



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Forestry Tasmania website is  
[www.forestrytas.com.au](http://www.forestrytas.com.au)

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 or  
 phone (03) 6352 6520  
 Open 7 days a week.

Forestry Tasmania Office  
 Legge Street Fingal  
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 phone (03) 6374 2102  
 Open business hours Monday - Friday.



*Disclaimer: Visitors to this area should be aware that natural hazards occur within Tasmania's forest environments. Forestry Tasmania does not accept liability for any injury of damage resulting from such hazards.*

# North East Forests

ACCESS • ACTIVITY • ADVENTURE



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Forestry Tasmania



Forestry Tasmania

GROWING OUR FUTURE

## VISITING THE NORTH EAST FORESTS

The North East Forests have the Scottsdale Forest EcoCentre as their hub, and extends from the Tamar Valley east to the coast and south to the South Esk Highway.

This vast region varies from lush fertile farming lands and river valleys to mountain peaks and plains. Forest areas are suited to softwood plantations, but dry native forests, wet eucalypt forests, rainforests and Forest Reserves are also abundant. Many of the softwood plantations of Radiata pines were established in the 1960s, providing work for the many unemployed miners still living in the district.

There is a natural mountain divide, so we have used this to split the area into two main regions. In the north around Scottsdale are the **Bass Forests**, mainly accessed off the A3 and B81 roads. In the south around Fingal are the **Fingal Forests**, with access from the A4 and B43 roads. The main link between the regions is the C423 from Ringarooma to Mathinna.

Today the NorthEast Forests are managed by Forestry Tasmania for a range of values besides timber production including water quality, landscape values, flora and fauna protection, regional tourism and recreation.

The weather is usually good in this region, but it is advisable to take raincoats and to wear sturdy shoes on all walks. Our Forest Reserves feature some breathtaking scenery, so don't forget to bring your camera. If you plan to use a barbecue, bring your own kindling or your own gas barbecue.

## SCOTTSDALE FOREST ECOCENTRE

The Forest EcoCentre, situated at the entrance to the township, houses an interactive forest interpretation centre that focuses on the landscape, forest communities and history of the North East. It contains a Tasmanian Visitor Information Network (TVIN) outlet, Forestry Tasmania offices, a cafe and a gift shop specialising in unique products made by local crafts people. The Forest EcoCentre is open seven days a week.

This distinctive structure is a building within an external shell, which is able to control its own environment with the aid of air flows and plants and trees that act as bio-mediators to create its own microclimate.

The Forest EcoCentre is the major stopping point to the north east, prior to exploring the forests or taking a guided tour to experience all aspects and wonders to be discovered hidden away in these forests.

## THE BASS FOREST RESERVES

### Hollybank Forest



This popular place for walking dogs and enjoying family outings is just a short drive from Launceston along Lilydale Road. Hollybank offers barbecues, picnic sites, a game of cricket and walks through different types of forests. The English atmosphere is due to its name, its history and its trees – one of the earliest private plantations consisting of European trees, was originally planted for wood to make cricket bats.

### Mount Victoria Forest Reserve



Mount Victoria can be visited using a link road running through the reserve between Ringarooma and Pyengana. There are restrictions on this windy, narrow road (5t load limit, no caravans or trailers), where hand-constructed dry stone walls built in the 1920's, can still be seen.

The day use area on a high ridge under Mt Victoria features Ralph Falls plummeting over a fluted cliff into the gorge below. A 10 minute stroll through an old myrtle rainforest leads to the lookout over the falls.

A longer return loop to the carpark through tall melaleuca and mossy banks passes the Cash's Gorge Lookout from which it is an easy walk on duckboard across button grass plain to the carpark. If travelling on to Pyengana don't forget to visit St Columba Falls.

### Springfield Picnic Area



A serene area in an exotic plantation, Springfield is a favoured picnic spot. Take a stroll for 20 minutes through the groves of Douglas fir, Californian Redwoods and some giant Radiata pines.

### Cuckoo Falls



For those wanting another rush of water, this steep, two-hour return walk follows an old highland cattle trail to the plains above. The forest varies from eucalypt near the start of the walk and ends with rainforest in the steep valley that hides the Cuckoo Falls.

### The Blue Tier



This 'tin mountain' encapsulates the rich gold and tin mining pioneering history of the area, with its many walks around the old mining sites. Visitor information on this area is available from the St Helens History Room at 61 Cecilia St, St Helens.

## THE FINGAL FORESTS

### Evercreech Forest Reserve



If you only have time to visit one Forest Reserve in this area, you should make it Evercreech. This is the home of the famous White Knights, the tallest white gums in the world – more impressive and taller than the Big Trees in the Styx Valley. A 20 minute loop walk takes you past the tall trees. Interpretive signs help you understand how they have grown so big. You can also take the 45 minute return walk to the picturesque Evercreech Falls. Make this Forest Reserve your stop for lunch and you won't be disappointed!

### Mathinna Falls Walk



Mathinna Falls is a four tier waterfall which cascades over a total drop of about 80 metres – a truly spectacular sight. An easy 30 minute return walk leads to the base of the falls. You will hear the water falling long before you see it.

### Griffin Camping Area



If you are planning a longer stay in the area, Griffin Camping Area makes an excellent base for your explorations. Situated on the banks of the South Esk River, this flat grassy haven offers many sites, shaded or sunny. The river is known for its trout fishing and is also suitable for swimming. Camping is available on a 'first come, first served' basis with no bookings necessary. This is also a popular site to explore the forests on trail bikes and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).

### Mt Puzzler Forest Reserve



Situated high in the hills, 25km south east of Fingal, the remote and rugged Mt Puzzler Forest Reserve is ideal for visitors who want to get off 'the beaten track'. It features dolerite outcrops and open vegetation, contrasted starkly with the crystal pools of the St Pauls River and the cascade of Meadstone Falls.

Check the condition of the roads with the Forestry Tasmania office in Fingal. Access to this reserve is from the MG28 Road.

Once you reach the car park, it is a one and a half hour return walk into the falls – take a jumper, raincoat and tough boots as the path is rocky.

## NEAR THE COAST

### Scamander Forest Reserve



The Scamander Forest Reserve is situated on the banks of the Scamander River. There is a separate day use and camping area as well as many opportunities for active recreation.

### Fishing

The upper reaches of the Scamander River are famous for their bream and trout fishing. Mullet, cocky salmon and trevally can also be caught there. Take a seat on the retaining wall, cast your line and see if you get a bite.

### Boating

The reserve is about 6km up the river and is accessible by boat from Scamander. A boat ramp and jetty have been provided for fisherman and other maritime visitors.

### Camping

There is space here for tents and caravans, Camping is on a 'first come, first served' basis. The sites are popular, especially at weekends, so be there early.



## DRIVING IN THE NORTH EAST FORESTS

You can expect to see log trucks on most weekdays and you may see a logging operation. Forest roads are unsealed, but most are easily managed by cars all year around. Attractions have been signposted to make it easy for you to find your way around.

If you have any questions about the road conditions, or how to get to a particular Forest Reserve, make inquiries at the Forest EcoCentre in Scottsdale.

Remember, the North East Forests are mostly dry forests. This means that they can burn very easily, especially in the summer months. Please be careful if you light a fire and make sure it is out before you leave. From November to March, please note the publicised fire warnings and restrictions.