

This area is famous for its ancient lighthouse, which you'll see from the boat as we turn past the first little island. It was built in 1838 sailors as a number of shipwrecks had led to significant loss of life. The construction itself was complicated as some of the original drawings kept by the local council show. It sits right on top of the cliffs in a very isolated spot. In the nineteenth century there were many jobs there, such as polishing the brass lamps, chopping firewood and cleaning windows, that kept lighthouse keepers busy. These were mainly prison convicts until the middle of that century when ordinary families willing to live in such circumstances took over.

Some of you have asked me what creatures we can expect to see. I know everyone loves the penguins, but they're very shy and, unfortunately, tend to hide from passing boats, but you might see birds such as sea eagles, flying around the cliff edges where they nest. When we get to the rocky area inhabited by fur seals, we'll stop and watch them swimming around the coast. They're inquisitive creatures so don't be surprised if one pops up near you. Their predators, orca whales, hunt along the coastline too, but one of these is Dolphins. on the other hand, can sometimes swim on their own or in groups as they ride the waves beside us.

Lastly, I want to mention the caves. Tasmania is famous for its caves and the ones we'll pass by are so amazing that people are lost for words when they see them. They can only be approached carefully, but if you feel that you want to see more than we're able to show you, then you can take a guided tour into the area on another day and one of our staff will give you more information on that. What we'll do is to go through a narrow channel, past some incredible rock formations and from there we'll be able to see the openings to the caves, and at that point we'll tell you about what lies beyond.

PART 3

DIANA: So, Tim, we have to do a short summary of our work experience on a farm.

TIM: Right. My farm was great, but arranging the work experience was hard. One problem was it was miles away and I don't drive. And also, I'd really wanted a placement for a month, but I could only get one for two weeks.

DIANA: I was lucky, the farmer let me stay on the farm so I didn't have to travel. But finding the right job and applying for it wasn't easy.

TIM: No, they had to find their own placement, do they. I found mine through a friend of my mother's, but it wasn't easy.

DIANA: No.

TIM: My farm was mostly livestock, especially sheep. I spent a lot of time helping out with them. I was up most of one night helping a sheep give birth to a lamb ...

DIANA: On your own?

TIM: No, the farmer was there, and he told me what to do. It wasn't a straightforward birth, but I managed. It was a surprise to see the lamb stagger to its feet and start feeding almost straightaway, and to know that it was OK.

DIANA: Mm.

TIM: Then another time a lamb had broken its leg, and they got the vet in to set it, and he talked me through what he was doing. That was really interesting.

DIANA: Yes, my farm had sheep too. The farm was in a valley and they had a lowland breed called Suffolks, although the farmer said they'd had other breeds in the past.

TIM: So were they big and solid?

DIANA: Mostly, yes. They're quite big and solid.

TIM: My farm was up in the hills and they had a different breed of sheep, they were Cheviots.

DIANA: Oh, I heard their wool's really sought after.

TIM: Yes. It's very hardwearing and they use it for carpets.

DIANA: Right.

TIM: I was interested in the amount of supplements they add to animals' feed nowadays. Like, even the chickens got extra vitamins and electrolytes in their feed.

DIANA: Yes, I found that too. And they're not cheap. But my farmer said some are for what they are. And he didn't give them when the chickens seemed to particularly require them. just

TIM: Yes, he didn't give them. He said certain breeds of chickens might need more supplements than the others, but the cheap and expensive ones are all basically the same.

DIANA: Mm.

TIM: So did your farm have any other livestock, Diana?

DIANA: Yes, dairy cows. I made a really mess when I was working in the milk shed. Some cows had been treated with antibiotics, so their milk wasn't suitable for human consumption, and it had to be put in a separate container. But I got mixed up, and I poured some milk in with the milk for humans, so the whole lot had to be thrown away. The farmer wasn't too happy with me.

TIM: I asked my farmer how much he relied on the vets to deal with health problems. I'd read reports that the livestock's health is being affected as farmers are under pressure to increase production. Well, he didn't agree with that, but he said that actually some of the stuff the vets do, like minor operations, he'd be quite capable of doing himself.

DIANA: Yeah. My farmer said the same. But he reckons vets' skills are still needed.