

Proposal: Tasmanian Boat Charters

Proponent / s

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Location

The waterways of Southern Tasmania in particular Bathurst Harbour, Port Davey and several large river systems.

Description of proposal

A tailored two or three day guided boat charter experience for small groups or families in the waterways of Tasmania's south west. A purpose built 19.4m vessel, *Odalisque* has been constructed for use in the remote South West Tasmania as accommodation and for exploring the Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour areas and will partner with existing companies to fly in clients over the summer months.

The trips will also showcase the best of Tasmania. A key feature will be the provision of Tasmanian food and beverages. Meals will be planned and designed by fully trained chefs. *Odalisque* is extremely well provisioned and has ample capacity as well as storage to allow for quality meals showcasing the best seasonal produce that Tasmania offers. The use of Tasmanian wines, beer, ciders and whiskies will be standard and fresh food will also be flown in through the season to ensure standards and quality are maintained.

Charter guests will be offered a wide range of experiences. The core experiences include river exploration, bushwalking, kayaking, scuba diving, wildlife viewing and bird watching. Core itineraries will be tailored for every group to provide unique experiences to meet the needs of each client. This is a feature of small group expedition cruising and allows this product to rapidly position itself as a signature experience for Tasmania – not simply due to the capacity to experience a remote and alluring part of Tasmania's landscapes and natural history in comfort and style, but the best practice one on one attention to client needs and preferences done with a high end interpretive experiential focus.

Examples of tour packages include:

- Fly to the area either by Sea Plane or by light aircraft to Melaleuca
- Tender pickups
- Interpretative guides specializing in specific areas of expertise
- 2-3 day tailored explorations of the area to accommodate either couples or families

Estimated jobs created

Three full time equivalent jobs for crew plus a Hobart based admin/marketing staff.

Social, cultural and environmental impact

This proposal aims to be highly eco-friendly as *Odalisque* is fully self-contained with black water holding tanks that fully complying with the new AMSA regulations and operating procedures comply with Parks rules and best practice guidelines. All rubbish will be retained on board and will be stored after a compression process. Waste will be returned to an approved disposal site upon return voyage to Hobart. A key feature of this product will be the high standard eco-friendly approach for all services, allowing visitors to be truly immersed and touched by the landscape and values of the World Heritage Area.

This concept has been specifically developed to avoid land infrastructure or the need for a land based footprint within this fragile region, but allowing guests to experience and appreciate the vagrancies of the South West of Tasmanian weather and still have the full safety and comfort that any land based Lodge would provide.

Expressions of Interest Project Briefing

It is not intended to have Odalisque travel large distances within the Bathurst Harbor/Port Davey region. A purpose built tender vessel that can transport up to eight clients is currently under construction. This six metre tender will be capable of safely transporting persons across the open waters of Bathurst Harbor/Port Davey region in much more intimate and flexible experience. It will be a comfortable vessel with protection from the elements and will have quick easy embarking capacity. Environmental friendly four stroke outboard engines will power this vessel.

There has been interest from individuals for specific interactions such as the migratory species including the Short Tailed Shearwater that nests in abundant numbers in the area. High standards of ecotourism will be utilised with environmentally friendly approaches to interpretation such as remote camera viewing allowing visitors a close up and detailed viewing without any direct impact on the species. A team of experienced guides will be compiled for the first season and include specialists such as marine biologists and Tasmanian mammal researchers. Each has an intimate level of firsthand experience of wildlife behaviors and habitats.

The trips will showcase the best of Tasmania. A key feature will be the provision of Tasmanian food and beverages. Meals will be planned and designed by fully trained chefs. Odalisque is extremely well provisioned and has ample fridge and freezer capacity as well as storage to allow for quality meals showcasing the best seasonal produce that Tasmania offers, and the ability to tailor meals with food preferences or special requirements. The use of Tasmanian wines, beer, ciders and whiskies will be standard. Fresh food will also be flown in through the season ensure standards and quality are maintained.

The Odalisque will operate all year round in other areas of Tasmania, especially the East Coast in the winter and be available as a small function facility around Hobart as required. However the main product is the South West signature experience.

Servicing and maintenance will also be planned during winter.