

VISITING...

Rocky Cape National Park



Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of TOURISM, ARTS
and the ENVIRONMENT

Rocky Cape has an interesting history with strong links to the Aboriginal community. The area was declared a national park in 1967 and visitors can experience sweeping views across the northern Tasmanian coast of Bass Strait from the Rocky Cape Lighthouse. The banksia dotted hillsides, and dramatic cliffs and coastal caves, combined with the cultural history of the area, make this a great park to visit.

Highlights

A visit to Rocky Cape National Park will provide a variety of coastal experiences. Many of the bays found along the coast are sheltered and tranquil, while the headlands experience all extremes of weather. Much of the vegetation is low lying, wind and salt tolerant coastal heath. The vegetation flowers frequently during spring and summer, colouring the rolling hills with flowers. The hills run down to the picturesque waterfront where caves can be found with an obvious history of Aboriginal occupation.

Getting there

Rocky Cape National Park is situated on the north-west coast of Tasmania about 2 hours drive west of Launceston. Take Route 1 then A2 to Burnie and on past Wynyard. The park can then be accessed in two ways. The western entrance to the park is reached by turning onto the C227 (Rocky Cape Road) about 2.5km west of the Rocky Cape township. After about 3km turn right to Burgess Cove boat ramp and toilets or take the second turn to the right leading to Rocky Cape Lighthouse and the walking track to North Cave. About 12 km west of Wynyard the eastern end of the park is reached by taking the C232 for about 1.5 km then the C233 (Irbys Road) to Sisters Beach. The beginning of the Postmans Track is passed on the way. From the western end of Sisters Beach a number of other walking tracks can be accessed.

National Parks Fees apply and can be purchased from the General Store at Sisters Beach, the Rocky Cape Roadhouse (on the highway as you drive into the National Park) and Service

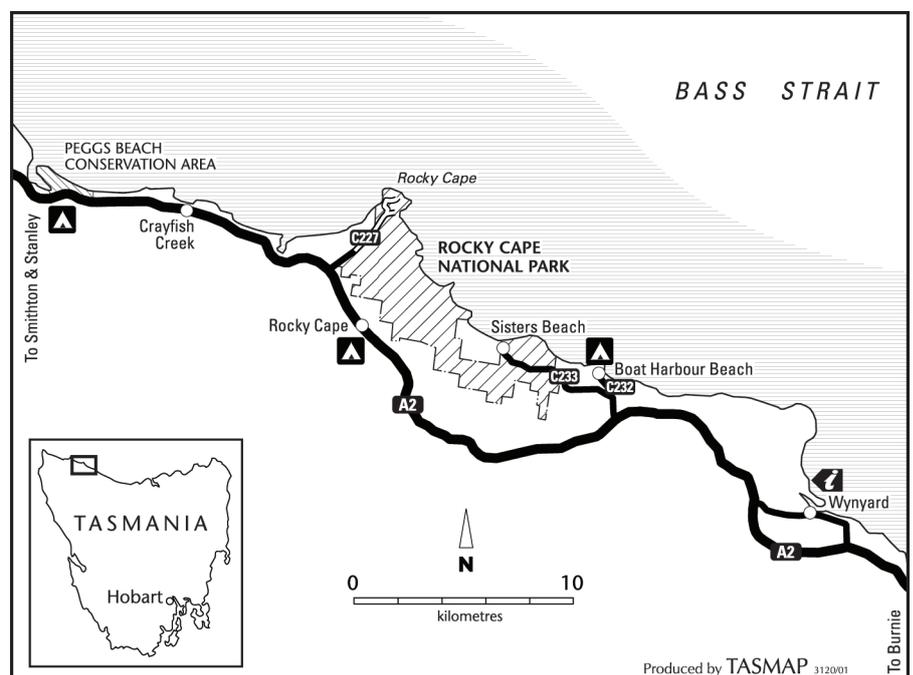
Tasmania Shops in Smithton and statewide. **Pets and firearms are prohibited within all national parks** and camping is prohibited in the Rocky Cape National Park.

Things to do

Although it's a small park, Rocky Cape offers visitors a great experience on Tasmania's coast. Here you can learn about Aboriginal life on the north-west coast. Swimming, fishing, boating and walking are popular activities. The park offers a fascinating variety of walks, ranging from less than 20 minutes to a full day. These take in Aboriginal rock shelters and caves, scenic hills full of wildflowers and birds, and tranquil beaches, bays and rocky headlands.

Note: Aboriginal sites such as caves and middens are fully protected by law. Please respect the historic and spiritual values they represent by leaving them as you found them.

Rocky Cape is an ideal place for rock pool rambling. The rocky coastline features wonderful pools brimming with multicoloured seaweeds and delicately patterned starfish. The good swimming spots can be found at Sisters Beach, Forwards Beach and Anniversary Bay. Boats can be launched at Mary Ann Cove, Burgess Cove (both in Rocky Cape National Park) and also Sisters Beach. Be sure to check tide and weather conditions. It is also possible to scuba dive around Rocky Cape. However, conditions can



be treacherous and diving is recommended only for the experienced. Below is a brief list of some walks available in the Rocky Cape National Park. For further details please read the *Rocky Cape National Park Map & Notes*.

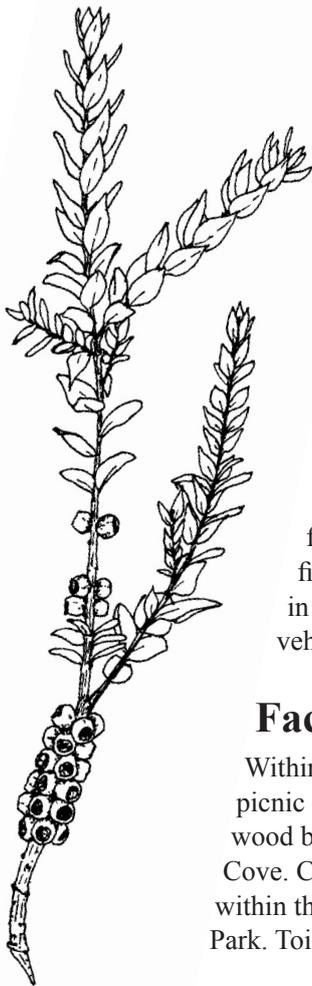
Short walks

North Cave/Lighthouse	10-20 min return
Banksia Grove/Caves Circuit	Up to 1 hour return
South Cave	Up to 1 hour return

Longer walks

The Postmans Track	1 - 2.5 hours
Rocky Cape Circuit	2.5 hours return
The Inland Track	8 hours return
Coastal Route	8 hours return
Full Circuit Walk	6 - 8 hours return

It is possible to combine the coastal and inland routes to make a full-day circuit walk of the park. This 25km walk showcases the best of the park.



Important

If walking for longer than 10 minutes please advise someone of your expected return time.

Aboriginal sites such as caves and middens are fully protected by law.

Please respect the historical and spiritual values they represent by leaving them as you found them. Pets and firearms are not permitted in national parks, even in vehicles.

Facilities

Within the park there is a picnic area with tables and a wood barbecue at Mary Ann Cove. Camping is prohibited within the Rocky Cape National Park. Toilet facilities are

available at Burgess Cove near Rocky Cape. Drinking water is not available in the park. The Sisters Beach holiday area has electric barbecues, toilets and drinking water provided by the local council. The nearest caravan and camping facilities are located at Rocky Cape and Wynyard. These townships are also the closest suppliers of food and fuel. Pegs Beach Conservation Area can be a great place to camp. There are toilets and water available and it is recommended to boil water for three minutes prior to drinking.

What to bring

It is a great idea to bring food and water for a picnic in the national park and to even carry some food while walking. Sturdy boots, sun protection, a warm jumper and waterproof jacket are also necessary.

Weather

The weather can change quickly, so be prepared. For information on the coastal waters forecast phone 1900 969 940 and for weather forecasts phone 1196 or visit the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

Further information

TASMAP 1:25,000 series;
Rocky Cape National Park Map & Notes 1997;
Parks & Wildlife Service Website www.parks.tas.gov.au;
Service Tasmania Shops statewide.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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June 2006 © State of Tasmania