



FACT FILE

# GOLF IN TASMANIA

UNORDINARY ADVENTURES



Cape Wickham Links,  
King Island  
© Andrew Wilson

# TASMANIA

COME DOWN FOR AIR

A gull swoops by as you place the tee.  
Waves crash on the shore below – so close.  
Focus, don't get distracted.  
Pause, take a deep breath of fresh salty air and swing...



Barnbougle Lost Farm Golf Course,  
Bridport  
© Tourism Australia

## What's out there

Tasmania has some of the most scenic and unusual golf courses in the country. There are courses perched on the edge of dramatic coastlines, holes scattered throughout sand dunes, and others surrounded by paddocks dotted with grazing sheep. Tasmania has four of the top 13 golf courses in Australian Golf Digest's 2020 Australian Top 100, and features the top four public-access courses in Australia in the Golf Course Guide's 2020 list.

## What makes golf in Tasmania special

### ENVIRONMENT

Tasmania's spectacular and rugged coastline is a key feature of the island's golfing experience, with pure air, ocean spray and a coastal soundtrack fuelling the chance to switch off and recharge.

### HIGH QUALITY LINKS COURSES

Hugging the Bass Strait shoreline, Tasmania's three premier golf links have international reputations as golfing bucket-list destinations.

### UNCROWDED AND ACCESSIBLE GOLF

No crowds, no waiting lists. Tasmania's top links courses offer a spacious golfing experience with an air of exclusivity and without membership requirements.

### ACCESSIBLE REMOTENESS

Within an hour's flight, a golfing enthusiast can get from city office to pristine coastline and a course that feels like it's on the edge of the world.

## Where to tee off

### BARNBOUGLE

Experience a true golfing adventure at the two neighbouring links courses of [Barnbougle](#). Widely ranked among the finest in the world, The Dunes and Lost Farm are located on the rolling coastline of a potato farm near the sleepy seaside village of Bridport, an hour's drive north-east of Launceston.

#### The Dunes

Golfers travel from around the world to play among the towering sand dunes that define this 18-hole traditional links course. Designed by internationally acclaimed golf architect Tom Doak and Australia's Mike Clayton, the course is carved from naturally undulating coastal dunes, creating a routing that's complementary to the surrounding landscape. It's a fair but true test for golfers of all abilities.

### Lost Farm

The newer of the two courses was developed on steep dunes across the Great Forester River from The Dunes. It comprises 20 holes positioned among the dunes and beside farm land. Designed by acclaimed US architects Coore and Crenshaw, Lost Farm's wide fairways, undulating greens and strategic bunkering offer a rewarding round to all who challenge it.

Barnbougle is a public-access course that caters for golfers of all abilities. On-site accommodation includes the Lost Farm lodge and self-contained two-bedroom cottages and four-bedroom villas. Dine on fine Tasmanian produce with panoramic views of Bass Strait at Lost Farm Restaurant, perched high among the dunes. Enjoy a more casual meal beachside at The Dunes Bistro or post-round refreshments at Lost Farm Sports Bar.

Other features include a driving range, chipping and putting facilities, conference rooms and Barnbougle Spa's ocean-view magnesium pool. Both courses are open year-round. Charter flights to Barnbougle's private airstrip are a popular way for small groups to reach the courses.

### KING ISLAND

This windswept island getaway in Bass Strait, 80 kilometres off Tasmania's north-west coast, offers pure links golf in a pristine, rugged coastal landscape. Subject to the strong Roaring Forties winds, the island's three courses are a sure test of any golfer's core ability.

#### Cape Wickham Links

Ranked #2 among Australian golf courses (Australian Golf Digest, 2020), [Cape Wickham](#) is one of the most distinctive golf courses in the world. Located on the rugged northern tip of the island, its holes are positioned around the magnificent Cape Wickham Lighthouse, built in 1861 and the tallest in the southern hemisphere. The 18-hole course weaves along the coastline of Cape Farewell, with panoramic views high in the dunes and low along the rocky shoreline. The coastal holes all lean gently towards Bass Strait and golfers enjoy ocean views from every hole – the 11th hole is almost in the sea and the 18th is located above Victoria Cove. It's hard not to be distracted by surfers, whales breaching and seals sunbaking on the rocks.

Rooms with ocean views cater for singles and couples seeking an overnight stay, and a temporary clubhouse has dining options and a bar. Cape Wickham is 35 minutes' drive from King Island Airport.

## Ocean Dunes

Fronting the Southern Ocean on the west coast of King Island, [Ocean Dunes](#) offers a golf experience worth travelling for, with undulating terrain, crashing waves and the onslaught of the Roaring Forties. According to Australian Golf Digest, “in places, Ocean Dunes resembles extreme golf, like a wild rollercoaster ride in an amusement park”. The 18-hole course is fashioned after Scotland’s great links courses and spans two kilometres of rocky coastline. There are two signature par-three holes that cross the wild sea of Bass Strait, presenting a uniquely Tasmanian skill test.

Ocean Dunes has a clubhouse, bar and pro shop, all with ocean views. A range of handy “stay and play” packages include golf, car hire, and accommodation at the King Island Hotel, located five minutes’ drive away in the main town of Currie.

## King Island Golf Club

The nine-hole links course at the [King Island Golf and Bowling Club](#), dating to 1938, is the perfect down-to-earth accompaniment to the island’s two newer 18-hole courses. This challenging and compact course, located in Currie, is the ideal place to spend the morning before an onward flight.

Luxe off-course accommodation includes Porky Beach Retreat, a beach house featuring an outdoor sauna and a sunken timber hot tub, and Kittawa Lodge, a sophisticated retreat on a secluded stretch of coastline. King Island Car Rental provides car hire on the island.

King Island is a 45-minute flight from Melbourne, a 90-minute flight from Launceston, and an hour’s flight from Barnbougle. Regional Express (Rex), Sharp Airlines and King Island Airlines fly daily to the island. Small charter flights, run by operators such as Air Adventure and Vortex, are a popular way to island-hop directly between King Island and Barnbougle.

## ACROSS TASMANIA

There are more than 65 courses in Tasmania, so you’re never far from a fairway. If you’re heading to the Tasman Peninsula, the Tasman Club near Port Arthur is worth a visit. Don’t miss the tee shot to a pocket-handkerchief green on the far side of

a deep chasm where sea cliffs plummet into the ocean. Located an hour’s drive north of Hobart in the central highlands is Australia’s oldest golf course, Ratho Farm, which was built by homesick Scots in 1830. Tee off from square putting greens and skirt the resident sheep busy maintaining the course. The Australian Golf Museum is located at Ratho Farm, and has an impressive collection of memorabilia. Other top courses include Royal Hobart, Tasmania Golf Club, Kingston Beach and Claremont in the south, Launceston Country Club in the north, and Devonport and Ulverstone in the north west.

## Events

### TAYLORMADE BASS STRAIT MASTERS

This tournament in April features four courses in four days across Barnbougle, Ocean Dunes and Cape Wickham.

### BARNBOUGLE BRITISH OPEN TOURNAMENT

Held in July, this three-day event is played on a composite course of the best holes at Barnbougle’s The Dunes and Lost Farm.

### KING ISLAND PRO-AM

Recognised by the PGA of Australia, this tournament in late April or May is played at Cape Wickham and Ocean Dunes.

## Competitive landscape

In the domestic market, Tasmania’s golf links have the advantages of accessible remoteness, pristine natural assets and relatively mild summer climate. A key competitor is the Melbourne Sandbelt, a region featuring eight of Australia’s best golf courses on the city’s southern outskirts, located in a vein of sandy loam subsoil. Its advantages include proximity to a capital city, elite heritage and high concentration of courses. Other domestic competitors include the Mornington Peninsula, Murray River region, Adelaide and the Sunshine Coast. International competitors include New Zealand, the UK (particularly St Andrew Links in Scotland), the US and South East Asia.

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