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EAST COAST ROAD TRIP · 8 DAYS FROM HOBART AND BACK

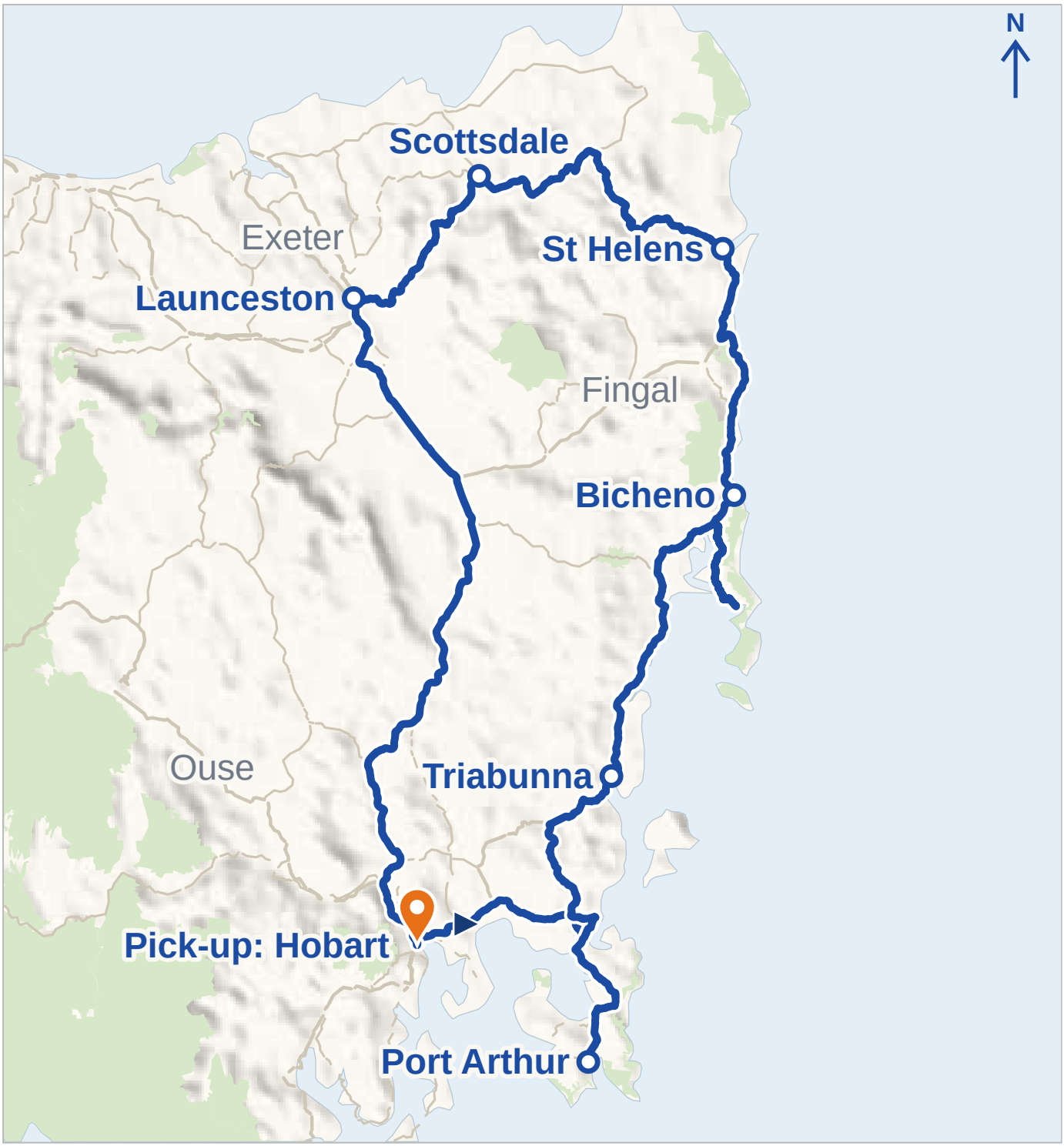
Tasmanian East Coast Self-Drive Itinerary

Explore Tasmania's stunning East coast with this 8-day itinerary from Hobart to Launceston and back, and step back in time with historical Port Arthur.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 790 km	8 days, 7 drives	Loop from Hobart, via Launceston	About 13 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
200 km, Launceston to Hobart	Campervan

This trip crosses lutruwita/Tasmania, the Country of the palawa, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Traditional Custodians



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (Geoscience Australia, SRTM).

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

Start and finish in Hobart

No brand we compare has a campervan branch in Launceston or Devonport. For a trip that stays in Tasmania, you pick up and return in Hobart, even if you fly into Launceston, so this itinerary ends with the drive back to Hobart

Your route

All rental vendors in Australia have restrictions on where their vehicles can be taken, so discuss your planned route with the rental company when you pick up. Get the rental company's permission before taking the vehicle somewhere it restricts. If you take it there

up the Midland Highway (which city to start from).

without permission, you may lose your excess reduction and be fully responsible for any damage. You may also have to pay for towing and recovery, and for damage to other people's property. See road restrictions and when you are fully responsible.

Picking up in Hobart

The Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty branch is in the Hobart Airport precinct, the Cambridge branches are about five minutes away by road, and Indie Campers' branch in Sorell about 20 minutes (Hobart branches). On weekdays, Hobart branches hand over vans until between 3pm and 5pm, and fewer are open at weekends. If your flight lands after early afternoon, it's often easier to stay the night near the airport and collect next morning (pick-up times and late flights). More on campervan hire in Hobart: branches, hours and each brand's rules.

PICK-UP DAY IN HOBART

DAY 1

Hobart

PICK-UP

Pick up your car or campervan in Hobart today. If you're collecting a campervan, allow plenty of time at the depot so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave.

Hobart is the capital city of Tasmania, which means that there is a wide variety of activities and attractions suited to everyone. kunanyi / Mount Wellington is about a 30-minute drive west of Hobart, and is a must-see when you visit Hobart. Journey to the summit of the mountain, and if it's a clear day, you can sometimes see all the way to the Tasman Sea. For something a little more active, you can trek along one of the many paths or even bring your bike. The natural environment is perfect for adventurous explorers.

Pick-up guide	Allow time at the branch for the handover and van demonstration, and bring the documents the rental company asks for. See what to expect when you pick up your campervan: the inspection and demonstration, documents you'll need, choosing a pick-up time, getting there from the airport and what to do if you'll be late. The Hobart branch list has each branch's address and hours.
Stay	Discovery Parks – Hobart

DRIVE

95 km from Hobart | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan

Via **Tasman and Arthur highways**

DAY 2

Hobart to Port Arthur

Depart this morning and take the A3 towards Bellerive. Turn right and follow Cole St/ A9 until you reach Port Arthur.

Travel back to colonial Australia and visit the Port Arthur Historic Site, a World Heritage-listed attraction. Port Arthur was a penal settlement established in the 1830s, and was the home for many of the convicts that arrived from Britain. Walking around Port Arthur feels like you have travelled back to the 1800s, with the shell of the buildings remaining as a sinister reminder of events that unfolded hundreds of years ago.

There are many tours available in order to learn about Port Arthur, including the very popular ghost tours held at night, where you can learn about the strange happenings and unexplained events in Port Arthur.

Stay NRMA Port Arthur Holiday Park (formerly Port Arthur Holiday Park)

DRIVE

110 km from Port Arthur | **about 2 h 20 min** by campervan

Via **Arthur Highway**

DAY 3

Port Arthur to Triabunna via Marion Bay

Depart this morning and follow the A9 towards Kruvale Road. Stop off in Marion Bay for lunch, by taking a right at Marion Bay Road. Marion Bay is popular for its expansive beaches with crystal clear waters, so why not have a picnic on the beach or try one of the waterfront restaurants.

Once you're ready to get back on the road, head north on Bream Creek Road and take the A3 until you reach Triabunna.

Triabunna is a gateway to Maria Island, so take a ferry and spend the afternoon on the island. The ferry carries foot passengers and bikes, not vehicles, so leave your campervan in Triabunna (more on ferries and campervans). Maria Island is a natural wildlife sanctuary, with historic ruins from the time when it was a convict probation station. The island has plenty of walks and cycling trails where you can discover details ranging from its convict history in the ghost towns, or seeing some of the local wildlife in their natural habitats.

Book ahead:
Book the Maria Island ferry ahead.

Stay Triabunna Cabin and Caravan Park

DRIVE

145 km from Triabunna | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Coles Bay**

DAY 4

Triabunna to Bicheno via Coles Bay

Depart this morning and head north on the A3 towards Victoria. Turn right onto Coles Bay Road.

Coles Bay is the best place to explore the Freycinet National Park and Wineglass Bay. The area is full of activities for everyone of any age. Whether you want to spend your afternoon on a cruise with lunch, trying a kayaking tour, having a hit of golf or just exploring on your feet. However, you simply must try some of the world-class oysters, as Coles Bay is a part of the Great Oyster Bay.

Return to the A3, and follow it towards St. Helens. Take a slight right onto Burgess Street and arrive in Bicheno.

While in Bicheno, visit many of the natural attractions including whale watching and penguin tours. Tasmania's wildlife is active on these roads too — wombats and Tasmanian devils are common after dark, so take care driving between stops. The Bicheno Blowhole is a natural wonder, where you can see the salt water blasted from the ocean due to the pressure beneath the surface.

Stay Bicheno East Coast Holiday Park

DRIVE

76 km from Bicheno | **about 1 h 20 min** by campervan | Via **Tasman Highway**

DAY 5

Bicheno to St Helens

Depart this morning and head north along the A3 until you reach St. Helens.

St. Helens is the perfect place to access the world-renowned Binalong Bay and Bay of Fires. The Bay of Fires combines the wilderness with long stretches of beach, meaning that you can really become one with nature. Take an eco-tour or go snorkelling in the crystal waters, as the reefs are vibrant and full of life. There are also many bush walks and opportunities for bird watching in the area.

Stay BIG4 Tassie Getaway Parks St Helens (formerly BIG4 St Helens Holiday Park)

DRIVE

99 km from St Helens | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan

Via **Tasman Highway**

DAY 6

St Helens to Scottsdale

Depart this morning and head north on the A3 towards Quail Street until you reach Scottsdale.

Scottsdale is a vivacious agricultural town, full of colours and great local produce. Visit the Bridestowe Lavender Estate and witness the spectacular rolling hills of lavender. The estate is open all year round to visitors, as its 260 acres of land is always full of life and colour. The accompanying Woodcroft Café is also the perfect way to finish your day by trying some lavender infused treats with your afternoon tea.

Where it is Bridestowe Lavender Estate is at Nabowla, about 20 minutes west of Scottsdale. It's open every day; its fields bloom in December and January, when there's a gate fee.

Stay Northeast Park, Scottsdale (the council's camping ground)

DRIVE

63 km from Scottsdale | **about 1 h** by campervan | Via **Tasman Highway**

DAY 7

Scottsdale to Launceston

Depart this morning and follow the A3 to David Street in Newstead.

You have now arrived in Launceston, the second biggest city in Tasmania. While in Launceston, visit the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and check out their local exhibitions. With a collection showcasing both local and international works, there is always something for everyone in the family, and an opportunity to learn something new.

If you have time, also visit the Launceston Cataract Gorge & First Basin, which is a nature park with the world’s longest single span chairlift. Enjoy a relaxing meal at the restaurant or explore the beautiful gardens and surrounds to top off a great week in Launceston.

Continue to discover more of Tasmania before you head back to Hobart.

Stay BIG4 Launceston Holiday Park

DRIVE

200 km from Launceston | **about 3 h** by campervan | Via **Midland Highway**

DAY 8

Launceston to Hobart

RETURN

Head south down the Midland Highway to Hobart and return your campervan to the depot: there's no campervan branch in Launceston. Allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking. Rental companies charge for late returns.

Return guide Plan your last day around your drop-off time, and check your branch's address and hours in the Hobart branch list. See returning your campervan: choosing a drop-off time, what to do if you're running late and returning early.

Returning in Hobart

Drop-off times are often earlier than people expect, so check yours. Fill up near your branch before you return the van. Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty have no toilet or grey-water emptying service in Hobart, so return their vans with both emptied. With an early flight, returning the van the day before takes the pressure off (returning the van in Hobart).

Enjoy the east coast's beaches, bays and wildlife.

Traditional Custodians

Hobart: The muwinina people, traditional owners of nipaluna (Hobart), and the palawa as the ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania (City of Hobart (https://www.hobartcity.com.au/files/assets/public2/v/2/council/strategies-plans-and-reports/country-culture-people-2025-28.pdf))

Launceston: Tasmanian Aboriginal people (City of Launceston (https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council-Region/Reports-Plans-and-Strategies/Aboriginal-Partnership-Plan))

Country boundaries are approximate, and some are shared or contested. These names follow local councils and park managers. The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia (https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia) shows the wider picture.

Pay your respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you are travelling, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Australian environment is fragile, so tread lightly: take only photos and leave only footprints.

DriveNow Disclaimer

DriveNow receives no money or commission for any holiday park, campground, hotel, restaurant, cafe, pub, tour or attraction named on this page. We include them because they suit a campervan trip, and we check them from time to time.

DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

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