Southern Australia

Australia's Wild Heart: Tasmania and Queensland

October 19 to 29, 2028



Bruny Island Wallaby

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Join us for this unforgettable small-group wildlife expedition through Southern Australia, exploring the pristine landscapes of Tasmania and Queensland. Traverse the rugged terrain of Cradle Mountain, discover the lush, untouched rainforests of Mount Field National Park, and experience the rich biodiversity of Bruny Island, home to rare endemic birds and breathtaking coastal scenery. On guided night excursions, observe Tasmania's remarkable nocturnal wildlife, including Eastern Quolls, Little Penguins, and the elusive Tasmanian Devil, then wander through tranquil forest reserves and along crystal-clear streams ideal for spotting platypus in their natural habitat, before visiting Narawntapu National Park for close-up encounters with wombats, wallabies, and pademelons. In Queensland, explore the World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, where colorful parrots, lyrebirds, and marsupials abound, and watch for vibrant species such as the charming Superb Fairy-wren and the striking Paradise Riflebird. Designed for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers, this intimate adventure offers unparalleled access to Australia's iconic landscapes and extraordinary wildlife.

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: 11.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: $9,900 to $11,200 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Oct 19	**Hobart arrival and exploration.** Arrive in Hobart. Explore several reserves in the Hobart Area, with chances to see endemic species.	The Old Woolstore Hotel	L, D
Oct 20	**Travel to Bruny Island.** Travel to Bruny Island – home to many endemic species and mammals.	Cottages, Bruny Island	B, L, D
Oct 21	**Sea Cruise and Guided Walks.** Explore Bruny Island's seabirds and nocturnal mammals.		B, L, D
Oct 22	**Mount Field National Park.** Travel to Mount Field National Park to experience the wildlife in fern gullies, alpine heathland, and temperate rainforest.	Cottages, Hamilton	B, L, D
Oct 23–24	**Cradle Mountain Endemics.** Travel to northern Tasmania and search for Cradle Mountain's endemic birds, plants, and nocturnal animals including Tasmanian devils.	Cradle Mountain Lodge, Cradle Mountain	B, L, D
Oct 25	**Wildlife Safari in Narawntapu.** 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 26–28	**Lamington National Park Exploration.** Journey 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 29	**Return to Brisbane and fly home.**		B

LEADERS

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 Jane 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

Oct 19 ~ Arrival & Exploration of Hobart Reserves
Today you will begin your exploration of Tasmania with visits to several reserves around Hobart, including Kunanyi/Mount Wellington. On clear days, the summit offers sweeping views across Hobart and the surrounding landscapes. You will also enjoy a walk through a fern-filled glade with towering tree ferns, where you may have your first opportunity to spot the endemic and elusive Scrubtit, along with Tasmanian Scrubwren and the striking Pink Robin. Other endemic highlights you will be on the lookout for include Green Rosella, Tasmanian Native Hen, Black Currawong, and Yellow Wattlebird.



Pink Robin
© Chris Tzaros

Oct 20 ~ Hobart to Bruny Island
This morning you will travel to Bruny Island, located 40 km south of Hobart and separated from the Tasmanian mainland by the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The ferry crossing takes approximately 15 minutes, and on occasion, Little Penguins or dolphins can be seen alongside. Your first stop will be 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 the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote. Regular visitors to the sanctuary include Strong-billed, Yellow-throated, and Black-headed Honeyeaters, Dusky Robin, and Green Rosella. Several hides and observation platforms provide excellent close-up views of some very special species, including a variety of raptors. With luck, you may even encounter the striking white morph Grey Goshawks that reside here. Mammal highlights at Inala typically include Red-necked (Bennett's) Wallaby and Tasmanian Pademelon. You will also have the opportunity to appreciate the fascinating flora of the area, including endemic Tasmanian species and relics dating back to the ancient Gondwanan supercontinent.



Grey Goshawk

In the afternoon, you will explore Bruny Island's southern coastline, visiting the second oldest lighthouse in Australia and searching for species such as Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Olive Whistler, and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. There is also a chance to encounter the Tasmanian subspecies of Short-beaked Echidna.

After dinner, you will visit a Short-tailed Shearwater colony—and occasionally Little Penguins—to observe these birds at their burrows as night falls.

Oct 21 ~ Bruny Island Marine Safari & Seabird Viewing

This morning, after breakfast, you will join a wilderness cruise along Bruny's southern coastline, offering spectacular coastal scenery and a visit to an Australian fur seal haul-out (weather permitting). The cruise also provides the opportunity to see a variety of seabirds, including albatross (with Shy Albatross being the most common), Black-faced Cormorants, and possibly Common Diving-petrels. You may also encounter cetaceans such as bottlenose and common dolphins, as well as humpback and Southern right whales.



Eastern Quoll
© John Oates

In the afternoon, you will have the chance to explore historic and scenically beautiful Adventure Bay. There may be opportunities for beach walks where Hooded Plovers could be seen, and you will visit a cool temperate rainforest. You will also search for Bruny's rare and famous "white wallabies," an almost albino genetic variation of Bennett's wallaby.

Tonight, you will enjoy another guided nocturnal outing, offering the chance to see a variety of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials, including Tasmanian pademelons, Eastern quolls (a relative of the Tasmanian devil), Bennett's wallabies, and brush-tailed possums, which occasionally occur in a rare golden color form. There is also a good chance of spotting long-nosed potoroo.



Common Wombat
© Cat Davidson

Oct 22 ~ Mount Field National Park
This morning, you will depart Bruny Island and travel to Mount Field National Park. The park offers a remarkable variety of habitats, from fern-filled gullies with waterfalls to alpine heathland and cool temperate rainforest, home to some of the tallest Eucalyptus trees in Australia. Today, you will have a good chance of seeing the unique platypus, one of Australia's fascinating monotremes.

In the late afternoon, you will leave the park and make your way to a nearby farm-stay accommodation, where you will spend the night.

Oct 23–24 ~ Cradle Mountain
In the morning, you will leave the Mount Field area and travel toward the Cradle Mountain region, stopping along the way at points of interest. You will arrive at your accommodation near the National Park in the late afternoon. You will have a full day to explore the Cradle Mountain area, searching for Tasmania's endemic bird species such as the Black Currawong, which is common at higher altitudes. This area is also a good place to spot common wombats. You will have the opportunity to enjoy the unique plant life here, including ancient rainforest species and Gondwanan relics such as Pencil Pines, King Billy Pines, Myrtle, and the famous Fagus (Nothofagus gunnii), Tasmania's only deciduous tree. You will also visit the replica of "Waldheim," the home of Austrian Gustav Weindorfer, whose love of the region inspired the establishment of the national park. Tonight, you will venture back into the National Park in search of nocturnal wildlife, including Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls.



Platypus
© Cat Davidson

Oct 25 ~ 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 up close, including Tasmanian Devils, quolls, and wombats. You will then travel to a reserve that offers another excellent chance of spotting platypus before continuing to Narawntapu National Park. Narawntapu was established as a refuge for the Tasmanian form of the Eastern grey kangaroo, known locally as the Forester

kangaroo, which can often be seen grazing in the late afternoon. The park also features impressive marsupial lawns, well-grazed areas frequented by marsupials, that support some of the highest densities of Tasmanian pademelons and red-necked wallabies in Tasmania, earning it the nickname "the Serengeti of Tasmania." You will then travel to your B&B at nearby Hawley Beach, where you will enjoy a gourmet, home-cooked farewell dinner. After dinner, there will be an optional night walk in search of Southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo.



Long-nosed Potoroo

Oct 26–28 ~ Lamington National Park
Fly to Queensland and immerse yourself in the World Heritage-listed rainforests of Lamington National Park, one of Australia's premier 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 watching for Australian Brush-turkeys, Noisy Pittas, and Logrunners. In the evenings, join guided night walks where you may encounter greater gliders, ringtail possums, and sugar gliders moving through the canopy.

Oct 29 ~ 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**.**

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

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

Group Size	Cost per Person
5-6 travelers	$11,200
7-8 travelers	$9,900
Single Supplement	$1,900

This trip requires a minimum of 5 participants. Final pricing will be confirmed once group size is determined.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	$500
Final	May 12, 2028	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 October 19 through October 28.
- Meals from lunch on October 19 through breakfast on October 29, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Transfer on October 29 between O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and the Brisbane Airport.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, 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.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Breakfast on October 19 and lunch and dinner on October 29.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Transfer on October 19 between the Hobart Airport and The Old Woolstore Hotel.
- Gratuities.
- 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

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.

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate
Weather conditions will vary throughout the itinerary due to changes in latitude, elevation, and proximity to the coast. In Tasmania, including Hobart, Bruny Island, Mount Field, and Cradle Mountain, temperatures are often cool, especially in the mornings and evenings, with lows ranging from about 29 to 45°F (-1 to 7°C) and daytime highs generally between 55 and 70°F (13 to 21°C). Highland areas such as Cradle Mountain can be colder, windier, and subject to rapid weather changes, while coastal locations may feel cool and breezy, particularly during boat excursions. In Queensland's Lamington National Park, conditions are warmer and more humid, with lows around 50 to 55°F (10 to 12°C) and highs of 70 to 75°F (21 to 23°C). Rain is possible at any point during the trip, especially in temperate and subtropical rainforest areas.

Fitness Level
This itinerary is best suited for travelers with a **moderate fitness level** who are comfortable with regular walking and being outdoors for extended periods. Most activities involve leisurely to moderate-paced walks on well-maintained trails, boardwalks, beaches, and uneven natural terrain, typically lasting one to three hours at a time, with plenty of stops for wildlife viewing and photography. There are no strenuous hikes or steep, sustained climbs required, though some areas such as Mount Field, Cradle Mountain, and Lamington National Park may include uneven ground, gentle inclines, steps, or muddy sections. Several nocturnal outings and full days of exploration mean long but rewarding days, so a reasonable level of stamina and balance is important. Overall, this is an active yet accessible wildlife-focused journey, ideal for travelers who enjoy nature walks and don't mind varied terrain, but it does not require advanced hiking experience.

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 October 19.
- Depart from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (BNE) after 1:00pm on October 29.

Flights we book

- The one-way flight from Devonport to Brisbane on October 26; we'll add the flight cost to your final trip balance.

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.