

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION

Journey to the Centre of the Earth

Covering almost one seventh of the land mass of Tasmania, the Central Highlands is a revelation of some of the most spectacular scenery and most diverse, rich, cultural and built heritage in the state.

The region is home to three National Parks, with awe inspiring mountains, more than 1,000 lakes – natural and man-made – wilderness rain forests, fast flowing rivers, heritage buildings dating back to the 1820s, and so much more.

Highlands Tasmania stretches from north of Great Lake to the edge of the Mt Field National Park in the south, and Derwent Bridge in the west to Gretna in the east.

It features historic towns like Bothwell, Hamilton and Gretna; white water rivers and waterfalls; former Hydro villages, and Lake St Clair, the deepest natural lake in Australia.

Not to mention, the world renowned trout fishing and the oldest golf course in the Southern Hemisphere, and The Wall in the Wilderness, a living icon in timber.

Tasmania's Central Highlands cover more than 8,000 square kilometres of our fantastic island, encompassing some of the most spectacular scenery.

With three national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, rainforest wilderness, massive lakes, fast flowing rivers and waterfalls, rolling hills and imposing mountains, it has it all. However, it is also behind the scenery that the Highlands truly come to the fore.

The Scottish and Irish heritage of its sandstone-built towns Hamilton, Bothwell and Gretna abound with buildings dating back to the early 19th Century when British settlers developed land for pasture.

Bothwell, whose wide streets were laid out in 1824, is believed to have more heritage buildings than any other town in Tasmania. Hamilton was intended to be the capital of Van Dieman's Land, the previous name for Tasmania, before Hobart was chosen. Bothwell and Hamilton are connected by the Clyde River, which itself is fed by the Shannon River, rising at Great Lake, some 70kms to the north of Bothwell.

As a further testament to its Scottish heritage, Bothwell boasts the original home of Australian golf in Ratho, the oldest course in the Southern Hemisphere, and also The Nant Distillery, which produces internationally award winning whiskies.

Between Bothwell and Great Lake, which fed the first hydro-electric power station in Tasmania from 1914, is The Steppes Homestead, a declared State Reserve with

renovated mountain huts and a forest walk through to the Steppes Sculptures.

A detour off the A5 will take you to Waddamana, a former Hydro village and home to a cathedral-like power station museum. Waddamana is caravan and campervan friendly but is only accessible by gravel roads.

At Miena, there are two pubs, the Great Lake Hotel and Central Highlands Lodge. The journey north, along the western side of Great Lake, is mainly unsealed but to a good standard and will take you on a descent from the Central Plateau through the Great Western Tiers to Deloraine.

Travelling south west of Miena, you will reach Bronte Park, another former Hydro village, and beyond that to the Lyell Highway which connects Hobart and the West Coast of Tasmania through the width of the Central Highlands.

Heading west, the next township is Derwent Bridge and Lake St Clair.

Lake St Clair, the deepest natural lake in Australia, is at the base of the Overland Track, connecting it to Cradle Mountain in the north. The lake is stunning and surrounded by five distinctly different mountains, including majestic Mt Olympus, at Narcissus Point, accessed on foot, or by ferry from Cynthia Bay.

Derwent Bridge hosts The Wall in the Wilderness, a testament to the history of the Central Highlands, carved in 100 one metre by three metre Huon pine panels.

Sculptor Greg Duncan committed to the project 10 years ago, has produced 75 panels so far and hopes to complete

his awe inspiring work by the end of 2016. No one visiting Highlands Tasmania should miss it.

Travelling east, between some of Tasmania's most popular and prolific trout fishing lakes, there are two power stations either side of the Nive River – Tungatinah and Tarraleah – Wow!

Tarraleah Estate, possibly the most stunning of the former Hydro villages and formerly home to about 3,000 people, sits atop the Nive River valley and has been graciously restored to its art deco glory. A stroll through the bush to Tarraleah Falls is about 50 minutes return.

Heading further east reveals Wayatinah village and its Liapootah Clock, beside the highway.

The township of Ouse is next, where St John the Baptist is open daily and features vibrant, yet serene, stained glass windows.

Between Ouse and Hamilton is Lake Meadowbank, over which you travel to Ellendale and through to Mt Field National Park or historic Redlands and the Salmon Ponds, en route to New Norfolk.

Hamilton's camping ground lies beside the Clyde River and is just a short walk to the main street, featuring historic buildings for almost all its length and the world famous country gardens at Prospect Villa.

If you are intending travelling to Tasmania's Central Highlands give yourselves plenty of time. It's a region worth savouring.



1 Lake St Clair 2 Derwent Bridge

Two incredible icons dominate the western-most area of the Central Highlands region.

Lake St Clair is Australia's deepest natural lake and source of the Derwent River. Its five mountains, several walking tracks and position at the southern end of the world-famous Overland Track make it a outstanding location for bushwalking and photography and here you can call into the Parks and Wildlife Service Information Centre or book a ride on a ferry to Echo Point or Narcissus, at which there are magnificent views of the imposing Mount Olympus.

At nearby Derwent Bridge, The Wall in the Wilderness, is an ever-evolving carving depicting the history of the Central Highlands, which, when complete in 2016, will feature 100m of sensational in relief artwork in three metre high Huon pine panels.

Both Lake St Clair and Derwent Bridge offer accommodation and food and camping facilities are available at Lake St Clair.

3 Bronte Park

The tiny township at the centre of Tasmania, once a thriving Hydro village, is the ideal location for accessing 11 world class trout fishing lakes, Brady's Lake white water course, viewing the remaining section of a wooden pipe-line still in use today, or to see the surveyor's monument at Bronte Lagoon.

Be spoilt for choice with accommodation options that range from camping through to four star offerings. Visitors to the area enjoy Highlands hospitality at the quaint general store and authentic local pub.

4 Tarraleah

Now privately-owned, the former Hydro town's art deco splendour has been painstakingly restored to provide considerable accommodation in cottages, a former school and The Lodge overlooking the breathtaking Nive River valley.

Take the 25 minute walk to the cantilever lookout at Tarraleah Falls, play golf or feed the Highland cattle.

The village hosts a tavern, restaurant, café and shop and is above the snowline in winter.

5 Wayatinah

The wide open, grassy spaces of Wayatinah give the village a unique feel, with its tavern, golf course and lagoon among its attractions. Wayatinah, noted for the Liapootah Daffodil clock beside the Lyell Highway, is also home to the Lakeside Caravan Park.

6 Ouse

The Lachlan Hotel and wetlands dominate Ouse, on the Lyell Highway, which also boasts gorgeous stained glass windows in St John the Baptist; open 365 days a year.

Visitors are welcome at the Ouse Country Club, which hosts golf and bowls.

7 Waddamana

This former bustling community is the original home of Tasmania's hydro-electric scheme, celebrating its centenary in 2014.

The Waddamana Power Station Museum's imposing presence hundreds of metres beneath the penstock pipelines, is open 364 days of the year, while the village offers accommodation and several attractive bushwalks in the surrounding hills and along the Ouse River. No mobile phone access for those really wanting total peace.

8 Miena, Liawenee and Central Plateau

A profusion of lakes and lagoons, dominated by the 25km long Great Lake, and including Little Pine Lake and Penstock Lagoon, make this area a magnet for fly fisherman, bushwalkers, artists and photographers.

The area's rugged and isolated wilderness is protected on the World Heritage List in 1982, and satisfied more criteria than any other in the world.

Miena is a lakeside village serviced by two hotels, a shop and petrol station. It is extremely popular when the winter snows fall. Liawenee is the coldest place in Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service maintain a visitor centre at Lake Augusta Road at the entrance to the Western Lakes Wilderness Fisheries and Central Plateau Conservation area.

Inland Fisheries' Liawenee Field Station hosts an annual Trout Weekend each May for egg-stripping and other demonstrations. Visit Beamont Memorial, Shannon Rise and the Miena Three Walls Dam.

9 Arthurs and Woods Lake

Tasmania's most popular trout fishery, Arthurs Lake is exclusively stocked with brown trout with the average size of fish around 1kg. Its waters are used for power generation. Some 15km beyond Arthurs Lake Dam, on a sometimes steep, gravel road, is Woods Lake.

10 Steppes

Steppes Homestead, Steppes Hall, Lake Country Pioneer Plaques and Steppes Reserve Sculptures are a must see glimpse into the rich history of the Central Highlands, all located beside the A5 between Bothwell and Miena.

The restored buildings at the Homestead are testament to a bygone age and the rustic nature of life in the pastoral Highlands.

11 Lake Sorell/Lake Crescent

The shack community of Interlaken divides these two lakes in the north east of the Central Highlands and reached by gravel roads from The Steppes, Tunbridge, Otlands and Bothwell. View www.ifs.tas.gov.au for the latest information of fishing access.

12 Bothwell

Founded by Scottish settlers in the 1820s, Bothwell is an historic town boasting 53 heritage classified buildings, many of them in formidable sand stone.

Bothwell, with the exception of the Mount Adelaide reserve, is relatively flat and there are several pleasant walks taking in its heritage and history.

The town boasts the oldest golf course in the southern hemisphere in Ratho, and the sport is celebrated at the Australasian Golf Museum, in Market Place, the picturesque centre of the community.

On the northern outskirts of Bothwell, The Nant Distillery offers whisky tours, tastings and a restaurant.

Back in the township, there is accommodation and food at several venues, including The Castle Hotel, first licensed in 1829. Bothwell camping ground is located behind the golf museum.

13 Hamilton

This historic town, on the Lyell Highway, was settled for its rich grazing land in the early 1800s and was originally earmarked as the capital of Tasmania.

Most of the accommodation and food venues are within carefully restored cottages along the main street and the town boasts the historic Prospect Villa, Glen Clyde House and other country gardens, plus the convict-built Hamilton Inn.

Platypus Walk is pleasant stroll along the Clyde riverbank, starting at the attractive Hamilton camping ground, close to barbecue facilities.

All year round trout fishing is available at Lake Meadowbank between Hamilton and Ouse, which is overlooked by Curringa Farm tours and farm stay accommodation.

14 Ellendale, 15 Fentonbury and 16 Westerway
The three villages, which provide cosy accommodation south of Lake Meadowbank and the Derwent River rest among rolling hills and in the shadow of the Mount Field National Park and its Russell and Horseshoe Falls.

Ellendale features quaint churches, a traditional country store, the privately-owned mini-power station at Platypus Cottage and Willow Creek Mini Goats.

17 Gretna

The Gretna War Memorial high above the Derwent River and the Gretna Green Hotel dominate the hamlet, which like Hamilton and Bothwell was founded by Scottish migrants in the early 19th century.

Several historic buildings remain within the village, including the parish church of St Mary's.

www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au/tourism

www.facebook.com/highlandstasmania



www.tasmanianrail.com.au

then through Ellendale. Via Marlborough Road and Victoria Valley to Ouse and traverses a route through private and public properties Central Highlands north east of Great Lake and mountain bike riders and bushwalkers, enters the Tasmanian Trail, which is popular with horse and anglers.

TASMANIAN TRAIL

Anglers Alliance Tasmania

www.tasmanianrail.com.au

Trout Guides & Lodges Tasmania

www.ifs.tas.gov.au

Inland Fisheries Service

Phone: +61 3 6259 5553 www.rathogolf.com

Ratho Golf Course Tasmania

Wayatinah Sports and Social Club

Phone: +61 3 6287 1219

Ouse Country Club

Phone: +61 3 6289 3172

Tarraleah Golf Club
above sea level in Australia in Tarraleah Golf Club.

Highlands Tasmania not only boasts the oldest golf course outside Scotland in Ratho, at Bothwell, but the highest

GOLFING IN THE HIGHLANDS

HIGHLANDS TASMANIA

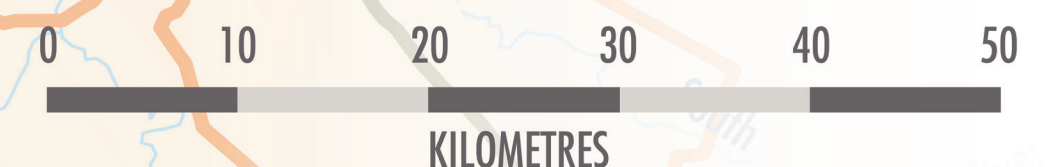
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Accommodation & Attractions
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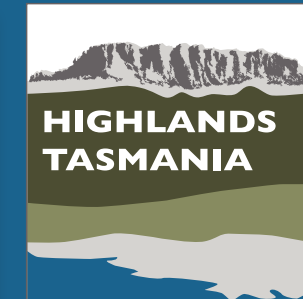
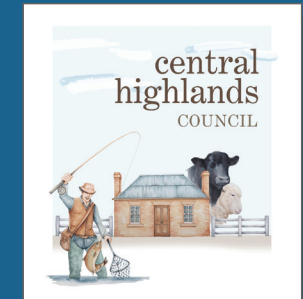
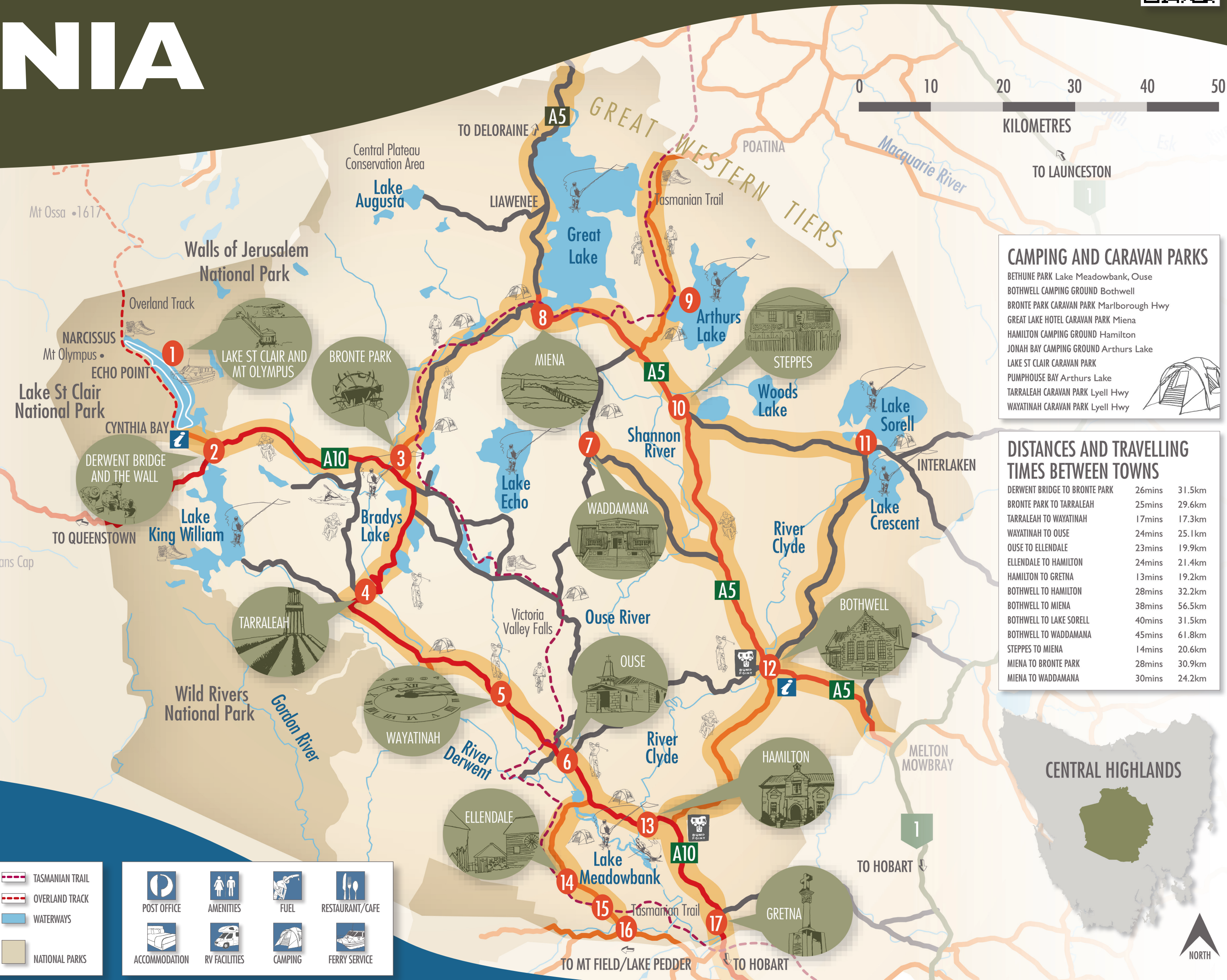
- 1 LAKE ST CLAIR/MT OLYMPUS
- 2 DERWENT BRIDGE/THE WALL
- 3 BRONTE PARK
- 4 TARRALEAH
- 5 WAYATINAH
- 6 OUSE
- 7 WADDAMANA
- 8 MIENA/GREAT LAKE
- 9 ARTHURS LAKE
- 10 STEPPES
- 11 LAKE CRESCENT/LAKE SORELL
- 12 BOTHWELL
- 13 HAMILTON
- 14 ELLENDALE
- 15 FENTONBURY
- 16 WESTERWAY
- 17 GREYNA

CAMPING AND CARAVAN PARKS

BETHUNE PARK Lake Meadowbank, Ouse
 BOTHWELL CAMPING GROUND Bothwell
 BRONTE PARK CARAVAN PARK Marlborough Hwy
 GREAT LAKE HOTEL CARAVAN PARK Miena
 HAMILTON CAMPING GROUND Hamilton
 JONAH BAY CAMPING GROUND Arthurs Lake
 LAKE ST CLAIR CARAVAN PARK
 PUMPHOUSE BAY Arthurs Lake
 TARRALEAH CARAVAN PARK Lyell Hwy
 WAYATINAH CARAVAN PARK Lyell Hwy

DISTANCES AND TRAVELLING TIMES BETWEEN TOWNS

DERWENT BRIDGE TO BRONTE PARK	26mins	31.5km
BRONTE PARK TO TARRALEAH	25mins	29.6km
TARRALEAH TO WAYATINAH	17mins	17.3km
WAYATINAH TO OUSE	24mins	25.1km
OUSE TO ELLENDALE	23mins	19.9km
ELLENDALE TO HAMILTON	24mins	21.4km
HAMILTON TO GREYNA	13mins	19.2km
BOTHWELL TO HAMILTON	28mins	32.2km
BOTHWELL TO MIENA	38mins	56.5km
BOTHWELL TO LAKE SORELL	40mins	31.5km
BOTHWELL TO WADDAMANA	45mins	61.8km
STEPPES TO MIENA	14mins	20.6km
MIENA TO BRONTE PARK	28mins	30.9km
MIENA TO WADDAMANA	30mins	24.2km



GRAVEL ROAD	TASMANIAN TRAIL
SEALED ROAD	OVERLAND TRACK
A5 HIGHLAND LAKES RD	WATERWAYS
A10 LYELL HWY	NATIONAL PARKS
MIDLAND HWY	

POST OFFICE	AMENITIES	FUEL	RESTAURANT/CAFE
ACCOMMODATION	RV FACILITIES	CAMPING	FERRY SERVICE