

Expedition Fact Sheet – South Coast Cruise

The Expedition Fact Sheet provides essential pre-departure information about the South Coast Cruise.

Expedition inclusions:

- Tender and shore excursions
- Tailored itinerary including walking, historic sites, birdwatching, photography, beachcombing...
- An Intimate wilderness experience with maximum of 12 guests
- Accommodation onboard brand-new boutique-cruiser Odalisque
- Interpretive guide, expert skipper, host and chef
- All meals featuring gourmet Tasmanian produce
- A curated range of wine, beers, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages
- National Park entrance fees
- Weatherproof rain poncho for tender excursions
- Waterproof expedition bag for luggage transfer
- One-way scenic flight between Hobart and the southwest wilderness (Melaleuca Airstrip)
- One way voyage between Hobart and Port Davey
- Meeting and finishing point transfers within the Hobart area

The Start of your Experience

This experience will either start with a flight or a voyage from Hobart into the southwest wilderness.

If your experience starts with the flying leg, your meeting point is at Par Avion, 115 Kennedy Drive, Cambridge. Unless otherwise specified, the experience begins at 10.45 am. Guests should arrive at the meeting point between 10:30 and 10:45 am. Please ensure that you have eaten breakfast prior to arriving.

If your experience begins with a voyage around the south coast, the meeting point is at Elizabeth St Pier, Hobart. The start time varies and will be confirmed closer to departure date.

A transfer from your accommodation in Hobart CBD to the meeting point is available. We will be in touch closer to the departure date to confirm pick-up arrangements.

Guests can also opt to make their own way to the meeting point.

Flights

The 50-minute scenic wilderness flight that either starts or ends this special experience links Hobart with the remote and tiny airstrip at Melaleuca. On the flight, guests will get a bird's-eye view of the jagged mountain ranges and rugged coastline of the vast Southwest National Park, and a feel for just how far Port Davey is from civilization.

Flights will not depart in extremes of weather and poor visibility. As such, changes to scheduled flight departure times can and do occur, with delays of several hours not unexpected. This is the nature of travelling to such a remote area.

In the event of inclement weather or if the flight provider is unable to operate the flight for any reason, On Board will work with the flight provider to ensure that guests are transferred on the next available day/time window in which the transfer can proceed safely.

Please refer to our terms and conditions for a detailed policy concerning scheduled flight times impacted by 12 hours or more.

Voyage & Itinerary

The weather shapes the itinerary, daily activities and the evenings' anchorages on this bi-annual cruise. To ensure a safe and comfortable experience, the passage between the more exposed areas of the south coast, between South and Southwest Capes, is only made in calm weather conditions. Accordingly, the itinerary can vary greatly. Here are some example routes and anchorages:

- 2-3-night voyage between Hobart to Port Davey including overnight anchorages on south coast, with the remainder of nights spent in Port Davey.
- 1-day voyage from Hobart to Port Davey, with 4 nights spent in Port Davey.
- 4 nights in Port Davey, followed by a 1-day voyage from Port Davey to Hobart.
- 2 nights in Bruny Island/Recherche Bay area, a 1-day voyage from Recherche Bay to Port Davey, with 2 nights in Port Davey.

The experience is best suited to travellers who have some flexibility in their travel dates, in case wind and swell dictate a shift to departure date.

Five days prior to scheduled departure, On Board will provide guests with a more detailed plan for the expedition, accounting for current weather forecasts and guest interests - whether that be hiking, beachcombing, bird spotting or simply soaking up the scenery from Odalisque. Every experience is unique and tailored.

To give you an idea of how you might spend your days in Port Davey, check our [southwest highlights](#).

Upon booking, please advise us of your particular interests in the area so that we may accommodate them.

Finishing Point

Your experience ends in Hobart, returning via air or sea. Finishing times vary and will be confirmed closer to departure.

Return transfer to the finishing point to accommodation within the Hobart CBD is available.

We highly recommend that guests do not arrange onward travel for at least 24 hours after the experience's scheduled end time in case of delays caused by weather.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that guests obtain comprehensive travel insurance at the time of booking.

On Board Dining Experience

Meals are an indulgent culinary experience made from fresh seasonal Tasmanian produce. Our specialist chefs have been borrowed from some of Hobart's top restaurants. Expect perfect picnics, freshly baked cookies pulled from the oven just as hungry hikers return, and flavoursome feasts in what is quite possibly the most remote restaurant in Tasmania.

Choose from a splendid selection of cool climate wines, crisp craft beers, slow-sipping spirits and non-alcoholic beverages. Additional alcoholic beverages, from a top-shelf list, may be purchased on board and charged to your account.

COVID-19 Booking Guarantee & Safety Measures

On Board's COVID-19 [Booking Guarantee](#) provides the peace of mind to book your next great adventure, whilst providing the flexibility should travel restrictions or COVID-19 impact your travel arrangements in the future. If COVID-19 directly impacts your capacity to travel, you may postpone your cabin booking for up to 24 months, with no additional charges. See our COVID-19 [Booking Guarantee](#) for more information.

On Board has implemented COVID-19 safety measures to keep our guests and crew safe and well. Our approach includes minimising the risk of COVID-19 positive individuals embarking on expeditions via:

- Vaccination Policy: All guests must be fully vaccinated.
- Testing Protocols: All guests must return a negative Rapid Antigen Test prior to departure.

For more detail, please review our [COVID-19 Safety Measures](#).

Weather

The dynamic and notoriously wild weather of the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area is part of what makes this remote corner just so special. Exposed to the strong westerly winds of Roaring Forties, it's a place of raw, untamed beauty. During summer, daily temperatures generally range from 15 to 25°C, with overnight minimums averaging between 9 and 11°C. It can be moderately cool when windy. Regardless of the time of year, expect a mix of wind, rain and deliciously warm sunshine. Whatever the weather, Odalisque offers a welcoming and sheltered home in the wilderness.

Luggage

Due to space and weight limitations in the aircraft, guests are limited to 12kg of personal luggage total. All luggage will be weighed upon check-in. For convenience and protection against the elements, On Board provides a waterproof expedition bag made of soft, weatherproof canvas for guest use. The bag is approximately 48cm long with a diameter of 34cm and a capacity of 45l. Guests may also like to carry a small bag or backpack as carry-on baggage. All other bags are stowed in the baggage compartment of the aircraft.

On Board will make every effort to provide the waterproof expedition bag to guests the day before the experience commences, to allow ample time for repacking. Guests can also choose to transfer their personal belongings into the waterproof expedition bag at the meeting point. Any belongings not travelling with you to Port Davey can be left with Hobart staff for safekeeping.

What to Pack

Essentials:

- Sturdy hiking boots or walking shoes (please note, some tracks are muddy, rutted and overgrown).
- Shoes suitable for wet beach landings in tender e.g. Crocs or sandals.
- Footwear for wearing aboard Odalisque. Something comfortable, and easy to get on and off e.g. Sneakers or 'boat shoes'. You're also welcome to move around in socks or bare feet, if that's more your style.
- Hat and sunglasses.
- Polar fleece or down jacket.
- Warm thermal layers.
- Raincoat.
- Personal medications.
- Active, comfortable clothes suitable for excursions (from hiking to cruising in the tender) in a range of weather conditions (from hot, sunny and still, to cold, windy and wet).
- Relaxed, casual attire for lounging aboard Odalisque or as a fresh change for dinner.

Optional:

- Bathers (yes, really!).
- Camera.
- Book (there is a small library on board too).
- Day pack.
- Gaiters.
- Waterproof overpants.

Aboard the vessel, for your use:

- Drink bottle (which you can take home with you).
- Weatherproof rain poncho for use on tender excursions.
- Life jacket, first aid & emergency safety equipment.
- A small library with a variety of reference books.
- Bathroom essentials including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, sunscreen & insect repellent.

Safety & Medications

The remote nature of this experience is part of what makes it a great adventure. It also means that we need be prepared for the unexpected. If you are taking any medications, please let us know prior to departure, and bring an extra supply with you. It is also important to advise us of pre-existing medical conditions or injuries.

Guest safety is paramount, and our standards, protocols and high level of staff training ensure our visitor and staff safety while visiting remote areas on our main vessel and tenders. Our crew hold wilderness or marine first aid qualifications. An extensive first aid kit, satellite communication, location beacon, marine radio and flare kits are on board.

Power & Communications

There is no mobile phone coverage in the Port Davey area. We see this as an opportunity to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. So put your out of office on and get back to what's really important.

We understand though that in some situations guests may need to communicate with the outside world. In these cases, it is possible to send and receive text messages and to receive calls only via the vessel's satellite phone.

In case of emergency, family and friends can contact our Hobart team on **0477 100 119**. The Hobart team will then pass any messages onto the vessel via the satellite phone.

240v power and USB outlets are available in guest cabins and lounge areas for the charging of personal devices.

Terms and Conditions

Please be sure to read our complete [terms and conditions](#)

Have more questions?

Have a look through our [frequently asked questions](#) or [get in touch](#).