



The Southeast

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Why Go?

The quiet harbours and verdant valleys of Tasmania's south-east have much to offer, particularly if you enjoy snacking leisurely from roadside produce stores. Once the apple-producing heart of the Apple Isle, the southeast is now abundant with cherries, apricots, Atlantic salmon, wines, mushrooms and cheese.

The fruit-filled hillsides of the Huon Valley give way to the sparkling inlets of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, and Bruny Island awaits enticingly offshore. Hartz Mountains National Park is not far inland, and further south the South Coast Track kicks off at magnificent Recherche Bay.

French explorers Bruni d'Entrecasteaux and Nicolas Baudin charted much of the region's coastline in the 1790s and early 1800s, Entrecasteaux arriving a good decade before the Brits hoisted the Union Jack at Risdon Cove near Hobart in 1803.

The wide Huon River remains the region's lifeblood. Courtesy of the southern latitudes and abundant waterways, the southeast is also known for its rainbows.

Best Places to Eat

- » Bruny Island Smokehouse (p109)
- » Red Velvet Lounge (p112)
- » Lotus Eaters Café (p113)
- » Franklin Woodfired Pizza (p114)
- » Post Office 6985 (p118)

Best Places to Stay

- » Beachfront on Bruny (p108)
- » Woodbridge Hill Hideaway (p111)
- » Old Bank B&B (p112)
- » Huon Bush Retreats (p114)
- » Jetty House (p118)

When to Go?

Summer – from December to March – is definitely the time to visit the southeast. The Huon Valley will be jam-packed with fresh produce, including juicy cherries and crisp apples, and the cool southern waters around Bruny Island will be more inviting in the summer sunshine. January is the time to be in funky Cygnnet for the annual folk music festival, and birdwatching fans should wing it to Bruny Island in October for the island's annual Bird Festival.



Southeast Highlights

1 Forgetting the office, courtesy of a couple of days on **Bruny Island** (p105)

2 Paddling a sea-kayak over **D'Entrecasteaux Channel** (p104)

3 Conjuring up images of French explorers' tall ships anchored in remote **Recherche Bay** (p119)

4 Tuning in to the twang, shimmy and stomp of the **Cygnnet Folk Festival** (p112), a funky January jamboree

5 Inspecting a Huon pine hull under construction at Franklin's **Wooden Boat Centre** (p114)

6 Smiling at your reflection in an alpine moorland tarn at

Hartz Mountains National Park (p117)

7 Spelunking into the subterranean gloom at **Hastings Caves & Thermal Springs** (p119)

8 Riding the **Ida Bay Railway** (p119), Australia's southernmost railway, to the end of the line