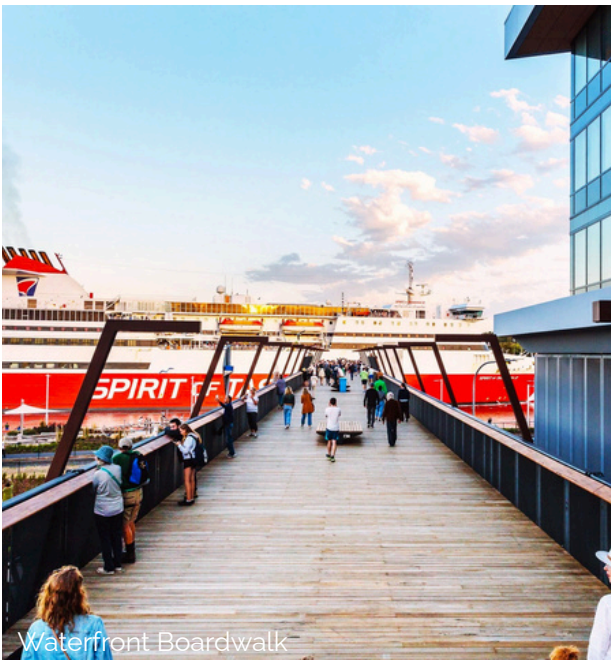


# A PLACE TO BECOME DEVONPORT



Waterfront Boardwalk

When I travel, I crave more than a change of scenery. I seek places that invite me to slow down, breathe deeper, and truly connect. Devonport, where rolling farmland meets the wild Bass Strait, is a destination that quietly rewards you for taking your time.

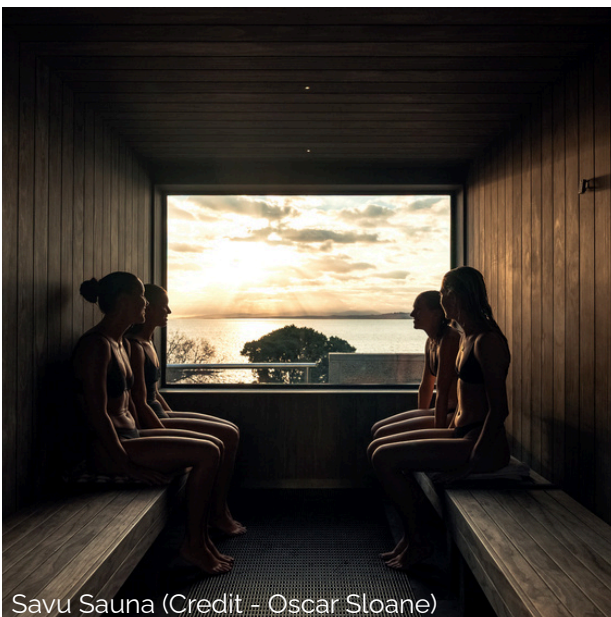
From the deck of the Spirit of Tasmania, I was struck by Devonport's vibrant waterfront, the outstanding new Haines Park, and a boardwalk sweeping over the river.

Creativity pulses through the city. Once dull brick walls now bloom with murals, sculptures dot public spaces, and the gallery scene thrives with local talent. At [Devonport Regional Gallery](#), exhibitions spotlight Tasmanian artists and their stories.



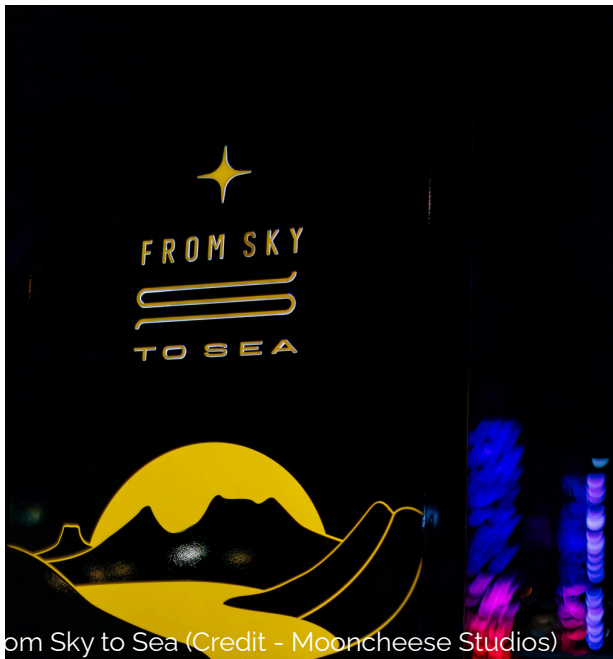
Mersey Bluff Lighthouse (Credit - S. Group)

A standout experience was visiting [Tiagarra Cultural Centre](#) perched on Mersey Bluff, a culturally significant site for the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. First opened in 1976, Tiagarra offers a rich insight into the region's Indigenous history. There, I had the privilege of meeting Dave manguenner Gough, Chair of the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation, who shared his deep connection to the land and its stories. *"Tiagarra is an Aboriginal word meaning 'to keep,'"* Dave explained. *"We keep our cultural heritage, we hold our stories, it is a place of sharing."* Dave's passion for working with younger generations to help them grow into healthier individuals was evident, and the centre plays an integral role in guiding them toward careers in teaching and cultural sharing. This eye-opening experience gave me a richer understanding of the Palawa people and a greater sense of place.



Savu Sauna (Credit - Oscar Sloane)

As evening fell, the city's foreshore transformed with [From Sky to Sea](#) sound and light show. This free, breathtaking spectacle celebrates Devonport's connection to the land, sea, and sky. As the sun dips below the horizon, the city's rotunda becomes a canvas for vivid projections, accompanied by sounds that echo the natural rhythms of the region. It's a beautiful way to end my day.



From Sky to Sea (Credit - Mooncheese Studios)

Immersed in the area's wild beauty, The Cove, a serene clifftop retreat above Lilloo Beach, lulled me to sleep with the sounds of the Bass Strait. Its panoramic ocean views and complete tranquillity offered the perfect space to reset. For those drawn to the buzz of the city, the sleek Novotel blends stylish comfort with convenience, placing Devonport's vibrant centre right at your doorstep.

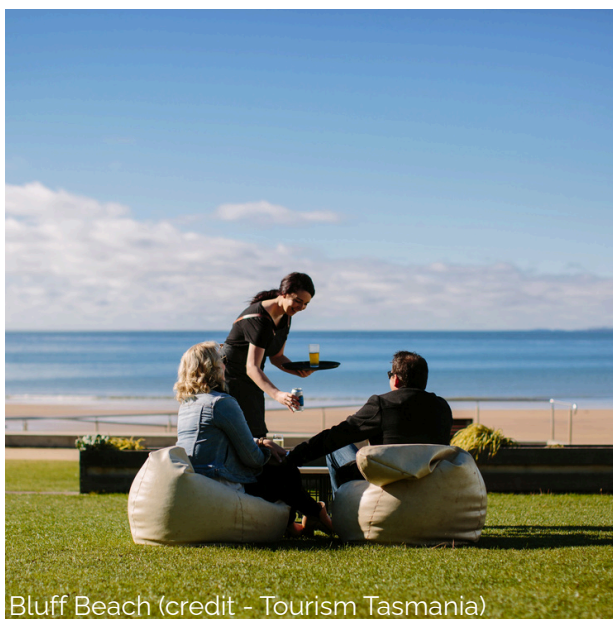
Food? Let's talk food. Devonport's culinary scene is all about hyper-local, fresh ingredients. From the farmers' market brimming with seasonal produce to world-class dining, the region's rich agricultural surroundings influence every bite. At Mrs. Jones Restaurant, I dined with Bluff Beach as my backdrop. Taste by Bold Cuisine took my dining experience to the next level with a five-course menu celebrating the fresh flavours of the region.



Devonport Farmers Market

No trip to Devonport is complete without exploring the Tasting Trail Tasmania where local producers infuse every sip and bite with the region's character. I savoured gin at Southern Wild Distillery, enjoyed craft brews at Island State Brewing, and sampled cool-climate wines at La Villa and House of Hargrave. Along the way, I discovered fresh apple ciders at Spreyton Cider and nibbled artisan cheeses and chocolates. A visit to Truffledore, a boutique truffle farm, grounded the experience, literally, giving me a deeper appreciation for the connection between land and plate. At every stop, I was reminded of the dedication and passion that fuel Tasmania's producers.

What truly sets Devonport apart is its access to nature, without having to go off-grid. Don Reserve is a thriving ecosystem where estuaries meet threatened vegetation, like black gum and melaleuca woodlands. It's home to bandicoots, pademelons, potoroos, and the critically endangered swift parrot, whose dwindling numbers make it a conservation priority. Meeting Neal Masters from Landcare, I learned why he's so passionate about the reserve: *"It's a very special place, full of unique species that are disappearing from much of Australia."*



Bluff Beach (credit - Tourism Tasmania)

For those looking for something more active, Kelsey Tier offers another stunning nature reserve. Overlooking Devonport, it bursts into colour each October with wildflowers. It's home to Tasmanian devils, spotted-tail quolls, and wedge-tailed eagles - impressive, considering its proximity to the CBD. And for mountain bikers, Kelsey Tier is a must-visit, with well-maintained trails accommodating all skill levels.



I recharged both body and soul as I cycled scenic trails, wandered the lush Tasmanian Arboretum (spotting a platypus, no less!), and watched the adorable Little Penguins return to shore at Lillico Beach. One morning, I braved the invigorating contrast therapy at Savu Saunas - stepping out of the steamy cedar sauna and plunging into the bracing Bass Strait. It was equal parts thrilling and revitalising.

Every experience in Devonport felt intentional and in harmony with the region's natural rhythm. It felt unhurried, uncrowded, full of what matters. Devonport is a place to pause, a place to connect, and ultimately, a place to become.

And I'll be back.

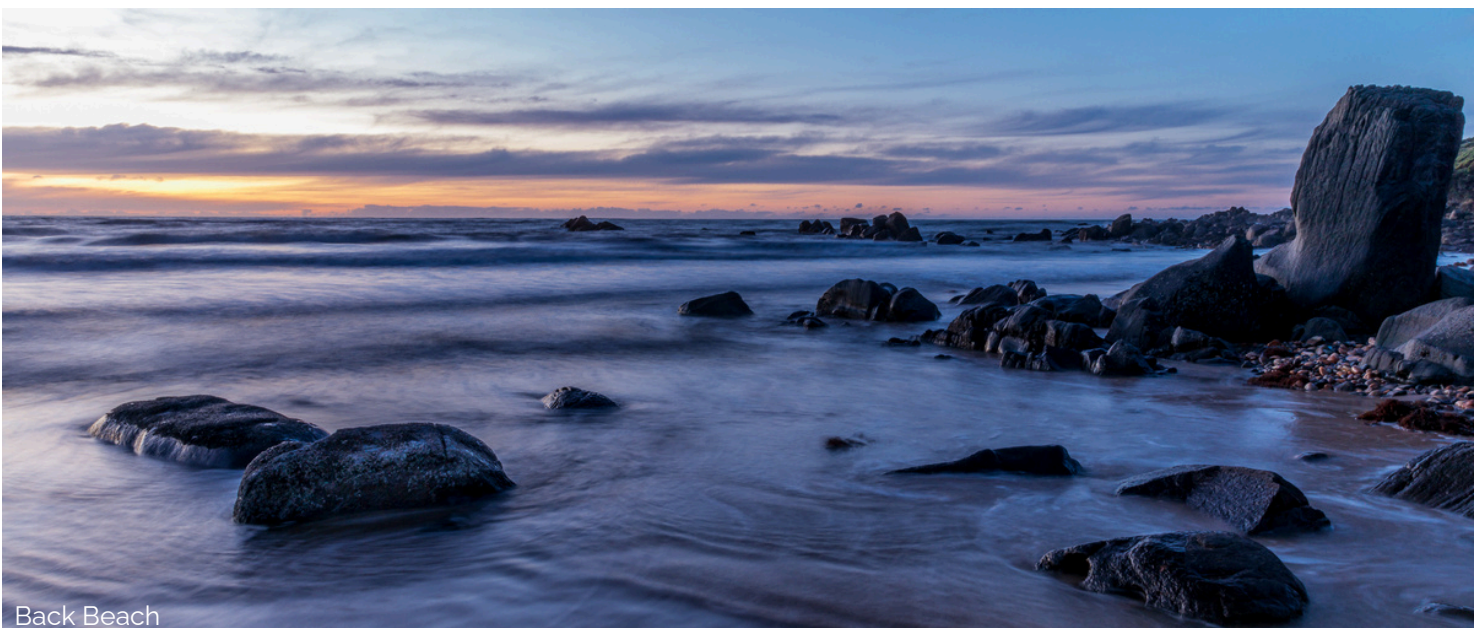
Arboretum



Southern Wild Distillery (credit - Tourism Tasmania)



Mersey River



Back Beach