

# FMC Travel Club

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

Club Convenor : John Dobbs

Travel Smart Napier

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**3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 24 days**  
**\$3,800 ex Hobart. Leader : John Dobbs**

*N.B. Register by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and save \$150 off the final trip price!!!  
Any payments by visa or mastercard adds \$75 to the final trip price*

*The smallest state of Australia presents arguably the best tramping in the country and packs great variety into a compact island. There are more national parks than in NZ. 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 friendly locals – and don't forget a raft of unique animals. The itinerary packs in the best of this beguiling island – the plentiful tramping and walking is hugely varied and we have some interesting discoveries to make.*

**PRICE INCLUDES :**

- *Accommodation (heritage hotel, cabins, hostels, motels, camping)*
- *Transport (minibus, local buses, boats)*
- *An eco heritage cruise and lake shuttle boat*
- *Most meals including some restaurant dinners*
- *Airport transfers, entry fees, National Parks Pass, Overland Track fees, other inclusions and entries as shown in the itinerary*
- *Experienced leader*

**PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :**

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

## **Trip Leader :**

*John is the Travel Club Convenor and regular trumper with the Napier Tramping Club. In his opinion, Tasmania is a perfect short-haul choice and offers Australia's finest tramping opportunities. This is his 5<sup>th</sup> group led trip to Tassie and is a personal favourite destination. This shows in his enthusiasm, care and attention to the details, so you're assured of a great time. Other travel club trips he has led or co-led include Fiji, Hawaii, Vanuatu, Alaska/Yukon, Madagascar, Turkey and Switzerland/Italy. John welcomes your interest in this trip and can be contacted anytime.*

## **Trip Organisation :**

***The tramping programme** is the core of the itinerary, and has been compiled to provide heaps of variety, with part and full day tramps that build up to the **Overland Track**. Traverse the highest ground in Tasmania, taking in alpine moors, craggy peaks, rain forest and so much more on the most famous multi-day tramp in Australia. Wet and cold conditions may be experienced at any time of year along with occasional unseasonal snowfalls. That's why we time our trip for the usually pleasant and settled conditions of late summer.*

*There are well spaced huts, although park authorities require that tents be carried for backup. There is a similar advance booking system as we operate on our Great Walks, with the booking season open from 1<sup>st</sup> July each year. We will 'book' up to 12 places and relinquish any surplus as the group is finalized. We incur considerable costs in making these advance bookings and this is the reason why we must charge a cancellation fee if you cancel.*

*At 63kms long, the Overland Track (without the addition of some brilliant short side trips) is longish. Therefore the right mental attitude and ability to carry a full pack for six days is needed.*

***NB.** Refer to the registration form and booking conditions page for further details about the O.T. bookings. 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 and may vary the final trip cost!*

*Beginning 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**, where superb natural features are bordered by high and dramatic sea cliffs. We will see many of the features of this park and have included a half day tramp after a visit to the Port Arthur site.*

*Then we turn north up the east coast to **Freycinet National Park**. This icon has colourful granitic mountains and sublime beaches, including the incomparable Wineglass Bay. Naturally we tramp to the bay, but also climb one of the granite mountains and poke into several other sections of the park.*

*On to **Cradle Mountain** in west/central Tasmania. We will complete a superb lake circuit right to the base of this uniquely shaped mountain and also we can have a go at the summit. It is not technically difficult but is a challenge all the same. Naturally the views are incredible!*

*In the wild west, we will do some walking in the **Tarkine Wilderness**. Many Tasmanians hope this area will one day receive the protection of national park status.*

***Mt Field National Park** is a lovely forest clad place and we will do a sublime circuit walk to waterfalls and tall forests it is renowned for.*

*Lastly is the **Overland Track**, or an alternative programme if required.*

**Transport** is mostly our minivan, hired from Hobart to Hobart, with a lockable watertight trailer for luggage and gear. This combination provides good comfort on a rotating seat basis, with a volunteer back up driver.

Local bus services give access to the Mt Wellington walking tracks, and also to both ends of the Overland Track. O.T. transport links also includes a boat trip down the length of Lake St. Clair. A lovely old Huon Pine launch will transport us on the Pieman River eco-cruise in the Tarkine.

**Accommodation** includes a pleasant variety of hostels and shared cabins in camping grounds, a motel, tenting, huts on the Overland Track, plus a heritage hotel in Hobart. A full list of accommodations will be supplied after trip confirmation.

**Meals.** A food kitty operates, which will provide for many meals, prepared communally. The Hobart accommodation provides a good daily continental breakfast. While travelling, a communal picnic works very well. A few dinners and lunches are your cost and noted in the itinerary. Some restaurant dinners are included and eating out is always an enjoyable experience in Tasmania, with quality and prices similar to NZ. Come prepared to add your cooking, shopping and cleaning 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 party, once the trip is confirmed. It is helpful to indicate clearly some of these details on the registrations form, thanks.

## **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 cousin in NZ would be Wellington. We have time to get a good feel of the city and check out some of the sights.

Embarking on a roughly anti-clockwise route, we first take 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 an insight on this important part of Australia'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 these eastern parks are excellent, scenic and varied.

The inland route to **Launceston**, Tassie's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest city, is lined with quaint villages and unusual discoveries that reveal even more character of the island and its people. While the pause in Launceston gives down time, there is plenty to occupy.

Leaving Launceston, we explore the West Tam Valley up to the north coast then cut across to Devonport, the ferry terminal port town for the Bass Strait ferries.

South into the interior reveals a rich agricultural heartland and a town with dozens of amazing murals.

A diversion to the northern end of **Cradle Mountain / Lake St Clair National Park** puts us in touch with what to expect later on the Overland Track and the best chance to climb Cradle Mountain itself. (non-technical)

From here we head west into the **Tarkine**. This huge area of wilderness and fragmented reserves mixed with forestry extraction needs better protection. Although a remote section has been given national park status, there is a growing movement to protect more of its wonderful values. At Corinna, we take a river cruise deep into the Tarkine and emerge on the west coast, plus do a half day tramp to round out our experience.

**Strahan**, a picturesque port town on the shores of Macquarrie Harbour, gives an opportunity to cruise the harbor and up the Gordon River, including a visit to 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**. While based at the campground, we can explore the magnificent forests and waterfalls this park is renowned for.

Returning to Hobart, we return 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 fooled that this might appear to be too 'touristy' to be bothered. On the contrary, it ranks as arguably the finest multi-day tramp in the country, 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 stunning. A lesser known section towards the end leads to features called 'the Acropolis' and 'the Labyrinth'. A boat trip down the length of Lake St. Clair, to where the transport back to Hobart links up, completing the track.

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

**In summary, the programme provides the following tramps :**

Day 3. Day tramp on Mt. Wellington

Day 5. An afternoon tramp in Tasman N. Park

Day 7. Day tramp in Freycinet N. Park

Day 11. An afternoon tramp in Cradle Mtn area

Day 12. A morning tramp in Cradle Mtn area

Day 13. An afternoon tramp in the Tarkine wilderness

Day 14. A morning tramp in the Tarkine wilderness

Day 17. A morning tramp in Mt. Field N. Park

Day 18. To Day 21. Four continuous full days tramping on the O.T.

Day 22. Morning tramp to conclude the O. Track

## **Itinerary :**

### **Day 1. Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Hobart**

Fly to Hobart and overnight. No meals today.

### **Day 2. Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hobart**

Hobart orientation. Enjoy a walk through some of the most interesting and historic parts of Hobart. Complete formalities for the Overland Track and visit the parks service office for latest maps etc. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today. Dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Day 3. Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hobart**

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

### **Day 4. Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Port Arthur**

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

### **Day 5. Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Port Arthur**

This morning, explore the Port Arthur site (entry included). Between 1830 and 1877, around 12,500 convicts from England served sentences here. Fine sandstone buildings and ruins are spread out over the large site, but perhaps

*the most atmospheric is the ruined church. After lunch at the site, we will take a short drive into the adjacent Tasman National Park and do an afternoon tramp. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 6. Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Coles Bay**

*Drive north via pretty fishing towns like Orford and Triabunna to Coles Bay, adjacent to Freycinet National Park. Should be time for a swim too. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 7. Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. Coles Bay**

*A great days tramping in the park beginning with a climb and scramble up Mt Amos for the most amazing views over the whole park and down into Wineglass Bay. After descending, walk over the saddle and down onto the bay itself for a picnic lunch and a swim. Walk across the isthmus and along the granitic section known as the hazards. **B.L.D.** Dinner is at a local restaurant tonight.*

**Day 8. Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Launceston**

*Lots of interesting stops today. We traverse the 'seafood coast', we can stop at several waterfalls, a cheesery, the 'pub in the paddock' and the mining museum at Derby (optional) are all worthy of a visit, enroute to 'Launie', Hobart's urban rival. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 9. Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Launceston**

*Free day! There are many options to explore in and around Launceston. Join me on an extended walk beyond Cataract Gorge followed by a dip in the Roman Baths. **B.** Lunch and dinner are your cost today.*

**Day 10. Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Devonport**

*Heading north along the Tamar Valley we can visit a wildlife reserve, several wineries, and Beaconsfield, the town that had a mining disaster a few years ago. Our destination is the pleasant town of Devonport, ferry port for connections to Melbourne and home to a fascinating Aboriginal museum. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 11. Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Cradle Mountain Village**

*Heading south and inland now, we will pause to admire the amazing town of Sheffield and its murals enroute to the delights of the northern end of Cradle Mtn / Lake St. Clair National Park. A brilliant circuit of Lake Dove right below the mountain and a visit to the national park centre. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 12. Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Corinna**

*Tramping options thru to mid afternoon. This is also your best opportunity to climb Cradle Mountain for incredible views if weather permits. It is not a technical peak but requires stamina and good balance. We then drive less than 2 hours west into the Tarkine region to the tiny village of Corinna on the banks of 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. Overnight in cabins and enjoy dinner at the village pub. **B.L.** Dinner is your cost today.*

**Day 13. Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Corinna**

*We board the Arcadia, made in 1939 from Huon Pine, for a wonderful cruise down the remote Pieman River to the wild southern ocean and back. Immerse in the beauty and stillness of the forest and thrill to likely sightings of sea eagles and azure kingfishers. Lunch is included. Several options for interesting afternoon tramps, or you might prefer a kayaking option on the Pieman River. **B.L.** Dinner is your cost today.*

**Day 14. Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Strahan**

*We have a morning tramp, and after lunch we will make our way to 'civilization' in the form of Strahan, a little town on the shores of Macquarrie Harbour. B.L.D.*

**Day 15. Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Strahan**

*If you are a first timer to Tassie, I recommend the optional cruise across the harbor and up the Gordon River into pristine rainforest and tall Huon Pines. The trip includes an interpreted visit to the ruins of the Sarah Island penal colony, the 'Hells Gates' and a seafood lunch - a scenically and historically diverse trip. Another option is the 'Piners and Miners' tour. There are plenty of things to do in and around Strahan, with several good local walks, the Sorrell Lighthouse etc. We may head out to the giant Heenty sand dunes tonight for a spectacular sunset if conditions permit. B. Lunch and dinner are your cost today.*

**Day 16. Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mt Field National Park**

*East of Strahan, Queenstown is set in a valley surrounded by high and virtually treeless hills, the legacy of leftover mining tailings. A huge copper mine nearby is the reason. The town has a distinctive wild west feel and is somewhat like our own West Coast communities.*

*Driving 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 Cradle Mountain / Lake St. Clair Nat. Park and on the right is Franklin / Gordon Wild Rivers Nat. Park. Brilliant views of mountains, forests, grassy plains and fast flowing rivers. We will make a stop to walk to Donaghy's Lookout to get an appreciation. Then through the lush Derwent Valley to Mt Field Nat. Park. This was the state's first national park and is a gem. Here we set up the tents in the campground, just inside the park boundary. B.D. Lunch is your cost today.*

**Day 17. Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hobart**

*We will complete the impressive Tall Trees Circuit which includes 3 waterfalls, and the gorgeous Russell Falls. Trees here are truly something to behold with towering myrtles and eucalypts. Return to Hobart and make final preparations for the Overland Track. B. Lunch and dinner are your cost today.*

**Day 18. Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. O. Track, Waterfall Hut**

*By shuttle for the 4 hour ride to Cradle Village. A park shuttle bus to the official start of the track, then tramp for around 4 hours to Waterfall Hut, a 380m ascent and 250m descent. Weather permitting there will be many stunning views of the alpine area, the lakes and of course front and back views of Cradle Mountain. Wombats are likely to make an appearance this evening. B.L.D.*

**Day 19. Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. O. Track, Pelion Hut**

*A long day but track conditions should be good, great scenery and variety of landforms/flora, with a 230m ascent and 340m descent. Pelion is a newish hut with a brilliant wrap around deck affording wonderful views as the sun goes down - just the spot to kick back and relax. B.L.D.*

**Day 20. Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. O. Track, Bert Nicholls Hut**

*Another long day of around 19kms. Start early and maybe include several short side trips to huge waterfalls. This hut is also newish and has several odd features, but is a great facility. B.L.D.*

**Day 21. Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. O. Track, Pine Valley Hut**

*A much shorter day of around 9kms into this interesting valley. This will give us all afternoon to go beyond and up into the Labyrinth - a lake studded plateau surrounded by high peaks with wonderful views all round. It surprises that this side valley is often overlooked by those rushing through the O.T. and everyone who ventures here enjoys what it offers. B.L.D.*

**Day 22. Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Complete the O. Track, return to Hobart**

Another day of around 9kms and a gentle descent to Narcissus Hut. One km beyond the hut is the jetty where 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 at a local restaurant.

**Day 23. Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hobart**

Wind down day! The Salamanca Place markets will be in full swing and this area combined with the harbor is definitely the place to be. But there is so much more to do as well. I'm keen to take the local ferry trip up to MONA – Museum of Old and New Art. An extravagant and controversial private art collection worth USD\$89 million, and amazing by all accounts. Tonight we will have an end of trip celebration dinner at an iconic Hobart restaurant. **B.D.** Lunch is your cost today.

**Day 24. Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Homeward bound**

Head for home or on to other travels in Australia.

**Booking Conditions : FMC Travel Club and Travel Smart Napier :**

1. The FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made with TSN. Participants 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, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be fully refunded. We also reserve the right to make any modifications that may be essential, or to offer a modified trip to a smaller number of people.
4. The trip includes a payment to FMC and the apportioned cost of the leader's travel.
5. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first commers basis on receipt of the Registration Form and deposit of \$250. This is due by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. A progress payment of \$2000 is due by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 and the final balance by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011. All payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, internet banking, visa or mastercard to the office of TSN. **All or any payments by visa or mastercard will add \$75 to the final trip price.** Our preferred payment method is internet banking. Please use : 010685 0151601 00 at the ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier. **A \$150 discount is offered for all registrations received by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.**
6. Cancellations. If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise TSN in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable but just a phone call is not.  
Travel insurance will cover your for unforeseen circumstances but will not cover you for changing your mind after committing to the trip. Fees apply as follows :
  - Cancellations from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 incur a fee of \$250
  - Cancellations from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 incur a fee of \$1000
  - Cancellations from 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 onwards incur a fee of 100% of trip costs
  - If **you** find a suitable replacement person, the above cancellation fees **may** be waived
7. **Travel insurance is mandatory.** We recommend cancellation cover when you register (approx\$40). When the trip is confirmed, this can be increased to full cover. We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and a brochure/application by email or post is available to all, just ask.. You will receive a special FMC discount.

## **Registration Form for Tasmania 2012 :**

Complete and send to John Dobbs at TSN with deposit and passport copy. Registrations received by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 earn a discount of \$150 off the final trip price. Registrations close by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011, or earlier if the trip fills earlier. Your earliest commitment is appreciated. Any payment by visa or mastercard adds \$75 to the final trip price. Scan or photocopy your passport with your registration form please.

My / Our names as shown in passport(s) and circle preferred fist name.....

.....

Mailing address.....

Home phone..... Work phone..... Mobile.....

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

Specify dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions.....

.....

Tramping club affiliation (if any).....

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

Contact person in NZ in emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email, relationship to you. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are permitting us to liaise with

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Please turn over and answer further questions about tramping experience and gear

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

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

Please send to : John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor  
Travel Smart Napier, P O Box 352 Napier 4140.  
P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : [john@tsnapier.co.nz](mailto:john@tsnapier.co.nz)

We aim to find a little more about the abilities of the party and what gear may be available. Write you answers here or email them, thank you.

1. Specify the tent you *COULD* supply, state 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 who does not have access to a tent.
  
2. What sort of cooker *COULD* you supply. E.g. Kovea type gas or white spirits, etc. What billies *COULD* you supply for yourself or to assist the group?
  
3. Summarise recent tramping experiences, whether NZ or overseas. Are these day trips, weekend or some even longer? Maybe a mix? How frequently? Are you able to handle a full pack for the extent of the O. Track?
  
4. Are you happy to tramp and travel in a small group with the levels of tolerance needed within such a group?
  
5. 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 and remember that you do not have to tackle the OT to join this trip, but it is preferred!*