

Tasmania

- GO BEHIND THE SCENERY -

PRESENTS

TOP OF THE iSLAND

7 DAY SELF-DRIVE DISCOVERY TOUR

DAY 1

LAUNGESTON AND SURROUNDS

Check into your Old Bakery Inn Launceston Accommodation for the next three nights.

By starting the day in central Launceston – Australia’s third oldest city, you can soak up the architecture on your way to the Design Centre Tasmania. This contemporary design space showcases Tasmanian craftspeople and those with a keen scent may note a Huon pine flavour to the air.

Drop into the Garden of Vegan for a scrumptious and overly plump burger for lunch before heading out to Scottsdale – for the type of experience you can tell your friends about.

At Pepper Bush Adventures, you’ll be handing yourself over to a sixth generation Tasmanian for the entire afternoon and evening. Craig Williams will take you into the Ben Lomond National Park – home to eight of Tasmania’s highest 20 peaks – for his Quoll Patrol tour. He will also whip you up a four-course gourmet campfire dinner.

The meal is mouth-watering and includes Tasmanian cheese, wallaby mountain burgers and native spiced salmon with a local beer or wine as dusk settles in. Soon after, the nocturnal antics begin and the show may feature talent including Eastern quolls, pademelons and



Design Centre



Pepper Bush Adventures

Bennett’s wallabies, wombats, brushtail possums, owls, bandicoots and tawny frogmouths. If you’re lucky you’ll get the full cast!

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Saint John Craft Beer



Mudbar and Restaurant

DAY 2

LAUNCESTON

Begin your morning aboard a Morning Discovery Cruise with Tamar River Cruises. Hop aboard the Tamar Odyssey at 10am for 2.5 hours of rolling vineyards, beer and wine tastings, and Tamar Valley tales. The cruise takes you deep into Cataract Gorge. Hear about the early days of Old Launceston Seaport, St Mathias Church and Rosevears Tavern.

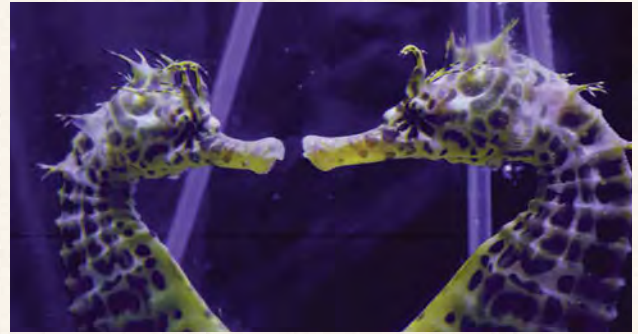
Grab a bite to eat at the hip top end of Charles Street then hit the Tamar Valley Art Trail. This region is well known for its food and wine (which you can enjoy along the way) but there are now also ten art studios that are featured along the trail. These studios are within 5 to 50 minutes from the Launceston CBD (www.tamarvalleyarttrail.org.au) and offer a new way to explore the valley.

Come evening, take the relaxed option. Head to St Johns Craft Beer Bar for a choice of the finest international and local craft brews – eight to fourteen beers on tap – with the option to bring your own food. Or, right next door line up at Eats with Beats, a funky food van serving up crispy pork belly on brioche buns, halloumi burgers and other street food faves with complimentary beats.

If you're not ready for the pillow – continue along to Red Brick Road Ciderhouse. Here, you can literally taste the local orchard apple and pears in the cider. Sip on a perry over a board game up the back.



Tamar River Cruises



Seahorse World

DAY 3

LAUNCESTON AND BEAUTY POINT

Make tracks for Beauty Point for a tour of Seahorse World. Who knew that male seahorses were so noble? These generous men take on the pregnancy role and give birth to their offspring. Find out about endangered horses of the sea and their sea dragon mates.

While you're in the neighbourhood, visit the equally absorbing platypus. At Platypus House there's no surprises why Great Britain thought they were being had when initial sketches and a pelt were sent by early explorers in 1798. They were quite certain the duck's beak had been sewn on. At Platypus House find out why this suspected reptile, come bird, come mammal with a fur coat confused so many. What's more, there is an echidna garden once you have the platypus all figured out.

Head over the Batman Bridge to George Town for lunch at York Cove. This award winning Chef's Hat restaurant offers generous servings and a casual atmosphere. From here continue on to Low Head pilot station which narrates the fortunes of many an early settling mariner. Jump back onto the Tamar Valley Wine Route which also boasts an art trail (www.tamarvalleyarttrail.org.au) offering the opportunity to meet local artists and even book in for a pottery workshop at Clay by Day in Kayena.

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Cradle Mountain Canyons



Ghost Rock Vineyard



Narawntapu National Park

On your way back into town, drop into the Barrel Room at Velo Wines (closed Mondays and Tuesdays) for a late afternoon bite. This Legana location enjoys sweeping mountain and Tamar River views – best enjoyed out on the deck on a sunny day.

Finish your day by the river at Mudbar and Restaurant at Seaport for a casual dinner or next door for fish and chips – the fat boy chips are delicious.

DAY 4

DEVONPORT AND SURROUNDS

Get on your way to Devonport early, just an hour along the highway. While you're passing through Latrobe you may feel like a quick hot chocolate or other chocolate delight at House of Anvers. When you arrive in Devonport, stop in for lunch at the Laneway Café. Opt for an all-day breakfast of house-made waffles or try the Atlantic salmon.

Check into your Edgewater Devonport accommodation.

After a walk along the waterfront, head out to Port Sorell. Here you'll find Hundred Acres at Ghost Rock Winery – a new paddock to plate experience in North West Tasmania.

Some of the richest red paddocks hail from here, and Ghost Rock are celebrating with the opening of Hundred Acres.

This winery allows Ghost Rock to distill award-winning wine onsite and take visitors through the whole production story – from vines to wine glass. And they'll share the legend of Ghost Rock with you. Stay for lunch.

In the afternoon, visit Narawntapu National Park. Take a long walk along Bakers Beach or one of the main trails on offer. The wombats and Forester Kangaroos are a highlight in these parts.

**For an entirely different take on your day – book in for a day with Ben Milbourne of Masterchef Australia fame, at his Fairholme residence in North West Tasmania. Ben has launched One Degree – where he takes intimate groups to meet producers, demonstrates his finest techniques and shares in a degustation meal at his home.*

DAY 5

DEVONPORT TO SMITHTON

It'll be an early one this morning – but good mates Anthony and Tim who started Cradle Mountain Canyons

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Tasmazia and The Village of Lower Crackpot



Bull Rock, Stanley Seal Cruises

DAY 6

STANLEY AND SURROUNDS

They say heritage buffs would be nuts not to go on the new Stanley Heritage Walk. Use your smart phone or tablet, and learn about Stanley's rich heritage as a fishing village and home to the first Tasmanian prime minister. The tour takes just over an hour and is available in hard copy as well.

Follow this with an eco-cruise out to Bull Rock – a fur seal outpost where seals as heavy as 200 kilos can be seen taking it easy in the waters of Bass Strait. If you're lucky you might also see dolphins or whales.

Head up to Highfield House, considered the birthplace of European settlement in Tasmania's north-west. Venture inside and learn about the Van Diemen's Land Company or return at nightfall for a chilling ghost tour. Take a look at the convict barrack ruins just along the road, built back in 1834 overlooking pretty views across to The Nut.

For lunch, why not forage for your own picnic? Drop into Providore 24 on the main street and in amongst stylish fashion, books, quirky tea towels and handmade jewellery, you'll find a range of freshly baked breads, chutneys, boutique wines and more. Owners Max and Patricia will happily direct you for other picnic supplies that you can



Stanley Heritage Walk



Providore 24

in 2010 can assure, it's worth it. Your Dove Lake Canyon adventure, where you literally jump, slide and abseil your way through an ancient canyon, departs from Cradle Mountain at 8.30am (about an hour's drive from Devonport). The Lost World Canyon is a slightly less daunting version and both run for around six to eight hours (check first for availability).

The canyoning trip takes you 50 metres deep into a quartzite canyon, and although past experience is not required, a good dose of bravery is helpful. A tasty lunch is provided and after being shot out what is known as the 'laundry shoot,' you'll feel born again. Those who are inclined to resist any notion of the above might like to spend the day at Waldheim Alpine Spa instead.

On the way to Smithton during the afternoon, about a two and a half hour drive away, stop at Tasmazia (that is, if you're not too waterlogged). The Village of Lower Crackpot is a model village and is dedicated to those in 'middle life' whom the creator of this village believes are 'broken but still useful.'

Continue on through to Smithton – taking regular breaks. Smithton is around 190 kilometres from Cradle Mountain. Break the trip with dinner in Burnie at Fish Frenzy on the waterfront.

Check into your Tall Timbers Resort, Smithton accommodation for the next two nights.



The Doughboys, Cape Grim

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Mount Gnomon Farm

enjoy down on the beach or at a picnic table near the fisherman's wharf.

Head out to Marrawah in the afternoon, a mecca for international surfers, or venture out to Cape Grim and fill your lungs with that awfully fresh air mentioned earlier. At Marrawah, visit Green Point Beach and you may catch a few surfers riding thundering waves. Well-travelled campers in the carpark are usually a good sign. Stay and enjoy a hearty pub meal in Marrawah or when you get back to Smithton have dinner at the Tall Timber's Kauri Bistro.

DAY 7

SMITHTON TO LAUNCESTON

After breakfast, start your day with a buzz. Take a Tarkine Wilderness Helicopter Tour – flying over one of the world's largest remaining tracts of temperate rainforest. Scenic flights range from 30 minutes through to an hour and longer charters can be arranged. Alternately, take the Tarkine Drive, and wind your way through spectacular rainforest, mountain and heath country on four wheels.

Spend your entire drive to Penguin gushing over the Tarkine's dense forest feel and far stretching button grass plains. For a change of pace, take a snap with the giant fibre glass penguin and pop your nose into the gorgeous Cocoon Design's homeware store on the main strip.

For lunch, head to Mount Gnomon Farm (closed on Mondays and Tuesdays) for a tour of the free range farm

and an ethically-raised lunch. Eliza and Guy's changing menu might feature anything from rare beef to a shredded smoked pork shoulder with dressed greens. Get a feel for how the pair keep things sustainable on a walking farm tour and pick your favourite small goods to take with you.

Next stop is Spreyton. Rows of Pink Lady, Sundowner and other apple varieties are a good indication of what is to come. The orchard lined road out to Spreyton Cider Company is a fitting tribute to the crisp bite within each lightly fermented bottle. Open from noon, it's the ideal spot for an afternoon cider.

Continue along the highway until you reach Latrobe. Drop into the Cherry Shed for plump, flavourful cherries best enjoyed down at Bells Parade by the river. Just nearby is the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame – read about local hero David Foster and find out where you can spot a platypus while you're there. After all, you're in the self-proclaimed platypus capital of the world. From Latrobe, it's less than an hour to Launceston for your flight.



Spreyton Cider Co

Availability of experiences in this itinerary may be subject to opening times, seasonal operation or booking requirements, please call ahead to plan each day.

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