

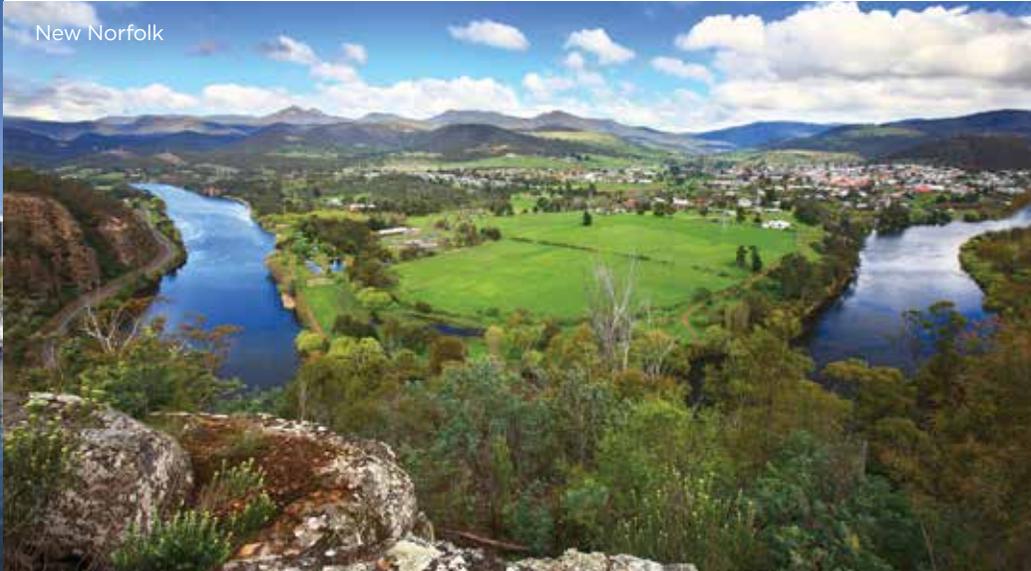
DISCOVER THE



TREASURES
of **TASMANIA**

Tasmania is one of the world's great touring destinations. It's an island of breath taking diversity that often catches people by surprise. There's far more to this BIG little island than visitors expect, and for many people, this results in a second, third and fourth visit to get a true sense of all the fabulous nooks and crannies. To help you get started with planning your own island escape, we've sent a couple of travellers down ahead to give Tasmania a bit of a test run. Their itinerary, attached here to give you some ideas, took them on a ten day journey of discovery that left them inspired and enriched. Use sections of their itinerary for a short break, or do the whole thing with your own special additions. However you decide to explore this award-winning destination, we know you'll come away with your hearts and heads filled with treasured memories.





Hobart Harbour

New Norfolk

The Salmon Ponds Hatchery

Redlands

DAY ONE

Hello Hobart!



Welcome to **Hobart**, the cultural centrepiece of your island stay. Wake up and immediately hit the stalls of **Salamanca Market**. They pop out of the pavement each Saturday; like colourful blooms along the colonial promenade.

Each weekend is as rousing as the next. There are string bags full of produce, musicians you'll want to jig past and trails of food scent that lead you by the belly. It's going to be a big ten days so stock up and let the frivolity cheer you on.

There's a hand shake and the clink of small change. A stall holder with long arms unveils your new wool knit beret. From here you can see the twinkling **River Derwent** in your sights; get excited because this is where you're headed next. New Norfolk, often referred to as the capital of the Derwent Valley, is a bustling small town rich in both history and discoveries. Find antique treasures through window panes and gulp loads of country air, you may need to pull that beanie down over your head.

Once upon a time there lived the first Superintendent of **The Salmon Ponds Hatchery** in a place called Plenty; your next stop on the road is his place. The heritage hatchery, still well stocked with scaled beauties, now seats dining guests in a licensed café; once the home of the big boss.

Rustic **Redlands**; with history to boot is next stop. Now the main fare from the paddock to palate is a single malt whisky. King George IV of England's, outcast son George Frederick Read, Redlands first landholder (post-colonial settlement) would give cheers to this fortunate evolution of farm use.

Before a night at **Lake St Clair**, stop into **Tarraleah** and visit this highland village with an industrial past that has now been transformed into a unique stop-off on the edge of Tasmania's beautiful wilderness.



West Coast Wilderness Railway

Lake St Clair

Nelson Falls

The Ship That Never Was

DAY TWO

Rainforest by train & Shipyard Theatre

Begin at **Lake St Clair** for a short walk. You will likely spot fit and peppery bushwalkers with rucksacks who are completing the famous Overland Track from Cradle Mountain. **Nelson Falls** is another calendar photo, signposted from the road. The pristine state of the wilderness that spans in large tracts across this precious part of the island is easily accessed here.

In **Queenstown**, you may wonder where exactly in the world you really are. This is a scarred landscape, a place of mining with an edgy community arts scene. It is also home to one end of the **West Coast Wilderness Railway**, that click clacks down the line, past dripping fronds of ancient rainforest.

An evening at Strahan with a laugh and local rogues is at **The Ship That Never Was**. Not the pub; this is theatre on the docks and is well worth a dime. Don't wear your Salamanca wool hat tonight because chances are you'll be "sitting duck" for a bit of audience participation. You'll be scrubbing the deck in one of the most swashbuckling high seas moments of your theatrical career and you won't ever forget it.





Gordon River Cruise



Dove Lake



Tasmanian Devil



Sarah Island

DAY THREE

Deep green river pockets & wild animals

You might hear the moss riverbank breathe underfoot, so alive and yet motionless is **Heritage Landing**, a stop-over on the **Gordon River Cruise**. Sarah Island too, with remnants of the early penal colony now wrestling with nature; is made all the more haunting with the stories interpreted on this cruise departing Strahan each day.

Hogarth Falls is home to the **platypus**. This local creature is shy; a quiet approach is a must. Can you spot the platypus going about his daily business, as you might spot the fisher- folk leaving Strahan dock?

Past the empty shopfronts and ghostly quiet streets of Zeehan is a large heritage building, **The Pioneer Museum**. Behind the door is a different Zeehan, a town that boasted a thriving population and one of Australia's grandest theatre's "The Gaiety", and it is all still there. A bulk of memorabilia stirs the cogs into imagining a Zeehan in her glory days, all three of the hotels with a full house; this mining town at the height of her riches. **Dove Lake** is a scenic winding road away. When you get to the car park, take a photograph of yourself with

Cradle Mountain, handsome in the background. You are guaranteed to look more fetching with the blush of fresh mountain air on your cheeks by this landmark. Take the time to visit **Devils @ Cradle**, supporting this critter's fight against a facial tumour which is threatening to place the Tasmanian devil on a list with the Tasmanian tiger. When you see a devil gnaw through an animal carcass with frightening voracity and a chilling squeal; you'll want to be on their side fighting the good fight for survival.

At night, animal lovers can **spotlight with accommodation providers** in the bush, where the local natives are thick on the ground nibbling and rustling about. Chances are it might snow, even in summer so keep your wool hat close.





Cradle Mountain Canyons



The 'Nut' at Stanley



Stanley Hotel



Fish & Chips

DAY FOUR

Come & Canyon



Whoop Whoop! Gear up with **Cradle Mountain Canyons** for a full day of thrills in a natural playground. There are rock wall drop offs and tannin stained water flowing fast through tracts of alpine bush. Cradle Mountain Canyons know how to really live in this natural space and they've got the "know-how" and the equipment to safely navigate groups of like-minded fun seekers through different canyons in one of Tasmania's most beautiful national parks.

When you are spat out of the canyon, alive, shivering; make a run for it. The North West Coast is at your doorstep. Saunter into **Harvest and Cater**, right on **Boat Harbour Beach**. Order fresh fish (local arrivals from Wynyard Wharf) and hot salty chips and plonk yourself on this squeaky sand- gem of a beach, marvelling at the

adventurous spirit that overcame you today up in the wilds. How hard-core you got, and you didn't even know it.

Just down the road is another fishing hamlet, with a big rock chunk of a headland called "the Nut". The whole town, albeit tiny is pleasing to the eye with coastal historic chic accommodation, exciting artwork, a chairlift ride; and renowned pub, **The Stanley Hotel**. A brew with the locals is a perfect place to boast about your canyoning prowess.



DAY FIVE

Open up the farm gate



Take the **chairlift up the Nut** and back, chanting positive affirmations about your survival; you are into canyoning, remember.

Back on the coast road, choose a turn to **Table Cape** and drive along the cliff top with a birds-eye view of Bass Strait. Paddocks atop this extinct volcano are fertile with crops and healthy stock; better known for their rainbow tulip display in spring every year.

Burnie has a **Makers Workshop** with café, shop and artist studios complete with peephole, so that curious visitors can watch them work a vision of their world in their chosen materials. Chat to the staff for secret spots in the coastal hills of the North West.

Heading to the central coast, the coast road from **Ulverstone to Penguin** is a cruisy side-track from the highway. These charming little towns have roadside gardens of colour and rocky foreshores with steep hillsides and lustrous ocean vistas, café options and unique stores. **Mrs Jones Restaurant in Devonport** is where to line up your lunch date. A new waterfront premise for this team is ideal for whale spotting with a meal.

Farm gate foraging is next on the agenda. **Ghost Rock** has the Pinot Noir for the picnic plonk; **Seven Shed's**, your locally brewed ale. **Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm** has sweets. **Ashgrove** Cheese and **Deloraine Deli**; more of the moorish. Stop and get it all together for a picnic at **Cataract Gorge**, a spectacular wild nook in the city close to your chosen **Launceston** accommodation for the night.



DAY SIX

Bubbles, Dunes & Holy Cow



Bursting with country love, **Lilydale Larder** is spot on for a breakfast of regional fare. Then, you can let loose with the bubbles. Stop by **Pipers Brook Vineyard** or head up the road and find those clever vigneronns of popular **Jansz**.

You would be a hole short of a course if you didn't venture out to the dunes to play a short round of golf at **Barnbougle**, one of the world's top links golf courses. Let the north east breeze blow you by **Legerwood** next, to uncover a street full of chainsaw fashioned sculptures. The locals here celebrate stories of husbands, sons and sweethearts lost to war, forever carved in the landscape of their belonging.

Holy Cow, there is cheese and then there is **Pyengana Cheese Factory** with a long history of vintage cloth-wrapped cheddar. Their café, by thy name, **Holy Cow**, serves dairy goods as well as seafood off the eastern rock shelves over the hill.

Down the road, **St Columbo Falls** will once again ground you in sweet earthy bush and then it's to the coast at St Helens. Spend overnight here with the soothing beat of the southern ocean resonating through your sleeping body.



DAY SEVEN

One Swallow; an Oyster goes, farm to throat



The sleepy shack vibe of **Binalong Bay** will urge you to surf in clean waves even if you are scared of sharks. With the wild abandon of a child, you can make a castle in the sand, King of it only for a day. Binalong Bay, like many east coast beaches will reset your idea of what a beautiful beach is and drive you to acts of merriment.

St Marys, situated in a mountain valley a short way from the coast with the **Purple Possum Wholefoods & Café** in the hub is worth seeking out. It's healthy and an unexpected store to find here, like a buried gem in a visage dominated by the natural world. Close by, another food stop is Mount Elephant Pancakes, open for lunch-crepe style, not thick ones - this place will feel like a mirage, appearing out of the bush when lunch is drawing near.

Eat, then Play at **Douglas Apsley National Park**. The crystal clear waters running through the park are superb for summer swimming and when you are suitably cool, drive to **East Coast Nature World**. There have been successful Tasmanian devil breeding programs here and

it will be a relief to see live critters from these parts; for as drivers will have noted by now, roads hint to evening mayhem with marsupial skittles in these parts. Take care driving at dawn or dusk.

Bicheno Gulch and Blow Hole, in raging ocean swell down the road are a thrill for onlookers. Next stop before night fall though is **Freycinet Marine Farm**; a farm gate like no other with shucked oysters, fresh from the bay. The guts of the farm is on show. Farm to mouth in one swallow. Take an aphrodisiac and settle in for the viewing of a romantic Hazards sunset, the pink granite glows like embers beside **Coles Bay**. Stay overnight.



DAY EIGHT

Adrift



Cape Tourville at sunrise can charge your soul. You'll leap down to the jetty to board **Wineglass Bay Cruise** with gusto revved up on solar power and fresh air from that charging spot.

The cruise will take you out past the gatekeepers of the Hazards; right out along the Freycinet Peninsula where the land dips into secluded beaches and the bay spreads out, a glittering stage for dolphins, seals and whales to show. You will have the privilege to see Wineglass Bay by boat, eat top notch Freycinet food and have local guides share secrets from the area.

Sea kayaking is a slower and more languid way to take to the water at Coles Bay with **Freycinet Paddle** and chances are you'll experience some of the run-ins with

the local ocean crowd too. There are tour options with experienced guides and the option to rent your own and paddle to a secluded beach for an afternoon kip.

Wineglass Bay is at its picturesque best at the look-out. Get up there and work out how the wine glass image fits the real thing. Get your iconic Tassie snap and scurry like the local skinks across the rocks back to the car. That's right, you need to stay overnight at **Coles Bay** again, there is much to do about, everywhere.



DAY NINE

Spikes on the Road

Keep to the wet sand at **Friendly Beaches** and peep at shorebirds in their habitat; the glare of the white sand and blue of the sea is like Maldives, meets Antarctica. Swim here and your body just might miss a heartbeat; leaving one extra at the end of your life. There must be health properties in this Southern Ocean: feel it to believe it.

There is **Kate's Berry Farm** at Swansea and it's unmissable with berries in all the best edible states. Eat here, take some berries away. Shamelessly fall victim to berry ecstasy.

Up ahead there are spikes on the road, no really you have to stop. It is not an Echidna, though there may also be one of those; it's a bridge! Its super scenic at the

Spiky Bridge and on close inspection you'll find the convict tale behind the unusual remnant of Tasmania's colonial past, and a beach worthy of checking out too. Do this stop in photo motion; a click everywhere you look, it's that pretty.

No town does historic in Tasmania, more than **Richmond** which is your next stop on the road. Many businesses still thrive on the upkeep of the olde school vibe. Wander on foot to get a feel for it, take the Richmond Maze challenge but save your appetite for the **Coal River Valley Wine Region**. You are right there, choices are many with cellar door sales and dining options, so choose your favourite grape.

Then, take the short drive back to Hobart and check into your chosen accommodation for your last night in Tasmania.





Tasmanian Crafts

DAY TEN

Only MONA

Last day in Hobart town. Having dipped into some of the nooks of Tasmania you never knew of, tasted things you had not imagined would be so great in their fresh state, and lived moments in utter respect for the natural beauty of the place; what to do?

Oh, **MONA!**

After **breakfast on the waterfront**, finding the best seat on the dock you can catch the ferry to MONA. You've heard the hype, know all about the plumbing of the place and it's your turn to have a view on it all. Take your time; give it as long as you've got. There is more than you can imagine; expectations mean nothing when the sheer scale of the building takes on new scales of proportion. Tasmania's art gallery, of international acclaim is like nothing else in Tasmania, an eclectic addition; much like your new wool hat.

Finally, make your way to Hobart Airport for departure.

