

Tasmania

WWW.TASSIETRADE.COM.AU

Wild Beauty of TASMANIA



Mt Anne with Tasmanian devil inset

Within hours of arriving in Tasmania you can experience the world's last temperate wilderness, ancient rainforests, glacial tarns, waterfalls, beaches and sea cliffs. More than a third of Tasmania is protected in national parks, world heritage areas and reserves. Tasmania has a spellbinding landscape that is easily accessible.

Tasmania was named 'No.1 Island in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific' in 2008 by the readers of Travel + Leisure, a leading North American travel magazine. This was not the first, but the third time.

The island is one of the world's best walking destinations. With world-class walking tracks, thousands of highland lakes, secluded beaches, underground caverns, large and small islands and mountain peaks and crags.

Its wildlife is abundant and varied. The state is the last home of several mammals that once roamed the Australian continent. It is the only place to see in the wild a Tasmanian devil, an Eastern quoll (or native cat), the Spotted-tailed quoll (tiger cat) and the Tasmanian bettong. The Tasmanian devil is a marsupial the size of a small dog with a bite as strong as a crocodile. It's much quieter than its fierce reputation – unless it is feeding time.

The striped Thylacine or Tasmanian tiger, was Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial and is a modern-day mystery. The last documented tiger died in captivity in 1936 and though the animal is considered extinct, there have since been many unsubstantiated sightings.



Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine)

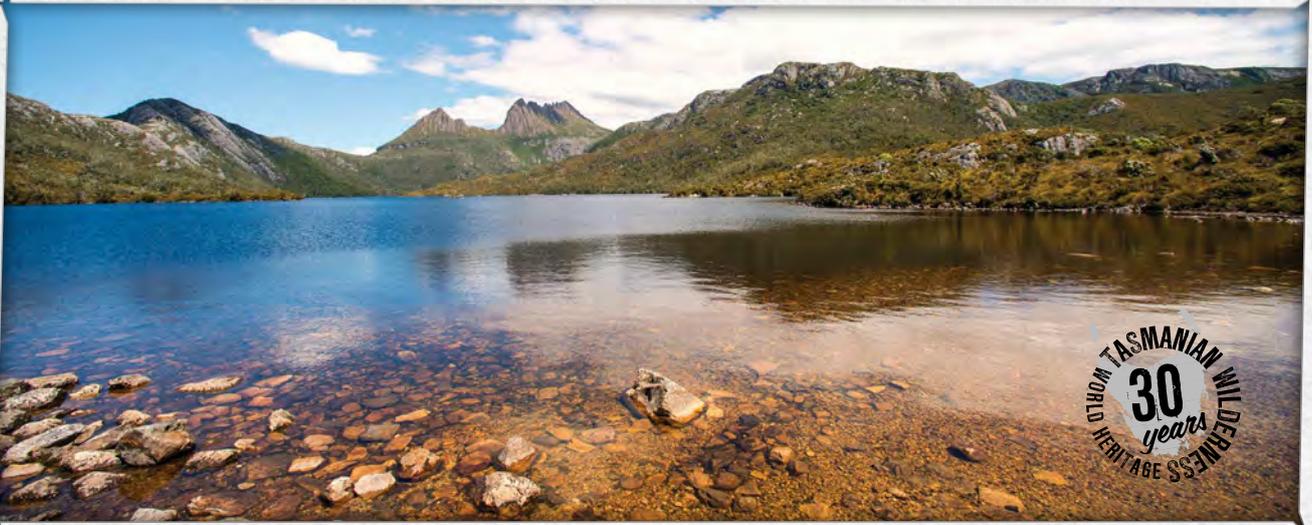
Tasmania has a delicate underwater environment with thousands of kilometres of coastline and hundreds of offshore reefs and islands. It offers a wide range of temperate diving experiences and a rich variety of marine habitats. These include giant kelp forests off the Tasman Peninsula and at Bicheno's Governor Island Marine Park.

World Heritage Area

Tasmania's World Heritage Area (WHA) stretches over 1.37 million hectares (3.4 million acres), from Cradle Mountain in the north to South West Cape and the islands beyond. The WHA includes mountains, valleys and lakes formed during the last great Ice Age and forests with trees thousands of years old. The original area was placed on the World Heritage List in 1982 and was extended in 1989. It now covers 20 per cent of Tasmania.

Tasmania

WWW.TASSIETRADE.COM.AU



Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park

National Parks

Tasmania has 19 national parks. The craggy profile of Cradle Mountain is the island's best-known landmark; located within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, the mountain is the northern gateway to one of the world's top walks, the Overland Track. Also in the north, Mole Creek Karst National Park, the only underground national park in Tasmania, protects a deep network of limestone caves, cathedral caverns and glow worm displays. Located on the north coast, Narawntapu National Park is a haven for wildlife which abounds on its grassy plains, marshes and heathlands. Wombats, Forester kangaroos and Bennetts wallabies are relatively comfortable around people and will often allow you to approach them on the north east coast.

On the east coast, Freycinet National Park has granite mountain ranges and secluded bays and beaches along an ever-changing coastline. Mount William National park is the colour of an impressionist's palette. Take your kayak,

your snorkel, or just a tent and a towel - you may even have the beach to yourself. The Bay of Fires was named top destination for 2009 in the Lonely Planet Blue List. Douglas Apsley National Park has a number of walks featuring gorges, rocky forested hills, waterfalls, and a heath plateau and swimming hole.

In the south, the Tasman National Park features spectacular coastal land formations like the Tasman Blowhole and the Devils Kitchen. Mt Field has some of the world's tallest eucalypt forests, lakes and tarns. Hartz Mountains National Park has subalpine woodlands and alpine crags, moorlands and lakes.

In the west, the Southwest National Park and the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park contain ancient rainforest, rare birds and valleys carved by glaciers long gone.

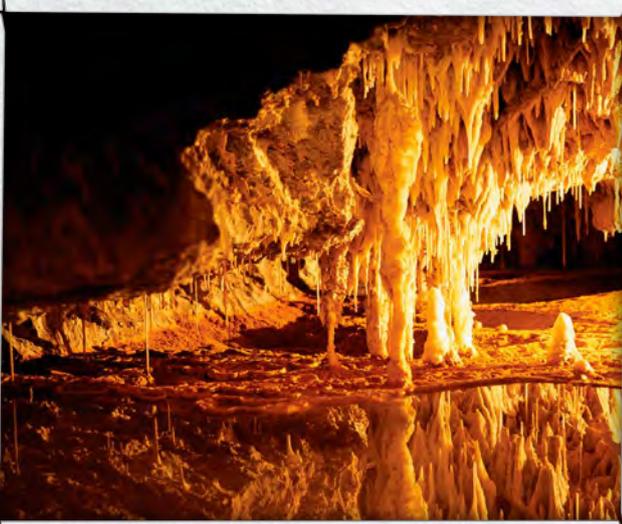
Offshore, the Maria Island National Park on the east coast combines convict heritage with beach and mountain walks and further south. Bruny Island has the South Bruny National Park, with wild seascapes and sweeping surf beaches.

www.parks.tas.gov.au

State Forests and Reserves

A network of forests and reserves around Tasmania are part of the touring experience. In the north-east, Evercreech Forest Reserve has the world's tallest white gums, more than 90 metres (295 feet) high. Many reserves, like the one at Liffey, have huge waterfalls and picnic and barbecue facilities.

In the north-west, the exciting eco-tourism development, Tarkine Forest Adventures, is set in the evocative surrounds of a giant blackwood sinkhole and features a thrilling 110 metre (360.8 feet) slide down to the swamp floor.



Mole Creek karst



Maria Island

In the north, Tamar Island is an important wetland habitat for water birds and features bird viewing hides and a marshland boardwalk all within minutes from the centre of the city of Launceston.

In the south, the spectacular Tahune AirWalk meanders for half a kilometre (0.3 miles) through the treetops, providing a birds-eye view of mighty rivers, forests and mountains. Wellington Park provides walking, climbing, abseiling, cycling and sightseeing opportunities right on Hobart's doorstep.

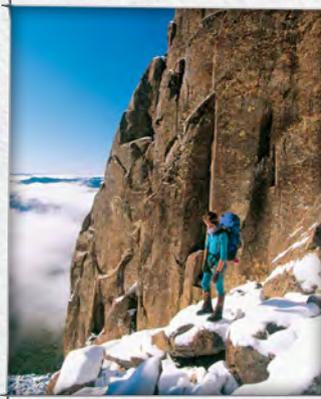
Wild and Mild Adventures

From night-time penguin spotting to sea kayaking, the gentle art of fishing for wild brown trout to cliff-side abseiling, Tasmania has a wide range of adventure activities. The island is well-suited to river cruising, sailing, cycling, guided walks, animal and birdlife discovery tours, and adventures with dolphins, migrating whales and seals. For more information on Tasmania, visit:

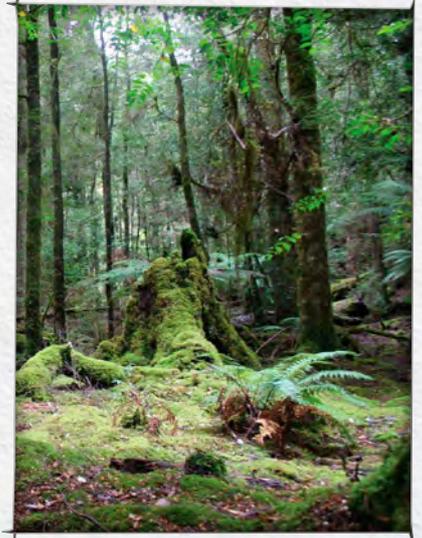
www.discovertasmania.com



Tamar Wetlands



Mt Ossa



The Tarkine