



# Launceston & Around

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## Why Go?

It's hard to imagine a pocket-sized city more appealing than Launceston. 'Lonnie', as the locals call it, is certainly large enough for some urban buzz, but little enough for country congeniality. The city effortlessly melds the historic with the contemporary, bolstered by bright arts and food scenes. Surrounded by bush, amazing Cataract Gorge brings the wilds into the heart of town.

Launceston is cradled by rolling hills, with craggy peaks on the horizon. Just outside the city, the gently beautiful Tamar Valley unfolds – a broad estuary channelling the sea breeze. The vine-covered hillsides and fertile soils here nurture famous wines and produce. Where the river meets the sea you'll find penguins, lighthouses and Tasmania's earliest European settlement.

The historic towns to the the south and west of the city offer stately homes, heritage streetscapes and buckets of small-town charm.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Stillwater (p182)
- ➔ Blue Café Bar (p182)
- ➔ Sweetbrew (p181)
- ➔ River Cafe (p190)
- ➔ Home of the Artisan (p197)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Two Four Two (p181)
- ➔ Fresh on Charles (p180)
- ➔ Red Feather Inn (p194)
- ➔ Wesleyan Chapel (p198)
- ➔ Trig (p193)

## When to Go

- ➔ In summer (December to February) Launceston gets giddy with flowering parks, festivals and long, still evenings by the river.
- ➔ March is vintage time in the Tamar Valley: the vineyards hum with pickers and pruners, then turn golden brown for autumn.
- ➔ Launceston winters (June to August) are still, sunny and crisp: the frosted peaks nearby are ripe for snowman construction and maybe even some skiing.
- ➔ October delivers a return to budding green, and Cataract Gorge pumps with white water and crazed kayakers.



## Launceston & Around Highlights

- 1 Walk, swim, eat or just chill out at Launceston's **Cataract Gorge** (p173).
- 2 Check out Launceston from the water with **Tamar River Cruises** (p177).
- 3 Wobble between cellar doors in the **Pipers River Wine Region** (p192).
- 4 Watch the penguins come home from sea at dusk with **Low Head Penguin Tours** (p191).
- 5 Pretend you're in *Gone with the Wind* at Tasmania's grandest colonial home, **Clarendon** (p197).
- 6 Befriend the critters at Beauty Point's **Seahorse World** (p188).
- 7 Swoop down the ski slopes at lofty **Ben Lomond National Park** (p199).
- 8 Catch a live band and quaff a few pints at Launceston's **Royal Oak Hotel** (p184).
- 9 Holler at the speeding cyclists in Evandale's **National Penny Farthing Championships** (p198).