

# TOP 10 OF TASSIE

*You've heard of the edgy Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) that's placed Tasmania firmly on the world map, but what else is drawing visitors to the state in record numbers? Turns out a quiet revolution has been going on. Here's our list of must-do experiences.*



WORDS: ALICE HANSEN. PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM GIBSON, GETTY IMAGES, LUXURY LODGES OF AUSTRALIA, TOURISM AUSTRALIA/ELLENOR ARGYROPOULOS, TOURISM TASMANIA & SOUTHERN CROSS TELEVISION.



**1** **SATELLITE ISLAND**  
Hiring your own private island — it's usually a getaway option reserved for movie stars. But in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, off Tasmania's south-eastern coast, one can hire what UK *Vanity Fair* coins "one of the world's loveliest private island getaways". On **Satellite Island** (0400 336 444; [satelliteisland.com.au](http://satelliteisland.com.au)), late afternoon involves shucking oysters off an ancient rock shelf for an entree and beach dining by fire as the sun dips below the Southern Ocean. A five-minute boat ride from Bruny Island and Satellite's pebbled coves, sheer cliffs, kayaks and stylish accommodation are all yours.

**2** **COAL RIVER FARM**  
We like to know where our food comes from and, at **Coal River Farm** (634 Richmond Road, Cambridge; 1300 455 196; [coalriverfarm.com.au](http://coalriverfarm.com.au)), it's easy to spot the source. At this paddock-to-plate experience, pick your own seasonal berries, sip wine from the boutique vineyard, pluck an apple from the orchard and meet the cheesemaker. Don't be surprised if the chocolatier is singing to his tasty morsels; this is part of the process. Where weeds once grew, expect to find a providore — complete with welcoming chickens and pigs — outside, and the friendliest owners (with a flock of five kids themselves) inside.



**3** **SEAFOOD SEDUCTION TOUR**  
When Rob Pennicott was a boy, he would shuck oysters in the River Derwent for an after-school snack while other kids were eating muesli bars. Today, his **Seafood Seduction Tour** (Dock Head Building, Franklin Wharf, Hobart; (03) 6234 4270; [seafoodseduction.com.au](http://seafoodseduction.com.au)) is Pennicott's means of sharing his way of life with others. He will dive off the boat and gather up what he finds — rock lobster, abalone, sea urchin — then cook up a gourmet feast on board. Little wonder this guy was crowned Australian Tourism Legend in 2014. ▶





**SAFFIRE FREYCINET**

It's on many a wish list and was named the world's best boutique hotel at the 2014 World Boutique Hotel Awards. **Saffire Freycinet** (2352 Coles Bay Road, Coles Bay; 1800 723 347; saffire-freycinet.com.au) is the ultimate indulgence – an in-room bar generously stocked with top-shelf complimentary drinks, private plunge pool and handcrafted chocolates delivered when the bed is turned down. In-room chef? Sure. Viewing Tasmanian devils up-close at Saffire's sanctuary? No worries. As for standing in an estuary enjoying freshly caught oysters from a white tabletop... *this* is a Saffire signature experience. If you're driving the two-and-a-half hours from Hobart, the Great Eastern Drive will have you pulling over more than once for photos.

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**TOP WALKING TRACKS**

If there's one thing Tasmania is known for, it's great walking tracks. With World Heritage wilderness on Hobart's doorstep, it doesn't take long to be in the middle of ancient forests. There's no need to rough it, though, with adventures such as **Wineglass Bay Sail Walk** ((03) 6392 2211; wineglassbaysailwalk.com.au), where accommodation is aboard a luxury 23-metre yacht and one walk concludes with three-course dining on a remote beach. Alternatively, take the popular six-day **Overland Track** to explore the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, or be one of the first to attempt what's already been coined Australia's premier coastal walk, **The Three Capes Track** on the Tasman Peninsula, due to open in December 2015 (book both walks through Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service; 1300 827 727; parks.tas.gov.au).

**WILDERNESS FLIGHTS**

There are no roads that lead to Melaleuca, in Tasmania's south-west, and there are no shortcuts. The only way to access this remote region is by foot, boat or aircraft, and our preference is a **Par-Avion Wilderness Tours** flight (Kennedy Drive, Cambridge Airport; (03) 6248 5390; paravion.com.au).

Head there for the day and your pilot will take you over the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, past Recherche Bay to Tasmania's most southern point, South East Cape, before morphing into a boat captain. He or she will then ferry you to Bathurst Harbour before transitioning into a chef come lunch. Out there, multiskilling's a necessity.

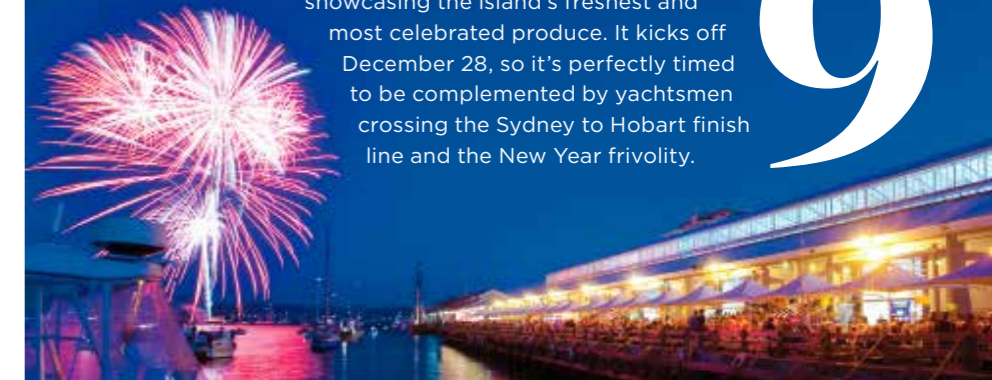
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**THE TASTE OF TASMANIA**

Foodies love Tasmania, but they don't always have the time to forage for crisp apples at roadside stalls, venture off to vineyards or chase down must-try restaurants. **The Taste of Tasmania** (Princes Wharf No.1; thetasteoftasmania.com.au) brings together all they love best under one roof. It's seven days of food and beverage heaven by the Hobart waterfront,

showcasing the island's freshest and most celebrated produce. It kicks off December 28, so it's perfectly timed to be complemented by yachtsmen crossing the Sydney to Hobart finish line and the New Year frivolity.

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**BANGOR WINE & OYSTER SHED**

It's a heartwarming story: two farming families devastated by the 2013 Dunalley bushfires join forces after one asked the other, "Do oysters go well with wine?" This simple pondering brought Dunbabin's wines and Gray's Pacific oysters together under the banner of **Bangor Wine & Oyster Shed** (20 Blackman Bay Road, Dunalley; (03) 62 535 558; bangorshed.com.au). At this cellar door-cum-farm gate, the oysters served are harvested from nearby Norfolk Bay, and wine from their own vines. At least one Dunbabin or Gray will serve you or offer a picnic blanket, like you're family.



**WEST COAST WILDERNESS RAILWAY**

The locals call it Gormy Hill – a road out of Gormanston with 99 hairpin bends, so challenging to drive it features in the pages of motoring magazines. This part of the Lyell Highway winds through 'moonscape' mining territory to Queenstown, a historic west coast township three-and-a-half hours' drive from Hobart and once the world's richest mining town. From here, travel 40 minutes further west to Strahan, then to the town's harbourside station for a steam locomotive ride with **West Coast Wilderness Railway** (Regatta Point Station; (03) 6471 0100; wcwr.com.au). The 'River and Rainforest' route puffs through ancient forest so impenetrable, the surveyors of the 1800s insisted the railway could never be built. Ponder this in the balcony carriage over high tea and sparkling Tasmanian wine.

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**AGRARIAN KITCHEN**

There's something quaint about milking a goat to make a dessert in a 19th-century former schoolhouse with a group of friendly strangers. This is what **The Agrarian Kitchen** (650 Lachlan Road, Lachlan; (03) 6261 1099; theagrariankitchen.com) is all about. The farm-based cooking school involves learning from Rodney Dunn, a former apprentice to star chef Tetsuya Wakuda, as he crouches close to heirloom vegetable varieties and introduces you to rare-breed pigs. Cooking classes include foraging on the property, preparing seasonal dishes, then feasting at the long dining table. 

