

Cradle Mountain

Cradle Mountain is located within the beautiful 168,000 hectare Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, in Tasmania, Australia's most southern island state. This famous national park features an incredible range of wildlife, tranquil lakes, moorlands, towering mountain peaks and deep gorges. The iconic Cradle Mountain rises to a dramatic peak 1545 metres above sea level and from the top offers magnificent views of the surrounding rugged terrain.

Just outside the parameters of this amazing National Park there is a wide range of accommodation to suit most budgets, from luxurious chalets to basic camp sites. Also to cater for bushwalking enthusiasts there are basic huts and camp sites along the Overland Track. At Waldheim, set amongst lush green rainforests, there are simple cabins equipped with cooking utensils, a gas stove and heating. The amenities block has showers and flushing toilets.

Sights & Attractions

Cradle Mountain rises 934 metres above the glacially formed Dove Lake, Lake Wilks and Crater Lake. The mountain itself has four named summits. In order of height they are Cradle Mountain (1545 metres), Smithies Peak (1545 metres), Weindorfers Tower (1459 metres) and Little Horn (1355 metres).

The area around Cradle Mountain has several sensational walks that attract adventurous visitors all year round. These include shorter day trips such as the Dove Lake Loop Walk (1-2 hours), the Cradle Mountain Summit (6-8 hours), Crater Lake Circuit (2 hours), and the Enchanted Walk (just 20 minutes). The 6-8 hour return climb from the Dove Lake car park to the summit of Cradle Mountain includes a fairly difficult section of climbing over large boulders. However the breathtaking views from the summit do make this climb worthwhile, with amazing panoramic views stretching a full 360° (Degrees) over pristine Dove Lake, Mount Ossa and Barn Bluff. Be aware that this hike does expose climbers to the elements on the mountain and bad weather can occur with little warning so take safety precautions.

Bushwalking enthusiasts will enjoy the longer walks within the Cradle Mountain National Park including a trek along the famous 80.5 kilometre Overland Track (approximately a 6 day hike), a gorgeous trek which runs between the Cradle Valley and Cynthia Bay regions.

The sports on offer do not stop with just cricket and AFL, Melbourne is also has teams representing Rugby League, Soccer, Netball and Basketball. The Australian National Sports Museum is located at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the Great Northern Stand, and is a popular destination for those interested in going behind the scenes of Australian sports history and culture.

Climate

The weather in this region is very changeable and unpredictable, but with adequate preparation for the changing weather (appropriate clothes, footwear, and sleepwear) you will enjoy the shifting look of the mountains and rainforests in both sunshine and under cloud. The average maximum temperature is 18°C (Degrees Celsius) in summer and just 6°C in winter.