



Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair

NATIONAL PARK

The Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park forms part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA) declared in 1982. The WHA comprises approximately 20% of Tasmania's land mass and conserves a diverse array of natural and cultural features of global significance. Ancient rainforest and alpine heathlands, buttongrass and stands of colourful deciduous beech provide a range of environments to explore. Carved out by ice during several glaciations over the last two million years, Lake St Clair is the deepest lake in Australia and the headwaters of the Derwent River at the mouth of which lies the city of Hobart. It can be accessed by road from two different routes, one leading to Cradle Mountain in the north and the other to Lake St Clair in the south.

Drive carefully at night - you are sharing the road with wildlife.

Highlights

Icy streams cascading out of rugged mountains, stands of ancient pines mirrored in the still waters of glacial lakes and a wealth of wildlife ensure there is always something to captivate you in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. The area is one of the most popular natural areas in Tasmania.

Cradle Mountain

Cradle Mountain lies at the northern end of the park, approx 1.5 hours (85 km) from Devonport, 2.5 hours (181 km) from Launceston) and 2 hours (131 km) from Queenstown

There is no direct road link between the two ends of the park. Buses over 8 tonnes (28 seater) must be left at the Transit Terminal and a shuttle bus used for access to Dove Lake and Waldheim.

Things to do

The Cradle Mountain area offers a variety of short and extended walks and activities to suit everyone and provides opportunities to experience the grandeur of the World Heritage Area.



Ranger guided activities run all year round from the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre. There are a variety of activities such as walks, talks and slide shows for both adults and children. For more details, contact the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre.

The chart (overleaf) details some walks in the area. Further details of walks are available from the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre. Two walks suitable for wheelchairs are located near the Visitor Centre. Track surfaces for the shorter walks (2 hours or less) are generally well maintained and of a high standard. The longer tracks are steeper and rougher – those to Marions Lookout and Hansons Peak should only be attempted by physically fit and well equipped walkers.

If walking for longer than 10 minutes be sure to notify someone of your scheduled return time. Registration Books are provided for many walks and should be completed on departure and return. These books will not be checked unless you are reported overdue.

Examples of some walks available near Cradle Mountain are outlined below. For additional walks and further details refer to Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair National Park Walking Notes.

Short walks	Time
Pencil Pine and Knyvet Falls	20 mins return
Enchanted Nature Walk	20 mins return
Weindorfers Forest Walk	20 mins return
Longer walks	Time
Dove Lake Circuit	2 hrs return
Crater Falls, Crater Lake and Wombat Pool	2-3 hrs return
Day walks *	Time
* Cradle Mountain Summit	6-8 hrs return
* Artists Pool, Lake Rodway	6-8 hrs return
* Note: not suitable for all weather conditions please refer to Parks staff for information.	

Park fees apply for entry to all Tasmanian National Parks and are available from Service Tasmania Shops and National Park Visitor Centres around the state. Shuttle Buses operate during the peak season. Contact the Visitor Centre on 6492 1110 for operating times. If you have a valid Holiday Vehicle Pass, Backpacker pass or one of the Tasmanian Annual Passes, then free use of the Shuttle Bus is included with your pass. Fees apply for use of the Shuttle Bus if you only have a 24 hour pass.

Facilities

Generally, the most extensive facilities are to be found at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, located at the entrance to the park. There are also basic toilet facilities at Dove Lake located within the park. All facilities are wheelchair accessible.

Picnic shelters with electric barbecues are found adjacent to the Visitor Centre. There is a picnic shelter and tables close to Waldheim. There are plenty of opportunities for informal picnicking in Cradle Valley. Safe drinking water is also located at the Visitor Centre. It is recommended that you treat water taken from other sources before drinking.

The only public telephone is located at the entrance to the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre. There are public phones located at some of the accommodation providers. There is no reliable mobile phone service available within the Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair National Park.

A limited line of grocery items are available from the Cradle Mountain Tourist Park and Campground. The nearest supermarket is in Sheffield. Meals are also available from Cradle Mountain Lodge (restaurant and tavern), and from the Cradle Wilderness Café. Petrol can be purchased at the Cradle Mountain Café. The

nearest petrol stations are found at Wilmot (30 mins), Tullah (45 mins), and Sheffield (45 mins).

Camping is not permitted in the day use area around Dove Lake and Cradle Mountain itself. The only accommodation available within the Park is at the Waldheim Chalets (book through the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre). Below is a brief outline of the accommodation available in the area and contact phone numbers.

Waldheim Chalets. Bunk cabins, shared toilets, located within the national park. Ph: 03 6491 1036

Cradle Mtn Tourist Park & Campground
Cabins, dormitory, powered and unpowered sites.
Ph: 03 6492 1395

Cradle Mountain Highlanders Cabins
Self contained cabins. Ph: 03 6492 1116

Cradle Mountain Lodge
Cabins, restaurant on site. Ph: 03 6492 1303

Cradle Mountain Wilderness Village
Self contained cabins. Ph: 03 6492 1018

Accommodation at Cradle Mountain during summer and school holidays can be very busy, and it is advisable to book well in advance. Accommodation can also be found between Sheffield and Cradle Mountain itself, 30 to 60 minutes drive away. Refer to Tourism Tasmania for details (phone 03 6230 8235, website: www.tourism.tas.gov.au).

LAKE ST CLAIR

Lake St Clair is at the southern end of the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park, 2.5 hours (180 km) north-west of Hobart, 2.5 hours (180km) south-west of Launceston and 1.5 hours (93 km from Queenstown).

Both the Lyell Highway and the access road from Derwent Bridge may occasionally be closed by snow in winter. Contact the Visitor Centre for details on road conditions.

Remember when driving at night that you are sharing the road with wildlife.

Things to do

Lake St Clair offers a range of opportunities to explore the lake and the surrounding WHA. Fishing, walking, boating, wildlife watching are just a few of the options available. The Visitor Centre at Lake St Clair is a great place to gather information on the local native wildlife, the effects of glaciation on the highland areas of Tasmania, how the Aboriginal people and the first white settlers interacted with the environment, walks in the area and much more.

Over the Christmas holiday period the Parks and Wildlife Service offer a variety of activities such

as walks, talks and slide shows for both adults and children. Contact the Visitor Centre to obtain further details.

Trout fishing with artificial flies and lures is permitted in lakes and rivers in season. Licenses must be obtained. These can be purchased from Derwent Bridge Chalets. Private boats may be used.

Some walks in the Lake St Clair area have been included in the following list. For more extensive details on the walks available, the Lake St Clair Visitor Centre can provide further information.

Short walks	Time
Watersmeet	45 mins return
Platypus Bay	1 hr return
Larmairremener tabelti Aboriginal cultural walk	1 hr return
Day walks	Time
Shadow Lake Circuit	4-5 hrs return
Lakeside Track	3-7 hrs one way
Mt Rufus	5-7 hrs return

Overnight Walks

There are many overnight and extended walks from Lake St Clair. Contact the Visitor Centre at Lake St Clair to obtain further details and information, or obtain the Lake St Clair National Park Map and Walking Notes.

All walkers should be prepared for changeable weather. If walking be sure to notify someone of your scheduled return time. Registration books are provided for many walks and should be completed on departure and return. The registration books are not checked unless you are reported overdue.

Park fees apply for entry to all Tasmanian National Parks.

Facilities

There are basic picnic facilities at Cynthia Bay. Picnic tables are provided, and a wood-fired barbecue is located in the picnic shelter. Wheelchair accessible toilets and a public telephone are located at the Visitor Centre.

The privately owned Lake St Clair Lodge, operates a restaurant and store, from which a limited range of grocery items are available, and motorised dinghies and bicycles are available for hire. The nearest supermarket is located at Ouse (to the east) and Queenstown (to the west). Fuel is available at the Derwent Bridge shop.

Following is a brief outline of the accommodation available in the area and contact phone numbers.

Derwent Bridge Chalets

Self contained cabins Ph: 03 6289 1000

The Bronte Park Highland Village

Range of accommodation; only 20 mins from Lake St Clair Ph: 03 6289 1126

Derwent Bridge Hotel

Backpacker and motel style accommodation Ph: 03 6289 1144

Lake St Clair Lodge

Back-packer/ travellers hostel, shared kitchen and bunkrooms for two to four people. Alpine units are also available. Lake St Clair Lodge also manage camping sites at Cynthia Bay. Powered and unpowered sites, shared showers and facilities. Ph: 03 6289 1137

There is a high demand for accommodation during summer and visitors are advised to book early.

What to bring

Be equipped for all varieties of weather. Warm and waterproof jacket with a hood and sturdy footwear are essential. A small back pack with food helps to enjoy the many short walks. Water is available from many creeks and it is recommended to boil all water for three minutes before drinking.

Important

Parks and Wildlife Service Before you Walk, Tasmania's Essential Bushwalking Guide & Trip Planner provides information on equipment walkers must take for overnight walks.

Walkers must be prepared for the changeable weather, including rain, wind, snow and heat.

Be sure to notify someone of your scheduled return time. Registration books are provided for many walks and should be completed on departure and return, these books are not checked unless you are reported overdue.

Remember your fishing licence and artificial bait if planning to go fishing.

Watch out for wildlife on the roads.

Pets and firearms are not allowed in National Parks, even in vehicles.

The Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is a **fuel stove only area**, open fires are not permitted.

Weather

The weather is at its most stable during late summer and autumn. The Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park has a high annual rainfall, and sleet, snow and driving winds can occur at any time of the year. However bad weather should not deter the well prepared visitor as the sheltered walks in the valleys, and waterfalls are at their most spectacular in periods of wet weather. Be prepared and check the weather

forecasts at the Visitor Centres or contact the Bureau of Meteorology (ph. 1300 659 216) prior to departing on any walks.

Website: www.bom.gov.au.

Further information

TASMAP 1:25,000 map; Cradle Mountain Day Walk Map & Notes 2007; Lake St Clair Day Walk Map & Notes 1997;

Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair Map & Notes 2007; The Overland Track-One walk, many journeys. 2007.

Contact

Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre Ph 03 6492 1110 Lake St Clair Visitor Centre Ph: 03 6289 1172

The seven criteria met by the Tasmanian World Heritage Area

Natural heritage criteria

Be outstanding examples representing major stages of the Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of land forms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features

Be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals

Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance

Contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation

Cultural heritage criteria

Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared

Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance