

ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

This row for office use only – Go to 'Activity'.

Activity Code W

Area code Tasmania

Record No 0004

Activity

Walk ('W'), Cycle , ('C') Kayak/Canoe ('K'), Other ('O') (Indicate here with Symbol)..... W

Location

Tasman Coastal Walk, Tasmania

Outline of activity

Beginning from Fortescue Bay this walk can be undertaken in as few as 2 days (return to Fortescue Bay) or 3 days (to Tasman Arch) although at least four days is suggested to enjoy the splendour of this magnificent walk.

Permits & permissions required, with contact details

A Parks Permit is required (\$30 in 2012) . Obtainable via the internet (www.parks.tas.gov.au), from Government offices in Hobart, from the local Coles Bay Visitors' Centre or from private companies which may be arranging transport to and from the carpark from Hobart or elsewhere.

Maps required

TasMap: Tasman National Park (1:50,000) covers the direct route in and out and gives some useful information about the walk. The track is well marked in this area. This map / brochure is available from most good map shops for around \$10 (2012)

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

If the walk is done from and to Fortescue Bay, one could leave a car in the carpark. If one intends doing the full walk, however, transport may be required from Hobart or some other starting point or centre. Options are: Tasmanian Wilderness Experience (Fax: 03 6261 2786). Alternatively, TassieLink bus services (www.tassielink.com.au) will provide transport to Tasman Arch leaving the problem of getting to and / or from Fortescue Bay. While the latter is cheaper it is less flexible

Water availability

Good water is available from Fortescue Bay but one should check with the Visitors Centre before setting out. We also found reasonable water at Waghalee Falls, Lunch Time Creek and Bivouac Bay. Water was also available from Perditiion Ponds although it was not enjoyed by most of the party. We always set off with 3 litres of water

Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

This is not a hard walk although the bush is thick ascending to Mount Fortescue, the path poorly marked in places and the gradient steep. In addition the thick vegetation makes for humid conditions. The leg from Bivouac Bay to Tatnells Hill is also through heavily wooded rainforest although the track is well marked.

Route overview

This is a beautiful walk offers a variety of vegetation and vistas all of which are grand. One enjoys spectacular dolerite cliffs, thickly vegetated rainforest, open windswept heathlands, open country, coastal heath (although most of this is on boardwalks) and along the ocean's edge. It has it all.

Campsites used & possible alternatives

Campsites are located at Fortescue Bay (although this is packed with campers and requires booking), Waghalee Falls, Bar Knoll, Hurricane Heath, Perdition Ponds and Bivouac Bay. With the exception of Fortescue Bay and Bivouac Bay, they are generally on the smaller side. Drop Toilets are located at Fortescue Bay and Bivouac Bay.

Walk Ratings (indicate rating below where indicated ..eg 'SMMQ')

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Distance | S: Short, 0-9 km | M: Medium, 10-17 km | L: Long, 18+ km |
| Gradient | E: Undulating | M: Steep | H: Very steep/exposed |
| Terrain | E: Track/open, 4 km/h | M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h | H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h |
| Qualifying? (Q) | Insert Activity Rating here....MMEQ | | |

Supplementary information (Insert below, if required. Insert Maps on the last page)

This is a beautiful and relatively easy walk (apart from Fortescue Bay to Waghalee Falls section which is a long hard day) offering some stunning scenery, particularly spectacular dolerite cliffs at both Cape Huay (side walk with day packs on Day 1) and Cape Pillar with day packs on Day 2).

We took our time and spent the first night at Waghalee Falls, the second at Perdition Ponds (with a day walk to Cape Pillar), the third very easy day to Bare Knoll, the fourth (and fifth) at Bivouac Bay finishing on the sixth day at Tasman Arch.

A group needs to take care in the section from the Cape Huay turnoff to Waghalee Falls as the track is often poorly marked. In addition one should not underestimate the pace of this part of the walk.

There is some mud in the section from Lunchtime Creek to Perdition Ponds but nothing to be alarmed about.

There is supposedly a track walk to Snake Hill offering views of Port Arthur but the only path we found was poorly marked Arthurs Peak

ote: 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.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Creation date | 17 April 2012 | Created by | Richard Bowey |
| Last updated | | Updated by | |

Please insert map below on this page or supply separately

