



# Devonport & the Northwest

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## Why Go?

Tasmania's northwest is the island in a nutshell – wild and untrammelled in places, quietly sophisticated just about everywhere else. In the far northwest in particular, there are so many candidates for the title of Tasmania's most remote corner, from the dense and ancient rainforests of the Tarkine wilderness to remote beaches swept by the cleanest air on earth. Here also are some of the best places in Australia to see platypuses and penguins, enjoy fabulous beaches and then sleep the night in charming towns where the past sits lightly upon their shoulders. Best of all, the sense of exploring one of the world's last unspoiled corners will linger long after you leave.

## When to Go

- ➔ The northwest blooms in spring and summer: fields of purple poppies, multicoloured tulips, fragrant rainforest leatherwood. There's fresh crayfish, penguin watching, and music and craft festivals, and you can camp beachside, ready for the perfect surf break.
- ➔ Visit in winter to experience the full power of the Roaring Forties. Locals batten down the hatches for the longest, darkest nights, when the area is exhilaratingly wild and wind-lashed. You'll get a warm welcome, but call ahead: some things close completely – or open less frequently – in winter.

## Devonport



POP 22,770

Devonport is the Tasmanian base for the *Spirit of Tasmania I* and *II*, the red-and-white ferries that connect the island state with the mainland. It's quite an evocative sight when, after three deep blasts of the horn, they cruise past the end of the main street to begin their voyage north. The ferry gone, Devonport slips back into obscurity. Most visitors do indeed get off the ferry, jump in their cars and leave Devonport behind. Before you do so, remember to take advantage of Devonport's location: walk along the Mersey and up to the **Mersey Bluff Lighthouse** for unmissable views over the coastline and Bass Strait.



### Sights & Activities

Penguin-watching season runs from August to March.



#### **Bass Strait Maritime Centre** MUSEUM

( 03-6424 7100; [www.bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au](http://www.bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au); 6 Gloucester Ave; adult/child/family \$10/5/25;  10am-5pm) This museum is in the former harbourmaster's residence (c 1920) and pilot station near the foreshore. It has an extensive collection of flags and other maritime paraphernalia, including a superb set of models covering the ages of sail and steam through to the present passenger ferries.

#### **Home Hill** HISTORIC BUILDING

( 03-6424 8055; [www.nationaltrusttas.org.au](http://www.nationaltrusttas.org.au); 77 Middle Rd; adult/child/concession \$10/free/8;  guided tours 2pm Wed-Sun, other times by appointment) This was the residence of Joseph Lyons (Australia's only Tasmanian prime minister; 1932-39) and his wife, Dame Enid Lyons, and their 12 children. Built in 1916, the handsome white home contains some fascinating personal family effects, many of which touch on the couple's prolific public life.



#### **Don River Railway** MUSEUM

( 03-6424 6335; [www.donriverrailway.com.au](http://www.donriverrailway.com.au); Forth Main Rd; adult/child/family \$18/13/40;  9am-5pm) You don't have to be a train-spotter to love this collection of locomotives and brightly painted rolling stock. The entry price includes a half-hour ride in a diesel train (on the hour from 10am to 4pm), and you can hop on the puffing steam train on Sundays and public holidays.



To get here, drive west of Devonport along the Bass Hwy then take the B19 exit towards

Don, Devonport and Spreyton. The railway is 4.5km from the centre of Devonport.

#### **Devonport Regional Gallery** GALLERY


( 03-6424 8296; [www.devonportgallery.com](http://www.devonportgallery.com); 45-47 Stewart St;  10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-5pm Sat, 1-5pm Sun) This excellent gallery houses predominantly 20th-century Tasmanian paintings, and contemporary art by local and mainland artists, plus ceramics and glasswork.

#### **Pandemonium** AMUSEMENT PARK

( 03-6424 1333; [www.pandemoniumtas.com.au](http://www.pandemoniumtas.com.au); 62-64 North Fenton St; admission from \$10;  9.30am-4pm Tue-Sun) This is *the* place in Devonport where kids can let off steam. It's an indoor play centre with a giant jungle gym, jumping castles and slides (for kids up to 11 years of age), laser skirmish (eight years and up), rock climbing (six and up) and the hands-on scientific displays of the Imaginarium Science Centre. There's a cafe to collapse in when you're done.

### Tours

#### **Murray's Day Out** BUS TOUR





( 03 64252439; [www.murraysdayout.com.au](http://www.murraysdayout.com.au); day trips per person from \$150) To be shown some of Tasmania by an entirely passionate and charming Tasmanian, consider taking one of these tours. Murray offers 'service with humour' in his comfortable van (seating up to seven). Go all the way west to Marawah, drop in on Cradle Mountain, or just tootle around the country lanes near Devonport.

### Sleeping

#### **Mersey Bluff Caravan Park** CARAVAN PARK \$

( 03-6424 8655; [www.merseybluff.com.au](http://www.merseybluff.com.au); 41 Bluff Rd; unpowered sites per person \$13, powered sites per 2 adults \$33, on-site caravans d \$40-80) In a seaside setting on Mersey Bluff, this pleasantly green park is just steps from the beach. There's a campers' kitchen, BBQ facilities and a playground nearby, and the park's close to the facilities of the new Mersey Bluff development.

#### **Tasman Backpackers** HOSTEL \$

( 03-6423 2335; [www.tasmanbackpackers.com.au](http://www.tasmanbackpackers.com.au); 114 Tasman St; dm \$20-23, tw/d \$50/52;   ) This hostel was once a sprawling nurses' quarters, but it's now a friendly place to stay and has an international feel. The ensuite doubles all have TVs and DVD players and there are (free) movies in the lounge most nights. The hostel offers free ferry and