

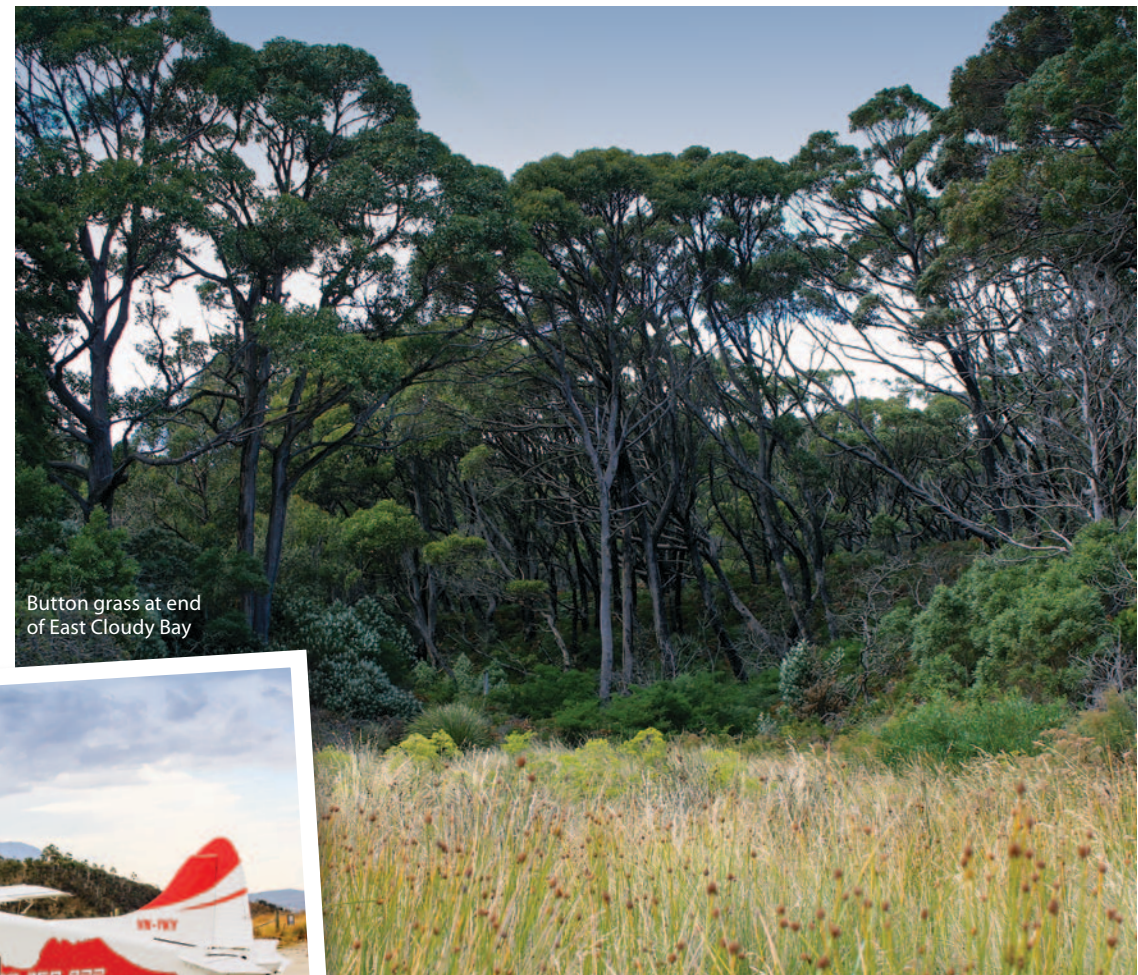
# Isle of delight

A long weekend  
on Bruny Island is  
the perfect blend of  
walking and luxury.





“ Following our hard work, we are again subjected to gourmet treats. Next stop is Australia’s southern-most vineyard. ”



“ It would be vain of me to attempt to describe my feelings when I beheld this lonely harbour lying at the world’s end, separated as it were from the rest of the universe – ‘twas nature and nature in her wildest mood. ...” Admiral Bruni D’Entrecasteaux.

We make our way down this very same channel, appropriately named the D’Entrecasteaux Channel, similarly in awe of this wild, raw and ruggedly beautiful part of the world. The only difference? We are aboard a high-speed catamaran with latte in hand.

### Locals and visitors

As we set foot on Bruny Island, bags are quickly whisked from our hands by guides Alex and Rob and bundled into the waiting van. These two effortlessly take care of everything; there’ll be no pack carrying on this trip.

We exchange excited glances as Rob Knight, the creator and owner of The Bruny Island Long Weekend, drives us to the starting point of our first walking expedition. Today we’re traversing 12km to enjoy lunch atop Queen Elizabeth Cape. The sandy track opens out before us, inviting us to explore the natural beauty of this island the superior way, on foot.

As the cheery chatter echoes down the line of walkers getting to know each other, we are greeted with our first local. A shiny black tiger snake stretches out across the track, absorbing the rays of our sunny morning. As I run with saucer-wide eyes back through the group, I realise I’m the only one less than willing to greet our new mate. The others are delighted.

We walk on through coastal heathland followed by a steady climb up Mars Bluff. From here we are rewarded with a gorgeous view of The Neck that joins north and south Bruny. But what lies ahead is equally special. Down below beckons remote Miles Beach. It’s glorious, untouched and entirely void of human life.

The pace quickens as we head down the dunes, eager to set foot on the squeaky white sands and watch the turquoise waves

tumble in. On this breathless day, the sound is exquisite as salty water quietly meets its sandy curve.

We climb up through Eucalypt forest enjoying the sweet sounds of endemic birds, carefully crossing Mutton bird rookeries before reaching our lunch pinnacle. Over a delicious walnut, feta and spinach salad teamed with a pumpkin and feta quiche we soak up views across Adventure Bay and beyond, as the striking Hound’s Tooth rock formation rises up from the water behind us.

With full tummies, we venture back down to Miles Beach, unlace our boots and splash our way ankle-deep back along to some fascinating fossils, a Jurassic dolerite rock arch and some impressive beach caves. Alex’s encyclopaedic knowledge continues to impress from fossils, to birdlife, to explorers to practically any leaf we brush past.

### Gourmet treats

After our lengthy walk, Rob deems it necessary to reward us. After a quick reverse down a dusty dirt road, we arrive at the Bruny Island Marine Farm. Alex is quick to pour a refreshing elderflower with sparkling water and ice to quench our thirst, as former stockbroker Sam leisurely cruises up to his farm aboard his oyster boat and casually shucks us a few plump oysters.

Our Sydney-sider squeals with delight as she accepts a freshly opened oyster straight from the farmer’s hand, standing ankle-deep in the salty waters they reside in. It is then on to the Bruny Island Cheese Company to enjoy a delicious cheese tasting and tuck two of our favourites under our arm to take back to camp.

Next stop; our luxury camp. Well-secluded on 100 acres of land boasting ample wildlife, with towering blackwoods, dogwoods, and tall stringy barks, this little haven represents the perfect place to retreat. We each are shown to our finely-appointed tents then the race is on for first shower. With the flip of a table tennis paddle

atop a stick (red means engaged), we have our very own outdoor forest shower. Three modest walls leave us unexposed to camp while an open-air window lets us breathe in bush air and watch the birds weave between the tree tops. It’s so invigorating we could be forgiven for forgetting our stark state!

Night is when the Bruny Island Long Weekend guides really turn on the gourmet heat. On arrival in the ‘dining house’ we’re met with vibrant orange honey-suckle flowers on a long rustic table. With a celebratory giggle, the first guest opts for bubbles and we promptly all follow suit. In moments we are each handed a Tasmanian Jansz under the setting sun on the deck. As we discuss how wonderful life is, Alex and Rob busy themselves in preparing us fresh Bruny Island oysters, Woodbridge Smokehouse cold-smoked trout, delicious dips and wood-fired bread.

The menu for the evening better resembles a fine-dining restaurant than a camp-kitchen effort. Bruny Island wallaby Carpaccio with radishini and Grandvewe pecorino is followed by Spring Bay mussels in delicious Saffron cream and perfectly cooked Murrayfield lamb from northern Bruny is served with lemon, garlic and thyme.

### Wild and windy

Day two begins as light fills the tent and a few happy chirps ring through the valley. I lie there and absorb the sound of leaves

colliding in the morning breeze. Today we are bound for South Bruny NP, and as if on cue, the wind picks up and gives this desolate corner of the island an even more rugged personality.

The first 45-minutes of the walk takes in the length of Cloudy Bay Beach. It’s windswept and wild, leading us into coastal heath and a steady climb to the headland for views across the Friars Rocks. Settling in for lunch, it’s a captivating feeling to look across the Southern Ocean, knowing that 2,500km beyond lies Antarctica. Breathtaking views out to Cape Bruny Lighthouse in the west and the distant Southern Ranges of the Tasmanian mainland complete the panorama.

Following our hard work, we are again subjected to gourmet treats. Next stop is Australia’s southern-most vineyard. We know the drill; we get to sample the wares and Rob scoops up an armful for camp.

Later that evening we are spoilt with Blue-eye Trevalla, toasted hazelnut and rocket salad as well as a perfectly-rested fillet of Cape Grim beef by Rob served with pink-eye potatoes, vine-ripened tomatoes and steamed greens.

The last day begins with scrambled eggs, crispy bacon and delicious Huon mushrooms. After a short wet-forest walk we hop aboard Rob Pennicott’s award-winning wilderness and wildlife adventure cruise to enjoy some of the highest sea cliffs in the southern hemisphere as well as dolphins, bold male seals and cruising albatross.

We then enjoy our final lunch overlooking Adventure Bay before meeting our seaplane pilot. It’s a rare site to see a pilot with his trousers rolled up, knee deep in water, and a plane with an anchor attached.

Bumping across the waves at speed, it’s a thrill as we rise gently above the water. But as the capital sneaks into view once more, it’s with a hint of sadness that Bruny Island grows smaller in the distance. What a long weekend – the perfect blend of walking, adventure, luxury and laughter.



Walk notes



**THE BRUNY ISLAND LONG WEEKEND, TAS**

Time/distance: Two separate days/24km | Grade: moderate

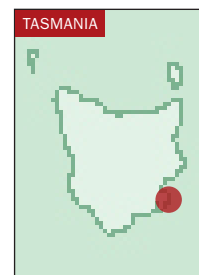
**Walk Notes**

**1. Cape Queen Elizabeth Walk (5-6 hrs, 12km return)**

The day begins with easy walking on a sandy track alongside Big Lagoon and Little Lagoon. The path then steeply ascends Mars Bluff for spectacular views of The Neck, then runs down to remote Myles Beach below leading south to the cape for spectacular views of Adventure Bay.

**2. East Cloudy Head Walk (5-6 hours, 12km return)**

Day two begins at the end of Cloudy Bay Rd with a 45-minute walk along the beach. It is possible to drive this section, but the walk is very pleasant. The remainder of the walk is along a disused 4WD track, returning the same way from the headland. There are several fairly steep ascents and descents in comparison to the previous day's walk.



**i NEED TO KNOW**

Tasmania's newest multi-day walk operates between November and April. Trips depart the Hobart waterfront each Friday with a maximum of eight guests and two guides. The special introductory price is \$1480 per person. More info visit [www.brunyislandlongweekend.com.au](http://www.brunyislandlongweekend.com.au)

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