

Launceston's Heritage Walks

FOLLOW THE ORANGE TRAIL ●●● and delve back into the time when Launceston was a thriving port and the industrial heart of Tasmania. Mining and agricultural riches from around the state were processed here and 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 & Wilmot Store.

1 Johnstone & Wilmot Store

On the corner of St John and Cimitiere Streets the unusual style of the old Johnstone and Wilmot Store and Counting House is considered architecturally unique in Australia.

2 Paterson Barracks

This convict built Georgian building was originally the Commissariat Store.

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.

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.

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.

6 Brewery Oast House

The Esk Brewery was established in 1881, and was purchased in 1883 by James Boag and his son.

7 Prince Albert Inn

Originally built as the Dorset Hotel in the 1850s, this building was initially a restrained Georgian style.

8 Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

This extraordinary industrial heritage site, the former Launceston Railway Workshops, has been transformed into a cultural precinct for Launceston.

9 Albert Hall

Built in time for the Tasmanian International Exhibition of 1891 - 1892, it was recognised at the time as the world's 11th largest public hall. It has been used to farewell troops to the war front, as a temporary hospital during the major influenza epidemic of 1919, and to provide shelter to those left homeless after the great floods of 1929.

10 Batman Fawkner Inn

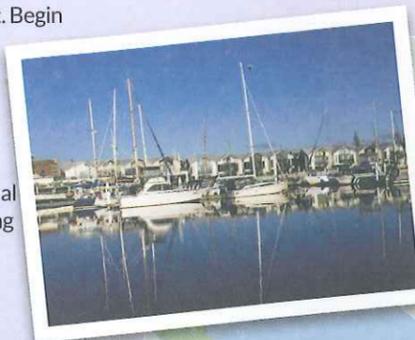
Originally built in 1824, it was on this site in 1835 that Fawkner and Batman planned their separate expeditions to cross Bass Strait and create a settlement at Port Phillip Bay (in what would become the State of Victoria).

11 Diana, Venus & Fortuna

The statue in the niche is Diana, the Roman Goddess of hunting and nature, and is one of three that adorn the Italianate style building. The building was constructed in 1882 by the prolific architect/builder Peter Mills as a store, showroom and dwelling.

12 Post Office

Built between 1886 and 1889 in the Queen Anne architectural style, it was considered by some at the time to be too decorative. 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.



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 QVMAG Art Gallery, Royal Park to learn about Tasmania's natural history.

13 Town Hall

Designed by Peter Mills, 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.

14 Macquarie House

This beautiful example of a Georgian brick and stone warehouse was built for Henry Reed, a Launceston merchant in 1830.

15 Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park

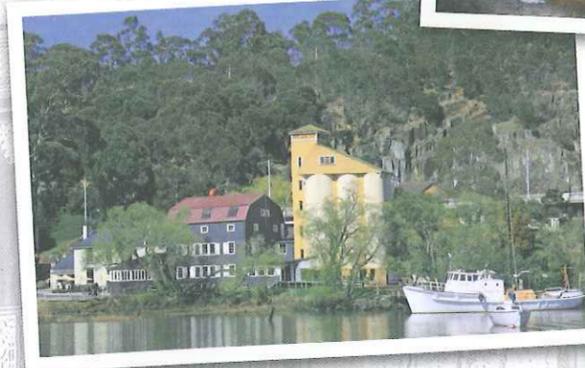
Built in 1891, the Art Gallery features fine art and decorative art and craft collections, from colonial to contemporary.

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 King's Bridge you will see the remains of the chute that carried water to the flour mill along the eastern cliff face.

17 King's Bridge

Dating from 1864, King's Bridge links to the accessible paths of the magnificent Cataract Gorge Reserve.



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.

18 Old Umbrella Shop

Built in the 1860s as a grocery shop with a two storey residence above, it was refitted in 1918, and operated by three generations supplying umbrellas and blackwood souvenirs until the National Trust purchased it in 1978.

19 Old Brisbane Hotel

Beginning life as the King's 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 provides an interesting and picturesque Victorian streetscape. 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.

21 Old Bank

This grand building, built in 1884-5, 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.

22 Synagogue

Begun in 1844, the unusual Egyptian Revival synagogue is one of the oldest surviving in Australia.

23 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 pews below.

24 Prince's Square

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.

25 Chalmer's, Christ Church & Milton Hall

On the southern side of Prince's Square are three imposing buildings. Milton Hall 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, a Gothic Revival building, was constructed in 1883-85 when the congregation out-grew Milton Hall. It has a profusion of fine stained glass. Chalmer's Church 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.

26 Morton House

Originally built in a Georgian style it was St John's Hospital when in 1847 Dr Pugh used the first general anaesthetic in Australia during two successful operations.

