

Day 6 Thursday 11 February

Clarendon House & Return to Adelaide

After breakfast you check out of your hotel and visit the National Trust's Clarendon House for a guided tour. Clarendon is one of Australia's most romantic pastoral homesteads, attributed to convict architect James Blackburn. It features a double story portico reminiscent southern American mansions and was built in 1838 for wool grower and merchant James Fox, the son of William Cox, responsible for the road over the Blue Mountains in 1815. Set in seven hectares of riverside parklands, the house retains its service and convict quarters, walled garden, impressive outbuildings and a rare avenue of elms. It is furnished with period pieces from 1838 to 1850. After a tour and free time you have a lunch break in Evandale before transferring to Launceston airport and your flight to Adelaide which arrives late afternoon.

Breakfast



LAUNCESTON & North Eastern Tasmania



06 - 11 February 2027

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EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL TOURS

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PHOTOGRAPHS: Shutterstock Bay of Fires; Unsplash Chandras Hekar; Denis Binnion; Caroline Jones; John Morton; Biatch3; Rosie Wylie; Ruwoltj; Beaconsfield Heritage Centre; Bridestowe; Peripitus; Mattinbgn; Martin Pot; Gary Houston; Tamar River Cruises gallery; Ron Knight; littleyiye; Rosemary Abetz-Rouse



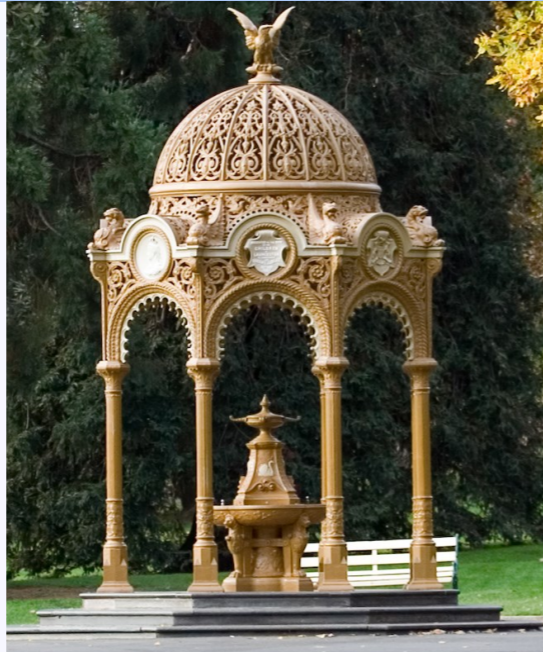
...enriching lives through cultural exchange

**Launceston • Queen Victoria Museums and Gallery • Tamar River Cruise
Beaconsfield Mining & Rescue Centre • St Helens & Bay of Fires
John Glover's Patterdale House • Georgetown • Cape Portland • Bridport
Scottsdale • Bridestowe Lavender Farm • Clarendon House**

An idyllic niche tour of Tasmania's refreshing north west flying direct to Launceston from Adelaide and return. Explore the fine architectural heritage of Australia's third oldest city with your historian tour leader and relish guided tours of a diverse range of museums and galleries. Discover some of our nation's best colonial and indigenous artworks at the Queen Victoria Gallery and visit the Beaconsfield Mining and Heritage Museum, National Trust's Clarendon House, John Glover's Patterdale House and Maritime Museums and lighthouses. Enjoy temperate rain forest landscapes, mountains, scenic coastlines and historic sites. Discover quaint fishing, mining and logging townships and sample Tasmania's famously fresh local produce. Highlights include cruising on the Tamar River and Cataract Gorge, beautiful Bridestowe lavender farm, pretty St Helens and the Bay of Fires and plentiful intriguing cultural attractions.

Tour Leader: Dr Denis Binnion AM is an experienced tour leader for WEA Travel's cultural and heritage tours to all corners of Australia. With a keen interest in geography, local heritage and history, he is a dedicated and friendly leader.

Tour Includes: Full escort; Return flights; All transport; Quality hotel accommodation; Meals as per itinerary; All sightseeing & entrance fees as per itinerary Tamar River Cruise; Tour study notes



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Day 1 Saturday 06 February

Adelaide to Launceston

Depart Adelaide late morning on a direct flight to Launceston. On arrival you are met and taken on a private tour of John Glover's beautifully restored Patterdale House and garden. A noted 19th century painter John Glover was a member of the English school of painters that included Constable and Turner. He spent the 1830s and 40s in the nearby foothills of Ben Lomond where he painted his well known My Harvest Home in 1835. Following the tour you check in to your comfortable city hotel where a welcome dinner is arranged for you this evening.

**Overnight Launceston
Welcome Dinner**



Day 2 Sunday 07 February

Launceston & Tamar River cruise

Take an historical walk this morning with your tour leader to admire Launceston's fine architectural heritage. With Victorian and Edwardian influences the city's built heritage is some of the finest in the nation.

As Australia's third oldest city there are a vast number of well preserved buildings. The walk ends at the Queen Victoria Art Gallery and Museum where you are free to explore its collections of colonial history and paintings, arts, ceramics and design. You also visit the Queen Victoria Inveresk site which focuses on Tasmanian Aboriginal culture, natural history, the natural environment and science. This afternoon you board a Tamar River cruise boat to enjoy landmark Cataract Gorge, forty kilometres of fabulous scenery and afternoon tea. Known as Kanamaluka in traditional language the river is mostly a tidal estuary formed by the confluence of the North and South Esk rivers.

**Overnight Launceston
Breakfast • Afternoon Tea**



Day 3 Monday 08 February

Avoca, Fingal, St Mary's & St Helen's

After breakfast you take a full day excursion through tranquil countryside to the township of Avoca then continue to Fingal following the South Esk River. There are views across the Ben Lomond National Park and ranges and Legges Tor, which at 1,572 metres above sea level is Tasmania's second highest peak. After a morning tea break in St Marys you travel through lush temperate rainforest to reach Tasmania's north west coast and attractive seaside St Helens. There are many sights, shops and cafes here and the seafood is abundant and fresh. You might also like to visit the Visitor Centre and its small history room. After time to explore and have lunch it's a short drive to Binalong Bay on the southern end of the famous boulder strewn Bay of Fires before returning to Launceston.

**Overnight Launceston
Breakfast**

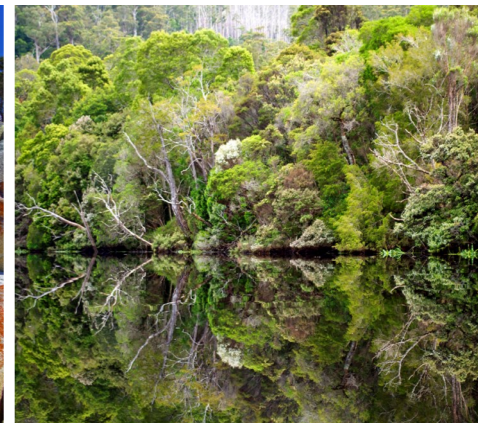


Day 4 Tuesday 09 February

Around the Tamar Estuary

Head to Georgetown this morning and have some free time in the main street precinct before visiting the Georgetown Watch House Museum. You also visit the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum (\$10 pay on the day), then continue to the Tamar Lighthouse and Low Head Pilot Station Maritime Museum (\$5 pay on the day). Today's lunch break is in Georgetown before crossing the Tamar Valley bridge to visit the excellent Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre with its mine rescue display and indoor and outdoor exhibits. The museum changed from a gold museum to a Rescue Museum following the tragic 2006 mine collapse from which two miners were rescued after a harrowing 14 days trapped underground. Just north of Beaconsfield is the York historic town site, a British outpost on Bass Strait established in 1805 to ward off the French. You return to Launceston via Exeter driving through Grindelwald, a tree lined housing development imitating a Swiss alpine village with several Swiss style houses and lakes. Nearing Launceston you stop at Freeland's Lookout for views over the Tamar River and the city.

**Overnight Launceston
Breakfast**



Day 5 Wednesday 10 February

Bridestowe & Cape Portland

This morning you visit the Bridestowe Lavender Estate for an informative farm tour. Bridestowe is the largest lavender farm in the southern hemisphere and uses ancient methods of distillation which guarantees pure clean oils. It was planted over one hundred years ago when a British perfumer settled in Tasmania carrying lavender seeds from the French Provence. Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere here and a delicious morning tea. Drive on to Scottsdale, a rich agricultural centre surrounded by fertile volcanic soils. You might like to try something local here at Café Rhubarb before continuing to the Tebrakunna Visitor Centre near Cape Portland on the north east tip of Tasmania. This is the closest point to Flinders Island in Bass Strait. The information centre here informs about Indigenous history and in particular the traditional Pairrebeener clanspeople, as well as wind farming and the history of Cape Portland station. Return to Launceston via the attractive seaside town of Bridport.

**Overnight Launceston
Breakfast • Morning Tea • Dinner**

