

**VOYAGE INFORMATION**

Voyage Name	Bass Strait Islands & East Coast Discovery
Voyage Code	BSI031121G
Dates	03 – 09 November, 2021
Duration	7 days / 6 nights
Start	Hobart, Tasmania
Finish	Melbourne, Victoria
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Optional Activities (advance bookings only)	Kayaking; Diving; Snorkelling; Climbing
Forms Due	03 August, 2021

**VOYAGE SUMMARY**

Step on board for a unique island-hopping adventure from the treasures of Tasmania's east coast to the isolated isles of the Bass Strait, and onwards to Victoria's Wilsons Promontory. Land on pristine beaches dotted with orange lichen-covered boulders, meander through tall eucalypt forests, and drink in the stunning vistas from towering peaks. Visit far-flung archipelagos and explore islands whose only permanent inhabitants include Bennett's wallabies, wombats, potoroos and pademelons. Discover the rich natural and human history of the Kent Islands; experience the granitic beauty of Flinders Islands' Strzelecki Peaks; and stroll along the dazzling white sands of the Freycinet Peninsula. Explore wild, storm-swept coastlines and the shimmering, azure waters of sheltered bays. Delight in the raucousness of an Australian fur seal colony's rocky haul-out, the rasping call of Cape Barren geese, and the majestic sight of a soaring shy albatross in the skies above. Each day a new adventure beckons.

**ITINERARY OVERVIEW**

Day 1	Embark ship in Hobart
Day 2	Maria Island
Day 3	Freycinet Peninsula
Day 4	Flinders Island
Day 5	Kent Island Group
Day 6	Wilsons Promontory
Day 7	Disembark in Melbourne

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Visit remote and rarely-visited islands in Bass Strait – the remnants of a land bridge that once joined Tasmania to the Australian mainland.
- Enjoy Maria Island's abundance of native wildlife and keep an eye out for all but one of Tasmania's 12 endemic bird species.
- Marvel at the mystique of the Kent Islands – often missed on conventional maps – from its petrels, little penguins and short-tailed shearwaters to its historic lighthouse and stories of sealers, sailors and shipwrecks.
- Head off the 'mother ship' each day for a range of adventures and explorations, that may include hiking options, wildlife watching, Zodiac cruises, diving, snorkelling and kayaking.
- Learn how the waters of Bass Strait and Tasmania fit into the vast and unique ecosystem known as the 'Great Southern Reef' – part of a "Hope Spot" designated by Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue team.

## EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport or hotel to *Greg Mortimer* on Day 1
- Departure transfer from *Greg Mortimer* to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consult)
- A spray jacket per person
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

## EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1            Embark in Hobart**

You're welcomed aboard the *Greg Mortimer* and shown your cabin before mandatory safety drills are carried out. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing this evening. Departing Hobart, we skirt the Tasman Peninsula and sail northwards.

### **Day 2            Maria Island**

Known as Tasmania's 'Noah's Ark', Maria Island is home to an abundance of native wildlife including Bennett's wallabies, common wombats, and rufous-bellied pademelons; as well as conservation sanctuary to a number of introduced species including the Tasmanian devil. The island is also considered one of the best places for bird watching, with a variety of species including all but one of Tassie's endemic bird species. In addition to its natural history, the island also has a rich human history stretching back over 40,000 years. The *Puthikwilayti* people of the Oyster Bay tribe were original custodians of the land and surrounding waters, which was later visited by European explorers, and exploited by sealers and whalers. Convict settlements, failed commercial ventures, and an eventual National Park designation are also part of the island's antiquities. Whether you choose to explore its secluded bays and beaches, snorkel its clear waters, marvel at 'painted' cliffs, delight in its wildlife, or stretch your legs on a hike through tall eucalypt forests, Maria Island has something special for everyone.

### **Day 3            Freycinet Peninsula**

The striking scenery of the Freycinet Peninsula tempts you for another day of adventure, whether you hike its towering pink granite peaks for a spectacular view, paddle its iridescent-blue waters, or stroll along a pristine white beach peppered with orange lichen-covered boulders. The surrounding wilderness is also alive with flora and fauna. On your adventures, keep an eye out for white-breasted sea eagles soaring in the skies above, Bennett's wallabies lazing under a she-oak, the local pod of bottle-nose dolphins, or perhaps one of the short-beaked echidnas that are sometimes seen foraging for ants in daylight hours. Weather permitting, we may also visit the nearby Schouten Island group, where gangs of fur seals can be seen vying for their favourite rocky resting place.

### **Day 4            Flinders Island**

Flinders Island – called Great Island until it was renamed in the early 1800s after explorer Matthew Flinders – is the largest of Tasmania's islands and home to Strzelecki National Park. The island offers sapphire waters, untouched beaches, a rich variety of flora and fauna, rocky ridges and towering peaks as a backdrop to your hiking, paddling or underwater adventures. Energetic hikers may like to scale the heights to experience spectacular vistas; while strollers might enjoy a shorter meander through shaded casuarina woodlands and coastal heath to secluded bays.

### **Day 5            Kent Island Group**

Discover the rich natural and human history – by land and sea – of the remote Kent Island group. Although often missed on conventional maps, this cluster of three main islands and four smaller islets comprises Tassie's northernmost national park. Marvel at the bountiful, nutrient-rich waters created by the convergence of three major ocean currents, which help feed Australia's largest fur seal colony. Scan the shorelines and skies for sooty oystercatchers, short-tailed shearwaters, petrels and prions; contemplate the looming granite lighthouse; and discover stories of sealers, sailors and shipwrecks in the original lightkeeper's cottage (the oldest in Australia, and now museum) run by the islands' only two inhabitants.

## **Day 6                  Wilsons Promontory**

The mountainous spine of Wilsons Promontory has a fitting geological 'genealogy' for the final day of our island-hopping adventure, having once been the part of the land bridge that – over 12,000 years ago - extended in a south easterly direction across what is now Bass Strait, through the Kent Island Group to Flinders Island, and Tasmania's north east. Tucked on the promontory's protected eastern shores, the pristine beaches around Refuge Bay can only be accessed by determined hikers, or the sea. Discover this secluded corner of Wilsons Promontory National Park. Take to the turquoise waters for a snorkel, swim or paddle, or enjoy a rewarding walk amongst dense forest and up surrounding hills to take in the impressive views from on high. Once back on board and as we set sail for Melbourne, toast your adventures and celebrate with friends – both new and old – at our Captain's Farewell Dinner.

## **Day 7                  Disembark in Melbourne**

In Melbourne, farewell the crew, expedition team and fellow travellers before your transfer to the airport or your hotel accommodation.

***Important note:*** *In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to tides, weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.*

**VOYAGE INFORMATION**

Voyage Name	Bass Strait Islands & East Coast Discovery
Voyage Code	BSI091121G
Dates	09 – 15 November, 2021
Duration	7 days / 6 nights
Start	Melbourne
Finish	Hobart
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Optional Activities (advance bookings only)	Kayaking; Diving; Snorkelling; Climbing
Forms Due	09 August, 2021

**VOYAGE SUMMARY**

Step on board for a unique island-hopping adventure from Victoria's Wilsons Promontory to the isolated isles of the Bass Strait, and onwards to the treasures of Tasmania's east coast. Land on pristine beaches dotted with orange lichen-covered boulders, meander through tall eucalypt forests, and drink in the stunning vistas from towering peaks. Visit far-flung archipelagos and explore islands whose only permanent inhabitants include Bennett's wallabies, wombats, potoroos and pademelons. Discover the rich natural and human history of the Kent Islands; experience the granitic beauty of Flinders Islands' Strzelecki Peaks; and stroll along the dazzling white sands of the Freycinet Peninsula. Explore wild, storm-swept coastlines and the shimmering, azure waters of sheltered bays. Delight in the raucousness of an Australian fur seal colony's rocky haul-out, the rasping call of Cape Barren geese, and the majestic sight of a soaring shy albatross in the skies above. Each day a new adventure beckons.

**ITINERARY OVERVIEW**

Day 1	Embark ship in Melbourne
Day 2	Wilsons Promontory
Day 3	Kent Island Group
Day 4	Flinders Island
Day 5	Freycinet Peninsula
Day 6	Maria Island
Day 7	Disembark in Hobart

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Visit remote and rarely-visited islands in Bass Strait – the remnants of a land bridge that once joined Tasmania to the Australian mainland.
- Marvel at the mystique of the Kent Islands – often missed on conventional maps – from its petrels, little penguins and short-tailed shearwaters to its historic lighthouse and stories of sealers, sailors and shipwrecks.
- Enjoy Maria Island's abundance of native wildlife, and keep an eye out for all but one of Tasmania's 12 endemic bird species.
- Head off the 'mother ship' each day for a range of adventures and explorations, that may include hiking options, wildlife watching, Zodiac cruises, diving, snorkelling and kayaking.
- Learn how the waters of Bass Strait and Tasmania fit into the vast and unique ecosystem known as the 'Great Southern Reef' – part of a "Hope Spot" designated by Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue team.

## EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport or hotel to *Greg Mortimer* on Day 1
- Departure transfer from *Greg Mortimer* to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consult)
- A spray jacket per person
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

## EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1            Embark in Melbourne**

You're welcomed aboard the *Greg Mortimer* and shown your cabin before mandatory safety drills are carried out. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing this evening. Departing Melbourne, we sail out of Port Philip Bay and into the waters of Bass Strait.

### **Day 2            Wilsons Promontory**

The mountainous spine of Wilsons Promontory has a fitting geological 'genealogy' for our own island-hopping adventure, having once been the part of the land bridge that – over 12,000 years ago - extended in a south easterly direction across what is now Bass Strait, through the Kent Island Group to Flinders Island, and Tasmania's north east. Tucked on the promontory's protected eastern shores, the pristine beaches around Refuge Bay can only be accessed by determined hikers, or the sea. Make your first forays into this secluded corner of Wilsons Promontory National Park. Take to the turquoise waters for a snorkel, swim or paddle, or enjoy a rewarding walk amongst dense forest and up surrounding hills to take in the impressive views from on high.

### **Day 3            Kent Island Group**

Settle into expedition life as you discover the rich natural and human history – by land and sea – of the remote Kent Island group. Although often missed on conventional maps, this cluster of three main islands and four smaller islets comprises Tassie's northernmost national park. Marvel at the bountiful, nutrient-rich waters created by the convergence of three major ocean currents, which help feed Australia's largest fur seal colony. Scan the shorelines and skies for sooty oystercatchers, short-tailed shearwaters, petrels and prions; contemplate the looming granite lighthouse; and discover stories of sealers, sailors and shipwrecks in the original lightkeeper's cottage (the oldest in Australia, and now museum) run by the islands' only two inhabitants.

### **Day 4            Flinders Island**

Flinders Island – called Great Island until it was renamed in the early 1800s after explorer Matthew Flinders – is the largest of Tasmania's islands and home to Strzelecki National Park. The island offers sapphire waters, untouched beaches, a rich variety of flora and fauna, rocky ridges and towering peaks as a backdrop to your hiking, paddling or underwater adventures. Energetic hikers may like to scale the heights to experience spectacular vistas; while strollers might enjoy a shorter meander through shaded casuarina woodlands and coastal heath to secluded bays.

### **Day 5            Freycinet Peninsula**

The striking scenery of the Freycinet Peninsula tempts you for another day of adventure, whether you hike its towering pink granite peaks for a spectacular view, paddle its iridescent-blue waters, or stroll along a pristine white beach peppered with orange lichen-covered boulders. The surrounding wilderness is also alive with flora and fauna. On your adventures, keep an eye out for white-breasted sea eagles soaring in the skies above, Bennett's wallabies lazing under a she-oak, the local pod of bottle-nose dolphins, or perhaps one of the short-beaked echidnas that are sometimes seen foraging for ants in daylight hours. Weather permitting, we may also visit the nearby Schouten Island group, where gangs of fur seals can be seen vying for their favourite rocky resting place.

## **Day 6**      **Maria Island**

Known as Tasmania's 'Noah's Ark', Maria Island is home to an abundance of native wildlife including Bennett's wallabies, common wombats, and rufous-bellied pademelons; as well as conservation sanctuary to a number of introduced species including the Tasmanian devil. The island is also considered one of the best places for bird watching, with a variety of species including all but one of Tassie's endemic bird species. In addition to its natural history, the island also has a rich human history stretching back over 40,000 years. The *Puthikwilayti* people of the Oyster Bay tribe were original custodians of the land and surrounding waters, which was later visited by European explorers, and exploited by sealers and whalers. Convict settlements, failed commercial ventures, and an eventual National Park designation are also part of the island's antiquities. Whether you choose to explore its secluded bays and beaches, snorkel its clear waters, marvel at 'painted' cliffs, delight in its wildlife, or stretch your legs on a hike through tall eucalypt forests, Maria Island has something special for everyone.

Once back on board and as we set sail for Hobart, toast your adventures and celebrate with friends – both new and old – at our Captain's Farewell Dinner.

## **Day 7**      **Disembark in Hobart**

In Hobart, farewell the crew, expedition team and fellow travellers before your transfer to the airport or your hotel accommodation.

**Important note:** *In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to tides, weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.*