

Swing into Swansea, Tasmania

by Harold. T

Touring in Tasmania is one of life's exquisite luxuries. Fresh air and lush green pastures lead into the dappled shade of tall trees with mysterious scents. The sun dancing on the ocean waves, rolling in above the white sands in what has to be Australia's most scenic coastal area. The drive from Orford to the Freycinet Peninsular is one you will remember for ever. The east coast of Tasmania offers splendiferous opportunities to lose yourself in quiet contemplation. Take your time, relax and enjoy it all.

Swing into delightful townships and sample the visual, sensual and culinary delights. A fantastic base for your east coast experience is API's very comfortable holiday home in Swansea. The inclusion of free broadband was both unexpected and welcome. It was new since out last stay, as were the lounges and blinds. There is so much to see and do within easy reach of Swansea. The township itself has undergone a renaissance with several very appealing cafes. The **Bark Mill Tavern** still has the original working steam engine used to 'milk' the bark of black wattle trees for the tannins used in leather production.



Spring Vale Winery

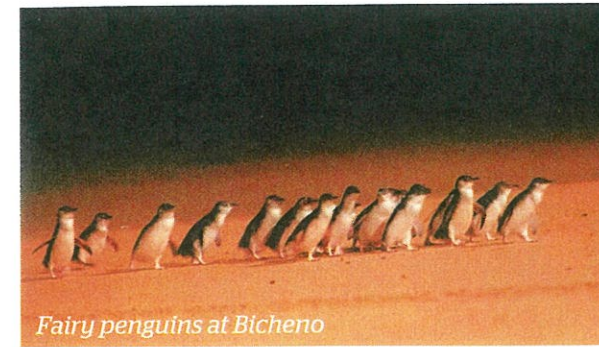
“ Help Tasmania get back on its feet - book a visit as soon as you can. ”

Saltshakers Restaurant/café was a regular stopping place for coffee each morning after a brisk walk along the beach. Saltshakers caters for everyone. There are the usual breakfast options, along with gourmet breakfast pizzas. Saltshakers hooked us more than once, sometimes for lunch or dinner as the food and views are marvellous.

One of the experiences you must try is a trip to Mount Elephant. Drive north through the town of **Bicheno**. Bicheno is the town where you will be well rewarded when you book a tour for an evening watching the return of about 500-600 fairy penguins as they come home to roost for the night. It is a real life - David Attenborough-type, experience which gives you goose bumps (and gushing praise from the ladies!).



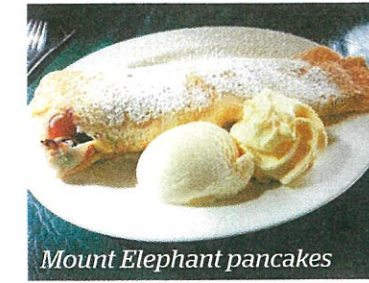
Saltshakers Cafe - Swansea



Fairy penguins at Bicheno

About 15-minutes' drive north of Bicheno there is a turning to left marked 'St Marys -Launceston'. You will arrive at **Mt Elephant** before you get to St Marys. At Mt Elephant the views are lovely and the food is something else. They describe themselves as serving European influenced pancakes rather than American 'flap-Jacks'. Seriously, you need to try them. I was in raptures with my selection of the smoked salmon, mushrooms and camembert in white wine.

My wife tried to tell me the cheese spinach and salami was even better. What we did agree on was they were the best savoury pancakes we had ever tasted. Later we had to share the BMW (Banana, Maple, Walnut) pancake for dessert. Heaven on a plate.

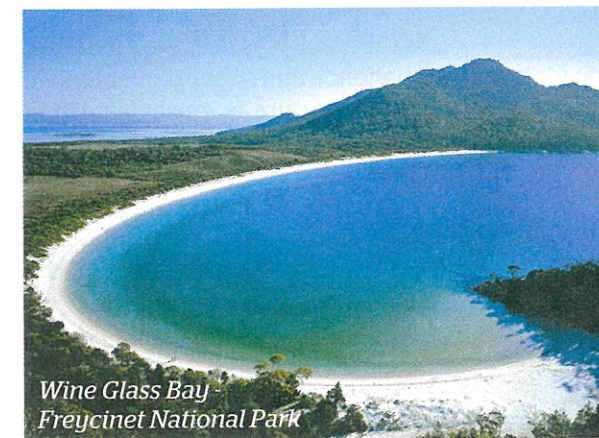


Mount Elephant pancakes

“ Best pancakes in Australia! ”

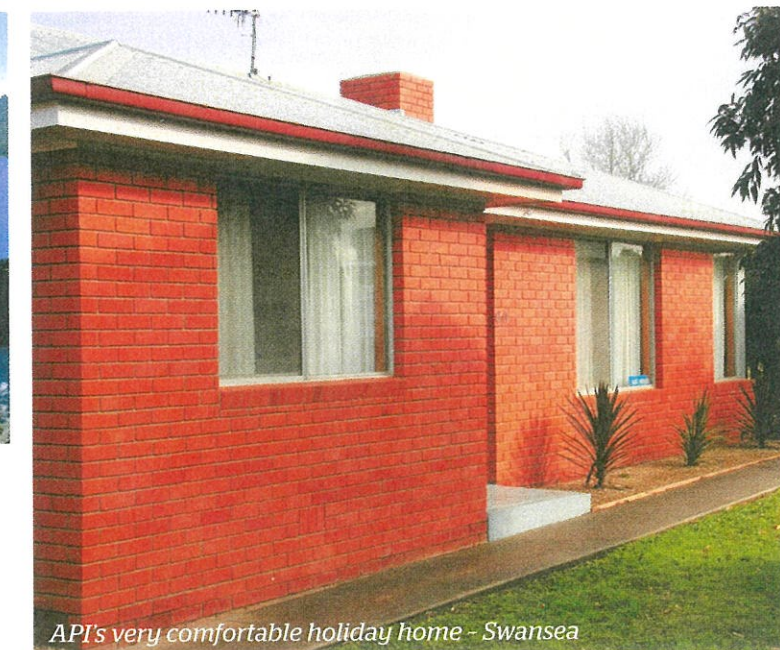
Another day and another pleasant drive took us to **Spring Vale Winery**, a little north of Swansea. The cellar door is small and cosy. I liked the fact I could get a half bottle of the Pino Noir - the wine Tasmania is so renowned for. My wife enjoyed the wines but liked the gin even more! The lunch at **Mel's kitchen** was one of the serendipitous highlights. The casual atmosphere and reasonable prices enticed us to try the delicious mains. Then we turned our attention to the desserts. Ooh, the memories of those desserts still linger.

This was our second trip to the area. We will be back for a third sometime soon. We will definitely plan our trip around availability at API's property. We couldn't imagine staying anywhere else. It is nice and quiet, and within an easy walk of all our favourite local shops. **API**



Wine Glass Bay - Freycinet National Park

Walkers and photographers will spend hours in the **Freycinet National Park**. Around each corner is a view or beach just a little better than the one before and there are many more corners ahead. It's one of those places you have to have on your bucket list. After one visit, you are likely to be back for more!



API's very comfortable holiday home - Swansea

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