

Extraordinary Holidays in **Hobart**

by Damien Thomas

Tasman Island is worth a tour

What do **Preachers**, **Whalers** and the **Brick Factory** have in common? According to Steve, they serve some of the best craft beer in Hobart. Not only that, Preachers served Steve the best burger he has ever eaten, and the food at the other two is also great. The fact they are located within walking distance of API's comfortable, two-bedroom unit in **historic Battery Point**, had him in raptures. I am not sure if Steve or his wife (I affectionately refer to her as the Saint - you will know why after talking to Steve for just 5 minutes) found their way into the kitchen of the unit, because they also enjoyed meals at **Kathmandu Cuisine**, **Kosaten** (Japanese), **Da Angelo** (Italian) and apparently consumed the best seafood pie at **Shippies (The Shipwright Arms)**. All located within Battery Point itself. With remarkable stamina, Steve and the Saint also managed breakfast, along with cakes, at the **Jackman & Ross** bakery, also in Battery Point, at 57 Hampden Road.

So, how do I know all about Steve's dining experiences? Steve called to let me know he had taken my advice to book some trips using both **Experience Oz** and **RedBalloon**. **RedBalloon** offers eGift cards purchased from the

API website, saving 10%, while everything on the **Experience Oz** site is discounted by **10%** when accessed via the **API website**.

It was not Steve's first stay in API's Battery Point unit. The point is, on previous visits he had hired a car using the **API discount** at **AVIS**, but on this occasion he was a bit worried about being able to get a hire car as he had left it to the last minute to book one. I suggested he may not need one for this trip, if he was interested in taking a few tours.



You have to see the pastries, cakes and bread - yum!



Save room for dessert at Da Angelo

Pennicott Wilderness Journeys has won several National Tourist awards, and many of them set off from **Franklin Wharf**, which happens to be within a moderate walking distance of API's conveniently located unit. Apparently, it was the Saint's idea to take the **Tasman Island Cruise** day-tour. It boasts the highest cliff walls in the southern hemisphere. The most impressive part is how close the boat gets to the cliffs, sea birds, as well as, sealions etc.

“ Treat yourself in Tasmania. ”

I was let into a secret. The Saint had chosen such a good trip that she was encouraged to choose another! She clearly knows what makes him tick, as she selected the **Bruny Island Full-Day** tour. It includes six courses of lunch! Oysters from 'Get Shucked',



Create your own gin - and sample the Whiskey and Vodka while you are there!

cheese and beer, wine and fudge. The good news is they could work up an appetite and thirst (not that Steve needs much encouragement) on the gentle walk through **Mavista** rainforest, where the rare white wallabies reside. This is a gourmet tasting trail with world class places to visit.

In light of his comments, I started asking other guests if they take any of the tours. They do, and they rave about them. It is not surprising, as there are more than 100 to choose from.



New leather lounges in API's comfortable, Battery Point unit.

One lady told me she had dragged her husband kicking and screaming (actually I added that bit - but she did tell me he was not enthusiastic) to a **Gin Mixing Workshop**, at **Birches Bay**, a little south of Hobart. She could not put her finger on why he left in such a good mood after 1 ½ hours of checking out 30 botanicals in stunning scenery. She suspects it was the free 500 ml bottle of personally created gin, but it could have been the platter with sheep cheese and drink on the deck, or the world's best vodka - not an idle claim - they won an award to prove it.

Your stay in API's unit in the most historic area of Hobart, saves you about 30% off the market rate. Your API membership saves you 10% on the tours from **Experience Oz** or **RedBalloon**. If you fly to Tas and hire a car, make sure you book it in plenty of time and also use your API membership to save a further 6% at **AVIS**. It really adds up. **API**

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