

Tassie Tracks: Bruny Island to the Wild Southwest

DATE: Monday 17 – Thursday 27 November 2025



Tasmania holds an almost mythical status to 'big island' folk. It is a place of ancient glacial landscapes and wild rivers; the tallest flowering trees on Earth and mysterious Gondwana forests; a place of deep historic miseries and resilient spirits; home to fierce environmental warriors, miners and timber barons; a place for wild adventures in some of the world's most rugged landscapes; home to MONA and creative people of all kinds who value where they live and revel in their unique home.

Tasmania is a very special and wildly contrasting place.

Our journey meanders through many threads of the Tasmanian story to delve into history, pique curiosity and nurture the soul.

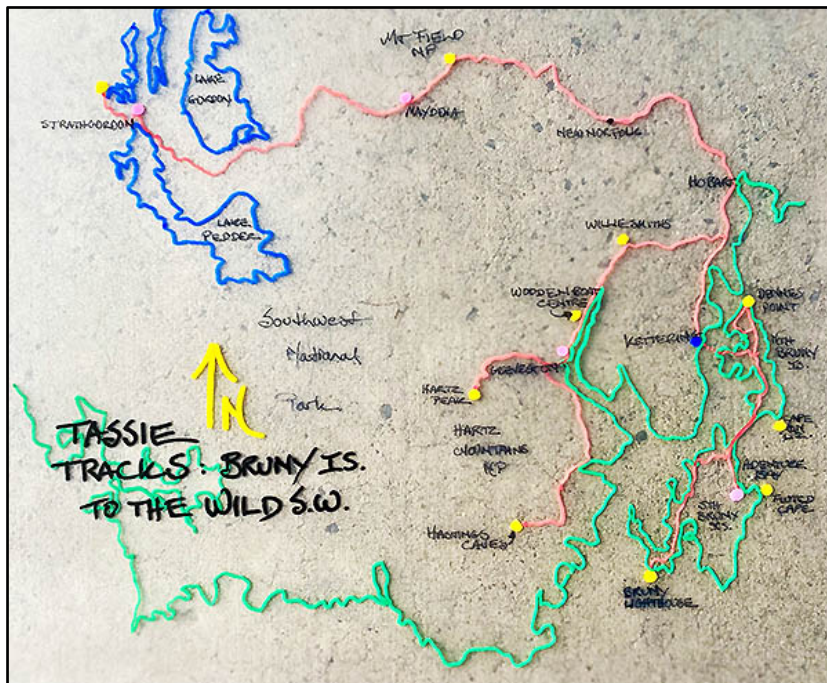
We trust you will come away with a deeper understanding of Tasmania, refreshed from walking and boating and with a yearning to return &

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Part 1 – Bruny Island (Lunnawanna-alonna)

On Hobart's doorstep, [Bruny Island's](#) wild and rugged landscape is a world away. It was home to people of the Nuenonne band for 40,000 years and now they are joined by others who love Bruny and who seek to live a little differently – artists, farmers, artisan producers, conservationists and adventurers. Seafaring explorers have been calling into Bruny's safe harbours since the 1600's – including the French explorer Bruny d'Entrecasteaux, after whom the Island and the Channel are named. Bruny is renowned for all sorts of delicious treats and in between walks and drives we'll be sure to seek out some of these! Our few days here will leave you longing to return to seek out more of Bruny's special places.



DAY 1 Monday 17 Nov.

Walks: Truganini Monument & beach walks, Bruny Island Lighthouse area
Trans: Drive to Kettering and ferry to Bruny Island.
Accom: Adventure Bay Retreat (private and shared facilities)
Meals: L D

Once we are all together in Hobart we take the A6 and B68 south to Kettering (35mins) and line up to board the Bruny Island Ferry for the short trip to Roberts Point on North Bruny. Heading south and skirting Great Bay via the Main Road we make a stop at The Neck, climbing to the top of the Hummock on constructed stairs to take a moment and think of Truganini and the life she and her people once enjoyed in this place. Little Penguins are to be found in several places around

Bruny and the rookery at the Neck is one of the largest.

At the southern end of the island is the Bruny Island Lighthouse. A fabulous place to take in the Tasman Sea views from the historic lighthouse and enjoy lunch on the beach. After lunch the Main Road leads to the village of Adventure Bay on the eastern side of Bruny. There's so much history on these shores – mariners of the 18th century sheltered here often and their stories can be found at the Bligh Museum. Adventure Bay Retreat – our home for four nights – is nearby on Bligh's Creek. The main Lodge is the communal hub and we are also in two other adjacent retreats. Dinner tonight is in-house, prepared by your guides.



DAY 2 Tuesday 18 Nov.

Walk: Cape Queen Elizabeth (beach and track) 13km return 4 – 5hrs Easy-Moderate.
Trans: Drive to trail head.
Accom: Adventure Bay Retreat (private and shared facilities)
Meals: B L D

At the northern end of Adventure Bay is Cape Queen Elizabeth. This return track features eucalypt forest, lagoons, beach and great geologic formations at Mars Bluff; as well as some interesting history at Moorina Bay. From the trailhead the track passes through banksia woodland and skirts Big Lagoon before arriving at the beach. Depending on the tide and swell we'll explore beneath Mars Bluff before continuing on the beach. (There is a high-tide track across the top of the Bluff.) At the end of the beach the walking track heads up through woodland to the top of the dolerite cliffs and a quite breathtaking view!

Back at our Retreat there'll be time to relax and play 'spot the white wallaby' on the property.

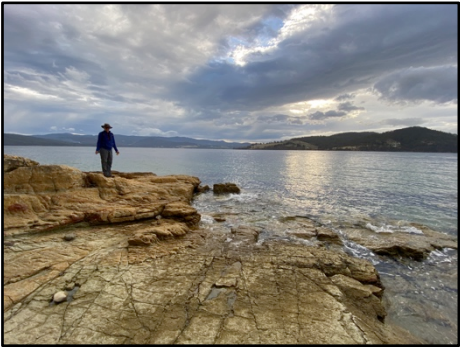


DAY 3 Wednesday 19 Nov.

Walk: Fluted Cape Walk – 7.5km loop 2 – 3 hrs Easy-Moderate.
Cruise: Pennicott Bruny Island Cruise (11am – 2pm) 3 hours
Trans: Drive to terminal.
Accom: Adventure Bay Retreat (private and shared facilities)
Meals: B L (packed lunch on the cruise) D

This morning you can have a *little* sleep in (or take an early morning walk if you prefer!) After breakfast it's a short drive to the Pennicott Wilderness Journeys terminal at Adventure Bay and we are booked on the Bruny Island Cruise from 11am to approximately 2pm. This trip will take you up close to many spectacular features and beneath the towering dolerite cliffs of Bruny with great wildlife viewing.

Back on land, the trailhead for the Fluted Cape Walk is near the terminal. With lovely forests and great views – this time from the top sea cliffs – it's one of Tasmania's Great Short Walks. If you prefer to relax – there's the Bligh Museum of Pacific History, a beach stroll - or you may just want to enjoy the Retreat.



DAY 4 Thursday 20 Nov.

Walks: Short walks Dennes Point and around Quarantine Station
Accom: Adventure Bay Retreat (private and shared facilities)
Meals: B L D

Our penultimate day of delights on Bruny begins with a drive to the northern tip of the island. Nestled on a quiet cove on Barnes Bay is a secluded bush property, home to the studio of local artist [Margaret Vandenberg](#) This place is a real delight and Margaret's passion for art and for Bruny is infectious!

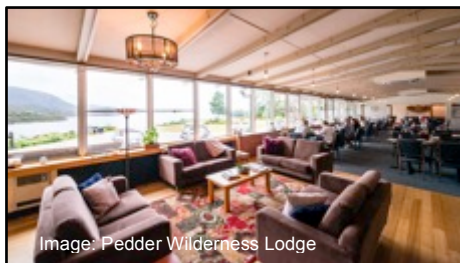
A little further south, the Quarantine Station in Barnes Bay was established in 1884 by the State and at Federation was turned over to the Commonwealth. It was critical in attempts to control the worldwide flu epidemic in 1919 with returned soldiers isolating here before returning home. From 1955 it was used as a plant quarantine station before closing in 1986.

Heading up to the Point, there's a short walk near Jetty Beach and if the tide is out, a chance to wander the shoreline and seek out fossils in the rocks near the jetty.

Part 2 – The Western Wilds: Southwest National Park & Lake Pedder

"The wilderness of the **Southwest National Park** is a refuge for a wide range of unique plant and animal species, some of which cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. Four years after the bitterly opposed damming of Lake Pedder in 1972, the Southwest National Park was declared. Today, the Southwest National Park makes up a large part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area ensuring the unique ecosystems and cultural sites are protected for future generations to explore." Parks Tasmania

Formed during the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago **Lake Pedder** was a wild jewel of the SW and a rugged destination for early bushwalkers. It was designated National Park in 1955 but this was revoked in 1967. Despite a long, bitter campaign to save it, 50 years ago the construction of the Gordon Dam saw the inundation of the shallow lake and its famous 3km long pink quartzite beach. This campaign generated a new environmental awareness and United Tasmania Group – the first green political party in the world was formed. Debate over draining the water and restoring the original lake continues...



DAY 5 Friday 21 November.

Walk: Twisted Sister Loop (Florentine) + Short stops to stretch the legs.
Trans: 240km approx. 4 hours travel.
Accom: Pedder Wilderness Lodge (en-suite motel rooms)
Meals: B L D

Farewell to Bruny, sadly, but on to new places and the completely contrasting Southwest and Gordon Wild Rivers National Parks. Catching the ferry as early as we can, the highway leads back to Hobart and along the Derwent Valley. About an hour from Kettering, New Norfolk is an ideal spot to take a break and find a coffee. There is much to keep you here in this vibrant historic town known for fabulous food and distilleries so you'll have to come back – we must head west!

Turning off near sweetly named Rosegarland, the Gordon River Road winds along the Tyenna River beneath Mt Field NP then on through the Florentine and Styx Valleys. This is wild country with complex and confounding geography – there are awe-inspiring peaks and ranges all around with vast plains disappearing into the view. Eventually, the famous lakes created to supply hydro-electricity across Tasmania are in sight. Owned by Hydro Tasmania The Pedder Wilderness Lodge was originally the construction workers camp though it's now a very comfortable and cosy lodge on the shore of Lake Pedder with panoramic views to the Wilmot and Frankland Ranges from the lodge – a fine place to watch the changing light on the wilderness.

After checking in at the Lodge we will drive a bit further on to see the Gordon Dam - a remarkable feat of engineering. Back at the Lodge you can relax before dinner and enjoy the views across the lake.



DAY 6 Saturday 22 Nov

Kayak: Lake Pedder Kayak (9am – 12noon)
Walk: 12 Trees Range Approx 3 hrs - 6km return +/- 350m elev. Moderate
Accom: Pedder Wilderness Lodge
Meals: B L D

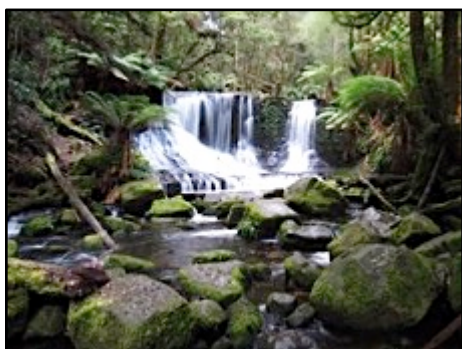
Today will be special indeed as we join up with **Tassie Bound Adventures** ... "Our Lake Pedder Kayak Adventure can be best described as purchasing a VIP backstage pass to our local region. This is a must do day trip which combines adventure kayaking, world-class produce with jaw dropping rugged Tasmanian mountain views. Be immersed in Tasmania's UNESCO World Heritage Listed Wilderness. Explore Lake Pedder's amber waters and secret quartzite beaches

while untangling the region's compelling history from a local guide. The Lake Pedder Kayak Tour is perfect for the first-timers as well as families and guests wanting to explore our spectacular Tasmanian wilderness. Tour includes morning tea and refreshments, prepared locally and featuring in season, world famous Tasmanian produce. Participants can also take a bracing swim! No prior kayaking experience is necessary."

Following lunch at the Lodge you have a choice to hike up the nearby 12 Trees Range or relax at the lodge and enjoy the lounge and the lake views.

Part 3: Mt Field National Park (Tasmania's first Nature Reserve)

Gazetted as a National Park in 1916 Mt Field is one of Tasmania's oldest and most loved national parks. The park has a wide variety of scenic features including glacial lakes and tarns, moraines and limestone karst features. Few other national parks in Australia offer such diversity in vegetation, ranging from tall swamp gum forests and massive tree ferns at the base of the mountain, through rainforest along the Lake Dobson Road and to snow gums and alpine vegetation in the mountains.



DAY 7 Sunday 23 Nov

Walks: - Russell Falls, Horseshoe Falls and Lady Barron Falls Loop Walk. Moderate with some steep sections 6.7km (can be shortened)
- Junee Cave Nature Walk. Easy 30mins return
Trans: Approx. 1 ¼ hrs to National Park trailhead.
Accom: Giant's Table Cottages (Self contained, shared bathrooms), Maydena
Meals: L D (Licenced on site restaurant)

Farewelling Strathgordon our road winds back through the mountains to Maydena – we stay here tonight – then it's just 15 minutes more to today's waterfall walk.

At the entrance to Mt Field is a beautiful track that takes in some of the best-known waterfalls in Tasmania. After lunch somewhere in the lush forest the circuit

walk concludes near the NP Visitor Centre. Heading back to Maydena there's a short nature walk to a cave entrance where the Junee River rises to the surface after a long journey through the caves that permeate Mt Field. Interpretive panels describe the karst system, which includes Australia's deepest known cave.

Then it's time to settle in to our cottages. The ponds behind the accommodation are home to platypus and they are often active throughout the day – a peaceful way to wind down before dinner at Maydena Eats restaurant on site.

Part 4 – Huon Valley

The beautiful Huon Valley unfurls, as the Channel Highway becomes the Huon. Between the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, the Wellington Range and the wild Hartz Mountains there are many and varied adventures to be enjoyed along the gateway to Southwest NP. Our few days here will be just a taste of the variety of experiences to be enjoyed - cruising, walking, cave explorations and so many flavours!



DAY 8 Monday 24 Nov.

Activities: *Wooden Boat Centre Tour.*
Accom: Kermadie Hotel (En suite rooms)
Meals: B L D

After breakfast we'll head back east on the highway and through Hobart to make our way along the Huon Highway to our next destination. Our visit to the Huon region begins with an introduction to the rich and delicious history of the apple industry – and there is no better place for that than Willie Smith's Apple Shed at Grove! While we enjoy lunch there's plenty to browse in the old building that houses memorabilia and fabulous historic images.

Just down the road at Franklin is the marvellous Wooden Boat Centre. A guided visit here brings alive the history of Huon Pine boat building in the place where the

old skills are kept alive by passionate crafts-folk.

After such a full travel day it will be lovely to settle in to historic Kermadie Hotel overlooking the Huon River – our home for the next three nights.



DAY 9 Tuesday 25 Nov.

Walk: Hartz Peak (1254m above sea level) Elevation gain 395m Approx 8km return & 5 hrs. Moderate + (exposed alpine terrain with rock scramble near the summit) **(NB this peak is subject to severe weather at times so our hike is dependent on fine conditions)**

Accom: Kermadie Hotel (En suite rooms)

Meals: B L D

Today we head out early for the Hartz Mountains – a beautiful 40min drive through tall forests steadily gaining altitude above the Arve River valley. We will be hoping for a fine, clear day as the rocky summit affords spectacular views across the SW and as far as Federation Peak. The whole area was deep under ice during the last great ice age and clues to this dramatic sculpting are to be found in the tarns and the sheared and rounded dolerite bedrock. Arriving at the parking area at 850m start out walk gradually as the track ascends through heath and sub-alpine vegetation, passing by Ladies Tarn until the final steep climb to the summit of Harzt Peak. After taking in the summit we retrace our steps, with the views before us!

On the way back to Kermadie the delightful historic town of Geeveston beckons. Lining the main street are wooden sculptures of true Local Heroes – fitting memorials for a town steeped in timber. The main focus of our stop is the Geeveston Town Hall Visitor Centre. It takes time to see all the excellent displays in the two-storey museum and browse the extensive gift gallery brimming with locally crafted works.



DAY 10 Wednesday 26 Nov.

Walk: Hastings Caves and Thermal Pools, short strolls.

Accom: Kermadie Hotel (En suite rooms)

Meals: BLD

Image: Parks Tasmania

Today's delve into the subterranean world could not be more of a contrast to yesterday's alpine and glacier-carved mountain hike. The drive to Hastings Cave State Reserve is about 50mins. Heading south on the Huon Highway to Dover near the mouth of the Esperance River then winding further south through forested country before taking Hastings Cave Road NW into the southern section of Harzt Mountains NP. Tasmanian NP Rangers lead us on a 45 minute guided tour into the magical underworld at Newdegate Cave. Our entry pass also allows us to soak in hot thermal springs (that will be lovely after yesterday's climb ☺) as well as enjoy

the short walks nearby.

Continuing our immersion in Tasmanian history, and as a special end to our time in the Huon Valley, we board the 1948 traditionally built wooden motor cruiser [La Drone](#) for a late afternoon cruise on the River, sampling local delights as the the scenery slips by... our final dinner is at a fun establishment in Huonville – The Lost Captain!



DAY 11 Thursday 27 Nov.

Travel: Return to Hobart.

Activity: The Shot Tower at Taroona

Our final morning of the tour will be a relaxed return to Hobart via the Taroona on the Channel Highway. Morning tea is at the Shot Tower. This historic circular sandstone building stands 58m tall and there are great views as we climb the internal timber staircase. Arrival in Hobart will be about 1pm. Hotel drop-offs can be coordinated as needed.

TOUR COST

Minimum group number is 6, maximum 10.

Cost: \$6,950 per person twin share. Ex Hobart

Sole Use: Available by arrangement if requested and available. Surcharge will apply.

Early Bird discount of \$200 pp applies if your reservation and the \$500 deposit** are received by 15 September 2025

** Prior to paying the deposit, contact us to make sure a space is available

TRAVEL INSURANCE with remote rescue and Covid-19 cover included is recommended.

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ 10 nights accommodation
- ✓ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Transfers and travel as per daily schedule in a comfortable mini-bus with luggage trailer.
- ✓ National Park day use fees
- ✓ Passionate bushwalking guides with decades of interpretation experience!
- ✓ Guides have Wilderness First Certification.

Note: The tour cost **does not include** airfares or other associated travel expenses, costs of joining the tour after it has commenced or leaving before it has finished, travel insurance, personal expenses such as drinks, laundry, telephone or any optional excursions.

YOUR GUIDES



Based in Boonah (Queensland) **Teresa Cause** set up Horizon Guides in 2007 to offer a specialised bushwalking guide service. She has extensive experience in guiding tours in Australia and overseas with a particular emphasis on natural history. Tasmania is a favourite place for personal adventures and Teresa loves sharing the richness of Tassie on guided tours there. Providing experiences that connect people to places and to each other is especially rewarding! Teresa also owns and runs [Far Outdoors](#) outdoor equipment business in Boonah.



Sally Undery has spent a lifetime walking and on horseback in the rich country beneath the formidable west-facing escarpments of Lamington National Park. With her husband she was a dairy farmer for most of her adult life. Always acutely aware of being a caretaker of the land Sally is now sharing this love of the land with walkers of all abilities. Sally is passionate about nature and Tassie is place that Sally loves to explore.

GENERAL TOUR NOTES:

Travel to and from Tasmania: Please plan to **arrive at least the day prior to departure** as any delays to your arrival can seriously impact the tour itinerary on day one. If you do choose to arrive on the day of departure you will need to be ready to join the tour by 9am in Hobart. There will not be any airport pick-ups for guests. If you are late into Hobart you will unfortunately have to catch up with the tour at your own expense.

Hobart is a wonderful place to find your feet in Tasmania – so getting there early to explore will mean an even better holiday!

The tour ends on Thursday 27 November and we will plan to be back in Hobart around 1pm.

Packing List A detailed packing list is provided – please refer to this and ensure that you have all the essentials prior to the tour. There will not really be places to purchase any gear once the trip has commenced.

Meals All meals are included as per the itinerary. You will be asked to supply details on your booking information of special dietary requirements that you have. Please be specific especially if there are foods that trigger allergies. *Every effort will be made to cater for special dietary needs as long as we have the correct information in advance.*

Alcohol is not included in the tour price apart from a complimentary beverage on the first and final evenings of the tour. There will be opportunities to purchase along the way ☺

Our Accommodations:

[Adventure Bay Retreat](#) Adventure Bay, Bruny Island

[Pedder Wilderness Lodge](#) Strathgordon

[Giants Table Cottages](#) Maydena

[The Kermadie Hotel](#) Port Huon

Laundry facilities are available at Adventure Bay Retreat.

Daily briefings Each evening there will be a briefing on the walks and options for the following day.

Mobile phone coverage: there is adequate mobile phone reception in many places however on the walks it is patchy and often there is no cover.

Arriving early – staying after? There are myriad reasons to arrive early for this tour – and to stay longer!

Hobart has much of historical and contemporary interest. Here are a few links to get you started ...

[Salamanca Place](#) Hobart Waterfront

[Cascade Brewery](#) – can be reached by walking along the Rivulet

[Female Factory](#) (highly recommended – and best experienced by taking the guided tour and experiential theatre tour)

Historic Houses - [Markree](#) and [Narryna](#) – these have links to the experience of female convicts in Hobart.

[Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery](#)

[Mawson's Hut](#) replica museum – excellent!

[Museum of Old and New Art \(MONA\)](#) (requires a full day)

We look forward to sharing walking and water adventures with you this spring!