



Walks in the Cataract Gorge Reserve

Blue trail (30 minutes return)

Pink trail (90 minutes return)

Orange trail (70 minutes return)

Map details: Duck Reach Power Station, Interpretation Centre, Duck Reach Walk, Snake Gully, Cliff Grounds, Band Rotunda, Swimming Pool, Alexandria Suspension Bridge, Zig Zag Track (Hikers Only), To City Centre, To Trevallyn, To Airport, To Evandale, To Hobart, To North West Coast, To East Coast.

How to drive to First Basin, Cataract Gorge and Duck Reach

Map details: City Park, Inveresk Cultural Precinct, Kings Bridge, Cliff Grounds, First Basin, Second Basin, Duck Reach Power Station, To Airport, To Evandale, To Hobart, To North West Coast, To East Coast.

Cataract Gorge & Duck Reach

Blue trail

30 minutes return

Follow the blue trail by walking east along Civic Square which takes you from the city's administrative heart surrounded by the Post Office, Town Hall, Library and Police Station through to Launceston's beautiful Cataract Gorge. At the end of Cameron Street you can visit the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. Royal Park Site to learn about Tasmania's natural history.

(Optional) Continue on to the Cataract Gorge where you will find a choice of walks suitable for families through to hikers.

Return along the waterfront from Fitches Mill at Kings Park to the Seaport. At the far end of Seaport, cross the road at the traffic lights and return to Civic Square past the Custom House.

Pink trail

90 minutes return

Follow the pink trail to explore the central city of Launceston with its many churches and fine commercial buildings. You will pass places such as St John's Church that date from a time when Launceston was a small struggling village through to places that represent Launceston's boom time of the 1880s, such as the Old Bank.

Begin by heading west along Cameron Street to Diana, Venus & Fortuna. At Princes Square, return along Charles Street, where some of the city's early commercial buildings still remain. Take time to look above the awnings at the old facades before turning down Paterson Street and returning to Civic Square.

Orange trail

70 minutes return

Follow the orange trail and delve back into the time when Launceston was a thriving port. This was the industrial heart of Tasmania as mining and agricultural riches from around the state were processed here. Brewing, milling and mining industries all made Launceston rich. Merchants' warehouses filled this part of town as they supplied this colony and traded with others more distant.

Begin heading north along St John Street to the Johnstone & Wilnot Store. (Optional) At the Prince Albert Inn you can detour from the walk to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; Inveresk Site. Here you can visit former Launceston Railway Workshops. Allow a further 10 minutes return.

As you walk along Tamar Street, perhaps detour into City Park where you may take one of the easy strolls before returning to Civic Square along Cameron Street.

How to use this map

The walks all start at Civic Square near the Town Hall and are fully wheelchair accessible.

Whilst all buildings can be enjoyed from the outside, some are not always open for public access, so please check with the Launceston Travel and Visitor Information Centre directly opposite Johnston & Wilnot Store.

03 8336 3116 for opening times of specific properties.

Numbers indicated refer to the central business district map overlaid.

History of Launceston

It was around this Brisbane and Tamar Street area that the earliest white and dudu huts were built as temporary shelters for the settlers as they began to establish the new settlement of Launceston.

In establishing Port Dalrymple in 1804, Lt Col William Paterson focused on the mouth of the Tamar River. The settlement of York Town near today's Beacomfield was the initial headquarters for Paterson and his small group of soldiers, convicts and settlers. Unfortunately the area proved unsatisfactory for the settlers and the valuable cattle were quickly perishing. He relocated the settlers and cattle the following year to the natural pastures near the confluence of the North and South Esk Rivers. Stock yards were built near today's Killafady and by 1806 Paterson himself had a hut erected in the area of today's City Park.

Soon Launceston's potential was realised as the wheat, wool, whaling and sealing industries all produced high yields. Launceston became the commercial settlement of the north and in 1822 the town was declared a municipality. With the discovery of tin and gold in Tasmania in the 1870s, Launceston became Tasmania's industrial and commercial centre and it was declared a city in 1888. The prosperity of this era led to the building of vast Victorian streetscapes which remain largely intact to this day.

Government Magistrate disliked Launceston and the forty two mile journey up the Tamar River. In 1811 he ordered the removal of the headquarters to George Town but it wasn't until 1819 that the orders were obeyed. The settlers however stayed and the wisdom of their decision was reinforced when Macquarie's orders were overturned in 1824 and the headquarters returned to Launceston.

Walks through history

Launceston is noted as having one of the most intact early cityscapes in Australia. Its early colonial and Victorian buildings give the city a wonderful historic character. The best way to explore the city is to take one of the three walking trails that take you past many living architectural examples dating back to early colonial times.

City Park

Easy strolls around City Park

Jubilee Fountain - The Jubilee Fountain was presented to the City by the children of Launceston and erected in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Originally it stood in front of the main entrance.

Macaque Monkeys - City Park

In December 1808, Capt. Brabyn replaced Paterson and took up residence at Government Cottage in the south east corner of today's City Park. The area around had been fenced and established as a Government farm where cattle were grazed and wheat grown. Gradually a garden was planted with trees and plants sent from the Royal Society in England.

In 1838 the Launceston Horticultural Society was formed by Ronald Campbell Gunn and William Henty, and the first show was held at Government Cottage under the patronage of Sir John and Lady Franklin. Franklin arranged the lease of the adjacent land extending to today's Tamar Street, where the Launceston Horticultural Society established their gardens.

Owing to the increasing cost of upkeep, the grounds were handed over to the Municipality in 1863.

The fountain, which used to stand near the conservatory on the current site of the chess board near the centre of the park, was relocated and restored in 1979 to its original working condition. It is now the centre-piece of the 'Senses Garden'.

The Macaque Monkey enclosure was completed in 1980 and then fully renovated and updated in 2002. The original colony of 10 monkeys were sent from Japan in exchange for a similar number of Tasmanian wallabies.



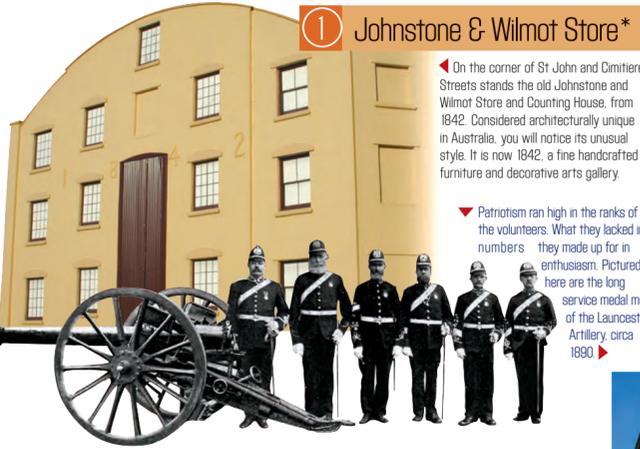
Launceston Heritage Walks

Souvenir Map

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Images by P Barnett, Lindsay Kelly & Jaffe

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL



1 Johnstone & Wilmot Store*

On the corner of St John and Cimiteri Streets stands the old Johnstone and Wilmot Store and Counting House, from 1842. Considered architecturally unique in Australia, you will notice its unusual style. It is now 1842, a fine handcrafted furniture and decorative arts gallery.

Patriotism ran high in the ranks of the volunteers. What they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm. Pictured here are the long service medal men of the Launceston Artillery, circa 1890.



2 Paterson Barracks

This convict built Georgian building was originally the Commissariat Store. In 1860, the Launceston Volunteers were formed. At times, their numbers were less than 25 but at their height reached 100 members. Their presence was particularly important after the withdrawal of British troops in 1870 and the scare of war with Russia in 1878.



3 Custom House

The scale and grandeur of the Custom House, completed in 1888, gives an idea of the riches coming into Launceston during the mineral boom of the 1870s and 1880s. Restored by the Federal Government, and now privately owned, the Custom House remains as a magnificent reminder of the grand old days of sail and steam.

4 Tasmanian Flour Mills



The old store fronting the Esplanade, built in the mid 1800s, was purchased by Thomas Monds as a store for his Carrick flour mill. He had the four storey mill built next to the stores. In 1918 Monds amalgamated with Thomas Affleck, owner of the Crown Mill in Cameron Street, to become Monds and Affleck.



5 Shields Street

This area between the wharves has been occupied by many grain and wool stores, tin smelters and hotels. On the left is part of the Boag's Brewery complex. On the right is the former penitentiary, the earliest buildings dating from the 1830s. In 1859 it was converted by the government to a Custom House and Bonding Warehouse and the impressive colonnades were added at this time. Dozens of nail holes can be seen in one of the doors, left from decades of notices that were nailed there for the community to read.



6 Brewery Oast House

The Esk Brewery was established in 1881, and was purchased in 1883 by James Boag and his son. According to the 1900 edition of the Cyclopaedia of Tasmania, fame came quickly, their beer being "generally admitted to be infinitely superior to anything produced in Australia (sic). After his father retired in 1887, James the younger managed the firm, and lived on the site. If you walk around the block you will see the old oast house, where the hops were dried, and many other buildings that date from this period. Brewery tours are available.



7 Prince Albert Inn

Originally built as the Dorset Hotel in the 1850s, this building was initially a restrained Georgian style. In 1867 the hotel changed hands and was extensively renovated in the fashionable Italianate style. On account of its proximity to the wharves and the rail terminus, its name was changed to the Terminus Hotel.

8 Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery

This extraordinary industrial heritage site, the former Launceston Railway Workshops, has been transformed into a new cultural precinct for Launceston. Here the QVMAG has established a magnificent Art Gallery to showcase its renowned fine art and decorative art and craft collections, from colonial to contemporary. Superb new galleries feature Tasmanian Aboriginal shell necklaces, youth arts, the stories of migration to Tasmania and the history of the state's railways. The former life of this unique workplace is also revealed. Star attraction is the Blacksmith Shop, an intact relic of the state's industrial past.



Blacksmith's tongs



10 Batman Fawkner Inn

This famous hotel was originally built in 1824 by John Pascoe Fawkner. It was on this site in 1835 that Fawkner and Batman planned their separate expeditions to cross Bass Strait and create a settlement at Port Phillip Bay (in what would become the State of Victoria). Another important meeting held in the Cornwall Hotel was in August 1850, when the Anti-Transportation League was launched, passing a resolution which spelt the end of convict transportation.



13 Town Hall

Designed by the prolific Launceston architect Peter Mills in the 18th Century, the Town Hall was built in 1864 in a bold Italianate style that apparently offended the local newspaper. "The Town Hall is a bastard... the designer appears to have studied how far he could outrage good taste and set delicacy by obtruding as many points and angles upon the eye as it was possible..." - The Examiner 23rd February 1867. Another objection was that the columns were so close together that a lady dressed in one of the full sized crinolines of the day would practically fill the space! In the 1930s the Town Hall was skillfully doubled in size, extending the initial four columns to nine.



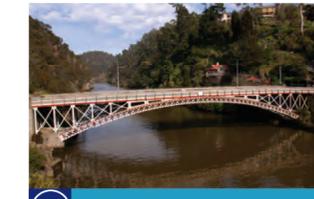
14 Macquarie House

Standing four storeys high, this beautiful example of a Georgian brick and stone warehouse was built for Henry Reed, a prominent Launceston merchant in 1830. The expeditions of Batman and Fawkner which established the settlement of Melbourne, was supplied with provisions from this warehouse.



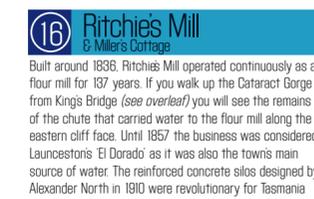
15 Queen Victoria Museum

In this superb Victorian heritage building built in 1891, you can find a wealth of information about Tasmania's natural history from its unique wildlife including the Tasmanian Tiger, Tasmanian Devil and venomous Tasmanian snakes, to the state's mineral wealth. Families will particularly enjoy Discovery Plus, an interactive space dedicated to the young at heart. Royal Park is also home of the Launceston Planetarium and a unique Chinese Temple.



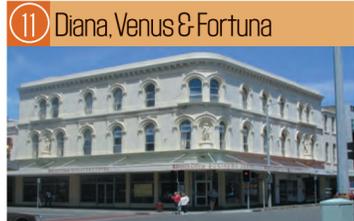
17 Kings Bridge

Dating from 1884, Kings Bridge links to the accessible paths of the magnificent Cataract Gorge Reserve. See overleaf for more detailed map.



16 Ritchie's Mill

Built around 1836, Ritchie's Mill operated continuously as a flour mill for 137 years. If you walk up the Cataract Gorge from Kings Bridge (see overleaf) you will see the remains of the chute that carried water to the flour mill along the eastern cliff face. Until 1857 the business was considered Launceston's 'El Dorado' as it was also the town's main source of water. The reinforced concrete silos designed by Alexander North in 1910 were revolutionary for Tasmania and remain a Launceston landmark.



11 Diana, Venus & Fortuna

The statue in the niche is Diana (see overleaf), the Roman Goddess of hunting and nature, and is one of three that adorn the Italianate style building (11) on the corner of George and Cameron Streets. The other two statues that can be seen are Venus, the Goddess of love and Beauty, and Fortuna, the Goddess of fortune. Now business premises, the building was constructed in 1882 by the prolific architect/builder Peter Mills as a store, showrooms and dwelling. According to his obituary, Peter Mills was famous for being the first to "deviate from the ancient style of square [Georgian] unornamental brick buildings in Launceston." - The Telegraph, 9th July 1886.

9 Albert Hall

The Albert Hall took two years to build in time for the great Tasmanian International Exhibition of 1891 - 1892. It was recognised at the time as the world's eleventh largest public hall. For over 100 years the hall has been the scene of meetings, concerts, celebrations, social and sporting events. It has been used to farewell troops to the war front, as a temporary hospital during the major influenza epidemic of 1918, and to provide shelter to those left homeless after the great floods of 1929. Whilst you can enjoy the Albert Hall from the outside, the building is only opened for functions and events. The Albert Hall is located adjacent to City Park (see overleaf).



Dating from 1861 this rare concert organ is still in use today and provides a magnificent backdrop to the stage of the Albert Hall. It is operated by water which drives a pump compressing air into bellows, which in turn blows the organ pipes as the keys are played. It was moved to the Albert Hall in 1891.

12 Post Office

The Post Office is a Launceston landmark. It was built between 1886 and 1889 in the decorative Queen Anne architectural style, considered by some at the time to be too decorative, and a "fad". The tower was added by public subscription in 1903 and was known as the pepper pot due to its squat appearance. Not until 1906 was it completed, with installation of the clock in time to celebrate the centenary of the founding of Launceston. The locally famous Launceston pottery firm, Campbells supplied the ornamental terracotta panels.



18 Old Umbrella Shop

Built in the 1860s as a grocery shop with a two storey residence above. In 1918 it was refitted using Tasmanian Blackwood by the Shott family and operated by three generations supplying umbrellas and blackwood souvenirs until the National Trust purchased it in 1979. Today you can see its wonderful display of umbrellas from last century with new umbrellas and a good range of giftware and Tasmanian souvenirs on sale.



19 Old Brisbane Hotel

Along Brisbane Street you will find the Old Brisbane Hotel. The facade is the only remaining part of the old building, the interior having been redeveloped as a multi-level shopping arcade. Beginning life as the Kings Head in the 1840s, it was substantially remodelled in 1888. Considered the leading hotel in Launceston, it was commonly known as "the Government House of the north" because of its popularity with royalty, governors, famous and important people.



20 The Quadrant Mall

Pedestrianised in 1979, The Quadrant with its curved building facades provides an interesting and picturesque Victorian streetscape. The street was named when the block of land was subdivided by architect William Henry Clayton in 1856. During the construction of the mall, the well at the northern end was uncovered on the land granted to Dicky White, a former highwayman. Transported to New South Wales as a convict, he arrived in Launceston in 1814 and later built the nearby Launceston Hotel.



Then & Now

Around the city you will find information bollards that will help you get your bearings and also give you some idea of what the city looked like more than 100 years ago.



21 Old Bank

This grand building on the corner of St John and Brisbane Streets was built in 1884-5. It was formerly the head office of the Bank of Australasia, which had been established in Launceston in 1836 and was later to become the ANZ. While in the early days the bank maintained a collection of blunderbusses for security, the nature of bank safes apparently improved. In the early 1880s, the manager Mr Thompson, accidentally locked himself in the bank's safe. Fearing either suffocation or starvation, Mr Thompson naturally became very excited. Fortunately someone heard him, but it reportedly took his staff 19 hours to free him!

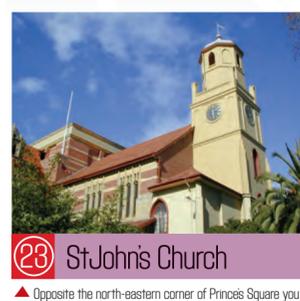
22 Synagogue

Begun in 1844, the unusual Egyptian Revival synagogue in one of the oldest surviving in Australia. The sizeable Launceston Hebrew Congregation borrowed £500 to purchase the land and it was constructed by builders Barton and Bennell. Falling into disrepair in 1913, Sim Crawcour and Harry Joseph were instrumental in its renovation.



23 St John's Church

Opposite the north-eastern corner of Princes Square you will find St John's Church. Governor Arthur laid the foundation stone in 1824 and services were held in the incomplete church the following year. Until a chapel was built at the prison, the convicts would sit upstairs in the gallery, with the free people paying to rent one of the pews below. In 1837 the first face of the clock was installed, looking north to the town. The fine rectory was built for Reverend Marcus Browning in 1879 and at the turn of the century Launceston architect Alexander North was commissioned to design a new church. Begun by builders Charles Adam and Sons in 1902, North's incomplete vision today merges with the original convict built church.



24 Princes Square

In the south-east corner of the park you will find a life-like statue of one of our most famous citizens, Dr William Russ Pugh is depicted walking from his residence, the Georgian house 'Nelume' opposite the south-east corner of the Square, towards St John's Hospital (Morton House) opposite the south-west corner of the square.

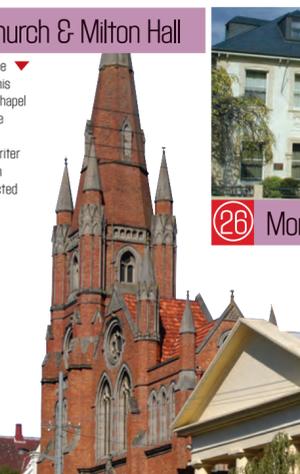


26 Morton House

Opposite the south-western corner of Princes Square is Morton House. Originally built in a Georgian style it was St John's Hospital when in 1847 Dr Pugh (pictured left), used the first general anaesthetic in Australia during two successful operations. The building is named in honour of Dr Pugh's American mentor Dr Morton, who had pioneered the science of anaesthetics in America.

25 Chalmer's, Christ Church & Milton Hall

On the southern side of Princes Square are three imposing buildings. Milton Hall, (on the right in this picture) was built in 1842 as St John's Square Chapel in Greek Revival style. It was constructed by the congregation under the Reverend John West, a courageous Anti-transportation Reformer and writer of 'The History of Tasmania' 1852. Christ Church (centre), a Gothic Revival building, was constructed in 1853-85 when the congregation out-grew Milton Hall. It has a profusion of fine stained glass. Chalmer's Church (on the left) is a unique building in what is called a Florid Gothic style. Opened for worship in 1860 it is a good architectural example of the Free Church of Scotland in Tasmania.



24 Princes Square

Originally known as St John's Square, the clay for St John's church bricks were excavated from this site (see 23). Used by residents as a rubbish dump, in 1843 it was formed into a parade ground for the military. The site was used by youths playing cricket for rowdy political meetings and celebrations for the ending of convict transportation. The Square was fenced and planted in 1859 and the bronze fountain, first exhibited at the Paris Industrial Exhibition of 1855, was ordered from Barbezat & Co in France. Commemorating the completion of the St Patrick's River water scheme, Launceston's first permanent water supply, the Square was opened in November 1859. In 1868 the Square was renamed Princes Square to celebrate the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

