

ADVENTUREX

WITHOUT ADVENTURE... WHAT IS LIFE?

World Heritage Area **The Franklin River, Tasmania**

This 12 day rafting adventure takes you the full navigable length of the Franklin River, deep in the heart of Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area. Our journey includes a day walk to the imposing Frenchman's Cap, the monarch of the south west, as well as rafting through one of Tasmania's most spectacular gorges.

Unpredictable river levels mean our trip will always be an adventure - it is possible to encounter both very low levels and floods within days of each other. Whatever the level, rafts offer the best way to explore this unique wilderness.

Your Itinerary

Day 1:

Flights generally arrive into Hobart in the morning. You will be met at the airport by one of the guides who will take you to your hotel and make sure that you get settled in. We'll enjoy a relaxing beer and have a pre-departure meeting at our hotel. Then it's out to explore the local restaurants. (No Meals included)

Day 2:

We depart the hotel at 6am, driving and following the Derwent River. Climbing into the central highlands passing Lake St Clair we descend to the Collingwood River, a tributary of the Franklin. Here we will load the rafts and prepare for the river journey ahead. We will give you a thorough safety briefing and we also practice our paddling techniques before tackling our first rafting of the trip. The day is spent mastering the rafts and enjoying easy rapids leading down to our evening's camp at the junction of the Collingwood and Franklin Rivers and a glorious view across to Frenchman's Cap.

Day 3:

An early start sees us traversing the first of the Franklin's gorges, *Aesthesia Ravine*. After tackling the *Log Jam* and *Nasty Notch* portages we rocket through the rapids of *Descension Gorge* before arriving at the beautiful "Irenabyss" or *chasm of peace*, our base for the next 2 nights.

Day 4:

Today we will scale Frenchman's Cap. In fine weather we'll have views of the Franklin sparkling below. If the weather is poor or you choose not to climb the Cap, there are a number of lower level walks nearby that offer a different perspective of the river.

Day 5:

Today it's straight back into the action. Dozens of rapids, interspersed with quiet stretches, lead us past Mt Fincham, the Jericho Walls, and the Crankle and on to our campsite at the base of the Engineer Range. Here we relax under a canopy of towering Sassafras and Myrtle trees and have a chance to go swimming.

Day 6:

A spectacular day that brings us to the awesome Great Ravine, one of Tasmania's deepest gorges. First we'll tackle the *Side Slip* rapid before coming to the *Churn*. Teamwork and tenacity will be required to portage at least part of this huge obstruction in the river. Soon after we'll arrive at our camp for a well earned rest on the banks of Serenity Sound deep in the Ravine.

Day 7:

We'll use all our well practised rafting skills to negotiate the *Coruscades*, one of the longest rapids on the river. A short float takes us through to our next portage at *Thunderush*, then it's on to the last obstacle, the *Cauldron*. Our expert guides will ensure that we pass these awesome rapids safely and efficiently. Our final camp at Rafter's Basin is a great place to relax after the achievements of the day.

Day 8:

Today we head into Propsting Gorge and arrive at the Mt McCall Track, where our re-supplies await. After repacking the rafts we continue through the exciting *Trojans* rapids before arriving at Rock Island Bend and the *Pig Trough*, with its delightful waterfall cascading into a fern lined grotto. Safety dictates that we portage the actual *Pig Trough* rapid before we round the bend to tackle the famous *Newland Cascades*. This section will have everyone whooping with delight as we plunge through a maelstrom of spray and white water. At the rapids end is a place for a deserved break. On the bank, natural overhangs provide the ideal shelter. Echoing cliffs and plumes of spray add to the magnificent setting.

Day 9:

The river abruptly leaves the quartzite gorges of the Middle Franklin and enters the limestone country of the lower reaches. Tranquil pools are broken by the occasional large rapid- *Little Fall* is a great spot for action photography! Slowly the river increases in volume. The Jane River enters from the left just above our midday break on Flat Island, a beach of polished river stones dominated by the impressive Elliot range.

We then continue to our evening's camp under a canopy of ancient trees by the deep pool at Blackmans Bend. We may be lucky enough to get a visit from the local platypus.

Day 10:

The tick rainforest which clings to the river banks is punctuated by limestone cliffs and strange rock formations. The river widens and now flows quietly. There is time to reflect; to conjure up visions of Aboriginal peoples hunting the Ice Age plains in the days before the forest spread to claim the open country. Today we will carefully show you some of the unique lime stone caves which sheltered these people some 14,000 years go. Later in the day we will tackle the unexpected *Double Fall* before making our final camp, on one of the lower river's many sandy beaches.

(Included: All meals Day 2-10)

Day 11:

Almost immediately we encounter the last step down in the rivers bedrock, *Big Fall*. It's a deceptive rapid which we portage easily and quickly. Around the corner is the gaping *Pengana Cave*, a towering vault in the cliffs. We enjoy our last lunch near the junction of the Franklin and Gordon Rivers.

Our final few hours are spent drifting along this mighty river, carried along by the huge volume of water that makes the Gordon Tasmania's largest waterway. Soon we reach the picturesque Sir John Falls where our 'Wilderness Air' seaplane will meet us for the return flight over Macquarie Harbour to Strahan on the west coast.

A bus trip back to Hobart completes our journey back to our hotel and a post trip meal together! (Included: Breakfast & Lunch)

Day 12:

We enjoy breakfast at our hotel before we take you back to Hobart Airport for your flight home. (Included: Breakfast)

Holiday Options

So, not quite ready to return to work and want a few extra days holiday? Check out our range of options and we will be happy to help things all work out. There is something for everyone in Tasmania:

Sea Kayaking.

A perfect way to check out the picturesque coast of Tasmania. Hobart is spoilt by having some of the world's best sea kayaking at it's doorstep! For those seeking a truly once in a lifetime kayaking experience, we can also offer remote 3 and 7 day sea kayaking trips to Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour in Southwest Tasmania's World Heritage Wilderness.

Wine Tasting.

The first vineyard in Tasmania was planted at New Town (near Hobart) in 1823. In 1848 its white wine won an award at the Paris Exhibition, and its vines are still producing. The vineyards in Tassie are small and specialized producing a great range of wines from Chardonnay to Pinot Noir... so what better way to spend a free afternoon but getting taken around the local vineyards and sampling a few for yourselves?

Sydney

Surely one of the most exciting cities in the world and a great place! We can offer you a few days after your Franklin trip to check out the wide variety of culture and nightlife. Check out the amazing Sydney Opera House or take a walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge! A great place and a fun town!

Life's A Beach In Fiji.

Many of our adventurers choose to take in a relaxing few days sampling Fijian hospitality and the great beaches that this small archipelago has to offer. Fiji is packed full of exotic little hideaways and fantastic resorts to go sea kayaking and snorkelling. Or why not just "chill out", sip on your Pina Colada and watch the sun go down in a truly heavenly destination.

The Details

What Is Included:

- Transfers to and from Hobart Airport to the hotel. If you provide us with your arrival details we will be happy to meet you at the airport and ease that transition into Aussie chaos! We request that you are there on Day 1 before the trip starts.
- Accommodation the night before and for a night after the river trip in a tourist hotel. This will be on a share twin basis with somebody else on the trip.
- All transfers to and from the river.
- All meals from breakfast on Day 2 to lunch on Day 11. We can cater for any dietary requests, just let us know!
- All rafting equipment, including the best in buoyancy aids, helmets and spray jackets.
- Tented or tarped accommodation whilst on the river and beach.
- All camping equipment including thermarest style mattresses and chairs (sleeping bags excluded).
- Qualified and experienced guides and safety kayakers. We have a mixture of local and overseas guides who are extremely professional and some of the most experienced guides in the world. These guys and girls make every effort to make your trip memorable and fun whilst at the same time ensuring your safety. They all hold advanced first aid qualifications and in the unlikely event of an injury they have the expertise and professionalism to deal with it.
- All necessary permits and licenses.
- A very cool AdventureX T-shirt!

Please Note: Not included are flights, visas, departure taxes, travel insurance, inoculations, sleeping bags, video or dvd of your trip, alcohol, personal items or gratuities. You will also need to budget for meals in town which are not included in the price and any extra accommodation outside of what is provided.

Getting There:

Most international flights will arrive into and depart from Sydney, where you will need to clear immigration formalities, and then change to the domestic terminal for your onward flight to Hobart. If you have any queries or problems planning your flights please do not hesitate to call us and we will advise on the best option to tie in with your trip.

Visa Requirements:

Normally you can enter Australia with a minimum of formalities. You must register for your ETA on line at www.eta.immi.gov.au/. It will cost AUS \$ 20 (aprox £8) and will be processed immediately and recorded electronically. A passport valid for at least 6 months is required for entry.

Inoculations:

What a joy - you won't need anything!!

Exchange Rates:

Aussie remains very good value. The "tinnies" (beer) are cheap and you will find Australia great value for eating out or shopping. At the time of printing GBP £1 bought AUD\$2.47 and one USD\$1 was equal to AUD\$1.34.

Climate:

Tasmania has a wide range of climatic conditions. During the day temperatures are relatively warm and sunny whilst we are on the river and normal rafting attire with sandals and shorts will be fine. However rain and cold conditions may be encountered, and nights are usually cool. We provide you with a warm spray jacket and recommend you bring a thermal. For the evenings it's a good idea to bring a warm sleeping bag and also a fleece jacket, some long pants and a woolly hat.

Much of the Franklin catchment receives in excess of 2500mm precipitation annually. It can snow on the peaks even in summer however it is generally protected and comfortable in the river valley. For your comfort please follow the equipment list provided.

Fitness and Safety:

A reasonable level of fitness is important and should increase your enjoyment of this trip. The Frenchman's Cap walk involves an ascent and descent of more than 1000metres. In addition there will be some portages which require us to carry rafts and equipment around certain rapids. You should feel confident swimming with a buoyancy vest should you fall out or if the raft capsizes. Rapids vary from Grade I to V although most are grade II to III. The most difficult level run on most trips is Grade IV and it is possible to walk around many of these rapids should you choose. The river by nature is a drop pool, most of the rapids are separated by calmer pools at most levels. The minimum age for this trip is 16 years and there is no upper age limit providing that you are in reasonable physical shape and you are aware of the rigors of a whitewater expedition in a foreign country. Please make a point of telling us if you have any medical conditions or are on any medication that you think we should be aware of. Any known allergies are also useful before you turn 3 shades of blue and phase in and out of consciousness! Safety is our foremost consideration at all times whether on or off the river. We are out there for a great time on the river and we want you to feel comfortable in your environment.

Dress Code:

The dress code in and around the town of Hobart is fairly relaxed. Lightweight casual clothes are recommended during the day. On the river you should have a thermal top as well as a swimming costume and a pair of shorts. We also recommend a pair of Teva type sandals or the like that will stay attached to your feet. Please bear in mind the weather in Tasmania can change quickly so bring a fleece for the evenings and a rain jacket as well!

Personal Equipment:

After years on the river the guides have found exactly what is necessary to feel comfortable rafting by day, cosy around the camp at night and totally in style in town before and after the trip. Therefore our equipment list will mean that you will be perfectly attired and outfitted for your whole trip and well under the baggage allowance. A full list of what we recommend will be sent to you after your booking confirmation. We find that most people already have in their possession what is needed for a raft trip and very little if anything in specialised equipment needs to be bought.

Finally..

Please remember that things do change, prices go up and down, activities stop running or change format and weather can send the best laid plans out the door. AdventureX will do it's best to provide what is described above but please take into consideration the nature of the journey that you are embarking on and the country that you are travelling in and understand that a certain degree of flexibility is necessary!

The Franklin River is a special place. Walk into old caves and discover Aboriginal relics from the last ice age, enjoy world class whitewater, a stunning scenic flight and amazing hikes in this gorgeous World Heritage Park. This really is the trip of a lifetime. See you there!