

Meander Into Westbury

A Family-Friendly Heritage Escape in the Heart of the Great Western Tiers

Beneath the dramatic escarpment of the Great Western Tiers, the historic village of Westbury offers families something increasingly rare—space to explore, time to slow down, and the warmth of a true Tasmanian community.

Just a 45-minute drive from Devonport's Spirit of Tasmania ferry terminal and 25 minutes from Launceston Airport, Westbury is ideally positioned for exploring northern Tasmania. For caravan and motorhome travellers, it's an especially welcoming stop, with wide streets, easy parking and open green spaces inviting visitors to pause and stay awhile.

Nestled in Tasmania's Meander Valley, Westbury encourages slow travel—wandering heritage streets, discovering regional produce, connecting with the local community and enjoying the rhythm of country life.

Shaped by Heritage and Community

Established in 1823 as a major stopover between Hobart and Tasmania's northwest, Westbury is one of Australia's earliest planned rural townships. The town has retained its original village charm, where leafy streets, Georgian architecture, white picket fences and gardens frame an intact historic streetscape of colonial cottages and heritage buildings offering a glimpse into Tasmania's early settlement.

Early settlers included Irish immigrants—former convicts, soldiers and free settlers—who brought strong Celtic traditions, a legacy that lives on through the annual Westbury St Patrick's Festival.



The Village Green: A Living Community Space

At Westbury's centre lies one of its most distinctive features—the Village Green. Laid out in the early nineteenth century, it reflects traditional English village planning, where open parkland formed the heart of community life. Nearly two centuries later, the Village Green remains the town's social and cultural hub.

Beneath magnificent oak trees, children run freely across lawns while families picnic and locals gather for markets, festivals and community events.

Nearby, oversized cricket wickets celebrate Westbury's sporting heritage and add a playful feature for younger visitors.

A favourite local walking path, the Westbury Town Common offers a rare example of shared community grazing land. Established in the colonial period, it provides insight into the cooperative agricultural practices that shaped the town and still influence the surrounding landscape.





Slow Travel and Caravan-Friendly Exploration

For those travelling by caravan or camper, Westbury is an ideal place to rest and experience authentic local life, with wide streets for easy navigation, parks and walking paths for families to explore. The town has a relaxed atmosphere that often turns short stops into longer stays.

The Meander Valley is one of Tasmania's most productive agricultural regions, producing apples, berries, cheeses and artisan foods. Roadside stalls along quiet country roads turn simple picnics into memorable local experiences.

Just 20 minutes away, Four Springs Lake offers a peaceful bushland escape, perfect for families to unwind and explore. An eight-kilometre walking and cycling track circles the lake, ideal for kayaking, fishing, birdwatching or family bike rides beneath eucalypts.

A little further afield, [Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary](#), Mole Creek, is a must visit for families—children will love meeting Tasmanian devils, wombats and kangaroos whilst learning about these iconic locals.

Local Businesses and Regional Flavours

Westbury's small businesses are central to its welcoming atmosphere and visitor experience.

[Love Lucy Boots Wine Room](#) is a much-loved meeting place for locals and travellers—coffee and hot chocolates by morning, and a relaxed wine bar by evening.

Nearby, [Bex Blades & Beards](#) housed in a quirky vintage caravan offers a quality local barber experience, while [Western Tiers Distillery](#) serves locally crafted gin and whisky alongside pizza or tasting platters in a relaxed setting.

The village is also home to a collection of local vintage and collectable shops, perfect for slow browsing and unexpected finds.

For something unique, [Pearn's Steam World](#) showcases one of the region's most fascinating collections of historic machinery, with over 200 exhibits including vintage tractors and steam engines.

Just beyond the village centre, [Little Marney's Gifts for Town & Country](#) offers a charming stop to browse handcrafted gifts and homewares.





A Community That Welcomes Visitors

What truly sets Westbury apart is its strong sense of community. Visitors are encouraged to experience the village as locals do—browsing the monthly Westbury Community Market, joining Saturday Parkrun on the Town Common, or simply wandering the historic streets and boutique stores.

Children ride bikes around the Village Green, families gather beneath the trees, and travellers quickly notice a slower, more connected pace of life.

Throughout the year, seasonal events across the Meander Valley bring the community together and create memorable visitor experiences—from the Westbury St Patrick's Festival to agricultural events like AgFest.

Discover the Joy of a Small Tasmanian Town

In Westbury, travel slows to the gentle rhythm of village life. Families wander heritage streets, conversations begin easily, and visitors find a place to pause, reconnect and experience small-town Tasmania.

Westbury isn't just somewhere you visit—it's a place that stays with you, long after your journey continues.



Photo credits in order of appearance: Village Green: Social Origin, Holy Trinity Church: Prime Perspectives, Hagley RV Farm Stay, Pearn's Steam World: Social Origin, Little Marney's, Western Tiers Distillery & Love Lucy Boots: Social Origin, Irish Exiles Silhouette: Prime Perspectives,