

Tasmania's Endemic Birds & Mammals With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

October 12 – 21, 2019

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Naturalist Journeys, LLC



Tour Summary

10-Day / 9-Night Tasmanian Nature Tour with Cat Davidson

\$4440 from Hobart

Arrival Airport is Hobart International (HBA)

Departure Airport is either Hobart International (HBA) or Launceston Airport (LST)



Tour Highlights

- ✓ Explore Eaglehawk Neck for endemic Yellow-throated Honeyeater, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Black-faced Cormorant, and with luck Cape Barren Goose
- ✓ Board a pelagic to the continental shelf to see albatrosses, sheartwaters, storm-petrels, and more
- ✓ Search for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot in remote South West World Heritage area
- ✓ Visit Bruny Island to explore and see a Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater colony
- ✓ See our operator's own private 1500-acre private reserve; watch for the resident white morph Grey Goshawk
- ✓ Watch for Tasmanian Devil near Cradle Mountain National Park

Join Naturalist Journeys, in partnership with Inala Nature Tours, on this exciting trip to Tasmania, crafted to pair with our Southwest Australian Endemics tour, October 4 – 12, 2019. We spend our days searching for Tasmania's endemic birds and mammals. Imagine seeing the fabled Tasmanian Devil, bizarre Platypus, stunning Pink Robin, and the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot.

We explore Tasmania's National Parks, beautiful Bruny Island, and even spend time at our local operator's own private reserve.

This is an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself in wild Australia and add plentiful lifers to your list as you search for Tasmania's fascinating endemics.

Itinerary

Sat., Oct. 12 Arrivals in Hobart

Today has been set aside as an arrival day so you are free to arrive at any time that suits your travel plans. Please make your own way to the hotel in the city (details to come closer to departure). Please note that no activities have been planned for this day but if you plan to arrive early and would like advice on options for the day please do contact our office. For those participants joining this tour from our Southwest Australian Endemics tour, we travel from Perth to Hobart today (based on the 2018 itinerary the best flight option looks like a departure from Perth at 08:00 and arrival in Hobart at 17:10 with a stopover in Melbourne — exact time/arrangements to be confirmed). We meet as a group at the hotel at 7:00 PM for a brief orientation and welcome dinner.

Accommodations in Hobart (D)

Sun., Oct. 13 Hobart Reserves & Drive to Eaglehawk Neck

Today we begin our exploration of spectacular Tasmania by visiting several reserves in the Hobart area, including Mount Wellington. This mountain, at a height of 1270m (around 4,150 feet), affords spectacular views of the city and surrounding landscape on a clear day. Here we also take a walk through a fern glade

with towering tree ferns where we have our first chance to see the endemic and rather shy Scrubtit as well as Tasmanian Scrubwren and the stunning Pink Robin. Further endemic highlights we look for today include Green Rosella, Tasmanian Native Hen, Black Currawong, and Yellow Wattlebird. In the early afternoon we enjoy the scenic drive to Eaglehawk Neck. On arrival we bird some of the areas of interest, enjoying the spectacular sea cliffs and breathtaking scenery typical of the area. We may well see Yellow-throated Honeyeater as well as a range of more widely distributed species including White-bellied Sea Eagle and Black-faced Cormorant. The uncommon Cape Barren Goose is also a possibility here.

Accommodations on Tasman Peninsula (B,L,D)

Mon., Oct. 14 Southern Ocean Pelagic

This morning we board a charter vessel (weather dependant) making our way into the vastness of the Southern Ocean in our quest for pelagic birds. High species diversity and the nearness of the continental shelf have earned Tasmania an international reputation as an excellent place to see pelagic species. Not long after we depart Pirate's Bay we should encounter Short-tailed Shearwater in considerable number as well as our first albatross species. This is one of the finest places on the planet to see a diversity of albatross: Wandering, Black-browed, Shy, Southern Royal, and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses are all possible. With land still in sight we reach the continental shelf and begin to berley off the back of the boat. Possible petrels include Great-winged, the striking White-headed, Gould's, and Mottled. Shearwater diversity is also good with Hutton's, White-chinned, Buller's, Sooty, Short-tailed (common in Tasmanian waters), and Fluttering Shearwater all possible. Wilson's, Grey-backed, and White-faced Storm-Petrels and Fairy Prion are also regularly seen. There are often surprises in store, and with 30+ species possible in these waters, there is bound to be something new for everyone. Mammals we may encounter include Australian Fur-seals, Hump-backed Whale, and Bottlenose Dolphin. After what is sure to be a rewarding pelagic, we make our way back to Hobart arriving in the early evening.

Accommodations in Hobart (B,L,D)

Tues., Oct. 15

Orange-bellied Parrot Excursion | Flight to South West Wilderness

This morning we leave civilization behind us and embark on a spectacular flight (weather dependant) to Tasmania's remote South West World Heritage area. Inaccessible by road and breathtakingly scenic, this is one of the most remote areas in Australia and is famed, not only for its unspoiled wilderness and clean air (arguably the cleanest in the world), but also for its birdlife. Today we have a chance to see one of Australia's rarest birds, the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. With no more than 50 left in the wild, this vivid parrot is teetering on the brink of extinction. Other specialties we hope to see are the elusive Eastern Ground Parrot, Striated Fieldwren, the delightful Southern Emu-wren, and the aptly named Beautiful Firetail. The area is also rich in history and we learn of the fabled adventurers who braved this region in a bygone era. Depending on the mood and weather we may opt for some spotlighting after dinner in a Hobart reserve to search for Southern (Tasmanian) Bettong and Eastern-barred Bandicoot. Both of these mammals once had a healthy distribution in south-eastern Australia but are now rare on the mainland, and fortunately still occur in good number in parts of Tasmania. In our searching we may also encounter Tawny Frogmouth, and if we are very fortunate, Masked Owl.

Accommodations in Hobart (B,L,D)

Wed., Oct 16 Hobart & Bruny Island

Depending on our timing and conditions we may opt to start our day in reserves around Hobart or alternatively venture directly down to Bruny Island. Situated 40km south of Hobart, Bruny Island is separated from the Tasmanian mainland by the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and accessed by a vehicle ferry. The ferry trip takes approximately 15 minutes and we enjoy some wonderful scenery and possibly Little Penguin or dolphins alongside the ferry. This afternoon we visit Bruny's southern coastline to view the second oldest lighthouse in Australia, and search for species such as Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Olive Whistler, and Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo. Here we also have a chance to see the Tasmanian subspecies of Short-beaked

Echidna, one of Australia's two egg-laying mammal (monotreme) species. After dinner tonight, we visit the Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater colony to view these species at their burrows.

Accommodation on Bruny Island (B,L,D)

Thurs., Oct. 17 Bruny Island

Today we have a full day to explore Bruny and the variety of habitats found on the island; from coastal beaches, where there is a possibility of finding Hooded Plover, to rainforest areas where we search for the endemic Scrubtit and Tasmanian Thornbill. We also attempt to find all of Tasmania's remaining endemic birds with Strong-billed Honeyeater, Dusky Robin, and Forty-spotted Pardalote likely highlights. Most of these can be seen at the Inala Private Reserve, Tonia Cochran's privately owned 1,500-acre sanctuary on south Bruny Island. If we are fortunate we may encounter the striking white morph Grey Goshawk and critically-endangered Swift Parrot that regularly occur on the Inala Reserve. We also take time to enjoy the interesting flora of the area, including Tasmanian endemic species and relics from the ancient Gondwanan Supercontinent. We enjoy another night trip tonight for the chance to see a range of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials (including Eastern Quoll and "normal" as well as golden morph Bennett's Wallaby and Brush-tailed Possums) in addition to searching for Tawny Frogmouth and Morepork (formerly Tasmanian form of the Southern Boobook).

Accommodation on Bruny Island (B,L,D)

Fri., Oct. 18 Bruny Island to Mt. Field Area

This morning we depart Bruny early for Mount Field National Park. This area is an excellent back up site for our endemic target species, notably Scrubtit and Black Currawong, and is also a great place to experience a range of habitats from fern gullies with waterfalls, to alpine heathland, and cool temperate rainforest boasting some of the tallest Eucalyptus in Australia. Today we have our first chance of seeing the bizarre Platypus, the other species of Australian monotreme. In the late afternoon we make our way out of the park to a nearby settlement where we overnight.

Accommodation at Mount Field Area (B,L,D)

Sat., Oct. 19 Mt. Field Area to Cradle Mountain Area

This morning we leave the Mt. Field area and travel north to Cradle Mountain National Park. While today is largely a travel day we enjoy some lovely scenery and stop en route to bird and stretch our legs. There is also an option to visit a wildlife sanctuary where some of Tasmania's rarer mammal species can be seen. We arrive at our accommodation near the National Park in the late afternoon. This accommodation has been chosen as it offers a chance of seeing one of Australia's most threatened and charismatic mammals in the wild and at close range. Having become increasingly rare this is one of the only places left where one has a reasonable chance of seeing Tasmanian Devils. Here the owner places meat down for the devils at dusk and, with any luck, they come in to feed after dark. Spotted-tailed Quolls also come to the verandas to feed and this is an excellent opportunity to view and photograph these elusive creatures.

Accommodations near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Sun., Oct. 20 Cradle Mountain Area

Today we have a full day to explore Cradle Mountain. This is a good area to search for Tasmania's endemic bird species like the retiring Scrubtit, Black Currawong, Tasmanian Thornbill, and Tasmanian Scrubwren. In addition to great birding we enjoy some of the interesting plants found here. Notable are ancient rainforest species and Gondwana relics such as Pencil and King Billy Pines, Myrtle, and the famous Fagus (*Nothofagus gunnii*) which is Tasmania's only deciduous tree. This is also a good area to view Common Wombat and if we are fortunate we may see Platypus. If time permits we visit the replica of "Waldheim," the home of the Austrian, Gustav Weindorfer, whose love of the area inspired the establishment of the national park. Tonight, we have another chance to see Tasmanian Devil at our accommodations.

Accommodations near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Mon., Oct. 21 Launceston & Departures

This morning we travel to Launceston after breakfast where you are able to connect with a flight of your choosing to one of the capital cities. If time permits we visit some wetlands en route where there is a chance to view a number of wetland species including Purple Swamphen, Australian Shelduck, Black-fronted Dotterel, and Little Grassbird. Please note that flights from Launceston should be made from around 1:00 PM as the guide delivers clients there around midday. The guide then travels back to Hobart and there is therefore scope to deliver clients to Hobart airport around 3:00 PM for flights from 4:00 PM onwards for domestic flights and from 5:00 PM for international flights. Alternatively, we can organise an additional night in Hobart for you at the end of the tour at an additional cost if that is your preferred option. (B)

Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Please note, as of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

Travel Information

Arrive in Hobart International (HBA) in time for a 7:00 PM meeting and dinner on Oct. 12. Please plan your departures from either Launceston Airport (LST) after 1:00 PM or from Hobart International (HBA) after 4:00 PM for domestic flights or 5:00 PM for international flights on Oct. 21.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the journey is **\$4440 DBL / \$5175 SGL** per person, based on double occupancy, from Hobart, Tasmania. Cost includes all specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined above, all meals as outlined in the itinerary, activities outlined in the itinerary (including the South West flight and the pelagic cruise), National Park entry fees, Bruny Island ferry fares, GST (=VAT). Tour price does not include international or domestic Australian airfares (except the South West flight as mentioned above), activities and breakfast and lunch on day 1, the airport transfer on day 1, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).

Please Note

Arrival in Hobart: There is a regular shuttle service ([The Hobart Airporter](#)) between Hobart airport and the main hotels in the city. Details on the costs and timing of the shuttle can be found online. Alternatively, you may wish to take a taxi to the city — there is no need to pre book these, they are readily available outside the terminal building. More information on taxis (and additional airport information) can be found [here](#).

Meals & Drinks: Breakfast generally consists of a continental style breakfast with cereal, fruit and yoghurt and tea/coffee. Full cooked breakfast is not generally offered at most locations. Lunch generally consists of a packed lunch style meal eaten in the field, with sandwich/filled roll, fruit, and a drink. Dinner is usually two course and consists of several options for main with the choice of either an appetiser or dessert. Drinks (soft and alcoholic) are generally not included but at lunches and breakfasts juice may be made available.

The itinerary: While we aim to follow the itinerary as planned, please note that the itinerary provided should only be used as a guideline. Depending on individual trip circumstances, weather, and local information, the exact itinerary may not be strictly adhered to. The guides reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary as they see fit.

The Pelagic and the South West flight: Both of these activities are weather dependant and we will try to reschedule within the timeframe of the tour if either is cancelled due to bad weather.

Photo Credits

Echidna, Alex Vargo; Grey Goshawk, Alfred Schult; Orange-bellied Parrot, S. Zalate; Green Rosella, Chris Tzaros; Pink Robin, Chris Tzaros; Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Alex Vargo; Wombat, Naturalist Journeys Stock; Forty-spotted Pardalote, Alfred Schult.