

FMC Travel Club

economy 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 *****

30th January to 27th February 2011, 29 Days

\$4,300 ex Hobart Leader : John Dobbs

Australia's smallest state packs huge variety into a relatively small place. The many national parks and areas of wilderness 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 and friendliness of the locals. That's without even considering the array of fascinating animals to be seen. This itinerary is packed to reveal some of the best of this beguiling island – the plentiful tramping and walking is hugely varied and we visit some unusual and forgotten corners too.

PRIVE INCLUDES :

- All accommodation (heritage hotel, cabins, hostels, motels, camping)
- All transport (minibus, local buses, boats)
- An eco heritage cruise & a lake shuttle
- Most meals including some restaurant dinners
- Airport transfers, entry fees, National Parks Pass, Overland Track fees, other inclusions as per the 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 trumper with the Napier Tramping Club. He considers Tasmania to be the perfect short-haul choice for tramping and adventure trips and this will be his 5th group led trip to the island. His enthusiasm, care and attention to the details will ensure you have a great trip. Other destinations John has led for the Travel Club include Fiji, Hawaii, Vanuatu, Alaska/Yukon, Madagascar 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 part & full day tramps that build up to the **Overland Track**. Traverse the highest ground in Tasmania, taking in wild alpine moors, craggy peaks, swathes of luxuriant rain forest & much more, on the most famous multi-day walk in Australia. Wet & cold conditions may be experienced at any time of year along with occasional unseasonal snowfalls. This track has a succession of well spaced huts, although park authorities require tents to be carried for backup. There is a similar advance booking system to our Great Walks. Specific small groups are restricted to a maximum of 8. The process and timing of bookings means an advance commitment (bookings for 2011 open in July 2010). To secure places on the dates we want, we will go online & book out 12 'slots' in July. Should we have less than 12 people in the group & who commit to the O. Track, then the 'spare' places will be relinquished. Places will therefore be filled on a first served basis to a maximum team of 12, so early commitments are appreciated.

At 63kms long, the Overland Track (without worthwhile side trips), is quite long, & the right mental attitude is essential along with reasonable fitness & the ability to carry a full size pack continually for what is effectively 6 days. Feedback from previous trips has resulted in us adding an additional day into the walk, which reduces the tramping distances on Day 2 & 3 & makes for a more tolerable effort. The timing of the overall trip is for the usually settled and stable conditions of summer, a 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 O.T. to join the overall trip! An alternative range of activities could be arranged to fill the days while the main party is on the track. Indicate your intentions on the registration form if you can, as an alternative programme is not a simple exercise!

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 Valley from the summit are unequalled.

Then we head southeast to **Tasman National Park**, which has some superb natural features bordered by high & dramatic sea cliffs. A half & also full day tramp will reveal the essence of this locality.

Then we head up the east coast to **Freycinet National Park**. This icon of Tasmania has colourful granitic mountains and sublime beaches including the incomparable Wineglass Bay. Naturally we will visit the bay, but also climb one of the granite mountains & visit several other sections of the park.

On to **Cradle Mountain** in west/central Tasmania. Here we can complete a superb lake circuit right to the base of unique Cradle Mountain. A full day is available for other tramps in this northern section of the park, but the day would also permit a climb of Cradle Mtn itself.

In the wild west, we will do some walking in the **Tarkine Wilderness** which it is hoped will receive the protection of national park status in the future.

Mt. Field National Park is a lovely forest clad place and we will do a sublime circuit walk to waterfalls, plus enjoy a whole day up on the alpine plateau section beyond the ski field areas.

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 is also a lockable watertight trailer for luggage and gear. This combination provides good comfort on a rotating seating basis, and back up driver.

Local bus services will give us access to Mt Wellington walking tracks, and also at both ends of the Overland Track. The Overland Track transport also includes a boat trip down the length of Lake St. Clair.

A unique old Huon Pine launch will transport us on the Pieman River eco-cruise.

Accommodation consists of a pleasant variety of hostels and shared cabins in camping grounds, a motel, tenting, 5 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 will provide for most meals, prepared communally. While travelling, we have found that a communal picnic works very well. Some dinners and lunches are your cost and noted in the itinerary. Some restaurant dinners are included and eating out is an enjoyable experience in Tasmania, where the quality of food 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 members, once the group is confirmed. It is helpful to indicate clearly some of these details on the registration form, thank you.

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 mellow 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 Port Arthur area**. Such features as the Tessellated Pavement, Doo Town, Tasman Blowhole, Tasman Arch and Devils Kitchen give an idea of this very scenic area. The **Port Arthur penal settlement** is the most significant site in all of Australia to get a grip on this significant part of the country's heritage.

Moving north along the east coast we begin to encounter the fabulous beaches and granite mountains of sublime **Freycinet National Park**. This is also the 'sunshine coast' and 'seafood coast' for good reason.

Tramps in both these eastern national parks are excellent, scenic & various.

The inland route to **Launceston**, Tassie's second city, is frequented by natural sights, quaint villages and unusual discoveries that reveal more of the character of the island and its people.

While Launceston will include some down time, there is plenty to occupy us. The Tamar Valley region would make an excellent optional day trip which we can compile depending on the interest.

Moving west now and into the interior will show some of the rich agricultural heartland, and include a town with dozens of wonderful murals.

Then up to the more populated northern coastline & an overnight stop at a rather atmospheric oddity.

A diversion to the northern end of **Cradle Mountain / Lake St. Clair National Park** gives an opportunity for a circuit tramp to the base of **Cradle Mountain** itself and a taste of what to expect later on the Overland Track.

From here, we head due west into the **Tarkine Wilderness**. This widespread area of wilderness and fragmented reserves mixed with forestry extraction needs better protection. While a remote section has been given national park status, there is a growing movement to protect more of its wonderful values.

At Corinna, we will take a river cruise deep into the wilderness & emerge on the west coast, plus do a tramp to round out our time here.

Strahan, a picturesque port town on the shores of Macquarrie Harbour, gives an opportunity to cruise the harbour and up the Gordon River and also see the penal settlement ruins of Sarah Island.

Turning east and up into the high country again, we pass through a significant mining area around **Queenstown** on our way to **Mt Field National Park**. Here we do a lovely short tramp through 80m tall trees & explore the alpine region of the park too.

Returning to Hobart, we relinquish the van and complete final preparations for **the Overland Track**.

During the summer the track can only be walked from north to south. 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. On the contrary, it ranks as arguably the finest multi-day tramp in all 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 long the length of Lake St Clair, to where the transport back to Hobart links up, completes the track.

A final day in Hobart can be dedicated to enjoying the ambience of the Salamanca Place markets and waterfront, where some unique art or other memento of your trip can be discovered.

In summary, the tramping programme provides the following :

Day 3. A day tramp on Mt Wellington

Day 5. A 3hr afternoon tramp in Tasman Nat. Park

Day 6. A full day tramp in Tasman Nat. Park

Day 8. A full day tramp in Freycinet Nat. Park

Day 14. A 3hr afternoon tramp in Cradle Mtn Nat. Park

Day 15. A full day tramp in Cradle Mtn Nat. Park with optional ascent of Cradle Mtn itself

Day 17. A 4hr morning tramp in the Tarkine Wilderness

Day 20. A full day tramp in Mt Field Nat. Park

Day 21. A 2hr easy morning tramp in Mt Field Nat. Park

Day 22. To Day 26. Five days continuous tramping on the Overland Track

Day 27. A half day tramp to complete the O. Track

The following national parks are visited : Tasman, Freycinet, Cradle Mtn/Lake St. Clair & Mt Field; along with Wellington Park (not a national park), & other areas.

Itinerary :

Day 1. Sun 30th Jan. Hobart

Fly to Hobart & overnight. No meals included today.

Day 2. Mon 31st Jan. Hobart

Hobart orientation. Enjoy a walk through some of more interesting & historic parts of Hobart to pick up the vibe. Chance to visit the parks service office for latest maps & publications & to complete formalities. **B.D.**

Lunch is your cost today. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Day 3. Tue 1st Feb. Hobart

Take a local bus to the village of Fern Tree for a starter tramp to Mt Wellington, the huge & magnificent backdrop to Hobart. Forest, a waterfall, the 'organ pipes' & up to the summit for unsurpassed views of Hobart & the Derwent Valley. Bus back to Hobart. **B.L.D. Dinner at a local restaurant tonight.**

Day 4. Wed 2nd Feb. Port Arthur

Collect the van & drive south east, first stopping at the Bonnorong Wildlife Park (entry included) to see Tassie Devils, wombats & other wildlife. Lunch at the postcard village of Richmond with its lovely 1823 convict built bridge, the oldest in Australia. On to the Forestier peninsula & numerous photo stops before arriving at Port Arthur, site of the most infamous of Australia's penal prisons. **Optional** ghost tour tonight! **B.L.D.**

Day 5. Thu 3rd Feb. Port Arthur

This morning is devoted to exploring the Port Arthur site (entry included), one of Tassie's greatest attractions. Between 1830 & 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 at the site, we will do a good 3hr walk in the adjacent Tasman National Park. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 6. Fri 4th Feb. Port Arthur

Drive to a different part of Tasman Nat. Park for a full day tramp to enjoy some of the features & dramatic views. Through patches of bush & heathlands to the Cape Pillar Peninsula. Often windy exposed ridges & places with evocative names like 'Purgatory Hill', 'Corruption Gully', 'Hurricane Heath' & 'Perdition Plateau'. Return to Port Arthur. **B.L.D.**

Day 7. Sat 5th Feb. Coles Bay

Drive north via pretty fishing towns like Orford & Triabunna to Coles Bay, beside Freycinet National Park. This lovely park has pink granite mountains called 'The Hazards' & of course the picture perfect Wineglass Bay beach. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 8. Sun 6th Feb. Coles Bay

A full day of tramping. Hopefully the weather will oblige for a steep but fantastic morning trip up Mt Amos, one of the granite Hazards. Then over the ridge & down onto sublime Wineglass Bay for a swim. Return the same way or do the circuit walk across the isthmus & back along Hazards Beach. **B.L.D. Dinner is at a local restaurant tonight.**

Day 9. Mon 7th Feb. St Helens

In the morning visit some lesser known parts of the national park – Cape Tourville & the Friendly Beaches. Follow the coast up to the fishing town of Bicheno for lunch. On to St Helens – founded in 1830 by sealers & whalers, it has grown to become the largest town on the east coast & Tassie's largest fishing port. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 10. Tue 8th Feb. Launceston

An interesting day of touring & sightseeing along the way to Launceston, Hobart's urban rival. The Pyenganna cheesery, the 'pub in the paddock' & the mining museum (not included) at Derby are all worthy of a visit. **B. Lunch is your cost today. Dinner tonight will be at the downtown foodcourt.**

Day 11. Wed 9th Feb. Launceston

Two days of free choice activities! There are many options to explore in & around Launceston. The walk up to Cataract Gorge is rewarding, take a dip in the Roman Baths or visit the excellent museum. **B. Lunch & Dinner are your cost today.**

Day 12. Thu 10th Feb. Launceston

Optional trip down the Tamar Valley to the north coast, visiting a wildlife reserve, several wineries & Beaconsfield, the town that had a mining disaster a few years ago. This combination day proved a winner with the 2010 group. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 13. Fri 11th Feb. Stanley

Pause in Sheffield, known for its amazing murals. Then on to the rich farmlands of the north coast, heading west. Walk up onto the imposing headland called "The Nut" at Stanley for terrific views. Overnight in Stanley. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 14. Sat 12th Feb. Cradle Mtn Village

Heading inland now for Cradle Mtn Village. This is an excellent base to check out some of the features or the northern end of the Cradle Mtn/Lake St Clair National Park. Our options for this afternoon & tomorrow include : The circuit tramp around Lake Dove, several other interesting short tramps, visiting the national park centre & weather permitting – a climb of Cradle Mountain. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 15. Sun 13th Feb Feb. Cradle Mtn Village

Continuing our programme here. **B.L.D.**

Day 16. Mon 14th Feb. Corinna

An early start as we travel west into the southern Tarkine Wilderness region & the tiny town of Corinna on the Pieman River. Corinna was once a gold mining town of 2000 people, but has reinvented itself into one of Australia's most acclaimed eco tourism experiences. We board the Arcadia, made in 1939 from Huon Pine, for a wonderful cruise down the Pieman River to the wild ocean & back. Immerse in the beauty & stillness of the forest with likely sightings of sea eagles & azure kingfishers. Lunch is included. There will be time for a local walk to end the day. **B.L.D. Dinner will be at the Corinna Pub.**

Day 17. Tue 15th Feb. Strahan

A 4 hr return tramp this morning to appreciate the area, or you might prefer a kayaking **option** on the Pieman River. After lunch, we will make our way to pretty Strahan on the shores of Macquarie Harbour. **B.L.D.**

Day 18. Wed 16th Feb. Strahan

For first timers 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, a tour of the Sarah Island penal colony, the Hells Gates & a seafood lunch. A scenically & historically diverse trip. But there are many alternatives. Several local walks, Sorrell Lighthouse & the giant Heenty sand dunes & more. **B. Lunch & dinner are your cost today.**

Day 19. Thu 17th Feb. Mt Field National Park

East of Strahan, Queenstown is set in a valley surrounded by high & virtually treeless hills, the legacy of leftover mining tailings. A huge nearby copper mine nearby is the reason. The town has a distinct wild west feel & is totally different to our own Queenstown.

Driving back in the direction of Hobart, we pass through the 20% of the state that is the World Heritage listed South West Protected Area. On the left is the Cradle Mountain/Lake St. Clair National Park. On the right is Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. Brilliant views of mountains, forests, grassy plains & fast flowing rivers. We will stop 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 & it is a gem. We will set up the tents in the campground just inside the park boundary. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 20. Fri 18th Feb. Mt Field National Park

A 6 hr return tramp up on the alpine plateau part of the park. We will follow the Tarn Shelf Circuit via several lakes, returning via the rustic Twilight tarn Hut which contains skiing memorabilia from earlier decades. Part of the tramp also passes through the skifield area. **B.L.D.**

Day 21. Sat 19th Feb. Hobart

We cannot leave the park without doing the 2 hr Tall Trees Circuit which also includes 3 impressive waterfalls, including the famous Russell Falls. The trees here are truly magnificent with towering myrtles & eucalypts. Return to Hobart & prepare for the Overland Track. **B. Lunch & dinner are your cost today.**

Day 22. Sun 20th Feb. Overland Track, Waterfall Hut

The shuttle to the start of the track will take around 4.5 hrs. Before us is the finest walking track in Australia. Tramp for 10kms, approx 4 hrs to Waterfall Hut. A 380m ascent & 250m descent. Weather permitting there will be many stunning views of the alpine area, the lakes & of course the front & back views of Cradle Mountain. **B.L.D.**

Day 23. Mon 21st Feb. O Track, Windermere Hut

A short day, but with an interesting side trip to lake Will, we should arrive at Windermere for a late lunch. Buttongrass moorlands are a feature today. A pleasant hut in a pretty setting. **B.L.D.**

Day 24. Tue 22nd Feb. O Track, Pelion Hut

Around 17kms & 6hrs. The track condition is very good , great scenery & variety of landforms/flora, with a 230m ascent & 340m descent. Pelion is a large newish hut with a brilliant wrap around deck affording awesome views – just the place to kick back & relax. **B.L.D.**

Day 25. Wed 23rd Feb. O Track, Bert Nicholls Hut

A fairly long day of 19kms & 6-7hrs. There are several short side trips to waterfalls worth inspecting. **B.L.D.**

Day 26. Thu 24th Feb. O Track, Pine Valley Hut

Much shorter tramp of 9kms & 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 that far from the main track, it is often overlooked. Everyone enjoys the chance to get to the Labyrinth. **B.L.D.**

Day 27. Fri 25th Feb. Complete Overland Track, return to Hobart

Another shortish day of 9kms & a gentle descent to Narcissus Hut. Then we meet up with the boat to take us to the southern end of Lake St. Clair. Enjoy a café lunch at the visitor centre complex before meeting up with our minibus transfer back to Hobart. **B. D. Lunch is your cost today. Dinner is at a local restaurant.**

Day 28. Sat Hobart

Wind down day! The Salamanca Place markets & downtown harbor area is the place to be today. We will finish with an end of trip celebration dinner at an iconic restaurant. **B.D. Lunch is your cost today.**

Day 29. Sun Homeward bound

Head for home or on to other travels in Australia.

Booking Conditions : FMC Travel Club and 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 and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. FMC and TSN are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defects to 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 and 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 and the apportioned cost of the leader's travel.
5. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS MANDATORY. We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and can provide a brochure and application by paper or email. TSN will provide a discounted quote on application. Alternative policies are accepted, with evidence provided. When trip validity is confirmed, registration deposits are locked in so this is the time to ensure travel insurance is arranged. Overlook this at your risk!
6. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis and open to all ages, on receipt of the Registration Form and deposit of \$250 per person. This is due by 31st August 2010. A progress payment of \$2000 is due by 31st October 2010 and the final balance is due by 31st December 2010. All payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, visa or mastercard, or direct credit to the office of TSN. No other method of place is accepted. Cheques must be payable to Travel Smart Napier.
7. The trip price is expressed in NZ Dollars. Events beyond our control as they relate to currency fluctuation against the Australian Dollar and any cost changes to on ground arrangements mean that the advertised price cannot be guaranteed. A variation to the final price is quite possible and should be anticipated. An exchange rate of AUD 79c has been used to calculate the advertised trip price. Until such time as the trip price 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 now. TRAVEL INSURANCE WILL COVER YOU FOR UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES BUT WILL NOT CEVER YOU FOR CHANGING YOUR MIND AFTER COMMITTING TO THE TRIP. Per person cancellation fees apply as follows : Cancellations from 1st September 2010 to 31st October 2010 incur a fee of \$250. Cancellations from 1st November 2010 to 31st December incur a fee of \$1500. Cancellations from 1st January 2011 onwards incur a fee of 100% of trip costs.
9. Please forward a photocopy or scan of your passport(s) when completing your registration paperwork.

Registration Form :

Name(s) as per passport(s) and please underline your preferred first name.....

.....

Mailing Address.....

Day phone.....Night phone.....Mob.....

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

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

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I/We do.... do not... want to walk the Overland Track (please circle your choice)

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 condition of joining this trip, however)

A contact person in emergencies (name, address, relationship to you, email, phone numbers/mobile)

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

I / We have read the full trip dossier & 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 understand that the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until full payment has been made.

.....signed & dated by each person registering

CHECKLIST :

Registration form / Deposit / Passport scan or Photocopy

Please send everything to :

John Dobbs

FMC Travel Club Convenor

P O Box 352 Napier 4140.

N.B. John Dobbs will be overseas from 17th July to 12th October inclusive & is unavailable to respond during this time. Registrations before John goes overseas are welcomed & preferred, but if you register while he is overseas, the office staff will receipt any registrations. John will then contact you on his return.

Questions :

We aim to find out the abilities of the party & 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 couple will share together or maybe someone is willing to share their tent with another person of the same gender.**

- 2. State the type of cooker you could supply e.g. Kovea gas or white spirits. State also what billies you MAY be able to supply for yourself or to assist the group.**

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

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

- 5. Are you happy to tramp & travel in a small group with the levels of tolerance needed within such a group?**

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

Overland Track bookings are made online in July. Please be sure that you want to be included or not & remember that you DO NOT have to tackle the OT to join this trip, but it is preferred!

