

BEAUTIFUL BRUNY

With terrific camping and 4WDing, Bruny Island may be Tassie's best kept secret!

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF MARTIN





The campsites at Cloudy Bay are some of the best you'll ever experience.

WHERE

This trip traverses Bruny Island from top to bottom, visiting many of the island's attractions on the way. Several 4WD only tracks will be taken, and some great campsites tested out as well.

INFORMATION

The roads were generally in excellent condition during our visit, but some of the forest tracks were slippery and required some care. The beach run along Cloudy Bay is best tackled around low tide when the firm packed sand will make the journey much easier.

ATTRACTIONS

Being an island there are fantastic coastal views at almost every turn that will have you snapping away with the camera. Plenty of fishing options, great walks, swimming, surfing, and 4WDing as well. It is a relaxing place and just resting under a shady tree taking in the fabulous views is a great option.

STAYING THERE

THE NECK CAMPING AREA

Toilets, picnic table, shelter and shady sites.

CLOUDY BAY CORNER BEACH

4WD only, toilets, good shelter, fires permitted, fees apply.



The ferry across to Bruny Island, and the start of our adventure



The fabulous Salamander market is well worth a visit



TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT BRUNY ISLAND - IT IS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT

Tasmania has amazing scenery, camping and 4WDing which should be on everyone's bucket list to experience. When considering Tasmania the iconic destinations such as the west coast immediately spring to mind for the avid 4WDer, but there are many other spectacular out-of-the-way destinations such as Bruny Island.

Bruny is an island of rich history, wild nature, spectacular landscapes and delicious produce. It is a wildlife haven where sea eagles soar, shearwaters dip and swoop in dense flocks, echidnas and wallabies rustle in the heathlands. In the ocean pods of dolphins and seals are a common sight, and whales pass close by the Bruny coastline during their annual migration.

Bruny Island seems small but in fact is nearly 100km long. From the tip of Dennes Point in the north to Cape Bruny lighthouse in the south, the landscape changes dramatically. Sheltered sandy beaches and farmland are prevalent in the north; tall forests, open bays and wild coastlines in the south.

On the island there are plenty of opportunities to lock-in the hubs and tackle the forest tracks and glorious beaches, and also find some pristine campsites. In fact, the best campsites require a 4WD to access them, which is the way it should be!

The ferry across to Bruny Island departs from Kettering, which is around 33km from central Hobart. A 15min ferry ride to Roberts Point and you are ready to start your Bruny Island adventure. No bookings are required,

just rock up, pay your fare and queue up for the next ferry.

Once on Bruny Island and off the ferry, take the Lennon Road (B66) eastwards. After 3km the Bruny Island Smokehouse and Wine Bar appears on the right, which is well worth a visit. Here you can sample many of the local delicacies including a range of smoked products such as smoked salmon, and even try a single malt whiskey. The roaring open fire is very welcome most of the year, and the views from the front deck stunning.

Continuing along the B66 the road turns southward and becomes the Bruny Island Main Road. Another 5km is the Get Shucked Oyster Farm on the left where you can watch the expert 'shuckers' in action preparing the day's catch of oysters. Here you can sample some very fresh

oysters, or better still grab some take-away oysters to enjoy around the campfire with pre-dinner drinks.

A short distance further south is the award winning Bruny Island Cheese Company. The regular demonstration and tastings of the large variety of cheeses are well worth the effort, and they serve top notch coffee if you're needing a fix. Perhaps grab some of their produce to go with the oysters later on!

A further 3km south just north of the airstrip is a turn-off on the left that leads to the Bruny Island Game Reserve. This 4WD track offers spectacular views across Moorina Bay to Cape Queen Elizabeth and south across Adventure Bay. There is a walking track emanating from here as well.

Back on the Bruny Island Main Road the next attraction is the narrow strip of land that separates the north and south sections

of the island, known as 'the neck'. At the start of the neck there is a parking area on the left and a steep boardwalk that leads up to Truganini Lookout. From here you can see the entire island with spectacular 360° panoramic views - well worth the 40min climb up the stairs.

At the southern end of the neck there is a campground on the left with tables, shelter, and toilets. With the beach close by, this is the perfect spot to have a break. Don't pitch the tent just yet, however - there are better spots to camp further on that require a 4WD to access, so use the facilities for a break and continue on.

After travelling 30km from the ferry terminal, there is a turn-off on the left to Adventure Bay settlement. Continue to the right and westwards on the Bruny Island Main Road; we'll be visiting Adventure Bay via a more adventurous route later in the trip.

The track hits the coastline 6km further on at Alonnah and heads south. There is a general store here, as well as the only Hotel on the island. A few more km's there is a winery (Bruny Island Premium Wines), which is worth a stop to sample their wines and the perfect spot for a meal if wanting a break from cooking.

The next settlement is Eunawanna and the road comes to a T-intersection. Take a right turn on Lighthouse Road because we're headed for the most southerly section of Bruny Island and the lighthouse.

Lighthouse Road continues through a mix of farmland and forest, with some stunning views across Cloudy Bay. The road terminates at the lighthouse, and then it's time to take the short walk up to the Cape Bruny Lighthouse and admire the panoramic views. At the parking area, the old lighthouse keepers cottage has been



The narrow strip separating north and south Bruny.



Relaxing around the campfire at Cloudy Bay campground

WHAT TO TAKE

Take sufficient food and drinking water for the planned duration of your trip. Basic supplies can be purchased on the island but it pays to have made your purchases back on the mainland. Basic equipment, spares and recovery equipment should also be carried. There is generally good mobile phone coverage available but it is still a good idea to carry alternative communication such as a satellite phone.

FUEL & SUPPLIES

It is best to fuel up on the mainland before catching the ferry as fuel is more expensive on the island. Kettering (at ferry terminal on mainland) \$162.9U \$169.9D Adventure Bay (Bruny Island) \$180.9U \$186.9D

Adventure Bay General Store
Phone (03) 62931119

Alonah General Store
Phone (03) 62931374

Bruny Towing and Mechanical
Adventure Bay
Phone (03) 62931108
Mobile 0428 978598

converted into a museum with a range of displays from the past, so remember to check this out before or after your walk to the lighthouse.

Heading back from the lighthouse there is a turn-off on the left down to Jetty Beach, a nice campground with toilets and several walks heading from here. On this trip we're looking for something with a bit more adventure so continue back along the main road to Lunawanna and continue straight before turning left into the forest on Coolangatta Road. The road winds through rainforest with large trees towering above and ferns line the road.

About 5km's before Adventure Bay there is a parking area on the right and a walking track to Mt. Mangana. Mt. Mangana is Bruny Island's highest peak (571m) and the 1.5hr circuit ascends through dense rainforest which boasts a large variety of flora and fauna.

Coolangatta Road terminates in the main Adventure Bay Road; turn right and head into the largest settlement on the island. Here there is a general store for some last minute supplies, fuel if running a little low, and even a caravan park if looking for some amenities.

From Adventure Bay take Lockley's Road which starts right at the bridge over Captain Cook Creek. Lockley's Road heads south and passes a number of properties before ascending into the forest. About 4km from Adventure Bays take a right turn into Cuthberts Road which heads eastwards. Stick to the main road here; there a several logging tracks leading into the forest and these are generally dead-ends. But if you are looking for some adventure and have a bit of time then explore some of these 4WD some which can turn pretty wild.

It's a smart idea to select 4WD at the start of Cuthberts Road as it isn't long before the road turns into a 4WD only

track as it climbs over the Bruny Range. This is the heart of the Mount Midway forest reserve, and while travelling through here keep a lookout for some firewood for the evening campfire as wood can be scarce on the island.

Cuthberts Road terminates into Cloudy Bay Road; turn left and head 6km down to Cloudy Bay. Just prior to the beach is the Pines Campground on the right, but a much better campground is the Cloudy Bay Camp area further on. Before entering the beach it is advisable to drop your tyre pressures and ensure 4WD is selected, then drop down onto the beach for the fun 3km beach run. The beach here is popular for surfing but beware the strong rips if entering the water for a surf or swim.

The beach is generally quite firm and shouldn't pose any problems. Enjoy the scenic views with the waves rolling in on the right, but keep alert for odd stream cutting through the sand. The exit at the end of the beach can be a little tricky, and

then it's only a short drive into the Cloudy Bay Camp Area

The Cloudy Bay Campground is the perfect place to spend a few nights, with large shady and sheltered sites adjacent the beach. There is a large variety of birdlife present to keep you entertained, and plenty of walking options to stretch the legs if desired.

One of the more popular walks that leave from the campground is the 4km track to East Cloudy Head. Tackle this walk and you will be rewarded with fantastic views along the southern section of the island and across to the mainland.

There are plenty of other things to do while on Bruny Island including visiting wineries, tackling some of the other walks, taking a fishing charter, or going on the famous Bruny Island Cruise. But one of the greatest things to do while on Bruny Island is to simply relax, soak up the island atmosphere and enjoy the serenity.

When considering a trip to Tasmania, Bruny Island may not be on your list but it should be! It is only a short and inexpensive ferry ride across, and there are lots to do when you get there. There are some little known 4WD tracks to explore, and some of the best coastal scenery in Tasmania to experience as well as generally uncrowded camping areas. Take the time to visit Bruny Island - it is well worth the effort. ■

MAPS AND GUIDES

Tasmania by HEMA

CONTACTS & INFORMATION

TASMANIAN PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Phone 1300 135 513
Website www.parks.tas.gov.au
Bruny Island Office (03) 62931419

FORESTRY TASMANIA

Phone 1300 - FOREST
Website www.forestrytas.com.au
Closures www.forestrytas.com.au/visiting/road-closures

BRUNY ISLAND FERRY COMPANY

Phone (03) 62722322
Website www.brunyislandferry.com.au

BRUNY TOURISM

Website www.brunyisland.org.au

RESTRICTIONS AND PERMITS:

National Parks are subject to daily entry fees of \$24 per vehicle per day. If planning of visiting several parks it is well worth purchasing a Holiday Parks Pass for \$60 which covers all park entries for up to 8 weeks.



FROM HERE YOU CAN SEE THE ENTIRE ISLAND WITH SPECTACULAR 360° PANORAMIC VIEWS



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