

# ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

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Activity Code **W**

Area code **Tasmania**

Record No **Tas0002**

## Activity

Walk

## Location

Tasmania - The South Coast Track. Melaleucca to Cockle Creek.

This is a well known and excellent walk along the Tasmanian coast south of Hobart. Special Maps with track notes are available.

## Outline of activity

This is a wilderness walk which can be rushed in 5-6 days or enjoyed at a more leisurely and sensible pace for up to 12 days. It should only be undertaken by relatively fit walkers with some prior walking experience.

Most walkers start by flying into Melaleucca and walking out to Cockle Creek. However it can be done in the reverse direction.

## Permits & permissions required, with contact details

A Pass from the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service is mandatory. An 8 week 'Backpacker Parks Pass' is required if on foot at \$30p/p. Can be purchased on-line or at most tourism offices in Tasmania including Par Avion's office and the Spirit of Tas Ferry.

## Maps required

'South Coast Walks' 1:100,000 Map. Readily available in Tasmania and on the Spirit of Tasmania Ferry.

## Travel: recommendations, times, car shuffling, parking etc.

This trip was to/from Hobart. Par Avion (03 6248 5390 [flights@paravion.com.au](mailto:flights@paravion.com.au)) picked up the group in Hobart CBD and took us to the light aircraft airport for the flight in at no extra cost.

We used Tasmanian Wilderness Experiences (03 6261 4971 [info@twe.travel](mailto:info@twe.travel)) to transport us from Cockle Creek to Hobart. (A 12 seater minibus with the p/p cost determined by the numbers - ie approx \$55 ea for 9 of us.)

The Tiger Lines bus services Cockle Creek but at fixed times and not every day. It is not cheaper, unless the group is very small, and there are no drop offs at accommodation in Hobart.

For 2-3 people a Hobart taxi might be worth investigating.

## Water availability

Water is readily available at or near campsites but at least 2L should be carried, especially during warm weather. Some track sections are dry.

Our group all had a tummy wog at some stage. Not serious but unpleasant and there are indications that sterilisation of non-running water might now be wise.

### Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

Fires are not permitted in Tasmanian National Parks as a rule. However a cooking fire is permitted in the one fireplace at Little Deadman's Bay and Surprise Bay - This may change.

### Route overview

The Sth Coast Track route is shown clearly on the special map. There is no major reason for doing the walk in either direction other than:

- The Westerly direction has you finishing in Melaleucca with all/most food used. This can be an issue if flights are delayed by weather - which can happen.
- The day over the Ironbounds feels a little easier in the Westerly direction.

It is also possible to combine this walk with a walk from Melaleucca to Scotts Peak Dam along the Port Davey Track utilising a food drop at Melaleucca. There is also a long side walk to the South West Cape from Sth of Melaleucca. The author of this intial record has not done either of those additional walks.

### Campsites used & possible alternatives

The attached notes from a walk done in February 2010 provide details of camp sites. All camp sites are good however note:

- There are sometimes, but not always, alternative sites near or between the designated campsites albeit with no toilet or ready access to water.
- The off-track, sheltered, camp site at Louisa Bay is small. Beach camping would be unpleasant in bad weather. In dry weather water is from a number of small 'drip points' in the chasm near the camp site - be patient. Useable but slightly brackish water can be found up stream from the beach in Louisa River subject to tides and recent storms.
- Pt Eric, Osmeridium Bay, Little Deadman's Bay and Sth Cape Rivulett are recommended.

### Walk Ratings:

<b>Distance</b>	S: Short, 0-9 km	M: Medium, 10-17 km	L: Long, 18+ km
<b>Gradient</b>	E: Undulating	M: Steep	H: Very steep/exposed
<b>Terrain</b>	E: Track/open, 4 km/h	M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h	H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h
<b>Qualifying? ( Q )</b>	yes Walk Rating: M, M, H		

### Supplementary information

Attached are the Trip Notes and the Walk Schedule for the 2010 walk. These are included for assistance with trip planning.

The 4 rest days were re-scheduled and used as the walk proceeded to suit group preferences at the time and, as used, worked really well. Weather was not a problem however a 'spare' day is worth having in reserve until near the end of the trip.

The track is generally well made now with plenty of duck board etc. However there are still some sections of black soil and some quite difficult walking through muddy and root **obstructed** track on the descent from the Ironbounds and over the Sth Cape Range. An early start on these days is a good move, particularly the Ironbounds day. The Ironbounds should not be attempted in severe weather. It is exposed and the track could be lost on the top section.

It is possible to walk into Precipitous Bluff from New River Lagoon. However, despite the apparently short distance, this is an overnight return trip through difficult terrain and should be planned carefully and would be for experienced walkers only.

**Note:** This activity outline has been compiled from information provided by ABW members. Its accuracy is subject to variations in individual members' observations, climate and weather conditions, land and ownership, accessibility, national park rules and permits.

Members should not rely on this information but use it as a guide and supplement it with their own research as appropriate.

While all endeavours will be made to ensure that the information is kept current, it is the responsibility of the member using this document to determine whether it is the most up to date version.

<b>Creation date</b>	13/05/09	<b>Created by</b>	Trevor May
<b>Last updated</b>	--	<b>Updated by</b>	--

## Tasmania South Coast Track – 2010 - Notes (V 23/11/09)

### Where:

Tasmania, South Coast Track from Melaleuca to Cockle Creek.

### Walk Dates to/from Hobart:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### Travel Arrangements:

Arrange to be in Hobart by sometime on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, hopefully to join the group for dinner (tbc).

We fly into Melaleuca from Hobart with Par Avion on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, weather permitting.

Transport from Hobart to Cambridge Airport - This will be provided at no additional cost by Par Avion as part of their package. **The pick up time and location will be 8am on the Monday morning at the Visitor info Centre, cnr Davey & Elizabeth St in Hobart CBD.**

We return to Hobart by bus from Cockle Creek on the afternoon of Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> February. Arrange to leave Hobart sometime on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at the earliest.**

**Suggested Hobart Accommodation:**

Central City Backpackers, 138 Collins St Hobart, (03) 6224 2404

[www.centralbackpackers.com.au](http://www.centralbackpackers.com.au) However there are many other options.

If you have a travel bag with 'good' travel clothes, toiletries etc you will need to leave it in Hobart. Do NOT bring anything you do not want to carry with you on the Monday morning as it will be difficult to get it back to you.

**Costs:**

- a) To/From Tasmania/Hobart – Commercial air/boat fares applicable. You choose, book and pay for your own travel, discount level and travel time to arrive/leave as required.
- b) Par Avion flight Hobart to Melaleuca - \$190 pp. (paid on the day)
- c) Transport Cockle Creek to Hobart - \$ 40 - \$50 pp (dep.on numbers (max 12)).
- d) Park Passes. Approx \$30 p/p. You must arrange to purchase these yourself on line, in Hobart if you are there early or they can be purchased from Paravion on the day we fly into Melaleuca.

**(Have cash available for the flight and for the minibus trip from Cockle Creek)**

**Walk Schedule** – See attached spread sheet. We have 4 'rest days' however weather, unscheduled delays and group preferences may change how and where we use these.

**Map** – "South Coast Walks' 1:100,000. This includes notes on the walk and conditions.

This is an extended walk so the following information is for those less familiar with such walks in Tasmania.

**Walk Conditions**

This is a well used and well marked wilderness walking track. We will see other people but, hopefully in Feb, not too many. It is not an 'easy' walk but by ABW standards there is only one day that is regarded as 'hard' and that is just a long hill climb and a long, tedious descent. Most days are not long and I've planned 4 days for rest, recreation and the possibility of bad weather. Overall it should be a quite comfortable schedule with no need to rush anytime and plenty of flexibility. Fishing is a feature so bring line, hooks, lures or a collapsible rod if you wish to supplement your rations. My experience is that you will.

Things that are a normal part of Tasmanian walking to be prepared for are:

- Cold, wet and windy weather. Reduced risk in Feb but it **will** rain sometime.
  - Use dry bags. Pack for wet days and to keep essentials dry ie sleeping bag & spare clothes and 'night/tent' clothes.
  - A good, full size, waterproof pack liner is recommended.
  - Carry waterproofs, warm layers, thermals and whatever keeps you warm.
  - Have a good, dry tent.
  - A pack cover can be useful on very wet days.
  - Good quality camp sandals for beach walking/fishing can be handy.
- Wet, muddy track. Track work has reduced this to some extent.

- Have good boots.
- Wear good, high gaiters (For scrub as well).
- Accept that you'll have wet feet some of the time.
- A walking pole can be quite useful.
- It can also be quite hot and being 'south', the sun burns severely and quickly so bring a good protective hat, sunscreen and lip balm as well as 'smalls' you can swim in.

### **Preparation and Packing:**

- Work to minimize pack weight and bring only essentials that you are comfortable with. It is essential to weigh your pack before you leave. 25kgs is the max allowed on the Melaleuca flight and is more than enough to carry.
- Minimise spare clothes. If there is wet weather better to wear warm, wet clothes than to keep wetting your dry spare clothes. Ie have one spare set only.
- Pack food into meal sized units to be sure you have enough but not too much. Minimise fuss, preparation and cooking to save fuel. No wood fires allowed.
- A little spare lightweight food is advisable (ie scroggin, bars or dried meat)
- Water is not a problem but be able to carry 2 litres in/on pack and have bladders for carrying water to camp.
- Unless planning to share gear be independent with first aid gear and all personal items, torches, spare batteries etc etc. Each walker should have a map and compass. (Days are quite long so reading is a possibility if you carry a book)
- Fuel cannot be carried on any aircraft. We'll buy fuel from Par Avion in Melaleuca. Clean and fill any fuel containers with water for the flight.

### **Food:**

- Food weight can be reduced to around 700gms/day or less but **this must be a personal decision and subject to your needs.**
- As well as weight and quantities, watch the bulk – it has to fit in. ie:
  - Choose less bulky alternatives.
  - Minimise rigid containers. Use flexible packaging.
  - Lots of small packages can be better than fewer, large packages.
  - Pre-packaged meals are easier to prepare, especially in wet weather.
  - There is plenty of water so no need to carry heavier wet, moist or semi dried food.
- Minimise food/sweets to share. It's nice but is extra weight.

### **Food Quantities:**

As our schedule stands you will need to carry all food for 12days (There is no food available at Melaleuca. There is, a Ranger Station but no food available at Cockle Creek.)

So the food you should ***pack to carry*** is:

- Breakfasts 12
- Lunches 12
- Dinners 11
- Scroggin, tea, coffee etc 12 Full Days.

- Light weight, spare/emergency food of your choice for 1 day.

**Other:**

Try to carry only quantities of soap, toothpaste, sunscreen etc that you need and not full soap cakes or toothpaste tubes etc. Similarly with other consumables.

We may carry a mobile phone or 2 but I do not expect any reception along the track.

I will, later, ask for your mobile phone numbers, travel and Hobart accommodation details. This is not mandatory but can help if anyone gets ‘misplaced’.

I will need to know who will bring a GPS and mobile phone and your emergency contact person details.

You will also need to specify what type and how much fuel you will need to buy from Par Avion at Melaleuca.

Finally, if unfamiliar to you, try to read some history of Melaleuca and Denny King, the original, long time resident there. I have some material which I can loan for copying. There are also plenty of walk notes on the track available on-line. Don’t hesitate to contact me if there are any questions.

**Contact Details:**

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***Tasmania - South Coast Track - 2010 - Schedule. (revised -as the walk actually happened)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Camp Site</b>	<b>Trip Day</b>	<b>Walk Day</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Track Notes</b>
Sunday, 7 February 2010	Hobart CBD	1		Own Arrangements.	Fly into Hobart. Dinner in Hobart optional/tbc.
Monday, 8 February 2010	Cox Bight (Pt Eric Campsite)	2	1	Explore Melaleuca on arrival.	9am - Fly in from Hobart - 3-4hrs Easy Walk. Melaleuca to Cox Bight
Tuesday, 9 February 2010	Louisa Bay	3	2		5 - 7 Hrs Medium.
Wednesday, 10 February 2010	Louisa Bay	4	3	Beach Walking & Fishing	Rest Day *
Thursday, 11 February 2010	Louisa River	5	4		2 - 3 Hours, Medium.

Friday, 12 February 2010	Little Deadman's Bay	6	5	Climb over Ironbound Range	7-10 Hrs, Hard
Saturday, 13 February 2010	Little Deadman's Bay	7	6	Fish, swim, etc	Rest Day
Sunday, 14 February 2010	New River Lagoon	8	7	Half day rest	3-4 Hrs, Medium
Monday, 15 February 2010	Osmeridium Beach	9	8	Half Day Rest	2-3 Hrs, Medium
Tuesday, 16 February 2010	Granite Beach	10	9		3-4 Hrs - Medium
Wednesday, 17 February 2010	South Cape Rivulet	11	10		6 - 8 Hrs. Med to Hard
Thursday, 18 February 2010	South Cape Rivulet	12	11	Relaxing & Fishing again.	Rest Day.*
Friday, 19 February 2010	Hobart	13	12	Walk to Cockle Creek. Bus at 2pm.	3 - 4 Hrs. Med/Easy Walk & 3hr Bus Ride. Dinner in Hobart tbc.
Saturday, 20 February 2010	Free	14			Fly Home ?

\* Note: The rest days were used as indicated. There were no flight, weather or other contingencies.