



The East Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Piermont Restaurant (p149)
- » Ripple (p166)
- » Passinis (p160)
- » Freycinet Marine Farm (p151)

Best Places to Stay

- » Saffire (p153)
- » Rocky Hills Retreat (p147)
- » Aurora Beach Cottage (p159)
- » Point Break (p167)

Why Go?

White-blond sand, ice-blue water, wide blue sky and sunshine. Now, strip off and plunge in. Don't think too long or it might just take your breath away.

Tasmania's east and northeast is salt touselled and refreshing. It's a land of quiet bays and sandy shores, punctuated by granite hills and headlands splashed with flaming orange lichen. The whole coast is fringed with eucalypt or pasture green, national parks for wildlife spotting or adventuring, and agricultural country for fabulous food and wine.

If you want to be active, hike, bike, kayak, surf, dive or fish here – then set up your beachside camp and chill. If luxury is more your thing you'll find that here too, with fancy lodges and beachhouses, and top-notch places to dine. It's not all high adventure or highbrow either: if you're after buckets-and-spades family fun, Tasmania's east and northeast are perfect for sun-soaked beach holidays. See www.northeasttasmania.com.au for more.

When to Go

Picture-postcard shots of the east coast make you think tropical: palm trees, bikinis and suntans. The truth is, those crystal-clear photographers' dream days are often in winter, so be open minded about when you visit.

The whole coast comes alive in summer. There's a relaxed, vacation vibe, but the most popular spots do get packed and accommodation prices surge. In the dead of winter (June to August) you'll find these parts in the doldrums. In autumn (March to April) the sea's at its warmest, and you might have a beach all to yourself.

The East Coast Highlights

- 1 Whooping with exhilaration as you brave the ice-blue waters of gorgeous **Wineglass Bay** (p154)
- 2 Swooping over the Freycinet coastline on a **scenic flight** (p153)
- 3 Having close encounters with wildlife at **Maria Island National Park** (p144)
- 4 Luring in a deep-sea monster – or at least catching your dinner – at **St Helens** (p164)
- 5 Sampling heavenly ice creams produced by the happy cows of **Pyengana** (p168)
- 6 Dreaming under the whispering she-oaks when you camp at **Mt William National Park** (p169)
- 7 Floating your boat on the mirror-calm Ansons River lagoon with the **Bay of Fires Walk** (p167)
- 8 Being a water baby (or beach babe) at **Binalong Bay** (p167)
- 9 Feasting on fresh **seafood**, and quaffing fine **East Coast wines**
- 10 Beachcombing for Killiecrankie diamonds on **Flinders Island** (p173)

