Buy your pass online. Anywhere, any time.

Getting your Tasmanian National Parks Pass is easy. Simply purchase a pass online at www.parks.tas.gov.au and start exploring Tasmania’s natural wonders. By purchasing a pass, you’ll be helping us protect Tasmania’s reserve estate and improve facilities for this and future generations.
WILDCARE Inc. is a community volunteer organisation, partnered with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, which is dedicated to caring for Tasmania’s many parks and reserves, as well as its native plants and animals. We’re out there every day, on the ground, getting our hands dirty. But we can’t do it alone. Tasmania’s amazing natural environment gives us so much. This is your opportunity to give something back. You can be certain your tax-deductible donation will go straight to where it’s needed most.

DONATE NOW TO THE WILDCARE GIFT FUND
www.wildcaretas.org.au/donations
The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges the Aboriginal people of Tasmania and their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community. We respect the Elders—past, present and future.

Tasmania is one of the most beautiful places on Earth: compact, diverse, wild, yet accessible. The island State’s famous national parks and reserves protect a wide range of its unspoiled landscapes, intact ecosystems and striking cultural heritage. These places are a refuge for an array of plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth including iconic species such as the Tasmanian devil. They offer visitors a superb range of natural and cultural experiences. Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service manages around 50 per cent of the State’s area, including the internationally renowned Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area protects one of the last true wilderness regions and remains one of the richest natural and cultural landscapes on Earth.

This guide introduces you to some of the features of these special places. But there’s no substitute for getting out there and seeing for yourself. We hope you enjoy your visit.
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NATIONAL PARKS PASS
Fees are charged for entry to Tasmania’s national parks. All money raised from the sale of park passes is used to protect, maintain and improve the parks and their facilities for your enjoyment.

Buying a pass
There are a number of pass options available. Passes can be purchased online at www.parks.tas.gov.au, at national park visitor centres, Service Tasmania outlets and at Tasmanian Visitor Information Centres.

Further information
www.parks.tas.gov.au
1300 TASPARKS (1300 827 727)

DISABLED ACCESS
Some national parks and reserves have facilities and recreational opportunities to suit people who are mobility impaired. This includes wheelchair users, the visually impaired, the elderly, the infirm, and parents with prams or strollers. More details can be found at www.parks.tas.gov.au.

THINGS TO AVOID
Tasmania’s parks and reserves are precious. Keep these threats away:
• Fire can destroy our unique vegetation. Use a portable fuel stove or the BBQs/fireplaces provided.
• Pets can frighten or harm wildlife. Leave them at home.
• Firearms can threaten visitors and wildlife. Firearms are not allowed in parks and reserves.

KEY TO SYMBOLS
- Entry fee or pass required
- Toilets
- Facilities for the mobility impaired
- Picnic facilities
- Barbecue facilities
- Park ranger on site
- Boat ramps
- Caravan access
- Food service
- Accommodation
- Camping
- Short walk
- Overnight walk
- Horseriding
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Scuba diving
- Waterskiing
- Cycling/mountain biking
- Caving
- Campfires permitted
- Dogs on lead are permitted
- Directions
- World Heritage Site
SAFE WALKING GUIDELINES
We want all walkers to have a safe and enjoyable experience, so please:

- **Plan**: know your way, walk within your capabilities
- **Be prepared**: take clothing and equipment to suit changeable weather and track conditions.
- **Avoid walking alone**: walk with friends
- **Tell someone**: let a reliable person know your plans, before you go – be sure to advise them of your safe return
- **Record your trip** intentions in the log books – this will help searchers to locate you if you are reported overdue or missing
- **Be prepared to turn back** or change your plans if the weather deteriorates or the walk is more difficult than expected.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT WALK
The following symbols are used Australia-wide to help you choose the right walk.

| Grade 1: | No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. |
| Grade 2: | Suitable for most ages. The track has a hardened or compacted surface that may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. |
| Grade 3: | Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. |
| Grade 4: | Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited. |
| Grade 5: | Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. |

WHAT TO TAKE
Tasmania’s weather can change quickly, and summer snowfalls in our high country are not uncommon. To ensure your safety and comfort please be prepared. Here are our minimum recommendations:

**Short walks (less than 8 hours)**
Even for a short walk on a fine day, carry a light pack with a weatherproof jacket, warm hat, water (1 litre per person for every 3 hours of walking), some high energy food and a first aid kit. At the same time, be prepared for bright sunshine—carry a sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen. Insect repellent can also make your walk more comfortable. If your mobile phone has a signal take it with you. Limit use of your phone to conserve the battery.

If your short walk takes you into very remote areas it would be wise to pack extra food and an emergency shelter or tent.
Overnight walks
Multi-day walks are a wonderful way to experience the wilder side of Tasmania, but it is essential that you are adequately equipped before embarking on an overnight adventure. In addition to the items listed for short walks you will need at a minimum: a large waterproof backpack, tent, sleeping bag (rated to at least 0°C for coastal areas and -10°C for alpine areas), sleeping mat, hiking boots, gaiters, fuel stove and fuel, food, quick-dry clothes, toilet trowel, antibacterial gel, PLB (personal locator beacon), map and compass. For a full list of recommended items for coastal walks visit www.threecapestrack.com.au, for an alpine/remote area gear checklist visit www.overlandtrack.com.au.

IN CASE OF BUSHFIRE
Be prepared and aware:
• check the weather before going bush
• plan your trip to include refuge areas
• protect yourself from radiant heat
• if caught on foot, seek shelter
• do not try to outrun a fire
• keep as low as possible to avoid breathing heated air and smoke
• drink water regularly to avoid dehydration.

KEEP IT CLEAN!
Clean dirt and mud from boots, camping gear and vehicles before and after every visit. Use any washdown stations provided. This helps prevent the spread of Phytophthora and other infections.

WILDLIFE
Here are some ways you can help wildlife:
• Don’t feed wildlife. It can cause diseases, and make animals aggressive towards humans.
• Keep a safe distance. If they approach you, remain still. Don’t try to pat them, as they may hurt you.
• Don’t shine torches at wildlife unless you have a red light or filter (red cellophane covering the light will help).
• Drive slowly (or preferably not at all) between dusk and dawn. This will help prevent killing animals on the road.

LEAVE NO TRACE
When visiting natural areas, whether camping, boating, bushwalking, four-wheel driving or caravanning, minimise your impacts by following these principles:
• plan ahead and prepare
• travel and camp on durable surfaces
• dispose of waste properly
• leave what you find
• use a fuel stove rather than a campfire
• respect wildlife
• be considerate of other visitors.
Tasmania’s jagged peaks provide an unforgettable backdrop for famous walks like the Overland Track. But there are also wonderful bushwalks through ancient rainforests, along pristine sandy beaches, and to the edge of jaw-dropping cliffs. Here are some of Tasmania’s iconic multi-day bushwalks.

**THE OVERLAND TRACK**
Australia’s premier bushwalk for a reason. For full details see page 100.

**THREE CAPES TRACK**
New, different, amazing! For details on this already iconic walk, see page 31.

**WALLS OF JERUSALEM**
The Walls of Jerusalem is a bushwalker’s heaven; a spectacular labyrinth of alpine lakes and tarns, dolerite peaks, and unique alpine vegetation. There is no road access into the park and entry is only possible via steep walking tracks. The area is subject to extreme weather conditions, including heavy rain, snow, freezing temperatures and blazing sun. Low cloud can greatly reduce visibility and snow can make tracks difficult to follow. Navigational skills are essential during difficult conditions, which can occur in any month of the year.

To preserve the unique and majestic beauty of the area, walkers are asked to stay on tracks and use the established campsite at Wild Dog Creek. The walk is accessed via the Mersey Forest Road.

**FRENCHMANS CAP TRACK**
The Frenchmans Cap Track is one of Australia’s great wilderness walks. It offers a spectacular and challenging “there and back” trip to one of Tasmania’s most prominent peaks. The 45km round trip takes 3 to 5 days, starting and finishing beside the Lyell Highway about 200 km west of Hobart.

The track takes you through wild and sometimes difficult terrain, and weather conditions can include snow and heavy
rain. As you approach the Cap there is a final, difficult ascent to the cliff-bound summit. Walkers need to be competent and self-reliant.

**SOUTH COAST TRACK**

Tasmania’s wild southern coastline is your home for this 6-8 day wilderness walk, as spectacular as it is difficult. The track traverses rocky hills, muddy plains, and rugged headlands; wanders along stunning beaches; crosses rushing streams, and climbs high on an 85km journey from Melaleuca to Cockle Creek. There are no roads to Melaleuca; walkers usually fly there and walk out. Bus or car transport can be arranged from Cockle Creek. A true adventure—this walk is much more difficult than the Overland Track. It can be very rough and muddy, and the weather wild, wet and windy. Walkers should be experienced and completely self-sufficient.

**FREYCINET PENINSULA CIRCUIT**

This walk is a 30 kilometre circumnavigation of this stunning peninsula. From the Wineglass Bay Track carpark the walk heads to Hazards Beach, then south to Cooks and Bryans Beaches. It then crosses a spectacular heathland plateau near Mt Freycinet before descending to the white, quartz sands of Wineglass Bay. The walk is done in an anti-clockwise direction to prevent the spread of the deadly plant pathogen Phytophthora. Allow at least two days to complete the trip, longer if restful days on the beach appeal!

**NOTES**

Take fuel stoves on all multi-day walks to protect these precious places.

For more information on all of these walks—including trip planning, access and safety—please visit www.parks.tas.gov.au.
“A shining beacon in the dull, uniform and largely artificial world.” Pioneer wilderness photographer Olegas Truchanas (d. 1972) didn’t live to see that vision realised. But the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, declared in 1982, surely fits his vision for Tasmania. Covering one and a half million hectares, or around one-fifth of Tasmania’s land mass, this global and national wonder protects an amazing array of natural and cultural heritage.

Most UNESCO World Heritage sites meet only one or two of the ten criteria for that status. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) meets seven out of ten criteria. Only one other place on earth—China’s Mount Taishan—meets that many criteria.

Despite its wilderness character, visitors can access several sites that demonstrate what’s so special about this World Heritage Area. (* = a specific criterion)

**CRADLE MOUNTAIN–LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK**
- The famous sight of Dove Lake beneath Cradle Mountain is just one superb example of glacially-formed landscapes that have ‘exceptional natural beauty’*.
- The park’s landscape is also ‘an outstanding example of ... ongoing geological processes’*, in this case the tearing apart of the supercontinent of Gondwana. This created many of the mountains of the TWWHA.
- ‘Plants of outstanding universal value’* can be seen in the park’s forests. Myrtle beech, deciduous beech, King Billy pine, pencil pine, and pandani are examples of plants with Gondwanan ancestry.
- ‘Animals of outstanding universal value still survive’* in this park, including Tasmanian devils, and quolls.

**FRANKLIN–GORDON WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK**
- Lookouts along the Lyell Highway reveal outstanding glaciated features, including the distinctive Frenchmans Cap.
- Short walks enter ancient rainforests and untouched river catchments.
• Cruises up the Gordon River showcase ancient conifers, including Huon pines.

• An ‘outstanding example (of) ... humanity’s interaction with the natural environment’* is the 35 000+ years of Aboriginal settlement in this area, including a history of burning that helped create buttongrass moorlands, and the use of caves.

MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK
• The tallest flowering plant in the world, the swamp gum, is one of the species that dominates the eucalypt forests of the TWWHA. The Tall Trees Walk shows some fine examples.

• Tarn Shelf and Lake Fenton are great sites to view the remarkable deciduous beech (or fagus). This is one of the species that helped confirm the theory of continental drift.

• Tarns are also home to the mountain shrimp, Anaspides. This tiny crustacean is regarded as a living fossil, almost identical to 250 million year old fossils.

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARK
• The south-west has another ‘outstanding example of ... ongoing geological processes’*, notably the jagged Precambrian quartzite mountain ranges, including the Frankland and Arthur ranges.

• At Melaleuca, the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot may be seen between October and March. This rare, beautiful bird breeds solely in the south-west corner of the TWWHA.

HARTZ MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
• The erosion of dolerite by ice action is a feature of this park. Examples include cirques (Hartz Lake), nunataks (Mount Snowy), and arêtes (the Devils Backbone).

MOLE CREEK KARST NATIONAL PARK
• At Marakoopa and King Solomons Caves there are extensive areas of limestone, in places up to two km thick!

• Chemical weathering has formed some of the largest and deepest caves in Australia.

Despite its size, the TWWHA is prone to serious damage through fire and breaches of biosecurity. The entire area is fuel stove only (no open fires) and visitors are required to clean their boots, gear and vehicles before entering the area to prevent the spread of vegetation infections.
Tasmania’s amazing beauty and diversity continues under its coastal waters. Our clear, pristine waters are renowned among snorkellers and scuba divers for their diverse marine life, spectacular caves and numerous shipwrecks.

Marine protected areas—like parks and reserves on land—help to safeguard our unique and extraordinary marine life and habitats. They also contribute to an idyllic Tasmanian coastal lifestyle and a secure fishing industry.

**MARINE RESERVES**

- **Tinderbox Marine Reserve** offers visitors of all ages an easily accessible introduction to the underwater world.

- Discover a spectacular array of marine life at **Maria Island Marine Reserve**. Studies over many years have shown spectacular increases in species diversity and numbers.

- **Ninepin Point Marine Reserve** protects an unusual underwater world where light is reduced by tannin-stained water.

- Spectacular **Governor Island Marine Reserve** offers magnificent sponge gardens and much more.

The Bass Strait islands which form the **Kent Group Marine Reserve** are unusually rich in fish species, having the highest diversity in Tasmania.

The sub-Antarctic **Macquarie Island Marine Reserve** occupies all of Macquarie Island’s surrounding waters from 0–3 nautical miles offshore.

Set in the wilderness of south-west Tasmania, the dark, tannin-stained waters of **Port Davey Marine Reserve** support unique marine communities, many of which are usually found only in much deeper water.
Since Tasmania became isolated from mainland Australia, 10–12 000 years ago, it has been a living museum, its unique wildlife living largely in isolation.

The absence of introduced predators, such as dingoes, has allowed a variety and abundance of mammals not found elsewhere in Australia. This is especially true of carnivorous marsupials: meat-eaters with pouches! These include Tasmanian devils, quolls and antechinus.

WHERE TO SEE WILDLIFE
Tasmania’s mammals are often nocturnal. The best time to see wildlife is at dawn and dusk. Possums, Tasmanian pademelons and Bennett’s wallabies are common and you will likely see them at most national parks. While sightings are not guaranteed, here are some favourite viewing spots and the animals you may encounter:

• **Freycinet and Tasman national parks:** whales, seals and seabirds in open water. Many smaller birds, echidnas and various lizards in forest and heathland.

• **Bruny Island:** white wallabies, golden possums, the endangered forty-spotted pardalote. In summer, little penguins and short-tailed shearwaters.

• **Maria Island National Park:** Tasmanian devils, wombats, Forester kangaroos. Cape Barren geese, wedge-tailed eagles and white-bellied sea-eagles. Dolphins and seals on the ferry crossing.

• **Narawntapu and Mount William national parks:** Forester kangaroos, spotted-tailed quolls and wombats.

• **Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park:** currawongs, wombats (especially at Ronny Creek). Platypus in Lake St Clair (especially at Platypus Bay).

• **Mole Creek Karst National Park:** glow-worms, cave spiders and cave harvestman in/near the caves.

• **Mount Field National Park:** cockatoos, ravens, currawongs, frogmouths, wrens and other small forest birds. Glow-worms at night near Russell Falls.

• **Southwest National Park:** burrowing freshwater crayfish, the endangered orange-bellied parrot, quolls.