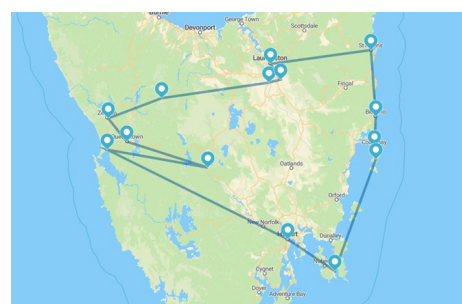


Australia (Tasmania), 13 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through the End of the World's Island

Tasmania is one of the most fascinating corners of the planet. This Australian island, which fuses a wild and exuberant environment with a forward-thinking culture, offers a fantastic quality of life. Its unspoilt nature, considered a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is its main draw. In fact, its spectacular vegetation is said to guarantee the purest air in the country. The truth is that it's blessed by a magical breeze from the Indian Ocean and its lands are free from contaminating industries. What's more, some reports rank it as the safest place in the world. Yet these aren't its only attractions. In this unique setting, located in the confines of Mother Earth on the 40th parallel south, you'll come across deserts, mountains, beaches and tropical forests. An untapped paradise where flora and fauna will make you feel like nowhere else on the planet. Observe fantastic animals, impossible to see in other parts of the world, such as platypus, koalas, wallabies, wombats, spiny anteaters, possums, penguins and, of course, the famous Tasmanian devils. And there used to be another animal only native to this island: the Tasmanian tiger or wolf. These were marsupials and the last example is thought to have died in 1936 in a zoo, but it was recently rumoured that the odd specimen could still be living in remote lands. Exploring Tasmania is only possible by car. Distances are long, and the winding hilly roads seem like infinite meanders. Driving, in its own right, is a true spectacle. Discover a heavenly island at your leisure and savour the exclusive wines of this region of the world.



NATURE

ADVENTURE

**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin, Shannon, Cork

### Travel details

#### ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - HOBART

Flight departure from the city of origin to the capital of Tasmania. Night on board.

## ● DAY 2 · HOBART

Arrival at Hobart Airport, immigration procedures and rental car pick-up. Time to set out on this adventure on the End of the World Island!

Hobart lies in the south of the island and is considered the second oldest city in Australia, after Sydney. It was founded in 1804 as an alternative to the Sydney penitentiary, to make it even harder for prisoners to escape. Hobart is a vibrant city, nestled in the mouth of the Derwent River and surrounded by hills. For many Australians, it's one of the most attractive cities in the country, as it combines the advantages of a modern metropolis with a laid-back feeling difficult to find in the major cities on the mainland. City life centres around the river estuary and the harbour, which has a certain Spanish feel, with must-sees including Salamanca Place, the Maritime Museum, St. George's Anglican Church, and Battery Point, the oldest suburb of Hobart. If you're lucky enough to arrive on a Saturday, don't miss the famous Salamanca Market, full of crafts and food, with stalls selling organic fruit and veg, cooked dishes and, best of all, leatherwood honey, produced from a nectar-bearing tree that only grows in Tasmania in unspoilt pollution-free forests and harvested when it reaches between 175 and 210 years old. Buildings from the early nineteenth century have been converted into restaurants, boutiques and art galleries, in imitation of the colonial area of Sydney. Make sure you see Kelly's Steps, built in 1839, and delve into the area's scandalous history on a ghost tour. Admire century-old trees and the world's only plant house of sub-Antarctic vegetation at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Visit the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), the largest private museum in Australia, described by its owner, a millionaire mathematical whizz kid and art collector, as a "subversive adult Disneyland", given the controversial nature of its works (Note: This museum is closed on Tuesdays). The building is an underground architectural masterpiece and houses a cinema, restaurant and wine bar. The actual steps of the museum can be reached by high-speed ferry from Hobart pier. Make sure you admire the views of the city from Mount Wellington. You can drive up there along a winding road right to the peak, from where you can see the entire city and marvel at the spectacular sunset. The rock formations in the area are very peculiar, standing among the scarce vegetation. When night falls, head to the harbour to dine on seafood and listen to music at the many bars. Overnight stay in Hobart.

## ● DAY 3 · QUEENSTOWN - STRAHAN (OPTIONAL VISIT TO FRANKLIN-GORDON WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK)

Welcome to Queenstown, gateway to the Wild West Coast of Tasmania, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Here you can visit huge lakes with great fishing opportunities. Queenstown, surrounded by towering hills and mountains, was once the richest mining town in the world. This practice has left an indelible mark on the landscape, with a unique moonlike appearance. The drive is breathtaking, along a road with over 90 bends. If you want to relive the mining days, you can head off on an underground mining tour and walk through the desert area. There's also a lovely 35-kilometre ride on the historic West Coast Wilderness Railway, which links Queenstown and Strahan. This port city is where we suggest rounding off the day, but beforehand, head up to the top of Gormie Hill and take in the amazing views from the Iron Blow Lookout. Onward to Strahan, 45 minutes away by car. Here you can kayak around Macquarie Harbour, stroll along the windswept Ocean Beach and explore myrtle and pine forests. Fly over the ancient Huon forests in a hydroplane (not included) or savour some excellent culinary delights and wines. If you have time, we recommend a trip out to the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. The landscapes here are really impressive. For more adventurous travellers, you can cruise the majestic Gordon River or plummet down the white waters of the Franklin River. (Note: If you're interested in doing any of these extra activities (not included in the itinerary), we recommend signing up with one of the local adventure companies the day before). Overnight stay in Strahan.

#### DAY 4 · HOBART - SALMON POUNDS - MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK - TARRALEAH - LAKE ST. CLAIR - QUEENSTOWN

Drive along Lyell Highway (A10) through the heart of Tasmania's unexplored landscapes, declared a World Heritage Site. This is the starting point of a breathtaking route, as you'll hopefully see platypuses, koalas, wallabies, wombats, Tasmanian devils and spiny anteaters. Wildlife is one of the most fascinating aspects of Australia, and Tasmania in particular. There are animals here that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Koalas are endearing marsupials reminiscent of a mix of dwarf bears and monkeys, and can be seen calmly grazing on towering branches of eucalyptus trees. Wallabies are cute mini-kangaroos that will leap away after staring you out. Wombats are marsupials, similar to small and muscular bears, with very short legs. Meanwhile, platypuses are one of the most incredible animals in existence. They're semi-aquatic, a mixture of a bird, a reptile and a mammal, according to their genes. Together with spiny anteaters (morphologically similar to urchins), they're the only mammals in the world that lay eggs. They have a kind of beak, but their body is covered with fur and their legs have membranes. They're very difficult to see in their natural habitat, so you'll be in luck if you do catch a glimpse of them. Tasmanian devils, indigenous to this island, complete the list of extraordinary animals found here. They are the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world and resemble a giant rat. Any sighting of this animal, which is pretty much assured, will be an invaluable gift. We recommend stopping off first at Salmon Pounds, 45 minutes away. These are wonderful gardens with salmon and trout farms. They're bordered by a river inhabited by the weird but wonderful platypus. There's a huge variety of trees from countless countries. You can have some lunch right there at the small restaurant or take a picnic and enjoy it lying on the lawn, next to an impressive Spanish chestnut tree. Onward to the imposing Mount Field National Park, fifty minutes away by car, where you can go hiking through lush forests of ferns and giant eucalyptus, up to 90 metres high, until you reach the spectacular Russell and Lady Barron waterfalls. Take a deep breath among the abundant vegetation and brilliant hiking trails, snaking between trunks and roots of such dimensions that you can actually climb inside. Finish the tour at some beautiful lakes 1,500 metres above sea level. Continue the drive to Tarraleah, an hour and a half away. This is an old hydroelectric township with stunning views of the Tasmanian Highlands and the desert. The town attracted many workers and engineers, but became depopulated at the end of the last century. In 2006, it was bought by developers and a luxury hotel was opened. Today you can visit the original church, the lodge and the pub. Onward to Lake St. Claire, about 45 minutes away, famous for its beautiful lake, the deepest in Australia at 167 metres, and the deepest in the world created by glacier action. Then, set off on your way to Queenstown, an hour and a quarter's drive, the final destination of today's intense itinerary. Overnight stay in Queenstown.

#### DAY 5 · STRAHAN - ZEEHAN - CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK - CRADLE MOUNTAIN

Today, you'll be venturing into the Wild West. Explore the former silver mining town of Zeehan, forty-five minutes away. Visit the nature reserve of Cradle Mountain National Park - Lake St. Clair, a World Heritage Site, which is an hour and a half away by car. And stop off en route to visit the Montezuma Falls, which will only be a ten-minute diversion, but you'll get to admire one of the highest waterfalls in Tasmania. Another fascinating option is the Railway Museum, a little further down the road. In the Park, climb up Cradle Mountain, walk around the mirror-like waters of Lake Dove, or hike along part of the famous 65-kilometre Overland Track, which leads to the north coast of Lake St Clair. Other activities offered at the destination are scenic flights over the park, fly fishing and/or feeding wallabies, wombats and possums on a night-time excursion. (Note: Suggested activities not included). Cradle Mountain is one of the largest parks on the island. It stretches over 126,025 hectares and includes features such as Mount Rufus and Lake St. Clair, which is very popular with anglers. You can leisurely drive through the park, stopping off for short walks or a bit of rafting. The development of the Tasmanian Trail took advantage of former paths and walking routes. Its 480 kilometres are designed solely and exclusively for enjoyment: riding, walking, cycling, and so on. How you enjoy it is the least important thing... Overnight stay in Cradle Mountain.

## ● DAY 6 · CRADLE MOUNTAIN - WINE REGION (LONGFORD-EVANDALE) - LAUNCESTON (OPTIONAL VISIT TO NARAWNTAPU NATIONAL PARK)

Wake up in an unforgettable area brimming with pure nature and then set off for Launceston, Tasmania's second city and a vibrant hub of culture and nature. In fact, the whole region is truly fascinating, with magnificent old towns, excellent food and wine and stunning landscapes. Actually, we'd recommend a couple of stops before arriving in the big city, namely at two wine-growing towns. The first is Longford, less than two hours from today's starting point, i.e. Cradle Mountain National Park. Longford is an enchanting colonial city, with stunning buildings built by convicts in the early 1800s. Here you can visit the Christ Church and its cemetery, or taste some of the famous local wines. The most interesting attraction is its deep-rooted agricultural tradition, with the Woolmers and Brickendon estates being true landmarks - and World Heritage Sites - of Australian pioneer farms with fantastic architecture. You can also head over to the most famous stretch of the Formula 1 circuit that closed in 1968. Onward to Evandale, just 15 minutes away, which is one of the best-preserved historic towns in Australia, with stunning Victorian buildings. Take a stroll down the High Street and admire the old Presbyterian Manse, the United Church of St. Andrew and some historic hotels. Back on the road for twenty minutes to Launceston, rounding the day off in another of Australia's oldest and best-kept towns, with its elegant colonial and Victorian architecture and its historic parks. Within walking distance of the centre is "Cataract Gorge", the star attraction of Launceston. There's also a lot of culture on offer at art galleries, museums and design studios. The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery is the largest regional gallery in Australia. A city-based afternoon is a great complement to the tour, but if you prefer to continue with the nature-focused version, from Launceston you can follow the Tamar River northwards through the Tasmanian wine region, passing by forested hills, verdant farmland, lavender fields, vineyards, orchards and pretty riverside villages. For wildlife lovers, nearby is the Narawanpu National Park, which offers many opportunities to spot Australia's native animals, although you'll have to add on a couple more hours for the drive there and back. Overnight stay in Launceston.

## ● DAY 7 · LAUNCESTON - SCOTTSDALE - DERBY - MOUNT WILLIAM NATIONAL PARK - ST. HELENS

Departure today towards St. Helens for swimming, surfing and savouring fresh seafood. Stop off in Scottsdale, an hour's drive from Launceston. This is a town full of livestock pastures and blue mountains, where you can visit the old post office, built around 1880 and now converted into a museum. Fifteen kilometres away is the world-famous Bridestowe Lavender Estate, with fields of this flower stretching across the hills, and when it blooms in December and January, the image before your eyes is breathtaking. Onward to Derby, thirty minutes away, a historic tin mining town. During the mining boom, many people flocked to this area in search of this metal. It's worth visiting the nearby Little Blue Lake, which takes its name from the deep blue hue given off by the minerals that lie on its floor. This town is also famous for its mountain biking routes. In October, a fun race is held in the river. Have a nice cup of tea and continue en route to the rugged Mount William National Park, about an hour away, where the Bay of Fires Walk takes you along rocky beaches featuring extraordinary plants, native animals and ancient aboriginal shells. Afternoon arrival in St. Helens, an hour and a half away, the largest town on Tasmania's northeast coast and just a few kilometres from Binalong Bay and the beautiful beaches of the Bay of Fires, voted the best destination in the world by Lonely Planet in 2009. The Bay of Fires is a region of fine white-sand beaches, turquoise waters and orange-stained granite rocks, a colour due to a lichen found there. The whole area is jaw-dropping; a true pleasure for the senses. Finish the day in St. Helens, known as the sport fishing capital of Tasmania, so we recommend seafood for dinner. Its lobsters and tuna are deservedly famous. Overnight stay in St. Helens.

## ● DAY 8 · ST. HELENS - BICHENO

Today will be a little bit more relaxing. Enjoy St. Helens, where there are beautiful views over Georges Bay and its fishing boats. Don't miss the spectacular Peron Dunes and the never-ending beaches in the area. Spend a few hours unwinding in picture-postcard landscapes. Pristine deep blue waters contrast with the dazzling white sand. The atmosphere is so clean on this island... Then, head over to Bicheno, an hour's drive away, where you can set sail on a cruise to observe birds, whales and dolphins, or go snorkelling in the Diamond Island Marine Reserve, one of the best diving spots in Australia. With 6.76 hectares of land, this island is known for its colony of small penguins. It can be reached on foot, when the tide is low, because that's when a strip of land connects it with the island of Tasmania. In the 19th century, it was used as a whaling station. And if you like snorkelling, make sure you head underwater. You'll see spectacular coral reefs covered with algae and magnificent sponge gardens. In the area of Bicheno, you can spot cute penguins at nightfall. Round off the day by mixing with the friendly locals and enjoying a great evening in family-friendly seaside resort. Overnight stay in Bicheno.

## ● DAY 9 · BICHENO - COLES BAY - FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK - PORT ARTHUR

Start the day off by visiting Coles Bay, half an hour away by car. This is a beautiful and laid-back coastal town surrounded by impressive pink granite mountains. Treat yourself to a dip in its crystal-clear waters and a swim near expectant pelicans. Then, head off to explore the nearby wildlife refuge of Freycinet National Park. You can take a short tour or accept the challenge of climbing to the top of Mount Amos to admire the stunning views of Wineglass Bay, Mount Freycinet and Mount Graham. Besides its wonderful beaches and average of 300 days of sunshine a year, the Park is famous for its red and pink granite formations and a range of granite peaks known as The Hazards. The park was founded in 1916, the first in Tasmania along with Mount Field. Of course, the jewel in the crown is the famous Wineglass Bay, considered one of the top ten beaches in the world. You definitely won't forget this visit. You can have lunch around here before driving over to Port Arthur, two hours and 45 minutes away. Make sure you try fresh Tasmanian oysters, scallops, mussels, abalone and sea urchin at Freycinet Marine Farm. You'll arrive in Port Arthur in time for bed, so you can enjoy the city and its surroundings in the morning. Overnight stay in Port Arthur.

## ● DAY 10 · PORT ARTHUR - HOBART

Enjoy this area before heading back to Hobart. Port Arthur is a former prison colony. To get there, you'll drive along a road lined with weird natural formations, such as the Tasmanian Arch or Devil's Kitchen, and which also passes by historic places such as the Convict Museum or the Fulham Sheep Station. The Port Arthur complex houses the ruins of an old prison, where the British Crown sent its most dangerous prisoners when it colonised Australia. You can visit the church, of which only the walls remain, the pavilions where the prisoners were imprisoned, a chapel and replicas of houses. Admission costs about 40 dollars. Walking around the place will give you an insight into what life was like at Port Arthur prison. It operated until 1877 as a penitentiary centre and still fascinates visitors thanks to the many stories about convicts, heroic escapes and legends. It dates back to 1830, when Governor Arthur decided to confine prisoners convicted of crimes in the colony at the centre. The site was perfect as there was no way to escape: a peninsula connected by a narrow strip of land to the island and far away from the rest of the world. Besides this prison complex, now a major tourist attraction, we recommend visiting the spectacular beaches in the area. Don't miss Remarkable Cave, a kind of natural tunnel with amazing rock formations that bifurcates and leads down to the sea. Another fascinating option, this time accessible by boat, is the mysterious Isle of the Dead and its convict cemetery. Then, back on the road to Hobart, an hour and a half away. A great dinner by the port will be the pinnacle of a memorable trip. Overnight stay in Hobart.

## ● DAY 11 · HOBART - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Night on board.

## ● DAY 12 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Hobart.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Hobart.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Queenstown.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Queenstown.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Strahan.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Strahan.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cradle Mountain.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cradle Mountain.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Launceston.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Launceston.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in St Helens TAS.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in St Helens TAS.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Bicheno.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Bicheno.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Port Arthur TAS.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Port Arthur TAS.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Electronic Authorization (ESTA/ETA) to enter in Australia.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.
- ✗ Sports and adventure activities.
- ✗ Entrance to historic buildings, museums, natural parks, activities and attractions mentioned during itinerary (some are free).

## Destinations Visited

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Hobart



Strahan



Tarraleah TAS



Queenstown



Zeehan TAS



Cradle Mountain



Longford Tasmania



Evandale TAS



Launceston



Saint Helens TAS



Bicheno



Coles Bay TAS



Freycinet TAS



Port Arthur TAS



## Important remarks

- Driving through Australia: 1. To drive in Australia, you'll need to get an international driving permit, which is a very simple procedure that you can do at any traffic office. 2. Roads are in a good condition, but you should drive with caution in rural or less built-up areas, as there's a risk of running over animals such as kangaroos and wombats. 3. Obeying speed limits and drink driving levels are sacred aspects in Australia, with severe penalties for offenders. 4. Because Australia is so huge and has swathes of unpopulated territory, remember at all times

to have enough provisions, water and petrol in the car. Also make sure that your car is in good working order, as there'll be times when you think that civilisation no longer exists. On some days, you might drive for hundreds of kilometres without seeing a town, a city or a petrol station. 5. You should also have a local emergency number on hand in case you break down en route.

- Triple rooms in Oceania are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.

- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.

- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.

- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.

- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.