

GREAT RAIL EXPERIENCES TASMANIA

TOUR THURSDAY 10 MARCH – MONDAY 21 MARCH 2022

12 NIGHTS

OVERVIEW

Tasmania has long been a drawcard for those seeking a wilderness experience in land famed for good food and fine wines. A third of the island is shared by national parks, forests and marine reserves with a distinctive World Heritage Area.

The Great Rail Experiences Tasmania Tour 2022 packages all of this in with the State's industrial and agricultural heritage with visits to preserved operating railways and many of Tasmania's most popular tourist attractions.

The tour is scheduled to include Tasmania's renowned SteamFest which hosts a large historical collection of working industrial machinery and steam railway at Sheffield, the Town of Murals. It then continues with travel along the picturesque north west coast and through the south west wilderness area. The giant "Nut" at Stanley and the mountains of the Central Highlands contrast with the flat lands of the Midlands and its many colonial towns along the way between the two major cities of Hobart and Launceston.

You'll discover the State's rich collection of heritage railways:- Don River Railway, Wee Georgie Wood Steam Railway, Redwater Creek Steam Railway, West Coast Wilderness Railway, Derwent Valley and Hobart railway attractions, as well as the serene cruise on the magnificent Gordon River in the south west.

Tasmania has much to offer for those interested in steam era railways, history and heritage, beautiful scenery, and exceptional food and wine. This tour has been especially tailored to meet those interests.



Three Abt locomotives on shed at Queenstown.

Convict ruins at Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Beaconsfield's historic gold mine heritage museum
- Explore Queen Victoria Museum incorporating the former major State railway workshops
- Travel on a genuine Launceston tram
- See and feel all manners of old age machinery, steam engines and intrepid mining heritage
- Take many trips on a variety of steam-hauled trains
- Indulge in the amazing scenery of the Circular Head region
- Cruise the mighty and serene Gordon River through part of Tasmania's World Heritage Area



- Experience the remoteness of the notorious penal settlement of Sarah Island and gain an insight into the convict past at Port Arthur
- Peddle your way along a scenic railway line
- Browse Hobart's famous Salamanca Market
- Surprise yourself at the infamous Museum of Old and New Art (MONA)
- Take in the delights of Hobart and Launceston
- Wonder at English history in the many colonial towns
- Be mesmerised by magnificent and ever-changing scenery
- Appreciate the huge wooden carving of Tasmanian history at The Wall in the Wilderness



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfasts
- Services of an experienced and well-versed tour coach captain
- Meals specified in itinerary
- Admissions specified in itinerary

TOUR PRICE

\$4,890 per person or \$7,950 per couple

All enquiries to +61 434 846 697
or e-mail

admin@greatrailexperiencetasmmania.com.au

TOUR LOGISTICS

Tour commences at Hobart at 1000 hrs. on Thursday 10 March 2022 at a convenient Hotel location.

Patrons usually arrive on the day prior. GRET can arrange hotel bookings and add the cost to the tour price.

Please contact GRET as per above details to make arrangements.



TOUR MANAGER

Coach Captain for the tour is Mr. Tony Coen, whom many in the steam scene will know. Tony was formerly a train driver with the Tasmanian Government Railways (TGR) and in later years was the Tasmanian representative at and founding member of ATHRA, the Assoc. of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia. In retirement, Tony is a certified assessor with operations in the tourist and heritage railway sector. He is also a transport historian and has written two books, one on Hobart's fleet of river traders and the other on railways in Tasmania, the latter being a joint authorship produced specifically for the 150th anniversary of Tasmanian railways, 2021.

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals not specified in itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel/airport portorage



PERSONAL AGILITY

The tour is generally relaxed, but there are occasions when a good level of fitness and ability to walk or stand for a few hours are required. Patrons should be aware of uneven walkways but still enjoy activities without mishap.



DAILY ITINERARY

Thursday 10 March 2022

Hobart – Launceston

Meals D

Overnight:- Launceston

Meet Tour Leader, load coach and head off via Hobart Airport (if required) before driving to the top tourist colonial town of Richmond where plenty of food outlets will allow everyone to make a choice on luncheon. This will make a suitable time and place for the tour Leader to introduce himself and to deliver a general introductory welcome and lay down basic guidelines. The coach will then proceed towards Launceston along the Heritage Highway (Midland Highway), exploring the many historical colonial towns along the way. An opportune stop at the famous town of Ross will allow for convenience and refreshment requirements. Once the tour arrives at Launceston and a quick reconnoitre of the layout has taken place, the coach will pull up at the Best Western Hotel for the first of two nights stop-over. Some free time can be utilised to have a look about the city before the introductory dinner with new friends takes place at the hotel that evening.

Friday 11 March 2022

**Launceston – George Town -
Launceston**

Meals B/D

Overnight:- Launceston

Following continental breakfast at the hotel, the coach will travel down the western side of the River Tamar to the Beaconsfield Heritage Centre for tour and inspection of the once great Tasmania Gold Mine. Lunch can be obtained from local outlets. Return to Launceston via the Batman Bridge and the eastern side of the river and spend the remainder of the afternoon at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, contained in the former railway workshops complex. Nearby is the Launceston Tramway headquarters and museum where a trip on a restored tramcar is available. Return to the hotel to freshen up prior to relaxing at dinner at a nearby hostelry.

Saturday 12 March 2022

Devonport & Don

Meals B/D

Overnight:- Devonport

Load luggage onto coach after breakfast and head off along the old Bass Highway to Deloraine with stops at Perth to photograph a former TGR H Class locomotive, preserved in the local park, and Pearn's Steam World at Westbury, a large and classical colonial town. A good range of vintage machinery and relics of country lifestyles will fascinate the onlooker for an hour or so. Proceed to Deloraine where another former TGR locomotive sets the scene whilst partaking of lunch obtained from several outlets in the town. Continuing along the Bass Highway to Don, just west of Devonport, will permit some time to peruse the magnificent collection of railway rolling stock, extensive

workshop facilities and museum, with a trip by steam train to Cole's Beach and return being highlights. It is likely that a fair amount of time will be spent at the Don River Railway and a return to Devonport's 4.5 star Gateway Hotel for dinner and bedding down will be looked forward to.

Sunday 13 March 2022
Devonport - Stanley -
Devonport
Meals B/D
Overnight:- Devonport

The next day shall be much more relaxed with coach following the coastline as much as possible, taking in the spectacular views, checking out the busy railway yard at Burnie Junction and arriving at the north western port town of Stanley, nestled below the chunky rock known as The Nut. Having grabbed some lunch from local shops, taken a chair-lift trip to the top of the big rock and explored the picturesque village, the trip retraces its steps via Table Cape to the Hellyer's Road Distillery, a fine place to inspect, sample and purchase (optional) a great drop of Tasmanian whisky and other products. Return to Devonport after that and settle into a comfortable evening at the Gateway. Perhaps even a walk around riverside Devonport will be enticing.

Monday 14 March 2022
Devonport – Sheffield -
Devonport
Meals B/D
Overnight:- Devonport

This will be another long day on the feet. Today is dedicated to the Town of Murals at Sheffield where everyone can spend several hours exploring the sights and inspecting the Redwater Creek Steam and Heritage Centre, the home of the renowned SteamFest, where a trip on a narrow gauge steam tramway is scheduled. In fact, there will be two trains operating from either end simultaneously each day, just to provide that little bit of extra excitement. The murals in the town are all worth a look as are some of the culinary delights both amongst the SteamFest food avenues and in the streets of the town. Return to the hotel for the inclusive dinner and final night at the Gateway.

Tuesday 15 March 2022
Devonport - Strahan
Meals B/L/D
Overnight:- Strahan

After breakfast, the tour begins its first real day of negotiating typical Tasmanian hilly and winding roads as the coach heads for the west coast via Wilmot. Once the highlands near Cradle Mountain are reached, some might have a snooze as the coach proceeds through typical west coast country to the old mining town of Tullah, where a small steam locomotive, *Wee Georgie Wood*, is normally scheduled to take everyone on a magical ride in a timeless manner. However, *Wee Georgie* was already seen helping out at SteamFest and its place at Tullah is replaced on this trip by a similarly-sized petrol locomotive that used to work trains to the isolated Mt. Lyell hydro-electric power station town

of Lake Margaret. After that, another winding and steep road leads to another old mining town at Zeehan, once the third largest metropolis in the State. A superb museum, that generally takes all day to inspect, and the magnificent Gaiety Theatre will leave everyone spellbound. This is a good place to consume the packed lunch. After successfully dragging all passengers out and onto the coach, the tour will continue to Strahan for a two-night stop at a couple of comfortable groups of holiday units. Great dining follows.

Wednesday 16 March 2022
Strahan – Gordon River -
Strahan

Meals B/L/D

Overnight:- Strahan

An earlier start for breakfast will place everyone on board the river cruiser for an unforgettable journey along the Gordon River. You will see thousands year old Huon Pine trees, tramp in the footsteps of hapless convicts, who had endured one of the worst penal colonies that the World had ever witnessed, and learn about Hell's Gates. Free time or join others at the play, *The Ship That Never Was*, should keep all content until another sumptuous dinner is devoured that night.

Thursday 17 March 2022
Strahan to Queenstown

Meals B/L/D

Overnight:- Queenstown

Another early start, breakfast consumed, luggage loaded allows travellers to be taken to Regatta Point station for an unforgettable journey on the West Coast Wilderness Railway, its route passing through parts of the State's World Heritage Area. Lunch is provided on the train. At Queenstown, a guided tour of the railway workshops is available and a trip to the third oldest, and still operating Tasmanian hydro power station at Lake Margaret is another optional recommendation. Accommodation, dinner follows.

Friday 18 March 2022
Queenstown - Hobart

Meals B/L

Overnight:- Hobart

A long journey awaits on this section. Immediately on leaving the hotel, the coach negotiates the "99 Bends" over the Gap between Queenstown and Gormanston, a side stop to look out over the Iron Blow Mine occurring on the way. Continuing east, the road traverses an old railway line for several kilometres, crosses Lake Burbury before heading through varied rain forest and button grass plains, steep hills and sharp curves, eventually arriving at Derwent Bridge and a break at the Wall in the Wilderness, a huge and stunning sculpture reflecting life on Tasmania's west coast. A little further down the road, the former Hydro-Electric Commission town of Tarraleah is a pleasant place to be served lunch. Suitably replenished, the group will head east, south and then west again to terminate at the town of Maydena where everyone can have a go at peddling 2 and 4-seated carts along the

currently disused section of the Derwent Valley railway line. Whilst half of the group is struggling with peddles, the other half can take a stroll to the glistening Russell Falls in the adjacent Mt. Field National Park. From there, the tour again turns to the east and proceeds to the Derwent Valley Railway (DVR) headquarters at New Norfolk for a guided tour and talk from a senior officer. As evening approaches, the coach will deliver everyone to Hobart's Hotel Grand Chancellor following a quick tour around the popular eateries and other places of interest. Dinner is participants' choice.

Saturday 19 March 2022

Hobart - Hobart

Meals B

Overnight:- Hobart

This is a good day to spend in and around Hobart. This is a free day to do whatever tickles your fancies. Leader can provide a quick drive-by tour to point out places of interest. Hobart's famous Salamanca Market is a number one destination for many. Other options include MONA (museum of Old and New Art) and which is accessed by a regular fast ferry from and to Hobart, great general and maritime museums, pleasant walk around Battery Point, Hobart's oldest suburb, the many quaint pubs and coffee cafes, Mt. Wellington excursion, and generally looking around the city and its magnificent sandstone buildings. Look for a venue of own choice for a night out and dinner.

Sunday 20 March 2022

Hobart – Glenorchy -

Hobart

Meals B

Overnight:- Hobart

Follow on after breakfast with the previous day's adventures until the coach departs the hotel at 1300 and delivers its cargo to the Tasmanian Transport Museum. There is plenty to see and do at this comprehensive establishment and a period steam train will be on hand to take you on a ride into the past. One more free night for dinner.

Monday 21 March 2022

Hobart – Port Arthur -

Meals B/L/D

Overnight:- Hobart

On this day, there is time to reflect on the previous eleven days as it is the last day of the tour. The coach travels across the River Derwent and then retraces what remains of the long gone Bellerive – Sorell Railway. After that, the trip alters course and goes to the Unzoo on the Tasman Peninsula where interesting birds and the endangered Tasmanian Devil are nurtured. The former penal settlement of Port Arthur follows and a guided tour, cruise and lunch are provided. The grand finale is the gala dinner at Hotel Grand Chancellor, marking the official end of the tour.

Tuesday 22 March 2022

Hobart

Meals B

Breakfast at Grand Chancellor, then make own arrangements. Extra nights can be booked for \$265 per night with 2 breakfasts per night.

BOOKING A RESERVATION

A refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required once a prospective customer has registered intention to travel and made an initial booking. Once minimum numbers of 16 passengers have been reached, the tour is declared active and the tour deposit becomes non-refundable. The final tour payment shall be due on 21 January 2022.

Should the tour not be able to operate for whatever reason beyond GRET control, then travellers shall have the option of transferring to another tour or receive a full refund.

COVID-19

Please note that quarantine-free travel is not guaranteed and is subject to change at any time. Travel is therefore at one's own risk. Should travel plans be consequently interrupted, GRET may be able to assist but all additional costs are the responsibility of the traveller.

From 15 December 2021, all travellers entering Tasmania must have received all Covid-19 vaccinations prior to travelling.



TOUR BOOKING FORM

Name.....Phone.....

E-mail.....

Postal Address.....

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Number of People booking for Tour :

Tour Cost..\$.....Deposit..\$.....Full Payment..\$.....

Direct Deposit:- BSB 633-000, Acc't. No. 164149403

Cheques payable to:

Tasmanian Assoc. of Tourist Railways,
62 Loatta Rd.,
Rose Bay, Tasmania 7015.

Enquiries:- +61 434 846 697 and/or

Scan and e-mail this completed form/page to:

admin@greatrailexperiencetasmania.com.au