



# GORDON RIVER CRUISES

## SALES TOOL KIT



# GORDON RIVER CRUISES

## OVERVIEW

### BACKGROUND

Gordon River Cruises offers wilderness cruises into the UNESCO Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Departing daily from Strahan, we connect people with wilderness that is unique on a world scale and the history of Tasmania's rugged west coast. Our signature experience is the morning **Gordon River Cruise**. We also offer an Evening Dinner Cruise to see the Gordon River, as well as some shorter tour options .

We operate two vessels for our cruises: *Spirit of the Wild* and *MV Sophia*

### WHERE?

You'll find us on the west coast of Tasmania, in the beautiful little town of Strahan. Strahan is about 5 hours by car from Hobart or Launceston. From here, we access the pristine wilderness of the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, part of the World Heritage Area.

### WHY?

Guests cruise with us to experience a natural wonder. To experience a place like nothing else on earth, reflecting on ancient natural history, human history, the qualities of our wilderness and its protection for the future.

### WHO ARE WE?

We are part of NRMA Expeditions, an Australian owned and operated tourism group that is part of the NRMA. We've been part of the Australian landscape for over 100 years and now we proudly run tourism operations in Tasmania's regions, including Gordon River Cruises, Strahan Village, Cradle Mountain Hotel, Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery and Freycinet Lodge.

# ABOUT OUR VESSEL | *SPIRIT OF THE WILD*



## TECHNICAL

- 33.8m Catamaran
- Main Deck, Premier Upper Deck, Viewing Deck
- Three seating options: Main Deck Central, Main Deck Window Recliners, Premier Upper Deck
- Hybrid engine with quiet cruising on the Gordon River in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
- Tasmanian-built vessel by Richardson Devine Marine in Hobart

# MAIN DECK

## SEATING AND LAYOUT



### MAIN DECK CENTRAL SEATING (GREEN)

- Excellent for families and groups
- Includes lounges in forward section
- Includes some rear-facing seats in rear section
- Theatre-style tiers
- 76 seats

### MAIN DECK WINDOW SEATING (BLUE)

- Paired reclining leather seats
- Seats alongside windows and aisle
- All forward-facing
- Wheelchair-accessible seats available
- 68 seats

Main Deck includes floor to ceiling self-washing windows, accessible toilet, cash bar, galley and outdoor deck

# MAIN DECK - REAR

## SEATING AND LAYOUT



# PREMIER UPPER DECK

## SEATING AND LAYOUT



### PREMIER UPPER DECK

- Top seating type
- Access to private viewing deck
- Access to lounge tables and ottoman seats
- Tasmanian 'Hydrowood' feature timbers
- Paired reclining leather seats
- Seats alongside windows and aisle
- 48 forward-facing seats
- Unique 'barrisol' ceiling provides reflections

Premier Upper Deck also includes floor to ceiling self-washing windows, bar and toilets

# THE GORDON RIVER CRUISE

OUR AWARD-WINNING SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

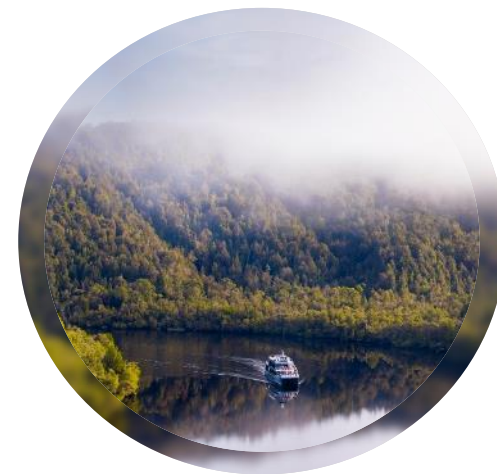
## KEY DETAILS

Duration: 6 hours

Vessel: *Spirit of the Wild*

Check-in: 08:00 for 08:30 departure

Departure point: Gordon River Cruises Terminal, Strahan Esplanade



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruising to Hells Gates, the mouth of Macquarie Harbour
- Seeing working fish farms in Macquarie Harbour
- Cruising the Gordon River in near-silence with *Spirit of the Wild's* electric motors
- Interpretive walking tours at Heritage Landing and Sarah Island
- Gourmet lunch on the river – a showcase of Tasmanian produce
- Dedicated on-board guides and foreign language audio tours available
- Enhanced interpretation program through a series of on-board character videos

## PRICES & INCLUSIONS

SEAT	INCLUSIONS
Main Deck Central	Buffet lunch, foreign language audio tours, guides
Main Deck Window	Buffet lunch, foreign language audio tours, guides, paired window recliner seating
Premier Upper Deck	Hot and cold lunch options, foreign language audio tours, guides, paired window recliner seating, morning and afternoon tea, access to private deck, canapés, open bar for duration of the cruise

# GORDON RIVER CRUISE

- 1) Approximately 30 minutes after departing Strahan, you'll reach Hells Gates. We aim to travel through the narrow mouth of the harbour but on occasion, rough seas may not permit. This is the place the convicts referred to as the entrance to 'hell on earth'.
- 2) Passing salmon and ocean trout farms as you travel south from Hells Gates, you will pause for a few minutes and may see the fish being fed.
- 3) The next highlight is entering the Gordon River with *Spirit of the Wild's* signature electric motors quietly taking you into this ancient wilderness. Have your camera ready for this part of the cruise!
- 4) Stroll the boardwalk at Heritage Landing, taking in the sight of ancient Huon pines and other temperate rainforest species. Approximately 30 minutes is spent at Heritage Landing.
- 5) Enjoy a delicious Chef-prepared lunch on the Gordon River, including Tasmanian salmon from the farms you have just cruised by.
- 6) Step ashore at Sarah Island for an outstanding interpretive tour, hosted by guides from the Round Earth Company. Learn about the horrible convict history of this small World Heritage-listed island.
- 7) Return to Strahan on board *Spirit of the Wild*, still living the tales of the day and reflecting on the many thousands of years that have shaped this remarkable place.



## Key

Gordon River Cruise (GRC)



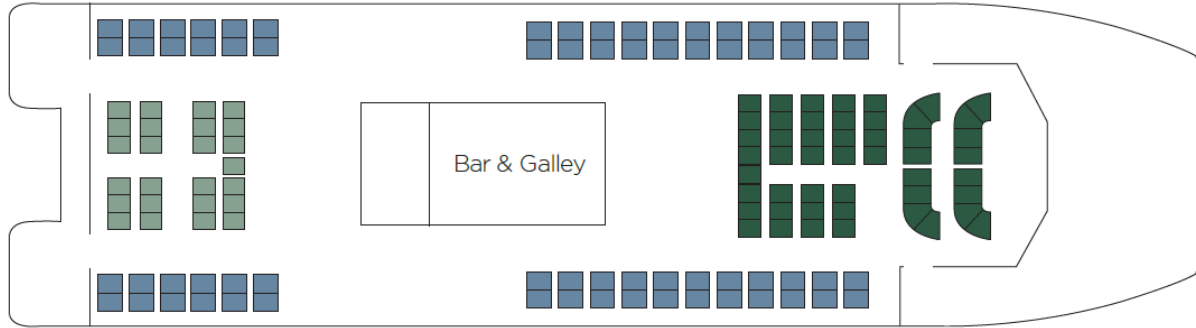
Land-based activities





# SEATING PLAN | SPIRIT OF THE WILD




These seating plans show the Main Deck and Premier Upper Deck. *Spirit of the Wild's* 360° Viewing Deck (top of vessel) is not shown here. The Viewing Deck is open to all guests, has no allocated seating and all bench seating on this deck is external.

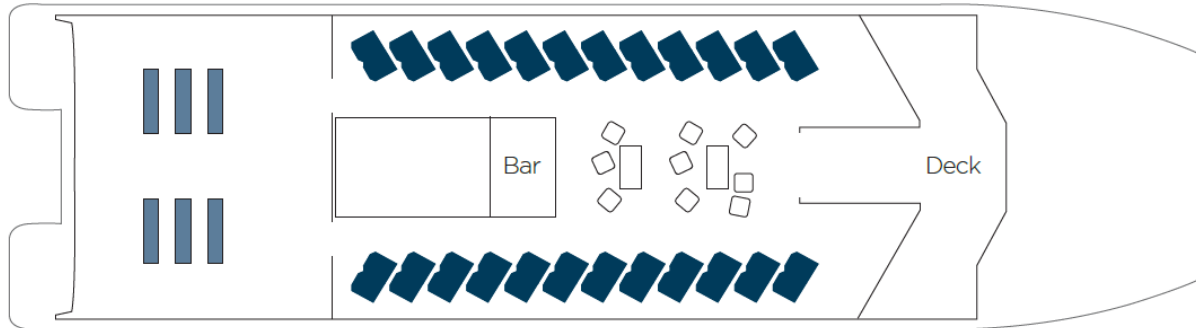


## NOTES:

- Forward deck accessible to all guests
- Central seating is tiered for viewing
- Accessible toilets at rear of galley

## MAIN DECK



-  Main Deck Window
-  Main Deck Central
-  Main Deck Central (rear facing)



## NOTES:

- Private deck is reserved for guests seated on this deck only
- Central lounge seats are unallocated

## PREMIER UPPER DECK

-  External bench seating
-  Premier Upper Deck

## DINING ON THE RIVER

The menu on board *Spirit of the Wild* has been carefully planned to showcase some of the best Tasmania has to offer. Prepared daily by the team of Chefs at Strahan Village, the buffet-style lunch on the Main Deck and Premier Upper Deck are a highlight of the cruise.



## WHISPER MODE

*Spirit of the Wild* is equipped with a hybrid diesel-electric propulsion system, allowing us to shut down the diesel engines while on the Gordon River. You'll cruise quietly into the wilderness. To put this in perspective, the noise created by the vessel is less than 45 dba in the Premier Upper Deck – about the same as ambient sounds in a library.

## ON BOARD INTERPRETATION

Tasmania's west coast is a place of characters and stories. Throughout a Gordon River Cruise, you'll meet a few of these colourful characters on our interpretive videos; people who have shaped the west coast along the way. These include Captain James Kelly, a convict, Lady Jane Franklin and a grouchy convict guard. These videos aim to support, the majority of our interpretation, which is undertaken by our amazing on-board guides.



# THE PILLINGER EXPLORER

EXPLORE THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE WEST COAST

## KEY DETAILS

Duration: 5 hours

Vessel: *MV Sophia*

Check-in: 09:00 for 09:30 departure

Departure point: Gordon River Cruises Terminal, Strahan Esplanade



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Small group tour with a maximum of 10 guests (min. 2 guests to depart)
- Walking around the remnants of the township of Pillinger
- Stepping ashore at Sarah Island to explore the convict ruins
- Fully guided experience
- Chef-prepared gourmet lunch
- Interpretation from your guide, covering fascinating natural and human history and local environment

## INCLUSIONS & NOTES

Gourmet Chef-prepared lunch including the best of Tasmanian produce. Drinks package including complimentary Tasmanian beers, wine and soft drink.

Warm clothing and sturdy shoes required.

Boarding and disembarking *MV Sophia* requires a level of physical ability. Unfortunately this experience is not wheelchair-accessible.

This experience is dependent upon suitable weather.

# THE PILLINGER EXPLORER

1. Departure – Cruise from Strahan to Pillinger (45 minutes).
2. Pillinger - Wander around the ruins of the old port of Pillinger on a guided tour (sturdy footwear required)
3. Pillinger to Sarah Island (25 minutes)
4. Sarah Island - Explore the convict ruins of Sarah Island on a guided tour. Enjoy lunch on Sarah Island
5. Sarah Island to Hells Gates (30 minutes)
6. Pending weather and time availability, your skipper can navigate to and possibly through Hells Gates, the entrance to Macquarie Harbour
7. Hells Gates to Strahan (30 Minutes)
8. Arrive Strahan



## Key

Cruise path



Land-based activities



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What does 'Whisper Mode' mean?

A: When *Spirit of the Wild* enters the Gordon River, she cruises on electric motors, providing a remarkably quiet on-river experience, in keeping with the natural surrounds.

Q: Are you guaranteed to see reflections?

A: Although we see reflections more often than not, we can't guarantee it. Regardless of whether you see reflections on the river, it's a spectacular place.

Q: Can you shorten the cruise?

A: No. We offer charter options, as well as other shorter tours aboard *MV Sophia*

Q: Do you cater for different dietary requirements?

A: Yes. Please provide any relevant information at the time of booking.

Q: Is there a cost to audio tours and do I need to reserve one in advance?

A: No, there is no additional cost. Please reserve your audio tour at the time of booking.

Q: Are you an accredited operator?

A: Yes. Gordon River Cruises is accredited through the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program and is a member of the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania.

# CONTACT

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