

Tasmania

< GO BEHIND THE SCENERY >

PRESENTS

7 DAY HOBART AND SURROUNDS TRIP

STORIES TOLD FROM
THE INSIDE OUT

Explore Hobart and the Tasman Peninsula's convict past. Stay on a working farm, abseil Gordon Dam and explore Bruny Island from the water, before one last hoorah in the Huon Valley.

DAY 1

HOBART AND TASMAN PENINSULA

From the Hobart Airport, head to South Hobart. It's time to get your heritage on with a visit to the Cascade Female Factory. The Heritage Tour starts at 10.00am with 'Her Story', a forty five-minute roaming theatre show kicking off at noon. Try not to blush at the story of Ellen Scott – a lady who danced in public houses and slept with her master. Ellen arrived in 1830, transported for life because she stole a watch. Gain insight into the regimented system of punishment and reform that operated within these stone walls, and pose the question whether these women were more sinned against than sinning?

With a week to explore Hobart and beyond, keep the rest of the day open to complete the convict story on the Tasman Peninsula, ninety minutes from Hobart. But before you dig deeper into the lives of early Australian convicts, indulge in modern comforts along the trail leading to the Tasman

Peninsula at the Bangor Wine and Oyster Shed. At Bangor, not only can you see the oyster farm from your table, but also the vines, responsible for your glass of cool climate wine. It's paddock to plate dining at its best. Arrive at lunch, park yourself on the open deck, and a dozen freshly shucked oysters can be swiftly delivered. Stay a while and ask about the day Abel Tasman came ashore at Bangor.

Those who haven't been to the Port Arthur Historic Site before, make a beeline – it's one of Australia's most



Bangor Wine and Oyster Shed, Dunalley

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Port Arthur Historic Site, Port Arthur



Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasman Peninsula

significant heritage sites. Set aside a good part of the afternoon to explore or join a guided tour by land or sea. You can even find out if you have convict ancestors while you're there.

Those who have frequented Port Arthur, tick a few other peninsula experiences off your list. To add to your convict knowledge, wander the Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania's first mine. It was also a place where the worst offending convicts were sent as punishment. After visiting the site, drop in next-door to Lime Bay State Reserve. If you're up for a pleasant forty-minute walk out to Lagoon Beach, it departs from the camping area. The beach is usually without footprints and looks out to Sloping Island.

Alternatively, you can drop into the Tasmanian Devil Unzoo at Taranna and get up close to the devils – there's a presentation around every hour. Be sure to pop over the road for tasty chocolate morsels at Federation Artisan Chocolate. Then pick out some lavender keepsakes at the nearby Port Arthur Lavender Farm or grab a coffee and a lavender-infused treat before heading back to Hobart in time for dinner.



Port Arthur Lavender Farm, Port Arthur



Patchwork Café New Norfolk

Check into your accommodation in Hobart. For dinner tonight, opt for the South American flavours of Frank Restaurant on the waterfront. Even if you don't book, they can usually squeeze you onto a bench looking out across the lights of the waterfront.

Overnight Hobart.

DAY 2

HOBART TO DERWENT VALLEY

Before you take off for Curringa Farm in Hamilton, drop into Room for a Pony for brekkie in North Hobart. This popular corner eatery boasts stylish décor, a beautiful seasonal menu and terrific coffee. With a full tummy, get on your way and head north towards the Derwent Valley.

Thirty minutes into your journey, the town of New Norfolk is a must for those with a penchant for antique stores. The Drill Hall Emporium, amongst other stores, has antique hunters from around Australia descending on this quiet town. Don't be afraid to explore the nearby Willow Court precinct, which began as an invalid barracks for convicts and became a renowned mental asylum. These days it's the oldest mental asylum in Australia on its original site, and although now disused, it retains a high level of spookiness. You'll find more antiques in these quarters and the Patchwork Café next door is a great place for lunch.

Motor along towards Mount Field National Park in the afternoon, for an easy walk to one of Tassie's most loved waterfalls: Russell Falls. Or tilt your head skyward on the Tall Trees Walk, where some of Tasmania's tallest swamp gums tower, on a thirty-minute circuit walk.



Russell Falls, Mt Field National Park

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Curringa Farm, Hamilton

Drive forty minutes to Hamilton and check into Curringa Farm for the next two nights, where you can expect a warm welcome from owners Jane and Tim Parsons. Your room comes with a fully equipped kitchen, so bring your own supplies or ask ahead for Jane to prepare a special local hamper. That way, you have more time to enjoy the spa bath.

Overnight Hamilton.



Curringa Farm, Hamilton

DAY 3

CURRINGA FARM

Wake to views overlooking Lake Meadowbank, often blanketed in morning mist. The large inland lake begs for a line to be cast, perhaps later in the afternoon. But first things first: treat yourself to a wholesome country breakfast. After all, you are staying on a seven hundred and fifty acre farm.

Later in the morning hop on a tour of the farm with Tim, where you'll meet the farm dogs and see up close the hard yakka involved in shearing sheep. Learn about sheep husbandry and the in season crops, followed by a Tassie-style country barbie – tender lamb cooked on a wood-fire barbecue.

Life at Curringa, isn't just about watching thick fleeces fall to the shearing shed floor and dollops of rich cream on afternoon scones; the Parsons are passionate about sustainable agriculture. Their tours lean strongly towards sharing good farming practices, and learning from the people who directly tend to the cabbages, grain and poppy crops.

Kick back to country time during the late afternoon – reel in a highland trout or wander the banks in search of a resident platypus. Jane can deliver another hamper to your liking this evening, and barbie-packs are also available to enjoy on the outdoor deck.

Overnight Curringa Farm.



Abseiling Gordon Dam



Gordon Dam

DAY 4

DERWENT VALLEY TO HOBART

Rise early and fuel up on breakfast before you farewell farm life. This is going to be a big day. By big, it's going to be 140 metres tall. That's right, today hit the road and venture deep into the south west with Aardvark Adventures to experience the world's highest commercial abseil. It will take around two hours drive to reach Gordon Dam and most abseiling starts early in the morning. Gordon Dam happens to be a few metres higher than Sydney Harbour Bridge and the abseil is up there with the top ten adrenalin activities in the world, but you can do it! If looking over the edge makes you a little nervous, take a deep breath – you'll soon be rappelling your way down.

It's a two-and-a-half hour drive back to Hobart, so break it up with lunch at Pedder Wilderness Lodge. At Twelve Trees Restaurant the menu is relaxed and honest, focusing on local growers. Seasonal offerings may include Ouse rabbit, Cape Grim beef or roasted quail. Another potential trip-breaker is coffee at the Possum Shed in Westerway.

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Lake Pedder, Scott's Peak and Mt Solitary



Two Metre Tall Microbrewery

Before leaving the Derwent Valley, meet Ashley and Jane Huntington at Two Metre Tall. Ashley, who happens to be two metres tall, will happily pour you a farmhouse ale, made in small batches using farm-grown and Tasmanian ingredients. It doesn't take an organic chemistry degree and diploma in winemaking to brew ale, but Ashley applies both qualifications to deliver highly sought after beer and cider.

Head back to Hobart and check into your accommodation for the next two nights. Feeling heroic? Sip a celebratory cocktail at The Glass House dining bar. Follow this up with dinner at Franklin Restaurant, within easy walking distance from the pier. Bookings are recommended.

Overnight Hobart.



Franklin Restaurant



Bruny Island Cruise

DAY 5

BRUNY ISLAND

Wake up and prepare to get up-close to nature with wind in your hair. There are no glass windows on Pennicott Wilderness Journeys' Bruny Island eco-cruise – you'll feel the elements and nature's brilliance soak into your skin. The full-day tour departs Hobart at 8am, delivering you back to the city at 5.30pm. In between there is morning tea at Adventure Bay, three hours of incredible wilderness cruising and a great Tassie lunch.

The cruise will take you down to the wild reaches of Bruny Island, alongside sheer dolerite cliffs and deep sea caves. This coastline is a popular hangout for fur seals, migrating whales, Common dolphins and rare sea eagles. Rug up and prepare to enjoy an outdoor seat at one of Tasmania's finest wilderness shows.

Back in Hobart, grab an early dinner at Sandy Bay Beach Wood Fired Pizza. Enjoy walnut, blue cheese and pear wood-fired pizza beside the water. It's the perfect place to watch the sun sink over the River Derwent before settling for the night.

Overnight Hobart.

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Tahune Airwalk



Masaaki Sushi, Farm Gate Market, Hobart



Street Sculptures, Geeveston



Kermandie Hotel and Marina

DAY 6

HUON VALLEY

This morning, drive ninety minutes south to the Tahune Airwalk, where you can wander through the treetops. Hovering twenty to thirty metres over the forest floor, the Airwalk winds out to a cantilever section sitting some fifty metres above the river.

If you're feeling adventurous, try out the Cable Eagle Hang Glider. From the forest floor, prepare to glide two hundred and fifty metres over the Huon River where you'll pause, fifty metres high in the air, before the glider automatically returns you to solid ground.

There is an onsite café, barbecue and picnic facilities at Tahune, but if it's a Friday or Saturday head to Geeveston for lunch at Masaaki's Sushi. An old timber town is an

unlikely place to find what many consider the finest sushi in Tasmania, but it's true nonetheless: Masaaki Koyama's sushi is truly in a class of its own. A passionate surfer, Masaaki moved from a high-end sushi restaurant in Osaka to lead a quiet life close to the waves in Tasmania, but it wasn't long before word about his hand rolled sushi started getting around. These days you'll often find a line outside his shop (or at his stall on Sunday at Hobart's Farm Gate Market), but the wait is definitely worth it.

Spend some time exploring Geeveston, where notable locals are featured as timber statues cut by chainsaw and then chiseled. These aren't famous names, but resident heroes such as the swearing chemist who has his glasses put on every morning, the blacksmith, the policeman, the Olympic rower Simon Burgess, and Jessica Hannabury an elderly lady simply remembered for her generosity.

Check into your accommodation before grabbing dinner at The Kermandie, on the riverside of Port Huon. Built in 1932, The Kermandie was once a welcoming watering hole for timber, orchard and river workers. These days, Sass Restaurant has a few finer touches than the original pub and a menu of local faves including Tasmanian wallaby, grass-fed eye fillet and pan seared Huon Atlantic salmon.

Overnight Port Huon.

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Willie Smith's Organic Cider, The Apple Shed



Hastings Caves



Willie Smith's Organic Cider, The Apple Shed

DAY 7

HASTINGS CAVES TO HOBART

This morning drive forty-five minutes south to an underground adventure at Hastings Caves State Reserve. Newdegate Cave happens to be the largest cave open to tours in the country, and with plenty of open spaces, there's no squeezing through tight passages.

Follow the stalactites and stalagmites with a dip in the hot springs. Naturally heated to 28°C, enjoy a good soak before venturing to The Apple Shed in Grove for lunch.

Here, the family has been growing apples across four generations. Willie Smith's is Australia's first certified organic cidery and doubles as a museum that tells stories of Tasmania's endearing 'Apple Isle' title. Sit back for lunch in the outdoor stables, and pair a rustic sourdough sandwich teamed with a flight of cider tasters.



Home Hill Winery

Alternatively, you can end your Huon Valley wanderings with a stop into Home Hill Winery, a boutique vineyard made from rammed earth. Find a table outside by the vines and enjoy an award-winning Home Hill Pinot to complete your Tasmanian week, before moseying on back to Hobart.