

ITINERARY 4 Days, 3 Nights

DEVONPORT



Welcome to Devonport, the big little city where ample space meets fewer crowds, allowing travellers to move freely. Nestled along the captivating North-West Coast of Tasmania, where Mountains meet the sea and the picturesque Mersey River flows.

Pedestrian and cycling pathways meander through the region, taking in its waterfront precinct, peaceful bushland and stunning beaches. Devonport's reserves boast abundant wildlife including platypus, pademelons, penguins, and a range of endemic Tasmanian birds.

Arriving in Devonport

Arriving in Devonport is a breeze with the Spirit of Tasmania Ferry. Simply bring your car aboard and drive straight off the ship. The ferry route from Geelong to Devonport (9.5hrs) connects mainland Australia with Tasmania, operating daily.

Devonport Airport is just 9kms from the city centre, with Qantas and Rex Airlines offering one-hour flights from Melbourne. Car and electric vehicle hire are available at the terminal.

Devonport Visitor Information Centre

Pay a visit to the friendly staff at Devonport Visitor Information Centre where you can collect information on activities and attractions, book accommodation or tours and gain valuable tips from a local. Located at Market Square, 145 Rooke Street Devonport.

Distances

Devonport is a vibrant regional city, spanning around 19 square kilometres.

Compact and easy to explore on foot, walking trails weave along rivers, through parkland and coastal scenery.

Below is a self-drive itinerary, with all recommended stops conveniently located within a 15-minute drive from the city centre.



Mersey Bluff Lighthouse (credit: Tourism Tasmania)

Where to Stay

[The Cove](#) is a serene and picturesque escape blessed with arguably the best coastal views on the North-West Coast of Tasmania. This award-winning luxury boutique accommodation is available to adults only.

[Novotel Devonport](#) is a premium 4-star hotel boasting an unrivalled location in the heart of the city. It is perfectly positioned within easy reach of shops, restaurants, Spirit of Tasmania terminal with walking / cycling trails on its doorstep.

[Waterfront Apartments](#) – Just a 4-minute drive to the Devonport city centre or a relaxed walk along the riverfront, Waterfront Apartments are the perfect “home away from home”. With everything you need in one space: fully equipped kitchens, espresso coffee machines, spacious parking, laundry, and a private patio area.

[The Grand on Macfie](#) – take a step back in time and enjoy Bed and Breakfast accommodation in this stunning heritage home. Situated in the heart of Devonport's historic district.

[Stony Rise Cottage](#) - Homely property 6-minute drive from CBD on 2.5 acres of land in a semi-rural setting.

What's On While You're Here

[Farmers' Market](#): Devonport Show Grounds, Every 2nd Saturday

[Don Market](#): Every Sunday

[Devonport Twilight Market](#): Market Square Pavilion, 1st Friday of the month

[Devonport Jazz Festival](#): July

[Devonport parkrun](#) Saturdays at 8am departing from Mersey Bluff

[Julie Burgess](#) Tall Ship Sailings: Wednesdays & Sundays at 1pm

[Little Penguin Colony at Lillico Beach](#) Guiding Season: October to March, just after sunset

Waterfront Concerts, Free: check Devonport City Council's [Facebook](#) for upcoming events



DAY 1

Savour and Slow Down

Wake in Devonport and roll straight off the Spirit of Tasmania, ready to ease into your adventure.

Morning –

Begin your day by visiting [Hill Street Grocer](#) (open from 7:30am), Devonport's go-to destination for fresh, local produce and gourmet essentials. Fill your basket with artisan cheeses, seasonal fruits, crusty bread, and Tasmanian treats. With your picnic basket brimming with the best of Tasmania's North-West, you're all set for a delicious day of exploring!

Pause at [Leaping Goat Coffee](#), a local roastery. From smooth and velvety to bold and robust. If you're curious, the friendly team is happy to share the story behind each blend.

Midday –

Venture into the scenic [Tasmanian Arboretum](#), a sprawling wonderland of temperate-zone trees spread across 66 hectares, located 12kms from Devonport. In every season, the Arboretum offers something different, from flowers in spring through the shade of summer to autumn colours and the patterns of winter. Grab a trail map and wander the peaceful paths before laying out your picnic rug beside Founders Lake. As you savour your picnic goodies, keep watch for the elusive platypus. The Australian Platypus Monitoring Network reports that Founders Lake "currently holds the honour of being the most productive single site to see a platypus".

After lunch, treat yourself to homemade ice cream at the volunteer-run kiosk. They are enthusiastic locals who love sharing stories about the Arboretum and the region.



Afternoon –

The 12-kilometre drive back into the city centre offers some delicious stopovers. Just 2 minutes down the road is [Prickly Mo](#), a charming rustic cellar door. Housed within a converted barn and shearing shed dating back to circa 1890, it offers picturesque views of the vines and surrounding rolling hills. Stop by for a tasting at the cellar door anytime or arrive in the afternoon on weekends to linger longer with a glass of wine and a live local music performance.

Continue your journey, stopping for a visit at [Spreyton Cider](#), a working apple orchard. Sample a variety of handcrafted ciders or freshly pressed juices, each bursting with the authentic flavours of locally grown apples.

Choose Your Own Adventure –

1. Stop by the tasting room at [Truffledore](#) in nearby Lower Barrington, just 10-min drive past the Arboretum. During the winter truffle season join a truffle hunt. In summer, explore the farm on a guided tour, watch truffle dog training, and sample a variety of truffle-infused products.
2. A 10-min drive along charming country roads leads to [House of Hargrave](#). Enjoy a wine tasting with stunning views towards Bass Strait. House of Hargraves offers popular "Sip and Stretch" yoga sessions, check their social pages for upcoming dates.
3. Discover the vibrant Devonport [Farmers' Market](#), held every second Saturday. Connect with local producers, grab a beverage from Tasmanian Organic Coffee Co and soak up the atmosphere with firepits and live acoustic music.

Evening –

Back in Devonport, as evening descends, elevate your culinary journey at [Taste by Bold Cuisine](#). Prepare your taste buds as you dive into bold and innovative dishes inspired by flavours from around the globe by Chef Simon Bold. The set degustation tasting menu changes monthly, ensuring the freshest in-season produce.

DAY 2

Immerse Yourself in Devonport's Natural Beauty

Inhale. North-West Tasmania is known for some of the cleanest air in the world, made for slow exploration along Devonport's foreshore and reserve trails. With a vast network of shared paths, chances are a great ride or walk begins right outside your door. Bring a bike aboard the Spirit of Tasmania, hire one locally, or simply set out on foot. However you choose to travel, moving under your own steam reduces emissions and helps you connect more deeply with the landscape.

Morning –

Begin your day with a delightful breakfast at the [Harbour Master Café](#), where the aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingles with the gentle breeze off the Mersey River.

Take a moment to pause at [Haines Park](#), a newly opened waterfront precinct that celebrates the region's unique flora and geology. A water mist feature offers a refreshing sensory experience reminiscent of the basalt rock formations that dot the Devonport coastline. Wander along the immense elevated river walkway, a striking structure that offers panoramic views of the city, surrounding suburbs, and distant mountains.

From here, the mostly undulating trail takes you along the wide Mersey River under shady trees and past federation-era gardens.

Midday –

Follow the trail to [The Bluff](#), where Devonport's patrolled beach provides calm bay waters suitable for swimming. The adjacent surf club features hot showers, allowing visitors to cleanse salt and sand and feel refreshed before continuing their activities.

For lunch, indulge in a quintessential seaside treat at [Drift Café's](#) takeaway window, where fresh and crunchy fish and chips await. Find a cozy spot on the grass and savour each mouthful as you soak in the laid-back atmosphere of this coastal gem.

Continue your journey with a scenic walk to the candy-striped [lighthouse](#), pausing along the way to admire the breathtaking vistas from the viewing platforms.



Don Reserve (credit: Kylie Bell)



Drift Cafe (credit: Tourism Tasmania)

Afternoon -

Follow the trail through coastal flora for 1.8kms to Coles Beach, a tranquil stretch of sand beloved by locals for its pristine beauty. Cross the bridge to [Don Heads](#) and marvel at the rugged beauty of Devonport's rocky coastland. Stroll around the headland, exploring wave-cut platforms and the olivine-containing rocks that bear witness to the region's volcanic past. From there, venture into the peaceful embrace of [Don Reserve](#), where shared trails wind their way beside the tranquil Don River. Keep an ear out for the nostalgic whistle of heritage steam trains as they chug past, transporting passengers on a journey through time.

Choose Your Own Adventure –

1. For those eager to hop aboard the train, make a stop at [Don River Railway](#), a heritage railway lovingly run by volunteers. Prepare to journey back in time as you ride a steam or diesel train and explore their fascinating museum and workshop. The 30-minute return ride through Don Reserve to Coles Beach runs Thursdays to Sundays, tickets from \$13.
2. If you have energy to burn, the trail extends beyond Don Heads, transforming into the North-West [coastal pathway](#), beckoning energetic walkers or cyclists towards neighbouring towns.
3. If the leisurely paths of Devonport fail to ignite your passion, fear not. Just a short 15-minute drive away lie the exhilarating mountain bike trails of Kelsey Tier and the internationally acclaimed [Wild Mersey](#).

Evening -

As your day of energetic exploration draws to a close, you deserve a treat - dinner at [Mrs. Jones Restaurant](#), perched above the Devonport Surf Lifesaving Club. Savour modern Australian cuisine, while enjoying panoramic views of the sun setting over Bass Strait.

End your day in Devonport with an after-dark visit to the [Little Penguin Colony at Lillico Beach](#). A short, 10-minute drive from the city centre and with no entry fee, this coastal reserve offers a magical opportunity to witness these fascinating creatures return to their burrows after a day of fishing in the open ocean. With local volunteers and Parks and Wildlife rangers on hand to share their knowledge and passion, you'll leave with a newfound appreciation for the natural wonders of Tasmania's northwest coast.

DAY 3

Sunrise, Stories and Sea Breezes

Ease into the day with a soul-refreshing sauna, connect with ancient Aboriginal culture, and discover Devonport's deep maritime roots.

Morning -

Start your day with a rejuvenating sunrise sauna session at [Savu Sauna](#), located at Mersey Bluff. Relax and invigorate by soaking in the warmth before taking a refreshing dash and dive into the ocean. The sauna's minimalist Nordic-inspired design and ocean-dip ritual connect you to the raw elements of Tasmania's coastline - offering a low-impact, soul-nourishing start to your day.

Next is [Tiagarra Cultural Centre](#), also located at Mersey Bluff, which opens at 10am. One of Australia's oldest Aboriginal-operated cultural centres and keeping places, Tiagarra has been a place of cultural significance since its official opening in 1976. It plays a vital role in preserving and sharing the stories, and ongoing cultural practices of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The centre's museum offers insights into the deep and continuing connection of the Palawa people to Country, featuring exhibits on local history, traditions, and community life. Visitors can also explore the adjacent bluff bush trail, home to important Aboriginal cultural sites. The on-site café serves excellent coffee and light refreshments for post sauna brunch.

Midday -

[The Bass Strait Maritime Museum](#) celebrates Devonport's maritime and social history. Discover stories of shipwrecks, lighthouses, and seafarers who braved the waves. "Our First Mariners" exhibit displays the enduring relationship between Tasmania's First Nations people and the ocean, where navigation, trade, and storytelling have flourished for generations. The young at heart will love the ship simulator, where you can test your captaining skills by attempting to berth a steamship at the Mersey River wharf. Entry is \$10 per adult.

Afternoon -

[Marion Storm](#), located within the Maritime Museum serves a delicious lunch. Enjoy Tasmanian seafood or indulge in a tiered high tea for two on the sunny deck.

Choose Your Own Adventure -

1. Prefer to be out on the water? Skip the museum and step aboard the historic [Julie Burgess Tall Ship](#), departing 1pm for 2.5 hour sailings each Wednesday & Sunday. Feel the boat move to the forces of the sea and hear to the wind in the rigging. Sailings are crewed by passionate volunteers who are eager to share maritime stories.
2. When the weather and tides align, join the 'river rats' at the local surf spot on the west bank of the Mersey River. Generations of 'river rats', have surfed a stones' throw from large ships leaving and entering the port. The break can transport a surfer 200 metres up river!
3. Aurora/dark sky experience - If conditions are right, you may be lucky enough to see the Southern Lights (Aurora Australis) near Devonport. Braddon's Lookout (Leith) and Don Heads are popular local vantage points, offering dark skies and wide coastal views. The best chances are on clear, dark nights between March and September. For real-time forecasts, check local aurora alerts [SWS - Aurora](#)

Evening -

Pre-dinner, sample award winning uniquely Tasmanian Gins at [Southern Wild Distillery](#), followed by South-East Asian dishes with a contemporary spin at Novotel's [Mr Good Guy](#).

After sunset, immerse yourself in [From Sky to Sea](#), a breathtaking sound and light show that takes you on an unforgettable journey through Devonport and its stunning surroundings. This 14-minute spectacle begins in the depths of night with Dave Gough's powerful Palawa creation story before transitioning to the first light of dawn over the mountains. Drift along the Mersey River, pass through fields of vibrant poppies and rich farmlands, and watch as Devonport's urban landscape awakens. The grand finale? A dramatic night-time storm over Bass Strait. Showing four times each evening from 7pm (8:30pm during Daylight Savings), From Sky to Sea is free to enjoy.



Bass Strait Maritime Museum



Sound and Light Show

DAY 4

Creative Tales and Tasting Trails

From vibrant street art to boutique wines and local makers, soak up Devonport's artistic energy and handcrafted flavours.

Morning –

Start the day with breakfast at [Laneway Café](#), then wander Devonport's streets and laneways to discover its growing street art scene. Rooke Lane and Market Square are emerging as centres of urban art, featuring works by local artists. Devonport Regional Gallery's youth collective, the DROOGS, feature works created under the mentorship of established artists during Youth Week's Reclaim the Lane program. In 2025, new commissioned works also appeared at Mersey Bluff, Spreyton and the city entry, adding to Devonport's vibrant creative identity.

With an annual program of exhibitions and vibrant art community, there's always something inspiring to discover at the [Devonport Regional Gallery](#). With three galleries to explore featuring contemporary Tasmanian Art, a library, creative space and gift shop, the gallery is the perfect place to feel inspired. Entry is free.

Midday –

Just a 7-minute drive from town, [Anvers Chocolate Factory](#) is the perfect spot for lunch. While you're there, watch skilled artisan chocolatiers craft chocolates using traditional European recipes. Before you leave, visit the tasting room to sample and select your favourite chocolates to take home.

Afternoon –

Continue back to Devonport, stopping on the way at the beautiful [La Villa Winery](#), located in Spreyton. La Villa is a family owned 5-hectare boutique vineyard focusing on producing low yield premium fruit.

Nearby, visit [Simon Martin Whips & Leather Craft](#) workshop for a fascinating demonstration of whip making, a traditional Tasmanian craft. Simon Martin Whips has earned widespread recognition as a premier whip maker. The company continues to captivate customers worldwide with its exceptional craftsmanship.

Choose Your Own Adventure -

1. As an alternative, you can visit [Devonport Country Club](#), located in Spreyton. The Club offers a 8-rink indoor bowling, 3 grass bowls, 2 croquet lawns, an 18-hole golf course, as well as sports shop and dining options.
2. History buffs will enjoy a stop at [Home Hill](#). The 1916 residence was home to Joseph Lyons, Tasmania's only Prime Minister, and his wife Dame Enid Lyons, the first woman elected to Australia's federal parliament. The home remains just as they left it, with original furnishings offering a rare glimpse into the personal and political lives of one of the nation's most influential couples. Guided tours share stories of their life with 12 children and their lasting contributions to Australian politics. The surrounding gardens, lovingly tended by Dame Enid, add to the property's charm. Open Wednesday - Saturday, entry \$15.

Evening –

As your journey winds down, quietly reflect on the connections you've made with the land, the locals, and the stories that make Devonport unique. While others may have rushed across the island, you've embraced the richness of staying grounded, uncovering beauty in the slower moments.

Board the Spirit of Tasmania, conveniently docked in the heart of the city. As you set sail across Bass Strait, carry more than memories: take with you a renewed sense of balance, inspiration, and connection.

Until next time - Devonport will be here, ready to welcome you back.

One Final Choose Your Own Adventure...

If Cradle Mountain is on your bucket list (we get it – we love it too) and you're not staying longer in Tasmania this time around, consider swapping out one day of this Devonport itinerary for a visit to [Cradle Mountain National Park](#). A well-planned day trip allows time to complete the iconic Dove Lake Circuit, explore the Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery, enjoy a cosy lunch at Peppers Tavern Bar & Bistro, and if you're lucky, spot a wombat or two along the way.

A National Parks Pass is required. Cradle Mountain is around 80 km from Devonport, via a scenic drive of approximately 1hr 15mins. Shuttles are operated by [eGuide](#).

As this is an alpine environment, weather-appropriate clothing and footwear are essential.



Devonport Regional Gallery



Anvers Chocolate Factory (credit: Tourism Australia)