



# Tasmania's Island Heritage

## Wildlife and Natural Events Calendar WHAT TO SEE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN TASMANIA'S ISLAND HERITAGE



SEEN ALL YEAR ROUND	SUMMER (Dec – Jan – Feb)	AUTUMN (Mar – Apr – May)	WINTER (Jun – Jul – Aug)	SPRING (Sep – Oct – Nov)
Some unique mammals that can be spotted in a variety of locations are spotted-tailed quoll, platypus, short-beaked echidna, wombat, Forester (Eastern grey) kangaroo, Bennett's (red-necked) wallaby, common ringtail possum, sugar glider, common brushtail possum, Eastern barred bandicoot, Southern brown bandicoot and the long-nosed potoroo.	December is the time to keep a lookout for baby platypus (if you see three platypuses in one area it is probably an adult with her young) or you may spot a baby ringtail possum riding on its mother's back.	By April, millions of short-tailed shearwaters leave the Tasmanian coast on their migration flight to the sub-Arctic region around Alaska.	◆ Both the Southern right whale and the humpback whale are regularly spotted during winter. They are travelling north to breeding grounds including the waters around the Freycinet Peninsula.	Keep an eye out for baby Tasmanian devils, Eastern quolls, spotted-tailed quolls and platypus. Spring is also the time to see baby marsupials as they leave the pouches or dens to become more independent. Look out for pademelon, wallaby, possum and other joeys.
Australian fur seals and New Zealand fur seals can be sighted year round in the waters around Tasmania.	December to February is a great time to see carnivorous marsupial young such as Tasmanian devils and quolls.	Deciduous beech (Nothofagus gunnii) or fagus as it is best known, is Australia's only deciduous tree. Its leaves change from rust red through to brilliant gold during late April and May.	Between June and August, male little penguins return to either renovate old burrows or to dig new ones. Noisy male courting displays greet arriving female penguins.	Little penguins breed along the coastline between September and March. This is also a time to look out for nesting shorebirds.
Both common dolphins and bottle-nosed dolphins are often spotted when enjoying a cruise.	The endangered orange-bellied parrot breeds around this time. Viewing is possible at Melaleuca in the Southwest National Park. A bird hide has been built especially for observing these birds (mid October – March).	Tasmanian devils usually breed in March, with their young born in April after a 21-day gestation. Two or three survive from each litter and are carried in the mother's pouch for about four months.	From late winter onwards, acacia trees bloom. Silver wattle is particularly spectacular, flowering gold against the green of eucalypt forest, often while snow is still heavy on the surrounding mountains.	◆ The Southern right and humpback whales return to the Antarctic feeding grounds from September – December. They can be spotted, sometimes with calves, around the Freycinet Peninsula and elsewhere along the north and east coasts.
There are several little penguin rookeries along the coast where penguins can be easily observed.	The endangered swift parrot only breeds in Tasmania. Viewing is possible in the blue gum stands on the east coast, Bruny Island and Maria Island (September – end of March).	Tasmania has over 200 species of native orchids and at any time, there is at least one species in bloom somewhere in Tasmania. Autumn sees the flowering of the delicate autumn bird orchid, Parson's band orchid, mosquito orchid and midge orchid.	While many animals migrate during winter, the Eastern pygmy possum and little pygmy possum deal with the cold by going into periods of torpor. In highland areas they can sometimes be found inside buildings. The echidna fully hibernates, sleeping under large piles of sticks and leaves though they may briefly emerge on warmer days.	See the pups of Australian fur seals at many of the seal colonies throughout December.
Of the many types of birds that make their home in Tasmania, 12 are species found nowhere else in the world (there's great viewing on Bruny and Maria Islands).	◆ Between September and April, Bass Strait and the south east coast of Tasmania come alive with 18 million short-tailed shearwaters, more commonly known as mutton birds.		Don't miss the opportunity to view a range of Tasmania's native wildlife in the quieter winter months by visiting one of the island's wildlife parks:	A large variety of orchids grow in native grasslands. Every spring (October and November), orchid enthusiasts from around the island go in search of these fascinating and exotic-looking plants.
The Tasmanian giant freshwater crayfish is the largest freshwater invertebrate in the world and is only found in northern Tasmania, in rivers and creeks that flow into Bass Strait.	Leatherwood has sweet-smelling white flowers that bloom in December and January. Bees love the flowers and Tasmania is the only place where Leatherwood honey is made.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary</li> <li>• Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park</li> <li>• East Coast Nature World</li> <li>• Devils@Cradle</li> <li>• Trowunna Wildlife Park</li> <li>• Wings Wildlife Park</li> </ul>	The waratah found in Tasmania has beautiful crimson flowers, which are more delicate than the mainland species. It flowers in November and December and a good place to find it is on Mount Wellington.
Tasmania is home to more than 2,000 species of native plants, and more than 200 of them are found only in Tasmania such as the Huon pine, fagus (deciduous beech) and Kings Lomatia, which are Gondwanan relicts.				

◆ A significant natural event that can be experienced on an annual basis within this Landscape