

# Walking Notes

## Maria Island Guided Walk

### Maria Island and the Walk

There are 2 ways that you can choose to get to Maria Island to start your walk, by ferry, or by our own custom scenic charter flight up the east coast of Tasmania. Both services arrive on Maria Island at the same time before you start your walk.

The ferry option includes a 1 hour drive through the Coal River Valley to Triabunna followed by a 40 minute ferry ride across the Mercury Passage to Maria Island.

The flight option takes you over Port Arthur and Tasman Island where you'll marvel in the island's sea cliffs. Your flight then tracks up the coast over Maria Island where you'll see where you will be walking in the coming 4 days. The flight then continues up the coast to the Freycinet Peninsula and Wineglass Bay where it turns around to head back to land on Maria Island.

Maria Island is about 20km in length and 13km at its widest point and it has a rich and intriguing history.

The island has 2 parts, northern and southern. The two parts are joined together by a narrow isthmus and both have distinct geographical features.

The trails that you'll walk are easy and your daypack will be light. You will explore the length and breadth of the island and there is much evidence of aboriginal and colonial occupation, farming and early industry.

The island is abundant with wildlife and plant communities. You will see wombats, wallabies, pademelons and eastern grey kangaroos. There are over 114 bird species including the introduced Cape Barren Geese. The island's vegetation is varied and stunning.

### Tour Inclusions

Your tour cost is based on joining from Hobart and includes the following:

1. Spectacular 1 ½ hour scenic charter flight over the Tasman Peninsula, Freycinet and Wineglass Bay then lands on Maria Island or you can take the ferry option.
2. We will supply you with a comfortable daypack, sleeping bag, and pillow. Fleece jumpers and raincoats and are also available for loan at no extra charge.
3. When walking your daypack and your personal gear should not exceed 9kg. You will carry your pack for only 2 days of the walk as 2 of the days we do day walks from

our camps.

4. All food while you are on the tour. All evening meals are 3 courses, consisting of local Tasmanian produce complimented with fine Tasmanian wines.

5. Two experienced and qualified guides.

6. For 2 nights you'll camp in large twin share tents with comfortable air mattresses and pillows. Your 3<sup>rd</sup> night is spent in the Penitentiary. These were the former cells from the convict era, which now have been refurbished with beds and mattresses, wood heaters and dining tables.

7. A National Park Pass.

Tour costs do not include:

Travel to and from Hobart to join the tour, personal travel insurance and Hobart accommodation, food or beverages before and after your tour or your personal equipment.

## Booking the tour

From the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 through to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 this tour departs every Monday and Thursday from Hobart.

You can book securely on our website by clicking the BOOK NOW button on the Maria Island bushwalking page and selecting your departure date and travel option (flight or ferry) or alternatively you can book and pay directly by phoning and talking to a company representative.

Once you have booked we will provide you with the how, when and where of the tour. This will include tour information, a personal bushwalking equipment list, our environmental policy for the National Park, travel and accommodation information.

## Itinerary

Please enjoy reading the walk itinerary below. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Tour Duration: 3 nights / 4 days Track Grading: Easy walking

Day 1: Hobart to Darlington, Maria Island

After picking you up from your Hobart accommodation we head to Hobart Airport where you'll board a charter flight to Maria Island via the Tasman and Freycinet Peninsula's. On the flight you will have magnificent views over coastline and islands of Southern and Eastern Tasmania, Maria Island and Wineglass Bay. 1 ½ hours later

you'll touch down at historic Darlington on Maria Island.

From Darlington you'll stroll along Hopground Beach to the amazingly patterned Painted Cliffs. The spectacular patterns in the cliffs are caused by water percolating through them leaving traces of iron oxides. You'll walk along more pristine beaches, past the convict cells at Point Leusuer and on to Encampment Cove for our first night. Encampment Cove is a small sheltered cove in Shoal Bay. Here you can take an afternoon swim before dinner, relax and enjoy your surrounds.

#### Day 2: Encampment Cove to Frenchs Farm

Today is a pack less day walk south along the beach of Shoal Bay to McRaes Isthmus, a narrow neck of sand that has sweeping beaches on either side then we cross the isthmus to Reidle Bay. From Reidle Bay we take the south east track to Haunted Bay and lunch.

Haunted Bay is at the southern end of the island. In the early days of European settlement the area was used for hunting whales and seals. There is also a colony of penguins living here whose eerie sounds at night gave Haunted Bay its name. You'll retrace your footsteps from Haunted Bay to McRaes Isthmus and on to our second night's camp at French's Farm. The farm was built in 1936 by the French family but it is now abandoned and disused.

#### Day 3: French's Farm to Darlington

From French's Farm you'll walk inland through the heart of Maria Island and you are given the opportunity to climb Mt Maria, the island's highest point at 710m. The climb is well worth the effort as you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views over the south of the island and mainland Tasmania. On our return to Darlington you'll stop off at the Oast House, a series of hop kilns that were built in the second convict period. Italian entrepreneur Bernacchi had a wine making phase and the kilns were used for crushing his grapes.

After another stunning day's walk you can relax in our Penitentiary accommodation at Darlington and enjoy a spectacular dinner complimented with fine Tasmanian wine.

#### Day 4: Darlington then Hobart.

Today you'll explore the settlement's buildings, ruins and be intrigued by its historical past.

You will also stroll through grasslands to the Fossil Cliffs, the site where 290 million year old marine shellfish are embedded in the rocks. You will walk through stands of giant Blue Gums and Stringy Barks where you can choose to climb to the summit of Bishop and Clerk that will offer you stunning views over Maria Island or walk back to Darlington to relax or explore some more.

Late afternoon you will enjoy a ferry cruise across the Mercury Passage to Triabunna and our waiting coach.

Why our clients walk with us:

On our Maria Island Guided Walk, we specialise in small groups. We limit our tours to 4 clients and 2 guides to reduce our environmental impact and to maximize your adventure experience.

We are committed to the principles of "Leave No Trace" hence we do not have standing bush huts or use motorized vehicles to resupply our camps.

On your tour we will give you professional and in depth interpretation of the islands history, flora and fauna and take you to spectacular places other tours may overlook. Our guides have a wealth of knowledge of Maria Island and have been guiding on Maria Island for many years.

You have the option of getting to Maria Island by Ferry or on our custom scenic flight depending on your budget. The prices are \$1600 for the scenic flight option or \$1200 for the ferry option.

Our itineraries and menus have been designed and researched by experienced guides and chefs. Each day we walk on easy tracks, visit stunning locations and eat fresh local produce.

We invite you to join us on Maria Island and we look forward to guiding and interpreting your tour. You will create friendships, have fun and take home wonderful memories.