

### **Mother Nature's favourite breath-taking place**

Isolated from the rest of Australia, Tasmania has a fascinating natural beauty and diverse cultural experiences that attract lots of individuals. This island is just so utterly beautiful. There is a variety of natural landscapes to explore, you can visit waterfalls, mountains, national parks and I bet there are still underrated spots that locals tell you about and you can't find online.

If you're not a fan of long walks or hikes, this is probably not the destination you would choose, but it's worth a try. You don't have to like long exhausting walks, as it does not take you very far to see some of their spectacular natural sights. A great example is a 2 hour walk along the painted cliffs in Maria Island that will leave you in a haze considering the swirls of the beautifully patterned cliffs and the bright white sand. Alternatively, head to South Cape Bay and take a brisk walk along the beach. On top of the cliffs, you will have a stunning view of the Southern Ocean. It is possible to go on multiple day hikes in Tasmania and there are lots of trails you can try out, such as the Overland Track. This trail makes its way past ancient rainforests and a collection of Tasmania's highest mountains, like Mount Ossa. On these multiple day trips, I was always left on a high of happiness because after a hike, you will be amazed by the dazzling nature and wildlife that is there in Tasmania. The collection of photos I have of Tasmanian devils and wombats serve as wonderful memories that I look back on and there are other animals you can come face to face with, such as echidnas, pademelons or platypuses.

Tasmania offers not only a variety in adventurous activities, but also cultural ones. In every season there are different events in the towns that you can experience. In spring, you can go to Table Cape Tulip Farm, where several fields of intense colours can be seen. The festival offers tasty food, art and amazing entertainment near Wynyard. Why have a boring New Year's Eve in your hotel room when you can celebrate it in summer with lots of people at the Launceston Beerfest in northern Tasmania. To celebrate the traditional harvest, art and beauty of life, there is the ECHO festival somewhere near Swansea, a wonderful start to autumn as the leaves fall from the trees and the days grow shorter and cooler. Heading into the final season, the Festival of Voices is highly recommended. It brings joy to winter with concerts or bonfires where thousands of people sing around. It is one of the best festivals I have ever been to in my life because of all the delight, the quite charming atmosphere and the good quality beer and ciders.

Even though Tasmania is Australia's most sparsely populated region, many people from all over the world and country still attend these festivals. Tasmania, or Lutruwita as the Aboriginals call it, was heavily populated when European settlers first found this Australian island in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Settlers were not kind to Aboriginals and for hundreds of years they were mistreated until 1832, when many Aboriginals in Lutruwita were exterminated. Tasmania now gives tourists the opportunity to learn more about them and Aboriginal businesses and led experiences are growing by the day. I learnt so much from the Wukalina walk since I could hear them tell their own story. So I really recommend taking this walk. I also visited the Tasmanian Museum Art Gallery to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of this community.

There are other museums where you can learn more about the first Tasmanians, like the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. One more museum to visit is the Mona where art is displayed in a playful manner. I learned to appreciate art in a different way because there was no presentation of artworks. Mona is not just a museum, it is also a place with restaurants where you can dine in style, get tipsy in bars or listen to a gig.

So visiting this state in Australia is terrific for its variety, you don't have to be sporty to catch a glimpse of the sublime nature and wildlife. You can also enjoy festivals and other cultural things and still learn plenty. The most important thing is to find peace, be free, be happy and have a lot of fun during your trip.

