

TASMANIA ROAD TRIPS

This edition written and researched by

Anthony Ham, Charles Rawlings-Way and Meg Worby

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Reviews

In the Destinations section:

All reviews are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

Sights are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them and, within this order, by author preference.

Eating and Sleeping reviews are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and, within these ranges, by author preference.

Trips

Trip Numbers

Trip Stop

Walking tour

Trip Detour

Route Markers

A5 (63) State Route

Hydrography

Canal

Areas

Water

M31 1 National Highway

River/Creek

Intermittent River

Swamp/Mangrove

Dry/Salt/

Glacier

Beach

Park

Forest

Sportsground

Cemetery

(Christian)

Urban Area

Cemetery (Other)

Intermittent Lake

Map Legend

Routes

Trip Route Trip Detour

Linked Trip Walk Route

Tollway Freeway Primary

> Secondary Tertiary

Unsealed Road Plaza/Mall Steps

= Tunnel Pedestrian

Overpass Walk Track/Path

Boundaries

-- International --- State/Province - Cliff - Wall

Population

Capital (National) ◉

Capital (State/Province) City/Large Town

Town/Village

Transport

0 Airport Cable Car/ Funicular

Parking

-- Train/Railway

(Tram

Underground Train Station

Symbols In This Book

ZaiT aoT



Your Trips



Trin Detour

History & Culture



Food &

Drink



Essential Photo



Walking Tour





Sights

Beaches

Activities

Courses

Tours

Festivals

& Events

a Sleeping

Eating

Drinking

Entertainment

Shopping

Information & Transport

These symbols and abbreviations give vital information for each listing:

Telephone number

Opening hours

P Parking

Nonsmoking

Air-conditioning

Internet access

Wi-fi access

Swimming pool

Vegetarian selection

English-language menu

Family-friendly

Pet-friendly

□ Bus

😟 Ferrv

Tram ☐ Train

apt apartments

d double rooms

dm dorm beds

g guad rooms

r rooms

s single rooms

ste suites

tr triple rooms tw twin rooms

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Destinations

East Coast Tasmania (p52)

Stunning white-sand beaches stretch along Tasmania's east coast, including the Bay of Fires and Freycinet National Park.

Hobart & the Tasman Peninsula (p68)

From charming Hobart to historic Richmond and sombre Port Arthur, explore the remnants of Tasmania's convict past.

Launceston & the Tamar Valley (p90)

Enjoy the bright arts and food scenes in Launceston, then sample Tasmania's finest wines among the vinecovered hillsides of the Tamar Valley.

North & Western Tasmania (p104)

Meander through picturesque northern towns, then immerse yourself in the pristine wilderness of the west coast and Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park.



Driving in Australia

With more than 350,000km of paved roads criss-crossing the country, Australia is an infinitely fascinating road movie come to life.

Driving Fast Facts

- → Right or left? Drive on the left
- → Blood alcohol concentration limit 0.05 (0.00 for learners and probationary drivers)
- → **Signature car** Holden Commodore

DRIVING LICENCE & DOCUMENTS

To drive in Australia you'll need to hold a current driving licence issued in English from your home country. If the licence isn't in English, you'll also need to carry an International Driving Permit, issued in your home country.

INSURANCE

Third-party insurance With the exception of NSW and Queensland, third-party personalinjury insurance is included in the vehicle registration cost, ensuring that every registered vehicle carries at least minimum insurance (if registering your own car in NSW or Queensland, you'll need to arrange this privately). We recommend extending that minimum to at least third-party property insurance – minor collisions can be amazingly expensive.

Rental vehicles When it comes to hire cars, understand your liability in the event of an accident. Rather than risk paying out thousands of dollars, consider taking out comprehensive car insurance or paying an additional daily amount to the rental company for excess reduction (this reduces the excess payable in the event of an accident from between \$2000 and \$5000 to a few hundred dollars).

Exclusions Be aware that if travelling on dirt roads, you usually will not be covered by insurance unless you have a 4WD (read the fine print). Also, many companies' insurance won't cover the cost of damage to glass (including the windscreen) or tyres.

HIRING A CAR

Larger car-rental companies have dropoffs in major cities and towns. Most companies require drivers to be over the age of 21, though in some cases it's 18 and in others 25.

Suggestions to assist in the process:

- → Read the contract from cover to cover.
- → Some companies may require a signed credit-card slip as a bond, others may actually charge your credit card; if this is the case, find out when you'll get a refund.

Road Trip Websites

Australian Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) Weather information.

Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (**1**300 361 033; www. transport.sa.gov.au) SA road conditions.

Green Vehicle Guide (www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au) Rates Australian vehicles based on greenhouse and air-pollution emissions.

Live Traffic NSW (21300 131122; www.livetraffic.com) NSW road conditions.

Main Roads Western Australia (213 81 38; www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) WA road conditions.

Motorcycle Council of NSW (**1**300 679 622; www.mccofnsw.org.au) One of many such organisations around Australia.

Road Report (21800 246 199; www.roadreport.nt.gov.au) NT road conditions.

Traffic & Travel Information (213 19 40; www.transport.sa.gov.au) Queensland road conditions.

- → Ask if unlimited kilometres are included and, if not, what the extra charge per kilometre is.
- → Find out what excess you'll have to pay if you have a prang, and if it can be lowered by an extra charge per day (this option will usually be offered to you whether you ask or not). Check if your personal travel insurance covers you for vehicle accidents and excess.
- → Check for exclusions (hitting a kangaroo, damage on unsealed roads etc) and whether you're covered on unavoidable unsealed roads (eg accessing camp sites). Some companies also exclude parts of the car from cover, such as the underbelly, tyres and windscreen.
- → At pick-up inspect the vehicle for any damage. Make a note of anything on the contract before you sign.
- → Ask about breakdown and accident procedures.
- → If you can, return the vehicle during business hours and insist on an inspection in your presence.

The usual big international companies operate in Australia (Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz, Thrifty). The following websites offer last-minute discounts and the opportunity to compare rates between the big operators:

- www.carhire.com.au
- www.drivenow.com.au
- → www.webjet.com.au

MAPS

Good-quality road and topographical maps are plentiful and readily available around Australia. State motoring organisations are a dependable source of road maps, including road atlases with comprehensive coverage of road networks.

Hema's Australia Road Atlas is a good general road atlas covering the entire country, and it also offers a range of smaller fold-out maps on specific destinations.

ROADS & CONDITIONS

Australia's roads are generally in excellent condition, but never discount the possibility of potholes, especially in rural areas that receive heavy truck traffic.

Overtaking Lanes

If you've spent any time in Europe, you'll be underwhelmed by Australia's dearth of dual carriageway roads. Apart from the Hume Fwy connecting Sydney and Melbourne (the inland route, not the coast road), most motorways are restricted to a 100km (or less) radius around major cities. Although there are regular overtaking lanes on many roads and traffic flows generally maintain a reasonable speed, there are times when you'll become frustrated as you wait to pass a slow caravan, truck or old man in a hat out for a Sunday drive. The only sensible response in such circumstances is patience.

Unsealed Roads

At last count, Australia was so vast that it had 466.874km of unsealed roads – that's significantly more than the distance from earth to the moon! While many of these are suitable for 2WD vehicles when conditions are dry, many more are not, and most become treacherous or impassable after even a little rain. Others peter out into the sand. The simple rule is this – never leave the paved road unless you know the road, and have checked recent weather conditions and asked locals for their advice.

Toll Roads

Toll roads are restricted to freeways within major cities such as Melbourne and Sydney. If you're travelling in a rental vehicle, it should have the necessary electronic reader and any tolls will be charged when you return your vehicle. Either way, take note of any numbers to call at the tollpoints to make sure you don't get hit with a fine for late payment – you usually have between one and three days to make any payment.

ROAD RULES

Give way An important road rule is 'give way to the right' – if an intersection is unmarked (unusual) and at roundabouts, you must give way to vehicles entering the intersection from your right.

Speed limits The general speed limit in built-up and residential areas is 50km/h. Near schools, the limit is usually 25km/h (sometimes 40km/h) in the morning and afternoon. On the highway it's usually 100km/h or 110km/h; in the NT it's either 110km/h or 130km/h. Police have speed radar guns and cameras and are fond of using them in strategic locations.

Seatbelts and car seats It's the law to wear seatbelts in the front and back seats; you're likely to get a fine if you don't. Small children must be belted into an approved safety seat.

Drink-driving Random breath-tests are common. If you're caught with a blood-alcohol level of more than 0.05% expect a fine and the loss of your licence. Police can randomly

Australia Playlist

'Flame Trees' (Cold Chisel; 1984) Small town, big song.

'Back In Black' (AC/DC; 1980) The greatest guitar riff ever?

'Wide Open Road' (The Triffids; 1986) Road-tripping melancholia.

'Beds Are Burning' (Midnight Oil; 1987) Aboriginal land rights anthem. Any Midnight Oil would be a fine thing to have in your glove box.

'Under The Milky Way' (The Church; 1988) Arty haircuts, pointy shoes, jangly guitars.

'Nullarbor' (Kasey Chambers; 2010) Poignant understatement from Australia's first lady of alt-country.

Great albums to have on hand are:

- → Diesel & Dust (Midnight Oil)
- → Circus Animals (Cold Chisel)
- → Neon Ballroom (Silverchair)
- → Kick (INXS)
- → Woodface (Crowded House)
- → The Boatman's Call (Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds)
- Songs From the South: Paul Kelly's Greatest Hits (Paul Kelly)

Driving Problem-Buster

What should I do if my car breaks down? Call the service number of your carhire company and a local garage will be contacted.

What if I have an accident? Your first call should be to the insurance company and you should make sure that you have the contact details (at the very least) of the drivers of all other vehicles involved. Never admit fault unless instructed to do so by your insurance company. For minor accidents you'll need to fill out an accident statement when you return the vehicle. If problems crop up, go to the nearest police station.

What should I do if I get stopped by the police? The police will want to see your driving licence, passport (if you're from overseas) and proof of insurance.

What if I can't find anywhere to stay? If you're travelling during summer and/or holiday periods, always book accommodation in advance as beds fill up fast. If you're stuck and it's getting late, motels and motor inns line the roadside in even small Australian towns, while in outback areas the nearest roadhouse (a one-stop shop for accommodation, food and fuel) is likely to be your only option.

pull any driver over for a breathalyser or drug test.

Mobile phones Using a mobile phone while driving is illegal in Australia (excluding handsfree technology).

FUEL

Fuel types Unleaded and diesel fuel is available from service stations sporting well-known international brand names. LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) is not always stocked at more remote roadhouses; if you're on gas it's safer to have dual-fuel capacity.

Costs Prices vary from place to place, but at the time of writing unleaded was hovering between \$1.20 and \$1.50 in the cities. Out in the country, prices soar – in outback NT, SA, WA and Queensland you can pay as much as \$2.20 per litre.

Availability In cities and towns petrol stations proliferate, but distances between fill-ups can be long in the outback. That said, there are only a handful of tracks where you'll require a long-range fuel tank. On main roads there'll be a small town or roadhouse roughly every 150km to 200km. Many petrol stations, but not all, are open 24 hours.

SAFFTY

Theft from vehicles can be an issue in large cities or tourist areas, but the risk is unlikely to be any higher than you'd encounter back home.

Animal Hazards

- → Roadkill is a huge problem in Australia and many Australians avoid travelling once the sun drops because of the risks posed by nocturnal animals on the roads.
- → Kangaroos are common on country roads, as are cows and sheep in the unfenced outback. Kangaroos are most active around dawn and dusk and often travel in groups: if you see one hopping across the road, slow right down, as its friends may be just behind it.
- → If you hit and kill an animal while driving, pull it off the road, preventing the next car from having a potential accident. If the animal is only injured and is small, or perhaps an orphaned joey (baby kangaroo), wrap it in a towel or blanket and call the relevant wildlife rescue line:

Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (☑1300 264 625; www. ehp.qld.gov.au) Queensland.

Department of Parks & Wildlife (Wildcare Helpline **2**)08-9474 9055; www.parks. dpaw.wa.gov.au) WA.

Fauna Rescue of South Australia (208-7226 0017; www.faunarescue.org.au) SA.

NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue & Education Service (WIRES; ≥1300 094 737; www.wires.org.au) NSW.

Wildcare Inc NT (**2**0408 885 341, 08-8988 6121; www.wildcarent.org.au) NT.

Wildlife Victoria (21300 094 535; www. wildlifevictoria.org.au) Victoria.

Behind the Wheel

Fatigue Be wary of driver fatigue; driving long distances (particularly in hot weather) can be utterly exhausting. Falling asleep at the wheel is not uncommon. On a long haul, stop and rest every two hours or so – do some exercise, change drivers or have a coffee.

Road trains Be careful when overtaking road trains (trucks with two or three trailers stretching for as long as 50m); you'll need distance and plenty of speed. On single-lane roads get right off the road when one approaches.

Unsealed roads Unsealed road conditions vary wildly and cars perform differently when braking and turning on dirt. Don't exceed 80km/h on dirt roads; if you go faster, you won't have time to respond to a sharp turn, stock on the road or an unmarked gate or cattle grid.

DRIVING IN OUTBACK AUSTRALIA

In 'Power & the Passion', Midnight Oil's damning ode to the Australian suburban condition, Peter Garrett sings, 'And no one goes outback that's that.' It really is amazing how few Australians have explored the outback. To many, it's either a mythical place inhabited by tourists and Indigenous Australians, or something for the too-hard basket – too hot, too far to drive, too expensive to fly, too many sand dunes and flies... But for those who make the effort, a strange awakening occurs – a quiet comprehension of the primal terrain and profound size of Australia that you simply can't fathom while sitting on Bondi Beach.

About the Outback

The Australian outback is vast, blanketing the centre of the continent. While most Australians live on the coast, that thin green fringe of the continent is hardly typical of this enormous land mass. Inland is the desert soul of Australia.

Weather patterns vary from region to region – from sandy arid deserts to semiarid scrublands to tropical savannah – but you can generally rely on hot sunny days, starry night skies and mile after mile of unbroken horizon.

Outback Driving & Safety Checklist

You need to be particularly organised and vigilant when travelling in the outback, es-

Type of Vehicle

2WD Depending on where you want to travel, a regulation 2WD vehicle might suffice. They're cheaper to hire, buy and run than 4WDs and are more readily available. Most are fuel efficient, and easy to repair and sell. Downsides: no off-road capability and no room to sleep!

4WD Four-wheel drives are good for outback travel as they can access almost any track you get a hankering for. And there might even be space to sleep in the back. Downsides: poor fuel economy, awkward to park and more expensive to hire or buy.

Campervan Creature comforts at your fingertips: sink, fridge, cupboards, beds, kitchen and space to relax. Downsides: slow and often not fuel-efficient, not great on dirt roads and too big for nipping around the city.

Motorcycle The Australian climate is great for riding, and bikes are handy in city traffic. Downsides: Australia isn't particularly bike-friendly in terms of driver awareness, there's limited luggage capacity, and exposure to the elements.

Road Trains

On many outback highways you'll see thundering road trains: huge trucks (a prime mover plus two or three trailers) up to 50m long. These things don't move over for anyone, and it's like a scene out of *Mad Max* having one bear down on you at 120km/h. When you see a road train approaching on a narrow bitumen road, slow down and pull over – if the truck has to put its wheels off the road to pass you, the resulting barrage of stones will almost certainly smash your windscreen. When trying to overtake one, allow plenty of room (about a kilometre) to complete the manoeuvre. Road trains throw up a lot of dust on dirt roads, so if you see one coming it's best to just pull over and stop until it's gone past.

And while you're on outback roads, don't forget to give the standard bush wave to oncoming drivers – it's simply a matter of lifting the index finger off the steering wheel to acknowledge your fellow motorist.

pecially on remote sandy tracks, due to the scorching temperatures, long distances between fuel stops and isolation. Following are a few tips.

Communication

- → Report your route and schedule to the police, a friend or relative.
- → Mobile phones are practically useless in the outback. A safety net is to hire a satellite phone, high-frequency (HF) radio transceiver equipped to pick up the Royal Flying Doctor Service bases, or emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB).
- → In an emergency, stay with your vehicle; it's easier to spot than you are, and you won't be able to carry a heavy load of water very far. Don't sit inside your vehicle as it will become an oven in hot weather.
- → If you do become stranded, set fire to a spare tyre (let the air out first). The pall of smoke will be visible for miles.

Dirt-Road Driving

- → Inflate your tyres to the recommended levels for the terrain you're travelling on; on desert dirt, deflate your tyres to 25psi to avoid punctures.
- → Reduce speed on unsealed roads, as traction is decreased and braking distances increase.
- → Dirt roads are often corrugated: keeping an even speed is the best approach.
- → Dust on outback roads can obscure your vision, so always stop and wait for it to settle.
- → If your vehicle is struggling through deep sand, deflating your tyres a bit will help. If you

do get stuck, don't attempt to get out by revving the engine; this just causes wheels to dig in deeper.

Road Hazards

- Outback highways are usually long, flat ribbons of tarmac stretching across the red desert flats. The temptation is to get it over with quickly, but try to keep a lid on your speed.
- → Take a rest every few hours: driver fatigue is a real problem.
- → Wandering cattle, sheep, emus, kangaroos, camels etc make driving fast a dangerous prospect. Take care and avoid nocturnal driving, as this is often when native animals come out. Many car-hire companies prohibit nighttime driving.
- → Road trains are an ever-present menace on the main highways. Give them a wide berth – they're much bigger than you!

Supplies & Equipment

- → Always carry plenty of water: in warm weather allow 5L per person per day and an extra amount for the radiator, carried in several containers.
- Bring plenty of food in case of a breakdown.
- Carry a first-aid kit, a good set of maps, a torch and spare batteries, a compass, and a shovel for digging if you get bogged.

Weather & Road Conditions

→ Check road conditions before travelling: roads that are passable in the Dry (March to October) can disappear beneath water during the Wet.

Automobile Associations

Under the auspices of the **Australian Automobile Association** (**2**02-6247 7311; www.aaa.asn.au) are automobile clubs in each state, handy when it comes to insurance, regulations, maps and roadside assistance. Club membership (around \$100 to \$150) can save you a lot of trouble if things go wrong mechanically. If you're a member of an auto club in your home country, check if reciprocal rights are offered in Australia. The major Australian auto clubs generally offer reciprocal rights in other states and territories.

AANT (Automobile Association of the Northern Territory; **1**3 11 11; www.aant. com.au)

NRMA (National Roads & Motorists' Association; 213 11 22; www.mynrma.com. au) NSW and the ACT.

RAC (Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia; 213 17 03; www.rac.com.au)

RACQ (Royal Automobile Club of Queensland; 213 19 05; www.racq.com.au)

RACT (Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania; **2**13 27 22; www.ract.com.au)

RACV (Royal Automobile Club of Victoria; **2**13 72 28; www.racv.com.au)

- Check weather forecasts daily.
- → Keep an eye out for potholes, rough sections, roads changing surfaces without notice, soft and broken verges, and single-lane bridges.
- → Take note of the water-level markers at creek crossings to gauge the water's depth before you proceed.
- → Don't attempt to cross flooded bridges or causeways unless you're sure of the depth, and of any road damage hidden underwater.

Your Vehicle

- → Have your vehicle serviced and checked before you leave.
- → Load your vehicle evenly, with heavy items inside and light items on the roof rack.

- → Check locations and opening times of service stations, and carry spare fuel and provisions; opportunities for fill-ups can be infrequent.
- → Carry essential tools: a spare tyre (two if possible), a fan belt and a radiator hose, as well as a tyre-pressure gauge and an air pump.
- → An off-road jack might come in handy, as will a snatchem strap or tow rope for quick extraction when you're stuck (useful if there's another vehicle to pull you out).
- → A set of cheap, high-profile tyres (around \$80 each) will give your car a little more ground clearance.

OUR WRITERS



ANTHONY HAM

Anthony was born in Melbourne, grew up in Sydney and has spent much of his adult life travelling the world. He recently returned to Australia after ten years living

in Madrid and brings to this guide more than fifteen years' experience as a travel writer. As a recently returned expat, Anthony is loving the opportunity to rediscover his country and indulge his passion for wilderness. He brings to the book the unique perspective of knowing the land intimately and yet seeing it anew as if through the eyes of an outsider. Check out his website, anthonyham.com.



MEG WORBY

Tucking in to a creamed scallop pie in Hobart and pondering erstwhile Tasmanian Errol Flynn, Meg realised that a love of beauty, a lust for adventure

and a yearning for tights must naturally have begun here. She is a former member of Lonely Planet's languages, editorial, web and publishing teams in Melbourne and London. *Tasmania* is her ninth Lonely Planet guidebook as co-author, with another dashing Tasmanian.



CHARLES RAWLINGS-WAY

As a likely lad, Charles suffered in school shorts through Hobart winters. Ice on the puddles, snow on Mt Wellington...he

dreamed of one day living somewhere warmer. Now that he does (Adelaide) and the world is hotting up, Hobart is looking good again! Returning to Tasmania on reconnaissance, he was thrilled to discover that his old home town has good coffee now, Launceston has a craft beer hipster bar and there's still snow on Mt Wellington. Charles has penned 20-something Lonely Planet guidebooks

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