

# Southern Australia

## Wildlife of Tasmania and Queensland

September 27 to October 10, 2026



Tasmanian Devil  
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

## SAFARI OVERVIEW

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Embark on a wildlife expedition through **Southern Australia**, exploring the pristine landscapes of **Tasmania and Queensland**. Traverse **Cradle Mountain's** rugged terrain, witness nocturnal **Tasmanian devils**, and discover the untouched rainforests of **Mount Field National Park**. Experience the biodiversity of **Bruny Island**, home to rare **endemic bird species** and breathtaking coastal scenery. Observe Tasmania's nocturnal wonders, spotting eastern quolls, little penguins, and the elusive Tasmanian devil on guided night excursions. Wander through a tranquil forest reserve and along crystal-clear streams ideal for platypus spotting in their natural habitat. Visit Narawntapu National Park for close-up views of **wombats, wallabies, and pademelons**.

In **Queensland's Lamington National Park**, search for colorful **parrots, lyrebirds**, and marsupials in lush rainforests. Spot vibrant bird species like the charming **Superb Fairy Wren** and the mesmerizing **Paradise Riflebird**. Designed for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers, this small-group adventure offers unparalleled access to Australia's most iconic natural wonders. This trip is carefully designed to immerse you in some of Australia's most incredible landscapes and wildlife hotspots.

### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Explore Diverse Ecosystems:** From Tasmania's alpine landscapes to Queensland's tropical rainforests, experience Australia's most unique wildlife habitats.
- **Unforgettable Wildlife Encounters:** Spot endemic birds like the Pink Robin and Albert's Lyrebird, observe nocturnal creatures such as Tasmanian devils, eastern quolls, and encounter iconic mammals like wombats, wallabies, echidnas, and pademelons.

- **Expert-Led Small-Group Safari:** Experience an intimate, well-paced journey with personalized access to Australia’s stunning landscapes and unique wildlife.
- **Immersive Birding & Night Safaris:** Spot endemic birds by day and venture out at night to observe marsupials such as quolls and bandicoots.
- **Exclusive Locations:** Discover Bruny Island, Cradle Mountain, and Lamington National Park with expert guides, ensuring deeper insights into these extraordinary ecosystems.

**DAYS:** 14, including estimated travel time.

**GROUP SIZE:** 8.

**COST:** \$8,200 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight between Devonport and Brisbane), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Sep 27–28	<b>Travel to Hobart, Tasmania from home or our <a href="#">Kangaroo Island Extension</a>.</b>		
Sep 29	<b>Hobart arrival and exploration.</b> Arrive in Hobart. Explore several reserves in the Hobart Area, with chances to see endemic species.	The Old Woolstore Hotel	L, D
Sep 30	<b>Travel to Bruny Island.</b> Travel to Bruny Island – home to many endemic species and mammals.	Cottages, Bruny Island	B, L, D
Oct 1	<b>Sea Cruise and Guided Walks.</b> Explore Bruny Island’s seabirds and nocturnal mammals.		B, L, D
Oct 2	<b>Mount Field National Park.</b> Travel to Mount Field National Park to experience the wildlife in fern gullies, alpine heathland, and temperate rainforest.	Cottages, Hamilton	B, L, D
Oct 3–4	<b>Cradle Mountain Endemics.</b> Travel to northern Tasmania and search Cradle Mountain’s endemic birds, plants, and nocturnal animals in hopes of spotting Tasmanian devils.	Cradle Mountain Lodge, Cradle Mountain	B, L, D
Oct 5	<b>Wildlife Safari in Narawntapu.</b> Travel to the northern Tasmania coastline for its rarer mammals at Narawntapu National Park, known as the Serengeti of Tasmania.	Hawley House, Hawley Beach	B, L, D
Oct 6–8	<b>Lamington National Park Exploration.</b> Travel to Queensland and explore Lamington National Park, home to a rich assemblage of birds and mammals.	O’Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat, Canungra	B, L, D
Oct 9	<b>Return to Brisbane and fly home.</b>		B
Oct 10	<b>Arrive home.</b>		

## ENHANCE YOUR TRIP

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- Begin your journey early on our [Kangaroo Island](#) extension from September 22 to 28, 2026. You'll spend two and a half days exploring Kangaroo Island, a wildlife sanctuary off South Australia's eastern coast known for its rugged shorelines, sandy beaches, rolling farmland, and untouched wilderness. This extension offers immersive opportunities to experience its preserved natural beauty, spot unique wildlife like koalas, Tammar wallabies, Australian sea lions, and the rare Glossy Black Cockatoo, and visit conservation parks, historic sites, and coastal landscapes.

## LEADERS

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Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. This trip will have two leaders who will provide a range of expertise for your trip. Tracey-Ann will be guiding in Tasmania, while Steve will lead the Queensland portion of the tour, allowing each to share their deep regional knowledge where it matters most.



### **Tracey-Ann Hooley (Tasmania)**

She is a Tasmanian-born biologist and passionate bird guide whose career has taken her from studying parrots in the Andean cloud forest to curating exhibitions and leading biodiversity programs at Museums Victoria. With a deep love for Tasmania's wild landscapes and strong ties to the Southern Ocean, she now splits her time between home and guiding ornithological expeditions in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic. She brings joy, curiosity, and a deep ecological understanding to every tour, aiming to help others find moments of awe and connection in nature.



### **Jane Blackwood (Queensland)**

Based in the Tablelands of North Queensland, she has spent much of her career as a land manager and ranger working with Traditional Owners across northern Australia, from the Kimberley to the Top End, Central Australia, and Far North Queensland. Formally trained in ecology at the University of Queensland and James Cook University, she has also gained hands-on knowledge of the region's landscapes, seasons, and wildlife from Indigenous Elders. A lifelong birdwatcher, she developed her passion for birds on family camping trips and has contributed to research projects such as studying Arctic Terns in the Shetland Islands. Today, she continues to share this knowledge through bird monitoring programs and native plant identification work on Indigenous Protected Areas.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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**Sep 27–28 ~ Travel to Hobart, Tasmania** from home or our [Kangaroo Island](#) extension.

Begin your journey to **Southern Australia**, arriving in Hobart, Tasmania, the gateway to some of the most biodiverse landscapes in Australia.



### Sep 29 ~ Arrival & Exploration of Hobart Reserves

Today you'll begin your explorations of spectacular Tasmania by visiting several reserves in the Hobart area including kunanyi/Mount Wellington. This mountain affords spectacular views of the city and surrounding landscape on a clear day. Here you'll also take a walk through a glade with towering tree ferns where you'll have your first chance to see the endemic and rather shy **Scrubtit** as well as **Tasmanian Scrubwren** and the stunning **Pink Robin**. Further endemic highlights you will look for today include **Green Rosella**, **Tasmanian Native Hen**, **Black Currawong** and **Yellow Wattlebird**.



Little Penguin

© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

### Sep 30 ~ Hobart to Bruny Island

This morning, you'll travel to Bruny Island, 40km south of Hobart, separated from Tasmania by the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The 15-minute ferry crossing often features sightings of **Little Penguins or dolphins**. At 'Inala,' a 1,500-acre wildlife sanctuary, you'll explore habitats for all 12 Tasmanian endemic bird species, including the endangered **Forty-spotted Pardalote**, **Strong-billed**, **Yellow-throated**, and **Black-headed Honeyeaters**, **Dusky Robin**, and **Green Rosella**. Observation hides provide perfect vantage points for viewing and photographing raptors, and you may spot the striking white morph Grey Goshawk. Likely mammal sightings include **Red-necked (Bennett's) Wallaby** and **Tasmanian Pademelon**, alongside unique flora, including **Gondwanan relics**.

In the afternoon, you'll visit Bruny's southern coastline to see Australia's second-oldest lighthouse and search for species like **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**, **Olive Whistler**, and **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**. There's also a chance to spot the **Tasmanian Short-beaked Echidna** subspecies. After dinner, depending on weather conditions, we will visit the **Short-tailed Shearwater** (and occasional Little Penguin) colony to view these species at their burrows and will take an evening drive in search of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials

### Oct 1 ~ Bruny Island Marine Safari & Seabird Viewing

Set out on an exhilarating wilderness cruise along **Bruny's** rugged southern coastline, where towering sea cliffs and caves provide sanctuary for **Black-faced Cormorants**, **Shy Albatross**, and Australian Fur Seals. Keep an eye out for **dolphins**, **humpback whales**, and **southern right whales** as they migrate through the region. Later, venture into Adventure Bay, where **Hooded Plovers** nest along the sandy shores. A highlight will be searching for Bruny's rare "white wallabies," an almost albino form of Bennett's Wallaby. End the day with a guided night safari, offering unparalleled opportunities to observe **brushtail possums**, **Tawny Frogmouths**, Tasmanian pademelons, eastern quolls (a relative of the Tasmanian devil), Bennett's wallabies, and other nocturnal creatures.



Pink Robin

© Chris Tzaros



### Oct 2 ~ Mount Field National Park

Travel inland to **Mount Field National Park**, one of **Tasmania's** most diverse natural reserves, featuring lush temperate rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and alpine meadows. Take a guided walk through giant eucalyptus forests, where you'll marvel at some of the tallest trees in the Southern Hemisphere. Visit Russell Falls, a multi-tiered waterfall surrounded by dense ferns, before searching for the **elusive platypus** in the park's crystal-clear streams. In the evening, relax at a charming wilderness lodge nestled near the park's ancient Gondwanan rainforests.



Platypus  
© Cat Davidson

### Oct 3–4 ~ Cradle Mountain

Head north to **Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park**, a **UNESCO-listed wilderness area** known for its dramatic alpine scenery, ancient glacial lakes, and dense beech forests. Spend two days exploring **Tasmania's** most iconic wildlife sanctuary, where you'll have the chance to encounter **wombats** grazing in open meadows, **Black Currawongs** soaring above the peaks, and **echidnas** burrowing through the undergrowth. As night falls, join a special nocturnal safari in search of **Tasmanian devils**, **spotted-tailed quolls**, and **eastern-barred bandicoots**, offering a rare glimpse into the island's secretive predators.

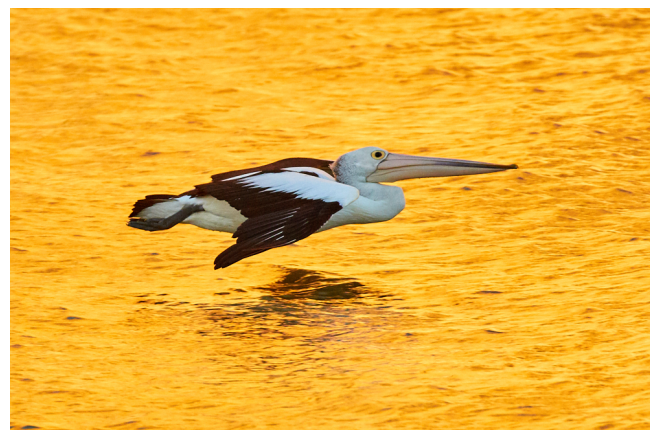
On your second day at **Cradle Mountain** you will continue to search for some of **Tasmania's endemic bird species**. This area also offers a good chance to spot the common wombat. You'll enjoy discovering fascinating plant species, including ancient rainforest varieties and Gondwanan relics such as Pencil and King Billy Pines, Myrtle, and the famous Fagus (*Nothofagus gunnii*), Tasmania's only deciduous tree. You'll also visit the replica of "Waldheim," the home of Austrian Gustav Weindorfer, whose passion for the area inspired the creation of the national park. Tonight, you'll return to the National Park, hoping to spot a **Tasmanian devil** or **spotted-tailed quoll**.



Common Wombat  
© Cat Davidson

### Oct 5 ~ Cradle Mountain to northern Tasmanian coast

This morning, you will visit a Wildlife Sanctuary where some of Tasmania's rarer mammal species can be seen, including Tasmanian devil, quolls and wombats "up close and personal". Visit a secluded reserve where you'll have another chance to spot the elusive **platypus**, a highlight of Tasmania's unique wildlife offerings. After you will journey to **Narawntapu National Park**, a hidden gem of Tasmania's northern coastline, often referred



Australian Pelican  
© Cindy Marple

to as the "Serengeti of Tasmania" due to its incredible density of marsupials. Traverse expansive grasslands, coastal lagoons, and eucalyptus woodlands, encountering **Forester kangaroos**, **Red-necked wallabies**, and **Tasmanian pademelons** grazing in the wild.

You will then travel to your B&B at nearby Hawley Beach where we will enjoy a gourmet home-cooked dinner. After dinner, there will be another optional night walk to search for southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo.

**Oct 6–8 ~ Lamington National Park**

Fly to **Queensland** and immerse yourself in the World Heritage-listed rainforests of Lamington National Park, one of **Australia’s** most renowned birding destinations. Explore towering subtropical forests, lush fern gullies, and misty waterfalls, home to over 200 bird species, including the striking **Paradise Riflebird**, **Albert’s Lyrebird**, and **Regent Bowerbird**. Walk beneath ancient fig trees while keeping an eye out for **Australian Brush-turkeys**, **Noisy Pittas**, and **Logrunners**. In the evenings, enjoy guided night walks, where you may encounter greater gliders, ringtail possums, and sugar gliders gliding through the canopy.



Regent Bowerbird  
© Cat Davidson

**Oct 9 ~ Depart for home**

Enjoy a final morning walk through Lamington’s pristine rainforests, where early risers may be rewarded with sightings of the **Superb Fairy-wren**, **Wonga Pigeon**, and **red-legged pademelon**. After breakfast, transfer to Brisbane Airport, concluding your Southern Australia wildlife expedition.

**Oct 10 ~ Arrive home**

Return home, bringing with you lasting memories of Australia’s unique wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and once-in-a-lifetime wildlife encounters.

**COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)**

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**Cost**

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$8,200
Single Supplement	\$1,360

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

## Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Final	April 1, 2026	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

## Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

## Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Accommodations (double occupancy) for the nights of September 29 through October 8.
- Meals from lunch on September 29 through breakfast on October 9, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Transfers on October 9 between O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and the Brisbane Airport.

## Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. The one-way flight between Devonport and Brisbane will be added to your trip balance based on rates closer to trip departure, but the approximate cost is \$300.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Breakfast on September 29 and lunch and dinner on October 9.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Transfers on September 29 between the Hobart Airport and The Old Woolstore Hotel.
- Gratuities – tipping is not required or expected in Australia, and prices usually include goods and services tax (GST), which is equivalent to VAT. However, if you feel that your guides, a staff member, or any service provider has done an outstanding job or exceeded your expectations, it is appropriate to give them a tip in appreciation. A recommended amount is approximately 10% of a meal/service charge and AU\$10-20 per day for a tour guide.
- Optional [trip cancellation insurance](#).
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.



Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Email: [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com)

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

Temperatures vary depending on the location. Lows can be about 29 to 55°F (-1 to 12°C) and highs can be about 57 to 75°F (13 to 23°C). Rain is possible.

### Fitness Level

You need to be able to get in and out of the vehicle and boat on the Bruny Island cruise. You'll take short walks during stops while driving between destinations. You'll take longer walks at Cradle Mountain on uneven ground, but if you prefer shorter walks, we will make them available. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

### Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

#### Flights you book

- Arrive in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (HBA) by 10:00am on September 29.
- Depart from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (BNE) after 1:00pm on October 9.

#### Flights we book

- The one-way flight from Devonport to Brisbane; we'll add the flight cost to your final trip balance.
- **If you are joining from our [Kangaroo Island Extension](#)**, the one-way flight from Kingscote Airport to Hobart, Tasmania; we'll add the flight cost to your final trip balance. See the *Flights* section in its itinerary for arrival information.

### Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

### Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation for [Australia](#).**
- **Cheesemans' Trips are [Carbon Neutral](#).**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.