



Launceston & Eastern Tasmania

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Why Go?

Trucking north from Hobart to Launceston, Tasmania's agricultural Midlands have a distinctly English feel, with baked, straw-coloured fields, stands of poplar trees, hedgerows and well-preserved Georgian villages.

Heading east, Tasmania's east coast is sea-salty and rejuvenating – a land of quiet bays punctuated by granite headlands splashed with flaming orange lichen. You'll find plenty of opportunities to hike, cycle, kayak, surf, dive and fish.

In the state's north, it's hard to imagine a pocket-sized city more appealing than Launceston. Well, maybe Wellington or Bergen...but Lonnie, as the locals call it, is certainly large enough for some urban buzz, while small enough for country congeniality.

Just outside Launceston are the vine-covered hillsides of the gently beautiful Tamar Valley. The historic towns to the south and west of the city offer stately homes, heritage streetscapes and buckets of small-town charm.

Best Places to Eat

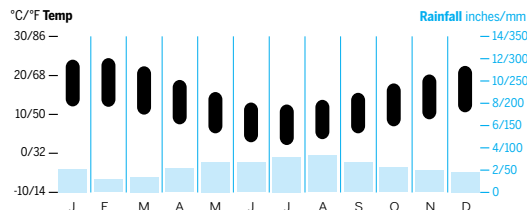
- ➔ Stillwater (p671)
- ➔ Freycinet Marine Farm (p661)
- ➔ Moresco Restaurant (p665)
- ➔ River Cafe (p674)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Two Four Two (p669)
- ➔ Fresh on Charles (p668)
- ➔ Red Feather Inn (p677)
- ➔ The View (p674)
- ➔ Piermont (p659)

When to Go

Launceston



Dec–Feb

Launceston gets giddy with summer festivals and long, still riverside evenings.

Mar–Apr

Vintage time in the Tamar Valley, while the east-coast sea is at its warmest.

Jun–Aug

Snow on Ben Lomond and clear, still Midlands days. Accommodation deals abound.

Launceston & Eastern Tasmania Highlights

- 1** Walking, swimming, eating or just chilling out at Launceston's **Cataract Gorge** (p666).
- 2** Checking out Launceston from the water with **Tamar River Cruises** (p667).
- 3** Wobbling between cellar doors in the **Pipers River Wine Region** (p676).
- 4** Sweating it out on the track to picture-perfect **Wineglass Bay** (p660) on the east coast.
- 5** Bumping into wombats and wallabies at **Maria Island National Park** (p656), just off the east coast.

