



The East Coast

Includes ➔

Triabunna.....	139
Maria Island National Park.....	140
Swansea.....	143
Coles Bay & Freycinet National Park.....	146
Bicheno.....	153
St Marys.....	157
St Helens.....	159
Bay of Fires.....	162
Derby & Around.....	165
Flinders Island.....	168

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pasini's (p156)
- ➔ Freycinet Marine Farm (p152)
- ➔ Purple Possum Wholefoods (p158)
- ➔ Moresco Restaurant (p164)
- ➔ Bridport Café (p168)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Schouten House (p144)
- ➔ Eagle Peaks (p151)
- ➔ Piermont (p145)
- ➔ Scamander Sanctuary Caravan Park (p159)
- ➔ Weldborough Hotel (p164)

Why Go?

White-blond sand, gin-clear water, high blue skies...now strip off and plunge in! But don't think about it for too long – water temperatures here can leave you breathless.

Tasmania's east coast is sea-salted and rejuvenating – a land of quiet bays and sandy shores, punctuated by granite headlands splashed with flaming orange lichen. The whole coast is fringed with forests, national parks and farmland.

Tasmania's west coast cops all the rain – by the time the clouds make it out here they're virtually empty! No surprise, then, that this is prime holiday terrain for Tasmanians, with plenty of opportunities to hike, bike, kayak, surf, dive and fish – set up your beachside camp and get into it. At the end of the day, fish and chips on the beach is a sure-fire winner. Or, if luxury is more your thing, you'll find hip lodges and top-flight eateries aplenty.

When to Go

- ➔ Picture-postcard east coast images conjure up visions of high summer, but in truth those clear photographers' dream days are often in winter: be open-minded about when you visit.
- ➔ The whole coast comes alive in summer. A relaxed vacation vibe prevails, but popular spots get busy and accommodation prices surge. Conversely, in the dead of winter (June to August) many east coast beach towns are half-asleep and empty.
- ➔ From March to April the sea is at its warmest, and you might have a beach all to yourself.

The East Coast Highlights

- 1 Sweat it out on the track to **Wineglass Bay** (p148)...then cooling off in the sea once you get there.
- 2 Bump into wombats and wallabies at **Maria Island National Park** (p140).
- 3 Reel in a deep-sea monster – or at least catch your dinner – at **St Helens** (p159).
- 4 Drink your way around Tasmania with craft brews at the **Weldborough Hotel** (p164).
- 5 Camp under whispering she-oaks at **Mt William National Park** (p164).
- 6 Paddle a kayak on mirror-calm Ansons River on the **Bay of Fires Lodge Walk** (p163).
- 7 Dunk your head under the waves at **Binalong Bay** (p163).
- 8 Quaff the afternoon away at the **east coast wineries** (p143).
- 9 Beachcomb for Killiecrankie diamonds on **Flinders Island** (p168).

