

East Coast - Up and Back 4-6 days

Long beaches with dramatic coastline this is a journey of peace and pleasure. One of the best scenic coastal drives in the country.

This trip is essentially a drive Up and Back: up to Bay of Fires and back down the coast or alternately head back via Campbell Town and stop in at historic towns dotted along the way including, Campbell Town and Ross. The trip is 4 to 6 days depending on how long you want to enjoy the picturesque coastline.

HOBART TO SWANSEA (1 – 2 DAYS)

From Hobart take the Tasman Highway north to Triabunna. Triabunna is where you catch the ferry to beautiful Maria Island and start the day with a bushwalk, views of Orford, Spring Bay and Hazards Mountains.

It is easy to spend a full day on this island exploring the walks, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, wildlife, painted cliffs and convict history.

From Triabunna head roughly 40 minutes north to Swansea one of the country's most scenic coastal drives. Along the way you will find Boomer Bay Vineyard and Kate's Berry Farm. The Berry farm is a good place to pick up a punnet of fresh berries or chocolate and ice cream.

Swansea is an ideal location to explore the plenitude of wineries spread along the east coast. At some east coast cellar doors, tasting plates of the region's delicious produce can be enjoyed alongside the winery's best vintages.

- Milton
- Spring Vale
- Gala Estate
- Freycinet Vineyard
- Devils corner

SWANSEA TO FREYCINET, COLES BAY, WINGLAS BAY (1 DAY)

From Swansea you will drive north past the Vineyards to Coles bay to explore the perfect contours of one of Tasmania's most celebrated locations Wineglass Bay.

Choose whatever walk suits you, ranging from the easy 10-minute walk to Sleepy Bay to the challenging three-hour (return) walk to the summit of Mount Amos in the range of granite mountains known as the Hazards.

The 11-kilometre Wineglass Bay Hazards Circuit that loops around a portion of the Hazards mountain range, down to beaches, coves and marshland before returning is the most popular walk and is highly recommended. Alternatively, on the other side of Freycinet Peninsula, you can swim in the sheltered waters of Honeymoon Bay. Another way to experience Freycinet is by water with the award winning Freycinet Adventures who offer guided sea kayak tours & Aqua Taxi transfers tours depart from the town of Coles bay

Camping in Freycinet National Park can be booked through the Visitor Information Centre in Freycinet. Booking during peak season is strongly recommended. There is a range of accommodation in Coles Bay, Bicheno and Swansea.

FREYCINET TO ST HELENS (1 DAY)

Travel north from Coles bay toward St Helens; stopping at Bicheno on the way.

Bicheno is a beautiful fishing town with a few cafes, restaurants and stores to stock up on food.

As you leave Bicheno heading north, watch for the turnoff inland to the left to the Douglas Apsley National Park. The conservation area is dotted with gorges, waterfalls and bushwalks. In good weather it's a stop for a swim at the river waterhole.

Spend the afternoon exploring the shops and galleries in the charming fishing village of St Helens. From town, you can also walk or drive to Peron Dunes, a great spot for sand boarding.

ST HELENS TO BAY OF FIRES (1 DAY)

20 minutes north of St Helens is the resort town of Binalong Bay, the gateway to the Bay of Fires. The Bay of Fires Conservation Area offers beachside camping and the elevated sites amongst the acacia trees have amazing views of the coast and sea.

There are some great Glamping options available in the area if you are looking for something different.

The Bay of Fires is one of Lonely Planet's top 10 regions in the world. The area is also known for its snorkelling and diving, with scenic reefs, corals, and underwater caves and abundant sea life.

Bay of Fires is a truly special region with clean white beaches, blue water and granite rocks splashed with orange lichen.

Bay of Fires back to Hobart via Campbell Town (Fingal) is 3hrs 40 min or back down the coast is 3hrs 50min. We recommend making this a full day drive back and to take your time on the drive back and enjoy the scenery. It's totally different in reverse.

The Full loop 8-10 days

The Full Loop of Tasmania is 8 to 10 days, starting and ending your journey in Hobart. This trip can extend up to 12 or 15 days depending on the extra locations you visit. We think that you need the time to truly experience all that Tasmania has to offer.

A spectacular trip that takes in the untouched beaches along the east coast, the rugged wilderness of the west and includes must see attractions such as Wingless Bay, Cradle Mountain and Bay of Fires.

HOBART TO FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK (2+ DAYS)

From Hobart take the Tasman Highway north to Triabunna. Triabunna is where you catch the ferry to beautiful Maria Island. It is easy to spend a full day on this island exploring the walks, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, wildlife, painted cliffs and convict history.

From Triabunna head roughly 40 minutes north to Swansea and experience one of the country's most scenic coastal drives. Along the way you will find Boomer Bay Vineyard and Kate's Berry Farm. The Berry farm is a good place to pick up a punnet of fresh berries or chocolate and ice cream.

Swansea is an ideal location to explore the many wineries spread across the east coast. At some east coast cellar doors, tasting plates of the region's delicious produce can be enjoyed alongside the winery's best vintages.

From Swansea you will drive north past the Vineyards to Coles bay to explore the perfect contours of one of Tasmania's most celebrated locations Wineglass Bay.

Choose whatever walk suits you, ranging from the easy walk to Sleepy Bay to the challenging walk to the summit of Mount Amos in the range of granite mountains known as the Hazards.

The 11-kilometre Wineglass Bay Hazards Circuit that loops around a portion of the Hazards mountain range, down to beaches, coves and marshland before returning is the most popular and is highly recommended. Alternatively, on the other side of Freycinet Peninsula you can swim in the sheltered waters of Honeymoon Bay.

Camping in Freycinet National Park can be booked through the Visitor Information Centre in Freycinet. Booking during peak season is strongly recommended. There is a range of accommodation in Coles Bay, Bicheno and Swansea.

FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK TO LAUNCESTON (1 DAY)

From Freycinet, head north to St Marys over the Elephant Pass, down the Fingal Valley and into Launceston. Make a short detour and cut off through the back roads to the historic town of Evandale. The Ingleside Bakery Café in Evandale does a Swagman's lunch.

It is just under a 3 hours drive point to point, but if you allow time to look around at different stops it will take all day

Launceston Tourist Attractions

- Cataract Gorge
- City Park
- Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery
- Hollybank Wilderness Adventures
- Penny Royal Launceston

In town you can visit art galleries and museums including the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery or the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania, while just a short walk from the city centre lays Cataract Gorge. Cross the suspension bridge above the water or ride the world's longest single span chairlift.

Spend the night in Launceston where there are many accommodations options including camping, hostels and hotels.

If you have a day to spare, take a day trip from Launceston to the Tamar Valley and enjoy wines from over 20 vineyards that dot the shores of the Tamar River.

LAUNCESTON TO CRADLE MOUNTAIN AND SHEFFIELD (1 DAY)

The journey from Launceston to Cradle Mountain runs through rolling farmland and historic towns such as Longford and Deloraine and it is worth a stop in at Christmas Hill Raspberry Farm. A must is the dehydrated chocolate raspberries with a coffee from their cafe.

Further along the road you'll come across Ashgrove Cheese a good place to taste the award winning Tasmanian farm milk, cheese, cream and butter from the local area.

After, cut inland to the town of Sheffield and up onto the Alpine Plateau to Cradle Mountain. Sheffield is nestled in under Mount Roland in an area of rolling hills and gentle valleys. The town is now famous for its extensive display of murals; the murals depict the early history of the area on every available blank wall.

The town has successfully turned itself into a tourist destination and is a surprise to the unsuspecting visitor.

You can spend the whole day getting to Cradle Mountain if you stop everywhere mentioned. *To drive without stopping will take about 3 hours.*

CRADLE MOUNTAIN (1+ DAY)

To really appreciate the beauty of Cradle Mountain we recommend that at a minimum you spend a full day exploring the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The drive to and from the park is very technical so you will appreciate the down time from behind the wheel.

The mountain is situated in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. At 1,545 metres above sea level, it is the sixth-highest mountain in Tasmania.

There are a variety of walks available in the area, though it is always a good idea to check the expected weather conditions at the Visitor Centre before venturing into exposed areas.

A walk around the mirrored waters of Dove Lake is very beautiful but can get busy in peak season.

The weather can change with alarming speed, so sensible precautions are advised.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN TO STRAHAN (1 DAY)

The scenic route south from Cradle Mountain to Strahan via Queenstown is a 3-hour drive that runs across the Alpine Plateau through old mining towns, and then drops down to the wild west coast at Strahan.

Its only in the last 50 years or so that the main roads came to this part of Tasmania. You will be driving through landscapes almost untouched by modern civilization.

This will give you a good appreciation for the early settlers who braved the weather of Tasmania's west coast to mine for silver, lead and zinc in really harsh conditions.

In Queenstown you can join an underground mine tour or walk among the wilderness to scenic lookouts. Enjoy lunch at The Empire landmark hotel, which hints at the grandeur of Queenstown's past.

A few places to visit on the way:

- Montezuma Falls, Tasmania's highest waterfall (3hr return walk)
- West Coast Wilderness Railway
- For a bit of action book a tour with King River Rafting and get to see the ancient Huon Pine along the waters-edge.
- World Heritage Cruises / Gordon River Cruises

Just a 45-minute drive from Queenstown sits harbour-side Strahan, the gateway to Tasmania's World Heritage-listed Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park.

Strahan is set at the head of Macquarie Harbour, and is one of the few sheltered harbours on the west coast that can be reached by road.

Its history is one of miners and loggers, today it is a fishing and tourism centre so it is always wise to book your accommodation in advance during peak times when heading to Strahan.

STRAHAN TO HOBART (1 DAY)

Travel back through the heart of Tasmania's World Heritage-listed wilderness. A few places to visit on the way:

- Nelson Falls – walk through mossy forests of sassafras, myrtle and ferns
- The Wall is a 100 metres of carved Huon-pine panels that depict the pioneering stories which helped shape the Central Highlands
- Strathgordon is a full day trip in itself. The area features The **Gordon Dam**, also known as the **Gordon River Dam** constructed with 154 thousand cubic metres of concrete, it is 198 metres long and 140 metres high, making it the tallest dam in Tasmania and the fifth tallest in Australia.

It is just under a 5 hours drive point to point, and 7 hours with the inclusions of Strathgordon, a drive best completed in daylight hours.