



## Tassie Trek & Raft Tour Itinerary

### OVERLAND TRACK

**Launceston to Cradle Mountain** - Overnight at Cradle Mountain Cabins  
Optional walk around **Dove Lake** in the afternoon or relax before trek briefing.

**Day 1 - Cradle Mountain to Waterfall Valley** – 10.4km, 5hrs (climb 300m/descend 200m)

**Day 2 - Waterfall Valley to Lake Windermere** – 7km, 2.5hrs (mostly flat)

**Day 3 - Lake Windermere to Pelion** – 14.2km, 6hrs (downhill first 10kms, then 4km up to Pelion)

**Day 4 - Pelion to Kia Ora** – 8.2km, 3hrs (4kms up 300m then 4kms down) Optional Mt Ossa climb.

**Day 5 - Kia Ora to Windy Ridge** – 8.6km, 3.5hrs (side trip to waterfalls, 2hrs return)

**Day 6 - Windy Ridge to Pine Valley** – 8kms (3hrs)

**Day 7 – Pine Valley to Narcissus Hut** – 6kms, (2hrs) (Ferry to Cynthia Bay – 20mins)

**Lunch at Lake St Clair Visitors Centre then overnight at Derwent Bridge Wilderness Hotel**  
or transfer to Launceston (optional)

*\*Next morning, rafters will be transferred to river – or to Launceston/Hobart if not rafting*

### FRANKLIN RIVER

**Day 1** - Our first day starts on the banks of the Collingwood River, a tributary of the Franklin. Here your guides will load the rafts and give a safety briefing. The day is spent mastering the rafts and enjoying the easy rapids leading down into the junction with the Franklin proper. We then traverse the first of the Franklin's gorges, Aesthesia Ravine. After tackling the Log Jam and Nasty Notch portages, we rocket through the rapids of Descension Gorge before arriving at the beautiful 'Irenabyss' or chasm of peace, where we camp overnight.

#### **Day 2**

Today it's straight back into the action. Dozens of rapids, interspersed with quiet reaches, lead us past Mt. Fincham, the Jericho Walls and the Crankle and to the base of the Engineer Range. Here we relax under a canopy of towering sassafras and myrtle trees and may go swimming during lunch. Several more hours of rapids brings us to the awesome Great Ravine, one of Tasmania's deepest gorges. First we'll tackle the Side Slip rapid before coming to the Churn. Teamwork and tenacity will be required to portage at least part of this huge obstruction in the river. Soon after, we'll arrive at our camp for a well-earned rest on the banks of Serenity Sound, deep in the Great Ravine.

**Day 3**

We'll use all of our well practised rafting skills to negotiate the Coruscades, one of the longest rapids on the river. A short float takes us through to our next portage at Thunderush, then it's on to the last obstacle, the Cauldron. Our expert guides will ensure that we pass these awesome rapids safely and efficiently. Our camp at Rafters Basin is a great place to relax after the achievements of the day.

**Day 4**

Today we head into Propsting Gorge continuing through the exciting Trojans rapids before arriving at Rock Island Bend and the Pig Trough with its delightful waterfall cascading into a fern-lined grotto. Safety dictates that we portage the actual Pig Trough rapid before we round Rock Island Bend to tackle the famous Newland's Cascades. This section will have everyone whooping with delight as we plunge through a maelstrom of spray and whitewater. At rapids' end is a place for a deserved break. On the bank, natural overhangs provide the ideal shelter for our overnight camp.

**Day 5**

The river abruptly leaves the quartzite gorges of the Middle Franklin and enters the limestone country of the lower reaches. Tranquil pools are broken by the occasional large rapid. Little Fall is a great spot for action photography. Slowly, the river increases in volume. The Jane River enters from the left just above our midday break on Flat Island, a beach of polished river stone dominated by the impressive Elliot Range. We then continue to our evening camp under a canopy of ancient trees by the deep pool at Blackman's Bend. We may be lucky enough to get a visit from the local platypus.

**Day 6**

The thick rainforest that clings to the banks is punctuated by limestone cliffs and strange rock formations. The river widens and now flows quietly. There is time to reflect, to conjure up visions of Aboriginal peoples hunting the Ice Age plains before the forest spread to claim the open country. Today we will show you some of the unique limestone caves that sheltered these people some 14,000 years ago. We then tackle the unexpected Double Fall. Soon we encounter the last step down in the river's bedrock, Big Fall. It's a deceptive rapid that we portage easily and quickly. Around the corner is the gaping Penghana Cave, a towering vault in the cliffs. We enjoy our last lunch near the junction of the Franklin and Gordon rivers before making our final camp on one of the lower river's many sandy beaches.

**Day 7**

Our final few hours are spent drifting along the mighty Gordon River, carried by the huge volume of water that makes this Tasmania's largest waterway. Soon we reach the picturesque Sir John Falls where our yacht will meet us for the cruise over Macquarie Harbour to Strahan on the west coast. A coach trip back to Hobart normally completes the journey if you are not staying on for more trekking.

*Subject to change based on river levels and weather conditions*

For more information

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