



Hartz Mountains

NATIONAL PARK

The Hartz Mountains National Park is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and is a window into the southwest wilderness. Some walks have views on a clear day that extend to the southern coast, taking in the remote mountain ranges that are part of this area. Waterfalls, small glacial lakes and a wide variety of vegetation are just some of the features of the park.

Features

Short strolls through alpine vegetation to mountain lakes surrounded by ancient King Billy pines, or more challenging walks to the top of the mountain range running through the centre of the park. Hartz Peak (1255 m) the highest point, provides panoramic views into the heart of the southwest.

Getting there

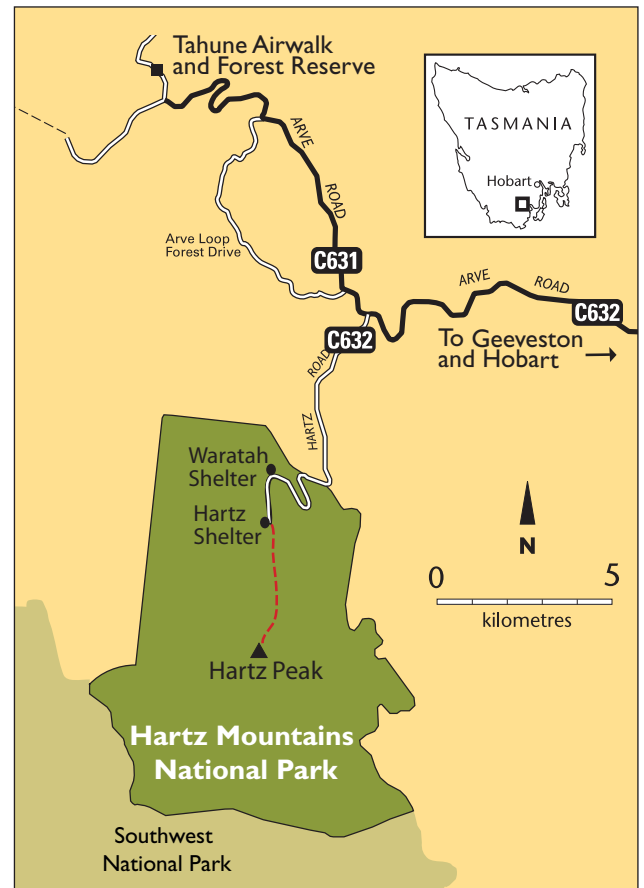
The park is 84 km (1.5 hrs) southwest of Hobart. From Hobart drive south on the Southern Outlet (A6) following the signs to Huonville and Geeveston. In Geeveston turn right onto the Arve Road (C632), which is clearly signposted Hartz Mountains National Park. Much of the C632 is windy, steep and good quality unsealed road. The last section can sometimes be closed by snow. If in doubt you can check the local road conditions by phoning (03) 6121 7031 or the Forest & Heritage Centre Geeveston on (03) 6297 1836.

Drive carefully at night – you are sharing the road with wildlife.

National Parks fees apply. Parks passes can be purchased from the Geeveston Heritage Centre, Parks and Wildlife Office, 22 Main Rd Huonville (Mon-Fri 10-4) and Service Tasmania Shops state-wide (Mon-Fri 9-5). Day Passes can be purchased at the self registration box within the visitor information booth located 5 km past the park entrance.

Facilities

There are basic day visitor facilities, toilet, water and a shelter near the entrance to the Waratah Lookout track. The shelter has picnic tables an open fireplace



and a free gas barbecue. Firewood is supplied and a recycling station is available. Further along at the road-end is the Hartz Visitor Shelter which is suitable for larger groups. It has four picnic tables and a disabled access toilet. The walking tracks commence at this shelter and there is a walker registration booth inside.

There are no camping facilities within the park. Camping is available at Tahune Forest Reserve on the Huon River, where there are toilets, a shelter, tables, fireplaces and wood. To get to the camping area drive back along the Hartz Road, and head west on the Arve Road (C631). This reserve is managed by Forestry Tasmania.

The closest town to Hartz Mountains National Park is Geeveston, where you can obtain food, accommodation and petrol. There is also a Tasmanian

Walks	Time
Waratah Lookout	5 mins return
Arve Falls	20 mins return
Lake Osborne	45 mins return
Lake Esperance	1½ hours return
Hartz Pass	2 hours return
Hartz Peak	3-4 hours return

Visitor Information Centre (TVIN). During business hours, meals are also available at the Airwalk Cafe at the Tahune Forest Reserve.


Walks

Waratah Lookout – 5 minutes return. An easy gravel track leading to a viewing platform which overlooks the Huon Valley and the forests stretching across to the Wellington Range. From November to December the Tasmanian waratah can be seen in a blaze of red colour.


Arve Falls – 20 minutes return. This leisurely walk starts from a small car park about 1 km past the Waratah Picnic Shelter and follows the Arve River. Through alpine herbfields and snow gum woodlands, the walk takes you to the edge of the plateau where the Arve Falls tumble into the valley below. Signs along the way introduce you to the landscape and its special plants.

Lake Osborne – 40 minutes return. A gentle uphill climb through forest takes you across the Hartz Plateau to this picturesque glacial lake surrounded by King Billy pines. Experience a wide variety of vegetation types as you go, and learn how fire and ice have shaped the landscape.

For the more adventurous there are some **longer bushwalks**. Strong footwear, a warm hat, gloves, gaiters and overpants are recommended as some areas can be wet, rough and muddy.

 **Lake Esperance** – 2 hours return. A fascinating walk through woodland and snow gums, up to the high country where cushion plants and ancient King Billy pines encircle the lake.

Hartz Pass – 3.5 hours return. This steep uphill climb for reasonably fit walkers has its rewards in the great views of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area.

 **Hartz Peak** – 5 hours return. Hartz Peak is the highest point of the Hartz Mountains, and in fine weather the summit offers one of the best views of the southwest. This walk is only for fit and experienced walkers as it is a steep uphill climb and beyond Hartz Pass the route is not clearly marked and may be covered with snow. Allow plenty of time to enjoy the breathtaking views.

Register your walk

Register even the shortest walk, at the registration booth next to the car park at the end of the road, and don't forget to sign out at the end. This book is only checked if a group is reported overdue, so be sure to let someone know your plans before you set off.

Weather

The Hartz Mountains area experiences typical southwest weather conditions. In all seasons there can be snow, high rainfall, extremes of temperature, strong winds and sudden weather changes. It is important to carry a raincoat and warm clothing with you at all times. The weather forecast should be checked before heading to the park. For current weather forecasts contact the Bureau of Meteorology on 1196 or www.bom.gov.au.

Further information

Hartz Mountains Map & Notes available at Service Tasmania Shops and at the Huonville Parks & Wildlife Office.

Before You Walk – Tasmania's Essential Bushwalking Guide and Trip Planner

Parks and Wildlife Service Website
www.parks.tas.gov.au;

 Great Short Walks – refer to 60 Great Short Walks Booklet.

Contact Information
Parks and Wildlife Service (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)
Huonville Field Centre
22 Main Road, Huonville
Phone: 03 6121 7031
Fax: 03 6264 8473

Forestry Tasmania
Tahune Airwalk
Phone: 03 6297 0068