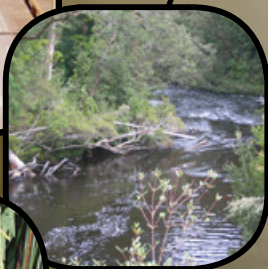


WESTERN EXPLORER

West Coast Wilderness Drive Stanley to Strahan



Department of Infrastructure,
Energy and Resources

GREEN POINT



ARTHUR RIVER



STANLEY **B21**

Stanley was the first settlement in the North-West. The Van Diemen's Land Company was set up there in 1830 to establish a merino wool industry. A striking landmark is an ancient rocky outcrop called The Nut, a lava plug rising to 152 metres with sheer cliffs on three sides. It is joined to the mainland by a 7 km isthmus. Stanley has a wealth of colonial buildings, many offering attractive accommodation.

Smithton

Situated on the Duck River, Smithton is a major centre for the dairy, beef, fishing, vegetable farming and sawmilling industries. It has a range of accommodation.

SMITHTON TO KANUNNAH BRIDGE VIA EDITH CREEK

B22 **C218**

This sealed section of road passes through lush dairy country where paperbark gums and blackwoods line the road.

KANUNNAH BRIDGE TO LINDSAY RIVER BRIDGE

C214 **C249**

There are picnic and barbeque facilities near the bridge. Please take extra care during weekdays, when forestry traffic uses this road. You can also explore the State Forest Reserves shown on the map.

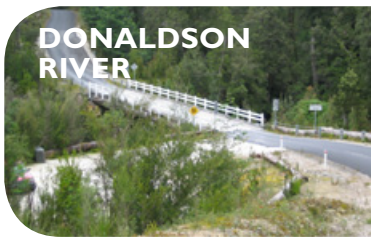
STANLEY TO MARRAWAH **B21** **A2** **NATURE TRAIL**

The Bass Highway is sealed from Stanley to Marrawah. On the way is Tarkine Forest Adventures, an eco-tourism experience open seven days a week, featuring a thrilling 110 metre slide down to the swamp floor. There are maze-like paths and artistic creations inspired by the swamp ecology.

Marrawah has accommodation, meals, supplies and a picnic ground. At Green Point you will find wild surf beaches and rocky headlands. There are barbeque and toilet facilities. *Marrawah is the last petrol station stop before Zeehan.*

MARRAWAH TO ARTHUR RIVER & COUTA ROCKS **C214**

The road is sealed to Arthur River and unsealed to Couta Rocks. It may be rough at times, so please drive



carefully. Arthur River is an important Aboriginal cultural area with many campsite middens along the coastline.

Cruise boats operate relaxing tours on the river, through 15 km of forest to the Frankland River junction. Dinghies and canoes are available for hire.

South of Arthur River the forests give way to open button grass plains. In spring and summer, spectacular wild flowers colour the area. From Couta Rocks to Lindsay River Bridge the road is unsealed, wide, partly shared with log trucks and rough in places.

LINDSAY RIVER BRIDGE TO CORINNA C249

The road is narrow with some tight bends and steep climbs. Although many steeper sections have been sealed, most of the road is unsealed and rough in places.

There may be instability on the edges near Donaldson River. Allow extra time, slow down and drive with care. If coming from Waratah, watch out for flash flooding and fallen obstacles in wet weather north of Savage River.

Just north of Corinna at the base of Mount Donaldson, the road has many steep climbs and bridged river crossings. From 1850-90, prospectors panned for gold in creeks and rivers in the region. In 1883, a 7.45 kg nugget was found at Whyte River, and a 4.45 kg nugget was found a month later.

Legend has it that these discoveries, the largest ever in Tasmania, were imported from Ballarat in order to stake a mining claim. Water races were installed for up to 6 km to feed hydraulic sluices in the 1890's. A water race can still be seen about 10km north of Corinna.

Corinna and the Pieman River

Nestled on the northern bank of the Pieman, Corinna was a boom town and a bustling port in the late 1800's gold rush. It now offers tourist accommodation and daily cruises on the Arcadia II. *Bookings are necessary.*

The river can only be crossed on the Pieman vehicular barge, locally known as 'The Fat Man'. The barge operates between **9am and 7pm** in the summer and **9am and 5pm** outside daylight saving hours.



It is the only cable-driven vehicle barge in the State. The trip takes about five minutes and a charge applies.

The barge has a load capacity of 6.5 tonnes GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass). The maximum size vehicles carried are 2.46 metres wheel width and 2.50 metres body width. Combination wheel base: maximum 9 metres and caravans with under body clearance: minimum of 0.20 metres. Coaches and large vehicles cannot be carried. Travel times to Corinna are shown overleaf.

CORINNA TO ZEEHAN **C249**

Sections of the first 12 km of the road to Zeehan are unsealed, narrow and winding. You will need to be alert and take extra care. From the Reece Dam tourist road junction, the road is sealed. It passes close to Mt Heemskirk, sighted by Abel Tasman in 1642 and named after one of his ships.

Zeehan is named after Tasman's other ship. In the early 1900's Zeehan was one of Tasmania's largest towns, due to its silver and lead mining industries.

Architecture of that period can be seen, including the Gaiety theatre and the West Coast Pioneer's Memorial Museum, containing a collection of minerals, steam locomotives and heritage items.

ZEEHAN TO STRAHAN **B27**

Most of this 46km sealed road follows the line of the former railway between Zeehan and Strahan, with gentle curves and inclines. Midway, it crosses the Henty River. Just south are the Henty Dunes stretching inland for over 2 km from magnificent Ocean Beach.

Strahan, near the entrance to Macquarie Harbour, was the major port for the West Coast's mineral wealth for nearly 100 years. Today it is both a fishing port and the tourist gateway to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Daily cruises from Strahan explore Macquarie Harbour and its wild entrance at Hells Gates. Visitors can experience the area's convict history and see majestic 2000 year old giant Huon pines in the rainforest beside the Gordon River.

Travelling times and distances, based on safe speed and good road conditions

Smithton – Marrawah:

45 minutes / 49 km / 90 kmh / sealed

Marrawah – Arthur River:

10 minutes / 12 km / 80 kmh / sealed

Arthur River – Couta Rocks:

20 minutes / 18 km / 70 kmh / unsealed

Couta Rocks – Blackwater Road:

15 minutes / 16km / 70 kmh / unsealed

Blackwater Road – Lindsay River:

20 minutes / 21 km / 70 kmh / unsealed

Lindsay River – Corinna:

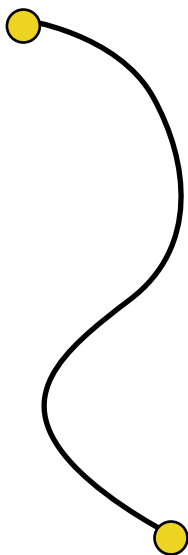
90 minutes / 57 km / 40 kmh / unsealed

Arthur River – Corinna:

2 hrs 15 minutes.

Arthur River – Zeehan:

3 hrs 15 minutes.



Emergency Contacts

Call 000 if in difficulty. Please note there is no mobile phone coverage after 10km west of Smithton, except for the odd elevated spot. There is a public phone box at Arthur River.



Native Animals

There is an abundance of native wildlife in the area, so watch for roaming animals such wombats, wallabies, Tasmanian devils and eastern quolls. Even eagles sometimes land on the roads, so it is safer to reduce your speed (particularly at dusk and dawn when wildlife is more active).
An eastern quoll is pictured.

Important Information

Be prepared as sometimes the road can be blocked by natural hazards such as landslips and fallen trees. Also make sure your car is reliable and that you carry extra supplies. If you break down you should stay with your car and wait for the next motorist (that could be next day). Hirers please check the suitability of your route with your hire car company.



Due to the remote and rugged terrain of this region, some roads are narrow and winding.

Many of these roads are unsealed and therefore susceptible to the varying weather conditions.



During wet weather, roads can become slippery, flooded or potholed. Unsealed roads can become extremely dusty during dry periods.

For your safety and comfort it is wise to check road and weather conditions before starting your journey.

This information is available by contacting Tasmanian Visitor Network members or RACT offices.



Much of this unique area is environmentally sensitive.

Help us protect this remote and beautiful area. Please stay on the roads and dispose of litter only where bins are provided or on reaching your destination.



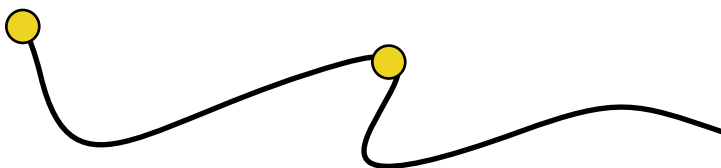
Although roads in the area are well signposted, it is important to drive cautiously, check your fuel and allow ample time to reach your destination.

Experience Tasmania's unique western wilderness

The Western Explorer route links Stanley in the North West to Strahan on the West Coast and takes you through some of the State's most beautiful and isolated areas.

Road travellers can expect a unique experience, exploring a region steeped in early mining history, surrounded by wilderness and remarkable scenery. The landscape is wild and rugged with a climate that can vary from snow to brilliant sunshine in one day.

This guide provides you with valuable information about the road conditions between Stanley and Strahan, however be prepared: If you break down, the roads are isolated and you may experience a long delay before another traveller or assistance comes.



For further information about this magnificent region, contact Tasmanian Visitor Information Network member wherever this sign is displayed.



We thank you for caring for the environment and taking extra care when travelling on our roads.

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources,
Stakeholder Engagement Unit. Phone: (03) 6233 2599
Email: roadprojectenquiries@dier.tas.gov.au