



NORTH EAST TRAIL

Discover the natural beauty and pioneering spirit of Tasmania's North East. Vineyards and rich farming areas contrast with forests and stretches of beautiful unspoilt beaches.

START: Launceston
EXPLORE: North East Tasmania
DURATION: 2 - 4 days

NATIONAL PARKS ON THIS ROUTE:
 > Mt William National Park

LEG	TIME / DISTANCE
Launceston to Bridport	1 hr 09 min / 84 km
Bridport to Derby	49 min / 54 km
Derby to St Helens	1 hr 03 min / 66 km

Launceston - Bridport

- > Depart Launceston
- > Drive 20 minutes to the farming hamlet of Lilydale with its distinctive painted electricity poles that line the town's streets.
- > Those with a need for adrenalin, pop into Hollybank, five minutes before Lilydale, for a treetops adventure or Segway experience.
- > Past Lilydale, the distinctive yellow and blue 'grape' signs point the way to the vineyards of the Pipers River Region and the Tamar Valley Wine Route.
- > Drive 20 minutes off the Trail along Pipers Brook Road and sample the still and sparkling wines of Pipers Brook Vineyard and visit the Jansz Wine Room and Interpretative Centre.
- > Back on the Trail, visit Bridestowe Lavender Farm, the largest commercial lavender farm in the southern hemisphere for coffee or lunch in Bridestowe's café, then take a tour (December and January) to see how lavender is harvested and processed for its fragrant oils.
- > Drive a further 15 minutes to Scottsdale and discover the secrets of the region's forest heritage at the contemporary Forest Eco Centre. The Centre also houses the Scottsdale Visitor Information Centre where you can book accommodation and tours and find out all there is to see and do along the Trail.
- > Drive 20 minutes north of Scottsdale to the coastal village of Bridport – a picturesque town and a favourite for salt water fishing. Equipment can be hired in town.

- > East of Bridport is Barnbougle Dunes golf links a challenging 18-hole championship course and Australia's No 1 public course. Barnbougle Dunes also has a club house with dining and bar facilities and accommodation.
- > Next door at The Lost Farm is an alternate 20-hole golf course option that complements Barnbougle and has luxury accommodation, restaurant and spa sanctuary.

Bridport - Derby

- > At Bridport, chose one of several coastal walks. The Wildflower Reserve is particularly pleasant and is spectacular in spring, with views out over Anderson Bay.
- > From the centre of Bridport, there's also a pleasant 1 km foreshore walk along a series of small beaches to the popular Old Pier swimming beach.
- > Drive back through Scottsdale to Branxholm in the Ringarooma Valley. Before Branxholm, turn off to Ringarooma and follow the signs to the impressive Ralphs Falls in the Mt Victoria Forest Reserve.
- > At Branxholm, pause at the Red Bridge - a celebration of the significant Chinese mining heritage of the area.
- > Continue to Derby, once a thriving mining town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and today a pretty place to stop. You can learn about the history of the area at the Tin Mine Interpretation Centre and Shanty Town.

Derby - St Helens

- > On from Derby, enjoy a side trip via Herrick and Gladstone to Mt William National Park with its stunning coastline and brightly coloured rock formations. Wildlife is everywhere and close encounters with local wallabies, wombats and Forester kangaroos are frequent.
- > Eddystone Point Lighthouse (circa 1889) at the southern end of the park. The three houses at the lighthouse station are the oldest surviving lighthouse keepers quarters in Tasmania.
- > Back on the trail, continue to Weldborough and the Weldborough Pass Scenic Reserve. Just off this road is an enchanting 10 minute Rainforest Walk with tall myrtles.
- > About 10 minutes after Weldborough, turn-off to the Blue Tier Nature Recreational Area and a range of walks from 15 mins to five hours duration.
- > The Big Tree Walk (one hour return or 90 mins loop walk) passes through a stunning sassafras and fern glade, descending through huge eucalypts, musk, myrtle, mosses and ferns to the Blue Tier Giant tree with its massive 19.4 metre girth.
- > The reserve also bears evidence of the region's tin mining legacy. On Australia Hill explore the remains of boilers and jockey wheels and explore the ruins of what was once a mountain mining village.
- > Continue on to the settlement of Pyengana and the Pyengana Cheese Factory and lunch at the Holy Cow Café, the factory well known for its full-flavoured clothbound cheddars.
- > After lunch continue on to St Columba Falls State Reserve and the magnificent 90 metre St Columba Falls. The walk to the falls is one of Tasmania's 60 great short walks.
- > On the way back, stop in at the famous Pub in the Paddock which served its first beer over 100 years ago.
- > Continues on to St Helens, the picturesque fishing port on the shores of Georges Bay.