



## experience the gordon river



Appearing to stand silent within Tasmania's World Heritage Area, the majestic Gordon River winds its way from deep in the South-West to the mouth of Macquarie Harbour.

Take a cruise aboard *Lady Jane Franklin II* on these majestic waterways – the site of many historic battles for our convict heritage, original settlers and conservationists. Reach out to the ancient temperate rainforests and touch their craggy surfaces that bear witness to hundreds of thousands of years.

The highly trained guides who tell stories along the way will help you fully enjoy your experience.

Departing Strahan, explore Hell's Gates, the appropriately named entrance to Macquarie Harbour, where many have died trying to pass through this treacherous stretch of water.

Macquarie Harbour is the second-largest harbour in Australia, six times the size of Sydney Harbour. Its unique make-up of freshwater with a saltwater layer underneath means very few fish inhabit the water, although trout and salmon thrive in the mix, and the cold and relatively unpolluted waters.

Back in the safety of the Harbour, visit the Atlantic Salmon and Ocean Trout fish farms, with their black rings dotted on the water's surface.

*Lady Jane Franklin II* departs at 8.30am with a 2.15pm return, (in peak season an afternoon cruise departs at 2.45pm).

## lady jane franklin II

As you enter the mouth of the Gordon River, the water calms and the cruising speed drops. Large boats are not allowed to go above about six knots in this World Heritage listed wonder to ensure sustainability of the experience.

You then stop at the uppermost point the *Lady Jane Franklin II* is permitted on the river, Heritage Landing, for a guided tour of the temperate rainforest, a land of ancient trees that rise above the Earth like ancestors of times past.

The Gordon River's mystical dark waters, with their spectacular reflections, are naturally coloured by tannin leeching from the surrounding lands.

The majestic Gordon River was once the site of passionate protest over the damming of its pristine waters, just below its intersection with the Franklin River, a long-remembered debate that spawned the Green movement we know today.

Trained guides aboard *Lady Jane Franklin II* are well-versed in the history of this region, and are there to answer all of your questions about its history, conservation and its inhabitants.





## world heritage wonder

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area satisfies seven of a possible 10 WHA criteria, the highest of any place on Earth.

Reflected in the river are the native trees protected in this area – myrtle, blackwood, sassafras and the high-demand Huon Pine, found only in Tasmania and a protected species in this State. No-one is allowed to fell this majestic beauty, which takes hundreds of years to grow to maturity.

If you stop and listen, you hear nothing – that’s because these forests stood long before birds and insects evolved, and the trees have their own long-standing methods of propagating.

It is not unusual to experience four seasons in one day in this region – from blazing sunshine to soaking rain. You should not be surprised or disappointed by the rain here, for this is the climate that has formed this spectacular World Heritage rainforest.

Average summer temperatures peak at about 20 degrees, with about 200mm of rainfall – more than essential for the survival of this region. In winter, temperatures can get down to about 5.5 degrees, with a maximum of about 12 degrees, and 550-650mm of rain.

Coats, jumpers, sturdy shoes and, in winter, gloves and scarves, are all recommended to ensure you get the best out of this wild wilderness, for getting out amongst the elements is one of its most charming attractions.

## captain's premium upper deck

The *Lady Jane Franklin II* is a beautifully appointed vessel with excellent comforts, particularly on the Captain’s Premier Upper Deck with its leather seating, private viewing deck, room to move around the cabin and excellent food and wine, all included in your ticket price.

A large part of Strahan’s fishing industry is dependent on the Ocean Trout and Atlantic Salmon fish farms that hug the coastline of the harbour. Large seafood companies own the farms, which are tended by locals who feed the fish daily and dive regularly to ensure there are no escapees through holes in the nets.

Aboard *Lady Jane Franklin II*, as you return along the river from Heritage Landing, a sumptuous lunch of smoked salmon from Macquarie Harbour, Tasmanian Game Ragout and a selection of other Tasmanian produce, complimented by Tasmanian cheeses, fine wine and beers, awaits you in the Premier Upper Deck.

