

Visitors to selected parks & reserves, Tasmania – 2017-18 to 2020-21

Reference Site Numbers

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) manages 19 national parks and over 800 reserves within Tasmania. The PWS does not count visitors to every national park or reserve but produces regular estimates at 14 selected sites in Tasmania – called “reference sites”.

Fiscal year ¹	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	% Change. 2018-19 to 2019-20	% Change. 2019-20 to 2020-21	Unit of measure	Notes
Freycinet	310	317	265	265	-17%	0%	Visit	2
Mount Field	196	204	167	170	-18%	+2%	Visit	
Cradle Mountain (Dove Lake)	280	284	219	170	-23%	-23%	Visit	3
Tasman Arch (Tasman NP)	203	204	169	97	-17%	-43%	Visit	4
Lake St Clair (Cynthia Bay)	95	92	76	72	-17%	-5%	Visit	5
Narawntapu (western entrance)	49	54	48	61	-11%	+27%	Entry	
Tamar Island Wetlands	40	49	44	42	-11%	-4%	Entry	6
Mole Creek Karst (caves)	63	58	43	25	-26%	-43%	Visit	
Hastings Caves and Thermal Pool	46	40	36	25	-10%	-31%	Visit	
Gordon River (cruises) – visitors from interstate or overseas only	81	80	69	23	-12%	-67%	Visit	7, 8, 9
Maria Island	31	38	38	33	-1%	-13%	Visit	10
Highfield House (Stanley)	12	12	11	12	-13%	+15%	Visit	
Three Capes Track	12	11	9	9	-23%	-1%	Visit	
Overland Track	9	9	7	8	-23%	+18%	Visit	
Total number of visits/entries to all 14 reference sites	1,428	1,452	1,202	1,013	-17%	-16%		

Notes:

1. Visitor numbers are **rounded to thousands** to make them easier to read in a table. The percentage changes are calculated on unrounded numbers.
2. **Freycinet.** Data for Freycinet (and for many other reference sites) is derived from counts of vehicles exiting the site. From January to May 2020, there were several substantial periods where the vehicle counter was faulty at Freycinet. Replacement estimates have been imputed based on other available data. The estimate of 265 000 visitors for 2019-20 should be used with caution.
3. **Cradle Mountain – 2019-20.** Data for 2019-20 was slightly revised from 217 000 to 219 000 visitors. The change was made because updated data became available after the results were previously published.
4. **Tasman Arch – 2019-20.** Data for 2019-20 was slightly revised from 170 000 to 169 000 visitors. The change was made because updated data became available after the results were previously published.
5. **Lake St Clair – 2019-20.** Data for 2019-20 was revised slightly from 77 000 to 76 000 visitors. The change was made because updated data became available after the results were previously published.
6. **Tamar Island Wetlands 2019-20.** Data for 2019-20 was previously reported as 34 000. This was reported in error. The revised estimate is 44 000.

7. **Gordon River (cruises) – includes visitors to Tasmania only.** The source of data for visitation on the Gordon River (cruises) is the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey*, run by Tourism Tasmania. The *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* only includes visitors to Tasmania from interstate and overseas (i.e. excludes Tasmanians).
8. **Gordon River (cruises) – survey suspended in 2020 because of COVID-19.** The *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* was suspended in March 2020 because face-to-face interviews posed a health and safety risk, and because travel into Tasmania became heavily restricted. Data for April through to October 2020 is assumed to be zero (or close to zero) because tourists were not allowed into Tasmania until late October 2020. The *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* re-started in November 2020.
9. **Gordon River (cruises) 2020-21.** At the time this report was prepared (August 2021), data from the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* was only available up to the end of March 2021.
10. **Maria Island 2020-21.** The Tasman Highway at Paradise Gorge was closed for just under six weeks to clear unsafe overhanging rocks. This road closure disrupted access between Hobart and Maria Island for visitors. The road was fully closed for just under six weeks between 28 May and 8 July 2021 – both lanes returned to full operation on 30 July 2021.

Special note about the effect of COVID-19 on visitor estimates for 2020-21

- COVID-19 has affected some normal data gathering routines and affected estimation processes. Visitor estimates for some sites are provisional and may be subject to revision.

Sources

- PWS; and Tourism Tasmania (for Gordon River [cruises], via the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey*).

Further information

Parks and Wildlife Service

- Email visitor.research@parks.tas.gov.au
- [Parks visitation and tourism | Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania](#)
- 1300 TASPARKS (1300 827 727) Monday to Friday (9:00am to 4:30pm)

Tourism Tasmania

- [Visitor Statistics - Tourism Tasmania Corporate](#)
- [Industry Recovery - Tourism Tasmania Corporate](#)