



## Maria Island Discovery Camps Planning Your Camp

### Cost

Cost is for a three day, two night camp, and includes Discovery Ranger activities, accommodation, and ferry crossing. Please note that coach travel to/from Triabunna and meals are not included – these are to be arranged independently.

Per student	Per teacher/adult supervisor
\$90	\$50

### Accommodation

Two accommodation options are available, both located at Darlington:

- **Camping:** Available all year round and often at short notice, Darlington Campground is well facilitated with hot showers (\$1 coin), outdoor camp shelter with BBQs, and access to the spacious Mess Hall where there are gas cookers and an electricity supply. Tents will need to be sourced by the school and/or students and be suitable for wind and rain. Practice erecting tents beforehand is recommended. We suggest camping as it adds to the sense of adventure!
- **The Penitentiary:** Six-bunk rooms with log stove in the former convict penitentiary. Whilst there's no electricity in the rooms, the Mess Hall and shower block are both accessible to people staying in The Penitentiary (see above). To book, please phone (03) 6257 1420. We recommend booking well in advance, as space is limited and rooms cannot be guaranteed at short notice.

The cost of accommodation is included in the cost of the Maria Island Discovery Camps. For more information, please see [Maria Island accommodation](#).

### Travel to Triabunna

It is the responsibility of the school to book and pay for their transport to and from Triabunna, where the ferry to Maria Island departs from. Buses will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before ferry departure to allow time to unload and load. Please also allow time for a brief 10 minute session with your Discovery Ranger upon arrival at Triabunna. Triabunna is 85km from Hobart (1hr 30min).

### Ferry

The [ferry](#) departs from the [Triabunna jetty](#), runs up to five times daily, and is operated by [Encounter Maria](#). The cost of the ferry is included in the cost of the Maria Island Discovery Camps. Freight is factored in to the costs and is offered to schools at a reduced rate. We recommend that you pack light, in bulk and use large plastic containers. We are able to supply a number of containers, please ask at the time of booking.

### Pre-visit session with a Discovery Ranger

Our program is aimed at promoting Sustainability (in line with the STEM program) and where possible, we provide a Discovery Ranger to visit your school for a half day prior to the camp. The aim of this is to provide vital pre-visit information to the students, such as what to pack, what to expect, and how to set up



a tent, as well as to look at what food to bring so as to minimize packaging (nude foods and zero waste). Teachers can then follow up with these ideas in the classroom. Teachers will also need to select which activities they would like to have included in their program so that it fits into the curriculum that the teacher already have set. Please note, teachers are responsible for liaising with their designated Discovery Ranger to ensure that the program works for all participants.

### Activities

A sample program will be sent to your school. Teachers can choose from following activities:

- Discovering the History of Maria Island (why Maria is a World Heritage listed convict site)
- Tasmania's Amazing Wildlife (spotlight walk on the first night)
- Quiz Night (second night)
- Whales and Stranded Whale Rescue session
- Shorebirds educational activity
- Rockpool Ramble (at the Painted Cliffs, learning about marine intertidal species)
- Devil of a Time (Tasmanian Devil management)
- Fossil Cliffs (history and geology)
- Walk to Bishop and Clerk (allow 4-5 hours)

These activities will be designed to fit the age group and curriculum. If schools have a particular request then staff will endeavour to include these aspects in their program. Programs need to be finalized by the assigned Discovery Ranger and responsible teacher at least two weeks prior to the camp.

### Other specialist activities and programs

These are available upon request; please talk to us about your requirements.

- Swimming (schools will need to provide staff with correct medallions)
- Aboriginal program (two-hour cultural learning session with specialist educator available at extra cost)
- Conservation activities (helping PWS staff with local management issues such as weeding)

### What paperwork is required?

- A Parks Pass Education exemption form needs completed and signed by the school Principal (forms provided by PWS [here](#))
- The school will also need to complete photo permission forms as per the school policy
- Job Safety Analysis (JSAs) are the responsibility of staff and schools
- A camp attendee list must be provided (and will also be requested by the ferry company)

### Discovery Rangers

Our Discovery Rangers are trained in the provision of interpretative and educational activities for school students. One Discovery Ranger is provided per class, acting as activity co-ordinator and also assisting with camp management if teachers are inexperienced campers. Please note that teachers are responsible for their students at all times. It is recommended that for two classes, at least three teachers including the PE teacher attend along with other adult helpers.

**Further questions can be directed to: [parkseducation@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:parkseducation@parks.tas.gov.au).**