TRIP NOTES
BAY OF FIRES

Here are the trip notes for your upcoming trip to the stunning Bay of Fires. The trip departs from Launceston.

Our central Launceston pick up is from the Hotel Grand Chancellor, 29 Cameron Street, 7.45am for 8.00am departure.

An overview of the Bay of Fires Tour:
Explore the Bay of Fires, over four fantastic days of beach walking and sightseeing.

Enjoy spectacular beaches interspersed with boulders covered in bright orange lichen, and take the opportunity to swim in the crystal-clear waters of Tasmania’s East Coast.

This itinerary incorporates some of the state’s most stunning coastal scenery, and is almost exclusively beach walking. Along the way we pass over the occasional granite headland, featuring shapely rock formations - whilst zigzagging our way through native heath country on the lookout for local fauna.

Departing from Launceston – we visit Mt William National Park, the historic lighthouse at Eddystone Point, Anson’s Bay, and the sweeping Bay of Fires Conservation Area. This is an active, yet relaxing escape to a very peaceful part of the world.

DAY ONE
Launceston – Cape Naturaliste to Boulder Point + Mt William Summit (12km, 4.5 hours – easy to moderate grade)

Our journey begins from the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston at 7.45am for an 8am departure. On the way to the north-east coast we pass through Lilydale and the Pipers River wine region, before stopping by at the beach side village of Bridport for a short break.

It’s then on to Mt William National Park, and the white sands of Cape Naturaliste – the most northern point of our four-day wander. These first few hours are spent entirely on the beach, pleasantly easing one into their own natural walking pace and rhythm.

Pausing for an afternoon tea break, we head inland to tackle a one-hour return walk to the summit of wukalina/Mt William. At an elevation of 216 meters, this is the highest point in the surrounding area – providing walkers with a far-reaching panoramic view of the area encompassed on our first two days of walking and beyond. In clear weather, the Furneaux group of islands stand proud as lofty remnants of what remains of an ancient land bridge which once connected Tasmania with mainland Australia. We then return to the bus, before heading back to our accommodation to unpack and settle in.

This evening we enjoy pre-dinner nibbles, followed by a delicious two-course meal prepared by your guides.

Overnight at Icena Farm House –

About our accommodation
We stay within a short drive of Mt William National Park in self-contained farm-house style accommodation. Each of the two houses (Bandicoot and Platypus) are air-conditioned (heat-pump), fully furnished 4-bedroom homes. In Bandicoot House there is one bedroom with an ensuite. The other three bedrooms have their own bathrooms. In Platypus House, one room has an ensuite and there is another main bathroom in the house. The houses are furnished with TV, DVD, dishwasher and washing machine, fan-forced oven and microwave, as well as outdoors deck and BBQ. All towels, blankets and sheets are provided.

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DAY TWO

Boulder Point to Deep Creek and Picnic Rocks
(14km, 5 – 6 hours – moderate grade)

After breakfast and lunch making, we head out for our longest day of walking. We return to Boulder Point at the far end of Stumpy’s Bay, and continue south along a lovely stretch of coastline featuring successive small coves protected by rocky headlands. This section is particularly notable for its abundance of large granite boulders covered in bright orange lichen. This famously contrasting palette is a photographer’s paradise, and it’s easy to lose track of time exploring the rock pools and intricacies of such a spectacular landscape.

We soon reach the long sandy stretch of Cod Bay, one of the more remote sections of our walk, before picking up a series of inland tracks which cut across coastal heathland vegetation. These tracks are often ablaze with wildflowers and orchids in early spring. For lunch, we find ourselves a lovely secluded nook – where there may be an opportunity for a swim – before continuing around a hidden lagoon encircled by open marsupial lawns. Here we keep a sharp eye out for Wombats, Black Swans, and Tasmanian Native Hens – an endemic ground dwelling bird species.

On arriving at Deep Creek, depending on water levels, it may be necessary to make a shallow wade across a small outlet to reach our designated afternoon tea stop and the completion of our day’s walking. Again, in good weather – this is a lovely spot for a quick refreshing dip. If energy and time permit, some may choose to continue on along the next stretch of beach for an additional 20 minutes of idyllic beach walking, to the prominent rock formation of Picnic Rocks. Here the bus will meet the group, before returning to our accommodation.

DAY THREE

Eddystone Point to Ansons Bay (10km, 4 – 5 hours – moderate grade)

Today’s walk is packed full of highlights. We start our day at larapuna/Eddystone Point – adorned with its beautifully grand lighthouse, built in 1889 from locally quarried granite. This natural promontory is a fascinating site of historic importance to both European and Aboriginal Tasmanians, and we will spend plenty of time exploring some of the wonderful natural and man-made attractions in the area.

Leaving the lighthouse, we break out onto an expansive dune swept beach, often teeming with birdlife. Here we may observe gulls, terns, albatross and gannets – or occasionally migratory species such as short-tailed shearwaters and ruddy turnstones.

The remainder of the day is spent enjoying seemingly endless coves – each being worthy of their own picture-perfect postcard. There are numerous shelly beaches to inspect, and lovely small bays for swimming. This area also boasts some of the more interesting rock formations of the trip, awaiting decipherment from a creative types’ imagination.

After passing across another dune swept beach, we finish our day at Ansons Bay – wading a narrowing in the lagoon to reach our designated afternoon tea spot, and meet back up with the bus.

We return to our accommodation for one final relaxing night – enjoying pre-dinner nibbles and a fabulous two course meal prepared by your guides.
DAY FOUR
Policeman’s Point to The Gardens
(14km, 5 hours – moderate/hard grade)

This morning we get a slightly earlier start before heading out for our final walk. Beginning at Policeman’s Point, we often get the chance to spot many species of bird which congregate around the outlet of Ansons Bay. These may include pelicans, cormorants and oystercatchers. After a stretch of sand walking, we reach the first segment of the aptly named Pebbly Beaches – featuring numerous 1km long stretches of coastal cobble stones. Being a little awkward to navigate, trekking poles are highly recommended for this section.

Shortly, another stunning expanse of white sandy beach is obtained – being so remote that you are unlikely to notice any signs of other visiting people. Somewhere along here we will select a suitable lunch spot, and maybe take the opportunity for one last refreshing swim.

Passing over a forested hill, it’s not much farther until we reach The Gardens – the final destination of our trip. This is a beautiful place to finish, before slipping back into the “real-world.” We wave goodbye to the white sand and orange rocks of the Bay of Fires, before returning to Launceston via the lovely sea-side town of St Helens.

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 a roasted chicken or a quiche.

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 is nowhere enroute to the Bay of Fires to purchase alcohol so please bring this along with you.
LIST OF WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Park Trek guides, who will drive, cook and care for you.
- Transport which includes collecting from Launceston and returning back. We use a comfortable 12-seater mini coach with a trailer attached for luggage. Plus we use the coach to drop off and pick up during the course of the day.
- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners, all freshly prepared using local produce where possible.
- Snacks including trail mix, antipasto, fresh fruit, tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits/cake.
- We always have a thermos with plenty of tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits/cake.
- 3 nights’ accommodation on a twin share basis (single supplement available at additional cost).

POST TOUR INFORMATION:

We drop back into Launceston around 5.30pm. If you are flying out that night, you’ll need to book a flight out after 7pm.

Pre and Post tour accommodation

We pick up from the Hotel Grand Chancellor Tel: (03) 6334 3434 at 8am on day 1 of the trip.

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

- Balmoral on York Tel 03 6331 8000
- Best Western Plus Tel 03 6333 9999
- Kurrajong House Tel 03 6331 6655
- Ashton Gate House Tel 6331 6180
- Comfort Inn Coach House Tel 03 6331 5311

GEAR LIST

What to Bring

Please bring you 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 and suitable hiking shoes/boots. 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 Icena 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
- Swimmers/bathers and towel (optional)
- 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
- lightweight, quick drying towel
- 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.

We hope you have a wonderful wilderness walk in the stunning Bay of Fires.