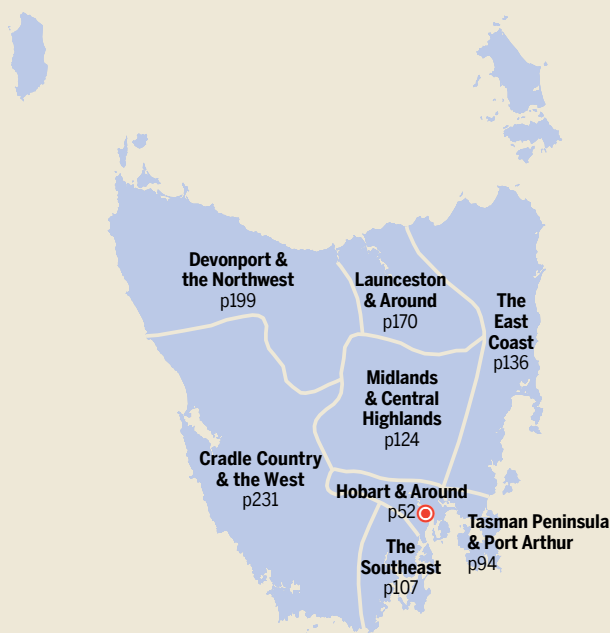




Tasmania



Charles Rawlings-Way, Virginia Maxwell

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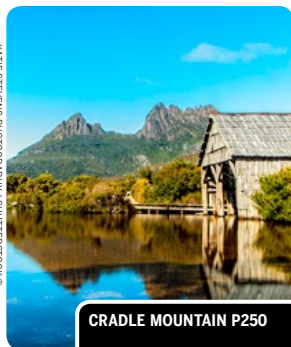
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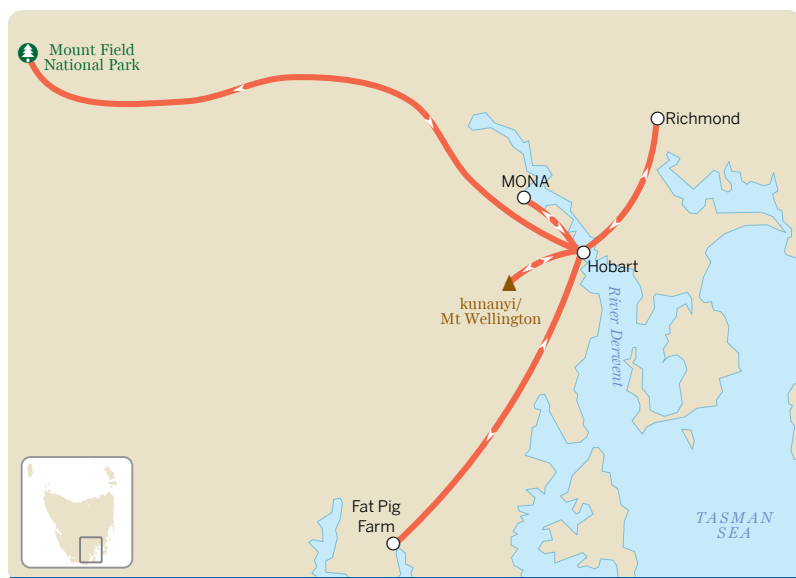
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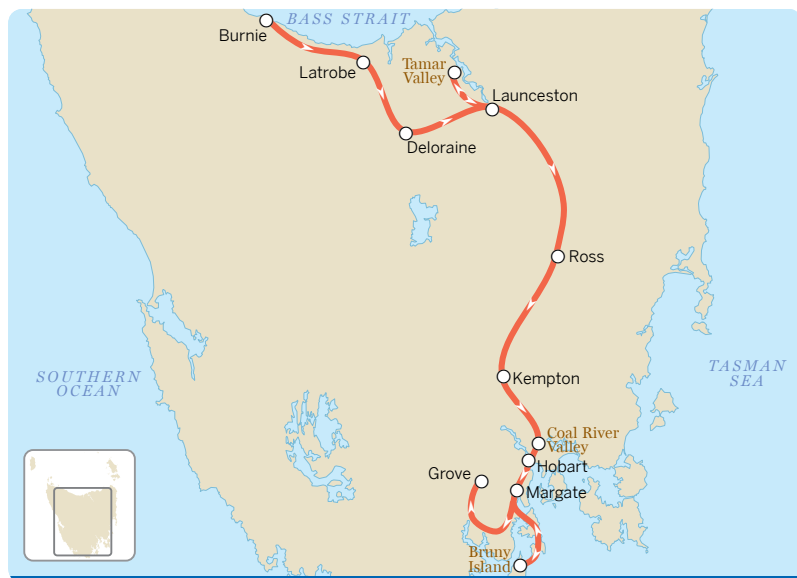
Hobart as a Hub

Fancy a long weekend in Hobart? Take advantage of Tasmania's short driving distances by day-tripping around the hip southern capital.

Spend a day mooching around the **Hobart** waterfront and Battery Point, taking a boat trip up the Derwent River to the dazzling **MONA**, and ending with dinner and drinks in North Hobart. Next day, drive out to history-rich **Richmond**: don't miss the stoic Richmond Bridge, the interesting Bonorong Wildlife Centre and a lazy picnic lunch at Puddleduck Vineyard.

On day three, continue the foodie theme with a prebooked cooking class at **Fat Pig Farm** near Cygnet, where food-critic-turned-farmer Matthew Evans runs entertaining cook-it-then-eat-it classes.

If you have another day up your sleeve, truck out to **Mt Field National Park** for an accessible alpine bushwalk, or book a place on the Mt Wellington Descent – a 22km downhill mountain-bike run from the summit of **kunanyi/Mt Wellington** behind Hobart to the waterfront.



The Food & Wine Route

With a few weeks at your disposal and a powerful thirst/appetite, you'll find that Tasmania plates up a bounty of delights for your consumption.

Start in the island's northwest. Near **Burnie**, Hellyers Road Distillery leads the charge of Tasmanian whisky makers. At the House of Anvers in **Latrobe** you can fill the chocolate-shaped voids in your life. Further south, in **Deloraine**, visit Truffles of Tasmania for a look at some funky fungi.

Modest little **Launceston** offers some fine urban dining: book for dinner at Geronimo or Pierre's. Coffee culture is firmly entrenched here too: try Sweetbrew or Milkbar for a cup of the good black stuff. Launceston is also a beery sort of town: tour the impressive Boag's Brewery (going since 1881) or enjoy a few craft beers at St John. More into wine? The cool-climate **Tamar Valley Wine Region** is just north of town.

Trucking south through the Midlands, stop at **Ross** for a classic Tasmanian curried-scallop pie at Bakery 31, and at **Kempton** for further single-malt indulgences at Old Kempton Distillery, before assessing the wineries in the **Coal River Valley Wine Region** near Richmond (Puddleduck Vineyard is our pick).

In **Hobart**, fill your hamper with local produce at the Saturday-morning Salamanca Market or Sunday-morning Farm Gate Market. Top restaurant picks here include the endearing Temple and high-end Aloft. Cafes are everywhere: try Pilgrim Coffee and Jackman & McRoss. Thirsty? Sign up for a tour of Australia's oldest brewery, Cascade, or pinball between the pubs and bars in North Hobart or around the waterfront.

Continuing south, stop by Devils Brewery on the old **Margate Train** for a craft-beer tasting. A short ferry ride from Kettering, **Bruny Island** offers plenty for wandering foodies: oysters, cheese, smoked meats, beer, whisky and Australia's most southerly vineyard. Back on the 'mainland', the Huon Valley is Australia's apple basket. Don't miss the Apple Shed cider house in **Grove**. Enjoy!



Tasmania with Kids

Tasmania is a naturally active destination: if you've got kids in tow you'll find plenty of challenges, fun times and exercise opportunities right across the island (sometimes all at once).

In **Hobart**, give the family a musical education with some live Friday-night tunes at the Salamanca Arts Centre Courtyard, followed by a crash course in busking at Saturday's Salamanca Market. Other highlights include harbourside fish and chips (try Flip-pers), an afternoon at the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, and a drive up kunanyi/ Mt Wellington for a walk or some winter snowball hurling. If the weather's looking good, Roaring 40s Kayaking runs kid-friendly paddles around Hobart's docks.

Tracking into the state's sublime southeast, check out the wild beaches of **Bruny Island** or explore the craggy coastline with Bruny Island Cruises. Don't miss the lofty **Tahune AirWalk** near Geeveston, some underground action at **Hastings Caves & Thermal Springs** (even in winter, the pool here is lovely and warm), and a chug along the supercute **Ida Bay Railway**, the most southerly railway in Australia, at Lune River.

Rolling up the east coast, consider a boat trip to **Maria Island**, a beautiful national park overrun with native wildlife. Hire some mountain bikes and explore the trails. An endless sequence of brilliant squeaky-sand beaches unfurls as you continue north. Talk to Freycinet Adventures about some low-key kayaking at **Coles Bay**, or tackle the hike up to Wineglass Bay Lookout in **Freycinet National Park**. Ogle some hungry Tasmanian devils at Natureworld near **Bicheno**, or go on a night-time walk to spot the town's resident penguins.

Tracking northwest, **Launceston** offers plenty of distractions for small humans. Get interactive at the Queen Victoria Museum, then check out the Japanese macaques at home in City Park. Defy gravity on the chairlift over Cataract Gorge (you can swim here too, in summer), or try some cable hang-gliding in nearby Trevallyn. Further north up the Tamar Valley, check out the odd little residents at **Beauty Point** with a visit to Seahorse World and Platypus House.



10 DAYS East Coast Classic

Hobart, Port Arthur, Freycinet and the gorgeous Bay of Fires: check out four of Tasmania's greatest hits on this sunny east-coast cruise.

Hear the heartbeat of **Hobart**: great pubs and cafes, brilliant restaurants and heritage vibes. Don't miss Salamanca Pl, the amazing MONA and the view from atop kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

From Hobart, head southeast to the dramatic coastal crags of the **Tasman Peninsula** and the grim convict stories of **Port Arthur Historic Site**. Near Coping, short-cut to the east coast via the Wielangta Forest Drive. Hop on a ferry out to **Maria Island National Park** for mountain biking, camping, bushwalking and wildlife-spotting.

Stop at some east-coast wineries near **Swansea**, then get your camera primed for **Freycinet National Park** and Wine-glass Bay, and follow with sea kayaking and oyster appreciation at Coles Bay. Continue north to the chilled-out fishing town of **Bicheno** for some penguin-spotting, then unwind among the rocky lagoons and headlands of **larapuna/Bay of Fires**.



2 WEEKS Cradle Country & the Northwest

Launceston, the west coast, Cradle Mountain and the northwest: this is certainly the least visited corner of Tasmania. Enjoy!

Kick off with a couple of days in ebullient **Launceston**: check out Cataract Gorge and the excellent Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery (QVMAG), and have dinner at Stillwater and drinks at St John.

From Launceston, explore the eclectic enticements of the **Tamar Valley**: sea-horses, gold mines, lighthouses and wineries. Loop south through historic **Evandale** before drifting west through Deloraine to the **Mole Creek** caves. Don't miss a few days exploring the northern end of impressive **Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park**, the starting point for the famous Overland Track.

From Cradle Mountain, skate southwest to the lunar landscapes of **Queenstown** and ride the West Coast Wilderness Railway to **Strahan**. From Strahan, head north to check the surf at **Marrawah**, then clamber up the Nut in **Stanley** on the north coast. An ocean dip at photogenic **Boat Harbour Beach** awaits.



Above: View of Hobart from the summit of kunanyi/Mt Wellington (p54)

Right: Sea kayaking at Coles Bay (p149)

LIQONVA / SHUTTERSTOCK ©







TARRALEAH

This former hydro-electric workers' town in the Central Highlands has been transformed into a tourist village, with a café, whisky-filled bar/restaurant, accommodation and activities aplenty. (p134)

HARTZ MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Up a long, wiggly dirt road behind Geeveston, this is one of the most accessible corners of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It's an alpine wonderland of lakes, peaks and trails. (p120)

TINDERBOX

Bring your snorkel and explore an underwater eco-trail at this hidden little headland. Bruny Island is just across the D'Entrecasteaux Channel: locals skim across to Denness Point in their boats for a beach BBQ. (p82)

COAL MINES HISTORIC SITE

Not far from Port Arthur is this less well-known convict site, where prisoners once dug coal to fuel Port Arthur's fires. The tiny solitary confinement cells can only hint at the hardships suffered here. (p99)

SOUTHERN OCEAN

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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Charles Rawlings-Way

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Cover photograph: The Neck, Bruny Island, Artie Photography (Artie Ng)/Getty Images ©

THIS BOOK

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Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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Charles is a veteran travel writer who has penned 30-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia – and numerous articles. After dabbling in the dark arts of architecture, cartography, project management and busking for some years, Charles hit the road for LP in 2005 and hasn't stopped travelling since.



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