

WALKING HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRALIA 202

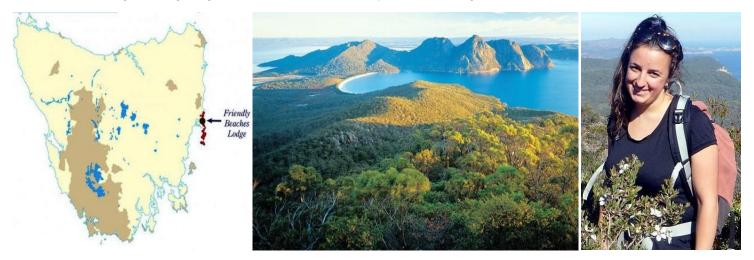
2023 / 24

AUSTRALIA - TASMANIA THE FREYCINET PENINSULA

4-days / 3-nights - guided centre-based walk with quality lodge accommodation

This four-day guided wilderness walk covers the entire length of the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast. Rise to the sights, sounds and smells of the Australian 'bush', enjoy the spectacular vistas of the clear waters of the Tasman Sea, see the contrast of **bright orange lichen on granite** against pristine white beaches, hear bird song and waves collapsing on the shore, and relish the **warm honey smell of Kunzea** in flower.

A walk that allows you to experience the challenge of a good day's hike and the indulgence of carrying no more than your lunch. Each evening, return to the lodge for dinners, a hot bath and a comfortable bed. For many, the highlight of this tour is staying at the award-winning Friendly Beaches Lodge. Every aspect of the lodge and its surrounds is designed to give guests maximum comfort, yet maintaining minimal impact on the environment.



The only building on Friendly Beaches is the Friendly Beaches Lodge, set in **blissful isolation** amidst 130hectares of private land surrounded by Freycinet National Park. Two accommodation lodges branch off from the main lodge with a collection of double and twin rooms. Both lodges contain a lounge area with fireplace, a bathroom with a clawfoot bath, a separate shower room and two composting toilets.

Energetic Guests will **walk between 28km to 40km over the four days.** The walk is organised so that people who are active will enjoy it. Walkers must be moderately fit and it is important to prepare for the walk beforehand. On the second day of the walk there is a choice between a challenging eight-hour 16km walk to climb Mount Graham (579 metres above sea level; for safety reasons walkers must be wearing ankle support boots to do this section) or a more relaxed 14km route along coastal heath lands and fabulous beaches. On the third day, there is a 14km walk (approximately six hours) to Friendly Beaches Lodge from Bluestone Bay.

Explore a **contemporary menu** of exceptional quality, freshly prepared, healthy, and with just enough indulgence. Enjoy local oysters plucked from the sea only hours before you eat them and try a range of Tasmania's **finest cheese and wines**. The lodge co-ordinators will make you feel at home and help you unwind. The lodge is used exclusively for walking groups.

Departs: Every Tuesday & Friday, from 24th December 2022 to 30th April 2024

Cost per person:	24 th Dec 2022 – 30 th Apr 2023:	\$3150 per adult	\$2950 per child (8-16 years old)
	1 st Oct 2023 – 23 rd Dec 2023:	\$3200 per adult	\$3000 per child
	24 th Dec 2023 – 30 th Apr 2024:	\$3400 per adult	\$3200 per child

Includes: 3 nights' accommodation in Friendly Beaches Lodge with shared bathroom/toilet facilities; transport from/to Hobart; meals (including wine with dinner); experienced and knowledgeable walk guides; park fees; boat trips, rain jacket, walking poles, daypack hire. Maximum group size is 10 (with two guides and two lodge hosts).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



"The Freycinet Experience's combination of gorgeous landscapes and prevailing ethos of 'luxury without harm' is enough to leave visitors on a natural – and sustainable – high." Gourmet Traveller Magazine

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 - Hobart to Coles Bay & Schouten Island

walking @ 3km (2 hours)

Arrive by 8.00am at the Hobart Old Woolstore for an 8.30pm departure for Coles Bay, taking in views of the Freycinet Peninsula. We stop for morning tea at the historic Spiky Bridge near Swansea. From Coles Bay jetty we board 'The Naturaliste' to Schouten Island (weather permitting). After a picnic lunch, take a walk up Bear Hill or fish for flathead in Schouten Passage with our coxswain before a transfer back to Friendly Beaches Lodge to relax and enjoy a dinner of fresh fish and Tasmanian wine, listening to the crashing waves of Friendly Beaches.

Day 2 - Coles Bay to Cooks Beach & a choice of walkswalking @ 14 or 16km (7 to 8 hours)Coastal Track Walking time: 7 hoursDistance: 14kmMt Graham Walking time: 8 hoursDistance: 16km

An early transfer takes us from Friendly Beaches Lodge to Coles Bay for a boat trip to Cooks Beach. Here you have a choice between a peaceful walk from Bryan's Beach through sclerophyll forest and along beaches to the renowned Wineglass Bay, or a more challenging walk to the top of Mt Graham (579m) descending to Wineglass Bay via the spectacular Quartzite Ridge. Both walks arrive at Wineglass Bay late in the afternoon, a perfect time for a swim in its clear turquoise waters. We walk to Wineglass Bay lookout for extensive views, then return to Friendly Beaches Lodge by bus for a refreshing shower before drinks and dinner.

Day 3 - Bluestone Bay via Bluestone Ridge & Freshwater lagoon walking @ 14km (6 to 7 hours)

Walkers are transferred by 4WD to Bluestone Bay, to explore the geological formations of the White Water Walls and Little Bluestone Bay before climbing to the Bluestone Bay cliff tops. We head through pristine bush following a track used by the Oyster Bay Tribe, past giant Xanthorrea (Grass Trees) and the exceptionally rare flowering Epacris Barbata, to arrive at the red lichen rocks south of the Friendly Beaches headland. We walk along the dazzling white sands of Friendly Beaches to arrive at the Lodge where cool drinks and afternoon tea await you.

Day 4 - The fossil rich ridgeline of Mount Mary & Saltwater Lagoon

walking @ 6km (3 hours)

Rise early and head down to the beach, or sleep in at the lodge. After breakfast, an optional walk along a ridgeline packed with fossils and a descent to Saltwater Lagoon — nesting ground to black swans and pelicans. After an exceptional brunch, guests walk north along Friendly Beaches to Isaac's Point, where they are met by our bus and return to Hobart by 5.30pm.

Extra nights of accommodation in Hobart can be arranged at extra cost – ask for details.

Outdoor Travel offer a wide range of guided or self-guided walking experiences in Australia and New Zealand including the **Flinders Ranges** in South Australia, **Kimberley Ranges** in Western Australia, the **Great Ocean Walk** in Victoria, Tasmania's famed **Overland Track**, and in New Zealand the **Milford Sound Track** (guided or freedom walk), **Routeburn Walk**, **Grand Traverse**, **Abel Tasman Walk or Sea-Kayak**, **Akaroa Walk**, **Queen Charlotte Walk** (guided or self-guided). We also offer a wide selection of group guided walking holidays or independent, inn-to-inn walks in Europe and the United Kingdom, in Asia and North America.

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