



TRIP NOTES

SOUTH WEST WILDERNESS WALK

Here are the trip notes for your upcoming South West Wilderness Walk.
The trip departs from Hobart.

Our central Hobart pick up is from the Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey Street, Hobart— 7.45am for 8.00am departure.

Tasmania's South West Wilderness is coming into its own with the region appearing on 'must do' lists of avid hikers and recreational walkers alike. This remote area of the state's south west offers magnificent scenery of rugged peaks, wild rivers and unique flora and fauna.

Explore Mount Field and South West Wilderness NPs over four sensational days of walking and sightseeing, all the while carrying your day pack only.

This itinerary includes some of the best walks in the region. Due to the mountainous terrain, a good level of fitness is required and some days are class as moderate to hard. Your efforts will be well rewarded however with stunning 360 degree vistas of the untouched landscape.

Travel with experienced local guides who will share their love of the region with you. Enjoy all meals and snacks and stay in comfortable accommodation.

DAY ONE

Lady Barron Falls walk 6km – approx 2 hours of walking (easy grade), Junee Cave, 1km, approx. 30 mins (easy)

We head west from the city and stop enroute for morning tea before we reach Lady Barron Falls Circuit. This scenic walk in Mount Field National Park includes Russel, Horseshoe and Lady Barron Falls. This first section to Russell Falls is easy section and the falls are beautiful.

There is a short steep climb from here to Horseshoe Falls where we stop to appreciate another stunning waterfall. We continue through the forest trail among towering trees before reaching the lovely Lady Barron Falls.

After a beautiful and relaxing walk viewing waterfalls, rainforest and dense forest we wander back to the vehicle and head to our next short walk at Junee Cave for a 1km (30 min walk)

We then head to our place of stay for the next three nights. In the afternoon we arrive at Giants Table Cottages to unpack and settle in.

Meals: lunch and dinner

Overnight: Giants Table Cottages

ABOUT OUR ACCOMMODATION

The Giants' Table Cottages offers a unique experience. We stay in four bedroom, two bathroom Gidleigh House and 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom Hittesleigh House.

All linen and towels are also supplied and there is a lounge/ sitting room in each house for the group to relax and enjoy each other's company at the end of the day.

Houses contain TV and DVD and there are two on-site laundries.

DAY TWO

Tarn Shelf Circuit walk – approx. 5 to 6 hours, 14km of walking (moderate to hard)

After breakfast and lunch making we head out and embark on the Tarn Shelf Circuit Walk – rated by our guides as right up there among the best walks in the region.

This stunning walk takes you across the Tarn Shelf, returning via the lower lakes. It takes in a series of alpine tarns as well as a couple of rustic huts and provides exhilarating walking and great views.

Some track work has offers boardwalks to alleviate the muddier sections of the track and to protect the rare and sensitive vegetation in the area, however it can still get quite wet underfoot in some areas.

This track is spectacular in autumn when the leaves of the native deciduous beech tree changes colour. This hidden gem and you are likely not to encounter other walkers while on the trail. It is a fantastic walk and a real highlight of the tour.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner



DAY THREE

The Needles – 4km return, approx. 3 hours of walking (moderate to hard)

After breakfast and lunch making we pack up and head off for our walk.

It takes approximately 35 minutes from our accommodation to the start of the Needles track. We start in some tea tree and the trail begins to ascend almost instantly. After a few minutes the tea tree changes to button grass, the landscape opens up and we can see where we are headed.

The Needles track is quite steep in sections and can also get muddy. It's a short sharp pinch to the first set of prominent rock features and there are tracks so you explore this area with your guides.

From here, we can spot the summit and the track levels out over the next section. When we reach the saddle, magnificent views of the surrounding wilderness begin to appear.

The next section to the summit becomes steep once again. It is however short and sharp. The guides will encourage you to take your time here. Once we reach the summit, the 360 degree views of Mt Field, Mt Mueller, Mt Anne and Lake Pedder are simply incredible.

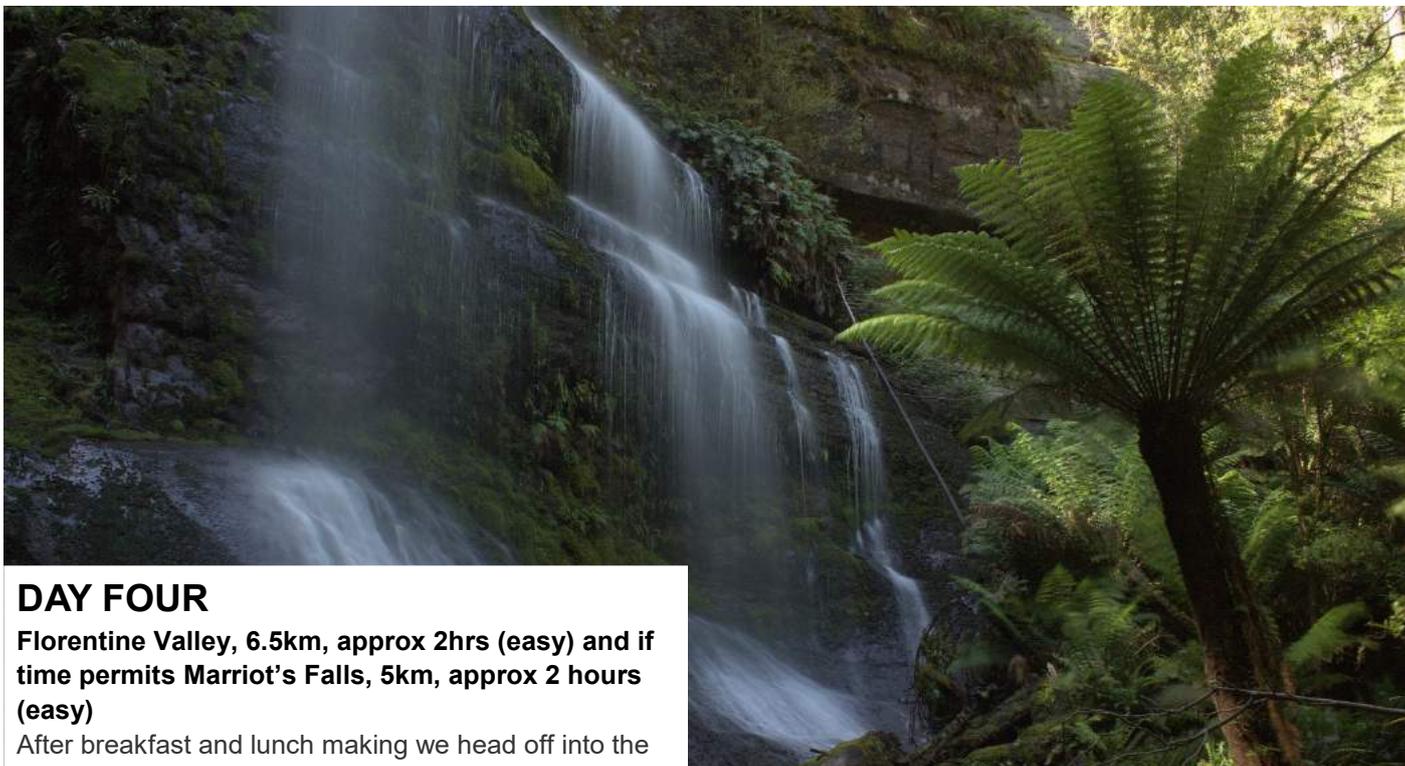
We spend some time enjoying the landscape and descend via the same route back to the vehicle.

After hiking the Needles we head out to Lake Pedder and onto Gordon Dam for a look. We might even have the opportunity to watch those brave enough to abseil the dam wall.

Heading back to our accommodation, if time permits we stop off at The Creepy Crawly Nature Trail – which is as magical as the name suggests. This is a short 30 min wilderness boardwalk track through lush, temperate rainforest.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner





DAY FOUR

Florentine Valley, 6.5km, approx 2hrs (easy) and if time permits Marriot's Falls, 5km, approx 2 hours (easy)

After breakfast and lunch making we head off into the Florentine Valley which is an area of dense rainforest. The trail can get quite wet and boggy and slippery underfoot so although an easy short walk, care needs to be taken.

This trail is fantastic and takes you through dense rainforest, occasional open areas, dark hollows brimming with fungi, and huge stands of towering trees. It is incredible and awe inspiring.

At Tiger lookout you can see the Florentine River cutting its way through the valley, looking north west is The Thumbs, north east is Mt Field West and east is The Needles.

This is a great short walk through an ancient eco-system. The vegetation in the early sections of the hike, and the landscapes in the latter section, are incredibly unique and stunning.

If time permits, in the afternoon we embark on the lovely Marriot's Falls walk. Although the first section of the trail has been affected by logging, it is not long before you enter dense swamp gums before the trail opens up onto a grassy plain. Moving through you will walk through rainforest where it can be quite wet under foot.

It's not too long before you will hear the sound of the falls which carry an enormous amount of water in periods after rain. Marriott's Falls is absolutely stunning and another great waterfall in the region.

We arrive back into Hobart by 5pm to drop off guests.

Meals: breakfast and lunch

ABOUT THE MEALS

The food we serve is healthy, hearty and home style. Our menus are designed to showcase the fabulous regional produce. Fresh local cheese, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables, fish and meats are used, supporting local farmers and minimising our food miles. We don't offer five-star dining, but our guides take pride in ensuring that all meals are delicious and plentiful, prepared with top-quality fresh seasonal ingredients.

Breakfast is a continental spread of cereals, stewed fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads. Coffee and tea are always available at your base accommodation.

Lunch can vary from day to day, but includes meat, salad, bread and wraps. Some days might include something different like roasted chicken.

Dinner is a casual two-course meal of main and dessert prepared by your guides. The menu changes to suit available fresh produce but could include a classic roast lamb, salmon fillet or Thai chicken. Dessert may include things like maple baked apples, pears in red wine or seasonal fruit salad.

Snacks Guests can prepare their own trail mix each morning from our self-serve trail mix selection. There will be fresh fruit for the trail and biscuits or fruit cake for tea breaks.

Pre-dinner antipasto Each evening we prepare a selection of antipasto delights, dips, cheese and crackers before dinner.

Dietary requirements We are able to accommodate guests' specific dietary requirements and can prepare meals to meet individual needs.

Alcohol Our tours do not include alcoholic beverages, however guests are most welcome to bring wine/beer along with them. If you are bringing bottled wine, please pack this well in your main bag to avoid breakages. There may also be an opportunity to visit a local bottle shop while on the tour.

GEAR LIST

What to Bring

Please bring your gear in a soft bag rather than hard suitcase to help guides pack the trailer.

DAY PACK—recommend approx. 20 litres, with a load bearing harness

As a walker you will need to have your own day pack and water bladder/bottle and suitable hiking shoes/boots. Runners and flat-soled shoes will not suffice except as something you can wear after the day's activity.

Here is a suggested list of what walkers will need to be wearing or have in their day pack:

- rain jacket
- a fleece jacket
- wide-brimmed hat for sunny days
- beanie or woollen hat for cold days
- water bottle or drinking bladder, min 2 litre
- high factor sunscreen
- lip balm
- blister pads and / or tape for rubbing and/or blisters
- antiseptic hand gel
- sun glasses
- walking poles (optional)
- gaiters (optional)
- camera
- binoculars
- spare batteries for all devices/charger

MAIN BAG

Your main bag stays at the Giants' Table Cottages for the duration of the trip. You only carry your light day pack while walking.

- 2 pairs long and/or short pants. Preferably loose fitting, lightweight and quick drying
- 2 x Long sleeved shirts
- 4 x T-shirts
- Fleece jacket/woollen sweater – something warm
- Rain jacket/ spray jacket
- Walking socks
- if rain is expected, then having a set of thermal under garments can keep you warm in the face of blustery conditions
- a woollen or fleece hat for cooler weather
- waterproof, reusable bag for worn clothing
- Comfortable shoes and clothing for evenings and activities
- Underwear
- Toiletries— shampoo/conditioner, body wash, deodorant, sanitary products, toothpaste etc.



LIST OF WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- 3 nights at Giants Table Cottages in two large houses, the 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom Gidleigh House and 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom Hittesleigh House (twin share) – single supplement available on request
- All national park fees
- Two Park Trek guides who will drive, care and look after you
- Return transfers from Hobart
- 3 dinners, 4 lunches, and 3 breakfasts plus plenty of fresh fruit, trail mix, snacks, tea and coffee throughout

POST TOUR INFORMATION:

We drop back into Hobart around 4.30pm. If you are flying out that night, you'll need to book a flight out after 6.00 pm.

Pre and Post tour accommodation - When making your accommodation arrangements, please note Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart offer Park Trek guests a discounted rate. Simply quote 'Park Trek' upon booking to receive this offer.

We pick up from the Hotel Grand Chancellor
Tel: 03 6235 4535 at 8am on day 1 of the trip.

If you are looking for accommodation other than the Hotel Grand Chancellor, here are some options:

- The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel
Tel (03) 6235 5355
- Mantra Collins Hotel Tel (03) 6226 1111
- Zero Davey Boutique Apartments
Tel (03) 6270 1444