



## HUON TRAIL

The Huon Trail is a journey of discovery through a region of waterways and wilderness, art and craft, forests and fishing boats, orchards and vineyards. Rich in pioneer heritage, the region is noted for its exceptional variety of landscapes, from the still waters of the tranquil Huon River to the magnificent forests of the Hartz Mountains National Park.

**START:** Hobart  
**EXPLORE:** Southern Tasmania  
**DURATION:** 2 - 4 days

**NATIONAL PARKS ON THIS ROUTE:**  
 > Hartz Mountains National Park

LEG	TIME / DISTANCE
Hobart to Geeveston	52 min / 60 km
Geeveston to Dover	20 min / 21 km
Dover to Bruny Island (Adventure Bay)	2 hr 19 min (+ferry) / 121 km
Bruny Island to Hobart	1 hr 40 min (+ferry) / 71 km

## Hobart - Geeveston

- > Depart Hobart on the Southern Outlet (A6) towards Kingston and follow the signs to Huonville, a drive of around 30 minutes.
- > On the way, stop at the Huon Valley Apple and Heritage Museum at Grove and discover the traditions behind the once flourishing apple orchards of the region.
- > In Huonville, take a thrilling (and sometime peaceful) jet boat ride on the Huon River – a great way to admire this beautiful river scape, complete with Huon pines. This now rare species, famous for its boat building properties, is one of the oldest living things on earth, with some more than 2,000 years old.
- > Nearby, enjoy the region's produce at Home Hill Winery Restaurant at Ranelagh, with its stunning architecture and a menu of local Huon Valley seasonal produce – salmon, oysters, beef, trout, lamb, fruits and vegetables, including the famed Huon Valley mushrooms – all served in a picture-postcard rural setting.
- > Beyond Huonville lies the historic township of Franklin, with its fascinating Wooden Boat Centre and Boat Building School, where shipwrights impart traditional skills to students from around the world.

- > Further on at Geeveston, the Forest and Heritage Centre is a must for anyone interested in the history and practices of the state's forest industries.
- > This is also the place to buy tickets to the Tahune Forest AirWalk, a truly magical treetop experience, before travelling 30 minutes by car through a working forest to the AirWalk itself.
- > Relish the exhilaration of the eagle gliding experience based 400 metres from the Tahune AirWalk Information Centre. Fly like an eagle in a hang glider attached to a 220 metre cable above a 70 metre high forest and the Huon River.
- > Overnight in any of the pretty locations between Huonville and Geeveston or return to Hobart

## Geeveston - Dover

- > Drive to the Hartz Mountains National Park for a range of walks and superb views. From Hartz Peak (1255 metres) you can see east to the ocean and west into the heart of Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- > Farther south, past the fishing town of Dover, are Hastings Caves. One of these, Newdegate Cave, is one of the world's great dolomite caves, containing vast chambers more than 40 million years old.
- > After touring the caves, take a dip in the nearby outdoor thermal springs – wonderfully warm, clear, naturally occurring pure spring water maintained at 28 degrees year round and surrounded by beautiful forests.
- > Further on is Cockle Creek, the farthest south it's possible to drive in Australia, with its beautiful bay of sapphire-blue water fringed with pure white sand.
- > Cockle Creek is also the start, or end, of the challenging multi-day South Coast Track and the Southwest National Park - part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- > Overnight at Dover or Huon region

## Huonville - Bruny Island

- > On this alternative route in the Huon Valley, enjoy a scenic drive from Huonville towards the D'Entrecasteux Channel and enjoy a scenic drive. Typically hilly back-roads reveal panoramic views of a charming patchwork of orchards, small farms and vineyards set against a spectacular waterscape.
- > The Huon Valley is also home to many wineries. Two wineries open to the public for tastings are Panorama Wines, a vineyard and wine centre with picnic facilities, and Hartzview, specialising in fruit ports and liqueurs.
- > Alternatively, follow the meandering shoreline of the D'Entrecasteux Channel past the picturesque small townships scattered among the hills.
- > Don't miss the hamlet of Woodbridge, with its waterside restaurant, Peppermint Bay, featuring local produce, innovatively prepared and served in a beautiful setting. If you walk up the hill nearby, you can watch the sheep being milked in preparation for the production of fine organic cheeses – and sample a variety of offerings at Grandveve Cheeses.
- > On to Kettering, and the car ferry across to Bruny Island.
- > Discover the islands fabulous produce such as the Bruny Island Cheese Company, Get Shucked oysters, the Bruny Island Hotel for fine pub meals, Bruny Island Premium Wines, Bruny Island Provodore and Bruny Island Berry Farm.
- > Overnight at Adventure Bay or one of many accommodation options available on the island.

## Bruny Island - Hobart

- > Spend the day exploring Bruny Island with its fascinating history, wildlife and superb scenery.
- > Take the main road south to the scenic penguin-viewing platform at the isthmus.
- > At Adventure Bay, join a wildlife cruise to the southern tip of Bruny Island – one of the best wildlife experiences in Tasmania, with regular sightings of sea eagles, dolphins, whales and seals as well as close-up views of spectacular rock formations and sea caves.
- > Afterwards, drive to the Bruny Island Lighthouse, situated on a wild, windswept cape looking out across the vast expanse of the Southern Ocean.
- > Return to Kettering by ferry, and head back to Hobart (40 minutes) via Kingston. From Kingston, take the scenic route along the old Channel Highway (B68) into Hobart, rather than the Southern Outlet (A6).
- > Close to Hobart, at Taroona, you can climb to the top of the Shot Tower (1870) for majestic views of the Derwent River estuary and a fascinating insight into the ancient art of making lead gunshot.
- > Return to Hobart.