

Tasmania : Wilderness & Franklin River Rafting

Trip Code: PXAT

Version:



PIONEER



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Raft the famous Franklin River, a true wilderness adventure
- Enjoy close encounters with native animals, birds and stunning endemic plants
- Trek to the summit of Tasmania's iconic Cradle Mountain (1,545 metres)

- Sailboat cruise along the Gordon River to Strahan

AT A GLANCE

- 9 days rafting
- Max altitude -1,545 metres
- Join at Launceston

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

The Franklin River winds through Tasmania's rugged southwest, carving through dramatic gorges, dense rainforests, and jagged mountains. As one of the world's last great wild rivers, its character shifts from wild and forceful to quiet and tranquil. This rafting expedition offers one of Australia's most pristine wilderness experiences and provides a truly authentic adventure.

Guided by our expert local team, who pioneered this journey back in 1978, you will embark on a nine-day rafting expedition. This remote area offers an escape from modern life with no phone reception or crowds, and you will be wild camping along the river. In addition to the rafting, our adventure includes visits to some of Tasmania's iconic locations, such as the breathtaking Cradle Mountain. We'll also hike through the island's central plateau and northwest regions, exploring their rich history, fascinating flora and fauna, and impressive rainforests.

Is this holiday for you?

For the rafting expedition portion of this trip, you will be rafting or walking in remote areas for between 6 and 10 hours each day, involving a significant amount of physical activity. The Franklin River Rafting trip is rated as moderate to challenging. Rafting is an activity suitable for anyone with reasonable fitness; however, we require that all participants feel confident swimming with a buoyancy aid in case they fall out of the raft. Our leaders will prepare you for such an event before the rafting begins.

The difficulty of the trip will depend on the water levels we encounter. Your guide will teach you the techniques to steer your raft, and it will be up to the crew, under your guide's direction, to make the trip successful and exciting. Whitewater rafting is one of the most thrilling outdoor activities and requires a team effort. The raft guides will analyse the river and select the safest and most practical way through the rapids. Each raft is guided by an experienced river guide. For safety reasons, you are required to wear a buoyancy aid, helmet, and appropriate footwear. There will be sections of portage (where group members will be required to participate in carrying rafts and other cargo overland, around certain sections of river, sometimes requiring more than one trip.) To participate, you should be able to walk over steep, uneven terrain.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Professional rafting / wilderness guides
- All accommodation as described
- 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 14 dinners
- All rafting and safety equipment
- 80L waterproof gear bag
- All transport by private minibus
- All activities/excursions/entrance fees mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

What's not Included

- Meals not specified in the program
- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This holiday begins on day 1 at the hotel in Launceston. A single-timed transfer from Launceston airport is included. For people arriving at different times, Taxis are available on arrival or we can arrange a separate transfer at an additional cost.

On the last day, we travel by road back to Launceston, arriving in the afternoon. You can choose to be dropped off directly at Launceston Airport or back in town if you prefer.

You will receive hotel details and local contact information before departure.

Meal Plan

14 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 14 dinners are included in the cost of this holiday.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Traditional recipes include salmon and potato salad lettuce cups, barbecued Tasmanian ocean trout, Tasmanian Wagyu steak, Tasmanian fruit salad with apples and pineapple, twice-cooked pork belly with honey sauce, and beef and winter vegetable pot pie. Due to the cultural connection between Australia and Europe, much of the cuisine on offer is similar to European dishes but often has a Tasmanian twist. In Launceston, there is also a good selection of international cuisine available.

During the rafting portion of the trip, all meals are included, and our guides will prepare good-quality, hearty meals for the group despite the remote location. For the included meals during the remainder of the trip, we will usually dine at local restaurants.

Special Diets

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

Accommodation

On the Franklin River, you will be camping as a group either in caves and rocky overhangs, or under dry, airy tarpaulins. There are no toilets or showers along the Franklin. Due to our strict minimal impact procedures, we carry out all human waste. We use a specially designed toilet system known as 'The Groover'. Your guides will advise you on all toilet procedures prior to departure on the Franklin section of the trip. There are many opportunities to swim or bathe in the mighty Franklin River. A quick-drying micro/travel towel is recommended for washing and drying. Personal hygiene can be further maintained with wet wipes/moist towelettes. Traditional bushwalking tents are not used on the Franklin as they get wet and do not provide the best shelter for the conditions. Rock shelters and tarpaulins are the most appropriate shelter for this type of expedition. A self-inflating sleeping mat (included) will be very useful for comfort in camp.

For the nights on the tour when not on the river, comfortable hotel/lodge-style accommodation is provided. Tasmania's west is a region with a very limited choice of accommodation, and we use carefully selected lodgings that have multiple rooms and shared bathrooms.

Spending Money

Most meals are included in this tour, including all meals during your time on the Franklin River. However, you'll still need to budget for meals that are not included, gifts, drinks, and other personal expenses. For most people, AUD \$1,000 should be sufficient.

Guidance on Tipping

In Australia, tipping is not generally expected or required. Unlike in some other countries, service staff in Australia are paid a fair wage, so tipping is not relied upon as part of their income. However, if you receive exceptional service at a restaurant, café, or bar, leaving a tip is appreciated but entirely optional. It's common to round up the bill or leave a small gratuity of 5-10%, but there's no obligation to do so. In other settings, such as taxis or hotels, tipping is even less common, though you may choose to tip if you feel the service was outstanding.

Tipping is not expected by the guides on this tour. However, if you would like to show your appreciation for excellent service, leaving a tip would be greatly appreciated.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday, we recommend using a soft duffle bag for your luggage. During your time on the Franklin River, all personal clothing and equipment will be kept in dry bags, which are secured to a gear frame on the raft. Any additional luggage can be stored at our agent's office in Launceston while you are on the river.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Most visitors to Australia require a visa obtained prior to arrival.

Passport holders from the following countries can apply for the Australian Tourist Visa online prior to their arrival which allows you a stay in Australia for up to 3 months:

- Canada
- United States
- United Kingdom

Applications can be made using the link below (other nationalities can also check their eligibility for an e-visa here):

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601#Eligibility>

New Zealand passport holders do not need to obtain a visa prior to arrival, they will be granted a visa on arrival.

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Currency

The unit of currency in Australia is the Australian Dollar, abbreviated as AUD or symbolised as \$. To distinguish it from other dollar currencies, it is sometimes written as A\$ or AU\$.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. Suggested preparation should include at least one hour of aerobic type exercise, four times a week (including a mix of walking and using a rowing machine). You should include day walking over steep, uneven terrain in your trip preparation.

Climate

Tasmania has a cool temperate climate with four distinct seasons. The warmest months are between December and March. Autumn runs from March to May and has still, sunny days. Winter runs from June to August; during these months, many of Tasmania's peaks are blanketed in snow. Spring is from September to November when you will experience longer, warmer days and fresh, cool nights.

Average maximum temperatures in summer are between 17 and 23 degrees Celsius. Winter maximum temperatures are between 3 and 11 degrees Celsius.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

The Ever Varying Flood: Franklin River Rafting Guide - Peter Griffiths & Bruce Baxter

The Rough Guide to Tasmania (Travel Guide) - James Stewart

Lonely Planet Tasmania (Travel Guide) - Charles Rawlings-Way and Virginia Maxwell

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

On a Franklin River trip all items required for the duration of the journey are packed onto the rafts you will be travelling on. This makes the rafts very heavy, particularly at the beginning of the journey when the raft is full with food for the expedition. Everything we take should be necessary for the journey, please read the packing list carefully and avoid unnecessary items. High value or irreplaceable items, Aerosol cans, Glass Containers of any kind and/or excessive amounts of soap should be avoided.

Please note that you will be provided with: 80 litre - a Watershed dry bag for your personal belongings, Personal Flotation Device - PFD (buoyancy aid), Helmet, Wetsuit - sleeveless to avoid chaffing, Spray Jacket - worn over the wetsuit, Personal groundsheet and a very thick and comfortable Therm-a-rest sleeping mat.

You should bring the following items:

- Warm sleeping bag, at least minus 5 degrees celcius
- Sunglasses and retainer to avoid loosing them
- Lightweight day pack
- Torch - handsfree head torches are best
- Sunscreen (small tube)
- Book (great when stuck in camp)
- Personal Medication and Toiletries
- Warm wool hat
- Sunhat, Baseball caps are best , can be worn under helmet
- Rain Jacket (gore-tex or similar)
- Shoes for camp and hike to Frenchmans Cap
- Shoes for on the river

- Board Shorts
- T- shirts
- Warm socks - no cotton
- Thick fleece or wool jumper
- Camp pants (fleece or quick dry)
- Thermal Top
- Thermal Trousers
- Small camping towel and swimwear

The following items are optional:

- Small lightweight tent - if you don't like the idea of tarps
- Camera - waterproof is best
- Gloves - fingerless ideal, to avoid blisters
- Down Jacket - nothing better for comfort in camp
- Neoprene socks (ensure these fit under the shoes you'll be wearing to raft) - highly recommended

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Rafting the Franklin River was honored as the best river journey in the world by Outside Magazine in 2012. This unique holiday is further enhanced with experiences in Tasmania's most iconic locations, including Cradle Mountain.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 02/08/2025 and the trip is subject to change