



Pre-Departure Information

WILD TASMANIA



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WELCOME!

We're delighted to welcome you on this adventure! This booklet is designed to guide you in the practical details for preparing for your trip. As you read, if any questions come to mind, feel free to give us a call or send us an email—we're here to help.

PLEASE SEND US

- Trip Application:** Complete, sign, and return your Trip Application form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Medical Form:** Complete, sign, and return your Medical Form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Air Schedule:** Please forward a copy of your email confirmation, which shows your exact flight arrival and departure times. Refer to the Arrival & Departure section of the Detailed Itinerary for instructions. Please feel free to review your proposed schedule with Wilderness Travel before purchasing your tickets if you have any questions about the timing of your arrival and departure flights or would like to confirm we have the required minimum number of participants to operate the trip.
- Vaccination Card:** Please send us a photo or scanned copy of your completed Covid-19 Vaccination Card if you have not already done so. Just the front side of the card is sufficient.

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW

- Travel Documents & Medical Information:** Carefully review the Travel Documents and Medical Information sections of this booklet to familiarize yourself with Passport and Visa entry requirements for your destination, as well as any recommended inoculations.
- Optional Travel Insurance:** Review the Trip Cancellation & Transfer Fee Schedule included in the Detailed Itinerary. We recommend that all trip members purchase Travel Insurance.
- Extra Services:** Request any Extra Services (hotel nights, transfers, extensions) with your WT office contact using the Extra Services Request Form sent with your confirmation packet.
- Final Documents:** Approximately three weeks before your trip, we will send you final departure documents, including hotel and local contact information and rendezvous instructions.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 1-800-368-2794, go to our **website** (www.wildernesstravel.com) or e-mail us at: info@wildernesstravel.com.

Travel Information

PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for your trip. Be sure to check the expiration date. Your passport must be valid for six months after your date of exit from Australia. In addition, we recommend your passport have at least two completely blank visa pages for every country you will be visiting. It is very important that the blank pages say “Visas” at the top. The last few pages of your passport, which say “Amendments and Endorsements,” and the final page of your passport, which may not have a page number, are not considered to be legitimate visa pages. The service of adding pages for visas was discontinued as of January 1, 2016. You can request a new passport through **US Passport Services Office** (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>) or use a visa service agency, which can take care of your passport renewal and expedite the process, if needed. We recommend **Passport Visas Express** (<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=2120>). Be sure to allow sufficient time to acquire this before your trip.

It is a good idea to carry photocopies of your passport’s photo page and any acquired visa pages for your trip (if applicable) in case your passport is lost or as an additional piece of identification, as well as two extra passport photos.

VISAS

All US passport holders are required to hold a valid visa to travel to Australia. The Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) provides authorization to enter Australia for a short tour tourist stay and is electronically linked to your passport. It replaces the visa label or stamp in a passport and removes the need for application forms. There is a \$20 Australian service fee. You can apply for an ETA online **here** (<https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>).

MONEY

There are ATMs in most of the towns we visit, so you can withdraw cash as needed. We suggest you also bring some spending money in US cash. You can change money at most hotels and banks. Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard) are accepted in most places. Traveler's checks are not recommended as they can be difficult and time-consuming to cash.

You will need to budget spending money for gratuities, for any meals not included in the trip itinerary, and for personal items such as snacks, phone calls, etc.

To use an ATM internationally, you must have a four-digit PIN. If you plan to use your credit cards, inform your credit card company before your departure that you will be using the card abroad.

TIPPING

Tipping is completely discretionary, but over the years, clients have asked us for tipping guidelines to reward guides for outstanding service. A range of reference would be \$100-150 USD per trip member for each Trip Leader, which can be given in either US Dollars or local currency.

SPECIAL DIETS

We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, however, please keep in mind that certain cultural differences or limitations due to logistics can make it extremely difficult and at times impossible to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please inform us at least eight weeks before your trip if you have a restricted diet. It is important to bring a flexible attitude and supplemental snacks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone

The international dialing code for Australia is 61. Please contact your cell phone company for specific instructions for international use.

Email & Internet Access

Limited internet access is available at some of our lodges and Wifi internet is very poor. We highly recommend buying a SIM card at one of the airport newsstands upon arrival to mainland Australia or Tasmania (Telstra is the preferred brand) for phone, text and internet access while on the trip. A one-month prepaid plan costs \$30 and includes free calls to the US.

ELECTRICITY

Australia has 220-240-volt current. You will need to bring a voltage converter and plug adapter kit for appliance use.

Medical Information

The following recommendations should be used as a guideline only; consult your physician for medical advice. It is vital that you let Wilderness Travel know of any medical problems, allergies, or physical limitations you may have. Please fill out and return the personal medical questionnaire, and feel free to consult us if you have any questions about your ability to undertake this particular trip.

Wilderness Travel is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding what medications or inoculations you and your physician decide are necessary for your safe participation in the trip.

Traveler's health information is available from the **Centers for Disease Control**. (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>)
Medical travel products are available from **Travel Health Medicine** (<http://www.travmed.com>) and from **Magellan's Travel Supplies**. (<http://www.magellans.com>)

INOCULATIONS

No inoculations are required. However, it is easy to get a small cut, so a tetanus booster is strongly recommended (good for 10 years). If you take prescription medicines, be sure to bring enough for the duration of your trip.

STAYING HEALTHY

You can reduce your risk of getting a cold on the trip by washing your hands often and not touching your face with unwashed hands. If you arrive on the trip with a cold or feel the symptoms of a cold, avoid close contact with others and move away from people before coughing or sneezing. The CDC recommends coughing or sneezing into a tissue or into the crook of your elbow or upper sleeve, not your hands.

Helpful Information

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. Camera equipment is available for rent from **Borrow Lenses** (<https://www.borrowlenses.com/discount/wildernesstravel>), with a 10% discount offered to Wilderness Travel clients. This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip.

Camera Accessories

We recommend bringing at least two large capacity memory cards or a small digital storage unit (or tablet) to back up your photos, freeing space on your memory cards. Don't forget to bring a battery charger and a backup battery so one is always charged and ready to use. For trips where you may be away from power sources for multiple days, consider looking into a solar-powered battery charger or buying additional backup batteries, and check that you have the appropriate adapter for the electrical outlets in your destination.

Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to wtphotoblog@gmail.com or tag us **@WildernessTravel** on social media.

Photography Etiquette

When taking pictures of local people, be aware of cultural considerations. Approaching people with a warm smile and using polite gestures or simple phrases to ask permission to photograph them usually works well. It is always recommended to engage people in conversation before asking to photograph them, but if people do not wish to have their photo taken, please honor their requests. We urge travelers to avoid giving money in exchange for photo opportunities, which makes it harder for future travelers to have a meaningful personal interaction with local people. Please always heed your Trip Leader's guidelines for what is appropriate.

BEING A CONSIDERATE TRAVELER

Please show respect for the cultures we are visiting by observing local customs concerning appropriate dress, particularly in sacred places. Your Trip Leader is always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. If it is necessary to use a cell phone during the trip, please do so privately. Smoking is rarely an issue these days, but if you do smoke, please do so only away from the group.

Packing List

THE ESSENTIALS

- Air tickets (or E-tickets)
- Passport
- One other picture ID, such as a driver's license
- Expense money

WT GEAR STORE

To help you prepare for your next WT adventure, we've put together a great collection of top brands including Patagonia, Outdoor Research, Eagle Creek, and more at our **WT Gear Store** (<http://wildernesstravel.newheadings.com>).

LUGGAGE

- Soft-sided suitcase or duffel bag, with a small padlock (must be unlocked for air travel unless it's a TSA-approved lock).
- Daypack, large enough for a fleece jacket, rain gear, water bottle, camera, and other items you want with you during the day.

NOTES ON CLOTHING

The clothing list below is provided as a guideline only. Try to keep your clothing and gear to a minimum. During the trip, most people will wear shorts and a t-shirt during the day and long-sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening. For city/hotel attire, we suggest skirts or slacks for women, slacks and shirts for men. No jackets are required for men. As you move through the changing weather conditions of Tasmania, layering is the best way to go. Raingear is necessary and waterproof hiking boots are essential (lightweight boots are OK). The temperature can drop, so don't forget your polypropylene layers.

CLOTHING

- Rain jacket and rain pants
- Fleece jacket for warmth
- Fleece or wool sweater
- Lightweight long pants; synthetic “travel” fabrics dry easily. Jeans are not suitable for hiking because they are made of dense cotton, and once wet, will stay wet.
- Walking shorts
- Long-sleeved shirts. Quick-drying “travel” fabrics like nylon are ideal
- T-shirts
- Shade hat with wide brim
- Lightweight hiking boots or rubber boots with good traction
- Running shoes or spare pair of comfortable shoes in case other shoes get wet
- Underwear/ socks. Synthetics dry faster
- Bathing suit
- Sleepwear
- City/hotel attire

EQUIPMENT

- Good quality sunglasses with case. A spare pair of sunglasses is invaluable should your first pair be broken or lost.
- Field guides
- Personal toiletries
- Large plastic bags to keep items dry in your luggage
- Money belt or neck pouch. Always carry your passport, credit cards, and cash with you in a money belt or neck pouch tucked down inside your shirt or blouse.

PERSONAL FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Every trip member should bring a small kit for personal use. Your own experience will influence your choices.

- Sunscreen SPF 30 or higher. We recommend mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they do not contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. Brands such as Honest Company, Badger, and Alba Botanica are found in most sporting goods stores and drugstores.
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol for muscle pain or headaches, Tylenol PM for sleeping
- Topical antibiotic (such as Neosporin) for cuts, bites, or sores
- Insect repellent. Repellents with DEET are recommended. DEET content of about 30-35% is ideal (higher DEET content is not recommended). Wipe DEET off your hands before touching plastic surfaces (such as binoculars) because it can damage the plastic. Aerosol repellents are useful for spraying on clothes.
- Blister kit. Look for the long-lasting gel-type bandages that you can apply directly on blisters, such as Band-Aid Advanced Healing Bandages or Curad Gel Multi-Day Bandages. "Liquid band-aids," such as New-Skin, are useful because they dry rapidly to form a tough protective cover over a blister.
- Post-insect bite cream (antihistamine)
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl
- Imodium for diarrhea. If you wish to bring an antibiotic for diarrhea prophylaxis, please consult your physician.
- Prescription medications properly labeled
- Spare pair of eyeglasses (or extra disposable lenses).

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Hiking poles
- Lightweight fleece gloves
- Reusable water bottle
- Reading/writing material
- Plug adapter for appliance use in hotels. Australia has 240-volt current. Plugs have three oblique blades.
- Gaiters
- Binoculars
- Travel clock

Reading List

ESSENTIAL READING

The Fatal Shore

Robert Hughes

1988, 752 PAGES

In this celebrated social history, both scholarly and entertaining, Hughes traces the fate of those who were transported to the penal colonies of Australia between 1787 and 1868. It's an engaging popular account, drawn from the experiences of the colonists themselves.

Tasmania Map

HEMA Maps

2012

A colorful, detailed map of Tasmania at a scale of 1:650,000. Published in Australia.

Lonely Planet Tasmania

Monica Chapman

2011, 335 PAGES

An excellent practical guide to Tasmania, geared for independent travelers and packed with much nuts-and-bolts info on excursions and sightseeing.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Australia, An Ecotraveler's Guide

Hannah Robinson

2003, 290 PAGES

A handbook and guide to wildlife, habitats and travel in Australia with 400 color photographs and excellent descriptive information on birds, mammals and other creatures.

The Floating Brothel, The Extraordinary True Story of an Eighteenth-Century Ship and Its Cargo of Female Convicts

Sian Rees

2003, 256 PAGES

A richly detailed account of Australia's founding mothers, the more than 240 women deported from England for petty crimes in 1790. Sailing on the Lady Julian, these women were to ensure the future of the then-struggling colony.

In Tasmania

Nicholas Shakespeare

2006, 374 PAGES

A celebration, history and personal odyssey. Shakespeare, a British novelist, interweaves tales of long lost ancestors with his own tales and a colorful, anecdotal history of Tasmania since its settlement by Europeans two hundred years ago.

The Songlines

Bruce Chatwin

2012, 320 PAGES

Rory Stewart provides the introduction to this 25th anniversary edition of Chatwin's celebrated travelogue. Chatwin transforms a journey through the Outback into an exhilarating, semi-fictional meditation on our place in the world.

Australia, A Traveler's Literary Companion

Robert Ross

1998, 256 PAGES

Arranged geographically, this collection of works by mostly local writers, including Patrick White, Peter Carey and other luminaries, introduces the cultures, geography and mindset of Australia.

English Passengers

Matthew Kneale

2001, 446 PAGES

An accomplished novel, funny yet wrenchingly serious, of cultural collision and rebellion in Tasmania in the 19th century.

The Discovery of Slowness

Ralph Freedman

2005, 325 PAGES

A late 20th century fictional biography of the 19th century polar explorer Sir John Franklin (1786-1847), a man who makes history by discovering the power of his own slowness.

The Nutmeg of Consolation

Patrick O'Brian

1993, 315 PAGES

This 14th installment in the Aubrey/Maturin series finds Captain Aubrey and his crew shipwrecked and making their way to the penal colony at Botany Bay, the notorious first European settlement in Australia.

The Future Eaters, An Ecological History of the Australasian Lands and People

Tim F. Flannery

2002, 432 PAGES

An engaging ecological history of Australasia, looking at human impact on local environments and animal populations in the recent geologic past.

Death of a River Guide, A Novel

Richard Flanagan

2002, 336 PAGES

A haunting first novel evoking the tangled 19th-century history of Tasmania as a penal colony, narrated by the title's "river guide" in the last moments of his life at the bottom of a river.

Gould's Book of Fish, A Novel in Twelve Fish

Richard Flanagan

2003, 404 PAGES

Flanagan keeps the reader guessing with a dizzying mix of history, fantasy and word play in this wildly inventive novel steeped in the brutal 19th-century history of Tasmania.

The Explorers

Tim F. Flannery

2000, 385 PAGES

Through 67 personal accounts selected and introduced by Tim Flannery, this collection reveals the human experience of exploring and settling Australia.

Wanting

Richard Flanagan

2010, 272 PAGES

The wildly inventive Flanagan (screenwriter for the movie Australia) weaves the facts of the life of Sir John Franklin, who famously disappeared without a trace in the Arctic, and Charles Dickens into pleasingly confounding, interlaced stories of ambition, desire and colonialism. Hardly a typical historical novel, Flanagan's latest is rewarding for readers with a love of words.

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