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Strategies for Seeing **Tasmania**



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Time stands still in Tasmania—or at least stretches and bends—until what should have been a 3-hour drive morphs into 2 days and you’ve only clocked up 180km (110 miles); it’s the Tassie-time theory of relativity, where getting from A to B will always take more time than you think. Tasmania may look small on the map, but it feels huge in real life. Take your time, and don’t try to see it all at once.

Rule # 1: Be flexible with your travel arrangements

Tasmania’s an island surrounded by one of the world’s wildest seas, and the changeable weather can destroy the most carefully laid travel plans. Putting together a travel itinerary with tight connections is an almost guaranteed recipe for disappointment: flight cancellations happen all the time.

Rule # 2: Be prepared for all weather, every day

You’ll never get bored with the weather in Tasmania. One minute you’ll be basking in sunshine, with thick fog or driving rain the next. Snow, even in summer, is not uncommon in highland areas. Be prepared for all weather, no matter what the time of year. As the saying goes, ‘There’s no such thing as bad weather. There’s only bad clothing.’

Rule # 3: Try to have your own wheels

While it is theoretically possible to explore the island using public

transport, you’ll see a lot more and spend a lot less time backtracking if you have your own vehicle, so we haven’t included public transport details in this guide. Bring your own car (or motorbike) over on the ferry, or hire a car when you arrive—all the major international and national car-hire companies have offices in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport. Remember: driving is on the left. Not all petrol stations open at night or on weekends, so plan ahead and always fill up when you can.

Rule # 4: Avoid driving at night

Tasmania’s narrow, winding roads can be tricky at the best of times, especially when wet or icy, but at night they are even more dangerous, when the risk of hitting a nocturnal marsupial on an unlit road is very high.

Rule # 5: Don’t drink & drive

Following one of Tassie’s wine trails is a fantastic way to explore the

Spirit of Tasmania ferry.





Watch for animals on the road.

island. A few 20ml tastes won't put you over the limit but a day of tasting will. If you can't decide who should be the (sober) designated driver, go on a wine tour. The blood alcohol limit in Tasmania is 0.05 (grams of alcohol per 100ml of blood).

Rule # 6: Be sun smart

Tassie's mild climate and fresh sea breezes can be misleading: it's very easy to get sunburnt here, especially if you are bushwalking in the Cradle Mountain area. Always wear plenty of sunscreen.

Rule # 7: Swim safe

Tasmania has hundreds of gloriously deserted beaches, but isolated beaches are unpatrolled, which means that if you find yourself in trouble help can be a long way away, so take care and never swim alone. Lonely beaches are often in lonely places far away from cafes and kiosks, so stock up on food and water before you go.

Rule # 8: Don't bushwalk alone

Tasmania's wilderness is wild, remote and far from help should you need it. Never walk alone, make

sure you have the right equipment, appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather and more water than you think you'll need. Let someone know your plans (friend, family, ranger or B&B host) and report back when you return safely. If there are log-books along the track, sign them; they are not checked regularly (which is why you need to let someone know your intentions) but they are relied upon in the event of a search if you are reported overdue. *See box Walk Safe, p 113.*

Rule # 9: Get a National Parks Pass

If you are planning on spending more than 1 or 2 days in national parks, a National Parks Pass will save you some serious money. *See box, p 115.*

Rule # 10: Avoid school holidays if you can

Crowds in Tassie are rare, but school holidays can be very busy. If possible, try to plan your trip outside of the main school holidays. If you are travelling during school holidays, make sure you book your accommodation well ahead. *See The Best Time to Go, p 162.* ●

Always walk with someone.

