

Tasmanian Explorer self-drive

Arrive in Devonport on the Spirit of Tasmania and begin your unique and scenic drive of discovery around Tasmania - your island of inspiration.

Day 1: Devonport - Launceston, 100km

Launceston is Australia's third oldest city, with much of its 19th century architecture remaining. Take a walk to City Park and visit the 'local' monkeys, browse the craft shops, visit the Queen Victoria Museum, explore the stunning Tamar Valley savouring gourmet foods and renowned wines or enjoy a brisk walk along Cataract Gorge; there is an experience for everyone.

Stay

- Clarion Hotel City Park Grand, Launceston ■ ■
- Quality Hotel Colonial Launceston, Launceston ■ ■
- Quality Inn Heritage Edenholme Grange, Launceston ■ ■
- Comfort Inn Coach House, Launceston ■

Days 2 & 3: Launceston - Georgetown, 51km

Take a tour through the Tamar Valley wineries and taste their fine wines before driving north to the coastal town of George Town, Australia's oldest town. After check-in, be sure to visit the Bass and Flinders Centre to learn more about Tasmania's amazing maritime history and make sure there is enough time to spend an evening enjoying the local penguin colony.

Stay

- Comfort Inn The Pier, Georgetown ■

Day 4 & 5: Georgetown - Hobart, 247km

Spend the next day travelling along the north-east coast to the quaint townships of St Helens, gateway to the world-famous Bay of Fires, Bicheno and Swansea. Along the way you can enjoy a variety of activities including the East Coast Nature World, the spectacular Freycinet National Park, Wineglass Bay and some of the best undersea dive sites in Australia.

Further south is the historic town of Richmond, where little has changed in over 150 years. The town has Australia's oldest colonial convict gaol, oldest bridge and oldest Catholic Church. Having discovered these treasures of the past, take a walk along the main street to enjoy some traditional fare in one of the old freestone cottages.

If you decide to take a detour to Port Arthur you will experience spectacular coastal scenery en route to the convict settlement of Port Arthur; a living museum of Australia's convict history. Despite its torrid past, the settlement is peaceful and tranquil and is surrounded by picturesque gardens.

Hobart, Tasmania's capital and Australia's second oldest settlement, is set on the magnificent Derwent River. It is highly regarded as a city of fine restaurants, bustling markets, vibrant culture and beautiful scenery with a rich heritage to discover. Walk through the historic Battery Point or Salamanca Place, where an array of art galleries, restaurants, shops and the Saturday Market await. Visit the Cadbury Chocolate Factory and Cascade Brewery or enjoy the stunning vista from Mt Wellington.

Stay

- Quality Hobart Midcity Hotel • Pink Pass ■
- Quality Hotel Hobart Airport ■



Day 6: Hobart - Queenstown, 260km

Queenstown is nestled in the valley of the once tree-covered hills and is a hub on the west coast of Tasmania. Its rich mining history creates a stunning natural vista that has to be seen to be believed. Why not discover this through a mine tour. Queenstown offers the ideal base to explore the scenic and historic Strahan, where you can journey on the West Coast Wilderness Railway or cruise the majestic Gordon River.

Stay

Comfort Inn Gold Rush, Queenstown ■ ■

Days 7 & 8: Queenstown - Devonport, 270km

Enroute back to Devonport, stop by the vibrant coastal town of Burnie and discover its local charms. Feast on fish and chips by the waterfront or learn about the local history at the Pioneer Village Museum – there's plenty to see and do in Burnie

Devonport provides the gateway to Tasmania's most recognisable landmark, Cradle Mountain. It epitomises the feel of a true wilderness landscape, with ancient rainforest, alpine heathlands, buttongrass and colourful deciduous beech forests providing a range of environments to explore. Icy streams cascading out of rugged mountains and ancient pines mirrored in the still waters of glacial lakes complete the experience. There are many superb short walks and a wealth of wildlife to ensure there is something to captivate you.

Stay

Comfort Hotel Burnie, Burnie (Opening April 2012)

Quality Hotel Gateway, Devonport ■

Comfort Inn Sunrise, Devonport ■

Please note: Hotels and their details on this itinerary are subject to change. Correct as at time of printing.

