



MEDIA KIT

ABOUT WINEGLASS BAY CRUISES

Owned by a young, local family—Duncan and Irene Sinclair and their two children, Ewan (13) and Fionn (12)—the company began life in 2000 as Freycinet Sea Charters, operating fishing trips from Coles Bay.

After running the Sea Charters, they realised their guests wanted a deeper experience of Freycinet’s unique geography, history, abundant marine and bird life.

It also became apparent that the thing visitors wanted to experience above all else was Wineglass Bay, which was rated among the world’s top 10 beaches according to Lonely Planet in 2013. In reality, most people visiting the east coast are unable to visit or even see Wineglass Bay. Accessing the beach is only possible by taking the 3 hour walk across the saddle.

In 2005 we launched a new vessel for Freycinet Sea Cruises and began cruises to Wineglass Bay. To reflect customer’s expectations and the product offering, the business was renamed as Wineglass Bay Cruises.

In October 2014, a brand new vessel, the Schouten Passage II was launched. This new vessel has effectively tripled capacity, creating an even more impressive experience for our valued customers.

The new vessel gives every passenger an unforgettable, prime view of the coastline and wildlife.



LOCATION

Coles Bay is on the east Coast of Tasmania 192 km north-east of Hobart and 209 km south-east of Launceston, being the main entrance point for visitors to the Freycinet National Park.

The rugged pink granite peaks of the Hazards mountains and blue-green clear waters of the Great Oyster Bay make for the perfect location to commence the cruise and showcase Tasmania’s Award winning East Coast cruise. In 2014 the Australian Traveller Magazine named Tasmania’s East Coast Escape as the Number 1 road trip in Australia and number 2 overall best holiday in the country and in the Australian Traveller’s list: ‘100 things to do before you die’ number 4 was Wineglass Bay.

With a rich history, and a unique natural environment this special part of the Australian coast is a must while visiting Tasmania. Not only is the area home to the world renowned Wineglass Bay but it boasts other popular spots like Friendly Beaches, the Hazards Range, Cape Tourville, Moulting Lagoon and a whole host of interesting places that stay with you well after you have left. The area boasts many attractions including vineyards, oyster farms, scenic flights, adventure activities and guided walks.

Accommodation ranges from quaint bed and breakfasts through to the renowned 5-star Saffire Freycinet.



VESSEL

The Schouten Passage II has two large inside cabins, two bars and floor to ceiling windows for better viewing inside to keep customers warm and dry, no matter what the conditions outside. There are three outdoor viewing decks to get up close with nature. The upper deck has been transformed into the more intimate Sky Lounge. The vessel has five toilets, including a disabled accessible toilet and a galley for food preparation and is staffed by one skipper and three deckhand/hospitality crew on-board.

For this season we have completely renovated the lower deck galley and introduced some more seating to increase capacity to 180.



EXPERIENCE

Wineglass Bay is the destination, focal and turning point for the cruise, however the journey to and from this iconic beach is nonetheless enjoyable and informative.



Cruise

Cruising the Freycinet Peninsula coast, customers experience stunning scenery, abundant wildlife and a rare, intimate perspective on one of Tasmania's most extraordinary places.

Visitors step aboard the immaculate vessel for an unforgettable four-hour cruise, from the gentle shores of Coles Bay to one of the world's most beautiful beaches, Wineglass Bay.

We cruise beneath the ruggedly beautiful pink granite cliffs that rise from the Tasman Sea, skirt forested capes and discover hidden, sea-swept bays. Tasmania has over 5,000 kilometres of coastline and one of the most biologically diverse marine environments in the world.

The towering lichen-stained sea cliffs on the eastern side of the peninsula are an amazing geological formation. The depth of water here allows the vessel to move so close to the cliffs, they can almost be touched. The coastline has pockets of sea caves, some of which can be viewed through to the other side; some single caves, rock overhangs, and double caves big enough to back the boat into.

Otherwise accessible only by a 2.5-hour walk, this is an opportunity to see Wineglass Bay as few people can, without the climb or the crowds.

Cruises depart from Coles Bay Jetty, located at the corner of Jetty Rd and Esplanade.



Food and beverage

Guests enjoy a Tasmanian Ploughman's lunch at anchor in relaxed style. Taste local beverages and cool climate wines in nature's best wine bar in the wilderness. Enjoy a bento box full of fresh local produce such as salmon, cheeses and chocolate, prepared by the chefs at Lodge.



Wildlife

Our seas are teeming with life, and many species are found nowhere else in the world. Tasmania's cool temperate waters support an abundance of fish species, which in turn supports populations of seabirds and larger marine mammals including seals, dolphins, and seasonally migrating whales. Species which have been sighted on our cruises include: abundant seabirds including Australasian gannets, cormorants, gulls, crested and Caspian terns, and short-tailed shearwaters, Albatross—including the shy, yellow-nosed and wandering albatross, White-bellied sea eagles, Wedge tailed eagles, Little penguins, Bottlenose and Common Dolphins, Australian fur seals, migrating Humpback and Southern Right Whales. Orca (killer whales) are occasionally sighted and we have had the privilege of encountering five blue whales in one day, a treasured moment for all guests and crew.



History and interpretation

The cruise is fully guided. Duncan and Paul the experienced skippers, share their vast local knowledge while cruising the Freycinet Peninsula's stunning coastline in a way that few visitors can.

Passengers discover the natural and human history of this extraordinary place.

AWARDS

2013 Tasmanian Tourism Awards

Recognising Business Excellence

Rewarding Achievement

Finalist - Tour and/or Transport Operators

2013 East Coast Regional Tourism Awards

Winner - Tourism Attractions/Experiences/Tour Operators

2014 East Coast Regional Tourism Awards



Winner - Tourism Attractions/Experiences/Tour Operators

2015 East Coast Regional Tourism Awards

Winner - TCIT People's Choice Awards

2015 Tasmania Tourism Awards

Recognising Business Excellence

Silver - Tours & Transport Operators

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