

WALKING JOURNEY

Flinders Island

The Jewel of Bass Strait

TASMANIA

7 DAYS



WALKABOUT
GOURMET ADVENTURES

Journey Overview

- Experience a very personalised holiday with a maximum of 10 like-minded guests.
- Discover the most beautiful and remote corners of Flinders Island.
- Experience the two most majestic mountains on the island – Mt Strzelecki and Mt Killiecrankie.
- Walk a variety of coastal trails taking you to pristine and deserted beaches.
- Visit Quoin Farm, home to Jo and Tom Youl, and enjoy an aperitif at The Bar overlooking Killiecrankie Bay.
- Call into Kate Mooney’s home to see the orphan wombats which Kate is raising.
- Sample delicious local Whiskey and Gin at the spectacular Furneaux Distillery.
- Visit Cassie and Barry at Unavale Vineyard and taste their delicious organic wines.
- Stay in an indulgent retreat in one of Tasmania’s wild and untamed places.
- Relax in individually designed rooms with bespoke furniture and artworks where you have full access to all the common spaces such as the reading room, the parish sitting room and all outdoor spaces.
- Enjoy delicious and nutritional breakfasts each morning and fresh home cooked biscuits and cakes for morning and afternoon tea **PLUS** wonderful picnic lunches.
- Savour Wendy’s delicious dinners each evening specialising in the local produce of Flinders Island and her “garden-to-kitchen-to-plate” concept of utilizing seasonal home grown produce.
- Last but not least – listen to the stories and learn about the colourful history of Flinders from someone who has grown up on the island.

Journey Schedule

DAY 1

Whitemark – Trousers Point – Fotheringate – Lady Barren – Badger Corner – Flinders Island Gourmet Retreat

DAY 2

Flinders Island Gourmet Retreat – Palana – North East River – Badger Corner

DAY 3

Mt Strzelecki – Badger Corner

DAY 4

Wybalenna – Emita Furneaux Museum – Port Davies – Lillies Beach – Settlement Point – Castle Rock – Badger Corner

DAY 5

Cameron’s Inlet – Quoin Farm Visit At Killiecrankie – Sunset Drinks And Aperitifs At ‘The Bar’ – Badger Corner

DAY 6

Killiecrankie – The Docks – Badger Corner

DAY 7

Badger Corner – Whitemark Airport



Journey Itinerary



DAY 1

Whitemark - Trousers Point - Fotheringate - Lady Barren - Badger Corner - Flinders Island Gourmet Retreat

Flinders Island is one of Tasmania's best kept secrets – it is located in Bass Strait, 54 kms from the north east tip of the state. It is a part of the Furneaux group of 52

islands which stretch north towards mainland Australia. Flinders Island is about 75 kms long and 40 kms wide. Its highest point is Mt Strzelecki (756m) at the southern end of the Island. The island is surrounded by a magnificent coastline rich in flora and fauna. The west coast is rugged and rocky, interspersed by beautiful beaches, some only a few metres wide and others, like Marshalls Beach, up to 10kms long. The east coast is less rugged with many lagoons, flat wetlands and long stretches of open coastline. Inland from here is where the majority of the island's farming is done with some magnificent beef and grazing properties. Because of the temperate coastal climate, the pastures grow all year round and judging by the condition of the cattle, the farms do very well indeed. The island has a population of around 950 and the main town is Whitemark (population 150). It is the administrative and commercial centre for the island and is located 10 minutes from the airport. The other 2 very small towns are Lady Barren in the south and Killiecrankie in the north. The main industries on the island these days are farming, fishing and tourism. Flinders is one of Australia's most isolated locations. Apart from its local produce everything else has to be shipped onto the island from mainland Tasmania which of course adds to the island's high operating costs. It is certainly not a cheap destination but the high costs keep tourist numbers down which means that those who do visit have it virtually to themselves.

We meet at Flinders Island Airport; at the moment there is a flight from Melbourne Essendon Airport leaving at 11.25 and arriving at Flinders Island at 12.30. Sharp Airlines are the only commercial airline flying into Whitemark - there are direct flights from Melbourne and Launceston. Please book your flights directly with Sharp Airlines. The Flinders Island airport is located just outside of Whitemark. After collecting our baggage, we join our vehicle and travel into town for a coffee, lunch and a general orientation around the "capital" of Flinders Island. From here we head south towards beautiful Trousers Beach and Fotheringate Bay at the foot of Mt Strzelecki. These two beaches are probably the most photographed beaches on the island although don't be surprised if we are the only people there. The locals say that if you see footprints on the beach then you just find another beach!! What makes Flinders Island so special is because it's so untouched. We stretch our legs for an easy 2-hour circuit walk. It is a great first day walk because it showcases some of the highlights of what the island has to offer - pristine beaches, beautiful bays, granite headlands, uninhabited offshore islands and mountain vistas. The trail commences on the edge of Fotheringate Bay and hugs the coastline all the way to Trousers Point. Apart from the outstanding coastal scenery the trail also passes through pockets of coastal heathland - home to a rich variety of birdlife.

Trousers Point apparently gets its name from Richard Burgess who was escaping from the nearby wreck of the Sarah-Anne in the 1870s without any trousers! Another version is that a box of trousers was washed up on to the beach from the wreck of Cambridgeshire in 1875. Whichever story is correct one thing is certain – Trousers Beach is a real gem! We retrace our steps back to our vehicle where we continue our route south to the small township of Lady Barren. This is the island's 2nd largest town with a general store and a hotel. The town also has a strong indigenous presence with an Aboriginal Community Centre. It is an important port with a large wharf – all the cattle on the island are exported to mainland Tasmania from here.

From Lady Barren it is only 10 minutes to our lovely accommodation at Cooma House in Badgers Corner. Here we are greeted by Wendy – she has established Cooma House as a gourmet retreat allowing a maximum of 10 guests to immerse themselves in this beautiful corner of the island. Wendy is a “local” and was brought up on the island and has a wealth of knowledge and information on the history and the “ins and outs” of the Island and she has deep connections with the local families. Of course, over the years Wendy has spent many years off the island where she learnt her cooking skills working with some of Australia's most well-known chefs as well as teaching in schools and universities. Wendy is a great promoter of Flinders Island produce – both its food and wine. Wendy has, over the years, established a wonderful vegetable garden and orchard which she uses extensively when preparing her delicious meals. Interestingly Flinders Island produces some lovely wine especially pinot noir.

Time to settle into your comfortable rooms – but as Wendy says: “It's not just a room! You have the whole house and grounds as part of your accommodation experience. My passion is sharing Flinders Island life, hosting guests, telling the stories, valuing, and creating meals using produce from Flinders Island to honour the environment, the seasons, and most importantly, my guests”.

Later we meet outside in the cosy courtyard to catch a glimpse of the setting sun as it fades over Franklin Sound before we move into the dining room for the first of Wendy's delicious dinners.

 **2 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**

DAY 2

Flinders Island Gourmet Retreat - Palana - North East River - Badger Corner

This morning we head to Palana on the north-west tip of the island. It's about 45 kms beyond Whitemark and has a population of 21 permanent inhabitants. It's an idyllic location with a few sleepy holiday homes and permanents overlooking Blyth Bay. Apart from its obvious scenic beauty it has quite a bit of history attached to it. During WWII it was an important radio coast watchers' base – today the old concrete huts and bunkers are still standing to remind us of this era.

The nearby Palana Dunes are home to aboriginal middens which date back to over 7,000 years. We take a stroll along the small road through the small township which hugs the coastline and then make our way back for a walk along Palana Beach. This large sweeping beach is perfect for a stroll along its sandy shores – the views to the ocean are spectacular especially to the north where Inner Sister Island is located.

We return to Palana and then travel out to the North East River. It is a tidal estuary and seabird habitat. It is a popular spot with the locals to swim or snorkel in the warm inlet water as the incoming tide creeps over the hot sand. We take a walk beside the inlet and follow the small road out to the ocean to where the river from the inlet makes its way between North East Rock and Holloway Point out to sea – it's a very popular fishing spot but it can be extremely hazardous with very strong currents at the change of tide. The inlet is a very important feeding area for birds, pelagic fish, and dolphins. We take a walk along the beach towards North East Rocks for uninterrupted views to Outer Sister Island.

In the late afternoon we return to our lovely accommodation at Badger Corner where we can relax before we meet up for another delicious dinner.

 **3 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**

DAY 3

Mt Strzelecki - Badger Corner

This morning we take the short drive to Strzelecki National Park. The highest point of the park and the island is Mt Strzelecki at 756 m. It was named after the Polish explorer, Paul Edmund Strzelecki who visited Flinders Island and climbed the highest peak in 1842.

The first part of the walk is not steep but climbs steadily through a beautiful patch of casuarina trees. After about an hour's walking the landscape changes completely as we enter an open eucalypt forest. It is easy to understand that this part of the island records the highest rainfall as we walk through some thick patches of native tree ferns.

As we gain more altitude, we are soon rewarded with sweeping views back down to the coast and out to sea. Beyond Trousers Point, Chapel Island becomes visible. As we return on the same trail guests can choose at any point to wait for the group and just sit and admire the views. The vista from any vantage point is outstanding. The vegetation is constantly changing as we gain more altitude, and we soon enter a sassafras musk rainforest. Along the track we also encounter manna gums as well as Tasmanian blue gums. After three kms we have reached an altitude of about 700m. Here there is a large rocky platform which is a great spot for morning tea or an early lunch.

From this point there is only 60m in altitude to climb to the summit of Mt Strzelecki. Depending on the weather the views from the top are definitely worth it. On a very clear day it's possible to see as far as the ranges behind Launceston - 180 kms to the south as well the remaining Furneaux Islands - 160 kms to the north. After allowing plenty of time to take in the views we slowly retrace our steps back down the mountain to our awaiting vehicle. It's only a short half hour drive from here back to our accommodation and a welcome coffee and some down time before dinner.

 **5 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**

DAY 4

Wybalenna – Emita Furneaux Museum – Port Davies – Lillies Beach – Settlement Point – Castle Rock – Badger Corner

This morning, after another delicious breakfast, we head north along the Coast Road to the centre of the island. At Emita we stop to visit the famous Furneaux Historical Museum which houses over 8,000 objects, photographs and documents, all relating to the cultural and natural history of the Furneaux Islands. This excellent museum allows us to discover more about the people and events which have shaped the islands - shipwrecks, pioneering life, the ill-fated 1833-47 Aboriginal settlement at Wybalenna, mutton-birding, soldier settlement and island families.

We will learn how isolation brought about a resourcefulness and strong community spirit which still exists today. From here we move onto the Wybalenna cemetery which commemorates the 100 Tasmanian aboriginals who are buried in the vicinity. This is a very dark chapter in the history of Flinders Island – by 1835 some 200 aboriginal Tasmanians were moved to the west coast of Flinders Island with the intention of resettling them with food, shelter and clothing away from the Tasmanian mainland where conditions for the indigenous population were deteriorating. By 1847 there were only 48 survivors. They were eventually shipped back to Oyster Bay on mainland Tasmania.

After this very sobering experience we join the small road which takes us to beautiful Lillies Beach with its old, abandoned pier – a photographer’s paradise! From here it’s only a short walk to Port Davies which previously had an important functioning wharf which is now demolished but still has boat access into Marshall Bay. In the afternoon we take a stroll along lovely Emita Beach which leads us to Castle Rock. This massive granite boulder stands tall amid smaller, lichen-daubed rocks on the picturesque shoreline of Marshall Bay Conservation Area. This walk is particularly stunning in the late afternoon sun as the multitude of granite boulders along the trail take on a beautiful glow. We retrace our steps to our awaiting vehicle for our return trip to our gourmet retreat at Badger Corner.

On our return to the South of the island, we visit Kate Mooney's nearby home. Kate has dedicated her life to rescuing wombats. Locally Kate is known as the Wombat Lady. Over the past 25 years she has raised an estimated 140 orphan wombats.

 **4 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**

DAY 5

Cameron's Inlet - Quoin Farm Visit at Killiecrankie - Sunset Drinks and Aperitifs At 'The Bar' - Badger Corner

This morning we drive into Lady Barren and then travel to Cameron's Inlet on the eastern side of the island. This is the "farming side" of the island with plenty of magnificent black angus cattle roaming the lush green paddocks. Our road takes us beside the water bird sanctuary of Cameron's Inlet – this waterway is home to a variety of birds – pelican, hooded and red capped plover, a variety of native ducks and the black swan. Looking north out to sea is Babel Island – this is the site of Australia's largest breeding colony of short-tailed shearwaters, more commonly known as mutton-birds. It is estimated the largest population in the world (2.8 million pairs – about 12% of the species) are located on this tiny island. Each year the birds make a remarkable 15,000 km journey from the northern hemisphere to breeding sites in Bass Strait and the south east of the continent. For the local indigenous population "mutton birding" is a tradition which has gone on for more than 10,000 years. Every April, two or three generations of Tasmanian aboriginal birders gather on Babel Island for the month-long harvest. The mutton bird chicks are taken for their feathers, flesh and their oil. The industry was established by early European sealers and their aboriginal families. The recreational harvesting of short-tailed shearwaters is limited to the open season that is declared each year. A mutton bird licence must be obtained.

Cameron's Inlet runs out to the sea at Planter Beach – here we can stretch our legs and take a stroll along one of the longest beaches on Flinders Island.

We re-join our vehicle and continue our drive through the main farming region of the island. Once again, it's mainly herds of angus which we shall see, some hereford cattle and sheep.

Originally Flinders Island was home to the sealers who first started arriving in the early 1800s. It wasn't until 1888 that the island had its first European permanent settler. By this time grazing leases had been established and as well as agriculture, the fishing industry also began to flourish. The real boost to farming didn't come

through until the 1950s when the soldier settlement scheme was introduced to the island for returned servicemen.

Near Emita we re-join the main road and continue north to Killiecrankie and Quoin Farm. This wonderful farm is owned by Jo and Tom Youl. When doing the research for this tour Jo Youl's name kept popping up as the person who was moving the tourism industry forward on the island. The surname "Youl" rang a bell as 15 years earlier on our cooking and walking tour in Provence we had 3 generations of a family with the surname "Youl" so perhaps there was a connection? Yes, there was – they were Tom's sister, mum and grandmother – it's a small world especially when you are travelling in Tasmania! Anyway, to get some background to this beautiful property here is some additional information from their website:

"The property 'Quoin' (pronounced coin) was purchased by my great grandfather (dad's grandfather on his mother's side) Peter Hay in 1932. The bank acquired the property back for the soldier settlement scheme post World War II. My Grandfather, Sir Rupert Clarke, Great Uncle, Peter Grant Hay and another partner purchased the farm back in the early 1960s from the bank. My grandmother Lady Kathleen purchased the property from her brother's estate and it meant so much to her spending time on the island. I grew up in country Victoria but some of my most treasured memories are school holidays spent at the farm as a child. Tom and I made the decision to permanently move to the farm just over 10-years ago and we haven't looked back. We love waking up here every day with our little family and sharing our home with visitors to the island brings us immense joy".

With just over 3 thousand acres, today we are a fully functioning angus cattle property. Tom is full time farming, spending his time controlling the extraordinary amounts of wildlife, looking after the cattle, building and replacing fences, water systems and improving pastures. Tom, Jo and their three beautiful kids, Alice, Billy & Georgina, love the lifestyle that Flinders Island offers. Most weekends are spent diving, fishing, camping, bush picnics or checking the farm. Tom and Jo love the community, lifestyle and people they meet, whilst living on Flinders, and believe this could not be generated anywhere else.

Tom and Jo look forward to turning the Quoin Farm into their home for the rest of their lives. This will mean building a bigger family home for their growing family. They have plans to grow the cattle numbers to approximately 1,000 breeding cows and diversify the property into a quality sustainable agri-tourism experience."

<https://www.onislandtime.com.au/quoin-farm>

Jo and Tom’s farm runs right up to the base of Mt Killiecrankie – another iconic mountain on the island. Mt Killiecrankie is 316 metres above sea level and is the highest peak of the northern end of Flinders Island. It is not the highest but “arguably the most majestic mountain and bay combination in Bass Strait”.

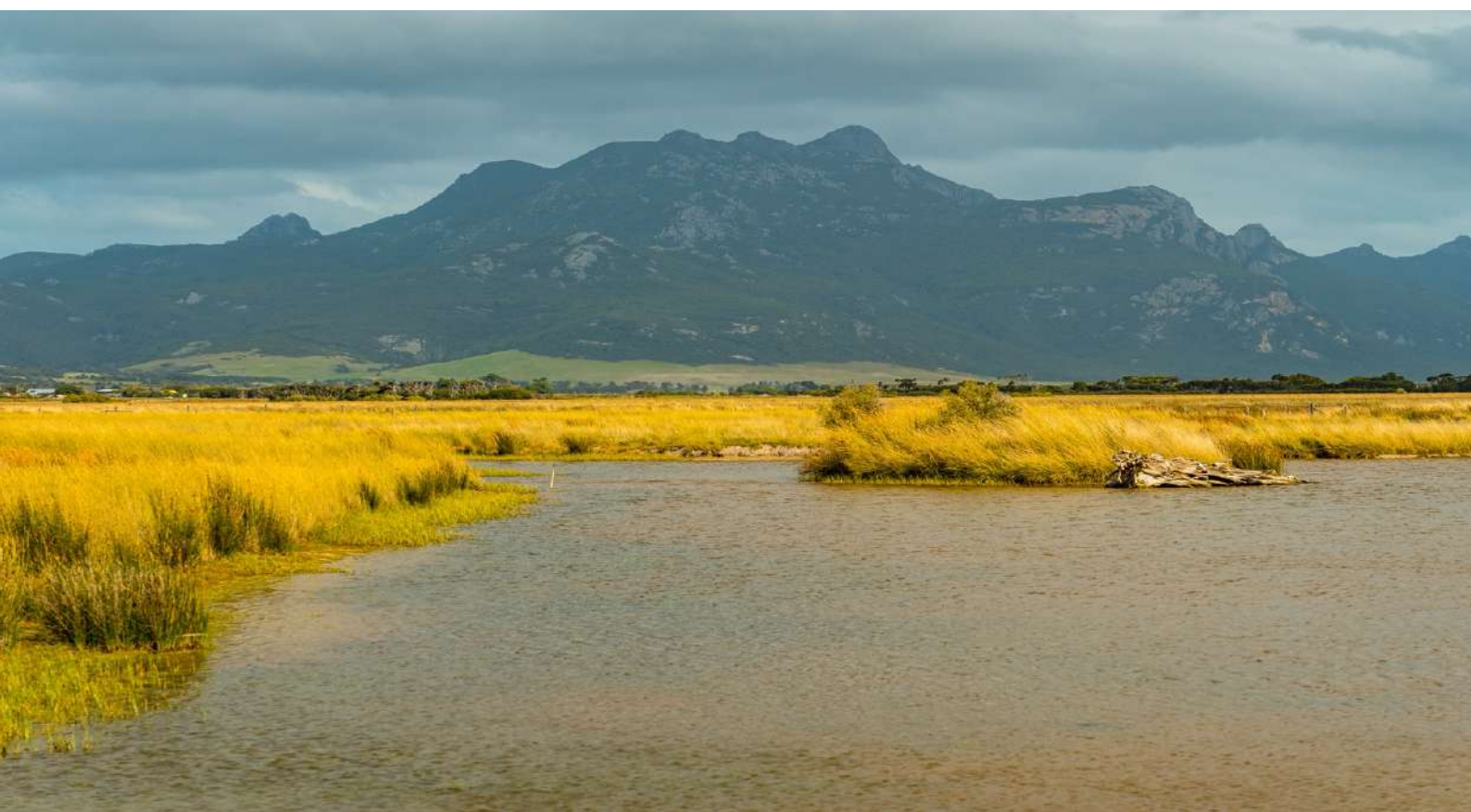
From the main homestead we begin our walk towards Mt Killiecrankie – late afternoon is the ideal time to do this so we can appreciate the beautiful soft light looking down over the sparkling waters of Killiecrankie Bay.

Tom and Jo have built themselves a rustic “bar “out of recycled driftwood at a stunning lookout just below the summit of Mt Killiecrankie – the perfect spot for an aperitif and some canapes as we gaze out on one of the most stunning views on the island.

After allowing plenty of time to soak in the atmosphere of this unique spot we make our way back to the homestead where we re-join our vehicle for our return drive to our accommodation.

 **3 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**



DAY 6

KILLIECRANKIE - THE DOCKS - BADGER CORNER

Today we begin our walk at the beautiful seaside village of Killiecrankie. It has a permanent population of just 24 but has a number of holiday homes. Its location is idyllic – looking out over the sparkling waters of Killiecrankie Bay with its pristine sandy beach. This is the home of the famous Killiecrankie diamond which is a form of brilliant white topaz. The main collecting area is amongst granite boulders on the foreshore in the vicinity of Diamond Gully at the northern end of the Bay which just happens to be where we shall be walking today – let's hope we're lucky. We set off on our walk directly from the village making our way onto the beach and walking to the northern end. In the distance we can see the imposing peak of Mt Killiecrankie overlooking the bay and surrounding countryside.

At Diamond Gully we try our luck with some fossicking. Killiecrankie diamonds occur in a wide range of colours and the ones found on Flinders Island are clear, ice blue and pink gold. In comparison with quartz, they are heavier, harder, smoother and colder to touch. Topaz is the birthstone for November and the gem for the 16th wedding anniversary. Legend has it that topaz has the power to protect the wearer from illness and accidents. Our trail moves above the beach onto the foreshore and continues around a rocky headland. Along our path are lots of strange, shaped rocks and boulders including Old Man's Head, a superb mixture of granite and limestone features. Our destination is The Docks – a group of secluded small coves with granite boulders enclosing the beaches on either side. The water is crystal clear and tea tree and she oak line the banks and giant gums tower up from the ridges below Mt Killiecrankie. It's quite a special place. We allow plenty of time to relax and take in the ambiance before retracing our steps back to the village of Killiecrankie.

We return to our accommodation for our final celebratory dinner with Wendy.

 **4 HOURS**

 **FLINDERS ISLAND GOURMET RETREAT**

DAY 7

BADGER CORNER – WHITEMARK AIRPORT

This morning after our final breakfast the tour will conclude. At present sharp airlines do not have a return flight to Melbourne on the 10th of May. There is an afternoon flight to Launceston. Alternatively, guests can choose to stay an extra night with Wendy and catch the return flight to Melbourne on the 11th of May at 1.00pm.



Journey Accommodation

Flinders Island Gourmet Retreat, Lady Barron

NIGHTS 1 - 6



Journey Notes

PRICE INCLUDES

- Experienced guides.
- Pick up and drop off at Whitemark airport.
- Twin share accommodation for 6 nights, breakfasts and dinners each evening **PLUS** picnic lunches each day from Day 2.

NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COSTS

Flights to and from Flinders Island, evening drinks and in between meal snacks, personal clothing, laundry, medical expenses and items of a personal nature.

WHAT TO BRING

Day pack, 1.5 litre water bottle, walking boots, waterproof raincoat, warm hat, sunhat, bathers, sunscreen and insect repellent. Walking poles will also be handy. CASES DO NOT EXCEED 15 kg per guest (limit for Sharp Airlines)

PRE-WALK PREPARATION

We suggest that prior to your walking holiday you prepare yourself to obtain a level of fitness that will allow you to enjoy your walking holiday.

This, of course, is dependent upon your existing fitness level. Remember, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the holiday!

- Start with some short walks which include stairs or hills and increase the length of walks over a couple of months.
- We suggest you carry a backpack with water, camera, jacket, snacks, etc. to assist you with your preparation and allow you to get used to the extra weight on your back.
- We also ask that your boots are comfortable and well-worn in.
- Perhaps enjoy some walks through our local national parks and over uneven surfaces to gain confidence with your boots or new walking shoes.

PLEASE NOTE

Single rooms can usually be arranged for a supplement. Please ask us for details. We shall endeavour to match people together if they would like to share a twin room with another guest to avoid paying the single room supplement.

However, as this is not always possible 'single' clients will have to pay the supplement.

All walks during the 7 days are optional. Guests can choose to have a free day whenever they like.

The walking pace on the walking holiday is leisurely.

Guests do not have to be experienced; however, a good level of fitness is necessary.

Get in touch and book your journey today.

 **0461 277 612**

 **info@walkaboutgourmet.com**

Follow the journey.



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