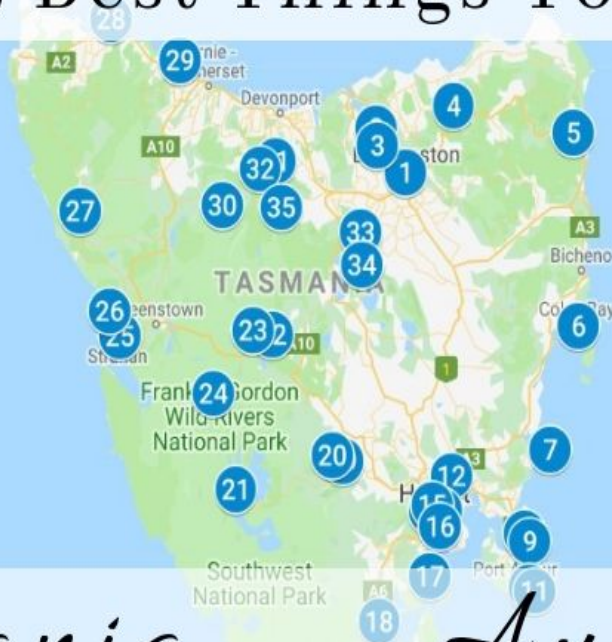


35 Best Things To See



Tasmania

Australia

35 of the Best Attractions in Tasmania

Tasmania is packed full of fun things to do for couples, groups, families and solo travelers. Attractions – man-made and natural – are around every corner.

The most incredible World Heritage Wilderness areas can be accessed, some of the best beaches in the world are there to explore and the incredible history of Tasmania is both grim and remarkable.

Map of Tassie

Our interactive map of Tasmania has all of the places listed below marked to help visitors plan an itinerary. [Click here](#) to view the map page.

Self Drive or Tasmania Tour Packages

Whether you are on a self-drive holiday or have opted for one of the **Tasmanian holiday packages** on offer – expect to be surprised and thrilled with what Australia's island state offers.

Best Time To Visit Tasmania?

When is the best time to visit Tasmania? Every season offers something special though Summer is the main tourist season of course. Read our guide to the seasons and **ideal times to tour the Island.**

Accommodation in Tasmania

There is plenty of accommodation to choose from in Tasmania, **unusual and spectacular places to stay** as well as campgrounds – both free and paid. Download and use the **Wiki Camps AU** app to find the best camping and caravan parks on the Island.

Booking .com is one of the best websites to **find great accommodation** and the best price for your stay anywhere in Tasmania or around the world.

We have included below some favorite accommodation choices along with our highlights of what to see in Tasmania.

How much time is needed to tour Tassie?

Do not think of Tassie as being small enough to drive around in a few days!

Two weeks will be a good time frame to see a lot of the island, though four weeks for a road trip would be ideal. Six weeks would be even better as there would still be so much to experience. The island has many stunning National Parks and wilderness areas to explore.

Just to cover the incredible things to do that we have listed below, would take at least 30 days!

There will be more 'gems' to visit along the way, unexpected surprises and places that are maybe not listed here. Our list of the top 35 places to visit in Tasmania does cover attractions all over the island and will provide enough inspiration to keep visitors on the road and busy for weeks.

Size of Tasmania

It might be tiny but it is packed full of more attractions than visitors might expect.

- 68,332 sq. km / 26,383 sq. miles
 - North to South, Tasmania covers 222 km / 138 m from the northern town of Georgetown all the way down to Cockle Creek, which is as far south you can drive.
 - East to West it is roughly 298 km / 186 m
 - The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area covers approximately 1,584,000 hectares which makes up nearly one-fifth of the island.
 - Tassie is larger than Bali, though with a population of just over 500,000, it is far less populated as the little island of Bali has a population of 4.225 million!
 - Tasmania is roughly the same size as Ireland or Switzerland
- Find more information on various [size comparisons of Australia](#) compared to other countries of the world.

Best of Tasmania – Our Top 35 Things to See and Do in Tassie

This list of 35 places to visit starts in Launceston, in the north of Tasmania. It then goes down the Tamar Valley and continues in a clockwise circuit of the island. This should help visitors to plan a self-drive vacation to this awesome part of Australia.

1. Launceston & The Cataract Gorge

Launceston is a pretty city with plenty to see and do. Cataract Gorge is one of the favorite places for locals and visitors alike. Great swimming, pretty walks, and a scenic chairlift. **One or two days will be enough time to see Launceston.**

Accommodation in Launceston

Two properties are our particular favorites for somewhere special to stay in Launceston.

- **Peppers Silo Hotel** is set within historic old grain silos. Recycled timber features in the rooms and some with have spectacular views over the water to Launceston. The restaurant serves quality food and there is plenty of options for pampering with an onsite day-spa etc.

- **Turret House** is a spectacular heritage property, the Queen Anne style home was built in 1902. There is a shared lounge where guests can chat. Turret House is a reasonably short walk from the city center and not far from Cataract Gorge.

2. Tamar Valley

A day trip (or longer) down the **Tamar Valley** is a must. Stop at Brady's Lookout, named after one of Tasmania's naughtiest boys, Bushranger Matthew Brady. Wineries are established on both the East and West Tamar. There is nothing prettier than a drive along the Tamar on a glorious still day when the reflections are at their best on the river. Drive down along the West Tamar, follow the old road beside the river at Rosevears and continue along past Deviot and across the Batman Bridge. Beaconsfield, Georgetown, and Low Head are all interesting places to visit too. **A full day or two would be ideal to see this area.**

Accommodation in the Tamar Valley

- The **Armalong Winery Chalets** are stunning and located right by Grindelwald, the 'Swiss' Village. The self-contained chalets offer views across the river towards the mountains and are close to so many attractions and a short drive away from Launceston.
-

3. Grindelwald

Tassie's own little piece of Switzerland. Love it or loathe it. The dream of a Dutchman to have his own Swiss Village in Tassie! About 15 minutes drive from Launceston on the West Tamar River. **Not a lot of time needed to visit this spot as it's quite small...**

Accommodation in Grindelwald, Tasmania

A few choices are on offer at Grindelwald, though we love the **self-contained chalets** at the resort, overlooking the ornamental lake and golf course.

4. North East Tasmania

From Georgetown all the way to the topmost North-Easterly point of Tasmania there are gorgeous beaches, forest walks, waterfalls and plenty to see. **Bridestowe Estate Lavender Farm** is one of the most popular attractions.

Accommodation in North East Tasmania

Mara Ponds Shed in Branxholme is a beautifully renovated property with period features that sleeps up to 5 people and is set on a couple of acres of beautiful gardens with a small lake, mountain views, and easy access to visit nearby attractions such as Bridestowe Estate.

5. Bay of Fires – Binalong Bay

The name sets the imagination racing from the start. Tassie scenery does not get much more amazing than at Binnalong Bay and the Bay of Fires region. This beauty spot is a long-time holiday favorite for many Tasmanian families.

The bay was named in 1773 by Captain Tobias Furneaux, who saw fires that the Aboriginal people on the beaches had lit. It is commonly thought the name derived from the stunning orange lichen on the rocks. Loads of rock hopping to do here!

Accommodation near the Bay of Fires, Tasmania

- Some amazing properties are available in the area, from Eco-Retreats to seaside cottages. **Browse the available properties** to find your perfect coastal getaway.
- Lots of free camping spots along the coastline, use the WikiCampsAU app.

6. The Freycinet Peninsula and Wine Glass Bay

Another iconic Tasmanian destination! The world-famous **Wine Glass Bay** with clear blue waters, white sands, and fabulous walking tracks.... go here. Don't miss it off your list! **Nearby Friendly Beaches** is an awesome spot too.

Accommodation at the Freycinet Peninsula

Freycinet Lodge has spectacular views across to 'The Hazards' on the within the National Park and is in a superb location to explore Wine Glass Bay and the coast. The lodge offers a range of unique rooms. **Find the Best Deals** to Stay at the Freycinet Lodge

7. Maria Island

20 kilometers long, located in the Tasman Sea, rugged mountains and oozing with convict history. Maria Island is well worth adding to the Tassie adventures list! *"Maria Island National Park is unique, being part of a convict probation station which is one of 11 historic places, that together form the 'Australian Convicts Sites World Heritage Property'. It is an escape from the real world into the past with no shops with only ranger vehicles".*

Read more and maybe book your holiday accommodation in the historic penitentiary on Maria Island...

8. Port Arthur and The Tasman Peninsula

This is a place that needs little introduction. Some of Australia's saddest historical events occurred here, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. *"Follow the history of Port Arthur, from timber camp to prison at the forefront of criminal reform methods, right through to a world-class tourist destination".*

While in the area, visit the Tessellated Pavement, Devils Kitchen, Blowhole and local beaches of the **Tasman Peninsula**.

PS BEST EVER Fish and Chips at the blowhole! A mobile van called'Doo-Licious' was at the blowhole and they were awesome!

Accommodation on the Tasman Peninsula

- One of the finest places to stay is at the Eagle Hawk Pavilions. Just two self-contained apartments with stunning views of the bay. **Find the best price to stay** at the Eagle Hawk Pavilions.
- **Find more accommodation options** to suit your needs and budget.

9. Doo Town

We just had to include this hilarious little town, not far from Port Arthur. From its beginnings in the 1930s, consisting of holiday shacks (holiday cottages), a local Architect named his shack 'DOO I' and the idea struck others as a novel naming and so the trend caught on with many 'Doo's'. A great giggle and plenty of photo opportunities!

10. Awesome boat trip to Cape Pillar

A **boat cruise** around the famous Cape Pillar, or even a **helicopter flight**, definitely should be included in your visit to Tassie. A spectacular region that worth seeing from sea level.

11. Cape Pillar Hiking

From Fortescue Bay campground, a number of incredible hikes are accessible. The bushwalks start from a 2km ramble... Read more details from **Parks Tas**.

Can you walk to Cape Pillar with just a Tasmanian National Parks pass?

- Yes. The walking is limited, you cannot walk the whole 3 Capes Track with just a parks pass, that walk must be pre-booked. Read more about walking to Cape Pillar **here**.

The Three Caps Walking Track is a pre-booked, self-guided hike with bunk room accommodation provided. A maximum of 48 walkers re allowed on the trail each day, divided into smaller groups with staggered starting times.

All walkers share the same basic, though well-designed accommodation with cooking facilities. Everyone must take their own meals. The cost, in 2019, is \$495 per person Read about it **here**.

Three Capes Walk – Fully Guided: For hikers with a healthy budget and who want a more luxurious experience with meals provided and exclusive accommodation, the **Tas Walking Co.** provides this opportunity.

It is possible to walk to Cape Hauy, described as one of Australia's best day hikes. Self-guided or through a **tour company, this walk is spectacular**.

12. Richmond & The Famous Bridge

Heading towards Hobart, a detour to all the little coastal towns and up to Richmond is rewarding. The Richmond Bridge is heritage listed. The arched bridge is 25 km north of Hobart. It is a beautiful town and the bridge has a couple of claims to fame – the oldest bridge still in use in Australia and the oldest stone span bridge in Australia.

Accommodation in Richmond, Tasmania

Richmond has some incredible places to stay, historic homes, self-contained apartments, and cottages. Browse some of the **best places available**.

13. Hobart – Capital of Tasmania

Well known for the Salamanca Market and New Year's Eve celebrations as the Sydney to Hobart yacht race finishes, Hobart is a great city to visit.

Be sure to go to the top of Mt Wellington for **superb views**.

Mt Wellington is very popular, try to get there as early as possible when it is quieter!

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are also a great place to visit, perfect for some quiet time.

Accommodation in Hobart

The Islington is a small luxury hotel with fabulous views of Mt Wellington. *“Decorated with fine art and furnished with antiques, Islington appeals to those who desire the very best in service, presented in an atmosphere of serenity, luxury, and tranquillity”.* Find the **Best Price to Indulge in a Luxurious Stay** in Hobart

Dozens of accommodation options are available in Hobart from new, sleek apartments and hotels to heritage list properties. **Browse properties here.**

14. Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

The T.M.A.G is definitely a place to add to an itinerary when touring Tasmania. The Aboriginal Heritage information is confronting, honest and maybe overwhelming to some people. It is a disgrace that the majority of Australians are not taught the honest facts about our past in schools.

15. Museum of Old & Modern Art (MONA)

A stunning building and definitely worth a **visit**. Free admission for under 18's and Tasmanian residents, otherwise there is a charge of \$15 – \$28.

Accommodation near M.O.N.A.

The Mona Pavilions luxury ‘Dens’ are as spectacular as the gallery itself. Each one is unique and finished with every detail carefully considered to provide a very special stay.

Find the Best Deals to Indulge and Stay at the Mona Pavilions.

16. The Southern Lights

Tasmania is becoming well-known for viewing the Southern Lights and has some excellent vantage points. Read a complete guide on where and when to view them [here](#).

17. Bruny Island

What an absolute treasure [Bruny Island](#) is! Beaches, history, wildlife, super accommodation, and stunning camping spots! Take the ferry across from Kettering, about 40 minutes drive south of Hobart. The crossing is not overly expensive and the experience is priceless!

Be sure to see the **Little Penguins at the reserve on 'The Neck'**. A local guide is often there to give a presentation about the little birds and it's free. Visitors need a car or to be on a tour to see the island properly. A few days can easily be spent here, especially for anyone keen on bushwalking.

Accommodation on Bruny Island

There is such a good range of accommodation on Bruny Island. Free camping and caravan parks as well as self-contained accommodation and bed and breakfast options. Browse and find the best accommodation [here](#).

18. Huon Valley

A trip to Tassie would not be complete without a drive through the Huon Valley.

A stunning region with so much to see and do: Incredible wilderness walking tracks, jet boat rides, The Tahune 'Airwalk', wonderful **Cockle Creek at the very end, Hastings Caves and the Thermal Springs...**

We enjoyed the warm thermal pool at **Hastings Caves** – it is a blue swimming pool fed by warm springs. **The caves** are great too. We were left disappointed by the **Tahune Airwalk** – an awesome structure and great views, though really pricey for what it is.

Accommodation in the Huon Valley

- Stay near Hastings Caves at **Smugglers Rest Apartments** in Dover, located by the coast and an easy drive to other attractions in the Huon Valley.
 - Browse more wonderful places to stay in the Huon Valley **here**.
-

19. Mt Field National Park

Massive trees, the famous **Russell Falls**, and some stunning walks. Along with a top campground, Mt Field is well known and loved by Tasmanians and visitors to the Island.

Accommodation in the Mt Field National Park

- Staying in the National Park is a popular holiday spot for Tasmanians, we used to camp here as kids. **The Russell Falls Holiday Cottages** are a great way to stay, self-contained, and in the center of all the action.
 - The **Mount Field Campground** is lovely or camp nearby at (Facebook page) **'Left of Field'**, the Lefty of Field campsite can be found on WikiCampsAU app.
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20. The Styx Valley of the Giants

The Styx Valley of the Giants is less than two hours drive from Hobart and home to some of the tallest trees on Earth. For years, it was one of Tasmania's hottest conservation battlegrounds, with patches of its giant trees logged against the best efforts of environmentalists.

In 2013, the logging stopped and the Styx was finally given the recognition it deserved, protected as a formal reserve and added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Now, the Styx offers a unique visitor experience. Free from the backdrop of conflict, controversy and destruction, visitors can explore the myriad of walking tracks throughout the valley and walk among ancient rainforests, towering eucalypts and along a wild, free-flowing river.

Read more about the self drive & walking guide on the **Wilderness Society website.**

21. Strathgordon and the Gordon Dam plus Scary Abseiling!

The Gordon Dam wall is 132 meters high and was built in 1974. **Abseiling** down the wall is an option for the brave... I was hoping to book the kids on as a surprise for them... but it is for 18 and over only. Shame.

Be sure to see the **2,000-year-old Huon pine stump** at Pedder Wilderness Lodge, near the dam wall.

We enjoyed staying at one of our favorite free camps down this way at **Edgar Pond on the Scott's Peak Road** (find it on WikiCamps AU app). There is a smashing little walk on the road in called the '**Creepy Crawly Walk**' – **don't miss it!**

Accommodation at Strathgordon

Air BnB is one of the best ways to find **accommodation in or near Strathgordon**.

22.** MUST SEE** 'The Wall' at Derwent Bridge

This is my absolute favorite. We went to 'The Wall' without really knowing what it was, people just said to go and see it. Wow. I think it's better to not really know the whole story, just arrive with plenty of time and enjoy this man-made treasure. Kids are welcome but must be kept under control, no cameras allowed inside. If you must know what it is, **read more...**

Accommodation Derwent Bridge

Derwent Bridge is close to Lake St Clair National Park where a few great places to stay can be found as well as in the little township. [Browse choices here.](#)

23. Lake St Clair National Park

Lake St Clair is at the southern end of the world-famous Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and is part of the [Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area](#).

Lake St Clair National Park is awesome. Bushwalking, cruise on the Lake and the end of the [Overland Track](#) from Cradle Mountain.

Accommodation near Lake St Clair

Pumphouse Point is an extra special place to stay and in an awesome location. *“Two industrial buildings gently transformed as an intimate retreat in the heart of the World Heritage wilderness. A place to side-step daily life and connect with others in some of the most spectacular landscape on the planet”.*

[Find The Best Price to Stay in this Unique Tasmanian Accommodation](#)

24. Franklin River & Whitewater Adventure

*The Franklin is one of the best known of the many rivers that run through the **Wild Rivers National Park**.*

*The walk along the banks of the Franklin and through an example of the **cool temperate rainforest** that is widespread throughout the park will give you an idea of the beauty that lies within the heart of this wild river wilderness.*

Along the walk you will find interpretation signs that detail some of the many values of this magnificent region.

Learn about the Franklin River history and preservation protests on a **short walk** or immerse yourself in a **whitewater** experience!

25. West Coast – Strahan, Queenstown & Gordon River

An absolute must on any Tasmanian holiday **itinerary**. River cruises, wilderness, the raw beauty of Queenstown – so much to see.

Strahan is a lovely little fishing village and an ideal base for a West Coast of Tasmania holiday.

World Heritage Cruises

A family-owned company – since 1896! We highly recommended boarding one of their cruises when visiting the South West. On a still day, the reflections in the Gordon River are stunning. Cruises go across Macquarie Harbour and out to the entrance of the harbor before plying their way up the river... Read more on their website.

Accommodation West Coast Tasmania, Strahan

The Wheelhouse Luxury Apartments, perched on the cliff overlooking the Harbour, are the perfect way to enjoy this beautiful part of the West Coast of Tasmania. **Find the Best Prices To Stay here.**

Browse many more excellent places to stay in Strahan from budget options, historic properties to luxury apartments.

26. Henty Sand Dunes

11 km north of Strahan (on the Zeehan road). Huge sand dunes, fabulous for tobogganing! Toboggans can be hired from a few places in Strahan or take your own... boogie boards maybe.

27. West Coast Wilderness – The Tarkine & Corinna

The Tarkine is a special place to **visit**. *“The 447,000 hectare Tarkine Wilderness Area is Australia’s largest tract of unprotected temperate rainforest and it contains vast forests of myrtle, leatherwood and pine trees.*

It is home to one of the greatest concentrations of Aboriginal sites in Australia.

Almost all The Tarkine’s 447,000 hectares is alive with snakes, frogs, birds, 28 different mammals, endangered wedge-tailed eagles and the now rare Astacopsis gouldi – the world’s biggest freshwater lobster. “.

Allow plenty of time to visit this unique area. Walks, massive trees, wildlife, camping, accommodation, canoeing, and a giant tunnel slide!

Accommodation in the Tarkine & Corinna

Nearby **Corinna** is a speck of a village that deserves to be on your holiday itinerary too. A step back in time, with a Wilderness Experience **accommodation** option.

28. The Nut at Stanley

The core of a volcano, 152 metres high. The Nut stands out like a sore thumb on the northwest coast of Tassie, by Stanley.

Designed and manufactured in Austria, the **chairlift** takes folks up and down or you can walk.

We recommend walking one way at least... it just depends on whether you prefer going up or down!

Accommodation in Stanley

Stanley is one of the towns in Tasmania with more amazing, historic accommodation choices than most towns can boat anywhere in Australia.

- The **Ship Inn** is one of our favorites as well as **Sea Salt Holiday House** with spectacular views.
 - **Browse these other gorgeous places** to find the perfect place to stay in Stanley.
-

29. Boat Harbour Beach, Table Cape and the North West Coast

So many fabulous spots to visit as you cruise down the coast. We loved Boat Harbour Beach and all the little villages along the way, also the town of Penguin with its colony of Little Penguins as well as a big penguin sculpture that graces the main entrance to the town.

Accommodation near Boat Harbour

So many choices of special places to stay. Boat Harbour has holiday homes, apartments and something for every budget. **Browse listings...**

30. Cradle Mountain & Dove Lake Walk

One of Tasmania's most famous natural attractions and the start of the 7-day overland track.

Fabulous walks, **Dove Lake circuit** being one of the most popular, plus many more of varying difficulty. Watch for little Tasmanian Devils, they are easy to spot if you stay in the park and do a night walk.

If you are staying in the National Park, the accommodation is fantastic and restaurants cater to visitors really well.

Accommodation: Peppers Lodge, Cradle Mountain

Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge is simply stunning. Set in the World Heritage Listed Cradle Mountain National Park, each cabin is unique. The 'King Billy' Suite is the most luxurious with a spa on the deck, wood fire, huge picture windows looking out onto the wilderness and so much more.

Find the **Best Prices to Stay at Peppers Lodge Other highly recommended accommodation options at Cradle Mountain:**

- **Discovery Parks** Cabins
- **Cradle Mountain Hotel**
- **Cradle Mountain Highlanders**

31. Sheffield – Town of Murals

The first mural in the little town was unveiled in 1986. Follow the history of the region in pictures as you explore the town.

Accommodation in Sheffield

Plenty of accommodation options such as the **Carinya Farm** Holiday Retreat.

32. **Tasmazia** & The Village of Lower Crackpot

With 8 mazes, Tasmazia is reported to be the largest maze complex in the world. The village of Lower Crackpot is, well, a crack up. A great day out for the whole family in an area called the Promised Land.

33. Liffey Falls

One of the prettiest waterfalls in Tasmania. One the slopes of the Great Western Tiers. A friendly debate is ongoing as to the prettier of the Falls – Liffey Falls or down south the Russell Falls, in **Mt Field National Park**.

34. Tasmanian Central Highlands

The Lakes region – Famed for **world-class fishing** and stunning scenery. Plenty of caravan and camping **sites** in the region. A tour of Tasmania is not complete without visiting the Highlands and Lakes region!

35. Wildlife Parks

Tassie has a few excellent parks to choose from: **Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary** near **Hobart, Tasmania** **Zoo** in **Launceston** and **Trowunna** at **Mole Creek** (near Cradle Mountain). All the parks have good reputations.

Getting to Tasmania

Getting to Tas is easy with regular flights from mainland Australia or on the ferry to Tasmania, either overnight or a day sailing during the summer months. **By Ship – Spirit of Tasmania**

Regular sailing all year round leave from Melbourne to Devonport in Tasmania and return. Foot passengers and also travelers with their own vehicles use the service.

During the busy summer season, the Spirit of Tasmania also offers day sailings.

Hints For Booking on the Spirit of Tasmania

Try to book early to get the best fare. If you do a search and wait to book, the price may go up. **Also** if you have already done a search for fares and then come back later to book – the nature of the internet means that your visit will almost certainly be tracked and the price increased because of this tracking (happens all the time on the web).

- Clear the cache/history on your device before booking so the 'cookies' are cleared.
- Either use an incognito browser window for searching in the first place or for when booking.
- Or ... Be super paranoid and book from a totally different computer!
- This applies when booking airfares etc. too.
- Deals on the ferry are often on offer, sign up to the Spirit of Tasmania newsletter to be kept up to date on specials.

Taking your Dog on the Spirit of Tassie

We took our dog with us when we went to Tasmania. The way over we 'dutifully' put her in the kennel onboard. We hated leaving her there. They were clean and safe, but just horrid to leave a little dog scared in the noisy bowels of the ship.

A bit of 'googling' and I saw that they are not compelled to be kenneled at all.

On the return voyage, we asked to keep her in the car. Signed a simple form with no hassles at all and she remained in the car and her own space. Much better.

You cannot go to the cars during the voyage though.

- All the decks are ventilated, it is not a problem at all.
- When you kennel a dog, the kennels are located on 2 of the car decks, so this means you may be kept waiting in line to board.
- When dogs are being kept in the car, it means you generally board in the order of your arrival.
- Day sailings take about 9 hours and night sailings about 12 hours – it would be better to go on a day sailing with a dog, perhaps.
- Try to be one of the last vehicles onboard to delay the time your dog is confined.
- It is free to take dogs on the ship, though a kennel costs a small amount extra.

Flying to Tasmania

A number of airlines service Tasmania and travelers with regular flights into the major cities of Launceston and Hobart.

Flights into Hobart

- From Melbourne – 1hr 15 mins
- From Sydney – 1hr 50 mins
- From Brisbane – 2hrs 35 mins

Flights into Launceston

- From Melbourne – 1hr
- From Sydney – 1hr 35 min
- From Brisbane – 2hrs 30 mins

Find Airfares and Car Hire

We love to use **Sky Scanner** for finding the best airfares. Direct flight to the two major cities in Tasmania depart from Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane.

Drive Now is a car and motorhome comparison website where the best deals from all the major car rental companies can be found. It is simple to search and book the best price for a hire car or motorhome/campervan, even a minibus, for a small group traveling together.

