

Tasmanian East Coast Experience

Please do read this information document - it'll help you pack, help you get the most out of this safari tour, and help answer any questions you may already have.

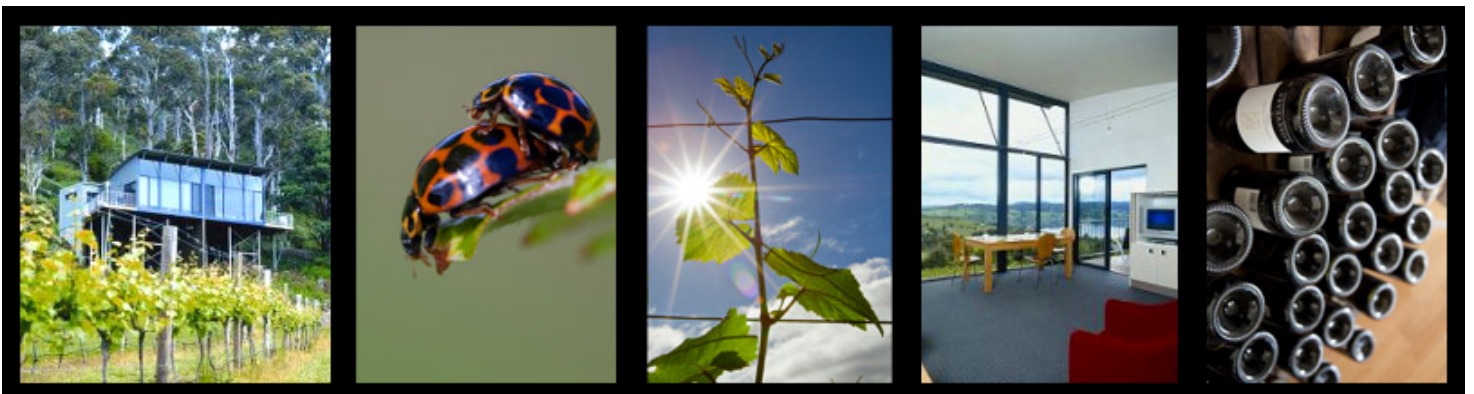
Mobile Phone Reception on the East Coast of Tasmania: In the major cities of Hobart and Launceston you'll be able to get reception with most mobile phone carriers, however on the east coast itself where we'll be spending the bulk of our time, the best (and in most cases only) phone coverage is **Telstra**. If you need to be contactable we suggest you buy a Telstra pre-paid sim card - they are only \$2 (purchase from Australia Post outlets or Telstra shops) and you can stick on either \$30, \$40 or \$50 initial credit. Bring and use your normal sim card until we've all found each other in Launceston. Remember you're on holiday though - it might be nice to be uncontactable!

Emergency Communications – Jess and I will have Telstra sim cards in our phones after we leave Launceston and should have reception for most of the journey, however just in case, we will bring a satellite phone for emergencies. Jess and I are both wilderness trained first aiders and have an extensive first aid kit.

Medical Information – This is important - we have included a medical information form that you must fill in. Now, Jess and I don't actually mind what medication you take, but we do need this information on hand to present hospital staff should you be taken ill or have an accident – such information could then save your life.

Insurance – Chris Bray Photography is not liable for any damage to you or your camera gear. We strongly advise you to take out some kind of travellers insurance for the week. Talk to your local travel agency.

Airport or city pick up from Launceston: On Monday the 14th of March, **from 2:00 PM onwards** we will have our safari minibus and can collect you either from the airport, or - if you're on an earlier flight and have made your way into town – we can pick you up from within Launceston itself, and drive you out to our accommodation at the Rosevears Vineyard Eco Retreat. **Please email jess@chrisbray.net your flight details**, just so we some idea when to expect you.



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Airport drop-off at Hobart: On the last day of the course, Saturday the 20th of February, the morning is set aside for an amazing cooked breakfast and a final slide show / debrief. We can take you to the airport at any time that suits you, however, we've got the accommodation until midday, and the vibrant, colourful Saturday Salamanca markets will be in full swing by then in town and we'll drive those of you who are left down to the markets where we will say good bye. We will happily do **airport transfers for you in the safari minibus anytime up until 5:30 PM**. If you're planning on spending a few extra days in Hobart (might be nice?!) then we can drop you at your Hobart accommodation instead. Easy.

Itinerary Changes: Obviously the **exact itinerary may be shuffled** around and tweaked due to weather, but you can rest assured that we'll be working flat-out to get you to all the best places, at the best times, for the best photos possible. There will be no refunds due to poor weather or similar changes forced upon us by factors outside our control.

Food and Drink: All **food is provided**, and dinners will usually be accompanied by a complementary glass of Tasmanian wine or beer, however, additional alcohol must be purchased at your own expense.

Accommodation Arrangements: Accommodation arrangements vary for each location, with different numbers of cottages and rooms, however these provide **mostly twin-share accommodation**, so you will be sharing some bedrooms (but not beds, unless couples would like to - haha!).

Physical Activity & Fitness: There won't be any strenuous hiking, but a **reasonable level of mobility** will be required to find the best photography spot amongst those orange boulders and to climb into the helicopter and things like that. The walks to the fossil and painted cliffs on Maria Island involve an easy path walk but over a distance of several km, however if you'd prefer to take photos near the historic sites around the ferry wharf while the others go walking, there'll be plenty to keep your camera busy so don't worry about that.

Price does not include flights from your home town into Launceston, nor your flight back home from Hobart.

Dietary Requirements: Clearly an appreciation for fresh seafood heightens this experience, but rest assured we can cater for non seafood eaters and vegetarians – just let us know in advance by filling in your medical form!



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Things to Bring: Rain coat (what you prepare for won't happen!), sturdy comfortable closed-in walking shoes, head torch (comes in handy when your shooting in the dark), sunscreen, sunnies, personal medication (if applicable), camera gear, etc. In terms of clothes, it's really up to you, but keep it comfortable and practical – giving you heaps of mobility to clamber over rocks, crouch or even lay down for those cool angle shots etc. This is a practical photography safari - we're going out there to take photos, not to be seen. So honestly I wouldn't pack any fancy gear for evening meals, simply because on the occasions where we do eat out, there may not be time to get changed into such clothes anyway. Tasmanian weather is notoriously varied – so although it is summer, pack some warmer clothes too. Remember less clothes means more camera gear, so don't go overboard, ladies! Ha ha.

Camera Gear Stuff: Bring whatever you want (whatever you can carry, more to the point), but here's a few things not to forget: Your digital SLR camera (we can lend you one of our Canon 450D's if you'd like, let us know in advance), a happy-snap compact camera (if you have one), spare batteries and plenty of memory cards, camera charging equipment, your camera's user manual (for the moments when you just can't find that function button), tripod (again, we can loan you one of ours if you request it early), snap-lock bags (easy way to keep stuff dry!), camera cleaning equipment (don't worry if you don't have any), a camera flash (if your camera doesn't have an inbuilt flash), polarizing and other filters can be fun (remember all your lenses should have a UV protective filter on them anyway), whatever lenses you decide to bring (Don't forget, for those of you with cannon camera DSLR's you will be able to borrow one of the four awesome 100mm macro lenses and one of the four wide angle lenses!), a camera backpack/daypack – something big enough to carry all your camera gear in for the day as well as perhaps a rain jacket and lunch. Before you pack, take a photo of an empty blue sky and check if there's any little black specks on the photo – if there are then your camera's sensor is a bit dirty and you might like to clean it (or take it to a camera shop and have it cleaned) so that you don't have those marks on all your photos from the trip!



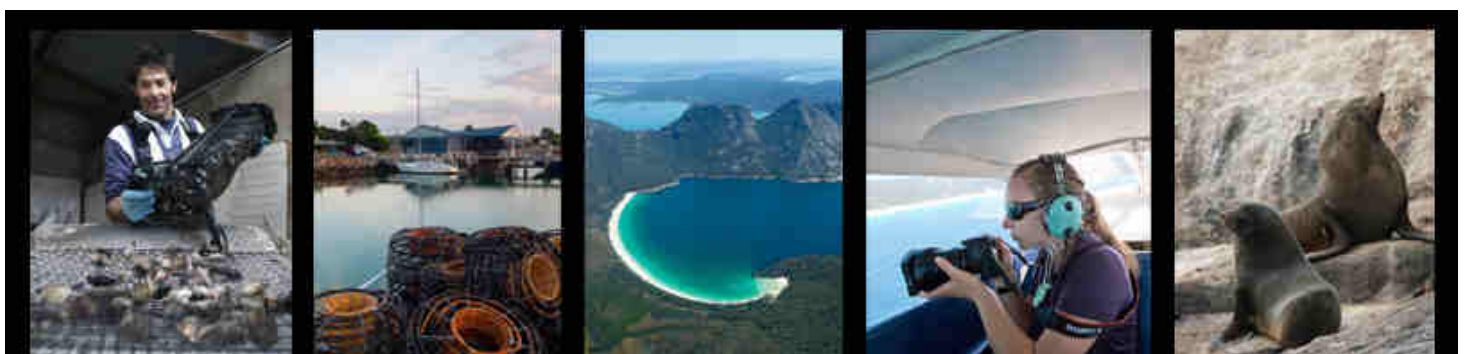
Day by Day Itinerary

Monday 14 March 2011

We'll pick you up in our safari minibus from Launceston airport or the town itself from 2:00 onwards, and chauffeur you out to our wonderfully modern and secluded retreat accommodation at Rosevears vineyard perched above endless rows of grape vines down towards the Tamar Valley. Here you can chill-out for the afternoon as we wait for each of our photographers to arrive on various flights from around the country, until we all come together at 6PM for a casual evening slideshow where we'll show you what's in store over the next 4 ½ days, answer any questions, give you some tips and advice and go over all our camera gear before a welcome BBQ dinner at 8:00, all restaurant catered with gourmet steak, trout and more out on the picturesque vineyard lawn. After the chatter dies down, we'll head off to bed to get some decent sleep (if you're able - you will be pretty excited!), ready for ...

Tuesday 15th March 2011

Wake up to the golden sun pouring over the vineyard and in through your ceiling-to-floor glass fronted accommodation, and enjoy a selection of freshly baked croissants, ham, cheese and tomato Pita melts, cereal, yoghurt etc – your choice! We've then been granted special access to wander through the vineyard and take some great shots – before heading into their restaurant to enjoy morning tea on the balcony followed by a wine tasting – but don't worry, we'll be doing the driving then onwards to the spectacular Lilydale Falls! Here we'll experiment for a leisurely hr or so with those amazing flowing waterfall shots framed by towering tree-ferns, have our catered picnic lunch and continue our journey east to Binalong Bay – the gateway to the Bay of Fires! Wait till you see our two cottages (see above!) overlooking the white sands and turquoise waters of the Bay of Fires – here we'll unwind with a snack or two during a bit of a review/prep slideshow, and when the sun slides lower, we'll photograph the southern corner of the bay with its orange lichen covered rocks before coming back to our cottages to indulge ourselves with our own classic east-coast seafood dinner of prawns, huge fresh pacific oysters, crayfish, Tassie wine etc. I'm salivating already, just at the photo opportunities of the food itself! An evening photo review might be in order before we retire, ready for...



Wednesday 16th March 2011

An early start today – we'll drive you all up to the north end of the bay (or those energetic ones can walk along the beach) and have you poised behind your tripods ready for the dawn lighting to splash across the classic 'Bay of Fires' scene of burning orange rocks quenched by the azure water! It's just amazing. By the time we head back to our private cottages again, you'll be ready for another fantastic breakfast, before the tranquility ceases and the adventure begins as our helicopter (that we've chartered all the way from Launceston) lands just behind our cottages, literally removes its doors (to give us unbeatable photography without smudgy windows!) and you climb in, three per trip, to embark on a 20 min photography dream flight along the Bay of Fires and back shooting amazing aerial views! Hang on tight, it'll be windy! All that adrenalin will make us hungry so we'll enjoy a hearty lunch back at our cabins, after which we'll chill-out and review our morning shots and have a bit of a photography tutorial on using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom. After this, some careful navigation and gravel driving should lead us to the secluded Beerbarrel Beach for evening lighting which is an ideal landscape location! When night eventually bleeds the colour from the scene, we'll head back to our Bay of Fire cottages – but be ready to spotlight a wallaby on the drive home if you're still awake!

Thursday 17th Marc 2011

You guessed it – another early start! Before you know it we'll be munching our fresh bakery breakfast, bleary-eyed but with fresh coffee in hand to cope, down at the wharf at St Helens to try our hand at capturing photos of the crayfish boats in the lovely morning lighting, and the squabbling seagulls. Here we bid Bay of Fires farewell and drive down to the Freycinet Peninsula, stopping over to do the tourist thing and try and get a shot of the Bicheno blow-hole erupting! The jewel of Freycinet is of course the world-famous Wineglass Bay, and the only way to fully appreciate its half-moon curve is... from the air! We've chartered a light plane for a few hours and mapped a route that will enable us all to fly out over the Friendly Beaches and around to Wineglass Bay. Two awesome cottages side by side at Coles Bay are ours, and after lunch we'll board our private charter boat that'll take us on the hunt for wildlife! Our local expert will take us out to the incredible Schouten Island where fur seals haul-out, and back along the peninsula to some sea eagles nests and more! Last time we ran this safari, we encountered several hundred dolphins too, so you never know what we might find so keep your cameras ready! You memory cards will all be full by nightfall and we'll head back to a catered dinner and sleep back at our cottages. Anyone who wants to stay up and take some star photos with me, and practice some painting with light is more than welcome!

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Friday 18th March 2011

You can sleep in until (just) after the sun gets up today, as after breakfast we're heading down the coast and catching the ferry out to another must-photograph-location for the day: Maria Island. On this former penal settlement (now a car-free national park packed with wildlife and quiet hiking trails) we'll wander down to the strikingly coloured 'Painted Cliffs' and up to the Fossil Cliffs. There'll still be time after our picnic lunch to shoot some of the old convict houses and hopefully a wombat or three before the ferry takes us back to the mainland, and now thoroughly worn out you can all fall asleep in the safari minivan as we head down to our enormous mansion overlooking Hobart. After unpacking and chillaxing for a bit, let's then head to Salamanca for some evening reflections at Constitution dock, and wind up at the renowned Ball and Chain restaurant for a fitting finale feast. There's always the option of some night shots of the city for those with any energy, before we all collapse into bed back at the house.

Saturday 19th Feb 2010

Go on, sleep in – you deserve it! Out late, leisurely breakfast will be specially catered, and with a late-check-out, we can spend the morning reviewing our photos and answering any last questions in the quiet luxury of our own manor. The lure of the vibrant Salamanca markets will at last coax us out for some final photographs before we offer you airport transfers in our safari mini bus to meet whatever plane you have booked home today, or to your own accommodation if you're going to hang out in Hobart for a few days, which is always a treat!

