



Waterlilies in full bloom in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

A Botanical Tour of Tasmania

With the Friends of the
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

1 – 7 November 2026



Level 3
MODERATE





Take the ferry to Bruny Island and drive across the neck

Run in association with the with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, this boutique tour to Tasmania explores the many and varied botanical, historical, culinary and scenic offerings of this small but richly endowed island state.

The diversity of Tasmania's vegetation is remarkable and includes some of the most ancient plant species on Earth, the tallest flowering trees, the oldest plant clones and a high proportion of endemic species. Its pristine natural beauty and outstanding local food and wine form an ever-present backdrop to its rich culture and history, and of course its many beautiful and historic gardens.

This bespoke tour examines the diverse botany of Tasmania. The tour includes a range of tours and specialist visits, many

accompanied by expert guides, gardeners and speakers, who will share their botanical, historical and cultural knowledge with the group.

Early November is a lovely time to visit, with many flowering plants amidst pleasant spring weather. At the end of the tour there is the option to extend in Hobart and take part in Open House Hobart (7 - 8 November, 2026).

THIS TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 3 | Moderate



Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and /or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Tour Leader

Suzy Chandler spent most of her working life in education as a teacher of English and History before becoming a principal in an independent girls' school. She also was very involved with her local area through her husband's work as a councilor.

She began volunteering at the Growing Friends biannual plant sales when still working in education and has spent the last three and a half years managing the Office of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

A lover of gardens and history, Suzy believes that society thrives when surrounded by the natural world and living, being educated, working and socialising in well-designed, beautiful spaces.



Rhododendrons in bloom in Emu Valley



3 nights Launceston – 3 nights Hobart



Day 1: Launceston (Sun, 1 Nov) **D**

Pm: Arrive and check in to The Sebel.

Eve: Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Launceston (Mon, 2 Nov) **B**

Am: Visit City Park in Launceston, including the historic John Hart Conservatory, for a private tour with a gardener. Onto Cataract Gorge Native Reserve for a guided walk with native plant specialists, Roy and Louise Scabo. Finish at the elegant Gorge Restaurant and kiosk.

Pm: Visit Brickendon and Woolmers, two UNESCO World Heritage-listed convict sites whose estates tell 200 years of convict and colonial history through the Archer family. Explore Woolmers' famous rose gardens, then take a short walk to Brickendon Estate to visit its convict village and extensive heritage gardens featuring 80-year-old English oaks, elms, and exotic species. Experience the immersive UNSHACKLED digital exhibition.

Day 3: Launceston (Tues, 3 Nov) **B L**

Am: Drive to Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, known for its design with over 24,000 rhododendron and companion plants.

Pm: Drive to Kaydale to enjoy a light lunch and explore two hectares of diverse gardens, lovingly designed, built, and maintained by one family for more than 40 years. Return to Launceston.

Day 4: Launceston / Hobart **B L**

(Wed, 4 Nov)

Am: Visit Riverside Park and the native plants nursery. Meet with the horticulturalists and members of the Tasmanian Native Plants Society. Onto Patterdale, the homestead of the artist, John Glover. Hear a talk in the studio followed by a tour of the house and self-guided garden tour. Lunch at Patterdale with wine.

Pm: Visit Ross with time at leisure to explore the antique shops and famous bakery. Continue to the Callington Mill Distillery, visit the historic windmill and take part in a gin tasting.

Eve: Check in to the RACV Hobart.



Woolmers is known for its history and rose garden

Day 5: Hobart (Thurs, 5 Nov)

B **HT**

Am: Take a short Hobart orientation tour including the Hobart waterfront, Salamanca and Battery Point. Visit the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart for a hosted tour by the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart.

Pm: Visit Corinda House and Garden in Glebe. Take a tour of the magnificent private house and its lavish gardens followed by high tea on the veranda in the afternoon.

Day 6: Hobart (Fri, 6 Nov)

B **T** **D**

Am: Drive to Kettering and take the ferry to North Bruny Island and drive across the neck to South Bruny Island and Adventure Bay. This sheltered bay was visited and used as a re-watering site by Captains Cook, Bligh, Furneaux

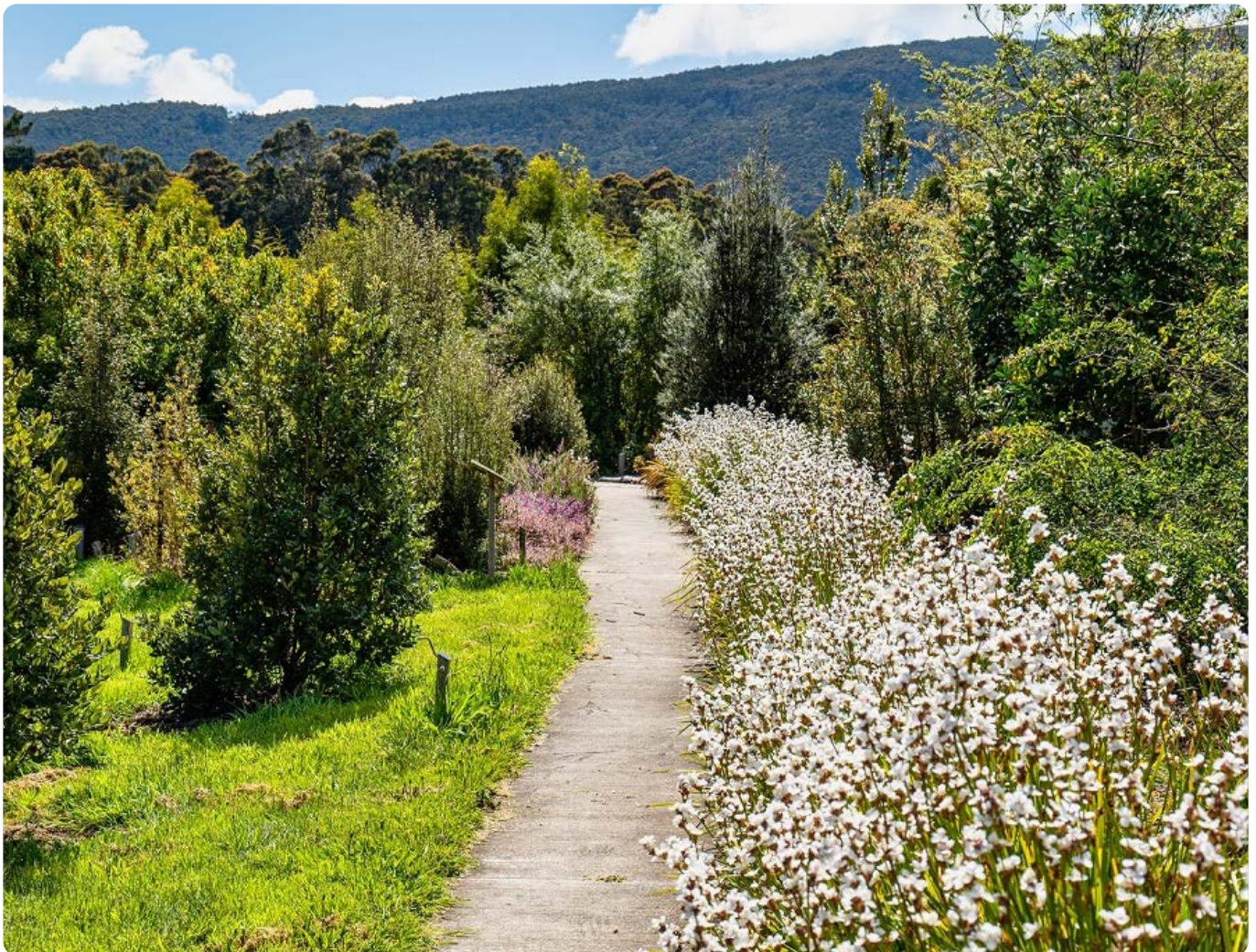
and D'Entrecasteaux, amongst others. Visit the Inala Jurassic Garden and see examples of the flora of Gondwana and learn of the relationships, similarities and differences between the plants of the southern continents that made up Gondwana, on a guided tour with the gardener. Time at leisure with opportunity to see the plant fossils in the museum and tea.

Pm: Visit the lesser-known Sprokkelwood Art Garden, where delightful gardens feature installations designed and created by artists in 1998. Return to Hobart for a farewell dinner.

Day 7: Hobart (Sat 7 Nov)

B

Am: Depart Hobart, with the option to visit the famous Salamanca Market, Mona, and Open House Hobart (7 – 8 November).



Inala Jurassic Garden



Cataract Gorge

Hotels

The Sebel, Launceston

The Sebel offers contemporary, stylish self-contained apartments and is located close to Cataract Gorge and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. Its restaurant, Bluestone Bar & Kitchen, is a fantastic part of Launceston's vibrant food scene, serving seasonal local produce, craft beers and Tasmania's cool-climate wines.

RACV, Hobart

A great base in the heart of Tasmania's capital, this hotel offers spacious, bright and comfortable rooms. The in-house restaurant showcases some of Hobart's finest produce and wines, and guests also have access to a gym.



Corunda House and Garden (top); Salamanca Market (above)



Banksia menziesii (top); *Isopogon cuneatus* (above)

The cost of the tour per person sharing a double or twin room is \$2,996

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is \$3,676

The cost includes:

- 6 nights' accommodation in medium grade hotels with private facilities
- The services of a tour leader, Suzy Chandler
- A full programme of specialist visits, excursions and talks as detailed in the itinerary
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- Breakfast daily, two lunches, two dinners, one tea, one high tea and gin tasting
- All internal transport
- All admission fees and a Friends' RBG donation
- GST

The cost excludes:

- Flights and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- Drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits; all personal extras such as portorage, laundry and inoculation fees; travel insurance and visas, if applicable

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.



High tea at Corunda House

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. We also ensure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to.

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Liriodendron flower (Arboretum) (top); Patterdale, the home of John Glover; Callington Mill Distillery; Gatekeeper's Cottage, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (above)



JON BAINES
TOURS

