brewery or harbor cruise. Lunch is your cost. **B. D. (dinner will be at a local restaurant tonight)**

Day 3. Wed 24/02 Mt Wellington

An excellent starter 13km day tramp to Mt Wellington, the huge and magnificent backdrop to Hobart. We take a local bus to the village of Fern Tree. Walk forest tracks past a waterfall and the impressive 'organ pipes', climb to the summit for unsurpassed views over Hobart and the Derwent Valley. Descend via the alpine plateau and some 19th century ice house ruins. Bus back to Hobart. **B. L. D. (dinner will be at a local restaurant tonight)**

Day 4. Thu 25/02 Port Arthur

Collect the van and drive south east, first stopping at the excellent Bonnorong Wildlife Park to see Tasmanian Devils, wombats and other wildlife. Then the postcard village of Richmond with its lovely 1823 convict built bridge, the oldest in Australia. On to the Forestier Peninsula and numerous photo stops plus a stunning coastal 1.5hr walk before arriving at Port Arthur – site of the most infamous of Australia's penal prisons. Walk to the enormous Remarkable Cave before an **optional** ghost tour of the penal complex. **B. L. D.**

Please note :

If anyone has visited the Port Arthur complex before and would prefer not to repeat the visit, it is possible to include one extra day of tramping in Tasman National Park. On Thursday you would tramp from Devils Kitchen to Waterfall Bay and camp there. On Friday you would follow the coast track south for 13kms to Fortescue Bay and meet up with the rest of the party.

Day 5. Fri 26/02 Tasman National Park

This morning is devoted to exploring the Port Arthur site, one of Tasmania's greatest attractions. Between 1830 and 1877, around 12,500 convicts from England served sentences here. Fine sandstone buildings are spread out over the site, perhaps the most atmospheric is the ruined church. After lunch we drive to Tasman National Park and set up the tents at beautiful Fortescue Bay. A 2hr return tramp to Canoe Bay, where we pass a penguin rookery and see the remains of a sunken steamship completes the day. **B. L. D.**

Day 6. Sat 27/02 Tasman National Park

The next 2.5 days are a well tracked circuit in the park. There are 300m towering cliffs, offshore islands, coastal heathlands and dense rainforests, and we may encounter wombats, opossums, snakes, lizards and echidnas. Approx' 13kms to Bare Knoll campsite. There is also an optional 3kms return extension walk out to Cape Hauy. **B. L. D.**

Day 7. Sun 28/02 Tasman National Park

Bare Knoll to Cape Pillar return is approx' 12kms. A really dramatic day trip through forested sections and often windy exposed ridges with terrific views. Such names as 'Purgatory Hill', Corruption Gully' 'Hurricane Heath' and 'Perdition Ponds' are evocative. **B. L. D.**

Day 8. Mon 01/03 Freycinet National Park

An 8km morning walk through the forested inland route back to Fortescue Bay and the van. Then we drive north to Coles Bay via the Weilangta Forest Reserve and pretty little fishing towns like Orford and Triabunna. Coles Bay is a pleasant little town adjacent to our next national park – Freycinet, where we intend to complete the easy/medium 31km Freycinet Peninsula Circuit. This popular route includes the sublime Wineglass Bay, colourful granite rocks, deep bays, coastal heathlands, granite mountains and sandy beaches. There are over 100 species of orchids, a wide range of bush and seabirds and possible encounters with wallabies, pademelons, bandicoots, opossums, wombats and potaroos. **B. D.**

Day 9. Tue 02/03 Freycinet National Park

An easy going 13kms track follows the western side of Freycinet Peninsula until the campsite at lovely Cooks Beach. While there is a basic hut here, it is nicer to camp. An optional 6ms easy return walk leads through forest to Bryans Beach and views south to Schouten Island. **B. L. D.**

Day 10. Wed 03/03 Return to Coles Bay

Full day tramp of around 18kms. This includes a climb to the summit of Mt Graham at 579m and descent onto Wineglass Bay – rated as one of the 10 finest beaches in the world. After relaxing here, climb up the saddle and then down to the carpark and a short drive back to Coles Bay. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight. **B. L. D.**

Day 11. Thu 04/03 St. Helens

In the morning we will visit some lesser known parts of the national park – Cape Tourville and the Friendly Beaches. Follow the coast up to the fishing town of Bicheno before a lunch treat – Elephant Pass Pancake House, a Tassie institution! Descend to the coast again to overnight at St. Helens. Founded in 1830 by sealers and whalers, it has grown to become the largest town on the east coast and also Tasmania's largest fishing port. **B. L. D.**

Day 12. Fri 05/03 Launceston

An interesting day of touring and sightseeing along the way to Launceston, Tassie's 2nd city and rival to Hobart. These might include some of the following : Bay of Fires, St. Columba Falls, Pyenganna cheesery, the "Pub in the Paddock", Tin Mine Museum at Derby, Nabowla lavender farm and several wineries. Dinner is your own cost. **B. L.**

Day 13. Sat 06/03 and Day 14. Sun 07/03 Launceston

Mid point of the trip and two days of free choice! There are many options to explore in and around Launceston including short tramps/walks, visits to historic homes, the excellent museum, a swim at the Roman Baths and Devonshire tea at Cataract Gorge. With the van at our disposal, we can include for example, a day exploring both sides of the Tamar Valley through to

the north coast. Lunches are your cost on both days plus one dinner. On the other night we will have a restaurant dinner. **B.**

Day 15. Mon 08/03 Mt Roland area

Heading west we pause at Sheffield, known for its amazing murals. We should have time to visit one of the cave systems of Mole Creek Karst National Park or eclectic Tazmazia on our way to Mt Roland. Rising boldly beyond rolling farmland near Sheffield, the imposing face of Mt Roland is as much a local icon as the more famous Cradle Mountain. A 12km 4.5hr return track leads up through forest, cliffs and alpine tops. Much of central northern Tasmania is in view on fine days, as are Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff, icons of the Overland Track. **B. L. D.**

Day 16. Tue 09/03 North coast to Arthur River

We follow the populated and attractive north coast continuing westwards. A diversion to the postcard village of Stanley and its imposing volcanic headland called "The Nut", affording panoramic views. Then to the alluringly named "Dismal Swamp" – another of Tasmania's quirks. Essentially a 110m long slide providing a thrilling descent into a blackwood sinkhole. There's a treetop interpretation centre, a swamp floor boardwalk maze and much more. On to the wild west coast and big surf beaches at Marrawah. Overnight at Arthur River village. **B. L. D.**

Day 17. Wed 10/03 Arthur River eco-cruise

We head up the pristine Arthur River through original rainforest, with several walks and a BBQ lunch included. Hopefully we will also see White-bellied Sea eagles, Azure Kingfishers, Giant Freshwater Crayfish and even platypus today. Return to Arthur Village. There are some brilliant local walks we can do to round out the day, and sunsets here are glorious. **B. L. D.**

Day 18. Thu 11/03 Wild west through to Strahan

Driving through parts of the remote Tarkine Wilderness (there are moves afoot to create another national park as this is the last great unprotected Tasmanian wilderness remaining) today, as we head generally south. Superb forest, a variety of walks including waterfalls and giant sand dunes. The mining town of Zeehan once had 10,000 people, 26 hotels and its Gaiety Theatre seated 1,000 plus it had a stock exchange. Now a sleepy little town but its museum is a must – if you visit no other museum on this trip, make it this one. Overnight in lovely Strahan on the shores of Macquarie Harbour. Dinner at a local restaurant tonight. **B. L. D.**

Day 19. Fri 12/03 Strahan

For first time visitors to Tasmania, this is the place to take an **optional** scenic cruise up the Gordon River into pristine forest, which includes the full length of Macquarie Harbour (9 times bigger than Sydney Harbour), a tour of the Sarah Island penal colony, the Hells Gates and a seafood lunch. A scenically & historically diverse trip. But there are many alternatives. Local walks to hidden bush and waterfalls, Sorrell Lighthouse and Heenty Dunes and more. Lunch is your cost today. **B. D.**

Day 20. Sat 13/03 Mt. Field National Park

Queenstown is set in a valley surrounded by high hills in the central west. These hills are virtually treeless, a legacy of leftover mining tailings. A 'wild west' feel pervades. An important part of Tasmania's heritage is mining, so we have included Dougies mining tour at the Mount Lyell Copper Mine, where we can see modern day mining operations. Driving back towards Hobart, we pass through the 20% of the state that is the World Heritage listed South West Protected Area. On our left is the Cradle Mountain/Lake St. Clair National Park. On our right is Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. Brilliant views of mountains, forests, grassy plains and fast flowing rivers. We'll stop and take a walk to Donaghy's Lookout to get an appreciation. Then through the lush Derwent Valley to Mt. Field National Park. This was Tassie's first national park and it is a gem. Late afternoon walk to sublime Russell Falls. We set up the tents in the campground just inside the park boundary. Lunch is your cost today. **B. D.**

Day 21. Sun 14/03 Local walks and then to Hobart

There are several options before us this morning, with the Syx and Florentine Valleys a must see. Later, we return to Hobart and complete our preparations for the Overland Track. Lunch and dinner are your cost today. **B.**

Day 22. Mon 15/03 Overland Track, tramp to Waterfall Hut

The shuttle to the start of the track will take around 4.5hrs. Before us is the finest walking track in Australia. Tramp 10km (4-5 hrs) to Waterfall Hut which has 16 bunks; 380m ascent, 250m descent. Options along the way include climbing iconic Cradle Mountain (2-3 hrs return) and Barn Bluff (2-3 hrs return). **B. L. D.**

Day 23. Tue 16/03 New Pelion Hut

Although we have 25kms to cover and could take 7-9hrs, the track is very good, great scenery and variety of flora; 230m ascent, 340m descent. The 36 bunk hut has huge deck and its all round veranda has great views over Pelion Plains to Mt Oakliegh (1280m). **B. L. D.**

Day 24. Wed 17/03 Windy Ridge Hut

19kms, 6-7hrs, 520m ascent and 480m descent. Windy Ridge Hut has 16 bunks. There are also several side trips to stunning waterfalls today. **B. L. D.**

Day 25. Thu 18/03 Pine Valley Hut

Only around 9kms and 3hrs to this interesting side valley. This gives an afternoon optional trip through the Labyrinth – a lake studded plateau surrounded by high peaks with wonderful views all round. Although not far from the main track, it is often overlooked. We included it on a previous FMC trip and it was highly rated. **B. L. D.**

Day 26. Fri 19/03 Complete the track, boat and bus back to Hobart

Approx' 9kms and a gentle descent to Narcissus Hut. Then we meet up with the boat to take us to the bus connection at the southern end of Lake St. Clair. A successful tramp! Then the bus back to a well earned rest in Hobart. **B. L. D.**

Day 27. Sat 20/03 Hobart

Wind down day! The Salamanca Place markets and downtown harbor area is the place to be today. Trip celebration dinner out tonight, lunch is your option. **B. D.**

Day 28. Sun 21/03 Fly home

An early departure flight to Melbourne with connections back to NZ

Booking Conditions : FMC Travel Club & Travel Smart Napier

1. FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made through TSN. Participants must agree to all terms & conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. FMC & TSN are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defects in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in conveying passengers or in carrying out the trip arrangements.
3. FMC & TSN reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers required to operate does not eventuate. On cancellation, all monies paid by participants will be fully refunded. An amended trip at an adjusted price may be offered if a group of 6 or less registers.
4. The trip includes a payment to FMC.
5. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS MANDATORY. A brochure/application for QBE Travel Insurance is available to everyone. TSN will provide a group discount price on receipt of a signed application. Alternative policies are acceptable, with evidence provided. WHEN TRIP VALIDITY IS CONFIRMED, TRAVEL INSURANCE MUST BE ARRANGED. OVERLOOK THIS AT YOUR RISK!
6. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis & open to all ages, on receipt of the Registration Form & deposit of \$250 per person. This is due by 31st July 2009. A progress payment of \$2000 is due by 30th September 2009 & the final balance is due by 31st December 2009. All payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, visa or mastercard, or direct credit to the office of TSN Napier. No other method or place of payment is accepted. Cheques are payable to Travel Smart Napier.
7. The price is expressed in NZ Dollars. Events beyond our control such as adverse currency fluctuations & 'on ground' arrangements may result in a variation to the final price. An exchange rate of AUD 77c has been used to calculate the advertised trip price. Until such time as the trip is paid in full, the final price cannot be guaranteed.
8. Cancellations. If you need to cancel for any reason, you must advise TSN in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable but a phone call is not. TRAVEL INSURANCE WILL COVER YOU FOR CANCELLATION FOR UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES BUT WILL NOT COVER YOU FOR CHANGING YOUR MIND AFTER COMMITTING TO THE TRIP. Per person cancellation fees apply as follows : Cancellations up to 30th September 2009 incur a fee of \$250
Cancellations from 1st October 2009 to 31st December 2009 incur a fee of \$1000
Cancellations from 1st January 2010 onwards incur a fee of 100% of trip costs
9. Please provide a photocopy or scan of your passport(s) when completing your registration.

Registration Form :

Request your place on **Tasmania 2010** by completing this registration form & send to John Dobbs before the closing date of 31st July 2009. The minimum group size is 6. Please register early so we can ascertain group viability early, and be fair to others.

Full name(s) as per passport(s), underline preferred first name.....

.....

Mailing address.....

Day ph.....Night ph.....Mob.....

Email.....Date(s) of birth.....

Dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions?.....

.....

I / We want to do the Overland Track..... Yes / No (please circle)

Are you affiliated to FMC through a tramping club? Which club?.....

If not, are you a private member of FMC?..... Yes / No (please circle)

If neither, we encourage you to join FMC as a private or club member. See www.fmc.org.nz
(direct or affiliated membership of FMC is not a pre-requisite of joining this trip, however)

Contact person in any emergency (name, address, relationship to you, email, phone nos including mob :

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PTO to answer more questions about tramping experience and gear etc.....

I / We have read the full trip dossier and I / We accept fully the booking conditions of this trip. I / We enclose My / Our registration payment of \$250 per person. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by due dates, as advised by invoice. I / We understand that the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until payment in full has been made.

.....signed and dated by each person registering

CHECKLIST :

Registration form / Deposit / Passport scan or photocopy / Travel Insurance application

Please send everything to :

John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor

P O Box 352, Napier 4140

Questions :

We aim to find out the abilities of the party and what gear is available. Your answers may be written here or emailed, thank you.

- 1. Specify the tent you can supply, whether it is for your own use or to share with somebody e.g. a lady with a 2 person tent may be willing to share with another lady who may not have one. Tents are required for 4 nights in total.**

- 2. Specify the type of cooker you could supply (if you have one) e.g. gas or white spirits, plus the make, Propane cylinders and white spirits are readily available and will be provided.**

- 3. How frequently do you tramp in NZ?**

- 4. Are these day trips, weekend, or longer or a mix?**

- 5. Are you happy to tramp in a group with the level of tolerance needed within a group?**

- 6. Anything else about your tramping or outdoor abilities that would be helpful to know.**

Overland Track bookings are restricted to groups not exceeding 8 persons, so specify on the registration form overleaf if you want to be included. It is not essential to complete the Overland Track – if you have done it before or prefer not to tackle it, then an alternative programme for those days could be arranged. Everyone would then meet up again in Hobart for our celebration dinner.