



Launceston & Around

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Why Go?

It's hard to imagine a pocket-sized city more lovely than Launceston. Large enough to feel sophisticated, but petite enough for small-town friendliness, Launceston melds historic and contemporary, urbane with country character, and has lively epicurian and arts scenes to boot. It's a city that's refreshingly natural: green parks burgeon with European trees and the wide Tamar River carries the sea breeze. Amazing Cataract Gorge, surrounded by forest and parkland, brings the wilds into the heart of town.

Launceston is cradled by rolling hills, with craggy – sometimes snow-sprinkled – peaks on its horizons. Just outside the city, the gently beautiful Tamar Valley unfolds. Vine-covered hillsides and fertile soils nurture famously top-notch produce that can be sampled at cellar doors and winery-restaurants.

To discover a land of stately homes and historic towns, head south and west of Launceston. Go north to see penguins, lighthouses and the earliest European settlement in Tasmania.

When to Go

Summer sees Launceston come alive with flowering parks and gardens, festivals, and long, still evenings for strolling by the waterfront. March is vintage time, when the vineyards of the Tamar Valley buzz with activity – and then turn gorgeously golden for autumn. Launceston winters are crisp. There's the delight of frosted peaks nearby for snow play and a spot of skiing. Spring in October is a return to budding green. Cataract Gorge gets pumping with white water and is a magnet for kayaking daredevils.

Best Places to Eat

- » Stillwater (p187)
- » Black Cow (p187)
- » Pierre's (p187)
- » Strathlynn (p192)
- » tant pour tant (p187)

Best Places to Stay

- » Red Feather Inn (p198)
- » Charles (p185)
- » Two Four Two (p185)
- » Wesleyan Chapel (p202)
- » Quamby Estate (p199)



Launceston & Around Highlights

- 1 Marvelling at the wilds in the city in Launceston's **Cataract Gorge** (p178)
- 2 Sampling Launceston's **epicurian delights** at one of the city's top-notch restaurants, providores and patisseries (p187)
- 3 Quaffing fine wines at the

- many **vineyard cellar doors** of the Tamar Valley (p191)
- 4 Cruising the **Tamar River** on the *Tamar Odyssey* or the *Lady Launceston* (p181)
- 5 Spotting the world's tiniest penguins come home from sea at dusk at **Low Head** (p196)
- 6 Pretending you're on the

- set of *Gone with The Wind* at Tasmania's grandest colonial home, **Clarendon** (p201)
- 7 Getting friendly with the sea critters at Beauty Point's **Seahorse World** (p194)
- 8 Swooping down the ski slopes – or hopping on a mountain bike – at lofty **Ben Lomond** (p203)