

Lean into Bothwells Charm

A Two Day Itinerary

Welcome!

Welcome to the enchanting tiny town of Bothwell, where wide streets were meticulously laid out in 1822. This town is thought to house more heritage buildings than any other town in Tasmania.

Farmers, shepherds, trappers, stonemasons, builders, grocers, butchers, and millhands have all contributed to crafting this beautiful heritage township, and remnants of their legacies are still evident in the town.

This two-day itinerary isn't for the hurried tourist ticking boxes. It's for the mindful visitor—the kind of traveller who is adventurous and craves authentic experiences: the warmth of a chat with a local over a cozy cuppa, the quiet joy of wandering heritage streets lined with stories, and the stillness of wild highland landscapes that speak louder than city noise ever could; mere specks measured against the epic dramatic panoramic surrounds.

If you're coming down for air, you'll find it here—timeless, fresh, clean, and full of meaning.

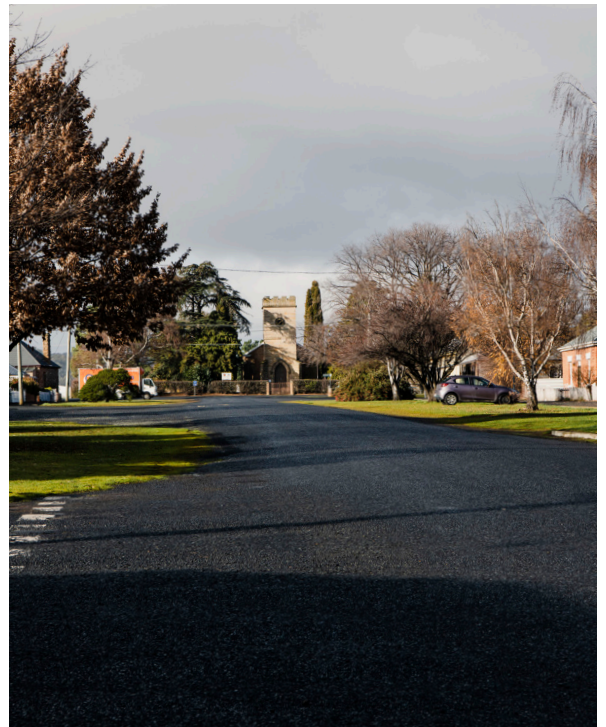
On your first day exploring, wander our heritage streets, visit the Australian Golf Museum, enjoy country hospitality, and indulge in tasty treats from our quaint cafes. After a picnic lunch at a secret local picnic lunch spot #1 (Mount Adelaide), head to iconic Ratho Farm for a unique Bothwell Experience: Golf at Australia's Oldest Golf Resort.

End the day at a beautiful local farm - Rathmore, spending the night in heritage-listed accommodation, enjoying farm produce and the best of country hospitality.

On your second day, wake up to a farm breakfast, followed by a hunt for the local platypus. Head off for a day exploring the quiet and picturesque roads of one of Tasmania's most beautiful and undiscovered areas and learning about Tassie's Hydroelectric story. Today's lunch is at secret local picnic spot #2 (the Steppes Reserve), hidden deep in the beautiful high-country bushland.

A visit to the central Highlands wouldn't be complete without visiting the magnificent yingina/Great Lake, where you can try your hand at fishing or soak up the serenity overlooking this vast high-country lake. On the way back to your accommodation, make sure you visit Bothwell's famous Castle Hotel before ending the day admiring our stunning night skies.

Bothwell, nestled in the quiet and wild heart of Tasmania, can be reached via a scenic 2-hour and 15-minute drive (180km) from Tasmania's ferry gateway at the Spirit of Tasmania in Devonport, one hour and fifty minutes from Launceston (142km), or just over an hour from Hobart (76km).



Day 1: Village and Riverside meanders, Australia's oldest golf course, authentic farm accommodation

Bothwell Brekkie

Enjoy a tasty breakfast with friendly locals at Sealey's Cafe or the Bothwell Post Office and Cafe. Pack a morning tea or picnic to fuel your village meanderings. You will not be lost for perfect picnic spots.

Let's get Exploring!

Stroll through the town's largely flat, well-planned historic streets, admiring the beautifully preserved Georgian cottages, tartan-themed road signs, and stone buildings. Visit the The Australasian Golf Museum and Central Highlands Visitors Centre; here you can discover the origins of golf in Australia, view fascinating memorabilia and local art, and explore Bothwell's rich Scottish heritage. Did you know that Bothwell is home of the Tasmanian Tartan which was designed by Scottish born local designer and weaver Isabella Shorrock. The Tartan, which was officially recognised in 1999, draws inspiration from the colours of the natural bushland typical of the landscape around Bothwell. You will be tempted to pick up these charming local keepsakes — Tasmanian wool tartan rugs and scarves available at the Visitors Centre. The centre is staffed by passionate volunteer locals proudly offering connection to their town.

For those keen on uncovering the stories behind the historical landmarks of Bothwell, self-guided walking tours come highly recommended. Grab a brochure from the Visitor's Centre and set off on a journey that unveils Bothwell's long and illustrious history.

Lose yourself in the charm of Bothwell's old-world atmosphere. The town is adorned with numerous buildings dating back to the early 1800s, each echoing tales of a time gone by. Impressively, 52 of these structures have earned recognition from the National Trust, either being classified or registered, reflecting their architectural and historical significance.

Unique landmarks to uncover include the Gothic design of St Michaels and All Angels built in 1891, and St Luke's Uniting Church built in 1830, one of Australia's oldest churches. Other gems which you will encounter on your self-guided walk are the ornate Old Bothwell Post Office, the Old Bootmakers Shop and Queens Park in the centre of the village.

Once you have finished exploring our lovely tiny town on foot it's time to head to the Mt. Adelaide lookout for a lunch with a view. Although called a 'mountain', it is really only a small knoll with impressive views over the surrounding relatively flat land and is a short 10-minute walk from the centre of town. As you meander through Alexander Street, and onto Croaker's Alley, you will pass over the picturesque Clyde River, and past Fort Wentworth. From this spectacular vantage point, visitors can soak in panoramic views of Bothwell village and the vast expanse of the Clyde River Valley. Let your eyes wander from the snow-kissed peaks of Mt. Field National Park to the south to the imposing bluff of Table Mountain to the north.



Off to Ratho Farm– Australia’s Oldest Golf Course

Ratho Farm boasts the first golf course in Australia—and the oldest course remaining outside of Scotland. This 18-hole links course offers a unique blend of historical charm and modern golfing challenge. The course, which follows in the grand traditions of Old Scotland, is accessible to the public, making it a top choice for anyone looking to experience premier golfing in a picturesque setting.

As a cornerstone of Tasmania’s golf landscape, Ratho Farm not only provides a competitive and enjoyable golfing experience but also connects you with the history and nature of Tasmania. Learn about Ratho Farm’s fascinating history over a Ratho Farm whisky and cheese platter.

LOCAL TIP: While you do not have to wear a kilt to play at Ratho, legend has it that it will improve your handicap (and you’ll get a beer on the house)!

Rathmore House – experience authentic Tasmanian country living

Following a great day exploring, head to your home away from home at beautiful Rathmore, a 15-minute drive away via a mesmerising countryside drive along Hollow Tree Road, surrounded by sheep producing some of the finest wool in the world.

Once you are checked into the historic heritage-listed c1828 Rathmore House, settle in with a complimentary afternoon tea in the restored stables. Accommodation options include elegant heritage accommodation in the Georgian homestead, or the comfortable Rustic Chic Shearers Quarters or Cottage.

Enjoy a candlelight homestead dinner in the elegant formal dining room or the charming surroundings of the country kitchen. A highlight of Rathmore meals is grass-fed lamb, bred on the farm, with delightful vegetarian options also available. Alternatively, pre-cooked meal options, platters, and picnic dining are available on booking.

The hosts of Rathmore delight in bringing the farm’s rich history and enjoy creating a surprising and delightful experience for their guests. Savour a candlelight three course homestead dinner in the elegant formal dining room. or the charming surroundings of the country kitchen. A highlight of Rathmore meals is grass-fed lamb, bred on the farm, with delightful vegetarian options also available. Alternatively, pre-cooked meal options delivered hot to your accommodation, platters, and picnic dining are available on booking. Your hosts will take great joy in sharing Rathmore’s rich pastoral history and in crafting an experience that is both surprising and delightfully unordinary.



Day 2: Platypus spying, highlands drive & the Lakes

After a delicious complimentary farm breakfast, start your day of exploration of the Central Highlands with a Rathmore farm and wool shed tour which includes interacting with the furry and feathered creatures which call the farm home. The tour includes visiting the Dew Rivulet on the farm and spying the six local wild platypus that have made their home in the rivulet – this is certain to be a highlight of your stay in Bothwell.

Head back to the homestead, pick up a picnic lunch basket from your hosts for your day ahead exploring the Central Highlands lakes area.

Continue your exploration back in Bothwell. Today you and will take the self-guided 130km Highlands Power Trail which showcases breathtaking alpine scenery and some of Tasmania's most ambitious engineering feats. The first stop is the turbine hall of the century-old Waddamana Power Station, Tasmania's first hydro power plant.

For those lucky enough to visit on a weekend, you will be rewarded by un-earthly delights at the Earthly Delights Coffee Van at Waddamana.

Returning to the Highland Lakes Road, the peaceful **Steppes Reserve** is a perfect spot to enjoy your delicious lunch hamper. Stop and explore the historic Steppes Homestead, which was home to the Wilson family for 112 years from 1863. Enjoy the easy 15 minute return walk to the curious Steppes Sculptures – a stone circle populated with bronze sculptures of Tasmanian native animals.

From here, it is an enchanting 15 minute drive through alpine moorland and snow gums to the vast yingina/Great Lake in Miena. Enjoy the amazing views of the at the **Great Lake Hotel** or the **Central Highlands Lodge**.

Fancy trying your hand at a truly unique Central Highlands experience? Both The Great Lake Hotel and Central Highlands Lodge can help set you up with a guided fly-fishing trip during your visit.

Enjoy the 40-minute leisurely drive back to Bothwell through quiet countryside, keeping an eye out for eagles, wallabies some of the oldest farming proprietries in Tasmania. In Bothwell, you may opt for an end of day refreshment or classic country pub meal at the Castle Hotel. Back at Ratho, why not take advantage of our exceptional skies with a cosy campfire. Who knows, maybe you will be lucky enough to cap off your visit with a magical aurora borealis display or at the very least the southern cross or milky way?

