

THE HUON VALLEY

A GUIDE TO A WEEKEND
ESCAPE IN THE HUON
VALLEY



**HUON RIVER
CRUISES**

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A WEEKEND ESCAPE TO THE HUON VALLEY

Hi,

This little booklet is my take on the best things to do, places to see and stay and where to go to eat in the Huon Valley Tasmania.

As the owner of a Tourism Business in Southern Tasmania (Huon River Cruises) I wanted to create a resource for visitors to use as a place to start and get ideas from. A reason to come and stay in our beautiful part of the world, instead of rushing past and missing the most stunning part of the entire island state.

So, this short book is the ever evolving guide to what I think is a fantastic getaway you will never forget, and includes:

- An Itinerary for a day in the valley.
- An itinerary to escape for the weekend.
- Where to stay.
- Final thoughts and bonus things to do.
- Space for you to plan your trip.

I hope you find it useful and get some inspiration.

Cheers,
Taylor Wilkin
Huon River Cruises

What people are saying about the book:

"Thanks for forwarding your Guide on the Huon Valley. It was a very interesting read" - John

"I found it very useful indeed" - Tabitha.

To get your 10% discount off any regular Huon River Cruise, use the code "HRCGUIDE26" when booking online at **HuonRiverCruises.com.au**



WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT THE HUON VALLEY?

There are so many beautiful things to see and do South of Hobart. A lot of my passengers have said to me that it is some of the most stunning scenery they have experienced in all of Tasmania. I would have to agree, and pair that with time on the water, walking amongst the native forests and eating and drinking the delicious local produce, expertly made and prepared by locals, why wouldn't you prioritize time to explore and experience the Huon Valley.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS ALL ABOUT

I have created this guide and itinerary to hopefully give you an idea of what our perfect day or weekend in the Huon Valley would look like and to inspire anyone considering a visit, to make the decision to come down South. It is my hope that, no matter what your actual itinerary looks like, you will soon have a better idea of what to do and have an unforgettable experience.



WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR

I have tried to make this little book for the local or interstate couple who wants a break from the norm of day to day life, to explore something new that's a stones throw from Hobart. In a way that maximizes the experiences had, but allows for a bit of luxury, relaxation and rejuvenation in nature.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

A Day in the Valley

Our idea of the perfect relaxed day trip down to the Huon Valley with no rush and enjoying the finer things in life.

02

Escape for the Weekend

A weekend of adventure, luxury and indulgence. Our picks to experience an escape from the ordinary and some of the best the Valley has on offer.

03

Where to Stay

There are way too many amazing places to stay South of Hobart for me to list, but here are our top pick for luxury, views, location and proximity to activities.

04

Final thoughts

Just some parting words from us, thoughts about the Huon Valley, what I've missed and how to get a discount for a river cruise.

05

Space for you to plan

At the back of this guide we have provided a template for you to plan your own trip, including some important considerations.

A DAY IN THE HUON VALLEY

Our idea of the perfect relaxed day trip down to the Huon Valley with no rush and enjoying the finer things in life.

MORNING

LUNCH

1 PM

2 PM

AFTERNOON AND DINNER

MAKE YOUR WAY DOWN

On this relaxed itinerary, set off after breakfast toward the township of Cygnet, where you will explore the local artisan shops and have a coffee in one of the great cafés on the main street.

SUMMER KITCHEN RANELAGH

Summer Kitchen is a fantastic spot to have a break for lunch.

HERIOTS POINT VINEYARD

After lunch, head to Heriots Point Vineyard for a tasting of their world class Pinot before your cruise.

HUON RIVER CRUISE

The Relaxing Afternoon River Cruise - Standard

- Beautiful Scenery
- Local Wine and Cheese

RELAX BEFORE HEADING OFF

After disembarking the boat, head back to Franklin for a stroll through this charming town, before heading to Dinner at one of the amazing restaurants the Huon Valley has on offer.

01. A day in the Valley

ESCAPE FOR THE WEEKEND

A weekend of adventure, luxury and indulgence. Our picks to experience a true escape from the ordinary and some of the best the Valley has on offer. You will notice I have left out accommodation. There is a list below of great places to stay while you are here and I would recommend if you follow this itinerary staying for 2-3 nights, starting the night before.

DAY 01

Day one is all about relaxing and getting into the groove of the Huon Valley. Down here we live on island time and nothing happens in a hurry, so it's time to embrace it and enjoy what the Valley does best.

BREAKFAST

BLUE RIVER CAFE

For breakfast after 8:30 am on a Saturday, **Blue River Cafe** is a great little local cafe, right in the heart of Franklin and the perfect start to your first day.

MID MORNING

WOODEN BOAT CENTRE

Be amazed by the superb traditional boat building skills on display as you tour the workshop learning about boat building traditions, timbers and how they are used today.

LUNCH

FRANKS CIDERHOUSE AND CAFE

After your tour of the Wooden Boat Centre, head across the road for lunch at Franks. While your there, why not try some cider or walk around the church up the hill, where you will learn some of the history of the area.

02. Escape for the Weekend

ESCAPE FOR THE WEEKEND

DAY 01 (CONT)

1 PM

HERIOTS POINT VINEYARD

After lunch, head to **Heriots Point Vineyard** for a tasting of their world class Pinot before your cruise.

2 PM

HUON RIVER CRUISE

The Relaxing Afternoon River Cruise - Standard

- Beautiful Scenery
- Local Wine and Cheese

**LATE
AFTERNOON**

AFTERNOON STROLL

After disembarking the boat, be sure to take a nice relaxing stroll through the township of Franklin before heading to dinner.

DINNER

THE LOST CAPTAIN

Head to **The Lost Captain** in Huonville for a great meal in a fantastic local venue with an interesting menu of local food.

ESCAPE FOR THE WEEKEND

DAY 02

MID MORNING

TAHUNE ADVENTURES

After Breakfast at your accommodation, head out to **Tahune adventures**, a 35 minute drive from Geeveston and experience the spectacular Airwalk and stunning Huon Pine Walk in the awe inspiring riverine rainforest environment.

LUNCH

HOME HILL WINERY

For a late lunch, head back to Huonville, and out to Ranelagh and to **Home Hill winery** for great wine and a meal of indulgence, with stunning views of the surrounding vines, pastures, livestock and mountains.

OTHER OPTIONS

If an indulgent late lunch at a winery is not for you, you could take your time heading back. Have lunch at **Tahune** before leaving, or in Geeveston where you could have **Masaaki's Sushi** for lunch, and visit **Harvest and Light** wine bar and picklery. Then after lunch you could still visit **Home Hill Winery** to taste some wine, **Kate Hill Wines** the other side of the Highway, then finish with dinner and cider at **Willie Smith's apple shed** on the way back to Hobart. Or, after lunch you could take a drive south to Dover along the Esperance Coast road, past Surveyors Bay for some breathtaking views and possibly fit in a visit to **Hastings Caves**. You could also swap **Tahune** for the **Caves** in the morning if you are into caves more than trees.

This is what we recommend for a weekend get away from Hobart and we have done our best to include what we like and think our passengers would like too. There are however too many things to do and experience for a weekend. See final thoughts for even more ideas.

02. Escape for the Weekend

WHERE TO STAY

Alto Franklin

At the top of a ridge known as Heriot's Rise, Alto Franklin has stunning 180 degree views of the Huon River. The simple, modern, luxurious building, makes staying here an experience all of its own.

altofranklin.com.au

Appledore

This unique place has a style all its own. With expansive views across the valley Appledore is a picture of the Huon. A luxurious cabin handmade by artisans from the ground up.

appledore.au

Walton House

Stay at Walton House - situated in a central location near the Huon River. Easily explore some of the best the Huon Valley has to offer, in their luxury boutique accommodation.

waltonhouse.com.au

Donalea Bed and Breakfast

Lovely English style gardens with beautiful views of the Huon River and beyond. This grand 1920's home has been lovingly restored and provides modern facilities whilst retaining features of a bygone era.

donalea.com.au

Kermandie Hotel

Built in 1932, the iconic Kermandie remains the heart of Port Huon, offering charming, comfortable accommodation, excellent food and a fully restored bar.

kermandie.com.au

Boat Reflections

Boat reflections lies right in the township of Franklin and is a great central location to easily drive to all the places you want to go. Also has a couple rooms with river views.

boatreflections.com.au

WHERE TO STAY

The above list is certainly not exhaustive, but are my top picks located centrally near Huonville, Franklin and Port Huon, ranging from total luxury(Alto Franklin) to great locally owned and operated motels(Boat Reflections and Walton House) and absolutely stunning B&B's (Appledore and Donalea).

Some other amazing places to consider are

Near Franklin

- Little Seed Studio
- Huon Burrow
- Abbey on Main

In the Valley

- Hunter Huon Valley
- Highland Getaway(where you can also pet a Highland Cow)
- Huon Bush retreats

Down South

- Ashdowns of Dover
- Driftwood Cottages
- River Run Lodge

And, so many more amazing options.

The Huon Valley is a place people move to from interstate after falling in love with the area. Most properties have a bit of land, so why not set up a B&B to earn a bit of extra cash and help other people see this beautiful place with their own unique spin on things.

Often it's the accommodation and the lovely locals running them that are a huge part of the Huon Valley experience. So jump onto the accommodation websites, find what moves you and then book direct(so, the people running them don't have to pay huge commissions to booking websites)

Special mention for those in a camper or camping: Located right up the Valley in a secluded bush location on the banks of the Huon River is the River's Edge Wilderness Camp, riversedgecamping.com.au

As for the campervans to travel in, I recommend Tas Van Life www.tasvanlife.com

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION

Check out all the websites below for more information and direct online bookings for everything in the itinerary

Summer Kitchen

summerkitchenbakery.com.au

Heriots Point Vineyard

heriotspoint.com

Huon River Cruises

huonrivercruises.com.au

Blue River Cafe

On Google

Wooden Boat Centre

woodenboatcentre.com

Frank's Cider House and Café

frankscider.com.au

Lost Captain

lostcaptain.com.au

Tahune Adventures

tahuneadventures.com.au

Home Hill Winery

homehillwines.com.au

Masaaki's Sushi

Google

Harvest and Light

harvestandlight.com.au

Kate Hill Wines

katehillwines.com.au

Willie Smiths Apple Shed

williesmiths.com.au

Hastings Caves

Google

Some other ideas and things to do

Esperance Adventures - Kayaking in Southern Tas

esperanceadventures.com.au

Riddle Me Adventures - They do a Huon Valley tour

riddlemeadventures.com.au

River Run Lodge-Cool place to visit south of Dover

riverrunlodge.com.au

Walks:

- Platypus walk, Geeveston
- Hartz Mountains, multiple walks
- South cape bay and cockle creek(southern most point in Australia.)

FINAL THOUGHTS

First of all, thank you for reading this little guide to the Huon Valley. I hope that I've inspired you to come down and experience what this beautiful place has to offer and that it's been useful for you in planning your trip.

The Huon Valley in my opinion is a hidden gem, and gets overlooked by our visitors far too much.

From the many walks, drives, boats, beaches, markets, boutique shops, artisans and creators to the wineries, vineyards, cidery's, distilleries and restaurants. There are so many things to do down in the Huon Valley I couldn't list them all. You could really spend weeks down here and have not seen or done all the amazing things the Valley has to offer.

So come down and start exploring!

Kind Regards,

Taylor Wilkin

Owner of Huon River Cruises

PS: There are so many things to do and I apologise if I've missed anything I really shouldn't have. For more inspiration and to discover some of those things, I recommend visiting pristinesouth.com.au and reading the magazine online or download the map from the Huon Valley Councils 'Visit the Huon' Page here.

<https://www.huonvalleytas.com/visit-huon-valley-southern-tasmania/>. 'Hobart and beyond' and 'Discover Tasmania' are also great resources

PPS: The seaplane in the background is from Above and Beyond in Hobart, they do charters down here. This was a couple who flew down, then got engaged on the boat.

04. Final Thoughts

ABOUT HUON RIVER CRUISES

One of the best ways to Experience the breathtaking Huon River this summer is by boat, and our 78 year old wooden cruiser, LaDrone, is the perfect boat to do it on.

At Huon River Cruises we offer an authentically Tasmanian river cruise experience that delivers quality, elegance and comfort!(With over 150 5-Star reviews on google, we think our passengers agree)

Our short cruises pack in a lot. From gorgeous mountain views with clear blue skies, beautiful, lush greens fields filled with colour and oh so much history.

Did we mention the delicious local produce served aboard, the licensed bar with the best local drops, or the amazing bird life?

Sit back and enjoy a relaxing meander along the Huon River on one of our regular relaxing afternoon cruises. Highlights:

- Scenic 1.5-hour cruises from a comfortable cushioned cabin.
- Departs from a stunning private vineyard, every afternoon. (morning tea also available)
- Explore the history of Franklin township, its buildings, people and boats
- Encounter wildlife up close, including sea eagles, black swans, and loads of other local and migratory birds.
- Grazing board of all local produce, including 3 cheeses, paste, tapenade, fruit and crackers.
- Locally produced wine, beer and cider(non-alcoholic options available too)

Book Now: huonrivercruises.com.au

We also highly recommend a Private Charter for bigger groups, those wanting to explore down river, or a special experience to celebrate a milestone!

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

Considerations when planning your escape to the Huon Valley:

- Travel times(with the windy roads, it can often take longer than expected to get somewhere)
- Accommodation (check in and arrival time, as well as travel to and from)
- Electric car charging stations
- Phone reception(can be patchy or non existent in some places which is why you should plan and book ahead of time)

WHERE TO STAY	
DETAILS	
DAY 1	
MORNING	
AFTERNOON	
EVENING	
DAY 2	
MORNING	
AFTERNOON	
EVENING	

Has everything been booked? ☐

ADDITIONAL NOTES