

Visitor Centre

As the main entrance to Tahune you can buy your AirWalk tickets here, as well as local crafts and wood products. The bistro serves local fare, hot meals and great coffee. For those who prefer to have a barbecue, the Bluestone Shelter and barbecue sites are close by.

Tahune Forest AirWalk

This 597m walk amongst the trees gets you 20m above the ground. The highlight is the cantilever that is 48m above the river level, providing fantastic views of the forests and the junction of the Picton and Huon Rivers.

Camping

There are limited sites for campervans and caravans located near the Visitor Centre. ~~Informal, but with more space and privacy, are camping and tent sites located upstream, along a narrow dirt track beside the river.~~

Fishing

Tahune is popular with anglers, and both trout and blackfish have been caught in the river. Access is available from the two tracks on the southern riverbank. (Note: Fishing is seasonal and requires a licence.)

Rafting

One sight that most visitors find hard to forget is that of half a dozen rubber rafts drifting lazily down the river on a sunny afternoon. Tahune is a popular finishing point for the day-long adventure of rafting the Picton River. Tours operate all year round, although most people go in the summer. For more information contact the Forest and Heritage Centre at Geeveston or another TVIN Centre.

OVER THE CHANNEL ON BRUNY

On South Bruny Island there are many roads and walking tracks travelling through State forest. Behind Adventure Bay is Resolution Road. This 7km circuit is a great bike ride or forest drive. Stop at Mavista Picnic Area for a rest or picnic and short walk along the creek. Signs located here tell the story from first landing and logging history to conservation and current management of the area.

Coolangatta Road links Adventure Bay with Lunawanna and Cloudy Bay. There are lookouts with views to the north and south and a walk to Mt Mangana, the highest point on Bruny.

WANT TO SEE MORE FURTHER SOUTH

If you're travelling further south, why not stay at **Dover**? This is an excellent base to explore as far south as Cockle Creek and other areas of the Southern Forests.

After visiting Hastings Caves, why not go via **The Hastings Forest Drive** back to Dover (*gates may be incurred at times). Here you can see more of how forests are managed and regrown. These healthy native forests and plantations will be used in the generations to come, much in the same way we are using products from the forests that our forebears left behind. Growth and regrowth: it's a continuous cycle.

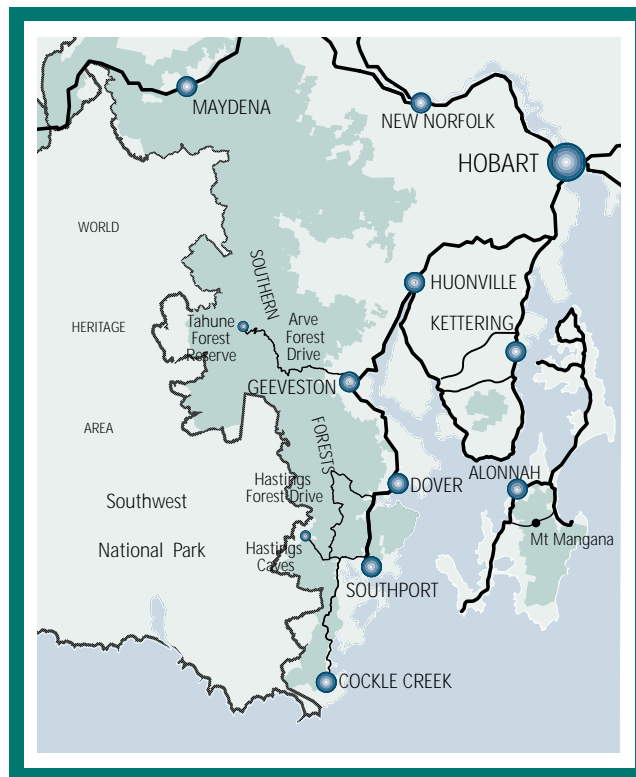
On this drive there are short walks and stops to view the forests and their logging history. Some of the tracks form the start of longer walks that access the South-West World Heritage Area National Park.

One of the highlights is the walk to **Duckhole Lake**, (another one of **Tasmania's Great Short Walks**), a flooded sinkhole. Along the walk listen out for the lyrebirds that inhabit this area. The final stop is the **Hastings Forest Drive Picnic Area** on the banks of the Esperance River: a great place to relax and have a picnic.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Southern Forests and the opportunity of viewing their sustainable management.

INDEX OF SYMBOLS

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Information |  Great Short Walk |
|  Picnic Shelter |  Nature Walk |
|  Picnic Area |  Lookout |
|  Toilets |  Camping |
|  Disabled Access |  Kayaking/Rafting |
|  Wood Barbecue |  Fishing |
|  Gas Barbecue | |



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Forestry Tasmania's website is
www.forestrytas.com.au

Contact the Forestry Tasmania office
Main Road Geeveston
or
phone (03) 6297 0012
Open business hours Monday - Friday

Forest and Heritage Centre
Church Street Geeveston
or
phone (03) 6297 1836
Open 9am- 5pm 7 days a week

AirWalk phone (03) 6297 0068

***Gates:** Some areas of the Southern Forests have boom gates across the roads. These may be placed on a temporary or permanent basis for public safety or security purposes. Keys to gain access or information on closed areas may be sought from Forestry Tasmania's Geeveston Office.

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 or damage resulting from such hazards.



Forestry Tasmania

Edition 1 2002 dink 8027

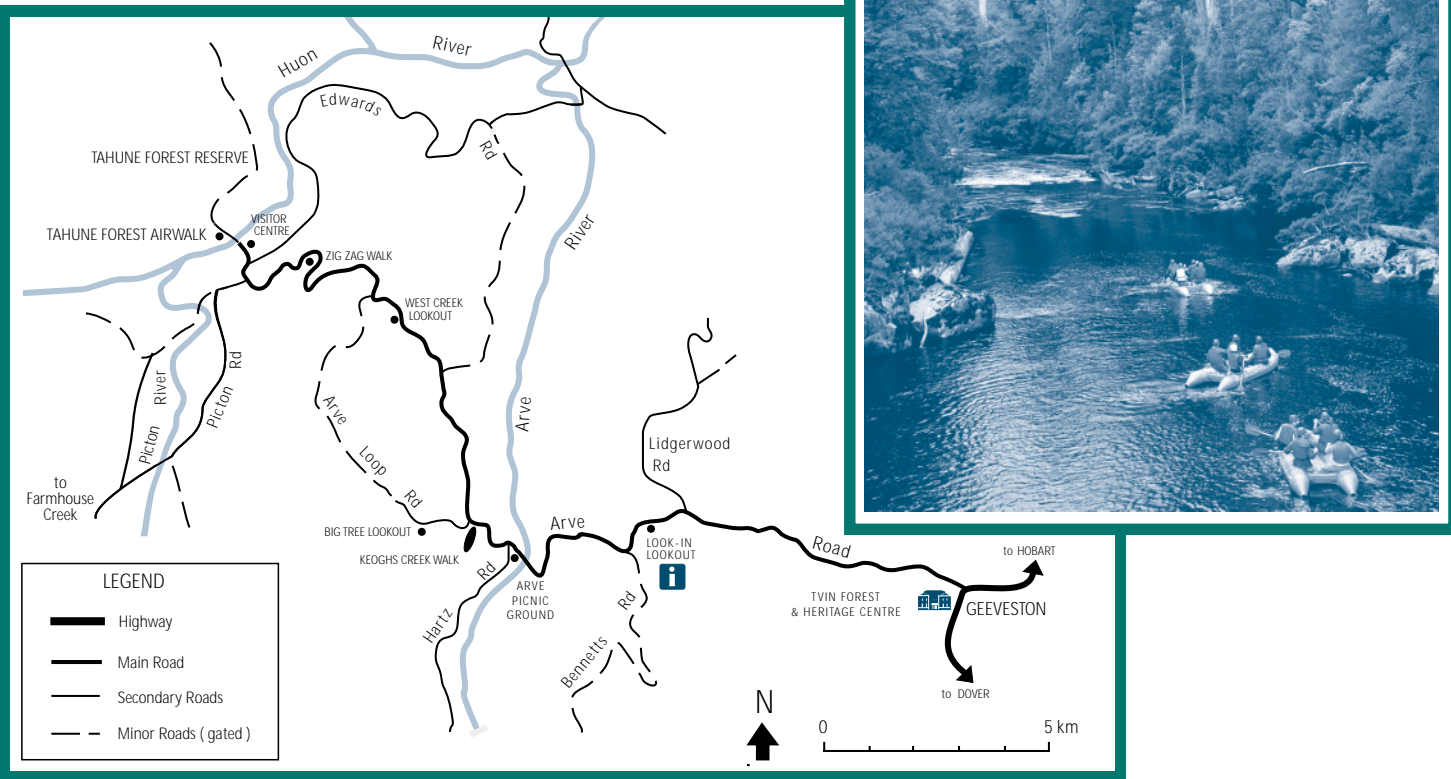
Southern Forests

ACCESS • ACTIVITY • ADVENTURE



Forestry Tasmania

GROWING OUR FUTURE



FOREST AND HERITAGE CENTRE



This Centre is part of the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network (TVIN) and is a must-see before venturing into the hinterland. It is a great way to introduce yourself to the Southern Forests and learn more about their past and present management. Visitor information and access to the gallery of fine furniture and woodcraft is free. There is a small admission charge for the interpretation centre and displays. There is also a wide range of local crafts and wood products available for purchase.

OUTWARD BOUND ON THE ARVE ROAD

Blue Gum Plantation



Stand in a Southern Tasmanian Blue Gum plantation. Planted in 1999 you can see them growing at 2-3m per year. The pruned stems will provide saw logs in about 20 years.

The Look-in Lookout



This information booth is a useful stop for familiarising yourself with the attractions and activities on the Arve Forest Drive. Perched above the forest floor, the Look-in Lookout allows you to see right into the forest and to explore the various processes, both natural and man-made, that impact on the growth of trees.

Arve Picnic Ground



Alongside the picturesque Arve River, this site is a popular place for a picnic lunch or to relax and enjoy a barbecue. It is also a good spot to come down from the Hartz National Park to get warm. A short 10 minute walk goes upstream before heading uphill to see the changes in vegetation in this small reserve.

Keoghs Creek Walk

(One of Tasmania's Great Short Walks)



Just like the forest in the Arve Picnic Ground, part of this site is a streamside reserve. Streamside reserves are corridors of forest next to streams or rivers, which are reserved from logging in order to protect water quality. A short stroll through a variety of forests and several creek crossings allows you to compare the unlogged forest of the streamside reserve with the much younger regrowth forest in an area which was partially logged about 20 years ago.

The Big Tree Lookout



Turn left off the Arve Road onto the Arve Loop Road (*gates beyond the Big Tree) after you have been to Keoghs and travel just over 1km to the car park. The Big Tree is a large swamp gum and its great size and age shows it is a survivor. Much of this forest was logged selectively for sawlogs by old-time loggers. Extensive bushfires swept through this area in the 1960s. On surrounding hillsides you can see the grey trunks of the trees that were burned. Read the signs to find out how this tree has survived the many threats it has faced in its long life.

West Creek Lookout



This lookout and approach walkway is a great way to get a feel for the AirWalk. It looks out over the steep slopes of the West Creek Valley, part of which is protected in a streamside reserve, and few can resist the urge to view the forest from such a dizzy height.

Zig Zag Track



A short 15 minute downhill stroll, meet your driver at the lower car park. This track follows part of the old Picton packhorse trail through unlogged forest. Here the old trees are rotting after their tops have been blown off in high winds.

VISITING THE ARVE VALLEY

The Southern Forests located south of Hobart are mainly wet eucalypt forests because of high rainfall, rich soils and periodic wildfires. They are spread across a series of large river valleys and adjacent mountainsides. The main rivers include the Weld, the Picton, the Huon, the Arve, the Esperance and the Lune. The Arve Forest Drive follows the Arve River Valley and a drive along this road is one of the easiest ways to experience the Southern Forests.

Like other areas of forest the Arve has a long history, with the early loggers accessing the area in the early 1800s. As you drive along, you will see regrowth eucalypt forests of varying ages. It is not a scene of destruction but a renewable resource. Unlike coal and

oil, regrowth forests help our environment by reducing carbon in the atmosphere, caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Young fast-growing trees do this at a far greater rate than old mature trees. So keep your eyes and minds open on the drive and enjoy the experience of our forever growing forests.

There are many things to see and do on your visit, but make sure you take a raincoat and wear walking shoes. If you intend to cook on a wood barbecue then we recommend that you take some paper and kindling.

The Arve Road is sealed to the new Tahune Forest AirWalk, located 29km from Geeveston (Geeveston is 62km south of Hobart). However, most roads in State forests are unsealed, and driving conditions can change from dusty to muddy depending on the weather. These roads are primarily for forestry-related vehicles, and log trucks can be encountered on most days, so please drive carefully on these roads.

TAHUNE FOREST RESERVE



This beautiful reserve on the banks of the mighty Huon River is now the home of the popular Tahune Forest AirWalk and Visitor Centre. Although this tourist development has changed the area, it is still a popular place to picnic in one of the many shelters or tables, while cooking lunch on a gas barbecue.

Beyond Tahune (*gates) is the Warra Long Term Ecological Research site. This area is part of a worldwide forest monitoring and research network established under the United Nations Environment Program. More details can be read on the Huon Trail sign located in the picnic area, near the start of the Huon Pine Walk. This 20 minute loop walk is easily managed by most people and is the easiest place in Tasmania to see young and mature Huon pines growing in their natural riverine rainforest environment.