



# festive getaways



The breathtaking Freycinet Peninsula

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# the Great Escape

Want to enjoy a quick holiday this festive season?  
*Tiger Tales* shares five great weekend trips  
to take, beginning with Chris Canty's  
introduction to the spectacular  
Freycinet Peninsula  
in Launceston

## LAUNCESTON TO FREYCINET PENINSULA

**J**ust two hours south-east of Launceston resides a sanctuary of world-class food and wine, set behind a stunning natural backdrop of unforgettable landscapes. Welcome to Freycinet Peninsula, and get ready to experience a weekend of daydreams.

The Freycinet National Park may be relatively unknown to those on Australia's mainland, but for Tasmanians, it's one of the many jewels of the state. With sandy beaches, stunning views from mountaintops, and local wildlife and fauna that pop up around every turn (curious wallabies may follow you), it makes the perfect Christmas break.

### Wild Walk

Though romantics may want to slowly slip into the glorious scenery, the area has an assortment of attractions to enjoy, including food producers, wineries, rock-climbing, kayaking and fishing. Most come for the bushwalking, which is a great way to work off the great food you'll undoubtedly sample.

The Isthmus Track Circuit Walk is the most popular and relatively gentle, taking around four to five hours, depending on how long you immerse yourself in the landscape. It starts by going around Mount Mayson to Hazards beach, where hundreds of old oyster shells are scattered over the shore.

Most come to see Wineglass Bay a further 30 minutes away, which has been regarded as one of the world's most picturesque beaches. Sheltered from the wind, its pristine sand and intoxicating privacy offer a serenity which makes it almost impossible to leave. The cool water is also the perfect way to escape the December heat.

The walk ends in style as you are treated to the best seat in the house at the 216m lookout which offers a view to remember.

### Luxurious Living

In such a beautiful place, it makes sense to stay somewhere that frames it perfectly. Situated within the Freycinet National Park, and lying at the edge of the water, Freycinet Lodge is one of country's most picturesque hotels.

With its large open fireplace and nap-inducing couches facing huge bay windows, the Lodge is the perfect spot to forget about the outside world. The private pier nearby has played host to hundreds of marriage proposals, and you will see why when the sun starts to set.

Or you may wish to stay in your room, where the sea is so close to your private verandah and you'd be able to skim stones. The huge spa bath against the nearby window is a decadent spot for admiring the landscape.

The area's award-winning produce can be best found at the lodge's Bay Restaurant, including a seafood paella that would rival anything created in Spain. The incredibly fresh crayfish is another highlight. Make sure to book a table for their Christmas lunch menu which focuses solely on Tasmanian produce. For those who want to try a bit of everything, sample the "Taste of Tasmania"







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Enjoy a magnificent view while dining outdoors at Freycinet Lodge

### WHERE TO STAY

#### ■ Freycinet Lodge

Freycinet National Park

tel: 1800 084620

website: [www.puretasmania.com.au](http://www.puretasmania.com.au)

#### ■ Iluka Backpackers YHA

Esplanade

Coles Bay 7215

tel: +61 (0)3 6257 0115

website: [www.yha.com.au](http://www.yha.com.au)

#### ■ Freycinet Marine Farm

Look for the sign on the road leading towards Freycinet

tel: +61 (0)3 6257 0140

website: [www.freycinetmarinefarm.com](http://www.freycinetmarinefarm.com)

#### ■ Freycinet Vineyards

Tasman Highway

tel: +61 (0)3 6257 8384

website: [www.freycinetvineyard.com.au](http://www.freycinetvineyard.com.au)

### CAR HIRE

#### ■ Hertz

Launceston Airport, Evandale Ave,

tel: +61 (0)3 6391 8388

website: [www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com)

A glorious bay view



Indulge in luxury at the Wineglass Premier spa cabin



at 4.30pm daily, where local cuisine is matched by wines around the world.

If you are on a more modest budget, the Coles Bay YHA is only five minutes away in the tiny township that lies just before the National Park. It offers simple but clean dorms starting at AUD22 (SGD28.80) or doubles for AUD55 (SGD72.20) per room – a small price to pay to be on the doorstep to paradise.

They also organise a plethora of activities to keep you entertained. A friendly pub next to it offers pub meals and local beers on tap.

### Wine and Dine

For incredible value and the chance to try the freshest oysters and mussels, visit the Freycinet Marine Farm. For only AUD12

(SGD15.75) for a dozen oysters – a steal, considering they supply the best restaurants in Sydney and Melbourne. Sit in the beer garden and consume what was most likely brought in from the sea earlier that day.

For a great wine, visit the open cellar of the Freycinet Vineyard. They have a great selection of labels, including chardonnay and pinot noir which are ideally suited to the locally sourced seafood.

For beer lovers, try the Hazard Beer which is also made here – crisp and perfect for those January BBQs, for when you return back home.

Freycinet Peninsula's glorious scenery is matched only by the food and wine it produces, so for a memorable Christmas break that includes the best of what Tasmania has to offer, finish the year off in style. You can't go wrong here.

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Freycinet's famous oysters

