



# SCOTTSDALE TOURS

## TOURING TASMANIA 2008



We were blessed with a wonderful happy group on this journey and just as well because we did face a few challenges. The trip was great, we had a lot of fun, the weather was brilliant so all in all a great success.

The challenges are probably worth mentioning simply because we overcame them without them taking anything away from the tour. In fact, it is probably more likely that most people will look back and laugh about the hiccups and remember them more than anything else they might have seen and done. So what were the challenges, you ask? Well, for the first time in 12 years we missed a flight. We had left a 3 hour gap between our flight from Auckland to Melbourne and our connecting flight to Launceston thinking this would be ample time. However, we did not count on the Tennis Open in Melbourne and the fact that it was still school holidays. We were 45 minutes late leaving Auckland but that was okay, we still had plenty of time up our sleeves. We managed to get our bags off the carousel after about an hour of jumping from one foot to another. Then we rounded the corner into Immigration and struck a cue about a mile long. By now we were anxiously looking at our watches. We managed to get everyone through Immigration with a little help from one of the staff but alas we missed our flight by about 10 minutes.



We then stood in a queue for about an hour and a quarter with all the other unfortunate travelers who had also missed their flights and managed to book everyone on a flight within two hours. Thank you Virgin Blue. We only lost a couple of hours so it was a great recovery and we were still able to enjoy the magic of Grindlewald. What stands out most in Tasmania, I think, is the quaint little villages and fantastic old houses

and commercial buildings. We did the trip in reverse this time to suit accommodation requirements so we saved the best till last, the seaside resort of Stanley. Most of us would have been happy to stay there forever, it was delightful and the weather was superb. Cradle Mountain put on a magnificent display too as there were no clouds for her to hide behind. One of the highlights too would have to be Port Arthur, what amazing history.



Apart from one or two hiccups with the hotel in Hobart, less said about that the better, (especially the biscuit throwing incident), the group all seemed to enjoy Tasmania and will view it with renewed interest from now on I'm sure. Unfortunately we cannot put the group photo on here just yet as we lost all the photos off the camera. Mysteriously they disappeared after we visited the convict prison on Sarah Island. However, with the help of the computer magic we were able to resurrect most of them but sadly not the group photo. Some of the photos have been corrupted, we don't know what happened but the computer had to be rebooted afterwards. Makes you wonder doesn't it. I will endeavour to scan the group pic at a later date. Until then, thanks to the Touring Tasmania 2008 group for being such friendly and enjoyable company, you were a pleasure to have on board.

*Kind regards to all, Ross & Susy*