

AN EPIC ADVENTURE

It's time for you to rediscover your nomadic ways in a truly amazing place. Step by step along Tasmania's 60 kilometre Overland Track, among its serene mountains, calm lakes and dark forests, the pace of life will slow.

As you move through this dramatic and timeless landscape, your senses will sharpen. You'll experience the detail of nature with new clarity – the shift and play of dappled light on fallen leaves. Unfamiliar birdsong rising from the rainforest. The subtle scent of leatherwood and sassafras. The cold purity of mountain streamwater. The rough warmth of sunny, glacier-carved rock. The microcosm of cushion plants. And the grand spectacle of landscape.

Evoked by the ancient rhythm of walking, you will find that this close encounter with wild country is a powerful way to put your busy life back in perspective and to feel perhaps for the first time what it really means to be free.

In this place of quietness, incredible beauty and unrestrained horizons, you'll feel the regenerative power of the Tasmanian wilderness.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN HUTS



WORLD HERITAGE

Awesome. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is recognised as a wilderness area of outstanding world value. It is one of the last few remaining temperate wilderness areas in the world and is best compared to the other two southern hemisphere sites – South West New Zealand and Los Glaciares in Argentina. All these are rugged glaciated mountainous regions, unique yet united in the evolutionary history of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, displaying strong floristic and faunal links and providing evidence of past continental formations and environments.

At 1.38 million hectares, the World Heritage Area is one of the largest and most important reserves. Natural values of international significance include extensively glaciated landscapes, pristine catchments, a profusion of threatened rare and endemic plants, a complex mosaic of vegetation – moorland, rainforest, alpine, eucalypt and riparian communities, undisturbed stands of millenia old endemic pines, a collection of the world's largest carnivorous marsupials (Tasmanian devils and quolls), and two of the only three surviving species of monotremes – the most primitive group of mammals in the world (platypus and echidna).

In the mountainous heart of this amazing area, Cradle Huts has built five comfortable, well-appointed huts. Hidden in forest along the Overland Track, they are the only private huts allowed in the area.

We believe that it is a special privilege to operate in this delicate and immensely important environment, so we observe minimal-impact track and hut practices. We tread lightly and leave nothing and our huts are designed to be ecologically sustainable. Services are non-polluting and self-contained and we use careful waste management practices.

This minimal-impact use of the wilderness means that the values of this fragile environment are preserved for the future, while enabling it to be enjoyed and understood now by a small number of people.



"...one of the best feelings of my life" I.B. AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC N° 29



YOUR JOURNEY

The relaxed company of other walkers will be a memorable feature of your Cradle Huts experience – your companions on the track will share your adventurous spirit and your love of wild, natural places.

Your guides, enthusiastic Tasmanians with a combination of bush skills and diplomacy, will enhance the journey with their knowledge and understanding of the flora, fauna, geology and history of the Overland Track and the wonders of the World Heritage Area. In the words of one traveller "...their love of the wilderness was obvious in the gentle way they encouraged us to care for it as much as they did themselves. Their leadership was superb – allowing distance where indicated and closeness and words of encouragement where needed. The trip would always have been memorable. With the extra input by the guides it became fantastic."

On the track, you will not be rushed. There is always the opportunity to take a break for scenery, tea, explanation or just for you. But with lots of energy you might want to do some of the many side-trips available each day (including to Mt Ossa – the top of Tasmania).

You'll enjoy and discover good times, great memories and the special friendships of the bush.

WARM SHELTER

At the end of each day's walk, your private hut is a haven of warmth, shelter and comfort. It's a place to relax, rest and be refreshed after the pleasant exertions of a day on the track.

First, a steaming hot shower and fresh-baked afternoon tea – then enjoy the simple pleasures of life in a bush hut. Mellow gas-light and candles. Strong-brewed coffee. A good book from the small collection. Sitting by the pot-belly heater. Warm, dry socks.

Later on, the rustic dining table is the focus for convivial company – a hearty three-course meal prepared by your guides, fine Tasmanian wine and cheerful conversation.

At the end of the evening in your private twin-share room, a soft bed and sound sleep will prepare you for the discoveries of a new day.

True shelter, something which gives protection and refuge, simple and sustainable, clean and comfortable.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN HUTS



"...the guides' love of the wilderness was obvious in the gentle way they encouraged us to care for it as much as they did themselves..." LETTER FROM GUEST C.K.



A SIX-DAY ADVENTURE FILLED WITH SPECTACULAR BEAUTY

The Cradle Mountain Huts Six-Day Walk is a fabulous journey within Tasmania's World Heritage Area. Following the famous Overland Track, the walk extends from Cradle Valley to Lake St Clair through a variety of spectacular landscapes.

THE ITINERARY has been carefully planned and an additional 5th hut was added in 1997 for better spacing between huts and to allow for fascinating side trips. In addition, guests on every trip now have the opportunity (weather permitting) to climb Mt Ossa (1617m) – the highest peak in Tasmania.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN HUTS



DAY 1

ALPINE AND GLACIAL GRANDEUR

The first day begins with a drive from Evandale (near Launceston) through the historic countryside of Deloraine and Sheffield to Cradle Valley. The walk begins at the romantic Waldheim Chalet in Cradle Valley, where you are greeted by inquisitive wallabies. You climb onto the alpine plateau with spectacular views of Dove and Crater Lakes. Lunch is held below the spires of Cradle Mountain or at Fury Gorge. In the afternoon you walk the rim of the glacial cirque before passing through Waterfall Valley.

The night is spent at Barn Bluff Hut which nestles beneath this majestic mountain.

Day 1 is approximately 11 km, 5 hours.

DAY 2

LAKES AND MOORLAND MAJESTY

Crossing the sedgeland moors you pass many glacial tarns. Lunch is usually on the shores of Lake Windemere. In the afternoon you'll enjoy spectacular views of the Lemnathyme Forests from the Forth Valley lookout.

The Pine Forest Moor Hut is located on the edge of the forest.

Day 2 is approximately 12 km, 6 hours.

DAY 3

TIMELESS, TEMPERATE RAINFOREST

The walk follows the historic Innes Track sheltered below Mt Pelion West, mainly through rainforest. A stop is made at Frog Flats, at the headwaters to the Forth River.

The final section of the day's walk is on to the Pelion Plains where Pelion Hut is located.

Day 3 walk is approximately 10 km, 4 hours.



DAY 4

INTO THE MOUNTAINS (climbing high peaks, optional)

Views to the South-West wilderness are possible from Pelion Gap and it is from this point that you can elect to climb Mt Ossa (Tasmania's highest peak). The afternoon walk is to Kia Ora Hut located below Cathedral Mountain.

Day 4 walk is approximately 9 km, 4 hours (3-4 hours extra to climb Mt Ossa).

DAY 5

RIVER, WATERFALLS AND RAINFOREST SPECTACULAR

This day begins with a visit to the beautiful 'leatherwood garden' at the historic Du Cane Hut. The middle section of the day is spent meandering along the Mersey River visiting the spectacular waterfalls including the D'Alton, Fergusson and Hartnett Falls.

The hut at Windy Ridge is reached through magical myrtle forests.

Day 5 walk is approximately 9 km, 4 hours.

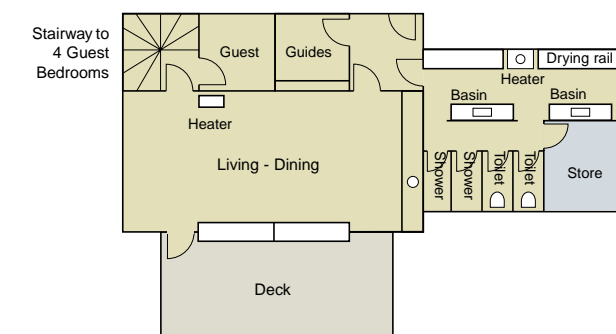
DAY 6

EASY THROUGH THE EUCALYPTS

The northern shores of Lake St Clair are reached through superb eucalypt forests. Here you are met and taken on a 17km boat cruise along Tasmania's deepest and most spectacular lake. Leaving the Overland Track behind you as you pass over the waters of the lake is a memorable way to conclude your walk. The return trip to Evandale (near Launceston) is through the trout fishing mecca of the highland lakes, descending the rugged Western Tiers to the pastoral landscapes of Cressy and Longford.

Day 6 walk is approximately 9km, 3 hours.

TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: SEE BACK OF BROCHURE

