



HERITAGE HIGHWAY

The Heritage Highway traces much of the original route between Launceston and Hobart, built by convict road gangs in the early 1800s. Drive through rolling farmlands, explore charming Georgian villages, stay on historic pastoral properties and savour the rich and colourful history of the place and its people. Access the Heritage Highway from Hobart or Launceston, from the East Coast via Campbell Town or Fingal, or from Port Arthur via Richmond.

START: Hobart or Launceston

DURATION: 1-2 days

LEG	TIME / DISTANCE
Launceston to Campbell Town	50 min / 67 km
Campbell Town to Hobart	1 hr 30 min / 133 km

Launceston - Campbell Town

- > Departing from Launceston, the first stop is Evandale, a charming colonial village with Georgian buildings dating back to the 1820s.
- > An alternative route to Evandale is via Ben Lomond, a 40-minute drive from Launceston. Ben Lomond is the largest single alpine area in Tasmania and in the summer is a spectacular place to walk and spot wildlife, while its magnificent views add to the thrill of rock climbing, mountain biking and abseiling.
- > After Evandale, it's on to the gracious Clarendon homestead, just 11 km south, on the banks of the South Esk River, with its elegantly furnished rooms overlooking extensive formal gardens, beautiful parklands and the original farm buildings.
- > Also on the banks of the South Esk are the townships of Perth and Longford, about 20 minutes from either Evandale or Launceston. Picnic on the riverbank at Perth or stop for lunch in Longford, a pretty, classified historic town, known for its convict-built houses and English country landscape. Play the skulduggery game "Where there's smoke" and solve a crime that actually happened in the 1930s.

- > A short drive from Perth are two World Heritage listed estates - Brickendon and Woolmers. Brickendon is an historic working farm continuously owned and managed by the Archer family for almost two centuries, while the adjacent Woolmers Estate is a time capsule of early nineteenth century life, home to the National Rose Garden and beautiful in summer.
- > After Perth and Longford, it's on to Campbell Town via Epping Forest and Cleveland. You might like to stop for refreshments at St Andrew's Inn in Cleveland - a typical 19th century coaching inn where horse-drawn carriages stopped en route between Hobart and Launceston.
- > Continue on to Campbell Town, a popular stopping point for travellers between Launceston and Hobart, and the historic heart of Tasmania, with more than a 100 houses over 100 years old.
- > Stroll along the banks of the serene Elizabeth River and see the Red Bridge, built in 1838 by convict labour using over one million convict-made bricks, then follow the intriguing convict brick trail through the heart of the town.
- > Alternatively, visit the Heritage Highway Museum in the historic court house to learn more about the town's history.

Campbell Town - Hobart

- > Just 10 minutes from Campbell Town is the timeless village of Ross with huge English elms lining the main street and the famous Ross Bridge (1836), built by convict labour and featuring 186 intricate colonial carvings.
- > Don't miss the nearby female factory prison site and original burial ground on the hill.
- > Pop into the Tasmanian Wool Centre to learn about the importance of sheep grazing in the area.
- > Continue on to Oatlands, but before there, look out for the old coaching inn at Tunbridge – now a stately private residence.
- > Also spanning the river at Tunbridge is the convict-built Blackman's River Bridge. Dating back to 1848, it's the oldest wooden span bridge in Australia.
- > In Oatlands, you'll find the largest collection of colonial sandstone buildings in a village environment in Australia, many built by convict labour.
- > A unique landmark in Oatlands is Callington Mill, Australia's third oldest windmill, which also houses the Heritage Highway Information Centre. The mill was built in 1837 and restored to working order in 2010. The artisan Companion Bakery uses flour from Callington Mill to make the organic sourdough wood-fired bread available in its cafe.
- > Another landmark, St Pauls' Catholic Church, was designed by Augustus Welby Pugin, the father of Gothic Revival architecture.
- > Detour on your way south to the Coal River Valley, known for its wineries, via Colebrook and the remarkably intact remains of the convict Probation Station built in 1841.
- > About 30 minutes off the main highway from Oatlands is the town of Bothwell with 53 National Trust Classified buildings, including the church of St Michaels and All Angels, with an unusual feature inside – a fireplace.
- > Bothwell also has the oldest golf course in the Southern Hemisphere, dating back to the 1820s, while the Australasian Golf Museum is reputed to have the most interesting golfing memorabilia outside of St Andrews in Scotland.
- > Back on the main highway to Hobart, and easily overlooked, is the tiny township of Kempton. A stroll through the main street of this historic village reveals another charming collection of colonial homes, cottages, churches, shops, taverns and coaching inns, all within a distance of one kilometre.
- > On the final approach to Hobart through Mangalore and Bagdad, look out for the magnificent old homes by the side of the road – Marlbrook, Oakwood, Wybra Hall and Shene (seen in the distance with its gabled outbuildings and clock tower. Call ahead to book a tour of Shene). All are testament to the wealth of some of the early European settlers in the area who experienced great prosperity from wheat-growing.
- > Continue south to Pontville for more fine examples of colonial architecture including sandstone churches, a convict-built bridge, hotels, stately homes and workmen's cottages.
- > Take in the beautiful St Mark's Church (1839), with its distinctive Romanesque architecture designed by convict architect James Blackburn, then stroll through the old graveyard, with its stories of the suffering and success of early settlers.
- > Continue on to Hobart.