




EAST COAST
TASMANIA



Sunrise at Wineglass Bay
© Matt Donovan

TASMANIA




 Painted Cliffs,
 Maria Island
 © Stuart Gibson

——— One of Australia’s finest coastal drives, this 176-kilometre route stretches along Tasmania’s east coast and encompasses pristine coastline, boutique wineries, seafood shacks and a string of holiday towns. Natural highlights include Maria Island, Freycinet National Park and the perfect arc of Wineglass Bay.

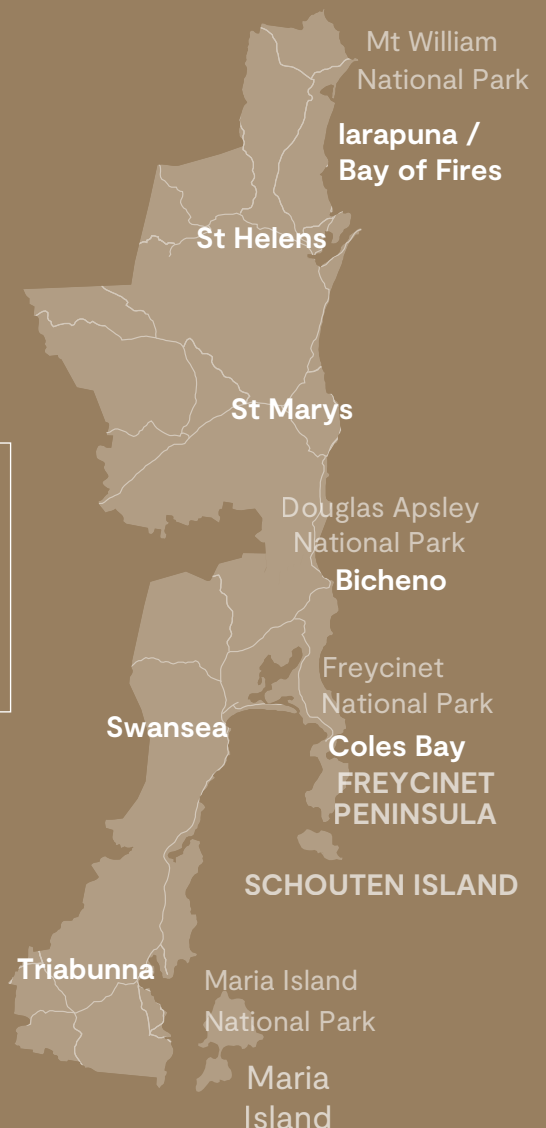
How to get there

BY AIR

Fly to Hobart or Launceston

BY CAR

Explore the [Great Eastern Drive](#) starting from Orford in the south (one hour from Hobart), or from St Helens in the north (two hours from Launceston). This road trip can be tailored to fit a weekend, a week, or longer.



01 – Apsley Gorge © Simon Sturzaker
 02 – wukalina walk © Rob Burnett
 03 – Devils Corner Cellar Door © Pete Harmsen
 04 – Freycinet Adventures © Kathryn Leahy



Top things to do

SEA-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Explore the coast on a [Freycinet Adventures](#) guided sea kayak tour, the ultimate way to experience Freycinet National Park.
- Spend a half day cruising the waterways surrounding Freycinet National Park from Coles Bay to Wineglass Bay with Pennicott Wilderness Journeys [Wineglass Bay Cruises](#).

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Visit [east coast wineries](#) and drop into the [Freycinet Marine Farm](#) or [Melshell Oyster Shack](#) for a seafood fix.
- Catch the ferry to [Maria Island](#) to see World Heritage convict sites, fascinating wildlife and the colourful painted cliffs.
- In Bicheno, experience the power of the ocean at the [blowhole](#), enjoy freshly-caught fish and chips, and in the evening see the little penguins come ashore with [Bicheno Penguin Tours](#).
- Cycle the scenic [St Helens mountain bike trails](#) with a ride to suit all levels of experience.
- Take the short walk to Douglas Apsley Waterhole in [Douglas Apsley National Park](#) near Bicheno, then walk through tall tree ferns near Pyengana to [St Columba Falls](#), one of Tasmania's highest waterfalls.

- Pause at Pyengana's [The Pub in the Paddock](#), one of the oldest pubs in Australia, and meet Priscilla the beer drinking pig.
- Drop into the [Spring Bay Distillery](#) to sample locally produced gin and whisky.
- Deepen your understanding of Tasmanian *palawa* culture on the [wukalina walk](#), a four-day Aboriginal owned and operated guided walk in Irapuna/Bay of Fires.

Top attractions

- In Freycinet National Park, climb to [Wineglass Bay Lookout](#) to see the bay's turquoise water and perfect arc of white sand, then continue to [Cape Tourville lighthouse](#) for dramatic coastal views.
- Join a four-day guided adventure and explore the length of the Freycinet Peninsula on a [Freycinet Experience Walk](#).
- Marvel at the rare combination of turquoise water, white sand and granite rocks splashed with orange lichen at [Bay of Fires](#).
- Experience unusual wildlife, rich history, rugged coastline and fresh local produce on the four-day guided [Maria Island Walk](#).
- Take time to stop along the [Great Eastern Drive](#) to soak up the coastal vistas, visit classic holiday towns and follow meandering beach tracks.



Where to stay

- **Freycinet Lodge** offers secluded cabins in a wilderness setting within Freycinet National Park. New offerings include well-appointed Coastal Pavilions nestled at the edge of the park, overlooking Richardson's Beach.
- **Bay of Fires Bush Retreat** has relaxed, simple-yet-stylish accommodation in a peaceful bush setting. With a fully-equipped communal kitchen, guests can prepare their own meals or choose from a variety of catered options.
- **Swansea Beach Chalets** occupies a scenic beachfront location overlooking Freycinet Peninsula. The fully self-contained chalets, with private balconies, provide a central location from which to explore the east coast, catch a fish, or simply relax.
- In Orford, **The Eastcoaster** offers a mix of motel rooms, villas and cabins. Guests can enjoy an over-water restaurant and bar, sea-view dining decks, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, spa, gym, squash and tennis courts, fishing jetty, boat ramp and beach access.

- Choose from lodge accommodation or self-contained options at **White Sands Estate**. Soak up the surrounds, try fly fishing or canoeing on the lake, and sample beer, wine and whisky at the on-site **Ironhouse Brewery and Distillery**.

Weather

The average high temperature in January (summer) is 17-23°C and in July (winter) is between 3-11°C.

Useful links

- <https://www.eastcoasttasmania.com/>
- <https://greateasterndrive.com.au/>
- <https://www.discovertasmania.com.au/about/regions-of-tasmania/east-coast>

01 - Freycinet Lodge © Supplied courtesy of RACT Destinations
02 - Bay of Fires Bush Retreat © Flow Mountain Bike
03 - Ironhouse Brewery - Michael Briggs © Rob Burnett

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