

THIS IS TASMANIA

# COASTAL



Seaton Cove, Bay of Fires Conservation Area - The Garden

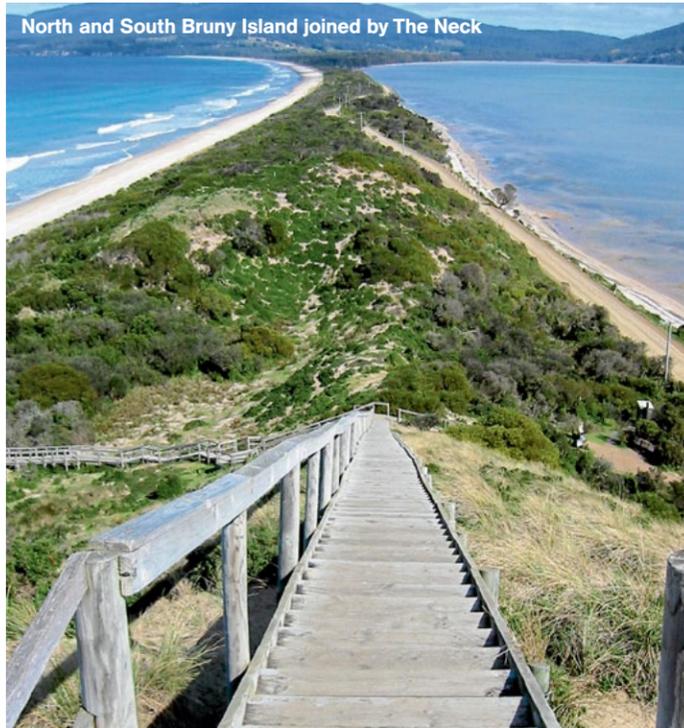
# COASTAL

It may be Australia's most compact state but Tasmania's coastline, totalling nearly 5,000 kilometres, is longer than that of NSW and Victoria, and only slightly smaller than South Australia's. And Tassie's myriad coastal attractions - from boating around beautiful Bruny Island to walking wondrous Wineglass Bay - are all within relatively easy reach of the island's two biggest cities, Hobart and Launceston.

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# CRUISE CONTROL



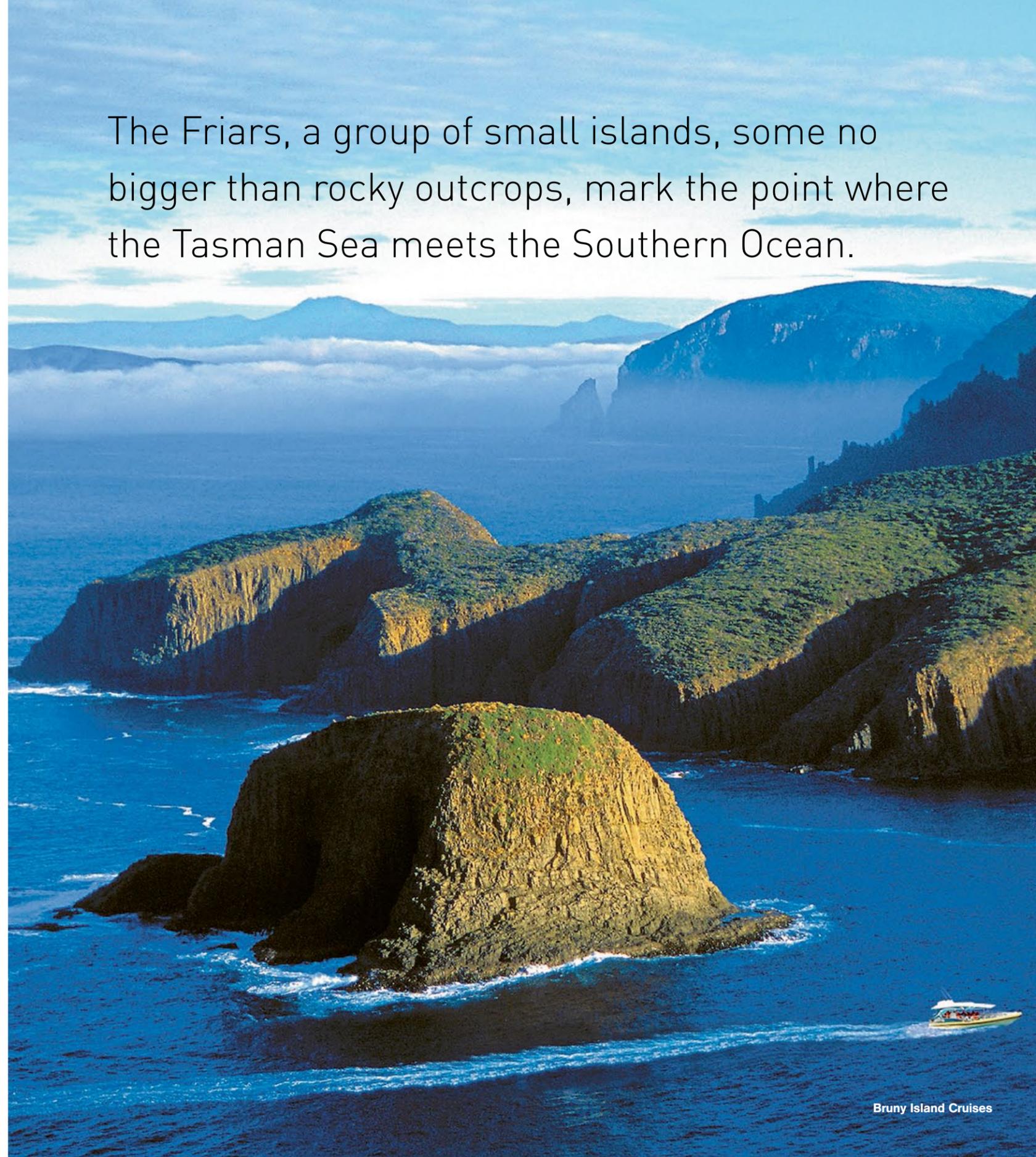
North and South Bruny Island joined by The Neck



Australian fur seals

Despite its pristine grandeur, where sheer walls of rock, rising to 276 metres, stand defiant against the ceaseless gnawing of the Tasman Sea, and easily-accessible south from Hobart, **Bruny Island** ([www.brunyisland.org.au](http://www.brunyisland.org.au)) curiously remains one of Tasmania's undiscovered secrets. (But for how long it remains so is another matter). Accessible via a short car ferry ride from Kettering south of Hobart, the island – actually two islands, North Bruny and South Bruny, joined by a narrow isthmus – boasts a rich heritage of sealers and explorers, roaring surf beaches and quiet coves, and an appealing food trail including artisan cheese, oysters and wine. This spectacular maritime wilderness, home to a super abundance of marine and bird life, is a must-see from a water vantage point, namely on a coastal wilderness tour with the multi-award winning **Bruny Island Cruises** ([www.brunycruises.com.au](http://www.brunycruises.com.au)). Three-hour tours exploring the unspoilt, rugged southern coastline of the island, depart from the small township of **Adventure Bay** – Captains Furneaux, Cook and Bligh all landed here during the late 18th century – in purpose built, highly-maneuvrable vessels that provide plenty of speed and thrills allowing you to get close to cliff faces and into deep sea caves. One of the many highlights of the cruise is **The Friars**, a group of small islands, some no bigger than rocky outcrops, that mark the point where the Tasman Sea meets the Southern Ocean just off the most southerly point of **South Bruny**. These rocks serve as a nesting site for gannets and black-faced cormorants and more dramatically, as a hang out for a colony of **Australian fur seals**. The vessel edges so close to these delightful, blubbery mammals that you may well find the Antarctic-cleansed purity of the breeze briefly replaced by a whiff of their wonderfully fish-fuelled breath.

The Friars, a group of small islands, some no bigger than rocky outcrops, mark the point where the Tasman Sea meets the Southern Ocean.

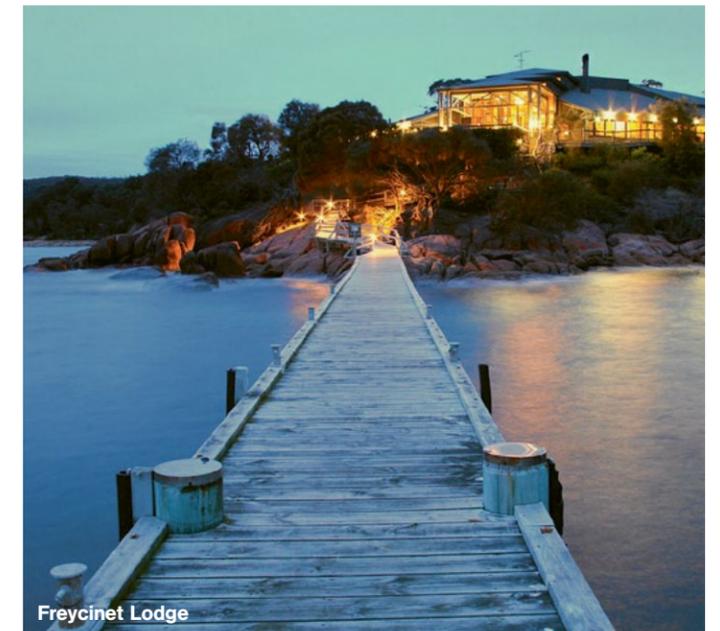




Wineglass Bay



Wineglass Bay walk



Freycinet Lodge

## CRYSTAL CLEAR

Consistently rated among the top 10 beaches in the world, **Wineglass Bay**, the most famous physical feature on the Freycinet Peninsula, is one of Tasmania's most iconic destinations. Shaped, as the name suggests, somewhat like a wineglass, Wineglass Bay is part of the Freycinet National Park, a natural treasure popular for fishing, boating, bushwalking, sea-kayaking and rock climbing as well as its spectacular coastal scenery. Although Dutchman Abel Tasman was the first European in these parts it was the French, in the early 19th century, who gave the peninsula its name. Unless you arrive by boat with **Wineglass Bay Cruises** ([www.wineglassbaycruises.com](http://www.wineglassbaycruises.com)) the only access to Wineglass Bay, a dazzling crescent-shaped stretch of white sand, is on foot, via a steep, though rewarding, hour-long hike that leads you along forested trails (where you might spot endemic green rosellas, fan-tailed cuckoos

and wallabies) and through the jagged granite peaks of The Hazards mountain range which act as a majestic natural barrier between the township of Coles Bay and the peninsula itself. The panorama of Wineglass Bay from the saddle of The Hazards will take your breath away (if that ascent hasn't already done so). A round-trip walk including the descent to the beach and its crystal-clear, turquoise water, returning via Hazards Beach, takes approximately five hours, depending on your pace and stops en route. Accommodation options at Coles Bay include the uber-luxurious coastal sanctuary of **Saffire** ([www.saffire-freycinet.com.au](http://www.saffire-freycinet.com.au)), the four-star **Freycinet Lodge** ([www.freycinetlodge.com.au](http://www.freycinetlodge.com.au)) within the National Park (which offers an extensive range of experiences including guided walks) as well as a range of secluded self-contained retreats and campsites.

# ISLANDS IN THE STREAM



Windswept, sometimes storm-lashed and yet wildly beautiful, **King Island** sits in the midst of Bass Strait, off Tasmania's north coast and halfway between it and Victoria. It's famous, of course, for its gourmet produce – melt-in-your-mouth beef and sinfully-rich cream and cheeses as well as crayfish, scallops and oysters. This is the place for the ultimate laid-back holiday, with bushwalking, horse riding, golf, scuba diving and some seriously good surf breaks. King Island's claim to fame – or infamy – started long before the King Island Dairy ([www.kidairy.com.au](http://www.kidairy.com.au)) churned its first cheese. The treacherous

waters of Bass Strait have claimed hundreds of ships and more than 1000 lives with many of King Island's pristine beaches named after vessels that foundered there. Follow the King Island Maritime Trail – Shipwrecks & Safe Havens ([www.kingisland.org.au](http://www.kingisland.org.au)) to learn of the heart-breaking and heroic tales. Bass Strait's also home to another island oft mentioned in the same breath as King, that being **Flinders Island**, ([www.visitflindersisland.com.au](http://www.visitflindersisland.com.au)), the largest in the Furneaux Group. It's renowned for its diversity of landscape and shares many features with King Island, especially its relaxed pace and some glorious beaches,

including the wonderfully-named Trousers Point. The island was first identified by Europeans in March 1773 by Tobias Furneaux, the commander of Captain Cook's support ship Adventure. An angler's delight, the island's waters are home to many species including flathead, snapper, yellowtail kingfish, striped trumpeter and blue eye. Take a game fishing charter with **Flinders Island Adventures** ([www.flindersisland.com.au](http://www.flindersisland.com.au)) and you're likely to hook yellow-fin tuna and striped marlin in season. Bushwalking and rock climbing are popular, too, and there's excellent diving on wreck sites around the Furneaux group.

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# BEDS ON THE **EDGE**

THESE CUTTING-EDGE, COASTAL-LOCATED HOUSES OFFER A BOLD NEW DIMENSION IN SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION.



## AVALON COASTAL RETREAT

### Swansea

Perched on a headland just south of Swansea, overlooking Great Oyster Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula, the steel girder and glass pavilion that is Avalon Coastal Retreat ([www.avaloncoastalretreat.com.au](http://www.avaloncoastalretreat.com.au)) is designed to immerse guests in the beauty of its east coast location. Designed by award-winning architect Craig Rosevear, this luxurious retreat sleeps six, in magnificent handmade Tasmanian oak beds, with gourmet mini-bar provisions from the famed Wursthause food store in Hobart. Active guests can take advantage of the proximity to Freycinet National Park and its abundant wildlife or borrow the boogie boards and wetsuits and head to the beach.



## THE LAIR

### East Coast

Meadows, forests, coastal promontories and beaches unfurl before you at The Lair ([www.thelair.com.au](http://www.thelair.com.au)), a 90-minute, equidistant drive from Hobart and Launceston and just 15 kilometres south of the coastal village of Swansea. No wonder that guests at this architecturally-driven, self-contained accommodation can hardly contain themselves when they experience the views from one of the property's two identical though entirely separate suites. Within striking distance of Great Oyster Bay and beyond it, Freycinet Peninsula and its famed Wineglass Bay. Chances are you will want to linger in the curved glass stone baths and soak up the vistas.



## BRUNY SHORE

### Bruny Island

Black spotted quolls and echidnas patrol Bruny Shore ([www.brunyshore.com.au](http://www.brunyshore.com.au)), an architecturally-designed holiday house for six at Bull Bay on the northern tip of Bruny Island, with spectacular views across Storm Bay as far as the Tasman Peninsula. Recycled Tasmanian timbers including eucalyptus, myrtle, celery top and Huon pine have been used extensively throughout the house, which is perched on a hillside above Timber Beach. The rich and varied bird population make it a twitcher's delight.



## THE WINGED HOUSE

### Table Cape

West of Burnie, Tasmania's north coast reveals its wonders: historic Stanley; the windworn Rocky Cape National Park; Cape Grim, which boasts "The Cleanest Air in the World"; and the Tarkine wilderness. There's also The Winged House ([www.thewingedhouse.com.au](http://www.thewingedhouse.com.au)) at Table Cape designed by artist and architect Richard Goodwin. Perched halfway down a steep hillside with spectacular 180 degree Bass Strait views, the comfortable and well-equipped two-bedroom retreat resembles a biplane about to take flight. Visit in spring and you'll be almost completely surrounded by fields of colourful farmed tulips.



## THE OCEAN RETREAT

### Falmouth

Generously accommodating up to 10 guests The Ocean Retreat ([www.theoceanretreat.com](http://www.theoceanretreat.com)) at Falmouth on the east coast between St Marys and St Helens takes the self-catering beach house holiday for family or friends to a new level. Designed to take advantage of the views over the Tasman Sea, the retreat boasts four contemporary bedrooms (with an additional two rollaway beds), including a penthouse master suite, each named for the colours of the mountains and sea. There's also an outdoor fire, heated plunge pool and sun-loungers.



# FIRED UP

In serving up some of the state's best attributes – fine local foods, cool-climate wines and gobsmacking landscapes – the four-day fully-guided **Bay of Fires Walk** ([www.bayoffires.com.au](http://www.bayoffires.com.au)) is a trip that can transform bon vivants into lovers of backpacks and camping. Encompassing a remote north-east corner of Tasmania blessed with white beaches, blue water and huge granite boulders flecked with bright orange lichen, there are never more than 10 walkers in each group, with two guides who are as knowledgeable about local flora and fauna as they are proficient at cooking a good steak. Beginning in **Mount William National Park**, the first day of the walk involves a seven-kilometre hike to **Forester Beach Camp** which is hidden in dunes but so close to the water you could almost fish from your bed. This is “glamping” at its best, with excellent food and wine, spacious sleeping tents with timber floors and comfy mattresses, as well

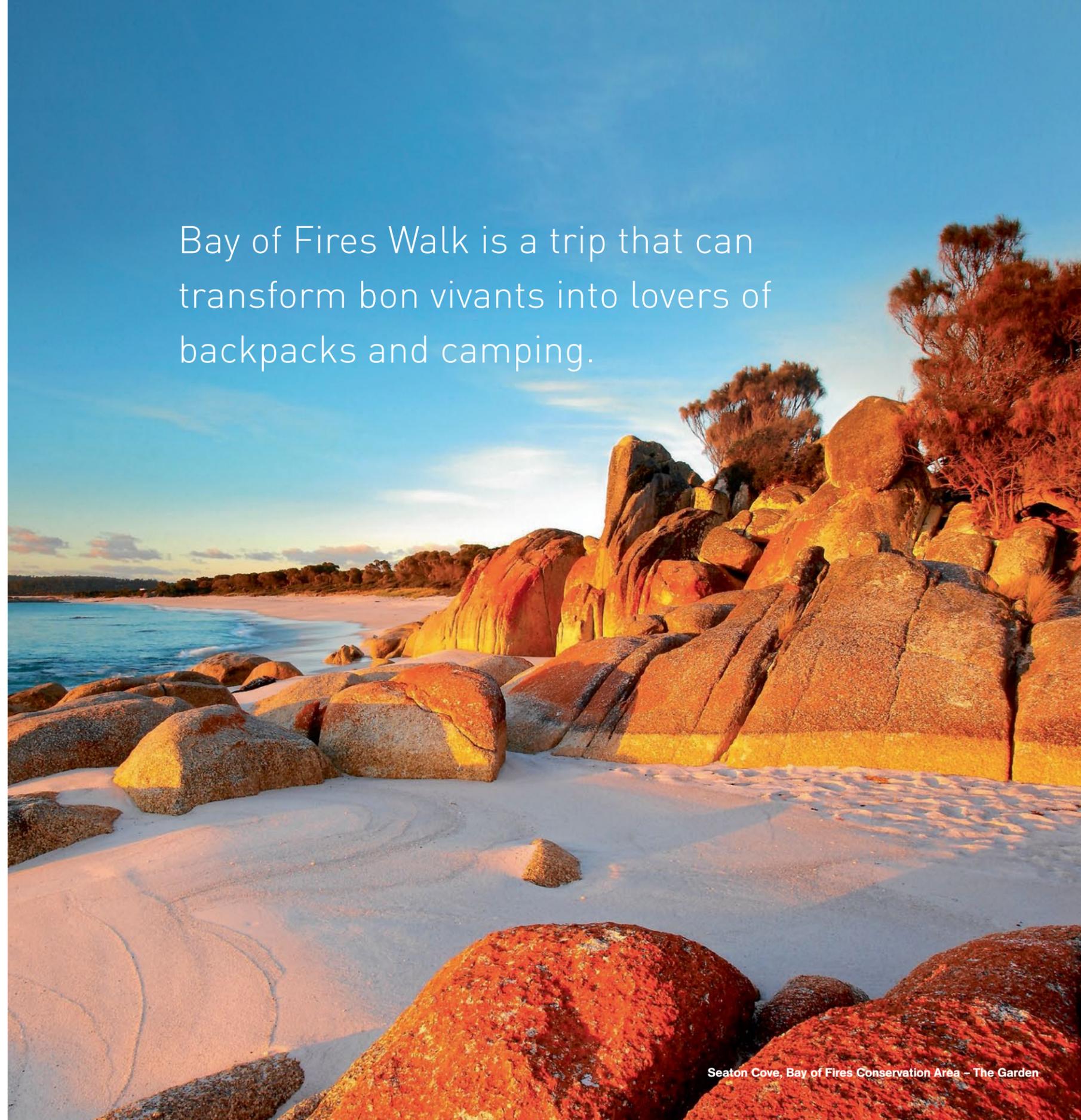
as a composting loo. Day two, covering 14 kilometres, is the most challenging. Part of the walk covers coastal heathland but the majority is on beaches where the combination of white sand, azure sea and orange lichen-covered boulders is dazzling. On day three, guests can try their hand at kayaking on **Anson's Bay**, or swimming in the sparkling, but freezing, Tasman Sea. The second and third nights are spent at the Ken Latona-designed **Bay of Fires Lodge**, an internationally-acclaimed exemplar for stylish and sustainable accommodation – a glorious though isolated location. The building truly touches the earth lightly. Rainwater is collected and stored for use in the bathrooms and kitchens – guests have to hand-pump enough for their showers – and solar panels provide power for lighting and the composting toilet ventilation. The walk operates from October to May, however stays at the lodge (no organised hiking involved) are possible during the winter months.



Wombats, Bay of Fires Walk



Bay of Fires Lodge



Bay of Fires Walk is a trip that can transform bon vivants into lovers of backpacks and camping.

# WATER WORLD

With more than 5,400 kilometres of coastline, Tasmania offers boundless opportunities for activities on, in and under the water. Novice **kayakers** can explore Hobart's shoreline and the Derwent Estuary, including historic Battery Point and the bustling docks of the city's waterfront, on a two-hour guided **Hobart Paddle** with **Hobart Urban Adventures** ([www.hobartadventures.com.au](http://www.hobartadventures.com.au)). The same crew also run guided half-day kayak tours of the stunning Freycinet Peninsula ([www.freycinetadventures.com.au](http://www.freycinetadventures.com.au)); you're almost guaranteed to be paddling next to pods of dolphins. For the more intrepid, **Roaring 40s Wilderness Tours** ([www.roaring40skayaking.com.au](http://www.roaring40skayaking.com.au)) operates three and seven-day kayak adventures through **Bathurst Harbour** in the spectacular **Southwest National Park**, part of Tassie's World

Heritage wilderness. The seven-day expedition explores remote locations in this drowned river valley which is surrounded by mountains and rich in wildlife. **Surfers** are spoilt for choice in Tasmania (although thick wetsuits are obligatory) where some of the biggest waves in the country can be found. **Shipstern Bluff**, a reef break on the Tasman Peninsula, about an hour's drive south-east of Hobart, for the experienced only, is one of the heaviest in the country with up to six-metre waves. There's good surfing from **King Island** off the north coast ([www.kingisland.org.au](http://www.kingisland.org.au)) – where the most popular breaks are at **Martha Lavinia Beach** and **Phoques Bay** – to **Bruny Island**, south of Hobart. There's superb **scuba diving** for all levels, with giant kelp forests,

and extraordinary marine life, including Weedy Seadragons, seahorses and sponges. On the east coast, **Bicheno Dive** ([www.bichenodive.com.au](http://www.bichenodive.com.au)) operates boat dives year-round – visibility is at its best during winter – to easily accessible sites including **Paradise Reef**, **Golden Bommies** and **Hedgehog**. The Tasman Peninsula offers spectacular dive sites, ranging from vast kelp forests (where the seaweed tendrils are more than 30 metres long) to deep shipwreck sites and brilliant caves at **Waterfall Bay**. Very experienced divers can dive among a colony of Australian Fur Seals at **Hippolyte Rock**. **Eaglehawk Dive Centre** ([www.eaglehawkdive.com.au](http://www.eaglehawkdive.com.au)) which runs dive trips to all these locations, and others, and also offers scuba-diving courses.



Bay of Fires



Hobart Paddle



Coldwater Classic



Ratho



Australasian Golf Museum

## PAR EXCELLENCE

The past, present and future of Australian golf is embodied in Tasmania. The island state, after all, is the birthplace of the sport in Australia, and is also the location for some of the nation's most uncrowded and spectacularly-located golf course resorts. Swing in to Bothwell, the historic gateway to Tassie's Central Highlands, for a round at **Ratho** ([www.rathogolf.com](http://www.rathogolf.com)), Australia's oldest golf course founded by homesick Scots in the 1830s. Make time for a visit to the **Australasian Golf Museum** ([www.ausgolfmuseum.com](http://www.ausgolfmuseum.com)), too, which tells the story of the evolution of the game to its status today as Australia's most popular participation sport. The number of courses in Tasmania has grown to 80, many of which are superbly-located beside rivers and oceans. They notably include the 18-hole **Barnbougale Dunes** ([www.barnbougledunes.com.au](http://www.barnbougledunes.com.au)), rated as Australia's best public golf course. It's situated in the wild north-east of Tasmania, just one-hour from Launceston on classic, Scottish-style links overlooking Bass Strait complete with a stunningly-designed, contemporary clubhouse and first-class accommodation. The success of Barnbougale Dune, which opened in 2004, has spawned another course adjacent to the original. It's **Barnbougale Lost Farm** ([www.lostfarm.com.au](http://www.lostfarm.com.au)), a 20-hole links course with greens dispersed among the dunes and along the coastline, complementing the surrounding landscape. And, like its namesake, there's stylish accommodation with ocean views at The Lodge, as well as a health spa which features local Tasmanian products from **Melle Beauty** ([www.mellebeauty.com.au](http://www.mellebeauty.com.au)).



Barnbougale Dunes

The island state is the location for some of the nation's most uncrowded and spectacularly-located golf courses resorts.

**3 days – Hobart**

**DAY 1** Hobart

- Visit the Maritime Museum
- Take a cruise on the Derwent River with Hobart Cruises
- Overnight Hobart

**DAY 2** Hobart to Bruny Island and return

- Experience the thrill of the all-day Bruny Island Cruise. Explore sea caves and view the bird-life and, with a bit of luck, you may even spot a whale or two
- Overnight Hobart

**DAY 3** Hobart

- Take a paddle around the waterfront of Hobart with Hobart Urban Adventures and experience one of the most beautiful harbours in the world
- Depart Hobart

**7 days – Hobart to Launceston via the East Coast**

**DAY 1** Hobart

- Enjoy an all day cruise with Peppermint Bay Cruise and see the giant kelp forests with underwater cameras
- Explore the historic buildings of Sullivans Cove and then dine at one of the waterfront cafes or restaurants
- Overnight Hobart

**DAY 2** Hobart to Tasman Peninsula

- Experience the thrill of the Tasman Island Cruise and get up close to the highest cliff-faces in Australia and explore sea caves
- See the land formations of the Tasman Peninsula including the Blow Hole, Tasman Arch and the Tessellated Pavement
- Overnight Port Arthur

**DAY 3** Tasman Peninsula to Coles Bay via Maria Island

- Take the ferry to Maria Island National Park
- Explore the many walking tracks and don't miss the photo op at the Painted Cliffs
- See the wildlife up close in their native surrounds
- Overnight Coles Bay

**DAY 4** Coles Bay

- Take an early morning paddle with Freycinet Adventures
- Enjoy the exhilaration with All 4 Adventures and explore the Freycinet National Park by bike
- Join the Penguin Tour at Bicheno for a night viewing
- Overnight Coles Bay

**DAY 5** Coles Bay

- Walk the Wineglass Bay and Hazard Beach Circuit which will take about 5 hours
- Taste some oysters fresh from the ocean at Freycinet Marine Farm
- Overnight Coles Bay

**DAY 6** Coles Bay to St Helens

- Pack a picnic of local cheeses, berries and wine and wander the coastal trail to St Helens
- Explore the renowned Bay of Fires and the miles and miles of white sand and crystal waters
- Overnight St Helens

**DAY 7** St Helens to Launceston

- Relax with some fresh fish & chips at St Helens wharf
- Stop for a tour and tasting at Pyengana Cheese
- Depart Launceston



**This Is Tasmania series    Photographs**

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