



Destination Australia  
& New Zealand

## The Devil You Don't Know

*Discover amazing wildlife in Tasmania's parks, forests, seas and skies.*

Have you ever wanted to see nocturnal activities of the Tasmanian devil? Glimpse a timid duck-billed platypus or learn the truth and tragedy of the Tasmanian tiger?

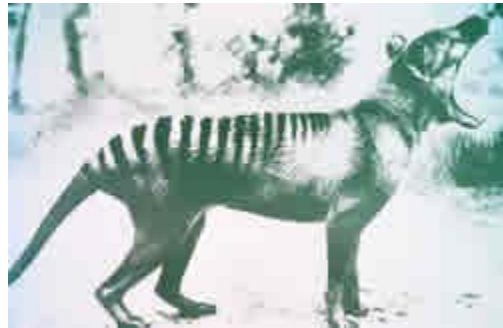
The following suggested itinerary helps you locate some of our most exciting wildlife experiences. See little penguins, colonies of Australian fur seals, regal white-bellied sea eagles, shy echidnas, nocturnal quolls, devils, wallabies and wombats.

**DAY 1 – Depart Los Angeles** on an evening flight with Qantas.

**DAY 2 –** Cross the International Date Line.

**DAYS 3 & 4 – Hobart**

Hobart is a good place to base yourself when seeking out some of Tasmania's best wildlife. Learn about the myth and tragedy of the **Tasmanian tiger (thylacine)** at the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery** on Hobart's waterfront.



As big as a medium-sized dog and found nowhere else but Tasmania, the thylacine was Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial until its sad extinction in 1936. In addition to the Tasmanian tiger display, the museum has an extensive display of Tasmania's unique wildlife and megafauna.

Thylacines were seen as a direct threat to the sheep European settlers introduced to the rich grazing lands of Tasmania. From 1830 the Van Diemen's Land Company and later the Tasmanian Government offered a bounty for the scalp of each thylacine, with more than 2,180 bounties paid between 1888 and 1909.

Many of Tasmania's endemic bird species can be seen on **Mt Wellington**, particularly in the area around Fern Tree. **Scrubtits** and **pink robins** are especially prolific along the **Fern Glade Track**, while **flame robins**, **honeyeaters** and **Tasmanian scrubwrens** prefer suburban gardens farther down the mountain. **Swift parrots** and **Australian magpies** can often be seen in city parks and gardens.

There are a range of **wildlife parks** around Hobart staffed by knowledgeable wildlife professionals. Visit a park for a safe and easy introduction to **Tasmanian devils**, **quolls**, **wombats** and **echidnas**, and to feed **Forester kangaroos** and **Bennetts wallabies**. Although koalas are not native to Tasmania, some wildlife parks host a number of these national icons.

Heading north, en route to Brighton, engage in a spot of native bird-watching from a hide in Goulds Lagoon sanctuary at Austins Ferry. While crossing the Derwent River via the causeway near Bridgewater, look for the wild black swans and pelicans that flock to these waters.



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If you are heading south and it is a warm and sunny afternoon, take a scenic drive on the **Huon Trail touring route** along the Channel Highway (C264) to the **Tinderbox Marine Reserve**. Tasmania's only underwater snorkelling trail (bring your own gear), the Marine Reserve is a safe, sheltered marine study area designed for education, research and recreation. There are few large fish, but the reserve protects a great variety of seaweeds, smaller fish and invertebrates such as urchins, sea snails, weedy sea dragons and related seahorses and pipefish. In relatively shallow water young and old can follow the interpretive underwater signs that illustrate the fascinating reef life.

For a more adventurous option, spend a day in Tasmania's World Heritage Area (WHA) in the rugged and beautiful southwest wilderness. Take a spectacular 40-minute **Par Avion Wilderness** light-plane flight from Hobart to the remote outpost of Melaleuca – site of an **orange-bellied parrot** observation and research post. On the brink of extinction, the orange-bellied parrot is about 20 cm (9 inches) long, and a little larger than a budgerigar. This migratory bird breeds in Tasmania from mid-October until March, spending the winter months in coastal Victoria and South Australia. Its bright green and yellow plumage contrasts with a striking orange patch in the centre of its lower belly.

OVERNIGHT : HENRY JONES ART HOTEL, 3 NIGHTS

### DAY 5 – Bruny Island

Bruny Island is an intriguing escape combining scenery, history and wildlife. Accessible from Kettering, about 25 minutes' drive south of Hobart, the island is a short vehicular ferry journey across the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Your day will be spent with Bruny Island Charters, Untouched wilderness and abundant wildlife are the highlights of this relaxing 3hr, 50 km eco-cruise.

After your scenic drive from Hobart, join Robert aboard 'the Albatross' to breathe the cleanest air in the world and be surrounded by Australia's highest, unique cliffs as you hover within their reach.

View beautiful remote bays, drift within meters of the mysterious breathing rock, the massive secret caves and sculptured rocky islands that fringe South Bruny's National Park.

Share the excitement of early explorers Tasman, Furneaux, Flinders, D'Entrecasteaux, Cook and Bligh of a most dramatic, magnificent coastline, unchanged for thousands of years.

Visit the Friar Rocks, home to over 1000 curious Australian Fur Seals, see the antics of playful Dolphins, Fairy Penguins, White Bellied Sea Eagles, Shy Albatrosses, Australasian Gannets, Black-faced and Great Cormorants, Silver, Kelp and Pacific Gulls, Short Tailed and Sooty Shearwaters, Terns, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers as they hunt in these abundant waters. See rare nest sites, home of White Bellied Sea Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. You may even observe the migrating Southern Right or Humpback Whales. When you return to shore you will take unique memories of being one of the privileged few to have experienced nature at its unspoilt best.



Return to Hobart Late Afternoon.

### DAY 6 – Hobart to Lake St Clair

Return to Hobart, then travel toward Mt Field National Park along the **Rivers Run touring route** (B61), via historic **New Norfolk** (A10). Several kilometres before the national park stop at [the wildlife sanctuary](#) and soft-release rehabilitation facility, for injured and orphaned wildlife. The platypus-viewing platform over the Tyenna River provides a way of discreetly observing these wonderful creatures in their natural habitat.

Keen anglers will appreciate the collection of historic fishing equipment and the history of Tasmanian angling at the [Museum of Trout Fishing](#) at Plenty, dating from the 1860s. The first **brown** and **rainbow trout** in the

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southern hemisphere were raised here in 1864 and visitors can view fish-breeding in all its stages, from fingerlings to full-grown brown, rainbow and brook trout and **Atlantic salmon**.

Mt Field was protected as Tasmania's first nature reserve in 1885, and is one of the State's most beloved national parks. The swamp gums of Mt Field are among the tallest trees in Australia: the **Tall Trees Walk**, a 30-minute circuit, provides plenty of opportunities to appreciate these massive trees. At Russell Falls, water flows over a three-tiered cliff creating a fine mist through the rainforest. Walking the wheelchair-grade track to the viewing platform is very easy and will take you around 20 minutes.



Mt Field is home to 11 of Tasmania's endemic birds and many species of mammals, including the **eastern quoll** and **Tasmanian pademelon**, considered extinct in mainland Australia. Common **brush tailed possums** forage round the park at night. If staying overnight **eastern barred bandicoots**, **echidnas** and **wombats** are often seen, as are **ringtail possums**, **devils** and **long-nosed potoroos**. The last **Tasmanian tiger** to die in captivity was trapped in nearby Florentine Valley in 1933.

Two hours' drive west (A10) is Lake St Clair, another wildlife haven. Near Cynthia Bay **Bennetts wallabies** and smaller, more timid **Tasmanian pademelons** are often seen. **Echidnas** and **platypuses** also inhabit this area. Echidnas are most frequently out and about in light bushland near tracks from Spring to Autumn, their presence often indicated by freshly scratched earth. **Platypuses** are harder to find, as they are quite sensitive to noise, but can sometimes be seen in the lake feeding near the shoreline.

Cynthia Bay sits on the boundary of dry and wet sclerophyll forests, habitats that are home to a wide variety of birds. Many, such as **black currawongs**, **strong billed black headed honeyeaters**, **Tasmanian native hens** and **yellow wattlebirds**, are found only in Tasmania. Walks in the vicinity of Lake St Clair range from leisurely strolls along boarded walks to overnight bushwalks through beautiful rainforest. Begin at the modern visitor centre just inside the park boundary and talk with the staff about the variety of wildlife, walks and weather conditions.



OVERNIGHT : THE LODGE AT TERRALEAH

**DAY 7 – Lake St Clair**

**DAY 8 – Lake St Clair to Stanley**

Allow about three hours' driving time to reach Stanley on the northwest coast. You may want to consider a detour to stop in the tiny fishing village of Strahan, on the fringes of Tasmania's WHA and gateway to the mighty **Franklin – Gordon Wild Rivers National Park**. Cruises run daily on the **Gordon River** and cross the vast Macquarie Harbour to Hells Gates, where the harbour and Indian Ocean collide, creating a treacherous stretch of water.

Strahan offers a world-class **Tasmanian tiger** historical experience during the summer season. The Thylacine Interpretation Centre displays the state's most concentrated collection of historical thylacine artefacts, including a unique 19th century thylacine-skin rug.

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From either Queenstown or Strahan (B27) head north to Burnie and head along the coast to Stanley.

OVERNIGHT : BEACHSIDE RETREAT WEST INLET

#### DAY 9 Stanley

Stanley is a delightful seaside township established in the 1830s. Walk or travel by cable car to the summit of **The Nut**, a spectacular rocky promontory overlooking the ocean. See mysterious **short tailed shearwaters**, more commonly known as **mutton birds**. In season from December to April shearwaters return to their burrows by the thousands after a days fishing in the ocean.



Visit a nearby **seal colony**, view secretive and endearing **little penguins**, or see the fascinating **Tasmanian devil** in its natural habitat. For more information on the north-west [Click here](#).

OVERNIGHT : BEACHSIDE RETREAT WEST INLET

#### DAY 10 – Stanley to Cradle Mountain

Return to Burnie (A2). Mornings and evenings are the best times to visit nearby Fern Glade – one of the most reliable locations in Tasmania for spotting **platypuses** in the wild. There's also an Observation Centre where you can see **little penguins** any time of year.

Travel back onto the **Cradle Country touring route** through to the northern end of the [Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park](#). Part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, this national park is Tasmania's most widely recognised area of wilderness. Popular short walks in the area include the **Dove Lake Circuit** and the **Enchanted Forest Walk**, suitable for all ages and featuring a cascading river, wombat burrows and magical old-growth rainforest. Stop by the visitor centre for further information.

**Bennetts wallabies** and **pademelons** are often seen during the day around the visitor centre, while **wombats** are often visible on the buttongrass plain at twilight. After dark you may see **Tasmanian devils**, **possums** and **quolls** or the many smaller **ringtail possums**, **dusky antechinuses**, **long-tailed mice** and **eastern pygmy possums**. Highlights among the 80 species of birds recorded in the area are the **ground parrot**, **black currawong**, **southern emu wren** and **yellow wattlebird**.



For a more structured wildlife experience, take a guided tour operated by one of the larger accommodation providers or [tour operators in the area](#).



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Before you leave, be sure to visit **The Wilderness Gallery** – the only one of its kind in Australia. The gallery focuses on the world's wild places, featuring the work of Australian and international photographers in eight different spaces. With so much to explore and discover in and around Cradle Mountain, consider spending an extra night in this beautiful part of the world.

OVERNIGHT : Voyages Cradle Mountain Lodge

### DAY 11 – Cradle Mountain to North-West Coast

Next day, travel the **Great Western Tiers touring route** to the richly decorated caves of Mole Creek. The **Mole Creek Karst National Park** contains more than 200 caves that began to form around 300 millions years ago. Take a **guided tour** and see wildlife that dwell in the dark, stalagmites that soar to lofty roofs, underground streams and thousands of glow-worms.

Continue along the B12 to see **Tasmanian Devils and the Devil Education Research Centre** , a project completed in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service and the University of Tasmania. The park is committed to the philosophy of recreational education in wildlife conservation.

Farther on, near Latrobe (B13), book ahead for a guided tour at the **Warrawee Forest Reserve**, where Latrobe Landcare has created a platypus paradise among native vegetation. Complementing this are the engaging interactive exhibitions of **Platypus Experience** at the town's Lucas Hotel.

**Narawntapu National Park**, north of Latrobe (C740) on the Bass Strait coast, is a wonderful spot for daylight and twilight wildlife spotting. **Bennetts wallabies**, **Forester kangaroos** and **wombats** can usually be seen close to the entrance, and the park is home to some 80 species of birds, including the impressive **yellow-tailed black cockatoo**.

OVERNIGHT : Hawley House, Hawley Beach

### DAY 12 – North-West to Launceston

Travel to Beauty Point (C741) and on to the **Tamar Valley touring route**. Visit **Seahorse World**, where potbellied seahorses are farmed in an attempt to reduce the number of specimens taken from the wild for aquariums, medicinal purposes and food. View **sea dragons**, **pipe fish**, **leafy sea dragons** and **freshwater lobsters** in the aquarium, feed and touch farmed species in the touch pool and hear of plans to breed sea dragons in captivity for the first time.

Also at Beauty Point is **Platypus House**, the only venue where visitors can watch Tasmanian platypuses in an indoor environment. You will also enjoy seeing the highly specialised **water rat**, which lives on fish, crayfish, mussels and even birds and lizards.

On the opposite bank of the Tamar River (B73) is George Town, where you can **view a colony of up to 600 seals** on Tenth Island. Perhaps don a wetsuit and snorkel to join the seals in their own environment wearing a Shark

Shield device.

Approximately 10 minutes from George Town is Low Head, from where you can see **little penguins** up close. Each evening as it gets dark, the penguins surf in from their day at sea and waddle up the beach to their burrows. Tours start about an hour before sunset.

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Back on the western bank of the Tamar River and only 10 minutes north of Launceston are the [Tamar Island Wetlands and visitors centre](#). A boardwalk connects the enchanting Tamar Island with the riverbank; visit early in the morning or late in the afternoon, a hide enables viewing native water birds when they are feeding.

OVERNIGHT : Hatherley House, Launceston

### **DAY 13 – Launceston**

A final day in Tasmania for last minute shopping.

OVERNIGHT : Hatherley House, Launceston



**DAY 14 – Depart Launceston** this morning for your flights back to Los Angeles, or take a stopover in Melbourne or Sydney on the way home.