

Tasmania's Endemic Birds & Mammals

With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

February 1 – 10, 2020

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Tour Summary

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

\$4790 from Hobart

Arrival Airport is Hobart International (HBA)

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

Join Naturalist Journeys, in partnership with Inala Nature Tours, on this exciting trip to Tasmania. 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.

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

contact our office.

Accommodations at the Hobart Hotel (D)

Itinerary

Sat., Feb. 1 Arrive 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 (please see notes at the end of this itinerary) and we meet at the hotel at 6:30 PM for a brief orientation and welcome dinner. Please note that no activities have been planned for today but the tour has been designed to start on a Saturday to afford the opportunity for you to visit the Salamanca market. If you plan to arrive early and would like advice on other options for the day, please do

Sun., Feb. 2 Hobart Reserves & Drive to Eaglehawk Neck

Today we begin our explorations 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 at Hotel on Tasman Peninsula (B,L,D)

Mon., Feb. 3 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 and Wandering, Black-browed, Shy, Southern Royal, Campbell, and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross 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-plus species possible in these waters, there is bound to be something new for everyone. Mammals we may encounter include Australian Fur Seal, Humpback Whale, and Bottlenose Dolphin. There is also a chance to visit some nearby geological formations and if time permits, we explore Tasman National Park before returning to our hotel.

Accommodations at Hotel on Tasman Peninsula (B,L,D)

Tues., Feb. 4

Orange-bellied Parrot Excursion | Flight to South West Wilderness

We depart early this morning to travel back to Hobart. We leave civilisation 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 less than 50 individuals 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 these mammals once had a healthy distribution in south-eastern Australia but are now rare on the mainland, though 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 at Hobart Hotel (B,L,D)

Wed., Feb. 5 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 where one can 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.

Accommodations in cottages near and at Inala, South Bruny Island (B,L,D)

Thurs., Feb. 6 Bruny Island

Today we have a full day to explore Bruny Island. We start the day birding at 'Inala', a privately owned 1,500-acre wildlife sanctuary that is home to all 12 Tasmanian endemic bird species, including one of the largest known colonies of endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote. Strong-billed, Yellow-throated and Black-headed Honeyeaters, Dusky Robin, and Green Rosella are also regulars here. Several hides and platforms have also been built around the property that provide close views of some very special species, including a variety of raptors. At this time of year, we can expect to see the endangered white color morph of Grey Goshawk, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Brown Goshawk, Brown Falcon, and if we are lucky, Wedge-tailed Eagle. We also visit a variety of habitats on the island, from coastal beaches for Hooded Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, and Kelp Gull, to rainforest areas in search of Pink Robin and the endemic Scrubtit, Tasmanian Scrubwren, and Tasmanian Thornbill. Tonight, we take an evening drive in search of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials. We are likely to see some species that are now restricted to Tasmania, including Eastern Quoll (a relative of the Tasmanian Devil) and Tasmanian Pademelon. Bennett's Wallaby and Brush-tailed Possum are also common here and rare golden/white colour morphs of both these species can be found here. If we are lucky, we may also see Long-nosed Potoroo and some nocturnal birds like Tawny Frogmouth and Tasmanian Boobook.

Accommodations in cottages at and near Inala, South Bruny Island (B,L,D)

Fri., Feb. 7 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 in the Mount Field/New Norfolk area (B,L,D)

Sat., Feb. 8 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. We arrive at our accommodation near the National Park in the late afternoon. This accommodation has been chosen as it offers a chance at 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 Devil. Here the owner places meat down for the devils at dusk and, with any luck, they come in to feed after dark. Spotted-tailed Quoll also come to the verandas to feed and this is an excellent opportunity to view and photograph these elusive creatures.

Accommodation at a Lodge near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Sun., Feb. 9 Cradle Mountain Area

Today we have a full day to explore the area around Cradle Mountain and parts of northern Tasmania. This should provide a good chance to see more of Tasmania's endemic bird species that we may have missed previously, such as Black Currawong and Yellow Wattlebird. In addition to the great birding we can view endemic Tasmanian rainforest flora with ancient Gondwanan connections 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. We also have a good chance of viewing Platypus, one of Australia's most bizarre mammals. We return to our small lodge for another opportunity to view Tasmanian Devil and

Spotted-tailed Quoll from our cabins.

Accommodation at a Lodge near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Mon., Feb. 10 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 several wetland species including Purple Swamphen, Australian Shelduck, Black-fronted Dotterel, and Little Grassbird. Please note that flights from Launceston should be made from around 13:00 as the guide delivers those clients there around midday. The guide then travels back to Hobart so we can also take you to the Hobart airport around 15:00 for flights from 16:00 onwards for domestic flights and from 17:00 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 6:30 PM meeting and dinner on February 1. 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 February 10.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the journey is **\$4790* DBL / \$5480* 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). 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).

**Price is based on exchange rate from July 2019. Subject to change if there is more than a 5% increase.*

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

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; Campbell's Albatross, P. Brooks; Forty-spotted Pardalote, Alfred Schult; Tasmanian Devil by R. Lewis; Platypus by Cat Davidson.



Guide Cat Davidson

Before Inala, Cat worked in Lamington National Park in lush subtropical Queensland as a bird guide and prior to that as a war and wildlife tour guide in the remote and windswept Falkland Islands. Cat has travelled widely and has a passionate and diverse background in nature guiding. She also has a strong grounding and love for Botany, being used as unpaid labour in her parents Garden Nursery in Scotland from a very young age. Initially coming down to speak at the Bruny Bird Festival, Cat was immediately smitten by the island and has now moved here with her partner to continue to soak up the magic.