

Visitor numbers to selected REFERENCE SITES

Reference sites

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) manage 19 national parks and over 800 other reserves within Tasmania. The PWS do not count visitors to every national park or reserve. However, the PWS take regular counts at selected sites in Tasmania – called "reference sites."

Visitors to reference sites (rounded to thousands)							
Financial year	2013 -2014	2014 -2015	2015 -2016	2016 - 2017	% change 15-16 to 16-17	Unit of measure	Notes
Freycinet	217	232	272	292	7	Visit	
Cradle Mountain (Dove Lake)	182	199	231	252	9	Visit	
Mount Field	141	147	193	194	1	Visit	1
Tasman Arch (Tasman NP)	138	141	163	191	17	Visit	
Lake St Clair (Cynthia Bay)	69	85	94	90	-3	Visit	
Gordon River (cruises)	69	92	79	85	8	Visit	2
Narawntapu (western entrance)	44	44	46	48	5	Entry	
Hastings Caves and Thermal Pool	40	39	46	46	1	Visit	
Mole Creek Karst (caves)	49	51	55	46	-16	Visit	5
Tamar Island Wetlands	26	31	30	35	19	Entry	
Maria Island (arrivals at Darlington by ferry)	19	21	23	23	1	Visit	3
Overland Track	8	8	9	9	5	Visit	
Three Capes Track			5	12	150	Visit	4

Notes: Visitor numbers are rounded to thousands to make them easier to read in a table; however, the percentage changes are calculated on unrounded numbers.

- Mt Field:** Slight revision to 2015-16 data, due to change in equipment used count vehicles at this site, and subsequent re-estimation of data.
- Gordon River (cruises):** Source of data is the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* (Tourism Tasmania). Only includes visitors to Tasmania from interstate and overseas visitors on Gordon River cruises (excludes Tasmanians).
- Maria Island:** These figures include periods covered by the Maria Island Winter Subsidy Scheme – in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The PWS staff on Maria Island are not always able to meet each ferry bringing visitors to Darlington, which impacts data quality. The number of arrivals reported is an estimate, based on numbers actually counted, and then adjusted.
- Three Capes Track:** Opened in December 2015. Includes paying walkers who booked through the Three Capes Track Booking System. The third cape (Cape Raoul) is not yet open to the public as part of the Three Capes Track Experience. The per cent change of 150% compares approximately six months of data in 2015-16 against a full 12 months of data in 2016-17
- Mole Creek Caves:** Widespread floods across northern Tasmania closed the Mole Creek caves site in June 2016. During the second half of 2016, the PWS closed the larger Marakooopa show cave (for about six months), to refurbish, and repair the facilities. After reopening, there was an immediate rebound in visitors – the month of January 2017 was the busiest January on record for the site (almost 9,500 visitors).

Source: Parks and Wildlife Service, and Tourism Tasmania

Units of measurement: **Visit** = the act of going to a site; includes the entire time at the site from first entry to final exit. Visitors who enter and re-enter multiple times are only counted once. **Entry** = the act of entering a site; may include re-entering a site on multiple occasions during the same trip. Visitors may be counted once or several times. A "visitor" = the general term used in everyday conversation, and is roughly equivalent to a visit or an entry.

Further information. Visitor Research Officer, Parks and Wildlife Service, Level 2, Lands Building, 134 Macquarie St Hobart Tas. P: 03 6165 4264 | E: brian.knowles@parks.tas.gov.au