

# Much ado in Swansea, Tasmania?

by Damien Thomas

The answer to a question regularly asked by members who are considering venturing beyond Hobart or Launceston, often stumps people - 'after a few days at Swansea, you will be making plans to come back to do all the things you did not allow time for.'

Ten of my favourite Swansea activities include:

**1. Wineglass Bay** is an absolute must see destination. One day will be enough for photos and glorious views that last a lifetime.



**2. Spiky Bridge** - just 7km from Swansea, this convict-built bridge was built with field stones in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and is much photographed. Check out the hill behind the bridge for the remains of the old Governor's cottage.



**3. Morris' General Store** first opened its doors in 1838, and now houses the local IGA. There are several historic buildings in the town, so consider a self-guided walking tour with a map available from the Heritage Museum.



**4. Kate's Berry Farm** is a café with delicious desserts and produce to take home. You must indulge at least once in this place that has a reputation beyond the shores of Tasmania.



## **5. Maria Island & Fish Van at Triabunna**

The best Fish & Chips will tempt you at the ferry terminal in Triabunna, as you wait to get across to Maria

Island. Take your own provisions for a long hike around historic buildings and natural wonders. Alternatively, book a cruise around the island to see wonders hard to access from the land.

**6. Bichenos** penguins are small and blue. A nocturnal tour will have you mesmerised, watching them waddling back to their nests while the stars twinkle above.





**7. Coal River Farm, Craigie Knowe Vineyards.** Book a tour before you go, to make the most of a truly memorable time involving wine, hand crafted chocolates, or a tour of the winery itself.

**8. The Loontitetermairelehoiner Track** is named after the original inhabitants of the area. This is a fabulous, 2.3km, easy walk from Waterloo to Schouten Beach. Don't miss a track in the centre of Swansea which offers such spectacular views.



**9. Inside the Freycinet National Park, Honeymoon Bay** is a haven for snorkelling and swimming but my tip is to check out the sunsets instead.



**10. Take a tour of the Freycinet Marine Farm or Melshell Oyster Shack.** Alternatively, tuck into some of the freshest seafood - with wine of course. The oysters are harvested daily.

**11. Mt Elephant - St Mary's** is accessible via a section of unsealed road. You will delight in the small heritage town surrounded by inspiring cool-temperature natural beauty, just waiting to be explored. Lunch can be taken care of at the **Purple Possum Wholefoods Café.**



**12.** Located between Coles Bay and Wineglass Bay, the **Hazards** mountain range is reported to be named after an early local whaler, Captain Richard Hazard. The rocks have a dusky-pink tinge to them.

**13. Star Gazing at Piedmont Beach** is one of those low-budget, high reward activities that happen as you feel the shoulders relaxing. Equip yourself with a glass of wine or bottle of beer, and lay down on the sand, after the sun sets on a cloudless evening. You will be filled with wonderment at the sheer mass of stars pulsating under the night sky.



Okay, okay! You get the picture, there are a lot more than 10 things to do and I do not have the room to list everything here.

**API's Swansea holiday home** is warm, welcoming and comfortable on the inside, even if the exterior is not quite so quaint. It is very popular as it is within easy walking distance of restaurants, cafes and historic sights. It's the perfect base to explore the surrounding area and play Finska in the evenings. **API**

**One more thing - book well in advance to get the dates you want!**

Image credits: Craigie Knowe, Tasmania.com, Discover Tasmania

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