The Hiking Wrap

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Introduction

My addiction to hiking is well-established – it’s pervasive in my holiday planning, my Twitter feed and my reading choices. After the pandemic lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, we rejoiced in 2022 in our ability to travel and we have made the most of it; my husband Bruce says we have been on the “COVID Revenge Tour”, making up for all those cancelled trips.

The holiday and beach season offers plenty of time for reading and daydreaming about travel and hiking and ticking off bucket lists, so to encourage you to do just that (it’s good for physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing) I thought I would share some of our 2022 adventures and some associated reading suggestions.

Day hikes in the Australian Alps

In January, when it’s often too hot to walk by the coast, we head to the mountains. We have made several excursions to Thredbo, and there are some lovely day walks in the area. Everyone does the hike up to Mt Kosciusko, and despite the crowds, it is worth doing, but there is so much more besides.

When you get off the lift that takes you from Thredbo Village halfway up the mountain, instead of heading up to the peak, head left on the Dead Horse Gap Hike which ultimately joins up with the Thredbo River Track to take you back to Thredbo Village. There are lovely snow gums, wildflowers and spectacular views, far fewer people on the trail, and the track is downhill all the way.

The view south from the Dead Horse Gap Trail. January 2021

Falls Creek. January 2022
The Main Range Hike from Charlotte Pass is a 22.5 km loop that is graded moderate but it’s a long day and the track has little summer shade. It is a 16 km hike to Rawson Pass where you can join the track to Kosciusko Peak (this works if you have two cars) or, alternatively, you can just walk to Carruthers Peak and back for more great views.

The Bob’s Ridge Trail, also known as the Cascade Trail (about 10km return), starts at Dead Horse Gap. It’s graded level 4 but is much easier than this. From Bob’s Ridge lookout, which offers magnificent views into Victoria, you can continue to Cascade Hut. On this walk there’s a chance to see brumbies on the river plains.

This year we headed to Falls Creek which has excellent hiking and biking trails. We recommend the Roper Lookout Walk, the Mt Nelse Walk, High Voltage and Frying Pan Loop Trails and the Healthy Spur Track (all these are rated moderate). There were splendid vistas, lots of wildflowers, and hardly any people. We will certainly return to continue to explore this area.

We will be back to tackle the multi-day hike from Mt Hotham to Falls Creek: we will do this the easy way, with one of the several companies that offer facilitated camping.

Many Traditional Owner groups are involved in caring for the Australian Alps.

A word of caution on alpine hiking: even in summer the weather can change suddenly so make sure you have warm clothing along with a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and plenty of water.

**Reading:**
Charles Warner. Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park
Anthony Sharwood. From Snow to Ash
Mount Kosciuszko and the push to give our highest peak an Indigenous dual name
McLaren Vale and Kangaroo Island

We have fallen in love with the unspoiled beauty of Kangaroo Island, and we have been watching its almost miraculous recovery from the dreadful 2019 bushfires.

This year we spent two days in McLaren Vale on the way down the Fleurieu Peninsula (you have to travel down this peninsula, through fine wine growing and agricultural country, to catch the ferry to Kangaroo Island). There’s great walking along the nearby beaches (we like Maslin, Aldinga – watch out for cars – and Sellicks beaches) and along the Heysen Trail.

Kangaroo Island offers a great combination of hiking and beaches and hiking along beaches. Our favourite beaches are on the more protected north coast: Snellings Beach, Stokes Bay (you have to walk through rock walls to get there) and Emu Bay, which offers a 4km hike along hard packed sand (you can also drive on this beach).

This is an unspoilt island with a rugged coastline, plentiful kangaroos (natch!) and lots of history. Outside of the several small towns (mostly in the northeast of the island) there are few shops and amenities and many of the roads are unsealed. So take your picnic lunch and plenty of water when you head out for the day.
On the western end of the island there are several lovely, easy walks along the coast. The Cape du Couedic Spur Trail connects with the Admiral’s Arch Walk and offers great ocean views with lots of seals and seabirds. The nearby Remarkable Rocks are also worth visiting. The Ravine des Casoars Trail (7.4km return) is an easy hike through the ravine to the coast.

Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island. February 2022

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail has only recently reopened after the fires and it’s a great way to explore the regeneration.

Reading:
WA Cawthorne & Rick Hosking. The Kangaroo Islanders: a story of South Australia before colonisation 1823.

Kangaroo Island beaches. February 2022

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Snowshoeing and hiking in the Rocky Mountains, Colorado

If you follow me on Twitter then you will know that I am always happiest when at our Colorado home in the mountains at Keystone, some 120 km west of Denver. In the winter we ski and snowshoe, in the summer we hike.

This is great exercise at considerable altitude; our home is at 2,830m above sea level, the top of Keystone Mountain is 3,782m above sea level, and many of the peaks we hike are up to 3,960m above sea level. We always warn visitors that it takes some time to adjust.

If you are not into hurtling down slopes and bumps on two pieces of wood, then snowshoeing may be your thing. The equipment is inexpensive to purchase or hire, and it’s a great way to explore the mountains. Snowshoes these days are a far cry from the tennis raquet-like equipment once used.

Our lightweight metal snowshoes, with small metal crampons on the underside and sized according to your weight, simply strap on over boots (which can also be hired). I wear warm and waterproof snow boots that come about half way up my calf. Then the snow you kick up doesn’t get down the back of your boots.

In the Colorado Rockies there are many options for where you can snowshoe: many ski areas and some golf courses have groomed trails (also used by cross country skiers) – these are usually graded by difficulty (ie degree of uphill huffing and puffing involved) – or you can choose some of the many hiking routes, which vary in popularity and difficulty. These trails can be quite hard going if there has been a recent snowfall or late in the season when things get icy – that’s why poles are useful (I use my ski poles but hiking poles would also work).

A word of caution on snowshoeing: in backcountry areas be aware of avalanche dangers. It can be quite energetic exercise, but make sure you have a good jacket, hat and gloves, even if you don’t wear them, and stay hydrated. Colorado has 300 sunny days a year, so sunglasses and sunscreen are usually essential.

Snowshoing on groomed trails in McCoy Park at the top of Beaver Creek ski area. March 2022
In the Colorado Mountains, the locals say “come for the winter, stay for the summer”. It rings true.

Summer and autumn/fall in Colorado are splendid for hiking with long, sunny days (temperatures rarely above 25°C in the mountains), cool evenings (a sweater is often needed) and no humidity. The aspen trees (also called quakies) have straight white trunks that stand out against the snow. In spring and summer, the leaves blow green and silver in the wind and then turn deep golden in the fall.

There’s a huge selection of trails to hike (some of them the same trails we snowshoe on) of varying lengths and difficulty. Most trails allow dogs (they are generally supposed to be on leads, but often are not) and sometimes horses and mountain bikes.

And for those who are not so keen on exhausting hiking, most of the ski areas run their gondolas in the summer so you can ride up to the views, and either ride back down again or walk the downhill trails. For mountain bike enthusiasts, the ski runs become trails of varying degrees of difficulty.

The wildflowers in the mountains are really spectacular in the summer (July-August) – often masses of colour and the species vary as you get above the tree line. There are surprisingly few birds but plenty of “varmints”– marmots, pikas, and chipmunks – and it is possible to see bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

You do have to stay away from moose and elk (and they want to stay away from you), and there are occasional warnings about black bears, mountain lions and coyotes (we have never seen them, except for the odd coyote around rubbish bins in the town areas). In many areas, if you are camping overnight, you are required to use bear-proof food containers.

Aside from the many hikes in Summit County and Eagle County that are within driving distance of our home, we love to take the drive south, through some high mountain passes, to Crested Butte. Several years ago I did the day hike from Maroon Bells, near Aspen, over West Maroon Pass to Crested Butte (it’s a killer – but well worth the pain!). Now we do the easy route in from Crested Butte through masses of wildflowers. It makes for a magnificent day’s hike and lots of photos.

Most summers it is possible to drive to the trail head for this hike which is about 25km from the town of Crested Butte, but it is a terrifyingly narrow road that is often washed out (think Nepal), so book the shuttle bus that runs in and out several times a day, with experienced drivers.
The other must-see near Crested Butte is the tiny town of Gothic. Once a thriving mining community, it became a ghost town. Now it is home to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, which specialises in the research of climate change, ecology, the study of marmots, and more. In summer more than 100 scientists and students live in the town and you can see them out on the trails conducting their research.

We especially like the prosaically named Trail 401 which starts just before you get to Gothic. It wanders through forests and open fields of wildflowers, with views back to Crested Butte.

In Summit and Eagle Counties, some of the more popular trails get very crowded at weekends and, as a management tool, it is now necessary to book parking at some trail heads. If that sounds off-putting, there are so many other uncrowded trails to explore.

Nevertheless, it is always wise to start out early, not just to be sure you get a park and because there are few others on the trail, but because there are often late afternoon storms with mountain lightning, and it’s not a good idea to be exposed above the tree line in such weather.

Depending on the season (ie if there is major snow run-off), you may also need to check the status of stream crossings. If you’re willing to brave these, it’s a good idea to pack hiking sandals or crocs to save your boots getting wet.

It’s not smart to drink water from these mountain streams – they may look clear and clean but giardia is common (this parasite is also a threat to dogs).
Hiking in the Rocky Mountains, Summer 2022

Reading:
Mary Ellen Gilliland. The Summit Hiker and Ski Touring Guide
Mary Ellen Gilliland. The Vail Hiker and Ski Touring Guide
Jan Pettit. Utes: The Mountain People
AllTrails.com is a good reference for Colorado trails.
A week with a Yolngu community in North East Arnhem Land

This is not a hiking story, but it was a very special highlight of my year and I really want others to know about this opportunity to learn more about the lives and culture of the Yolngu people.

In May I joined 11 other women on a “Dilly Bag Tour” to a Yolngu Aboriginal community in north-east Arnhem Land. The communities here have made a considered decision share their culture with Non-Indigenous Australians as a way of generating greater understanding and appreciation of their way of life. To this end they have formed their own tourism company, Lirriwi Tours. As I write this I have just been notified that the company has gone into liquidation. That is a sad loss.

There are some 30 small communities and outstations in the area and in the past few years they have hosted women’s tours, family tours and tours for school children.

We were hosted on the Bukudal homeland which sits right on the coast. The community only lives here in the dry season; the rest of the year they live several hours drive away in Yirrkala, where the children go to school.

Getting to Bukudal involved a flight from Darwin to Nhulumbuy and then a four hour, 4-wheel drive south on very eroded tracks (it was the tail end of the wet season – but I don’t think the track is ever in very good condition).

We were warmly welcomed by the elders and the small children and during our time there they spent most of the days and evenings with us. They were eager to tell us about their culture and to teach us some language and the children were always keen for games and digging for crabs. We went fishing (and then cooked and ate our catch on the beach), hunted for roots to make plant dyes for weaving, and practised painting and dancing (neither very well I’m afraid).

Most days there was at least one expedition where we all piled into trucks and drove through bush and/or along beaches to hunt or fish or just explore. There was inevitably a puncture on these trips and everyone pitched in to help.
This is where the Arafua Sea meets the Gulf of Carpentaria – a special place. Everyone was excited to see a turtle swimming bravely in the rough waters. May 2022

It was hot and humid, and living facilities were fairly basic. We slept in army tents, there were outdoor showers and flushing toilets (the community has a spring that provides water), and I loved that there was no phone service or internet (there is a satellite phone for emergencies). Meals were cooked and eaten under a canvas shelter and generally shared with the community.

There are snakes (always bang on the toilet door to scare them off), saltwater crocodiles (no swimming and be careful walking on the beaches), and water buffalo (keep your distance) but surprisingly few biting/stinging insects.

On the way back to Nhulumbuy we spent several hours at the Buku-Larrngay Mulka Art Centre in Yirrkala. The trip was worth it just for this opportunity to explore (and purchase) local art works. The highlight for me was meeting artist Dhambit Munungurr whose painting “Order” depicts Julia Gillard’s famous misogyny speech. Painted on stringybark in Munungurr’s signature blue palette, Order features the former prime minister towering over pale, limp-faced politicians as Yolŋu dancers storm the parliament, holding arched spears aloft in representation of the cloud mass of the wet season.

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I loved this experience so much and learned so much, and I will look for every opportunity to get back to this part of Australia.

**Reading:**
Gay’Wu Group of Women. Song Spirals: Sharing women’s wisdom of Country through songlines.
Don Watson. The Passion of Private White.
Kim Mahood. Wandering with Intent.

The beach at Bukudal.
Saltwater crocodiles make swimming, and even walking on the beach at high tide, unsafe. May 2022
Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound

Many, many years ago, when I was in high school, I travelled to this area on a school trip and fell in love with the rugged outback country. In late August – early September I finally got back to explore this area; it was even more wonderful than I remembered.

We had originally booked a self-guided hiking trip in the Flinders Ranges in 2020 but it was cancelled because of COVID-19 lockdowns, and when South Australia finally opened up, we decided to organise our own trip, covering the same ground.

We drove up from Adelaide, mostly avoiding the AI highway by taking country roads through the Mount Remarkable National Park to Quorn and then on through Hawker to Rawnsley Park Station. This is essentially a small village with accommodation options ranging from camping and caravan sites to villas, along with facilities such as a swimming pool, store and restaurant. It’s a lovely place to spend a few days and use as a base for day trips.

With a car and some local maps, we explored the area with an array of hikes. This is very much the country of the painter Hans Heysen, and the long trail bearing his name passes through here.

We greatly enjoyed the Clem Corner loop track that starts at the caravan Park and head through Kangaroo Gap to Clem Corner. We took this in the late afternoon and there were great, peaceful views west.

A highlight was the Arkaroo Rock Circuit. Arkaroo Rock (Akurra Adnya) is a significant cultural site for the Adnya-mathanha people of the Flinders Ranges. This is an easy, short hike to a rock shelter with rock paintings featuring ochre and charcoal images that depict the Yura Muda (Dreaming, or creation story) of Ikara (Wilpena Pound).

We saw flowering wattles, towering red bluffs, a quiet and shady stream, and lots of birdlife. Although easily accessible for most people, there was hardly anyone there in the early morning and we found it very spiritual.

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The area is controlled by the local Aboriginal community who have done an excellent job of providing information and interpretive signage here and elsewhere in Wilpena Pound.

The Rawnsley Bluff trail is rated as difficult – and it is. The early part of the walk is flat and easy, through dried river beds with tall river gums and wattles that were in full bloom. But at the base of the bluff the trail starts to climb steeply and there is a lot of rock scrabbling. The 360 degree views at the top are worth the climb, but there are easier ways to get an overall perspective on Wilpena Pound.

We moved our base to a safari cabin at Wilpena Pound resort and continued our explorations. Our accommodation was styled as “glamping” and it was very comfortable, with great views, but be warned that even with heating, a tent (no matter how glamped) is cold in winter in the Flinders Ranges.

A lovely walk starts at the resort information centre along the (dry) river through towering red river gums to Hills Homestead, where the history, both Black and White, is well documented. From there, a climb takes you to Wangarra Lookouts. While the view from the lower lookout is great, it’s worth the further climb for panoramic views of Wilpena Pound. The Heysen Trail cuts across this area.
We were amazed at how green and lush the land inside the pound was, although the local guide said there had not been major rains in several years. There is a concerted effort underway to restore the environment and biodiversity. Feral animals are being eliminated and the reintroduction of some locally-extinct species is underway.

Our guidebook promised that the route to Bunyeroo Gorge north of Wilpena Pound was “a scenic drive of the highest order” and so it proved, with jaw-dropping views from Razorback Lookout over the Bunyeroo Valley, with sawtooth ranges in the distance.

The view from RazorBack Lookout. September 2022

The Bunyeroo Gorge Geology Walk is about 8.5km return. The track is mostly along Bunyeroo Creek. There was no water although tumbled trees, rocks and debris highlighted how powerfully the waters can run here. Signposts along the way provide information about the stunning rock formations with colours of red, pink, blue, grey and white.

Bunyeroo Gorge Trail. September 2022
We drove from the Bunyeroo Gorge parking lot along a continuation of Bunyeroo Gorge Road that cuts through the Heysen and ABC Ranges (note this is four-wheel drive travel) to Brachina Gorge. Here we found water on the very washed-out road, so went no further. We returned to Wilpena Pound on the Brachina Gorge Road, which also has signs about various points of geological interest.

Our drive back to Adelaide was through the Clare Valley. This is a wine-growing area and in late winter there were fields of bright yellow canola. There are some cute towns, and the Heysen Trail also passes this way, so we will certainly return.

Some notes on visiting and hiking in this area:

Late August – early September is a perfect time to visit as the days are sunny and cool. This is not countryside to explore in summer. Evenings can be quite chilly, so jackets are required.

There’s a big focus on tourism and it is done well. There’s lots of information and maps about local walking and some trails are accessible by those who are less mobile. On the other hand, be warned that some of the mountain hikes involve a lot of rock scrabbling on steep slopes.

There are cultural tours of the area lead by local Adnyamathanha guides that are well worth taking, and next time we visit we will treat ourselves to a scenic flight over this amazing landscape.

**Reading:**


[BunyerooGorge.pdf](walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au)

AllTrails.com covers the major walks in this area well.

We had cancelled planned trips to New Zealand multiple times over the past two years, so we were excited when the borders finally opened and we could head across the ditch.

In October we flew to Queenstown in the South Island and then drove about an hour north to the lodge at Blanket Bay on Lake Wakapitu. This was the perfect base for five days of hiking with some luxury thrown in.

We have visited this area several times before, but there is a seemingly endless number of hiking trails for us to tackle. These are all well marked, well maintained and pristine, even in the remotest areas.

Our hosts at Blanket Bay were keen to provide advice and guidance and to send us out each day with a lunch backpack.

We really enjoyed the Lake Sylvan Track, the Mount Crichton Loop Track, and the Greenstone Track. But the highlight was a day on the Routeburn Track.

The Routeburn is one of New Zealand’s nine Great Walks. The first section is to Flats Hut is easy and relatively flat but provides stunning views of the turquoise waters of the Routeburn River and the snow-capped Southern Alps as you walk through virgin forest. This hike is about 15km return.

From then on, the track climbs steeply with even better views down to the valley floor and finally arriving at the Routeburn Falls Huts with views to Routeburn Falls. This return trip is about 20km and well worth the effort involved. We were especially glad that we had perfect walking weather.
This track – and several of the others we tackled – has a number of suspension bridges. The longer ones do sway rather alarmingly; it wasn’t until I’d confronted about ten of these that I was able to cross them without fiercely holding onto the ropes with both hands.

Late November saw us back again in the Land of the Long White Cloud, this time to tackle the Queen Charlotte Track in the very north of the South Island. I had previously done this walk in late 2019 and I loved it so much I wanted to show it off to Bruce.

We flew into Wellington, which was living up to its moniker of the Windy City, then took the InterIslander Ferry on the three-hour trip across to the small town of Picton. The next morning we were taken by boat out into the Marlborough Sounds to Camp Cove where our four-day hike started.

As on my previous trip, we used the international company I have used for most of my hiking travels. They booked all accommodations at lodges along the way and arranged with locally-based Marlborough Wilderness Guides to have our duffle bags picked up and transported to the lodges each day. These lodges provide lovely accommodations and meals (including our packed lunches) and are very welcoming.

To my delight the tramp was as wonderful as I remembered, and Bruce loved it too. Once again, we had perfect weather – cool, sunny and not too windy – so we revelled in the tramping and the vistas. I wrote up this walk for CroakeyEXPLORE when I first did it, so I won’t repeat all the details, but will simply provide some photos to encourage you to take this adventure.

In August 2022 this area was deluged with rain: roads in the Marlborough Sounds area and the Queen Charlotte Track and the Abel Tasman Track suffered some major landslips. These have now been cleared (a huge task in these isolated areas) but on some parts of the track caution was needed. Parts of the track, especially those sheltered by forest, were also very muddy so sturdy boots are essential.
Day 1. Queen Charlotte Track. Resolution Bay. Landslips visible on slopes in the distance. November 2022

Day 2. Queen Charlotte Track. November 2022


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Day 3, Queen Charlotte Track. Kenepuru Sound. November 2022

Day 4, Queen Charlotte Track. Picton just visible in the distance. November 2022

The Queen Charlotte Track goes along the ridge in the middle of this photo. Picton in the distance, the turquoise waters of Kenepuru Sound in the foreground. November 2022
Some traveller's advice: when you enter New Zealand as an international traveller you are asked to declare hiking and camping equipment. Don't avoid this as all luggage is x-rayed. The examination is pretty thorough – insoles taken out of boots and rubber tips taken off hiking poles. I have sometimes been able to avoid this by explaining to the quarantine officials that my boots and poles have been well cleaned.

Reading:
Peter Dymock. Day Walks of Central Otago & the Queenstown Lakes District
My CroakeyEXPLORE article: Tramping the Queen Charlotte Track in Aotearoa
https://www.croakey.org/tramping-the-queen-charlotte-track-in-aotearoa/
Don Grady. The Queen Charlotte Walkway: in Cook’s Footsteps
The Cape to Cape Track in Western Australia

There’s a wonderful walk in Western Australia along a track that stretches from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin through the Margaret River area. We love this part of the world – vineyards, farmland, kauri forests, rocky coastline and surfing beaches, plus great food and wines. So we booked a guided walking trip for late October (we gave ourselves just enough time to get back from New Zealand, do the laundry and head to Perth).

I’m used to self-guided trips, often on my own, but this guided arrangement worked out very well. We were based in motel-style accommodations in the town of Margaret River. All meals, including pre-dinner drinks each evening were provided, and a great coffee shop opened early just a short walk down the street for the coffee addicts. A shuttle bus dropped us off on the trail each morning and picked us up at the end of the day. It was very relaxing to return to the same place each evening.

There were eight people, including us, and three guides plus the wonderful bus driver who regularly appeared en route with food supplies. One morning we were surprised with fresh scones, jam and cream for morning tea, and when we finally arrived at Cape Leeuwin lighthouse, there was champagne and balloons.

We walked 135km in six and a half days. The track was mostly along cliff tops or beaches. The latter meant that the hiking was either a joy along hard-packed sand or a real slog through soft sand and dunes. I was glad of all those leg exercises in the gym!
One of our guides was very knowledgeable about the local flora and fauna and history, including that of the Noongar people of this region, and we really enjoyed his remarks and observations as we walked. It was the height of the splendid WA wildflower season with shrubs and ground covers and tiny native orchids in full bloom. We saw lots of birdlife, and every time we looked out to sea we could see whales breaching and sometimes pods of dolphins.
Some guidance, in case I’ve tempted you to take this trip:

This is not a hike to undertake in the summer as most of the Track is exposed with little shade. That does mean that it’s usually too cold to swim, unless you are carrying a wetsuit or you are a really hardy Tasmanian. Also, the surf can be quite dangerous, there are sharks, and rarely lifesavers.

There were several occasions when we had to take off our boots and wade across small rivers and many other occasions when we had to take off our boots and empty them of sand. We learned that talcum powder is a great way to remove sticky sand from damp feet. I found a small, quick-drying towel in my daypack to be invaluable.

The sea breeze (which became something resembling a gale at Cape Leeuwin, where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet) meant we were not troubled with flies, although these can be a problem on this track. Where the track veered inland it was often somewhat overgrown, so gaiters and/or long pants are a good idea to protect from scratches and snakes (we saw a few).

If you don’t feel like walking 135km, it is possible, with a car, to pick out the best parts of this walk as there are many road that intersect with the beaches that are part of the Cape to Cape Track.

**Reading:**

Jane Scott & Ray Forma. *The Cape to Cape Track Guidebook*
Some day hikes in Southern Tasmania

As the end of 2022 loomed, we were just able to squeeze in a quick trip to southern lutruwita/Tasmania to visit family and friends and of course we also got in some lovely day trips.

I was born and grew up in Tasmania and graduated from the University of Tasmania, and over the years I’ve been able to explore all the island has to offer in terms of bushwalking.

However, I’ve yet to do the newish Three Capes Track (it gets booked out very quickly) and my many trips through the Lake St Clair – Cradle Mountain area were all done before it got quite sophisticated with boardwalks, comfortable huts with gourmet meals, and guided tours.

We were delighted to meet up with Croakies Melissa and Mitchell for a day trip to lunawanna-alonnah/Bruny Island. They make great tourist guides. The weather forecast had promised rain, so sunshine and blues skies were a pleasant surprise.

We climbed to many stairs of the Truganini Lookout at The Neck and then hiked the Luggaboine Circuit Walking Track on the Labillardiere Peninsula in the south of the island. There was time for a lazy lunch on the foreshore of Great Taylors Bay looking across to the “mainland”. There were wildflowers and birds aplenty and we spotted five echidnas during the day. But no sign of the white wallabies for which the island is noted.

Melissa and Lesley, Bruny Island. December 2022
During the remainder of our time in Hobart we also managed a 15km walk on Seven Mile Beach (near the Hobart airport) and we climbed, in drizzling rain, to the Three Thumbs Lookout (on the east coast) for a misty view of Maria Island.

Every time I return “home” I am reminded that Tasmania is such a gem of an island – so much natural beauty, and some wonderful food and wines. We must get back there soon.

**Reading:**

Reid Marshall & Marina Santiago. Day Hikes in Tasmania

Richard Flanagan. The Sound of One Hand Clapping

Richard Flanagan. Wanting

Cassandra Pybus. Truganini
Further reading suggestions

Melanie Ball. Top Walks in Australia
Annabel Abbs. Windswept: Walking in the footsteps of remarkable women
Patrick Leigh Fermor. A Time of Gifts
Pauline Finlay. Strong Camino Woman
Melissa Harper. The Ways of the Bushwalker: On foot in Australia
Roger Mechan. Following Modestine: On the Trail of Robert Louis Stevenson in the Cevennes
Graeme Simson & Anne Buist. Two Steps Forward
RL Stevenson. Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes
Raynor Winn. The Salt Path
Raynor Winn. The Wild Silence
Raynor Winn. Landlines
My earlier hiking trips written up from CroakeyEXPLORE

January 2016. Walking the Camino: some practical tips, travelogue and public health reflections.


August 2017. Join some beautiful #CroakeyGO walks – from the south of France to the Yarra.

October 2017. Six days hiking the Kumano Kodo in Japan.

June 2018. Take a walk in Cornwall: enjoy the stunning scenery of Doc Martin et al.

July 2018. On a walk through Burgundy, there’s time for getting lost and also found.

December 2018. Walking the Cotswold Way – share another journey with #CroakeyEXPLORE.

September 2019. Hiking the Larapinta Trail in the red heart of Australia.

November 2019. Sharing a walk in the stunning Douro Valley.

December 2019. The lure of the Loire – exploring landscape, history and gastronomy on foot.

February 2020. Tramping the Queen Charlotte Track on Aotearoa.

Also see lots of great contributions from others at #CroakeyEXPLORE https://www.croakey.org/category/croakey-projects/croakeyexplore/