

TasmaniART

Wilderness Photography of Tasmania

Southwest Tasmania Selection

by Adam Holbrook

The southwest of Tasmania is wild, beautiful, isolated, and very unpredictable. Along the south coast of Tasmania there is a walking track known as the South Coast Track. The eastern end of this track is at Cockle Creek (south from Southport, Lune River, Hastings Caves), and the western end is at Melaleuca, which is in the far southwest of Tasmania.

Further to the southwest is a lesser travelled walking track extending to the far southwestern point of Tasmania, South West Cape.

To the north of South West Cape is not really a track, more just a route, along the South West Cape Range and some western beaches. To the north of these is Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour.

All of these areas are located within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and are part of the Southwest National Park. It is these areas that feature in this exhibition.

The walks in this area of Tasmania are more difficult than many other Tasmanian walks, such as the Overland Track. It is normal to have wet feet every day, and there is mud at least knee deep on some parts of the track. It is often necessary to wait for water levels to recede when crossing creeks, rivers and beaches. There are numerous steep climbs, and long distances between campsites. Snakes are often seen sunning themselves on tracks or on buttongrass clumps.

1. Ketchem Bay, Tas.

A little bit of time exposure was used to capture the water swirling between the rocks. The waves were really pounding in and the tide was quite high. Ketchem Bay is on the south-western coastline of Tasmania.

2. Beach, Spain Bay, Tas.

An amazingly still day made for a surreal experience in what would typically be a very different scene here in remote southwest Tasmania. Spain Bay is located in Port Davey.

3. Spain Bay, Tas.

After a relaxing day walking the beach of Spain Bay, the evening light was giving the beach rocks a magnificent glow. The shadows were growing long, and the inland mountains with their rugged rock formations stood high in the background.

4. New Harbour, Tas.

The sun is up and the fog is beginning to clear on the remote, isolated beach, the waves roll in on the pristine sand.

5. Prion Beach, Tas.

Prion Beach, just west of New River Lagoon along the south coast of Tasmania, is a beach about 4 kilometres long. The sand is pure, and the dunes are windswept, as is evident here.

6. Osmiridium Beach, Tas.

Osmiridium Beach is located along the southern coastline of Tasmania. It is a side trip to the South Coast Track. A deep red glow radiates on the sand, the beach rocks and the cliffs in the distance from a spectacular sunset.

7. Noyhener Beach, Tas.

One of the features of the southwest of Tasmania is the weather. Here the rain has come and gone, and the wind has dried parts of the sand and blown it away, leaving some damp crusty tops. Noyhener Beach is on the western side of Tasmania not far from South West Cape.

8. Window Pane Creek, Tas.

With the dominant South West Cape Range, and South West Cape in the distance, Window Pane Bay is the most southern beach on the west coast of Tasmania. The tannin stained waters of the creek flow over the pure white sand to meet the sea. In this image a polarising filter was used to capture the true colours of the creek without reflections.

9. Dunes, Noyhener Beach, Tas.

Another storm rolls in, the afternoon sun is slowly consumed, shadows fade and soon it will be time to head for cover again. Mutton Bird Island is in the distance.

10. Surf, Hidden Bay, Tas.

The clear blue waves roll in on Hidden Bay in Southwest Tasmania. New Harbour Point extends out to sea, and Maatsuyker Island is in the distance.

11. Wilson Bight, Tas.

Nearly as far as you can go along the southern coastline of Tasmania. The waves are stirring between the rocks, an old log is trapped by the tide and a lone Gull watches over.

12. Chatfield Point, Tas.

At the southern end of Stephens Bay on the west coast of Tasmania, Chatfield Point juts out to sea. The cliffs of the point have been weathered by the sea for thousands of years, revealing the folded layers formed when they were created.

13. Rocky Plains Bay, Tas.

Rocky Plains Bay is the bay that you see when you are on Osmiridium Beach along the south coast of Tasmania. A great place to be to catch the sunset.

14. Kelp, Wilson Bight, Tas.

One of the small beaches at Wilson Bight, the Kelp has been torn from the sea bed and washed up by some huge seas. Another storm brews, and surely, some more Kelp will be swept to shore.

15. New River Lagoon Inlet, Tas.

Looking along the south coast of Tasmania with Prion Beach extending to the west, New River Lagoon is a large expanse of water. To the north of the lagoon, the New River extends all the way to Lake Geeves, directly below Federation Peak which can be seen in the distance.

16. Window Pane Bay, Tas.

Window Pane Bay is the most southern beach on the west coast of Tasmania. Further south, there is nothing but cliffs and rocks all the way to South West Cape which can be seen in the distance. The tannin-stained waters of Window Pane creek meet the sea. While very isolated, the beach is rarely empty, as the evidence here suggests.

