

# The Storyteller

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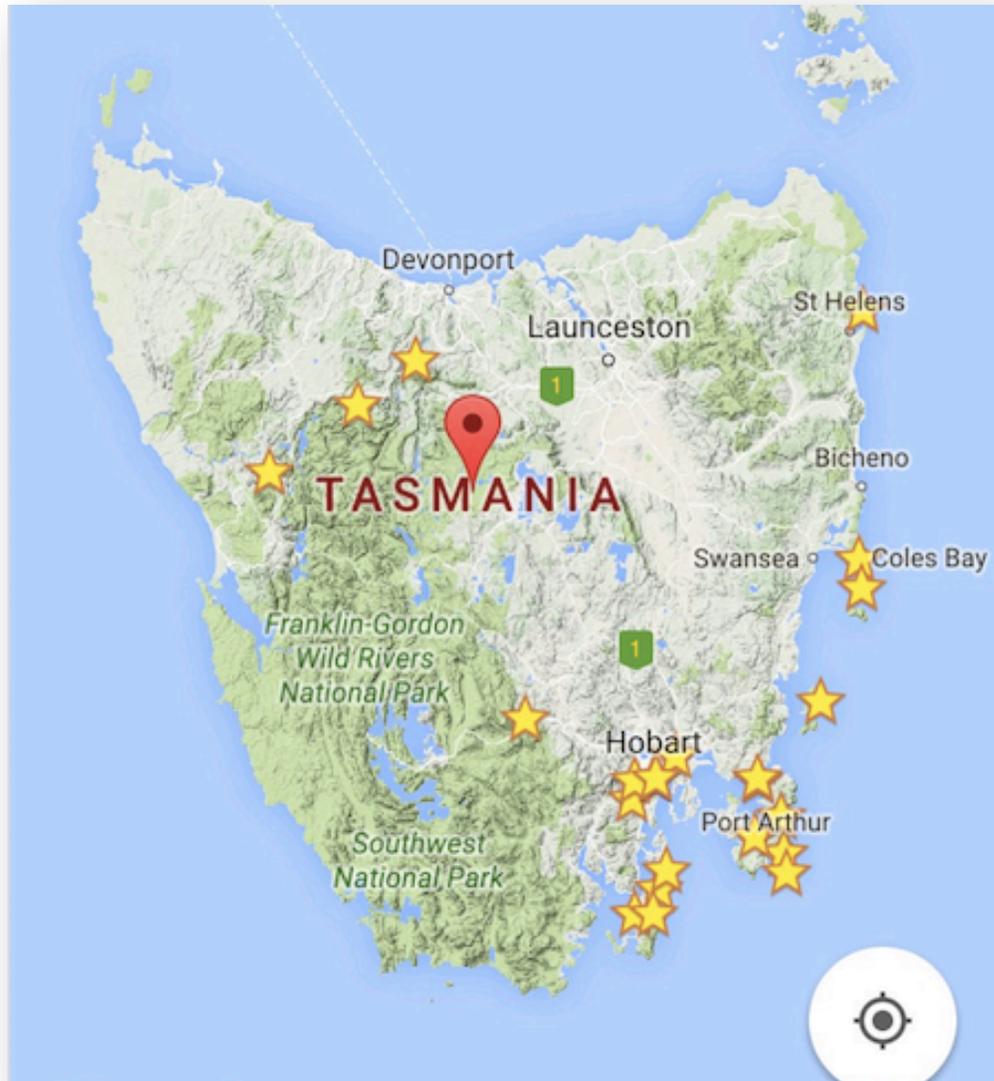
## ROAD-TRIPPING TASMANIA



*Back in March, I spent two weeks in Tasmania road-tripping the Australia Apple Isle on a mini-van with two colleagues/friends from Sydney and countless cameras, lenses, tripods and gears with us. The map in the next page shows our itinerary which I believe it's a great and comprehensive tour for any Tasmania first timer. I haven't managed to see everything, but this means that I will be back! 😊 I am not suggesting that you have to follow this itinerary step by step, you can also pick and chose the places that are more relevant to you and create your own itinerary.*

*Like for all my CREED\* guides in India and beyond, I am always happy to help you out with your travel planning, so if you have any further questions after reading my tips below, please feel free to drop me a line [bear in mind I'm ~~often~~ (always) on the move, so it might take me a few weeks to get back to you, so please get in touch as soon as you can if you need my help]*





## **HOBART**

Tasmania's capital is a cute little city that lies beneath Kunanyi / Mt Wellington while also hugging River Derwent's estuary with its beautiful harbor. There is lots to see in Hobart, so make sure to spend at least a day exploring the streets, the markets, the museums and everything else it has to offer.

It's an easy city to get around by foot, harder by car as a tricky one-way system reigns around the entire centre, which makes impossible to turn back if you make a mistake or take a wrong turn. So, if you want to park your car/van there are plenty of 90 minutes free parking in the CBD.

THE WATERFRONT - You can't miss Sullivans Cove, also known as the Waterfront,

which stretches from Hunter Street to Salamanca Place. Take a stroll here once you arrive in Hobart to get a feeling for the city and first impression.

KUNANYI - MT WELLINGTON – If you enjoy aerial views and like to start with those whenever in a new city, you should make your first Tassie stop at the summit of Tasmania highest point: at over 1270m it gives an amazing 360 degrees over the city, the harbor and the surroundings hills and mountains. {tips 🌟 wear warm clothes and gloves even in summer, it's really windy up there and it can snow almost any time, yes, even if in Hobart is 30 degrees 🌟 you may not be able to make it up to the top during winter due to snow and ice when the road is closed.}

ROYAL TASMANIAN BOTANICAL GARDENS – these are the second oldest in Australia after Sydney's and it hosts an amazing range of local and international plants. You can also get a beautiful view over the Derwent estuary from here, so make sure to pay it a visit. {tip 🌟 free admission}

MONA - some museums are boring. Yes, come on, drop your politically correct attitude for a sec and repeat with me: "some museums are b o o O o O O o O r i n g". MONA instead is fun, even its brochure and website have a peculiar sense of humor so you must expect some fun when you walk through its mirrored large entrance. At Mona the line between art vs provocation is really fine, but surely this is the perfect place to hang out one afternoon and maybe have a laugh too. Filled with modern art and alluring pieces, MONA is like a large amusement park for adults (I wouldn't bring my kids here, but there were a few). Mona is not only a gallery, it includes a winery, a cellar door, a microbrewery, a restaurant, a wine bar and a stunning museum bar, The Void, which I wasn't sure was a piece of art or a real bar 'till I saw two guys actually sipping their real postmodern martinis and they weren't models, actors or mannequins (expect the unexpected is the main quote in Tasmania, it's especially valid at MONA.... The structure also includes accommodation: 8 super posh pavilions by the river. O, did I mention the cinema? Well, Mona has that too.

{tips: 🌟 pictures are allowed but only without flash 🌟 get the ferry there for the scenic view 🌟 it's free for Tasmanians}

SALAMANCA MARKETS – If you are lucky enough to be in the city on Saturday, make sure to stop at Salamanca Markets. Get some delicious local products for the rest of your stay and road trip after you've enjoyed a lovely lunch.

EAT & DRINK – Frogmore Creek Winery is a sublime example of the Tasmanian understanding and push into the food and wine culture. Its beautiful and mouth-watering dishes, you can only expect to wash everything down with some remarkable local wine. **Frogmore Creek**

Address: 699 Richmond Road, Cambridge, 7170

www.frogmorecreek.com.au  
Instagram: @frogmorecreek

Home of Frogmore Creek and Forty-two Degrees South wines is an architecture jewel on top of a hill overlooking the Coal River Valley. They offer a list of super premium wines tasting and their restaurant was also awarded Australian Restaurant of the year. Amazing Riesling and food styling.

DREAM AT **AVALON CITY RETREAT** – After walking, climbing, running in and around Hobart all day long, Avalon Retreat was truly a retreat, especially the beautiful outdoor Huon pine bath I had under the stars! This modular pod right in the centre of the CBD, sits on top of an office building and boasts two very large bedrooms (sleeps 4) with ensuite bathroom complemented with a gorgeous custom made **Avalon toiletry** range crafted with locally sourced products and fragrances. There is a massive living room and stunning kitchen equipped with anything (and more) you might need during your stay, including a full breakfast which you can cook at your leisure, **including free range eggs, bacon, sausages, tomatoes, muesli, yogurt, fresh fruit, juice, Nespresso coffee** and serious tea selection. Throughout the property you can also enjoy complimentary WiFi, an Apple TV and a Sonos music system.

Avalon City Retreat is built for sharing, quiet noise, celebrations, contemplating, dreaming, cuddling and fun. This soothing sanctuary is an oasis, a memorable escape from 'the circus'.

✪ Book your stay here: [www.avalonretreats.com.au/city](http://www.avalonretreats.com.au/city)

## BRUNY ISLAND

Bruny Island is that piece of land in the middle of the ocean that will stay in your memories for weeks, months and years to come after your visit. Its beauty and wilderness was known to the aborigines for centuries before it was discovered by French and English navigators. The island is the best Tasmanian (maybe Australian) place for wildlife and food and you could easily spend a couple of weeks exploring only this 100km long little island, so make sure to make time for its hidden gems and don't rush your visit to this part of the [Huon Trail](#) and this magic island off a larger island, off another even larger island....

TIPS ✪ ferry departs every 30 minutes (every hour after 5pm) from Kettering ✪ don't forget that the island is 100km long and not as small as you might think: it takes time to actually get around it!

**Cape Bruny Lighthouse** (1838) is the iconic Australian lighthouse that has been in continuous operation since its opening. Now out of service is part of the South Bruny National Park. There are bush and coastal tracks on the islands which makes it interesting enough for a week or more of travels. Bear in mind you cannot camp or park your van here – we did manage to shoot sunset, but we were asked to leave soon after (when I just had sliced the onion for a mushroom risotto, in fact!) The Made On

Bruny gourmet Trail is another very valid reason why you should give yourself enough time to explore the island. Here are just a few worth mentioning: Bruny Island House of Whisky, Get Shucked Oyster Farm and Bruny Island Premium Wines. But my favourite was obviously BRUNY ISLAND CHEESE COMPANY. **Nick Haddow** spent 10 years travelling and learning about cheeses in France, Italy, Spain and the UK before coming back to Tasmania and opening this beautiful cellar door and cheese factory. Nick's artisan cheeses and wood fired bread are to die for and we were even treated to a tour behind the scene of the cheese production. We were welcomed by the outstanding and very knowledgeable team which illustrated us all the different varieties of cheese while sharing the stories of their conception and flavours.

The latest addition to the family is Bruny Island Beer Co, Nick's brain's latest idea to complement his products with crafted beers. In collaboration with Evan Hunter of Moo Brew, Seven Sheds and Lark Distillery, they have created a brewery right next to the cheesery in Great Bay, Bruny Island at the beginning of this year. I highly recommend you the Farm Ale, 4.5% delicious ale made exclusively with Tasmanian grain, hops and water. You can find Bruny Island Cheese Co products also at the Salamanca Market stall on Saturdays and at their Hobart Cellar Door or online by joining their fab Cheese Club.

✦ Bruny Island Cheese Co. [www.brunyislandcheese.com.au](http://www.brunyislandcheese.com.au)

BRUNY ISLAND CRUISES: well deserved Australia's best Tourist Attraction Award in 2012 and 2014, please make sure to join **Rob Pennicott** and his team for an unforgettable adventure while on Bruny Island. This is not a typical cruise, there are not bubbles or gala settings, quite the opposite in fact, Pennicott's cruises are not for the fainted heart, but joined by people from all age: I heard the youngest passenger was 2 y.o and the eldest 96. (CHECK THIS FACTS!!). The ladies aboard with me where in their 50s and surely more prepared than I was to the speed, the waves, the splashes and the speed! High sea cliffs, deep sea caves and rich costal wildlife, including seals, dolphins, whales and seabirds, get ready to see it all and to take some close up pictures of most of these animals.

✦ Bruny Island Cruises [www.pennicottjourneys.com.au](http://www.pennicottjourneys.com.au)

EAGLEHAWK NECK LOOKOUT - Our road trip on the Arthur Highway led us to Eaglehawk Neck, a wonderful lookout located just between two islands as to unite them into a centuries-old love story.

Don't miss the TASSELLATED PAVEMENT and the TASMANTIAN ARCH as well as the TASMANTIAN NATIONAL PARK with its stunning hikes to Cape Pillar and the forests in Fortescue.

## **GREAT EASTERN DRIVE**

Tasmania's East Coast is probably the most diverse and spectacular part of the entire island and its Great Eastern Drive was listed at number one on Australian Traveller

Magazine'2014 list of the 10 greatest road trips in Australia. With its deep blue waters, cutest villages and scenic coasts, it's a great place to explore, wander and relax. The drive starts in Orford, north-east of Hobart and for about 200km will take you to some snow-white beaches, adventurous national parks and other marvels up to St Helens.

**MARIA ISLAND NATIONAL PARK** - You can catch the ferry to Maria Island from Triabunna, don't waste time here except for visiting the charity shop to say hello to the old ladies who run it (if you actually do so, I will tell you the story...).

As soon as you set foot on Maria Island you will understand why it's so special and different: all around you there will be hundreds of wombats, wallabies and a diverse birdlife. Once you reach Darlington, you will also understand more about the Australian convicts' past and heritage. Just wander around the historic site and ruins and you feel the present of this recent past. We spent one night here, but it would have been good to stay an extra day to see and do more. With no cars, electricity or rubbish disposal, Maria Island is a great place to go back to basics, take a break and enjoy the simple life. Make sure to visit the Painted cliffs and fossil cliffs but even more impressive is the hike up to Bishop & clerk (3-5 hours return).

DREAM at the World Heritage-listed Darlington convict probation station. Bring your own food and sleeping bag. Cooking facilities are provided but that's pretty much it. Hot showers come at extra cost. You can also camp at the site.

## **EXPLORE COLES BAY**

FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK – the perfect postcard from Tasmania is probably the one that features this part of the island. Not wrongly as it's a stunning place to visit and explore. We took 2 days, but I would have happily spent a week camping by the beach if it was just slightly warmer (I did go skinny dipping in the ocean anyway, the blue mixed with the snow white sand was just irresistible!). Make sure to do the walk up to WINEGLASS BAY LOOKOUT and if you are into photo/videography, you should totally witness the spectacular miracle of the sun rising there, like I did (check [here](#)). Make sure to walk down from the lookout to feel the whitest sand through your toes and just have a different perspective of this world's famous beach.

If you are also keen to see a third, fascination view, you should totally book your magic cruise with WINEGLASS BAY CRUISE. As you know, I am big believer in following your own call and dreams and Duncan, founder and captain of WBC is one too. Electrician by background, the call of the ocean was too strong to be ignored when 15 years ago he decided to leave the *quiet* life of wires and energy to pursue his passion for boats, waves and the ocean. He hasn't looked back since and with his wife Irene, they now run a gorgeous and very popular tour around the Freycinet Peninsula. The *Schouten Passage II* takes you all around the Freycinet National Park, offering an incredible view of the red cliffs that would otherwise be inaccessible from the land. You will also manage to admire the beautiful white sand of Hazards Beach, watch the waves break

into Cape Degerano and later chill by Waterfall Cove, before enjoying a gorgeous lunch in Wineglass Bay. Make sure to book your VIP experience where you can have a glorious lunch on the top deck. The Bento box comprises a Tasmanian Ploughmans lunch prepared by the head chef of Freycinet Lodge. It includes a delicious variety of local produces, such as salmon, cheeses and chocolate. All washed out with local wines and beers and topped up with endless rounds of oysters as fresh as they could possibly be, meaning they are caught before the boat leaves the jetty. On your way to and from Wineglass Bay, you will be able to admire the incredible Tasmanian wildlife, including cormorants, albatross, eagles, penguins, some dolphins and if very lucky also one or two whales.

As their motto says "you haven't seen Freycinet until you have seen it from the water." I couldn't agree more.

✪ Wineglass Bay Cruises [www.wineglassbaycruises.com](http://www.wineglassbaycruises.com)

**BAY OF FIRES** - Between Binalong Bay and Eddystone Point, there is a magnificent stretch of coast, which has been named by Lonely Planet's hottest travel destination in the world. We only stopped there for sunset and sunrise, but if I go back I'd love to see and walk for miles and miles on the many white beaches with a few swims in between, of course!

## **EAT**

DEVIL'S CORNER – a cellar door located in a stunning spot where, sitting on the deck, you can take in the mesmerising view of the lagoon and Freycinet Peninsula, while sipping gorgeous sauvignon blanc and popping fresh oysters into your mouth as they were pop corn.

More info [here](#).

**MT WILLIAM NATIONAL PARK** - Situated at the northern end of the East Coast, it's one of the most enchanting parts of Tasmania, I loved getting lost on the tracks and next time I go back there, I will definitely spend more time there!

**LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK** - Covering more than 8000km and almost 70% of the land mass of Tasmania, the Central Highlands includes some of the most spectacular landscapes and scenery in the state or maybe in Australia. There are three national parks, with some of the highest peaks and more than 1000 lakes, rain forests, rivers, waterfalls, and so much more. A holiday in Tasmania could also be entirely spent here.

Lake St Clair is the deepest lake in Australia and sits at the base of the overland track, connecting it to Cradle Mountain in the north. The lake is something impossible to describe: no words or picture can be enough or right to describe its incredible beauty.

Cradle Mountain is the main character of this area, probably because you can see its summit from everywhere and also because it's impossible not to be hypnotized by it

(writer's note: this was my favourite part in my entire trip!). It's well worth spending a week (or more) here if you can! When I go back, I will definitely do the Overland Track!

DOVE LAKE – The famous Dove Lake where the even more famous boathouse sits, was formed by glacial activities and it's where those who trek the Overland finish off. If you don't have time or can't be bothered for a long hike, you can opt for a 2-hour easy walk around the lake or an harder hike to MARION'S LOOKOUT (I did this one and it was totally worth it!) Make sure not to miss the WOMBAT POOL! 😊

## WEST COAST

The West Coast in Tasmania, a bit like the one in Australia, is less-inhabited, mysterious and wild. But when you get there, don't miss the **MONTEZUMA FALLS** Tasmania's highest waterfall at 104 metres on your way back to Hobart. I wish I had spend more time in the western coast, but I had no time, so again, I will be back!

## END NOTES AND OTHER INFO

### GETTING TO TASMANIA

Hobart and Launceston Airports are serviced by Virgin Australia, Jetstar, Qantas, while Tiger Airways also flies to Hobart. You can also choose to reach the shore of Tassie via sea by booking your night crossing on the Spirit of Tasmania.

### REFERENCES & OTHER INFO

[www.discovertasmania.com.au](http://www.discovertasmania.com.au)

[www.tasmaniantrail.com.au](http://www.tasmaniantrail.com.au)

[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

TIPS ⚡ pack for all kind of season/weather, super cold and windy on top of Mt Wellington, hot in Hobart ⚡ Depending on your mobile phone provider you might experience limited to no reception at some locations, especially on the east coast ⚡ if you are going for hikes pack enough water and appropriate food, and start the day as early as possible ⚡ Leave no trace: remember to clean after yourself and bring your rubbish home with you (always!!) ⚡ Do not feed the wildlife, ever!

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