



Our world is slowly opening up and this week sees the opening of Tasmanian borders to Queenslanders without any quarantine. Yeah! We have had a few bookings to Tasmania for the coming summer as we plan to escape the heat. I too have decided to head overseas (haha) to the Apple Aisle for New Year. The annual Taste of Tasmania festival has been called off this year however the Sydney to Hobart race is still due to run and we should be there to see some of those magnificent yachts sail up the Derwent.

There are non-stop flights from Brisbane which makes the journey there seamless. On arrival there are so many ways to explore Tasmania. Always popular is a fly drive trip and if you like to head off and explore on your own I urge you to pre-book accommodation – I have had clients deciding to wing it and find themselves stuck in somewhere like Queenstown for a week because all the places they want to visit are full! For all that distances are not great there is lots to see – so do yourself a favour and plan a minimum 10 to 14 days to explore.

Wilderness walking trips are also a lovely way to connect with the environment and the local communities. Join an immersive guided walk where your luggage is transported and you take a day pack to walk during the day – staying in lodges or glamping at night with all of your meals provided. Maria Island off the south west coast picks you up from Hobart for 4 days of walking in pristine wilderness, along unspoilt coastal paths and your last night is spent in the original sandstone homestead. No one lives on Maria Island anymore and this sanctuary has been earmarked as a native fauna and flora refuge – I'm looking forward to my first wombat encounter! You need to be comfortable walking around 10kms a day. Some Tassie walks are for beginners, some moderate and some quite challenging. Do contact us for details of Cradle Mountain, Bay of Fires, Three Capes or Bruny Island walks which you can include in your Tasmania adventure. Apart from the luxury guided walks there are other options which include self-guided where you carry your gear and guided walks hut accommodation – so something to suite most budgets.

If you prefer a holiday where everything is prearranged and you can have a wonderful touring holiday then join Australian companies Scenic and APT on one of their fabulous all inclusive trips. Intrepid also offer small group immersive journeys staying in small hotels interacting with the locals.

Coral Expeditions are taking a vessel to Tasmania again this year – their small (74 passenger) expedition vessel offers a circumnavigation around the island calling in to remote infrequently visited islands and shorter trips exploring the southern coastline of this beautiful island. With expedition leaders ensuring you get the most of this adventure you will explore the fabulous wilderness Tasmania has to offer.