

TRIP NOTES

SOUTH WEST & MT FIELD

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 is well known for its vast expanses of untamed wilderness, and maybe no other region quite encapsulates the raw power of nature more so than the South-West.

Connecting with Mt Field National Park across a valley corridor of ancient rainforest, the combined extent encompasses a significant portion of what makes up the UNESCO listed Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area – a site protected for its outstanding natural and cultural values.

Subsequently, both avid hikers and recreational walkers alike have long been drawn to this remote pocket of the state for its magnificent scenery.

Over the course of four sensational days – explore rugged peaks, numerous waterfalls, and discover unique endemic flora and fauna, all while carrying your day pack only.

Travel with experienced Tasmanian guides on a diverse itinerary which includes some of the best walks in the region – with all snacks and meals provided, staying overnight in comfortable locally owned accommodation.

Please note – due to the mountainous nature of the terrain, and the famously changeable weather conditions – this walk is graded moderate to hard, meaning a good level of fitness is required. Quality wet weather gear is also essential. Your guides may choose to alter the planned itinerary accordingly if deemed necessary, however we will always provide the most scenic walking options possible, based on the local conditions.

DAY ONE

Lady Barron Falls circuit walk (7km, 3 hours - easy grade)

Pickup from Hobart at 8am.

We head west from the city, stopping en-route for a short break before commencing on the first walk of our trip – the Lady Barron Falls Circuit. This scenic walk in Mount Field National Park includes Russell, Horseshoe and Lady Barron Falls. The first section to Russell Falls is easy, and is one of the states most photographed and best loved natural attractions.

There is a short steep climb from here to Horseshoe Falls where we stop to appreciate another stunning waterfall. We continue along the meandering forest trail passing beneath towering Swamp Gums, the tallest flowering plants on the planet, before reaching the lovely more secluded Lady Barron Falls.

After a beautiful and relaxing walk viewing waterfalls, giant eucalyptus and dense rainforest we wander back to the vehicle and head to our next short outing to Junee Cave for an easy 1km (30 min) return walk. This cave is the exit point of an underground river which is part of a localised limestone karst network.

In the afternoon we arrive at Giants Table Cottages to unpack and settle in. This will be our place of stay for the next three nights.

Tonight's meal will be a two-course dinner prepared by your guides.

Meals: *Lunch and Dinner*

ABOUT OUR ACCOMMODATION

The Giants' Table Cottages offers a unique experience. We stay in four bedroom, two bathroom rustic style houses, set in an idyllic location right on the river.

If you are an early riser you may even spot a resident platypus in the many pools adjacent to the houses.

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

DAY TWO

Tarn Shelf walk (12km, 5 hours - hard grade)

After breakfast and lunch making, we head out and embark on the Tarn Shelf walk – rated by our guides as ‘right up there’ among the best in the region.

This stunning walk takes you into the lesser visited higher reaches of Mt Field National Park. The track climbs onto an alpine plateau and passes by a series of glacially formed tarns and lakes as well as several rustic huts. In fine weather - this exhilarating walk offers incredible views of the surrounding ranges.

Some of the track is on the boardwalks to alleviate the muddier sections and to protect the rare and sensitive vegetation in the area, however it can still be occasionally wet underfoot at times. Tassie’s mountain weather can also be highly changeable in the alpine zone, so it is a good idea to pack that extra warm layer.

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

In the evening, you will enjoy a delicious two-course dinner prepared by your guides.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*



DAY THREE

Lake Pedder - Port Davey track to Red Knoll lookout (8km, 4 hrs - moderate grade)

After breakfast and lunch making, we pack up and head off for our walk. The 1-hour scenic drive into the heart of the South-West brings us to the start of the Port Davey track. This long-distance walking trail is the starting point of the challenging 5-day journey from Scott’s Peak to the remote outpost of Melaleuca.

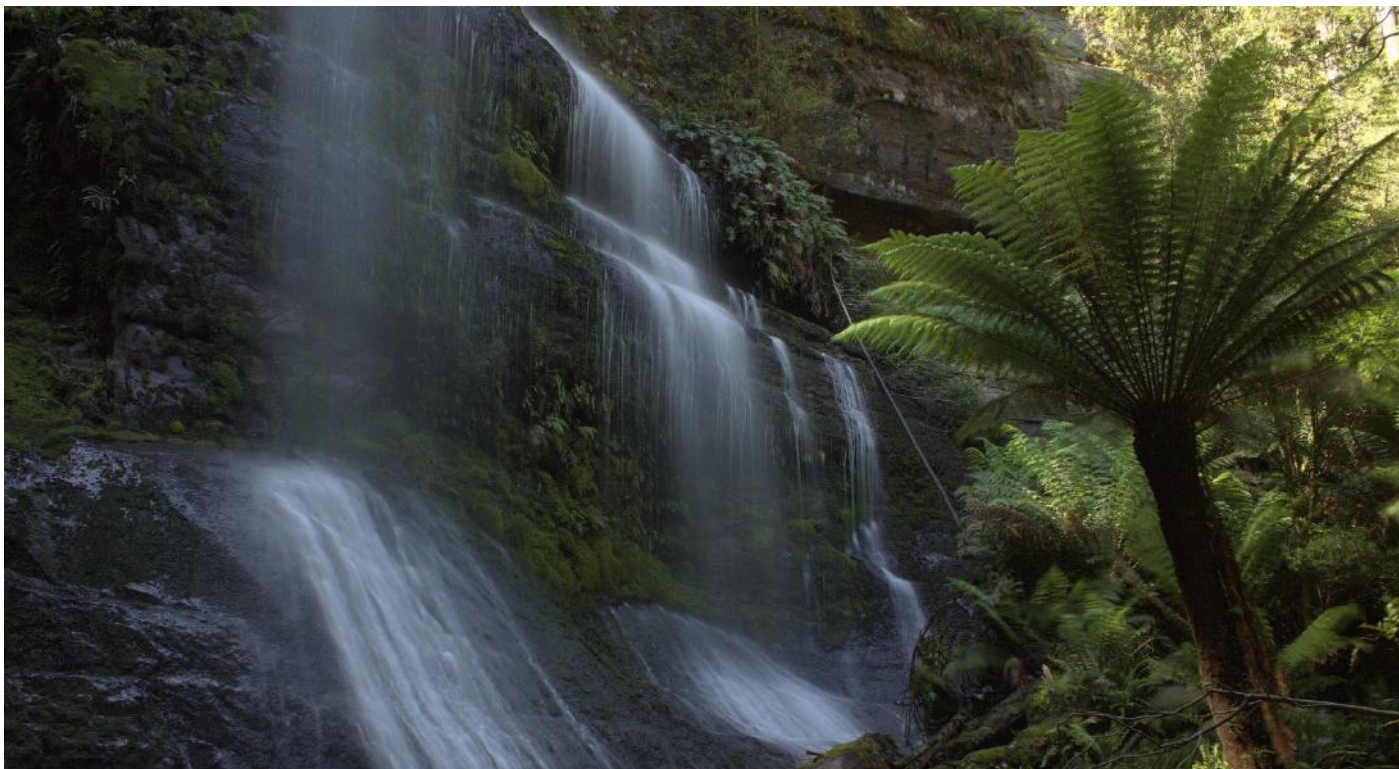
Utilising parts of this trail, our walk passes through sections of wet forest and open button grass plains - offering expansive views across to the Western Arthur Range and Mount Anne. Mount Anne is the highest peak in the South-West area, at an impressive 1423m.

After we leave the main trail our route includes some short sections soggy track and scratchy native scrub – a small taster of the what challenges have made the South-West wilderness notorious for generations of hardy bushwalkers. A long-sleeved shirt and pants are advised. We bunch together to take this section slow, and before too long the vegetation opens back up and our climb continues towards Red Knoll lookout. Along this ridge the views of Lake Pedder are spectacular. At the summit we are rewarded with a 360-degree view of the surrounding mountain ranges that make up part of Tasmania’s largest National Park and World Heritage area.

After the walk we will enjoy afternoon tea, and weather permitting may even have the opportunity for a swim in Lake Pedder. We then head back to our accommodation - stopping along the way for the Creepy Crawly Nature Trail – which is as magical as the name suggests. This is a short 30-minute wilderness boardwalk track through lush, temperate rainforest.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*





DAY FOUR

Florentine Valley (10-12km, 4 hours - easy/moderate grade)

After breakfast and lunch making, we head off into the Florentine Valley which is an area of dense old-growth rainforest. We are treated to a plethora of unique slow growing plant species, and many fine examples of tall eucalyptus. The track itself can be occasionally quite wet and slippery underfoot so although an easy short walk, care needs to be taken.

This trail is fantastic for photographers and micro-organism enthusiasts. The forest beams with life in the form of brightly coloured fungi, mossy tree trunks and decaying plant matter. It is incredible and awe inspiring.

A short climb to brings us out of the canopy to the Tiger Range Lookout, where views are afforded across the Florentine Valley to nearby mountains such as The Thumbs, The Needles and those of Mt Field National Park. This is a great short walk through an ancient ecosystem, passing through a variety of vegetation types.

In the afternoon - our walk can be extended further following the Timbs Track down to the Florentine River itself, passing through more old growth rainforest - or we can choose to include a secondary return walk to the lovely Marriott's Falls. This stunning waterfall is especially worthwhile after heavy periods of rain.

We arrive back into Hobart by 5 pm 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 (compulsory)
- 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 / woollen jacket
- Rain jacket/ spray jacket
- **Thermal base layers**
- Walking socks
- 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 - 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom (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