FMC Travel Club

A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.) <u>www.fmc.org.nz</u>

Club Convenor : John Dobbs Travel Smart Napier Civic Court, Dickens Street, Napier 4140 P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : <u>john@tsnapier.co.nz</u>



28th January to 22nd February 2015, 26 days \$3795 ex Hobart. Trip Leader : John Dobbs

Based on a minimum group of 7 participants and subject to currency fluctuations Any payments by visa or mastercard adds \$100 to final invoicing

A comprehensive tramping trip with lots of inclusions on a circuit from Hobart. Experience a tremendous range of landscapes across 7 national parks and wilderness regions plus 2 offshore islands.

Encounter the wildlife, discover the convict past and enjoy Tassie's stress free style! This is a beaut holiday......

Price Includes :

- Accommodation small, characterful hotel and a country pub, holiday park cabins and units, cottages, a youth hostel, a penitentiary, tent camping
- Transport hired minivan, two return ferry trips, a river eco-cruise, an adventure fast boat cruise
- Many meals (all breakfasts, 14 lunches and 14 dinners) as indicated by B.L.D. in the itinerary
- FMC trip leader throughout
- National Park passes, entry fees and inclusions as detailed in the itinerary, return Hobart airport transfers

Price Does Not Include :

- Flights to/from Tasmania
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Personal spending outside the itinerary (some meals, drinks, etc)

Trip Leader

John is the travel club organizer and a regular tramper with the Napier Tramping Club. He has led many trips for the travel club – these have included parts of Australia, Tasmania of course, Fiji, Alaska/Yukon, Turkey, parts of Europe, plus UK and Ireland. "Tasmania is about half the size of our South Island and punches above its weight as far as nature and the outdoors are concerned. A trampers heaven really, with friendly locals, which include people. The convict history, high quality food and beverage, historical buildings and slow pace combine to make this a wonderful destination. I've combined parts of other trips with some new experiences for a fresh take."

John welcomes your interest and can be contacted any time. john@tsnapier.co.nz Or 06 8352222

The tramping programme

A wide variety to present some of the best that Tasmania offers – arguably some of the most enjoyable anywhere in Australia.

Day 4. South Bruny National Park. The Labillardiere Peninsula, a 5 – 6 hour moderate circuit.

Day 5. Grass Point 1 hour, or Fluted Cape 2.5 hours, before the adventure cruise

Day 6. Hartz Mountains National Park. Hartz Pass (3 hours return, moderate) or Hartz Peak summit (5 hours return, tougher).

Day 7. Mt. Field National Park. The Rodway Range and Tarn Shelf Circuit (5 – 6 hours return, medium).

Day 8. Short walks in the Styx 'valley of the Giants".

Day 10. Short walks in the Tarkine Wilderness

Day 11. Local walks around Corinna

Day 12. Cradle Mtn – Lake St. Clair National Park options. Dove Lake Circuit (2 hours easy)

Day 13. Other options in the national park. Climb Cradle Mtn via 3 different routes for example

Days 14 – 16. Walls of Jerusalem National Park. An easy medium clockwise circuit of 23kms, with optional short side trips to particular features, viewpoints etc.

Day 19 and 20. Freycinet National Park – the 2 day easy - medium circuit of 31kms.

Day 21 and 22. Maria Island National Park. A choice of easy – medium walks and tramps

We will always have national park walking maps and a PLB with us, the latter just in case.

Structure of the trip

Transport. A hired minivan from Day 3 to 24. Depending on final group size, a lockable luggage trailer may also be needed. This give us maximum flexibility as we work through the itinerary. A back up driver will be needed.

Accommodation. Good variety. In Hobart we stay at the Astor Private Hotel. A small, heritage place very well located in the CBD, managed by the larger than life Tildy. Clean, comfy and unpretentious.

The cabins and tourist flats available through the holiday parks networks provide good options. Staying in the old penitentiary on Maria Island will be a different experience.

Please indicate on the registration form if you have a tent you can provide. These enable us to properly enjoy the Walls of Jerusalem and Freycinet National Park circuits, where huts are non existent or only for emergency shelter. Tasmania does not have the extensive hut network we take for granted in NZ.

Meals and food kitty. The Astor in Hobart provides breakfast as part of the tariff. We run a food kitty from which we draw to cover all breakfasts, some lunches and some dinners. In the past, we have found that splitting the group into say 3 teams of 3 persons with responsibility for shopping and meal preparation for a few days works really well. Each team has a turn, then nothing more to do. A team spirit is created and we have eaten exceptionally well on past trips! We mix it up with some restaurant meals too. The final numbers will determine how this aspect works out. Come prepared to participate!

Some lunches and dinners will be your own choice and cost in places where there is plenty of choice, such as Hobart and Launceston. We normally go out as a group on such nights.

Trip Newsletter. A pre-trip newsletter will include among other items, recommended clothes and gear and a list of accommodations and details.

Itinerary

Day 1. Wed 28th Jan. Hobart

Arrival day and meet up for dinner down at the waterfront.

Day 2. Thu 29th Jan. Hobart

Free day in Hobart. There is a lot of interest in Tassie's capital and the accommodation is centrally located in the CBD and an easy stroll from the historic area of Battery Point. John's interesting walk to include some must see sights gives a good overview. **B.**

Day 3. Fri 30th Jan. Bruny Island

Collect the rental van and follow the coast south, making several stops enroute. At Kettering, we take the ferry across to Bruny Island and make our way to Adventure Bay and the holiday park cabins for a couple of nights. **B.L.D.**

Day 4. Sat 31st Jan. Bruny Island

A whole day exploring South Bruny National Park. Heading to the southern part of the island, we may be able to include a visit to the lighthouse on the south coast in addition to the interesting Labillardiere Peninsula circuit, a medium trip of about 5 hours. The track passes through coastal heathland with great views across the water to the southern ranges on the mainland. Return through eucalypt forest on the eastern shore. Some years ago on this track, we encountered all 3 of Tasmania's venomous snake varieties within a couple of kilometers of setting off! **B.L. Dinner at a local restaurant.**

Day 5. Sun 1st Feb. Return to the mainland

A morning tramp to Fluted Cape for spectacular views. Then an exciting wilderness boat trip down the length of the east coast. High sea cliffs, pencil thin rock stacks, seals, dolphins and many seabirds – sometimes albatross, all with an informative commentary. Later, we retrace our route to the ferry and return to the mainland. Following the coastal drive through villages and fruit orchards to Huonville. This little town on the banks of the Huon River, was once an area surrounded by tall Huon pine forests, and milling this fine timber was big business. Once the forest was leveled, apple trees and other fruit were planted and the orchard industry remains the region's primary agricultural activity. A treat tonight - we dine at the award winning Home Hill Vineyard Restaurant, just 3kms from town. **B.L.D.**

Day 6. Mon 2nd Feb. Hartz Mtns. National Park

A short drive brings us to Hartz Mountains National Park, on the eastern edge of the vast South West World Heritage region. Several short walks to a viewpoint and waterfall to warm up and then we make for Hartz Pass (1050m). A good place to appreciate the views into the World Heritage Area. The track continues on to the summit of Hartz Peak (1254m) if there is interest. Afterwards, we drive up the Derwent Valley before turning off towards Mount Field National Park, where we spend a couple of nights in the little town of Maydena. Our accommodation is at the Giant's Table and Cottages in a lovely setting on the edge of town by the Tyenna River, where resident platypus will hopefully be seen. **B.L.D.**

Day 7. Tue 3rd Feb. Mt. Field National Park

This is one of Tasmania's oldest and most loved national parks. From the tall forests and waterfalls of the lower section to the glaciated mountains, windswept moors and tranquil lakes of the highlands, the park encompasses an amazing diversity of landscapes, animals, plants and history. Our planned trip is the Mt Field and Tarn Shelf Circuit, a moderate 5 – 6 hour trip that in clear weather gives terrific views. **B.L.D.**

Day 8. Wed 4th Feb. Styx Forests, drive to Strahan

Before we leave the area, we will include a drive into the Styx 'Valley of the Giants', lying to the south of Maydena. It contains white-trunked specimens of eucalyptus that are the tallest trees in the southern hemisphere, and the highest standing hardwoods in the world. Heights approaching 100m are recorded. The area is the subject to a long drawn out tussle between the forestry industry and conservationists. The latter hope that a national park can be established and incorporated into the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area. We will be able to do a few short walks to view these lordly giants up close.

From there, a long drive towards the west coast where we spend a couple nights in the town of Strahan on Macquarie Harbour. Our drive takes us past some of Tasmania's hydro dams and penstocks onto a high plateau. Then through magnificent country with on our left the Franklin – Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, while on our right is the southern section of Cradle Mountain – Lake St. Clair National Park.

We then come to the denuded hills and the spectacular drive down into the mining town of Queenstown before the final leg to Strahan. A day of fantastic scenery! **B.**

Day 9. Thu 5th Feb. Day off in Strahan

Take a break and enjoy this pretty west coast holiday town. Several companies provide excellent cruises across Macquarie Harbour and up the Gordon River, with time spent ashore Sarah Island to explore the remains of the penal colony. Don't miss the very entertaining 'The Ship That Never Was' theatrical story of some convicts who escaped from Sarah Island in 1834 by building their own ship. It is held in the amphitheatre attached to the Visitor Centre down at the waterfront. **B**.

Day 10. Fri 6th Feb. Through the Tarkine Wilderness to Corinna

Travelling north, we will make a stop at the town of Zeehan, another town well past its mining heyday. By the late 19th century Zeehan had become a booming silver mining centre known as Silver City, with a population of almost 10,000. In its peak it had 26 hotels and its Gaiety theatre seated 1000 people, and it even had a stock exchange. The West Coast Pioneers Memorial Museum is one of the best regional museums in Australia and a couple hours here are well spent. An interesting historic walk near town highlights some of the mining history.

Now we drive the unsealed Western Explorer road north into the Tarkine Wilderness – beautiful rainforest, pristine eucalypt forest, heathlands, moorlands, towering sand dunes, button grass plains and lazy rivers. There are a number of possible short walks we might include on the way to Corinna, which was a very remote settlement on the banks of the Pieman River. But to get to it, we must cross the Pieman River on the 'Fatman' barge. A warm welcome awaits at the restored mining cottages surrounding the Tannin Bar/Restaurant - a great place to dine and chill out in this delightful setting. **B.L.D.**

Day 11. Sat 7th Feb. Pieman River Cruise

There are some lovely walks through the rainforest surrounding Corinna and we will see Huon pine trees. Then a trip highlight – the journey from Corinna to Pieman Head on the 75 year old huon pine cruiser, Arcadia 2. The best river cruise in Australia provides an intimate connection with the river and its rainforest, right out to the rugged west coast. Lunch is included in our trip which lasts nearly 5 hours. Afterwards, you might like to hire canoes for a few hours - the Pieman is a placid waterway. **B.L.**

Day 12. Sun 8th Feb. Cradle Valley

The possibility of a couple more short walks on our way east then south towards Cradle Mountain. The iconic peak, one of the most enduring images of Tasmania, is dominant as we get closer. On the outskirts of the national park is a visitor centre and a range of accommodations. Here we use visitor park cabins for a couple of nights. It is also here that the shuttle buses leave from to head into the park and drop trampers off who are doing the famous Overland Track, which we have included on a number of previous travel club trips to Tasmania. From the carpark at Dove Lake is a beautiful lake side circuit that goes right below the northern flanks of Cradle Mountain. It is a nice intro' to the park and we can then see the options for tomorrow. A visit to Weindorfers Hut is worthwhile. Gustav Weindorfer, an Austrian pioneer settled here and it was his conservation efforts that eventually led to the creation of the national park and promotion of visitors to this stunning region. **B.D.**

Day 13. Mon 9th Feb. Cradle Mtn. / Lake St. Clair National Park

Options today! If the weather is good, then the climb to the top of Cradle Mountain is worth the effort. Huge granite slabs are jumbled but the route is well worn and there are always people on the mountain in good weather. It is not technically difficult and a very satisfying climb with sublime views. There are various other walks available and tracks are well marked and easy to follow. The wild alpine moors, craggy peaks, sublime lakes and swathes of luxuriant rainforest attract large numbers of visitors. **B.L.D.**

Day 14. Tue 10th Feb. Walls of Jerusalem National Park circuit

After reprovisioning (we may head to the town of Sheffield – the town of murals, to do this) we head for this intriguingly named adjacent park. This is a compact alpine area littered with Biblical names, walking beneath extensive cliffs, past glacial tarns and through quiet pencil pine forests. The actual circuit can be done in two days, but a more leisurely 2.5 day trip is better. There are no usable huts, so it is a couple of nights of camping in designated spots. We have a tramp of just 3 hours to reach our overnight campsite at Wild Dog Creek – a series of wooden tent platforms and associated toilet and water supply. **B.L.D.**

NB. An alternative to the full circuit would be to spend two nights at the Wild Dog Creek campsite, meaning the next full day exploring the main Biblically named features of the park could be done with just a small day pack. Then to finish is just the 2.5 - 3 hours walk back out to the vehicle along the same route.

Day 15. Wed 11th Feb. Walls of Jerusalem circuit

The 'Walls' are a group of cliff-ringed summits sheltering several small and very beautiful valleys linked by low cols and dotted with many lakes and tarns and groves of pencil pines and stunted snowgums. Most of the walls were glacially carved. Bennett's wallabies abound and eastern quolls and wombats are common in the park.

The significant features have names from the Bible – King David's Peak, Mount Jerusalem, Solomon's Throne, Herod's Gate, Zion Gate, Damascus Gate (the 'gates' are saddles or ravines), Solomon's Jewells (a series of lovely interlocking tarns), Lake Salome and the Pool of Siloam, plus other examples.

If we do the circuit as outlined, the direct route is 9kms and 3 - 4 hours to Lake Adelaide. However, there are enticing short diversions to the easy peaks of Solomons Throne, The Temple and Mt Jerusalem. Also, the historic Dixons Kingdom Hut (a 1930's fur trappers hut) is worth a visit.

From this hut, the route through Damascus Vale is indistinct but open until Lake Ball. Then the track follows this lake to Lake Adelaide where there are good camping places at the head of the lake. **B.L.D.**

Day 16. Thu 12th Feb. Complete the circuit, drive to Launceston

Heading due north now, the track follows a series of broad treeless valleys and the going can be a bit muddy. It is only 8kms and around 3 hours back to the vehicle. Now we head for civilization! Heading east through the village of Mole Creek, if time permits we may include the wildlife park here on our way through to Launceston.

The city is the northern rival to Hobart, with gorgeous heritage buildings, some in Victorian Italianate style, with a revitalized riverside development beside the Esk River. Here we have a couple of nights at the centrally located YHA and can enjoy a bit of down time. **B**.

Day 17. Fri 13th Feb. Day off, Launceston

A walk through Cataract Gorge is a must for the first time visitor and Launceston is known for its parklands. The city is also the start of the Tamar Valley wine route, and a lovely day can be had on an amble northwards along both sides of the valley. There is a wildlife refuge quite close to the city, numerous little hamlets and excellent wineries offering tastings, the interesting Seahorse World (which also has platypus and echidnas), the imposing Batman Bridge and other interesting sights. If there is enough interest, we could take the van for a circuit trip up one side and down the other for a very enjoyable 'day off'. **B**.

Day 18. Sat 14th Feb. Coles Bay

Tasmania has some wonderful sandstone buildings and Evandale, just 20kms south of Launceston, is a most impressive National Trust-classified town, with many of its 19th century buildings in excellent condition. A wander around here can be very enjoyable. Not far away is the National Trust property Clarendon, a grand 1838 French neoclassical building. In its heyday it was considered important enough to have its own railway – unique in Australia.

The drive continues along the 'Heritage Highway' and at Campbelltown we turn east. The east coast is known as the 'seafood coast' as a substantial fishing industry is based here, mainly around the town of St Helens. The beaches of the east coast, mainly sublime white sand and crunchy underfoot are interspersed with granite outcrops. It also receives the highest sunshine hours and lowest rainfall in Tasmania.

Coles Bay is a relaxed holiday town on the edge of Freycinet National Park, facing on to Great Oyster Bay and with wonderful views out to the 300m high pink granite outcrops called 'The Hazards' of the national park.

Here we are based at the pleasant Iluka Holiday Centre and adjacent to a pleasant bar/restaurant, a popular place for dinner. **B.D.**

Day 19. Sun 15th Feb. Freycinet National Park circuit

The scenic and natural values of the Freycinet Peninsula were recognized early on and a national park was declared in 1916. French names are prominent on Tasmania's east coast resulting from the 1802 survey and scientific expedition led by Nicholas Baudin.

The dramatic granite peaks, turquoise waters and pristine white sand of Wineglass Bay are postcard images of Freycinet National Park. An easy – moderate 31km long circuit brings all these features and more together in a lovely two day circuit. Day 1 is 13kms and 4-5 hours and is partly along the beaches of Great Oyster Bay and partly along coastal spurs contouring around the base of the Hazards. We camp at the south end of Cooks Beach where there are good sites set in the shelter of she-oaks behind the beach, a toilet and water tanks.

The track optionally continues another 3kms to Bryan's Beach for views of Schouten Island, just off the tip of Freycinet Peninsula. **B.L.D.**

N.B. As with the Walls of Jerusalem circuit above, there is a shorter alternative which avoids the climb on Day 2. Lagunta Creek at the southern end of Hazards Beach is reached in only 3 hours and has good camping. Next day, return across The Isthmus to Wineglass Bay and across the Wineglass Bay Track back to the start.

Day 20. Mon 16th Feb. Complete the circuit, return to Coles Bay

Back up Cooks Beach, then turn right and ascend to East Freycinet Saddle and on to the highest point of Mt Graham at 579m. Here are stunning views to be enjoyed. Descend through some steep and rough sections and eventually come down to the southern end of sublime Wineglass Bay. Regularly rated as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, but the water can be somewhat chilly. Half an hour along the beach and the excellent track/path leading up to the saddle which has wonderful last views down to the bay. Then a steady descent back to the start. Around 18kms and 6 - 7 hours tramping today.

Return to the comforts of Iluka Holiday Centre for another night. B.L.

Day 21. Tue 17th Feb. Maria Island National Park

A leisurely start as we leave Coles Bay and drive around Great Oyster Bay through Swansea to Triabunna. Here we will take the afternoon ferry trip across to Maria Island, where we overnight at the old penitentiary.

Just 10kms off the east coast, Maria Island has a significant place in the European settlement of Tasmania. The entire 19kms long island is a national park and is dominated by the summits of Mts Maria (709m), Bishop and Clerk. This peaceful car-free island features magnificent natural scenery : forests, fern gullies, fossil-studded sandstone and limestone cliffs and beautiful white beaches.

At various times, Maria Island has been a penal settlement and a farming district. In 1825 the first convicts arrived and began work on the settlement of Darlington in the north of the island. At one stage there were 600 convicts here, but the settlement closed in 1850. Whalers, farmers and smugglers have also left their mark and various industries were established, but by the depression of the 1920's, the island reverted to a farming district before becoming a national park.

The old township of Darlington is worth wandering around. The best short walk (2 hours return) is to the Painted Cliffs, and there is good circuit walk of 1.5 hours which takes in Cape Boullanger, the Fossil Cliffs and the old brickworks.

Another excellent walk where you will be rewarded with great views is the 4 hours return trip to Bishop and Clerk on a good track up to the summits. Wildlife is plentiful here too.

The old penitentiary has been converted into basic, unpowered bunkhouses equipped with bunks and mattresses. Shared toilet and washing-up facilities are nearby. We take our own gas stoves to cook on. All supplies need to be brought over from the mainland. **B.D.**

Day 22. Wed 18th Feb. Return to mainland

The day is free to do whatever we want to do, but we need to be back to the nearby wharf for the return to the mainland on the 4.30pm ferry. A short drive brings us to the township of Orford, where the Prosser River meets the sea. There is excellent fishing, diving and sheltered swimming beaches here. We overnight at the Prosser Holiday Units and dine in the town tonight. **B.L.**

Day 23. Thu 19th Feb. Port Arthur area

A very picturesque route initially through the Weilangta Forest Drive, which gives excellent views out to Maria Island. At Dunalley we cross the bridge onto the Forestier Peninsula. At Eaglehawk Neck, a very narrow spit of land connects to Tasman Peninsula and on to Port Arthur. Along the way we can check out some dramatic features such as the Tesselated Pavement, the baches of Doo Town, Tasman Blowhole, Tasmans Arch and The Devils Kitchen. This should still allow time for a wander around the very interesting setting and numerous buildings, (many fully restored) of the Port Arthur penal settlement – the largest and most compelling of Australia's former penal 'colonies'. **B.D.**

Day 24. Fri 20th Feb. Return to Hobart

Retrace our steps to Dunalley then head east towards Hobart. A lunch stop at the gorgeous postcard village of Richmond, straddling the Coal River wine region is a must. We may also call in to the Bonorong Wildlife Park. **B. L.**

Day 25. Sat 21st Feb. Hobart, final day

The Salamanca Place markets will be in full swing today and a great place to hang out for a while. Alternative art enthusiasts may be drawn to MONA – the amazing Museum of Old and New Art. An end of trip celebration dinner tonight. **B.D.**

Day 26. Sun 22nd Feb. Fly home Begin flights home.

Booking Conditions

- 1. The FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made through TSN. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
- 2. Neither FMC or TSN are responsible 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 the arrangements of the trip.
- 3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. If such an event occurs, all monies paid by participants will be fully refunded. A modified or alternative trip may be offered in lieu.
- 4. The advertised price includes a payment to FMC and the apportioned cost of the trip leader's travel. **Final pricing depends on factors such as currency fluctuations, so therefore cannot be guaranteed until full payment has been received.** The final trip payment is due by 30th November 2014.
- 5. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis on receipt of the Registration Form and deposit of \$500. Ideally we will close registrations by 30th September 2014. All payments may be made by internet banking to : 010685 0151601 00 at ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier. Alternatively, we accept cash, cheques (payable to Travel Smart Napier) or EFTPOS. Any payment by visa or mastercard attracts an additional \$100 to the cost of the trip, per person.
- 6. Cancellations. If you need to withdraw a registration for any reason prior to departure, you must advise TSN right away. Any phone calls must be followed up by en email. Fees apply as follows :
- Cancellations received up to 30th September 2014 will be fully refunded.
- Cancellations received from 1st October to 30th November 2014 attract a fee of \$500, per person
- Cancellations received from 1st December onwards incur a fee of 100% of trip costs, per person
- If YOU find a suitable replacement person, the above fees MAY be waived, or reduced
- 7. **Travel insurance is mandatory.** Once we confirm the trip is viable, we recommend you take out cover. We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and can email an application form and policy wording at any time. We provide a special FMC discount. While you may buy cover elsewhere, you must provide policy details of any cover taken out independently. You must ensure your policy includes full medical evacuation back to New Zealand.
- 8. Please provide a scan or photocopy of your passport when you register, unless TSN holds a copy of your current passport.

Registration Form for Tasmania 2015

Complete this form and send to Travel Smart Napier with passport copy and deposit of \$500 per person. We need 7 participants to be viable and maximum numbers also apply. Please register early so we can ascertain viability and be fair to others.

My / Our names as per passport(s) and circle your preferred 1 st name
Snail mail address
Day phone Mobile Night phone
EmailDate(s) of birth
Tramping club affiliation (if any)
Summarise recent tramping experiences
What dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions do we need to know of?
Can you supply a tent? If so, please indicate of it is for sole use or may be shared
Contact person in NZ for any emergency (name,address, ph nos, email and nature of relationship. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are permitting us to liaise with.
I/We have read the full trip dossier and I/We accept the booking conditions of this trip. I/We enclose My/Our Registration form and deposit of \$500 per person. I/We agree to pay all remaining trip costs by due dates, as advised by invoice. I/We understand that the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until final trip price has been made
signed and dated by each person registering
Forward to : John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor. Travel Smart Napier, Civic Court, Dickens Street, Napier 4140. P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : john@tsnapier.co.nz