

An Underground Art Maze, a Beach Shaped Like a Wineglass

A 7 Days Tasmania Itinerary

Tasmania in seven days: an underground contemporary art museum built into a sandstone cliff above the Derwent River, a full day circling Bruny Island by boat for oysters, cheese, and sea caves, the convict-era ruins of Port Arthur, the lookout above Wineglass Bay's crescent of white sand, and a wombat-dotted walk around Dove Lake beneath Cradle Mountain's jagged dolerite peaks — with real lodges, real operators, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

November – April

Tasmania's late spring through mid-autumn, with the longest daylight and most reliable weather for hiking Wineglass Bay and Dove Lake; December–February is peak summer, while shoulder months (November, March–April) bring lighter crowds and cooler nights

FROM

\$1,650 AUD / person

for 2 people, incl. rental car, lodging, and tickets

Day 1

Hobart Landing & Salamanca

Fly into Hobart, pick up a rental car, and spend the afternoon around the sandstone warehouses of Salamanca Place and the colonial cottages of Battery Point.

Rental Car Pickup — Avis, Hobart Airport (HBA)

~20 minutes to the CBD · From \$65 AUD / day

Major agencies operate from the small terminal at Hobart Airport, a short drive over the Tasman Bridge from the city center.

Salamanca Place & Battery Point

~2 hours self-guided · Free

Georgian sandstone warehouses built by convict labor in the 1830s, now galleries, bars, and studios, backing onto the narrow lanes and workers' cottages of Battery Point — Hobart's oldest neighborhood.

Dinner — Fish Frenzy

~1 hour · \$20–\$35 AUD / person

A no-frills, always-busy fish-and-chips counter on Elizabeth Street Pier looking straight out over the harbor — order at the window and eat at the outdoor tables with the fishing boats a few feet away.

Overnight — Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

From \$180–\$240 AUD / night, for 2 people

A waterfront hotel a few minutes' walk from Salamanca Place, with views over the harbor and Mount Wellington behind it — a convenient base for the next two nights.

Day 2

MONA & kunanyi/Mount Wellington

A ferry upriver to one of the world's more unusual museums, then a late-afternoon drive to the summit overlooking the whole city.

MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) — MONA ROMA Ferry

~30 minutes each way by ferry, half-day museum visit · \$39 AUD / adult (ferry extra; Tasmanian residents free)

A three-level, largely underground museum carved into a sandstone cliff above the Derwent River, built around a private collection that runs from Egyptian antiquities to deliberately unsettling contemporary art — best reached by the museum's own ferry from Hobart's waterfront.

kunanyi / Mount Wellington Summit Drive

~30 minutes drive from Hobart, ~30 minutes at the summit · Free

A winding road climbs 1,271 meters above Hobart to a summit that's frequently 8–10°C colder than the city below — a glassed-in lookout gives a panoramic view over the Derwent River, the city, and Bruny Island on a clear day.

Dinner — Frank Restaurant & Bar

~1.5 hours · \$50–\$80 AUD / person

A sleek Argentinian-style parrilla on Franklin Wharf, cooking most of the menu over an open charcoal grill — a step up from Day 1's fish and chips, with harbor views to match.

Overnight — Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

From \$180–\$240 AUD / night, for 2 people

A second night at the same waterfront hotel before tomorrow's day trip to Bruny Island.

Day 3

Bruny Island

A full day on Bruny Island, reached by a short car ferry across the D'Entrecasteaux Channel — sea cliffs, wildlife, and some of Tasmania's best small-scale food producers.

Bruny Island Car Ferry — SeaLink, Kettering

~35 minutes drive from Hobart, ~20 minutes crossing · ~\$57 AUD return per vehicle (foot passengers free)

A frequent, no-reservation-needed car ferry across the channel from Kettering to Roberts Point — the only vehicle access to Bruny Island.

Bruny Island Wilderness Cruise — Bruny Island Cruises

~3 hours, departs Adventure Bay · \$190 AUD / adult

A small-boat cruise past 200-meter sea cliffs, blowholes, and sea caves along Bruny's exposed southern coast, with a good chance of seals, dolphins, and (in season) migrating whales.

Cheese & Oysters — Bruny Island Cheese Co. and Get Shucked

~1.5 hours, self-guided · \$15–\$30 AUD / person

Two of Bruny's best-known producers sit almost next door to each other on the Bruny Island Main Road — a working cheesery with tastings, and an oyster farm shucking straight off the boat.

Overnight — Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

From \$180–\$240 AUD / night, for 2 people

Back across the channel and up to Hobart for a last night before heading to the Tasman Peninsula.

Day 4

Tasman Peninsula & Port Arthur

A drive out to the Tasman Peninsula for Australia's best-preserved convict site and a coastline of dramatic natural rock formations.

Port Arthur Historic Site

~1.5 hours drive from Hobart, half-day self-guided + guided walk · \$55 AUD / adult

A former convict settlement — now a UNESCO World Heritage site — of more than 30 ruined and restored buildings across 40 hectares, including a guided walking tour and harbor cruise included in admission.

Tasman Arch & Devils Kitchen

~20 minutes drive, ~30 minutes self-guided · Free

Two dramatic coastal rock formations a few minutes apart — a collapsed sea cave now spanned by a natural rock arch, and a narrow, sheer-walled chasm where waves surge in from the Tasman Sea below.

Overnight — Stewarts Bay Lodge

From \$190–\$250 AUD / night, for 2 people

Self-contained cabins set in bushland right on Stewarts Bay, a five-minute drive from the Port Arthur Historic Site entrance.

Day 5

The East Coast & Wineglass Bay

A scenic drive up the east coast to Freycinet National Park, ending with the walk up to Tasmania's most photographed lookout.

Spiky Bridge & the Orford Coast Road

~2 hours drive from Port Arthur to Coles Bay, with stops · Free

A convict-built 1843 bridge laid with vertical fieldstones and no mortar, one of several roadside stops along the drive north — a good excuse to break up the trip up the coast.

Wineglass Bay Lookout Walk

~1.5 hours round trip, moderate, self-guided · Free (Tasmanian National Parks Pass required: \$44 AUD / vehicle)

A steady climb through granite boulders and coastal eucalypt forest to a saddle overlooking Wineglass Bay's perfect crescent of white sand and turquoise water — the single most-photographed view in Tasmania.

Dinner — The Bay Restaurant, Freycinet Lodge

~1.5 hours · \$45–\$70 AUD / person

An Oyster Bay-facing restaurant built into the lodge, leaning on local seafood and Tasmanian produce — a relaxed way to end a day of hiking.

Overnight — Freycinet Lodge

From \$300–\$400 AUD / night, for 2 people

Timber cabins scattered through the bush inside Freycinet National Park itself, a short walk from the Wineglass Bay trailhead.

Day 6

North to Cradle Mountain

A cross-country drive to the highlands, with a lunch stop in Launceston, ending with a walk around one of Tasmania's most famous lakes.

Lunch — Stillwater Restaurant, Launceston

~2.5 hours drive from Coles Bay, ~1 hour lunch · \$30–\$50 AUD / person

A long-running Launceston favorite in a converted 1830s flour mill on the Tamar River — a good halfway stop between Freycinet and Cradle Mountain.

Cradle Mountain Shuttle Bus

~2 hours drive from Launceston to the visitor centre, ~20 minutes shuttle to Dove Lake · \$15.50 AUD / adult (72-hour pass)

Private vehicles aren't permitted to Dove Lake during operating hours — this shuttle is the only way in, running from the visitor centre past the ranger station and Ronny Creek.

Dove Lake Loop Walk

~2 hours round trip (6 km), easy, self-guided · Free with shuttle ticket

A boardwalk and gravel loop around the lake's edge with Cradle Mountain's jagged dolerite peaks reflected in the water — wombats are a near-certain sighting grazing beside the trail at dusk.

Overnight & Dinner — Cradle Mountain Lodge, Highland Restaurant

From \$260–\$340 AUD / night, for 2 people · dinner \$50–\$75 AUD / person

Timber cabins just outside the national park boundary, with the Highland Restaurant on site serving Tasmanian game and seafood by an open fire.

Day 7

Cradle Mountain & Departure

A last, quieter morning in the highlands before the drive to Launceston for the flight home.

Dove Lake Boat Shed at Sunrise

~1 hour round trip, easy, self-guided · Free with shuttle ticket

An 1940s timber boat shed on the lake's edge, framed by the mountain behind it — the single most-photographed spot in the park, quietest in the early morning before the day's shuttle crowds arrive.

Departure — Launceston Airport (LST)

~1.5 hours drive from Cradle Mountain · Self-guided

Closes the loop on seven days that ran from an underground art museum to sea cliffs to convict ruins to two of Tasmania's most iconic walks — return the rental car at the terminal and check carriers' recommended arrival times.