Separated from mainland Australia by a 429 kilometre stretch of Bass Strait, Tasmania is a land apart – a green island of wild mountainous and beautiful landscapes, friendly welcoming people, temperate climate a spirited history and a creative arts community all wrapped up in a relaxed lifestyle.

Hobart is Tasmania's capital city and the second oldest capital in Australia, after Sydney. Located at the entrance to the Derwent River, its well-preserved surrounding bush land reaches close to the city center while beaches line the shores of the river and estuary beyond. Hobart offers a contrasting blend of heritage, scenery and culture, with world class activities and attractions nearby.

Nestled amongst the foothills of Mt Wellington, Hobart combines heritage charm with a modern lifestyle in a setting of exceptional beauty. It's no wonder Lonely Planet has called Hobart one of the top ten spots to visit in the world right now.

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ITINERARY

DAY 1: HOBART AND RIVER DERWENT

Board Coral Expeditions I at Hobart's Macquarie Wharf at 3:00pm ahead of the 4:00pm departure. Cruise the River Derwent with views of the city and the mighty Tasman Bridge. Enjoy the Captain's Welcome Drinks and sample Tasmanian cheeses, Bruny Island oysters and sparkling wines as you make your way through the scenic D'Entrecasteaux Channel towards the overnight anchorage in Barnes Bay.

DAY 2: GRANDVEWE CHEESES AND RECHERCHE BAY DISCOVERY

Tasmania is renowned for its gourmet produce and this morning you visit family-run Grandvewe Cheeses. Set on 40 acres overlooking Bruny Island, Grandvewe farm produces fine sheep cheeses using milk from their herd of over 100 Awassi and Grandvewe dairy sheep. Meet the mother and daughter cheese making team and tour the milking shed and learn how the cheeses are produced. Sample some of the farm's award-winning produce, including the unique Vanilla Whey Liqueur.

After re-boarding the ship, enjoy spectacular views over lunch as you continue to Recherche Bay, a large protected bay which takes its name from a frigate used in the failed 1791 French expedition to locate the missing explorer La Pérouse. Cruise the bay aboard Explorer, and then join our Expedition Leader and Parks and Wildlife Ranger on a scenic hike at the start of the famed South Coast Track. Walk the picturesque beach to see Cockle Creek's bronze southern right whale statue commemorating the town's whaling past, and a signpost marking the most southerly point in Australia accessible by motor vehicle.
DAY 3 & 4: TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

The ship enters remote Port Davey this morning for two days of exploration in the heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Accessible only by boat, aircraft or a seven day hike, this region is surely one of the most magnificent and pristine landscapes on earth. During his circumnavigation of Tasmania in 1798, renowned explorer Matthew Flinders reported “the mountains which presented themselves to our view... were amongst the most stupendous works of nature I ever beheld”.

Four major rivers and numerous creeks cut through gorges and snake across open plains, draining their rust-colored waters into the marine reserve. Small islands dot the surface of the dark waters. White quartzite sands fringe the shoreline. Mt Rugby - the highest and most prominent peak bordering the reserve - rises grandly from the western shore of Bathurst Harbour. Over the next two days we fully explore Port Davey, the ‘Narrows' and Bathurst Harbour.

Breathe the world’s cleanest air and perhaps take the opportunity to kayak in waters so clear that the towering mountains surrounding the harbour are perfectly reflected in the waterways. With the Parks and Wildlife Ranger join a hike on the Balmoral Hill Track and visit the village of Melaleuca, where conservation efforts are helping to protect the endangered Orange-Bellied Parrot. Your time in Tasmania’s South West Wilderness is sure to be a highlight of the expedition.
DAY 5: COSTAL CRUISE AND ADVENTURE BAY

Gather on the outer decks for a scenic cruise along the southern coast of Bruny Island, past Cloudy Bay, the historic Cape Bruny Lighthouse and the Friars, home to a large population of Australian Fur Seals. Anchoring at Adventure Bay, relax on the long stretch of beach, enjoy a swim, paddle a kayak, tour the Bligh Museum of Pacific Exploration or join a guided nature walk through sub-tropical rainforest and meander through a fern glade next to Waterfall Creek. You may also wish to visit the nearby Bruny Island Berry Farm and pick fresh berries. After re-boarding you set sail for the Tasman Peninsula and beautiful Wineglass Bay - enjoy a pre-dinner Tasmanian wine tasting and a selection of the state's finest gourmet produce.

DAY 6: FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK AND MARIA ISLAND

Awaken this morning to the pristine surrounds of Freycinet National Park. Early risers and keen photographers may choose to join a guided hike through the national park to the Wineglass Bay lookout, breathtaking views of the beach and beyond to Mt Freycinet providing reward for the early start. Wineglass Bay has been named one of the world's top ten beaches. Following breakfast you will have ample time to explore the beach at your own pace, perhaps paddle a kayak in the clear waters, or just stroll along the soft white sands and take in the untouched scenery of this iconic location.
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You spend the afternoon exploring Maria Island, a national park with something for everyone; historic ruins, sweeping bays, rugged cliffs and mountains, and remarkable wildlife. Since the late 1960s Maria Island has become a kind of Noah's Ark, as a number of threatened species have been introduced here in a bid to protect their kind. The very features that made the island a convict settlement now make it an ideal refuge for plant and animal species such as native pad melons, Forester Kangaroos, Bennetts Wallabies and Tasmanian Devils. Maria Island's historic town site of Darlington has been included in the Convict Trail of Australia and was World Heritage-listed in 2010. Enjoy time to explore and walk amongst the restored buildings, including the Commissariat Store built in 1825 and the convict penitentiary. There's also a choice of nature walks to enjoy where there is a chance to see how the island's conservation efforts are helping to rejuvenate threatened wildlife.

DAY 7: TASMAN NATIONAL PARK AND PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

Famous for its soaring 300 metre sea cliffs and monumental rock formations, the ship cruises the coast of Tasman National Park, an area of dramatic beauty and natural diversity. Tasman Arch, The Candlestick and Cathedral Rock are just three of the imposing natural features adorning the coastline. At Tasman Island observe rich wildlife such as seals, dolphins, sea eagles and albatross.
In the afternoon, a unique experience awaits at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Port Arthur Historic Site. Australia’s most intact and evocative convict site, between 1833 and 1877 the penal colony housed Britain and Australia’s worst criminals, and was considered inescapable. Today, the Historic Site has over 30 buildings, ruins and restored period homes set in 40 hectares of landscaped grounds.

In the company of Port Arthur’s resident Archaeologist, join an exclusive ‘behind the scenes tour’ of the site, which includes access to private collections and historic buildings not accessible to the general public. Then, enjoy a private reception in the beautiful surrounds of Port Arthur’s Asylum building. Join the Captain and his crew and indulge in Tasmanian sparkling wine and local canapés, before returning to Coral Expeditions I for dinner and your final night cruising the Tasmanian coast.

DAY 8: CRUISE CONCLUDES | HOBART

Awaken as the ship cruises the River Derwent towards Hobart. Your arrival at Macquarie Wharf at 8:00am marks the end of our Tasmanian expedition.
INCLUSIONS & RATES

Your Cruise includes:

- Accommodation charges on board
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell Drinks
- services of expedition staff including lectures
- briefings, slide/film presentations, and other group activities as per the itinerary
- group transfers during the cruise
- all meals, morning and afternoon teas
- 24 hour tea/coffee station, soda fountain soft drinks
- landing fees
- Government Goods and Services Tax

2015/16 Departures

Nov. 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28; Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Prices are per person based on double occupancy

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Note: An Environmental Management Charge of approximately $18AUD is not included and is payable after boarding the ship

Please note that this is an expedition cruise taking you to remote coastlines and waters rarely visited by larger cruise ships. As such, the itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions. Our experienced captain and expedition leader may make last minute itinerary changes to optimize conditions.
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