



TAMAR VALLEY

This route explores the majestic Tamar River from Launceston to Bass Strait as it meanders for nearly 60 kms through the heart of vineyard country past orchards, scenic pastures and forests. From here you'll travel east to Narawntapu National Park for panoramic views of Badger Head and Bass Strait.

START: Launceston
EXPLORE: Tasmania's north
DURATION: 1-3 days

NATIONAL PARKS ON THIS ROUTE:

- > Narantawpu National Park

If arriving by plane, the drive into Launceston will give you an insight into the Valley's focus on great produce, taking you close by famous vineyards, including Josef Chromy, Jingler's Creek and Sharman's North Esk Vineyard, plus Evandale Estate Olives and the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company.

If you're arriving by ship from Melbourne, you can join the route at Exeter by taking the Frankford Highway from Devonport.

LEG	TIME / DISTANCE
Launceston to George Town	39 min / 51 km
George Town to Beauty Point	36 min / 41 km
Beauty Point to Launceston	47 min / 48 km

Launceston - George Town

- > Depart Launceston and take a 15 minute scenic drive through the beautiful Tamar Valley and turn to Hillwood. Visit the Meander Valley Dairy and sample beautiful cheeses, cream and strawberries.
- > Down the road is the Hillwood Berry Farm where you can pick your own, pick up some jam, quince, liqueur or wine just to name a few, as well as their beauty and relaxation products.
- > Fruit can be bought from Millers Orchards on your Hillwood travels. Famous for their cherries, apricots, apples, peaches and more, your providore experience has just begun.
- > Don't forget to sample premium wines at Native Point and Three Wishes Vineyard, the first two of over 30 vineyards available on the Tamar Valley Wine Route.
- > Travel back to the East Tamar Highway for 15 minutes to the historic George Town. On the way into the town, stop at Mount George Lookout, an historic semaphore site, where you'll gain the best photo opportunity of the valley and surrounding districts.

- > At the fringe of the town, visit the Information Centre where you can book tours and accommodation to suit your needs.
- > Well known as being one of the first Australian settlements, George Town is home to the old gaol, model village and display of the Womens Factory at the Watch House.
- > Visit the home of the Norfolk at the Bass and Flinders Centre and learn all the stories of this fabulous vessel.
- > Cross the road to enjoy a great cuppa and all things special at Belle's Tea Rooms located near the famous Eddie Freeman carving at Windmill Point near Paterson's monument.
- > And of course, if you're an art enthusiast, visit the many locations of the North East Arts Trail.
- > Refreshed, drive the road to the most northern part of Tasmania at Low Head. Here you will relive the story of maritime history by visiting Australia's oldest continuously operated Pilot Station, Maritime Museum, Low Head Lighthouse and Low Head Fog Horn – still sounded every Sunday.
- > Enjoy great Tasmanian scallop pies at the cafe whilst overlooking the beautiful waters at the pier.
- > There are also beautiful beaches at Lagoon Bay and East Beach.
- > Early dusk is a perfect time to experience an up-close and personal encounter with the Low Head Penguin Tours.
- > Head back into George Town and dine at York Cove overlooking the Tamar.

George Town - Beauty Point

- > Rise early and enjoy the cycle or walking track of the Kanamaluka Trail. Leading from York Cove to Low Head, the open paths are edged by the Tamar River. Don't forget to look out for sea life.
- > Before departing George Town, pick up a few pastries from the award winning bakeries or succulent seafood from George Town Seafoods.
- > Travel 5 kms to the Pipers River turnoff and the beginning of the Tamar Valley Wine Route – named one of the world's top 10 wine routes by Essential Magazine.
- > Six vineyards are found on the eastern border of the Tamar Valley Wine Route, all with cellar doors for tastings and sales. Bay of Fires, Delamere, Sinapius, Dalrymple, Jansz and Pipers Brook Vineyards welcome visitors and are happy to share the stories of their wine.
- > Return to the East Tamar Highway and turn on to the Batman Bridge for access to the West Tamar region of the Tamar Valley. This is a pleasant scenic drive en route to Beauty Point. On the way, stop at the Lavender Farm at Rowella where more than 100 different kinds of lavender are grown, flowering between August and May.
- > Fifteen minutes farther north is Beauty Point, where families in particular will enjoy visiting the award winning Seahorse World and the Platypus House - the only place in Australia where visitors can watch Tasmanian platypus close up.
- > Overnight Beauty Point or return to Launceston.

Beauty Point - Launceston

- > On from Beauty Point, turn right at Greens Beach Rd and continue all the way to Greens Beach township and Narawntapu National Park where there are several beaches to choose from – Badger Beach, Shelley's Beach, Greens Beach and the more exclusive Nudist Beach
- > Inside the park and from the western car park, there's an easy 270 metre walk to the West Head lookout for spectacular cliff top views along Badger Head Beach and westward as far as Table Cape and the Dial Ranges behind Ulverstone. You can walk a circuit of the headlands - swim, fish or just relax.
- > There's also an easy to moderate four-hour return coastal walk to Badger Head for those inclined to travel further afield.
- > Return to the Tamar Highway and continue north to Beaconsfield, with its rich gold mining history. The Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre shows the workings of the old mine, recalling the boom days of gold, the events of the 2006 mine rescue and Tamar Valley history.
- > For history buffs there's further historical interpretation at Supply River and also Yorktown dating back to 1804.
- > Travelling back toward Launceston, turn left (Frankford Main Road) off the highway at Exeter and visit the enchanting Notley Fern Gorge, a 10-hectare sanctuary for wildlife that includes a relatively easy one-hour walk through dense rainforest.

- > Back on the road and west of Beaconsfield is the Holwell Gorge which is suited to a more experienced walker.
- > A few minutes farther along Frankford Main Road is Glengarry Bush Maze and Tearooms in a beautiful natural setting with puzzles and fun activities for children.
- > You're now in the geographical centre of the Tamar Valley Wine Route – 16 vineyards to choose from, some of which you may have passed in your earlier travels, several with outstanding river views and because they are small and family-owned, the growers themselves will often greet you and explain just how the wine is made.
- > To add to the wine is the valley's growing cafe culture with boutique and eclectic coffee, food, produce and settings to cover all tastes.
- > A brief stop at Brady's Lookout – home of the nineteenth century bushranger Mathew Brady - provides a postcard photo opportunity.
- > To complement the wine route is the Tamar Valley Arts Trail – with ten local artists dotted from Clarence Point through to Legana where you can meet the artist in their studio.
- > Just north of Legana is Grindelwald resort. Grindelwald has a Swiss-style shopping square with nine specialty shops offering Swiss chocolates, bakery items, crafts, souvenirs and more. For families it features mini-golf, paddle boats & canoes, giant jumping pillow and bike hire.
- > And 10 minutes before Launceston is the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre – one of Tasmania's 60 great short walks. Stroll along the boardwalk to picturesque Tamar Island and spot the birdlife along the way. There's an interpretation centre, BBQ, toilets and rangers in the Summer months providing day tours.
- > Arrive Launceston