

Tasman Peninsula Sea Kayak & Whale Watch Escape

Four day trip



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Four day trip-three days kayaking & whale watch day

Join us on the Tasman Peninsula for a four day escape combining sea kayaking with a half day cruise in search of migrating whales. The coastline of the Tasman Peninsula is largely covered by national park with spectacular dolerite cliffs, beautiful sandy beaches and sheltered bays, making it an ideal paddling and whale watching destination. Short but spectacular cliff-top hikes will allow us to watch for whales on land and enjoy the fauna and flora of the Peninsula. Our base for three nights is a beachside private lodge built for peace, privacy and comfort. Each evening, our resident biologist will present informative lectures on the local and migratory marine life of the Tasman Peninsula. Enjoy a Tasmanian escape with four wonderful days paddling, whale-watching, hiking and of course, relaxing at our very comfortable lodge.

A Quick Itinerary

B = Breakfast • L = Lunch • D = Dinner

Day 1: Hobart pick up. Paddling Fortescue Bay. Lodge accommodation. L • D

Days 2-3: Paddling the Tasman Peninsula. B • L • D

Day 4: Half day whale watch boat trip plus a cliff top hike. Return to Hobart. B • L

Meeting Place and Time

We'll pick you up from your Hobart accommodation on the morning of Day 1 (usually at 8am, this will be confirmed on your final itinerary) for the two hour drive to Fortescue Bay where we begin the paddle adventure.

Sea Kayaking

Sea kayaking is an activity that any reasonably fit person can participate in and could be compared to brisk walking or cycling. Previous kayaking experience is not a requirement, however it is important to have a sound level of fitness and, most of all, a sense of adventure. The degree of difficulty of the trip **will depend on the weather** we encounter. We ask that all participants feel confident in swimming.

We use single and double sit-in expedition sea kayaks with rudder. The kayaks are stable, easy to paddle and control. They are very forgiving and are suited for beginners to experts. Paddles are Werner Skagit at 220cm length and split for easy adjustment to suit your style. On day one you will be given a thorough briefing on all aspects of sea kayaking techniques with ample time to practice and familiarise yourself with the equipment. We generally limit our group size to a maximum of 10 clients plus two guides.

Other equipment supplied include your pfd (life jacket), one 20 litre dry bag, a set of pogies (paddling mittens) and cagoule, an over-the-head style jacket that has seals on the waist, wrist and neck offering protection from wind and rain.

In general, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the paddling. It's a good idea to begin some regular exercise like walking, jogging, cycling or swimming well before the trip. If you have not paddled before, consider organising some tuition before your trip.

Proposed Itinerary

Due to the unique nature of this area and the variability of weather, there is no fixed route or schedule. The following itinerary is a sample only. Please note that the weather, logistical conditions and group preference will determine the day to day activities. Paddling distances should be seen as an approximate guide only.

Day 1: We start the trip with a morning pick up (around 8am) from your Hobart hotel for the two hour drive to Fortescue Bay, located in the heart of the Tasman National Park. Prior to launching, your guides will help with gear fitting and run through a full kayak safety briefing. We then launch the kayaks and head towards Cape Huoy, one of the highlights of the Three Capes Track. If the weather allows, we can make our way to the base of the Candle Stick, a mecca for rock climbers from around the world and conveniently located beside a seal haul-out. We will pause here while Australian fur seals play in the water around us. Depending on conditions, we can paddle underneath the candlestick to the open sea beyond, where we'll keep a look out for whale activity. Returning to the shelter of the bay, we'll explore hidden coves and enjoy a picnic lunch before a vehicle transfer to our lodge accommodation, The Bolthole Pirates Bay. After settling in and exploring the surrounds, the guides will prepare a gourmet dinner with a focus on local produce. Our resident biologist will present the first of a series of informative lectures with an emphasis on whales of the southern ocean. Paddling distance today is approximately 12-15 km.

L • D / LODGE ACCOMMODATION

Day 2: This morning, provided the weather allows, we launch the kayaks from the shelter of Pirates Bay and experience true ocean paddling as we paddle south past the Tasman Arch and Blowhole. Towering sea cliffs, deep sea caves and abundant marine life are highlights of today's paddle. This excursion is perhaps our best opportunity to view whales from our kayaks as the coastline is a favourite resting spot for migrating humpbacks. Lunch is enjoyed at Bivouac Bay where we can stretch our legs on a hike with great views over the sea cliffs. We meet our vehicle and transfer back to the The Bolthole with time to relax on the large deck looking out to Pirates Bay, Clyde Island and Cape Hauy before dinner and our evening whale tales. Paddling distance today is approximately 15 km.

B • L • D / LODGE ACCOMMODATION

Day 3: Our third day on the Tasman Peninsula begins with a hearty breakfast before heading to Port Arthur. Launching from a nearby cove, we have a unique opportunity to experience the Port Arthur site by kayak before paddling south to sheltered Safety Cove for lunch. After a rest and a swim for the bold, we will round out the afternoon with a return hike towards Mt Brown and Crescent Bay. The hike provides exceptional views southwards over the Tasman Sea and provides fabulous opportunities to witness the annual humpback migration. Your resident marine biologist will accompany the group and provide an in-depth knowledge of whale behaviour. Transfer back to the lodge. Paddling distance today is around 8 kms.

B • L • D / LODGE ACCOMMODATION

Day 4: On our last day on the Peninsula, we leave the kayaks behind for our morning boat trip and an afternoon hike. After a short transfer to Eaglehawk Neck, we join the crew at Wild Ocean Tasmania (WOT) for a 3-4 hour whale spotting trip. Our aim is to travel to the Hippolyte rocks, located 5kms from shore, just a little out of reach of our kayaks, to experience the myriad of wildlife. Our charter boat is a rigid hull inflatable (RIB) with a toilet and comfortable seating. RIB's are perfect for those worried about motion sickness as they are incredibly stable, due to their low centre of gravity and air-filled pontoons. They are fully open, so you get to breathe fresh air at all times and the view is not obstructed. We hope to spot not only whales on our trip, but also dolphins, seals and albatross. After returning to land, we'll have lunch and then stretch our legs with a spectacular cliff-top hike. The trip ends with a transfer back to Hobart and a drop off at your hotel at around 5.30pm.

B • L / END OF TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation

We stay three nights at The Bolthole, a large private house set on a secluded 5.8 acre bush block with coastal forefront and direct access to Pirates Bay. The lodge has five bedrooms; one king bed with ensuite, two rooms with queen beds, one twin bedded room and a bunk room with four single beds. Your trip cost depends on room selection. The lodge has one private ensuite, one full bathroom and two separate toilets (one outside) and an outdoor shower. Linen and bath towels are provided. There's a fully equipped kitchen where your guides will whip up fabulous meals for the group. Single travellers may be asked to share a room. Rooms will be allocated according to preference, group makeup and time of booking.

Meals

Meals are freshly prepared by the guides in the fully equipped kitchen in the lodge. We'll take advantage of the seasonally available local produce including fresh seafood and local cheeses. Breakfasts are a mix of hot and cold, with items such as muesli, fruit salad, scrambled eggs and pancakes on offer. Lunches are picnic-style, with a selection of wraps, crackers, cheese, cold meat and salad. Dinners are prepared with fresh ingredients and varied daily. Dinners may start with fresh local oysters (perhaps with a glass of Tasmanian wine), followed by the main, such as Tasmanian salmon, ending with a delicious dessert.

We are happy to cater for vegetarians and other special dietary requirements. Please write your dietary requirements on your medical form.

Our Resident Biologist

Gary Miller, PhD, Scientist/Naturalist/Guide.

Gary's career spans over 40 years of research since he first studied polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba for his MA in Zoology. After completing his PhD in biology in 1986, he has spent many years studying and observing whales, seals, penguins and seabirds around the world. For 30 years, Gary has split his time between research and guiding tours where he enjoys sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm and experience with people from all over the world. Gary was also the scientific, penguin and Antarctic consultant (and sound recordist) for the popular film, "Happy Feet". Gary is currently a visiting research fellow at the University of Tasmania.

Whale Migration

The Tasman Peninsula hosts migrating whales between May and November. Most Humpback whales pass along the east coast of Tasmania between May and July on their way to give birth in the warm waters of northern Australia, returning south between September to November. A number of juvenile humpbacks may stay in the area for months at a time, giving great opportunities for regular sightings. Southern right whales head north between June and September and return south between September and late October. The Southern right is a magnificent creature, with females weighing up to 80 tonnes and 18 metres long. Both whale species are increasing in numbers since the ban on commercial whaling. Other whales sighted in the Tasman Peninsula include the Sei whale and Killer whale.

The Tasman Peninsula

The Peninsula is connected by a narrow isthmus at Eaglehawk Neck to the Forestier Peninsula, which in turn, is connected to the mainland by East Bay Neck. Only 90 minutes from Hobart, the Peninsula is an area of dramatic beauty and natural diversity and home to the Three Capes Track, a 48km walk that encompasses Cape Hauy, Cape Pillar and stunning views to Cape Raoul. The aboriginal inhabitants of the area, preceding European arrival, are the Pydairrme people. Their territory was what is now known as the Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas. Tasman National Park straddles both peninsulas and contains a spectacular coastal environment including soaring 300 metre high dolerite sea cliffs. The Peninsula is home to a wide range of land and marine animals, including Australian fur seals, penguins, dolphins and migrating whales. It's also home to the endangered swift parrot and many forest-dwelling birds. Endangered wedge-tailed eagles and sea eagles can also be seen overhead. The Tasman Peninsula possesses a large diversity of plant life in its coastal heath and eucalyptus forests, rewarding hikers with a changing landscape.

Climate

The Tasman Peninsula has a cool, temperate climate dominated by the westerly flow of winds that blow across the southern ocean. October to April are the warmest months with air temperatures ranging from as low as 8°C to a comfortable 23°C, although fluctuations above and below these averages are common, often all in the space of a day! The ocean temperatures remain

relatively stable over the course of the year with the temperature averaging between a refreshing 13-17°C from October to April. While rain can occur at any time of year, the summer months are typically dominated by a warm, dry northerly stream of air.

Trip Organisation

The Tasman Peninsula has a broad range of paddling options from tranquil, sheltered bays to towering cliffs exposed to the Southern Ocean. The trip is designed to take advantage of the best paddling opportunity on any given day. As such there is no predetermined itinerary and the exact amount of time paddling or distance covered on any trip or outing will vary. The guides are experts at choosing the best itineraries to suit the group and local weather conditions. Generally, we will plan to paddle between 4-6 hours with breaks over the course of the day, although we may paddle slightly more or less if weather demands. We will typically include some short walks in the trip and may substitute walking for paddling in the case of high winds. It is important to remember that the group will kayak at the pace of the slowest paddlers.

Expedition Staff

The guides' role is to co-ordinate the expedition and ensure the safety of the group. They will design the itinerary to maximise your experience and keep you informed of the objectives and progress of the trip. Guides will decide on safety matters and administer the medical kit if required, they carry VHF marine radios, mobiles and an EPIRB (radio beacon) or similar emergency device. The guides have a rich knowledge of Tasmania's natural and cultural history which they are always excited to share. Should you have any enquiries during the trip, feel free to ask your guides.

Travel Arrangements

Should you voluntarily decide to alter your travel arrangements after commencement of your trip, Southern Sea Ventures are not responsible for any additional charges involved. Our staff will assist you if possible but you are responsible for organising these arrangements yourself. Delays may occur due to weather or transport difficulties.

Travel Insurance

It is highly recommended that participants purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy. Please make sure your insurance policy covers lost monies in the event that you need to cancel your trip or the trip has to be cancelled/curtailed due to inclement weather. Southern Sea Ventures are not responsible for any expenses incurred due to flight delays.

Australian residents should note: Under the Federal Government Medicare Act it is prohibited for any domestic travel insurance product to provide any financial reimbursement with regards to ambulance or air ambulance services. We advise clients to take specific cover for ambulance services through the respective State Ambulance Service providers or through your own private health insurance.

Time & Communication

Tasmania is on Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT).

Mobile coverage is usually fine on the trip and your devices can be charged at the lodge each evening. Your guides carry a VHF marine radio for emergencies.

Conservation

It has always been our motto that “we take only photographs and leave only footprints”. We are keenly aware of the ecology of the beautiful Tasmanian wilderness and try to limit our impact. We ask that each person takes out everything they bring in including sweet wrappers, batteries, etc.

Money Matters

Your tour cost includes:

- Return transfers between Hobart city and the Tasman Peninsula.
- Three nights accommodation at The Bolthole at Pirates Bay.
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4.
- Double and single expedition kayaks, paddles, pfd, spray skirts.
- One 20L dry bag.
- A paddling cag (waterproof jacket).
- Pogies (paddling mittens).
- Two professional sea kayak guides.
- Comprehensive first aid kit and emergency safety equipment.

Your tour cost *does not* include:

- Flights, accommodation and meals in Hobart.
- Travel insurance.

Medical Matters

Any passenger undertaking this trip is required to provide us with a medical questionnaire filled out completely and accurately. Be sure to let your guide know of any medications you take (and side-effects) as well as noting this on your medical form. Your guides carry a comprehensive medical kit and are trained in wilderness first aid.

Equipment & Clothing: What You Need to Bring

The list below should be used as a guide when packing. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Gear List

Essential Items:

- ☐ Lightweight thermal long sleeve top for paddling.
- ☐ Lightweight thermal long johns for paddling.
- ☐ Lightweight fleece for paddling.
- ☐ Quick drying shorts for paddling (like board shorts).
- ☐ Long sleeved quick drying shirt for sun protection.



- ☐ Two to three lightweight quick drying t-shirts.
- ☐ Warm polar fleece or down jacket.
- ☐ Quality, breathable rain jacket with hood for walking.
- ☐ Quality, breathable rain pants for walking or shorts and gaiters.
- ☐ Sleepwear.
- ☐ Footwear for paddling that can get wet (sandals, wet suit booties, Crocs).
- ☐ Trail walking shoes/runners or light weight hiking boots for walking.
- ☐ Dry footwear for the lodge.
- ☐ Comfortable casual evening wear for the lodge.
- ☐ Sun-glasses with a cord to prevent them from falling into the water.
- ☐ Sun hat with a stiff brim.
- ☐ Pair of lightweight gloves.
- ☐ Woollen or fleece beanie.
- ☐ One pair of warm socks.
- ☐ One pair of walking socks.
- ☐ Underwear for the duration.
- ☐ Headlamp with spare batteries.
- ☐ Water bottle/hydration system (minimum one litre capacity).
- ☐ Personal toiletries and medications.
- ☐ Beach towel.
- ☐ Sunscreen (water resistant and at least SPF30) and lip salve (SPF30+).
- ☐ Insect repellent.

Optional items:

- Short or long sleeved rash vest.
- Wetsuit if you'd like to try snorkelling.
- Paddling gloves (we supply pogies).
- Swimwear.
- Camera
- Book.

- Small daypack.
- Swimming goggles or mask and snorkel.
- Plastic bags for wet gear.
- Wine or spirits.

Delays or Problems

In case of last minute delays or problems, contact Southern Sea Ventures. A local number will be noted on your final itinerary.

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