



LARAPUNA / BAY OF FIRES OFF PEAK EXPLORER

3 DAYS | 26KMs | Track grading: 2 - 3 Easy to Moderate

Explore the Bay of Fires and surrounding areas in the off-peak season, one of the most spectacular times to visit this iconic area. Over three fantastic days of beach walking, rainforest exploring, tasting local specialties and sightseeing you will encounter a range of hidden gems.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THIS WALKING EXPERIENCE:

Enjoy spectacular beaches interspersed with boulders covered in bright orange lichen, and if you dare, 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, iconic pockets of temperate rainforest, 360 degree mountain views, and one of Tasmania's tallest waterfalls.

Along the way we tempt our tastebuds with a visit to a local winery and sample cheese that has been aging for up to two years.

We walk among some of Tasmania's oldest rainforest and coastal vegetation, over the occasional granite headland, featuring shapely rock formations – whilst zig-zagging our way through native heath country on the lookout for local fauna.

This itinerary has something for everyone and any weather event that may occur.

We have hand picked the highlights of the North East region and developed an itinerary that our local guides can adapt to best suit the weather on any given day.

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

OUR ACCOMMODATION

Situated in the wildlife heartland of Tasmania's northeast tip, Icena Farm is at the doorstep of Mt William National Park and the Bay of Fires.

Each of the newly renovated Shearer's Quarters has its own ensuite, outside access to a lovely deck and access to the communal kitchen and living area.

Each room comes with towels, blankets, sheets and other basic essentials. The rooms are warm and cosy for our winter getaway.

From your room, peer out onto the lush green pastures of Icena Farm - still a functioning sheep and cattle farm with plenty of animals and a forever changing sky to see.



Acknowledgement to Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country and recognize their continuing connection to land, water, skies and culture. We are privileged to learn from them, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

DAY ONE

Mt William Summit and Cape Naturalist to Boulder Point

Distance: 12kms. Grade: 3 - moderate

Our journey begins from the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston. On the way to the North-East coast we pass through the Lilydale and Pipers River wine regions, stopping at the beach side village of Bridport for a short break and to pick up our freshly made lunches from a local café.

Heading eastward, we traverse the isolated and breathtaking windswept coastline, meandering through pastoral landscapes and passing by granite outcrops, until we reach one of the two scheduled walks for the day.



Within the Mt William National Park we tackle a 1.5 hour return walk to the summit of wukalina - Mt William. At an elevation of 216 meters, locally known as Bills Hill, this is the highest point in the Mt William National Park, the perfect place for lunch – providing walkers with far-reaching panoramic views of the area encompassed on some of our days of walking and beyond. In clear weather, the Furneaux Island Group stands proud as lofty remnants of what remains of an ancient land bridge which once connected Tasmania with mainland Australia.

We then head out to the coast and the white sands of Cape Naturaliste – the most northern point of our three-day wander. These few hours are spent entirely on the beach, pleasantly easing one into their own natural walking pace and rhythm. Along the way, there are often resident sea birds to observe – including Oystercatchers and Hooded Plovers. Your guides will help decipher any bizarre looking ocean life that has been washed ashore with the changing tides. We may discover cuttlebones, urchins, and even shark eggs.

Our van meets us at the other end where we then set off to our cozy farm stay accommodation to unpack and settle in.

Our evenings consist of nibbles and a two course meal carefully prepared by your guides, time to unwind and of course the space to chat about the days findings. Your guides will share a map overview and give insight to the following days adventures.



DAY TWO

Our 2nd day is open to variation to account for weather and group preference. Your guides will choose the most suitable itinerary for the day once on tour. Your day will look something like:

Option 1:

Eddystone Point to Ansons Bay

Distance: 10km, 4-5 hours walking, Grade 3 - moderate

This walk is packed full of highlights. We start our day at *Irapuna* - Eddystone Point - adorned with its beautiful grand lighthouse, built in 1889 from locally quarried granite. This natural promontory is a fascinating site of historic importance to both Aboriginal and European Tasmanians, 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 some rarer 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 if you want to brave the cold. 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.



*Walking times and distances may be adapted to the weather and groups needs based on guides discretion.

The evening's dinner will consist of nibbles, followed by an excellent two-course meal prepared by your guides.

Option 2:

Humbug Point Loop

10km, 4 hours walking, Grade 2 - 3 - easy to moderate

Humbug Point is an interesting mix of changing landscapes within the Bay of Fires Conservation & Recreation Area – this walk is a hidden gem, a locals secret. Consisting of historic Xanthorrhoea grass trees, sclerophyll forest and an array of wildlife, you will encounter ocean views from a higher vantage point and walk through a dynamic coastal environment set on higher ground above the beach.

Beginning at Moulting Bay, we walk a small stretch of beach around the point towards the Georges Bay inlet, here you will have views of St Helens Oyster farm, Lease 65 and across the bay towards the township of St Helens and St Helens Point Conservation Area.

As we traverse a little higher we encounter a woodland environment, home to many bird species and providing glimpses of the ocean and coastline through the tall trees. Somewhere along the trail, we will select a suitable lunch spot, taking the opportunity to listen to sounds of nature.

Option 3:

St Columba Falls, Weldborough Rainforest walk, Halls Falls, Pynegana Dairy, Giant Tree walk

9km, 4 hours walking, Grade 2 - 3 - easy to moderate

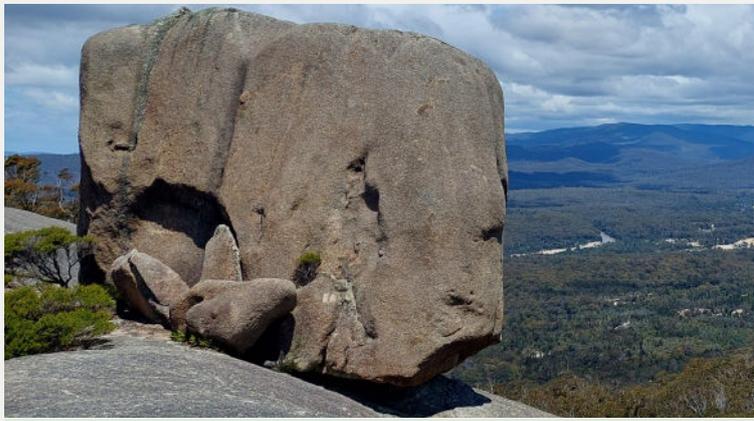
A series of short walks make up today's exploration. After an hours drive through some of the East Coast's less frequented roads, we begin our first walk through a pocket of Tasmania's temperate rainforest - dominated by the endemic Nothofagus, sassafras, leatherwoods and giant sized tree ferns, we have time to stop and take in this unique and ancient wonderland.

From here we continue along the Weldborough Pass to the Giant Tree walk where we wind our way along a hand built track to the giant ash - *Eucalyptus regnans*. With a girth of 19.4 meters and a height of around 60 meters, this is one of Tasmania's tallest living giants. With hollows that started to form at 150 years old, this tree houses an array of rare and special birds, mammals and invertebrates.

Further along the pass, we enter some of Tasmania's most fertile dairy country. After a coffee and cheese stop to sample some local produce, we continue onto Tasmania's second tallest waterfall. St Columba Falls at 90 meters tall is an easy walk through rainforest and over crystal clear streams, you can hear the water pounding down the falls before you even exit the van.

If time permits, we have the opportunity to visit the famous Pub in the Paddock, Halls Falls and the Shop in the Bush - all local hidden gems.





DAY THREE

Mt Cameron Regional Reserve - Little Blue Lake - Cube Rock

Distance: 5km, 3 hours of walking. Grade 3 - moderate

On our final morning, we pack up and depart our accommodation. After a short drive through Gladstone to Little Blue Lake, we embark on our last walk up the southern side of Mt Cameron to the granite outcrops of Cube Rock. A monolith perched atop Windy Ridge, Cube Rock dates back 380 million years.

Legend has it that Thylacines were commonly seen along this track, but today you may sight a Bennet's wallaby amongst the curious granite formations. With a rich Indigenous heritage, and expansive 360 degree views, you can imagine the significance of this special place.

After lunch and an easy amble back to the bus, we depart for Launceston with some final stops along the way. We pass through Derby - the mountain biking mecca of Tasmania, Scottsdale - the home of the Tasmanian Pink Eye potato and fields of hops, and through the Lilydale wine region where we will have the opportunity to stop off and do a tasting of some of Tasmania's finest before we say goodbye.

...we walk the highlights



OUR MEALS ON TOUR

The food we serve is healthy, hearty and home style. Our menus seek to showcase regional produce. Fresh local cheese, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables, and meats are used, supporting local farmers and minimising our food miles. Our tours accommodate most dietary needs, please specify this at time of booking.

Breakfast is a continental spread of muesli, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads. Coffee and tea are always available.

Lunch can vary from day to day, but includes sliced meat, salad, rolls, 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, curry or similar. Dessert may include things like apple crumble, mini pavlovas or seasonal fruit salad.

Snacks and antipasto are provided during the trip and include fresh fruit for the trail, biscuits and/or fruit cake for tea breaks. Each night we offer dips, cheese and crackers for pre-dinner nibbles and a self-serve trail mix selection at the start of each day.

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.

OUR COMMITMENTS & OTHER MATTERS

Our sustainable tourism commitment

As part of our commitment to being an Eco-friendly tour operator, which includes minimising and offsetting our carbon emissions, we also suggest you bring along your own food containers (medium size for lunch, and small for trail mix), beeswax lunch wrap, keep cup etc. if you have them. Please do not buy any of these items if you don't have them. We will supply containers for lunches.

Our commitment to reconciliation

Park Trek acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country and recognizes their continuing connection to land, water, skies and culture. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and through our RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan), among other things, we are committed to reconciliation.

Travel insurance and other matters

Park Trek strongly recommends travel insurance, please check with your individual provider for more information regarding coverage for unforeseen circumstances, e.g. flight delays, illness or Covid-19. Please refer to our T's & C's on our website for more information.

A note to nature

All of our tours are subject to the occasionally unpredictable forces of nature. Indeed this is the spirit and attraction of adventure. As such our guides may alter our proposed tour itinerary where necessary having regard to Governmental changes, environmental and safety considerations. They will always strive to provide the most scenic and enjoyable walks possible in the environmental circumstances.

Please refer to the [Australian Walking Track Grading System](#) for grading of all walks on this tour.

Our guides hold the experience and knowledge that enables them to adjust our itinerary on any given day in regard to group safety and consideration and hold to right to do so at their discretion.

