

This guide was prepared for you by...

Bondi Beach Backpackers

0412 509 279 - 35a Hall Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026



TASMANIA ROAD TRIP START & FINISH IN HOBART

Tasmania's natural beauty is captivating. It's cultural experiences are diverse making this an excellent road trip experience.

Looking for adventure? Hiking in Tasmania is world class with towering mountain peaks, dense forests, serene lakes and thundering waterfalls, with plenty of wildlife along the way, too.

Have a great trip & drive safe.

I very much hope this guide was useful to you. It was based on a road trip by Marta Kulesza from Poland and modified to suit our other road trips.

Have a great trip, drive safe and if this was useful to you please write to us at

info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you.

Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Fabulous walks



Fabulous coast



Fabulous animals

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TASMANIA—HOW TO GET THERE

There are two ways of getting to Tasmania.

One is to cross over on an overnight ferry from Melbourne to Devonport on the north tip of the island.

The Spirit of Tasmania is the only company that operates on this route and offers passenger ferry rides across the Bass Strait.

This choice is great for someone who already owns a car and wants to save money on a rental car. You can just bring your camping equipment along and off you go. If camping isn't for you and you prefer a bit more luxury just stay in hotels.

If you don't cope with travelling on ferries very well and get sea sick, the second, faster and most popular way is to fly in to Hobart which is Tasmania's capital city.

Companies like Virgin Australia and Jetstar are leaders when it comes down to flight connections between Australia's Mainland and Tasmania.

The best way to explore the little island is by self driving. If you brought a car with you, you're all set to go. If you need to rent one, you can do this from Devonport or Hobart.

If you are renting, consider a small camper van as it gives you a lot of freedom when it comes down to accommodation. Essentially your home is where you park it!

NATIONAL PARKS

Since most of the island is a protected area, you will require parks pass to enter national parks in Tasmania. Purchasing separate day passes is not worth it. For example a day pass for Cradle Mountain National Park costs approx. AU\$20.00 per person/day. If there is 2 of you that's already approx. \$40.00 And that's only for one day!

A way more economical option is to purchase an 8 week pass for approx. \$70.00 dollars, which will cover up to 8 people for all national parks on the whole island! That's way better value for money. You can buy this online through Parks & Wildlife Service prior to your travels.



Abel Tasman National Park



Freycinet National Park



Douglas Apsley National Park



Bay Of Fires



Cape Portland



Bruny Island



Mount Field National Park



Cradle Mountain National Park

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HOBART TO TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

HOBART is a brilliant capital city, very old by Australian standards but still modern enough to have everything you'll ever need. A city is still a city however and chances are you came to TASMANIA to do an adventure road trip and to get some fresh air in your lungs.

There is lots to do here at HOBART.

MOUNT WELLINGTON FOR SUNRISE & RIVULET TRACK

MOUNT WELLINGTON is about 20km/30 minute drive to the west of the city. It is so well sign posted you cannot miss it. At 1,269m above HOBART, it will probably be the first thing you notice when flying or driving into HOBART. It is common to have an inversion day when on the top. With clouds rolling just below the peak.

SALAMANCA MARKETS

If you are lucky enough to be in Hobart for the weekend, every Saturday the Salamanca Market turns into a busy jamboree with loads of food stalls, live music and people selling all kind of things.

From HOBART drive 90 minutes north east turning east towards BREAM CREEK before turning south towards TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Here you will find EAGLEHAWK NECK and further south PORT ARTHUR. You should stop at the beautiful geological attractions at EAGLE HAWK NECK. The TESSELLATED PAVEMENT is my favourite spot especially for sunrise as it looks East.

There is lots to do at TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Once you are on the TASMAN PENINSULA there are several hikes in the area that are popular. Here are 2 of them worth doing.

CAPE RAOUL

A beautiful hike in the south west of the peninsula. The 14km/5 hour return walk gives you a chance to see SHIP STERNS BLUFF from the first lookout. There's an awesome campsite at the trail head which has a wood fired sauna! If you are travelling in a camper this is where you should stay overnight!



Hobart



Mount Wellington



Salamanca Markets



Tasman National Park



Abel Tasman Track



Eagle Neck



Cape Raoul



Cape Raoul

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TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

CAPE HUAY

Situated on the eastern side of the peninsula. The undulating 8km/4 hour return track gives spectacular cliff views. If you're a rock climber this is where the world famous Totem Pole is.

PORT ARTHUR PRISON

PORT ARTHUR'S historic site is was basically an old prison from the mid 1800's where all the worst criminals were sent to. It is a creepy place where a lot of people were tortured and lost their lives. If you are not easily scared, consider joining the night tour around the prison.

Driving for 200km/3 hours up the eastern coast, you will love the views on your right. Eventually you will make a right at SWANSEA toward COLES BAY which is the closest place you can drive to on the FREYCINET PENINSULA and the FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK which is one of the most stunning pieces of land in all of Australia and it's also one of the oldest national parks too.

FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK

Due to the narrow northern isthmus, explorers Weatherhead and Tasman mistook FREYCINET PENINSULA for an island. Nicholas Baudin named the peninsula after French explorer Louis de Freycinet. Shore-based bay whaling stations operated on the peninsula in the 1820s and 1830s at WINEGLASS BAY, REFUGE BAY, BRYANS BEACH and COLES BAY.

There is lots to do here at FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK

MOUNT AMOS HIKE

The famous viewpoint here of WINE GLASS BAY can be seen best from the top of MOUNT AMOS which is relatively steep, 4km long taking 3 hours on a return track. Be warned this should not be attempted in the wet conditions as the rocks become very slippery.

If the weather is not good do the less extreme walk to the viewpoint overlooking the bay. For trail conditions and maps visit the visitor center located right at the park entry.

Driving further north along the coast.



Cape Huay



Cape Huay Track



Port Arthur Prison



Freycinet National Park



Mount Amos Hike



Mount Amos Hike



Mount Amos Hike



Mount Amos Hike

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DOUGLAS-ASPEY NATIONAL PARK

There is lots to see here at DOUGLAS-ASPEY NATIONAL PARK

APSLEY WATER HOLE

The Apsley Waterhole, a 10-min walk from the car park off Rosedale Road at the southern end of the park is a great spot for a picnic, scenic bushwalk and a leisurely dip on a hot summer day.

APSLEY WATER HOLE & GORGE WALK

This walk is 5.6km over 2-3 hours if you come back the way you came. Its stretches out to 7km if you return via the river. This walk starts as a gentle stroll through open woodland before reaching the surprising and lovely APSLEY WATER HOLE. The beautifully tranquil pool in the APSLEY RIVER begs you to stop and gaze into its waters. Or if the weather's right, you might want to wade or swim in the delightfully clear water. The walk crosses the river and leads you up through dry, open forest. It soon descends back to the river at the APSLEY GORGE. In dry weather it's possible to make this a circuit walk by returning along the river.

Further north you come to CHAIN OF LAGOONS where you have a choice of staying on the coast road to SCAMANDER or going inland via ST MARYS to SCAMANDER.

BINALONG BAY is only 32km past SACAMANDER and the BAY OF FIRES is just 10km past that.

BAY OF FIRES

Do not worry it's not really on fire, most of the forest fires in TASMANIA normally occur in the north west.

It is named the BAY OF FIRES due to the orange rocks which stand out so prominently against the white sand beaches and the crystal-clear water.

The BAY OF FIRES is another of Australia's pristine locations. It has very relaxed atmosphere is perfect for unwinding, hanging out, having a BBQ and then enjoying a cold beer with a fire on the beach whilst watching the sun set.

There is lots to do here at the BAY OF FIRES



Douglas Apsley National Park



Douglas Apsley National Park



Douglas Apsley National Park waterfall



Bay of Fires



Bay of Fires



Bay of Fires



Bay of Fires



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BINALONG BAY

Sit down and enjoy the beach at the BINALONG BAY located at the southern tip of BAY OF FIRES. The sand here is so fine it will squeak under your feet as you walk along the shore. This is a perfect place to take a break from hiking, enjoy the beach and the sea breeze.



Binalong Bay

ANSONS BAY

You simply must come here. Time has stood still at ANSONS BAY. This small fishing village on the north eastern coast of TASMANIA hasn't changed since the 1940s. The temporary fibro houses, the tinnies waiting to be pushed off in search of fish and the quiet and sleepy holiday ambience make it one of those wonderful secrets which is known only to the locals and a select group of anglers.



Ansons bay

On 5th March, 1788 Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, whilst exploring the east coast of TASMANIA, named the bay after George Anson, a British admiral who was fondly remembered as a great explorer and had been the first Lord of the Admiralty from 1751 until his death in 1761.



Eddystone Lighthouse

The main attraction in the area is the EDDYSTONE LIGHTHOUSE which is located 13 km north of ANSONS BAY at the northern end of the BAY OF FIRES. EDDYSTONE POINT was first sighted by Captain Tobias Furneaux, in 1772 when he was captain of the HMS *Adventure*. Furneaux was accompanying Captain James Cook on his second voyage to the South Seas when he was separated from the rest of the fleet. He explored much of the eastern coast of Van Diemen's Land and named the point, which obviously had no lighthouse at the time, after the famous EDDYSTONE LIGHTHOUSE near Plymouth on the English south coast. The lighthouse was built out of pink granite in 1889, stands 42 meters above sea level, and can be seen from 26 nautical miles out to sea.



Eddystone Point

ANSONS BAY to CAPE PORTLAND is just 53km.

Cape Portland is both a geographical feature and a locality near the north-eastern tip of Tasmania, Australia. It points west across RINGAROOMA BAY. It was named after the Duke of Portland by Matthew Flinders during his 1798 circumnavigation of the island in the sloop Norfolk with George Bass.



Eddystone Point & Lighthouse



On the road



On the road



Cape Portland

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CAPE PORTLAND TO CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Now heading west 106km and about 90 minutes brings you to BRIDSTOWE LAVENDER ESTATES. If you are travelling during December/January stop at the BRIDSTOWE LAVENDER FARM first. The entry fee is just \$10 and you can admire the purple fields, which seem to have no end. Try the lavender ice cream or tea too!

Now that you're all relaxed it's time to go to the TASMANIAN HIGHLANDS and get your hike on.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK is approximately 150km or 2.5 hours drive from Launceston depending on which way you go.

You also have the choice of sticking to the coast all the way to the north west tip of TASMANIA and then doubling back around to the south and then east to CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK.

LAUNCESTON to DEVONPORT is 100km. DEVONPORT to STANLEY another 125km but the coastline is beautiful.

STANLEY to MARRAWAH to COUTA ROCKS along the west coast is 100km

From COUTA ROCKS via CORINNA to CRADLE MOUNTAIN IS 204km and 3.5 hours drive.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

You simply must spend time here.

Stock up on food in LAUNCESTON before going to CRADLE MOUNTAIN. There are no supermarkets in CRADLE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE.

BEST HIKES AND PLACES TO PHOTOGRAPH IN CRADLE MOUNTAIN NP

The trails in the park are very well maintained and marked. There are a few spots where the chains have been placed and where you will have to scramble a bit. Most walks start from DOVE LAKE CAR PARK.



Bridstowe Lavender Estates



Bridstowe Lavender Estates



Launceston



Devonport



Couta Rocks



Cradle Mountain Wow!



Cradle Mountain Winter



Cradle Mountain Summer

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CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

MARIONS LOOKOUT

After the DOVE LAKE CIRCUIT this is the most popular hike in the park and for a good reason. There are two ways you can get there. First one is from the RONNY CREEK CARPARK via CRATER FALLS, this is also where the famous Overland Track starts.

The second path leads from the DOVE LAKE CAR PARK and takes you via WOMBAT POOL. If you do the hike in the late afternoon it is pretty common to meet wombats on the trail.

There is also a third alternative route to MARION'S LOOKOUT (called the link track), though shorter in distance it is steeper and best to avoid, especially during bad weather conditions. Whichever way you choose account for at least 2-3 hours roundtrip.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN SUMMIT

Although it is Tasmania's fifth highest peak, if you are relatively fit like me, summiting CRADLE MOUNTAIN isn't too strenuous. The walk starts from the main carpark at the northern end of DOVE LAKE. The most popular route which goes around the WOMBAT POOL ascends firstly to MARION'S LOOKOUT.

From there to the base of the mountain is flat and easy and should not take you long. The last hour is the hard part, climbing over big, but easily manageable, boulders. You can make a lunch stop at the Kitchen Hut to recharge your batteries before the last push.

Do yourself a favour and leave your heavy bag there whilst getting up to the summit. Remember to still carry your water though. Parks Tasmania reckons that it should take around 6-8 hours return but it can be done in 5 hours. If you're fit you can get up and down in 5 hours from the DOVE LAKE CAR PARK.

DOVE LAKE CIRCUIT

If you are after something less demanding this one is for you. The circuit is a great introductory walk to the park. The trail head leaves again from the DOVE LAKE CAR PARK.

Though Parks & Wildlife Tasmania recommend doing it clockwise, my advice would be to go anticlockwise. It is a bit easier that way. Your first stop will be the famous BOAT SHED where photographers from all over the world swarm to capture this famous scene.



Marion's Lookout track



Marions's Lookout



Wombat Pool



Cradle Mountain Summit



Cradle Mountain Summit



Dove Lake Circuit



Dove Lake Circuit



Cradle Mountain Summit

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CRADLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

HANSON'S PEAK

A lot less popular, is the hike to HANSON'S PEAK but is a favourite of many. It is a perfect spot to see the sunset and has a good view toward the WEINDORFORS TOWER & CRADLE MOUNTAIN SUMMIT. The walk starts at the DOVE LAKE CAR PARK. Head left along the lake first clockwise to the DOVE LAKE CIRCUIT. After around 20 minutes the track will split into two. Follow the left side (Lake Rodway Track) and start going up. After another 45-60 minutes and a bit of scrambling, you will reach the top and the spectacular views that go with it!

MOUNT CAMPBELL

This is an unofficial track and no longer maintained but I thought I will include it anyway. If you are feeling a bit more adventurous and prefer off the beaten path hikes, then completing this one should be your top priority. The walk starts the same way as HANSON'S PEAK. Once you reach the saddle you will see LAKE HANSON to the left and DOVE LAKE to the right. Instead of following the path to HANSON'S PEAK, turn around and start going up the opposite direction, with your back facing CRADLE MOUNTAIN. After 45 minutes of scrambling you will reach the top.

It is time to see some waterfalls! The drive towards MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK has 2 route options.

EAST then SOUTH to LONDON LAKES.

Take the road east, then north going through MOINA, then east to CETHANA then south through LIENA, then east again through MOLE CREEK, CHUDLEIGH before heading south to QUAMBY BLUFF FOREST RESERVE and LIFFEY FOREST RESERVE to the GREAT LAKE. From here south to BRONTA PARK heading to THE LONDON LAKES.

WEST then SOUTH to LONDON LAKES.

The other route option is to go west before heading south. This would take you through BOCO CREEK FOREST RESERVE onto MOUNT MURCHISON REGIONAL RESERVE to QUEENSTOWN on to LAKE BURBURY and on to CROTTY CONSERVATION AREA then DERWENT BRIDGE and finally LONDON LAKES



Hanson's Peak



Hanson's Peak



Mount Campbell



Mount Campbell



Driving out of Cradle Mountain



Driving out of Cradle Mountain



Driving out of Cradle Mountain



Driving out of Cradle Mountain

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The WEST AND SOUTH route will give you amazing waterfalls.

MONTEZUMA FALLS 8km return track

This will take some time but gets you out of the car and would be another interesting.

NELSON FALLS 1.4km return track

Just 700 meters of the road. Its an easy option to stretch your legs

The routes now join.

Stop for food and supplies at LONDON LAKES and drive a further 120km to MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK.

MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK

Upon arriving in MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK you will notice there's nothing there except a visitor center and a campsite. The newly refurbished visitor center is packed with information about the local flora and fauna and deep down.

There is lots to do here at MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK

RUSSEL FALLS

These are one of the most easily accessible falls in all of TASMANIA, they are also one of the most awe-inspiring too. The short 400m track leads to a huge two-tiered waterfall that appears out of nowhere. You will hear it before you see it.

HORSE SHOE FALLS

A further 10 minutes past RUSSEL FALLS will take you to the more secluded HORSE SHOE FALLS. The whole walk can be a made into a loop via the TALL TREES WALK.

This next leg of the road trip will take you south away from rainforests and toward the southern coast of TASMANIA.

The town of KETTERING is 124km south of MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK. The ferry to BRUNY ISLAND leaves from here. Timetables for the ferry can be found online and the journey last approximately twenty minutes.



Montezuma Falls Track



Montezuma Falls



Nelson Falls



Mount Field National Park



Mount Field National Park Russel Falls



Horseshoe Falls Track



Horseshoe Falls



Mount Field National Park Russel Falls

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BRUNY ISLAND

BRUNY ISLAND is basically two islands connected by a small stretch of road called THE NECK, which happens to be one of my favourite photography spots in TASMANIA. This is a great part of the road trip.

Once on you find yourself on the island, you will get the chance to eat local cheeses, meats, whiskeys, seafood, wines, beers, berries and much more. You won't need to look far to find such frivolities, most of them are located just off the main road.

There is lots to see her at BRUNY ISLAND

FLUTED CAPE TRACK 5.4km/2.5 hours

Leaves from the beach at adventure bay on the southern part of BRUNY ISLAND. It winds up the cliffs and offers spectacular views of local fauna and flora.

CAPE QUEEN ELIZABETH 12km/4 hours

This is longer than the fluted cape track but is quite flat in comparison. It's a 12km route, going in and out on the same track, and it should take 4 hours. You'll get spectacular views of cliffs but instead of being on top of them as on the Fluted Cape track you'll be on the beach looking up at them.

HOBART is just 33km north of KETTERING where your loop is complete.

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Thank you. Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Bruny Island



Bruny Island



Bruny Island Food and Drink



Bruny Island Fluted Cape Track



Bruny Island Fluted Cape Track



Bruny Island Cape Queen Elizabeth



Bruny Island Cape Queen Elizabeth



Bruny Island Fluted Cape Track

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DRIVING TASMANIA

Signs

Read the signs, they may save your life. Especially those about NOT to go in the water!!

Rivers

Most coastal rivers in TASMANIA are fast, wide and kill quick plus mean things live in them like sharks.

Take Breaks

Aussie roads are long, boring & you need to take breaks!

Kangaroos

Will smash your car to pieces and the crash that follows smashes you and your mates to pieces so at sun up and sun down be very aware!

Parking

You have to park the direction traffic faces. If you see a parking spot available turn around & park in the same direction as others. Don't be the wrong way round or face a fine that will make you dry.

Many towns make you park with back of car to the kerb whilst other towns want you to park with the front of your car to the kerb. Read the signs or get a ticket.



Read signs that save



I'm drowning



Take a Break!!



Kangaroo v Car. Kangaroo will win!!



Park Same Direction as Others