

Be part of Travelrite's and John Howie's outstanding 2025



Tasmania

MUSIC TOUR

with John Howie

7 to 18 February, 2025

Hobart, Port Arthur, Richmond,
Oatlands, Queenstown, Strahan,
Cradle Mountain, Stanley,
Devonport, Launceston,
Evandale, Wineglass Bay



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL

John Howie
MUSIC TOURS
& CRUISES

INCLUDING THE



AUSTRALIAN
WOODEN
BOAT
FESTIVAL



Tasmania

MUSIC TOUR

The 2025 Tasmania Music Tour will be an unforgettable experience! Tasmania is a 'must see' travel destination, with a host of scenic highlights, including some of the best wilderness and coastal scenery in the world. Also, with the first white settlement dating back to 1803, Tasmania is rich in colonial and convict history. The tour includes many musical highlights, including a feast of fabulous music at the world-famous Australian Wooden Boat Festival. We hope that you can join us!



Itinerary

DAY 1 Friday 7 February 2025

Hobart

Tour group members make their own way to Hobart, arriving by lunchtime. Our coach will do a pick-up at the airport. A highlight of our tour will be the outstanding biennial Australian Wooden Boat Festival, in Hobart (Feb. 7th to 10th 2025). It's about wooden boats/boat building/sailing, etc., but is an excellent music and foodie festival, as well. The 2023 festival included outstanding music acts like The Lost Quays, The Stranded Wailers, Barrelhouse, and The Polaroids. Afternoon: Visit the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. At the museum, learn about the Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine (the last known thylacine died in Hobart in 1936). Evening: Commencement of Tour Dinner. Overnight: Hotel Grand Chancellor. (D)

DAY 2 Saturday 8 February 2025

Hobart

Morning: Visit Hobart's colourful Salamanca Market, situated in front of the historic waterfront warehouses at Salamanca Place. Nearby we will visit Battery Point, one of Hobart's best preserved historic precincts (beautiful cottages and a lovely spot called Arthur Circus... a circular street with a small park in the middle). Then travel to the summit of Mt Wellington (weather permitting), for stunning views of Hobart and surrounding area. Afternoon: Free time for you to enjoy the many attractions of the Wooden Boat Festival, including outstanding music performances. Also, you may like to attend the long-running Irish music 'session' at the New Sydney Hotel, 87 Bathurst St., 2pm – 6pm (free admission). Evening: Dinner in the picturesque Constitution Dock/wharf area (own expense). Lots of outstanding restaurants in this area, including seafood restaurants like Mures and The Drunken Admiral. After dinner enjoy some of the festival's excellent live music. (B)



DAY 3 Sunday 9 February 2025

Hobart

You may like to attend Hobart's weekly farmers' market (the Farm Gate Market), in Bathurst Street (8.30am – 1pm). Otherwise, a free morning and afternoon for you to take in the many Wooden Boat Festival events and music performances. Evening: Enjoy a fabulous night of music with the Hobart Old Time String Band (HOT String Band). This has been a real highlight of our previous Tasmania Music Tours. (B, Supper)

DAY 4 Monday 10 February 2025

Port Arthur

Travel to the Tasman Peninsula, where we visit the ruins of the infamous penal settlement at Port Arthur. You will be provided with a Port Arthur Site Entry ticket. This includes a 45 minute introductory guided tour. You then continue exploring the site 'self-guided', with an audio guide. We will also go on a short cruise that takes us close to the Isle of the Dead. During today's travels you will also see other natural wonders on the Tasman Peninsula: e.g., the Tessellated Pavement, the Blowhole, and the Devil's Kitchen. Evening: Enjoy a group dinner. Overnight: Port Arthur Motor Inn. (B,D)



DAY 5 Tuesday 11 February 2025

Queenstown

Morning: Visit two of Tasmania's most beautiful historic towns – Richmond and Oatlands. In Richmond, see the iconic Richmond Bridge, Australia's oldest surviving stone bridge (built 1823 – 1825). Also, visit St John's Catholic church (1836) – the oldest Roman Catholic church in Australia. See many beautiful, historic sandstone buildings, built in the Georgian style. Then visit Oatlands, one of Tasmania's oldest settlements. This beautiful historic village has more colonial sandstone buildings than any other town in Australia – many of them built by convict labour. Afternoon: Whilst travelling west, towards Queenstown, we visit The Wall in the Wilderness, an amazing indoor sculpture, on Tasmanian wood panels, by artist Greg Duncan. Late afternoon: Arrive in Queenstown, once the world's richest mining town. Queenstown is famous for its 'moonscape' (local hills denuded of trees) – a legacy of more than a century of mining. Also, visit Queenstown's famous gravel football ground. Evening: After dinner John Howie will host a session of Aussie bush poetry. Please join in and recite your favourite bush poems. Overnight: Gold Rush Inn. (B)



Gina Timms

One of Australia's most outstanding female country singers, Gina Timms, the Tasmanian-born singer-songwriter, has a powerful singing voice that she delivers with passion and integrity. Gina is well-known and highly respected in Tamworth and the northern NSW region, having lived in Tamworth for 4 years and having attended the Tamworth Country Music Festival for 32 years straight! With a heart bigger than Tasmania, Gina is a generous worker/fundraiser for many community organisations. For many years she has been a devoted country music awards/talent quest judge and advocate for the Australian country music industry. She has released many outstanding albums.



Debbie and Anita Parry

Outstanding Tasmanian country singers, Debbie and Anita Parry, have been doing their mother-and-daughter act for many years. Recently they have added Mick Wilson, on guitar/pedal steel guitar, and Rex Parker on bass, to form the very popular Whiskey Moonshine Bluegrass Band. Debbie and Anita sing beautiful vocal harmonies together. Debbie has recorded 35 albums. She is a great songwriter and must be one of the most prolific songwriters in Australia. She has written over 2,000 songs. One of her songs was recorded by John Denver. Debbie and Anita are looking forward to performing for us, on the 2025 Tasmania Music Tour.



HOT String Band

The Hobart Old Time String Band is a community band of around 20 musicians, playing fiddles, banjos, ukuleles, guitars, mandolins, accordions, etc. The band members share a passion for acoustic old time music and related genres. Their aim is to provide a community forum for lovers of American old time, hillbilly, and related instrumental music, and to get together and continue to improve their musical and performance skills. They meet nearly every Thursday evening, in Hobart. The HOT String Band first formed in 2001. The band's performances have been a highlight of previous Travelrite/John Howie Tasmania Music Tours.



The Ship That Never Was

The Ship That Never Was tells the dramatic and hilarious true story of an audacious escape, in colonial times, from the convict boat-building settlement on Sarah Island (near Strahan). The play is an Australian stage pantomime by Richard Davey, based on the 1834 escape, by convicts, on the ship they had built....the Frederick. *The Ship That Never Was* is a live professional theatre production, first performed in January 1994, in Strahan, produced by the Round Earth Theatre Company. It is an outstanding and very entertaining production. It is Australia's longest-running play (i.e., been running about 30 years).

DAY 6 Wednesday 12 February 2025

Strahan

Morning: Travel to Strahan, on Tasmania's west coast. This 'picture postcard' town, on the banks of Macquarie Harbour, is the gateway to Tasmania's World Heritage listed southwest wilderness region. You may like to go on a cruise on Macquarie Harbour, with World Heritage Cruises (optional). See back of brochure for further details. Those not doing the cruise spend a relaxing morning/early afternoon in Strahan. Afternoon: Free time to explore Strahan. You may like to take a flight over the spectacular southwest wilderness region (own expense). Evening: Attend performance of *The Ship That Never Was*. This entertaining play is based on an audacious escape, in 1834, from the convict boat-building settlement on Sarah Island. Overnight: Strahan Village Hotel. (B)

DAY 7 Thursday 13 February 2025

Cradle Mountain

Morning: Travel to Cradle Mountain. On the way, visit the vast Henty Sand Dunes and stop in the mining town of Zeehan, where we visit the excellent West Coast Heritage Centre (museum). On arrival at Cradle Mountain, in the spectacular Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, have lunch then visit beautiful and much-photographed Dove Lake and historic Waldheim Chalet. Evening: Enjoy a fun-filled informal music/singalong session, with John Howie. Overnight: Cradle Mountain Wilderness Village. (B,L,D)



DAY 8 Friday 14 February 2025

Stanley

Morning: Travel to Stanley (north-west corner of Tasmania), via Burnie and Wynyard. Enjoy spectacular coastal scenery. On arrival in Stanley, visit The Nut, a prominent and distinctive flat-topped hill, right on the coast. There are wonderful views of the coast and surrounding countryside from the top of The Nut. You can walk to the top or travel up (and down) by chairlift (chairlift own expense). Also, in Stanley, visit Joe Lyons Cottage (former Prime Minister's birthplace and boyhood home). Evening: Dinner at our hotel. After dinner we will be entertained by outstanding local country singer, Gina Timms. Overnight: Stanley Seaview Inn (B,D).

DAY 9 Saturday 15 February 2025

Devonport

Today we make our way along the beautiful north-west coast, from Stanley to Devonport. Near the town of Wynyard, visit Table Cape Lookout (great views

over Bass Strait) and Boat Harbour Beach (we'll go for a short walk on the beach's pristine, white sands). We will also do a short sightseeing tour of Burnie and Ulverstone. In Devonport visit Home Hill (the fascinating family home of Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and Dame Enid Lyons, and their 12 children). Overnight: Sunrise Devonport. (B)

DAY 10 Sunday 16 February 2025

Launceston

Travel east to Launceston. En route stop in Sheffield and see the town's famous murals. Near Launceston we will visit impressive Clarendon House, the largest and grandest Georgian house in Australia. On arrival in Launceston enjoy a sightseeing tour, including Cataract Gorge, City Park, and the Tamar Valley. We will travel up the east side of the Tamar River Valley, cross over Batman Bridge, visit the town of Beaconsfield (where 2006 mining disaster occurred), then travel down the west bank of the Tamar River, enjoying lovely views of vineyards and the river/estuary. Evening: Enjoy End of Tour Dinner. We will be entertained by outstanding Tasmanian country singer/songwriter, Debbie Parry, and her daughter, Anita. Anita sings beautiful vocal harmonies with her mum. Debbie has written an unbelievable 2000+ songs, including one recorded by John Denver. Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Launceston. (B,D)

DAY 11 Monday 17 February 2025

Launceston

Today we travel to Freycinet National Park, to see Wineglass Bay, one of Tasmania's most iconic sights. On the way visit Evandale, one of the best-preserved historic towns in Australia. Its late Georgian and early Victorian buildings, and untouched streetscapes, offer a unique glimpse into Australia's past, with some buildings dating back to 1809. Continue on to Campbell Town. Rich in convict history, the town's well-named Red Bridge is Australia's oldest surviving brick arch bridge. On arrival at Freycinet N.P., walk (along a boardwalk) to Cape Tourville Lookout, for spectacular views of Wineglass Bay and other coastal scenery. Evening: Enjoy a relaxing evening at our hotel in Launceston. Overnight: Best Western Launceston. (B)

DAY 12 Tuesday 18 February 2025

Departure

Morning: Transfer to Launceston Airport for flights home. On arrival at Launceston Airport the tour concludes. (B)





Tasmania

MUSIC TOUR

7 to 18 February, 2025

TOUR PRICE

Per person, twin-share \$ 4,395

Single supplement \$ 1,295

Included in the tour price:

- Accommodation in well-located hotels and motels with private facilities, on a twin-share basis, throughout the tour.
- Breakfast daily (except for Day 1); 5 dinners; 1 lunch; 1 supper (as indicated by B,L,D,Supper).
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked optional or own expense.
- Entry to all music performances mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked optional or own choice.
- Entry to *The Ship That Never Was*.
- Transport in first-class coaches in Tasmania.
- Tour management by John Howie, meeting the group on arrival in Hobart and travelling with the group.
- The Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Admission to 95% of the festival's activities is free. There are some Special Ticketed Events and Concerts. Admission to these Special Ticketed Events and Concerts is not included in our tour.

Not included in the price:

- Flights to Hobart and from Launceston.
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary.
- Cruise on Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River, at Strahan.
- Additional travel arrangements not in the detailed itinerary. These will be quoted for separately.
- Travel insurance.
- Meals unless specified in itinerary.
- Entry to musical entertainment, except as specified above.
- Admission to the approximately 5% of Special Ticketed Events and Concerts, at the Wooden Boat Festival.

General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd, (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: The tours costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entry costs at 1 February 2024. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to costings will be made within 60 days of departure.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: A deposit of \$500 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days before departure. A 1.5% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa, Mastercard and AMEX cards.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: Cancellations within 60 days prior to departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellation outside 60 days from departure will result in a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

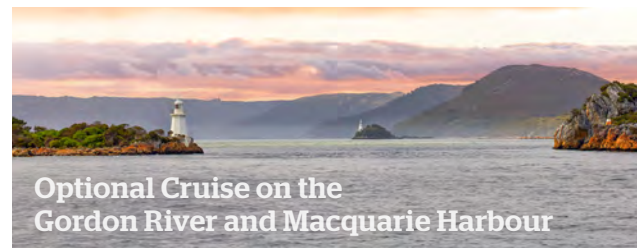
BAGGAGE: Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the tour.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been costed on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost if the minimum number is not achieved.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty. Ltd. is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as agents for passengers in making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria.



The Australian Wooden Boat Festival is a highly regarded maritime event held in Hobart. It is a biennial festival that celebrates the rich heritage, craftsmanship, and culture associated with wooden boats. The festival program includes on-water displays, entertainment and cultural performances. There is no general fee, for admission to festival events. 95% of the activities are free with some Special Ticketed Events and Concerts.



Optional Cruise on the Gordon River and Macquarie Harbour

with World Heritage Cruises

This is a 6 hour cruise (9am – 3pm). The cruise includes the following: cruise on the Gordon River; cruise on Macquarie Harbour; 1 hour visit to Sarah Island, where a lively guided tour of the convict ruins is provided by the Round Earth Theatre Company; 30 - 40 minute 'boarded' walk at Heritage Landing (see ancient Huon pine and myrtle forest); go through 'Hell's Gate' (the opening from Macquarie Harbour to the ocean); back in Macquarie Harbour, see 3 fish farms (Tassal; Huon Aquaculture; Tetuna). Lunch is included.

Prices per person: Main Deck, Centre: \$155; Main Deck, Windows: \$190; Upper Deck, Centre: \$200; Upper Deck, Windows: \$210. We have to book early, to ensure places on this cruise.

If you'd like to go on this cruise, on Wednesday 12th February please tick the appropriate 'tick box', on our tour booking form.



John Howie – Tour manager

John Howie was a secondary school music teacher for 23 years (taught Kylie Minogue). He and his twin brother, Graeme, perform as the country music/ easy listening act, The Howie Brothers. John has been operating and leading successful music tours and music cruises for 25 years, including Ireland and Scotland, the US, Australia, NZ, and other parts of the world. John says his and Travelrite's primary goal, with the music tours (and cruises), is to offer outstanding travel 'products', with music as an additional, special focus.



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www.music tours.com.au

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$500 per person to:

Travelrite International P/L
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 9836 2522

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (A.C.N. 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 40 years. It has a fully ATAS (No A10538) and IATA accredited office in Balwyn. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.