



Tasman Peninsula & Port Arthur

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Doo-Lishus Food Caravan (p100)
- ➔ Dunalley Waterfront Café & Gallery (p100)
- ➔ Gabriel's on the Bay (p107)
- ➔ Lucky Ducks (p103)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casilda House (p100)
- ➔ Norfolk Bay Convict Station (p102)
- ➔ Sea Change Safety Cove (p107)
- ➔ Larus Waterfront Cottage (p103)

Why Go?

Just an hour from Hobart lie the staggering coastal landscapes, sandy beaches and historic sites of the Tasman Peninsula. Bushwalking, surfing, sea-kayaking, scuba-diving and rock-climbing opportunities abound – all good reasons to extend your visit beyond a hurried day trip from Hobart.

Don't miss visiting the peninsula's legendary 300m-high sea cliffs – the tallest in the southern hemisphere – which will dose you up on natural awe. Most of the cliffs are protected by Tasman National Park, a coastal enclave embracing chunky offshore islands and underwater kelp forests. The cliffs are a safe haven for seabirds, while the fertile waters below throng with seals, dolphins and whales.

Waiting portentously at the end of Arthur Hwy is Port Arthur, the infamous and allegedly escape-proof penal colony dating from the early 19th century. Today kids kick footballs and dads poke sausages on BBQs there, but it's impossible to totally blank out the tragedy of this place, both historically and more recently.

When to Go

- ➔ Tasman Peninsula weather is at its most reliable from November to March, but from December to February be prepared for crowds at the Port Arthur Historic Site, especially on weekends. Alternatively, visiting Port Arthur during winter (June to August) makes the experience even more confronting, imagining the cold-weather hardships the convicts experienced here.
- ➔ Fresh fruit fans should visit from December to January, when boughs at the Sorell Fruit Farm hang heavy with ripe varieties.
- ➔ Tackling the Tasman Peninsula's bushwalking tracks and surf breaks is definitely best done during summer: aim for January to April.



Tasman Peninsula & Port Arthur Highlights

- 1 Pay your respects to the past, both distant and recent, at the **Port Arthur Historic Site** (p105).
- 2 Sea kayak around the wild, broken coastline of **Cape Haury** (p99).
- 3 Pick raspberries, apricots and silvanberries at the **Sorell Fruit Farm** (p99).
- 4 Spot seals and dolphins on a cruise around **Tasman Island** (p98).
- 5 Battle vertigo atop the southern hemisphere's highest sea cliffs at Cape Pillar on the **Tasman Coastal Trail** (p101).
- 6 Cruise the streets of Doo Town en route to the **Blowhole, Tasman Arch and Devil's Kitchen** (p101).
- 7 Chow down on local seafood at the **Dunalley Waterfront Café & Gallery** (p100).
- 8 Watch the waves surge in and out of **Remarkable Cave** (p103) south of Port Arthur.



Tours

Tasman Island Cruises

BOAT TOUR

(Pennicott Wilderness Journeys; ☎ 03-6250 2200; www.tasmancruises.com.au; full-day tour adult/child \$225/155) Trips depart Hobart and include a three-hour cruise past the Tasman Peninsula's most spectacular coastal scenery and admission to Port Arthur. You can also join the cruise at Port Arthur (6961 Arthur Hwy) and

save a few dollars (adult/child \$125/75, not including Port Arthur admission).

Under Down Under

TOUR

(☎ 1800 444 442; www.underdownunder.com.au; per person \$110) Guided backpacker-style day trips to Port Arthur via Richmond, including accommodation pick-up, admission fees, a guided walk and a harbour cruise.