



# Midlands & Lake Country

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Companion Bakery (p131)
- » Man O'Ross Hotel (p134)
- » Red Bridge Café & Providore (p135)
- » Zepts (p135)
- » Elm Corner Café (p137)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Stone Cottage (p133)
- » Fox Hunters Return (p135)
- » Priory Country Lodge (p137)
- » Over the Back (p139)
- » Tarraleah Lodge (p140)

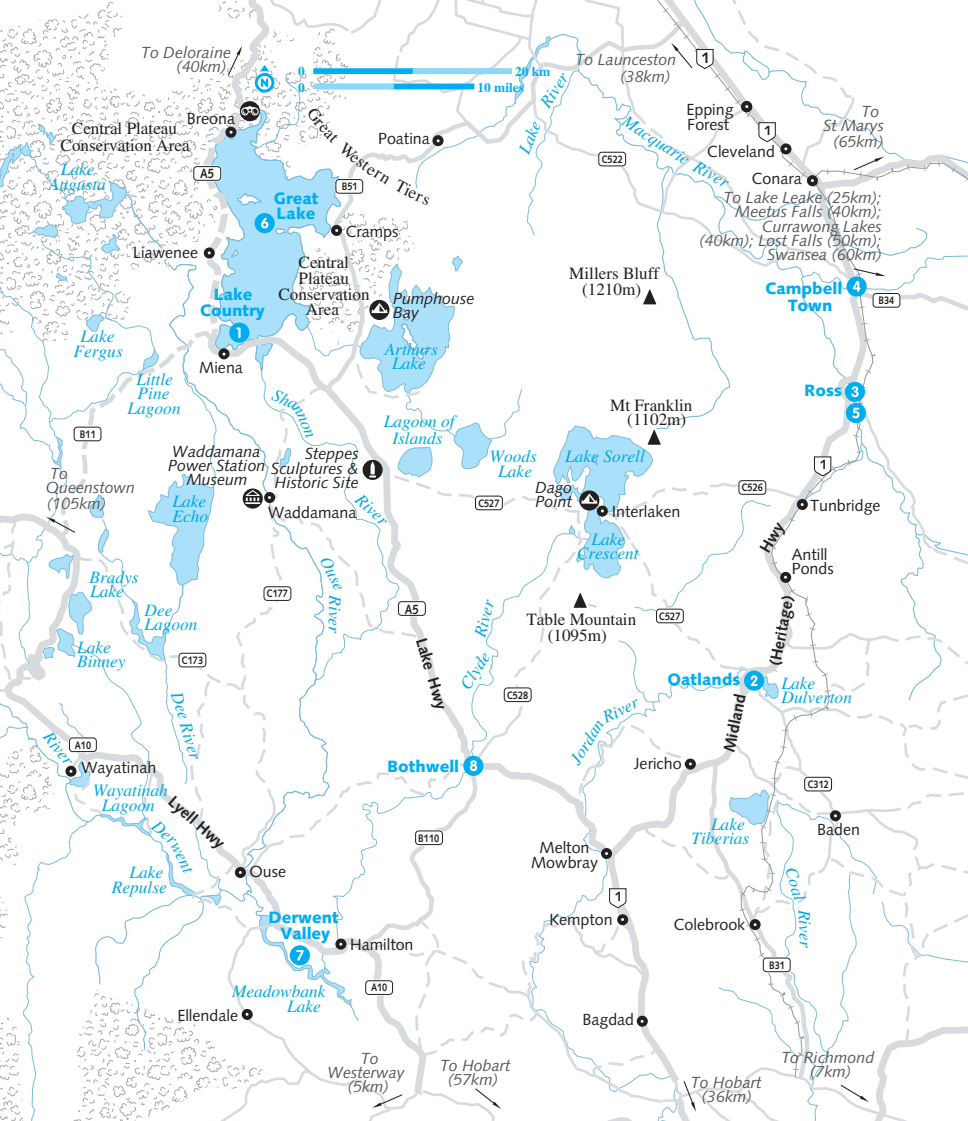
## Why Go?

Baked, straw-coloured plains, hawthorn hedgerows, fertile river valleys lined with willows and poplars, roadside mansions: Tasmania's Midlands have a distinct English-countryside feel. Coach stations, garrison towns, stone villages and pastoral properties sprang from the dirt as convict gangs hammered out the road between Hobart and Launceston. But the course of the Midland Hwy (aka the Heritage Hwy) has veered from its original route. Many old towns are now bypassed, so make a few meandering detours to explore their Georgian main streets, rose-filled gardens, antique shops and country pubs.

The underpopulated and undertouristed Lake Country atop Tasmania's Central Plateau features subalpine moorlands and trout-filled lakes. On the southern fringe of the highlands is the fertile Derwent Valley, a fecund fold studied with vineyards, hop fields, orchards and old oast houses. If you consulted a dictionary for the definition of 'sleepy backwater', you'd probably find a concise list of Derwent Valley towns.

## When to Go?

The Midlands and Lake Country is definitely at its best from November to March, with warmer and more settled weather. Through the winter months, snow is a relatively common occurrence, especially around the Lake Country. Conversely, if you're keen on the heritage architecture of Ross and Oatlands, consider travelling outside of the peak November-to-March period. Accommodation owners offer substantial discounts, and a good glass of local single malt whisky might be just the ticket in a cosy B&B on a cool night.



## Midlands & Lake Country Highlights

- ① Arcing a fly across a highland stream and snaring a trout in the **Lake Country** (p136)
- ② Ascending the multiple levels of Oatlands' fascinating **Callington Mill** (p131)
- ③ Trying to find the carving of Jorgen Jorgenson, former king of Iceland, on the **Ross Bridge** (p132)
- ④ Reading the heinous convict histories in the red bricks along the main street of **Campbell Town** (p134)
- ⑤ Questioning your moral direction at the **Four Corners of Ross** (p133)
- ⑥ Watching the mist descend on **Great Lake** (p137) in winter
- ⑦ Touring through the hop fields, hedgerows and hamlets of the **Derwent Valley** (p138)
- ⑧ Attempting to make par on the heritage **Ratho** golf course (p136)