

Tuesday November 15, "Something Completely Different."

On first viewing the itinerary, I thought this would be the least interesting day of the tour and thought of staying behind and maybe visiting MONA instead. But on boarding the bus in the windy, drizzling weather, we quickly found ourselves at the Wicked Cheese Co for a very small cheese tasting but accompanied by lots of cakes.

Then off to The Lufra for a lovely, warm, fresh seafood lunch with a stunning outlook over a very wild Tasman Sea. Lunch was accompanied by a glass of wine from Bream Creek, one of the best wineries of the trip.

We arrived Port Arthur in time to board for the Harbour Cruise and complete the Walking Tour, both in 4 deg temperature and rain. The result of the poor weather was that the car park was empty and we were practically the only visitors on the day - and half of ours opted for hot chocolate by the fire instead of the Guided Walk.

Walking around the ruins with such small numbers was wonderful and you could feel the ghosts around every corner. The buildings have been made structurally safe rather than rebuilt, as I had originally feared and are really well preserved, though what remains is just a small fraction of the original settlement.

The Memorial Garden was extremely well presented and cleverly hidden behind a large green hedge, out of the way if you didn't want this experience, but if you did venture in, it was quite moving while very simple and restrained.

Bounding back up the stairs to the warmth of the cafe declaring "Best day of the Tour!"
MONA will have to wait.

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