

Caught onto St Helens yet?



Deck at API's St Helens holiday home

by Peter W.

St Helens, Tasmania should be on everyone's list of holiday destinations. After all, it's in the world's top ten regions, as voted by Lonely Planet.

It also happens to be the second largest port and is the Sports Fishing Capital of Tasmania. It boasts eight world records for Southern Blue Fin Tuna as well as many other records. So, if you like your fishing, it must be time to treat yourself to a trip with one of the deep-sea charters.

The impressive aspects of fishing in St Helens is the clarity of the water, the depth that drops away close to shore and the very short distance to get to fishing grounds. There are also sheltered waters in the bay, so there is never an excuse not to wet a line. That is why reef and deep-sea fishing takes place year-round.

If you are game to scramble down the steep slope at the bottom of the garden, you could be wetting your line on a stunningly beautiful white beach directly from API's holiday home.

Of course, you could also be enjoying fish on the end of your fork. **Skipper's Fish** shop is a floating eatery and shop, serving the freshest fish in a beautiful location.



Skipper's restaurant



Nina's restaurant is winning accolades

If you are a foodie, you will not be disappointed by the selection, quality and service of most of the restaurants. Experience the wonder of **Furneaux** or **Nina's** for lunch or dinner. For a delicious breakfast, **Coffee Away** or The Lifebuoy Café are my suggestions. If you like oysters, then you will think you have found a slice of heaven. The area is renowned for the freshest, juiciest oysters. Apart from all the restaurants in town, slip up the road to slurp an oyster from **Lease 65**. It's an experience to remember forever.



Seared scallops with pea puree and Tapioca Crisp at Furneaux

The clear waters attract snorkelers and divers who love the many opportunities of wreck diving, while cyclists revel in the trails and incredible views.

St Helens is a year-round destination, due to its surprisingly mild climate. We are talking 14C on a winter's day. It's all to do with the currents and Georges Bay. I like to take advantage of lower rates, and easier access to all the amenities by holidaying in winter in Tasmania. It is a wonderful chance to rug up and makes walking the tracks or exploring the Bay of Fires so much more enjoyable - not to mention - less sweaty!

I have holidayed at many of the API holiday homes. One of my favourites is the house at St Helens. I can stare at the panoramic views of Georges Bay for ages. We don't even close the blinds at night, so in the morning we can sit up in bed and feast our eyes on the sun rising over the water - and all before one of us brings in a steaming mug of tea.

Over the years, I have seen the extensive upgrades to this property. The kitchen and bathroom are so much nicer than they were many years ago, and the furniture upgrades along with the painting have made it into a very comfortable home. The recent addition of unlimited, fast and free Wi-Fi was unexpected and very welcome. It's amazing how reliant we have become on the internet to check where we want to go the next day.

“Mild winters make St Helens an ideal, low-season, getaway.”

We combine a stay in Hobart or Launceston with our holiday in St Helens. Holidays in Tasmania are such good value for money that we can stay longer. The API staff have told me most people travelling from interstate do the same thing. The Tasmanian members are so lucky to have this gem on their doorstep!

Unless you wish to swim in the sea, think again about planning your visit for an exciting time in the low season. There is so much to see and do, from wineries, craft beer brewers, and too many natural wonders to list. Just ponder what you will spend the accommodation savings on! **API**

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