

# **ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION**

# PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

### **Travel Insurance**

We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance prior to departure to cover any unforeseen circumstances that may arise on tour (including cancellation fees, medical and curtailment expenses, COVID-19, loss of luggage, medical evacuation and airline cancellation charges under a variety of circumstances. Be sure to pack your policy in case you need to make a claim while on tour. Please add your insurance policy details into your Tour Personaliser.

#### **General Physical Fitness**

APT tours are not physically demanding; however, because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, tours will require a good level of fitness and health to participate. Some trips may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs as well as steep inclines. You should be able to stand on your feet for an extended period of time to visit museums, attractions and other sites, as well as when checking in for flights and cruises, and at Customs and Immigration.

#### Children

We recommend a minimum age of 12 years for coach touring. Guests under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Allergies**

If you have a food allergy or another condition that must be managed on tour, please advise your booking agent as soon as possible and your Tour Director upon arrival, as most suppliers require advance notice to accommodate this. In some cases, you may be asked to fill out a form or waiver. All suppliers will endeavour to cater for allergies, but this may not always be possible and cannot be guaranteed.

#### **Injury or Illness**

If you suffer from a medical condition or require the availability of medical equipment, such as sleep apnoea machines, please check with your doctor and APT as to your suitability for the tour prior to travelling. You will be required to provide APT with the details on any CPAP machines at the time of booking. To cope with minor illness and injury, a first-aid kit is always on hand. In the case of more serious injury or illness, medical care can be obtained at main towns.

Please advise your Tour Director of any medical conditions and any treatment that could be required in an emergency. In the event that you have to leave your tour because of illness, your return to the point of departure will be at your own expense and by your own arrangement. If bringing a CPAP machine, we recommend also bringing an extension cord in case there is no power point close to the bed.

#### **Mobile Phones**

Please consider your fellow passengers when using your mobile phone during the tour. Please note that not all locations have mobile phone coverage for all service providers. We suggest that you contact your service provider for details on roaming and coverage prior to departure. Remember to pack your phone charger and an adapter if required.

# **Internet and Email Access**

Wi-Fi internet is available in most hotels, sometimes for a fee, either in the foyer and/or in-room access, enabling you to send and receive emails and access social media sites.

### Valuables and Security

Do not take anything with you that will create emotional or financial hardship if lost or stolen. Carry all important items with you including documents, money, passport, tickets etc. Do not carry these important items in your suitcase. You may find a money belt (worn inside clothing) useful while travelling. Never leave hand luggage unattended. Avoid exploration on your own in unfamiliar streets or areas. Also avoid excessive displays of jewellery or cash. When sightseeing, keep all valuables locked in the safe in your room.

### **Tipping**

While it is acceptable to tip crew members for good service, it is not compulsory in Australia – it's always your choice. If you do choose to tip your Tour Director and driver, the amount you give should reflect your degree of satisfaction with the services provided. As a guide, we would suggest \$5-8 per day for each crew member is a fair amount.

#### **Traveller Feedback**

As part of our commitment to providing quality touring experiences, we welcome and encourage your feedback. Towards the end of your tour, your Tour Director will ask you to complete a feedback form. Please take the time to answer the questions and make relevant comments. Every feedback form is read at our Head Office and a summary of each tour is given to all members of APT management. Where necessary, relevant action is taken to rectify any problems.

#### **Travel Distances**

Australia is a country with unique natural landscapes. The nature of the terrain can be fairly rugged in remote places, and travel distances can be quite long. Australia is the world's sixth largest country. Here's how it compares to other nations: 

 Australia (sixth largest land area)
 7,682,000 sq km

 USA
 9,147,593 sq km

 South Africa
 1,221,000 sq km

 France
 547,000 sq km

 New Zealand
 264,537 sq km

 United Kingdom
 41,930 sq km

Note: 1.61 km equals 1 mile.

# How Far Do We Travel Each Day?

Distances travelled can vary greatly along your journey. Naturally, when we are driving on paved roads, we are able to travel greater distances. On unsealed roads, the going can be rough and less distance covered. Some days of course, we don't even travel 100km (approximately 62 miles), particularly if we are just sightseeing in and around town.

# **Distances and Durations Between Coach Stops**

Hobart to Strahan	300km
Strahan to Cradle Mountain	150km
Cradle Mountain to Smithton	190km
Smithton to Launceston	180km
Launceston to St Helens	165km
St Helens to Hobart	255km

#### **Seat Rotation on Coaches**

To ensure everyone gets to enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system will be put in place by your Tour Director.

### **Smoking**

Due to Australian government regulations, smoking isn't permitted on aircraft or tourist vehicles. Frequent stops are made during the day for your comfort. Most hotels in Australia don't offer smoking rooms.

# STAYING HEALTHY

#### On Holiday

It's important for you to be as healthy as possible before you travel and to maintain your health by applying good hygiene practices while on tour. Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, while usually minor in nature, can spread rapidly within a tour group and have a major impact on everyone's enjoyment. APT is committed to reducing the spread of infections on tours and asks that you read and follow our recommendations to ensure a healthy, safe and enjoyable holiday for you and your fellow travellers.

### Before You Go

#### Get Walking

As your tour will mostly involve sightseeing by foot, and you will be required to embark/disembark coaches and/or other forms of transport, you will enjoy it more if you start exercising ahead of time. In the lead up to your trip we recommend you start walking three times a week (including some steps), building up to an hour at a time. This will ensure you have the stamina and energy to see and appreciate all the sights your tour has to offer. Please ensure your walking shoes fit properly and have been broken in prior to departure.

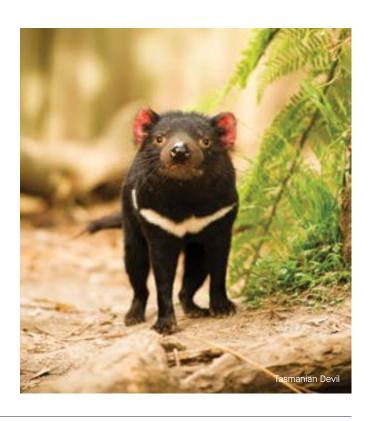
#### See Your GP

Your GP or travel clinic is the best source of information about preventative measures. We recommend you consult your GP or local travel clinic for detailed advice to ensure maximum pre-travel preparation. Please take a copy of your travel itinerary with you to assist with the recommendations of appropriate medications.

If you have health problems, ask your doctor to prepare your medical history for a doctor, should you need to see one on tour. It should include your name, address, emergency contact, blood type, medical history, current medications and dosages, drug allergies, reasons for prior hospitalisation and a list of vaccinations and dates.

A copy of your prescriptions is vital in case of any health problems. Prepare a list of your medications, including the name, dosage, prescribing doctor and their phone number. Pack sufficient

medication for the duration of your tour. Your medication should be kept close at hand in your purse or carry-on bag. It is always good to carry a list of your medications in case they are lost and remember to leave everything in its original container so it can be easily identified. It is also a good idea to bring a copy of your prescription for glasses or contacts.



#### Pack a Medical Kit

AA small medical kit is recommended for all travellers. Pharmacies in large towns will likely stock most basic medicines and supplies but they may be difficult to access and a script may be required for some medications.

#### Your medical kit should include:

- A general-purpose antibiotic to cover respiratory, skin and gastrointestinal infections (e.g. azithromycin).
- Your preferred cold and flu medication (e.g. cold and flu tablets, throat lozenges and nasal decongestant).
- · Your preferred painkiller (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen).
- Medicine for gastrointestinal upsets (e.g. antacids, 'stoppers' for diarrhoea, and a laxative for constipation).
- Other supplies including elastic plasters, blister pads, thermometer, scissors, tweezers, eye drops for dry eyes, etc.

#### On Tour

Practicing good hygiene is vitally important in stopping the spread of common viral infections such as colds, flu or gastro, which can spread quickly.

#### Practice Good Hygiene:

- Washing your hands is the most effective way to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading infections.
- Health experts recommend you wash your hands often with hot water and soap for 20 seconds or longer before eating, after sneezing or coughing and after touching high-contact surfaces (such as door knobs, elevator buttons and railings).
- Please be mindful of your fellow travellers with respect to coughing, sneezing and the disposal of used tissues.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers are located in various public areas on board all our ships and coaches. Please make sure you make use of these when reboarding and before all meals.

#### Colds and Flu

Viral respiratory infections are the most common infectious illnesses affecting travellers. Colds and flu are primarily spread by people

coughing, so please practice hygiene and respiratory courtesy – wash your hands often, cover your coughs and sneezes, and use anti-bacterial wipes or hand sanitiser prior to meals and frequently throughout the day. Influenza can be commonly contracted while travelling. The flu vaccine protects against flu viruses expected to be prevalent during the current flu season. You should discuss this with your GP.

#### Gastro and Traveller's Diarrhoea

Traveller's Diarrhoea is the second-most common infectious illness affecting travellers. The illness can be due to a number of different bugs including viruses and bacteria. Viral gastroenteritis is generally spread by person-to-person contact, whereas bacterial gastroenteritis is generally spread from consuming contaminated food or water. Symptoms can include fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.

The incubation for the illness is variable depending on the cause. Symptoms are generally self-limiting and treatment includes rest, rehydration, simple diet, anti-nausea and anti-diarrhoeal medications. Antibiotics are generally reserved for use when symptoms are more severe or protracted (e.g. fever, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea or duration of symptoms for more than two days). Strict personal hygiene measures, particularly hand washing, helps protect you from getting sick and, of course, spreading the infection to others.

# **APT Health and Safety Protocol**

APT has created Health & Safety as well as COVID-19 protocols that all our Driver-Guides and Tour Directors are required to adhere to. You may be requested to assist in reducing the spread of viruses if you are showing symptoms while on tour. If you are showing symptoms of a cold or a virus whilst on tour, you may be asked to wear a face mask, have meals in your room instead of the dining room, or remain in your room until the symptoms improve. Refer to our website for our most up-to-date protocols.

### Sun Exposure and Dehydration

The weather will be variable on your tour. Drinking plenty of water is important to prevent dehydration. A hat and a good sunscreen are vital for preventing sunburn, even on overcast days.

### **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

### Tasmania's Climate

The warmest months are December, January, February and March, while sunny days are still common in April and May. Winter runs from June through August. However, being positioned by the Southern Ocean, the world's weather engine, the climate can vary greatly on any given day.

Average maximum temperatures in summer sit between 17-23°C. Winter maximum temperatures are between 3-11°C.

Rainfall varies dramatically across the island. Hobart, with an annual average of 626 mm, is Australia's second-driest capital city (after Adelaide), while on Tasmania's west coast, an annual average of 2,400 mm ensures the rainforest thrives.

# YOUR COACH AND CREW

#### **Tour Director and Driver**

Your Tour Director and driver are both highly trained industry professionals, committed to making your holiday memorable. Their informed and entertaining commentary will showcase their passion for and knowledge of the area. Backed by our dedicated support staff, their organisational skills will ensure that your trip is truly hassle free. From the moment you join the tour, nothing is too much trouble. Your Tour Director and driver are on hand to ensure your comfort, take care of all arrangements, and answer any and all queries.

#### **Touring Coaches**

APT's modern coaches provide you with the ultimate in touring luxury. As standard they feature seat belts, air-conditioning with individual controls, a toilet/restroom, a video screen, reclining seats with foot rests, panoramic windows, phone communication extending to the

Royal Flying Doctor Service (Australia only), and plenty of room so that you are comfortable throughout your journey.



### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

### **Airport Transfers**

Airport transfers are included on the first and last day of the tour. No refund will be given for unused transfers. Transfers cannot be re-routed to other pick-up points or destinations. Passengers who miss the pre-booked transfers must make their own way to/from the airport, train station or hotel at their own expense. Transfers must be booked and arrival and departure details advised to APT at least 60 days prior to travel, otherwise transfers cannot be guaranteed.

### **Hotel Information**

#### Arrival

The official check-in time at hotels is 2pm local time but, where possible, the hotel will try to have your room available earlier. If your flight arrives before this time, luggage can be stored at the hotel before check-in and will often be delivered to your room later. If you arrive very early in the morning and would like guaranteed access to your room, booking an additional night of accommodation is recommended. Normal check-out times vary but are usually at 10am. If you have a late afternoon or evening flight, most hotels have a luggage room where you can store your bags until your departure.

### PACKING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY

#### What Should I Wear?

Naturally, this depends on personal preferences; however, it is recommended that you consider the time of year you are travelling and bring a variety of warm and cool clothing to suit the climate. Pack sufficient lightweight, comfortable clothing and ensure you have appropriate footwear. Drip-dry clothing is easy to launder and does not require ironing. Most people dress casually on tour; however, if heading into town for a night, you might want to wear something more elegant. At casinos, dress regulations are generally neat casual attire, no jeans, cords or denim allowed. Ties are not required, but neat open-neck shirts are requested for gentlemen along with enclosed shoes (athletic shoes are not permitted).

### Luggage Requirements

We ask that you pack your required items into one suitcase, which is to weigh no more than 20kg (44lb) and measure (length + width + depth) no more than 160cm (63 inches). Please check your suitcase does not exceed these requirements for your own convenience and enjoyment of the tour. Due to strict regulations on vehicle weight and the limited luggage capacity of planes, we are unable to accommodate excess or overweight baggage. APT tours include an on-tour baggage service, allowing one standard suitcase per guest.

### INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

### Currency

Australian currency is decimal with the dollar being the basic unit (100 cents equalling one dollar). Notes come in \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5 denominations. Coins are minted in \$2, \$1, and 50, 20, 10 and five cent denominations.

#### **Quarantine Regulations**

Strict quarantine regulations apply. Trained detector (sniffer) dogs work at all domestic and international airports in Australia.

Travelling interstate, you cannot transport fruit, vegetables, fresh flowers, plants or cuttings. Occasionally, additional specific items will be targeted during disease outbreaks. International visitors arriving in Australia are advised to declare all food (fresh, tinned or packaged), animal and plant material or their derivatives, drugs (medication) and medicines (therapeutic, herbal and vitamins). Declaring goods does not necessarily mean your luggage will be examined. Penalties for not declaring prohibited or restricted items are severe. For more information contact:

Australian Border Force: +61 2 6196 0196

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service: +61 3 8318 6700

# **Electricity**

The electrical current in Australia is 240/250 volts, AC50Hz. Three-pin power points are the standard, so you may need to bring an adapter or voltage converter.

#### **Time Zones**

Australian standard time is commonly known as Eastern Standard Time (EST) and is 10 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania run to EST. South Australia and Northern Territory are half an hour behind EST, and Western Australia is two hours behind EST.

Between October and March, daylight savings are observed by New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia only. Clocks are put forward by one hour at the beginning of October and then returned to EST at the end of March or the beginning of April.

### ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Your accommodation is one of the most important elements of your holiday. This is why we have carefully chosen the best hotels on offer to tour groups, to complement your level of touring. We strive to ensure every hotel you stay at is the finest representation of accommodation, service and cuisine available.

You will enjoy ample time to experience each spectacular region you visit. In the more remote locations, hotel standards may vary, but we always provide the best accommodation available.

#### **Facilities in Your Room**

#### Beds

Twin-bedded accommodation usually comprises of two single beds, although some hotels present twin share accommodation as one

double bed and one single bed. A double room comprises of one double bed designed for two people to share.

#### Shower/Bath/En Suite

All APT accommodation will feature private facilities. Your bathroom will always have a shower, toilet, hand basin, towels and soap. Most feature hair dryers too.

#### Television/Radio/Telephone

Most rooms will have a television, radio and telephone. However, using in-room telephones comes at an additional expense. In remote areas, these room facilities may not be available.

#### Minibars/Refrigerators

Hotels used on APT tours feature a small refrigerator in the room. On many occasions, rooms feature a minibar. This facility operates on an honesty system whereby you pay prior to departure for any drinks or snacks consumed. Please remember that these items can be costly.

#### Tea/Coffee-Making Facilities

Your accommodation will often provide complimentary tea and coffee-making facilities in your room.

#### Laundry/Ironing Facilities

Most of the hotels we stay at offer free or coin-operated laundry facilities. Ironing facilities are also available either in the hotel laundry or supplied in your room.

#### Porterage Included

Porterage is taken care of by your Tour Director and driver, who will look after the efficient and safe handling of your luggage at all hotels. Please ensure your luggage conforms to size and weight requirements.

### **Special Requirements**

If you have special requirements such as a preference for adjoining rooms, double beds or ground-floor access and have not advised us, please contact us as soon as possible.

# **DINING INFORMATION**

### **Exceptional Dining Experiences**

The cuisine you'll enjoy on your APT tour is above and beyond the standard meals you'd expect on coach tours anywhere in the world. In fact, many dining events will be memorable holiday experiences. We pay careful attention to the negotiation of our menus to ensure choice and a healthy variety of quality food catering to all tastes is offered. Meals are always accompanied by tea and coffee. As a special highlight, you may have a feature meal included in your tour, showcasing specialty dishes that celebrate regional flavours. Meals included in your tour price are clearly indicated on your itinerary.

Restaurants are available in all hotels in which you stay at on an APT tour. The restaurants are fully licensed, so you may purchase alcoholic beverages to enjoy with your meal.

Dietary requests will always be taken into consideration and fulfilled where possible, but cannot be guaranteed. The wide selection of menus and choice of dishes available at hotels will assist in meeting any special dietary requests. If dietary requirements are strict, please check with your booking agent, APT or your Tour Director concerning catering. You may have to carry a small supply of the necessary food (that does not require refrigeration). If you have special dietary requirements, please contact us as soon as possible.

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### **Useful Websites**

Climate: climate-zone.com

Time: timeanddate.com/worldclock

**Currency Conversion:** <u>xe.com</u>

Customs Australia: customs.gov.au

Customs New Zealand: <a href="mailto:customs.govt.nz">customs.govt.nz</a>
Customs UK: <a href="mailto:hmrc.gov.uk/customs">hmrc.gov.uk/customs</a>

Australian Government Advisory and Consular: smartraveller.gov.au

New Zealand Government Travel Advisory: <a href="mailto:safetravel.govt.nz">safetravel.govt.nz</a>
UK Government Travel Advisory: <a href="mailto:gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice">gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice</a>

# **International Calls**

New Zealand

worldwise.co.nz

travelclinic.co.nz

**United Kingdom** 

travelhealthpro.org.uk

masta-travel-health.com

fitfortravel.nhs.uk

For international calls, please check with your telecommunications provider regarding long-distance charges. Pre-paid phone cards are available for purchase at local shops. To make an international call:

- 1. In Australia, dial 0011 (international access code):
- 2. Dial the country code;
- 3. Then dial the area code;
- 4. And finally, dial the telephone number.

### Health-Related Websites

#### **Australia**

traveldoctor.com.au

travelclinic.com.au

travelvax.com.au

smartraveller.gov.au/tips

tga.gov.au/travelling-medicines-and-medical-devices

# **APT TRAVEL CENTRES**

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Building 4, Level 1, 15 Cochranes Road, Moorabbin, VIC 3189

P: 1300 278 278 (within Australia)

W: aptouring.com

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Level 1, 20 Augustus Terrace, Parnell, Auckland 1052

**P:** 0800 278 687 (within New Zealand)

W: aptouring.com

#### UNITED KINGDOM

3rd Floor, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W OAU

P: 0800 012 6686 (within the UK)

W: aptouring.com

### NORTH AMERICA

Suite 530, World Trade Centre, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 3E1

P: 1800 290 8687 (within North America)

W: aptouring.com



This booklet is designed as a guideline to assist you when preparing for your tour. Much of the information within is subject to change and, while all care has been taken to ensure all information is correct at time of printing, we cannot take responsibility for any subsequent changes. Printed in Australia. Effective May 2025. Australian Pacific Touring Pty Ltd. (ABN 44 004 684 619. ATIA accreditation #A10825). APT-6191

