

Northern Tasmania - so much to offer

by Damien Thomas



Cruising through Cataract Gorge

Watching the impressive, verdant, scenery glide past, while cruising the **Tamar River** is listed in Wikipedia under the definition of 'relaxation' - well if it is not, perhaps it should be! The biggest question I was facing was whether I could fit in another surprisingly delicious focaccia roll. The wine and beer tasting on the cruise was lip-smacking fun, but I was beginning to regret having eaten too many of the muffins at the morning tea, just a little earlier. The 4-hour trip was a highlight for me and has been for many other members. The commentary was humorous and informative, and the crew were welcoming. While there is a shorter cruise, I recommend putting aside the time for a rewarding lunch or evening cruise - and checking out the discount API members get through the API website and **Experience Oz** or **Redballoon**.

Launceston used to be thought of as the little sister relative to Hobart, but that is no longer the case. Launceston has built an enviable reputation as a foodie capital. It has historic walks, the famous **Cataract Gorge** and has become a hub for amazing experiences in the surrounding areas, including World Heritage areas such as **Quamby Bluff** (be warned the view is awesome, but it is a 4-5-hour hike).

If you would like a very different way to experience the Tasmanian forests, head up to Underwood for the **Hollybank Wilderness Adventures**. The Segway tour will take you roaming through the forest for 90 minutes - with remarkably few steps! The zip line and tree-top walk are a magnet for those who are more energetic.



Segway to HollyBank

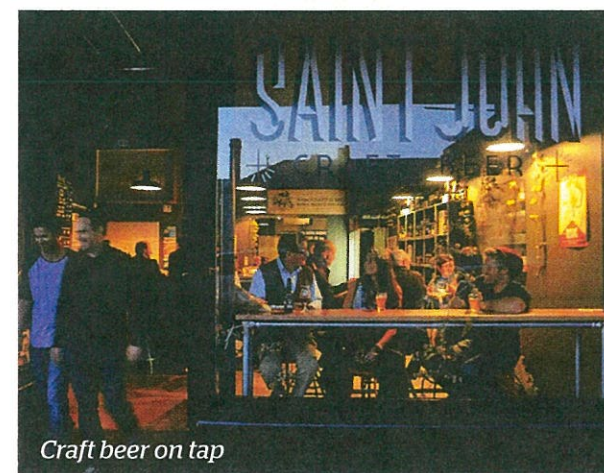
Within "Launnie", the **Harvest Markets** in Cimitiere Street offer a wide range of edible delights each Saturday, while the **World Street Eats** in the Civic Square offer even more international food options on the second Sunday of the month.

“ This hub encourages wider exploration opportunities. ”



Sleep in 120 year old API home

The profusion of restaurants in nearby **Charles Street** is a must, as are some near the wharf, such as **Mud House**. **St John Craft Beer** located at (would you believe it) 133 St John Street, offers 17 craft and international beers on tap, over 100 canned and bottled beers, plus craft ciders and top-notch spirits and good food. Pace yourself tiger!



Craft beer on tap

With its European climate and fertile soils, it is no wonder there is an extensive winery area of over 30 cellar doors on the **Tamar Wine Trail**. Even if bubbles are not your usual tippie, you will enjoy the sparkling success of the 'methode Tasmanoise' at places such as **Jansz Wine Room**, **Pipers Brook Vineyard**, and the picturesque **Josef Chromy Wines**.

The charm of the 120-year-old (fully renovated - thankfully) **API owned, three-bedroom house in Eglinton Street**, Launceston receives many commendations. Members comment favourably on the convenience of supermarkets close by as well as bottle shops, cafes, restaurants and even

McDonalds! So, this API holiday home is a hub, within Launceston, which is a hub within the north of this fantastic island, all of which makes for one of the best holidays you can hope for.

In the last few years, we have noticed members are often booking more than a week's stay. It takes more than a week to experience Launceston and the immediate surrounds. But one of the newer trends is to use the Eglinton Street home as a base. The rates are so reasonable, people will sometimes take a couple of days to drive out and stay at **Strahan** or **Cradle Mountain** in between exploring the areas closer to home and finding unique experiences. Two days is usually more than enough at either of these locations.



Cradle Mountain

So, if you believe it is time to investigate glow worm caves, world award-winning whiskey, the most beautiful lavender farm and the cleanest air you can breathe, perhaps it is time to indulge in a 10-14 day stay in Launceston. On the positive side, it will satisfy your desire for an island holiday, it's overseas, you will understand the local language, and all those tourism awards can't be wrong. Bring your appetite - you are going to need it with all the wonderful food options. **API**

Book your stay in an API holiday home online at www.apilifestyle.com.au or call us on 1300 653 322.