



The Southeast

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Get Shucked Oyster Farm (p115)
- ➔ Lotus Eaters Cafe (p118)
- ➔ Summer Kitchen Bakery (p121)
- ➔ Peppermint Bay (p118)
- ➔ Post>Office 6985 (p125)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Peppermint Ridge Retreat (p117)
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- ➔ Cherryview (p118)
- ➔ Huon Bush Retreats (p120)
- ➔ Jetty House (p125)

Why Go?

Still harbours and misty valleys – Tasmania's southeast has much to offer. The apple-producing heartland of the Apple Isle, this fertile area now also produces cherries, apricots, Atlantic salmon, wines, mushrooms and cheeses. The wide, tea-coloured Huon River remains the region's lifeblood. Courtesy of these southern latitudes and myriad waterways, the southeast is also known for its rainbows.

As you head south the fruity hillsides of the Huon Valley give way to the sparkling inlets of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, with Bruny Island awaiting enticingly offshore. Hartz Mountains National Park is not far inland and, further south, the epic South Coast Track kicks off at magnificent Recherche Bay.

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

When to Go

- ➔ Peckish? Summer – from December to March – is definitely the time to visit the southeast. The Huon Valley harvest is in, and roadside stalls are jam-packed with fresh produce, including juicy cherries and crisp apples.
- ➔ The cool southern waters around Bruny Island are much more inviting in the summer sunshine. Alternatively, birdwatching fans should wing it here in October for the annual Bruny Island Bird Festival.
- ➔ January is the time to be in funky-hippie Cygnets for the annual Cygnets Folk Festival.



The Southeast Highlights

- 1 Drop out of mobile-phone reception on **Bruny Island** (p111) for a couple of days.
- 2 Explore Bruny Island's ragged southern coastline with **Bruny Island Cruises** (p113).
- 3 Pick up a bag of the Huon Valley's finest at a **roadside apple stall** (p121) around Cygnet.
- 4 Tune in to the twang and stomp of the **Cygnet Folk Festival** (p118).
- 5 Smell the sweet scent of a Huon pine hull at Franklin's **Wooden Boat Centre** (p120).
- 6 Smile at your reflection in an alpine moorland tarn at **Hartz Mountains National Park** (p123).
- 7 Spelunk into the subterranean gloom at **Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs** (p125).
- 8 Ride the **Ida Bay Railway** (p126), Australia's southernmost railway.
- 9 Imagine French explorers and their tall ships anchored in **Recherche Bay** (p117).