www.mariaislandnationalpark.com.au

UNOFFICIAL OPERATOR'S MANUAL · PRINT / SAVE PDF

Maria Island National Park practical planner

Desk research 26 Aug 2026 — not walked for this URL. Verify Parks Tasmania and Encounter Maria Island before you travel. No email wall.

Three official fee systems — never merge: Tasmania Parks Pass · camping / Penitentiary · no extra walk permits. The passenger ferry is a fourth, commercial ticket (Encounter Maria Island). None of those are affiliated on this site.

Ferry clock: Bookings essential. ~45 minutes Triabunna ↔ Darlington. No public vehicles on the island. Last sailing is a hard stop. Annual maintenance closure is usually late June / early July — verify exact dates.

How long

3 hours on island

Darlington township + wildlife only. Who should not: anyone expecting Painted Cliffs without a tide window, or Bishop and Clerk.

Half day

Township + Painted Cliffs *if* low tide sits in your hours, else Fossil Cliffs. Who should not: summit walkers on a late sailing.

Full day

Early ferry + Bishop and Clerk (wind down) + last-ferry buffer. Who should not: late Hobart leave, kids on unfenced columns, stacking Mount Maria.

Overnight

Darlington camp (pay at Gateway) or Penitentiary (booked) or free southern camps with Parks Pass. Who should not: anyone without food, stove and treated water.

Decision summary

- **Best for:** ferry-access island — World Heritage + wildlife + one honest walk.
- **Skip if:** you needed a drive-up lookout, a café, or a same-day Mount Maria.
- **Dogs:** not in the national park (Parks Tasmania rules).
- **Kids:** Darlington and short walks; not Bishop and Clerk as a default.
- **Fee catch:** Parks Pass ≠ ferry ≠ camping ≠ Penitentiary.
- **Alerts:** parks.tas.gov.au alerts + encountermaria.com.au the morning you leave.

Fees (verify live)

A. Parks Pass

Required for entry including private boat/plane. Daily Pass commonly published

B. Camping / Penitentiary

Darlington camp: pay at Gateway; no advance general sites in standard descriptions. Frenchs

$49.15/vehicle (up to 8) — confirm parks.tas.gov.au. Buy online, at Gateway, or as a ferry add-on.

Farm & Encampment Cove: free with Parks Pass, no bookings, treat water. Penitentiary: separate bunkhouse booking.

C. Walk permits

No extra permit for established day walks. Ferry booking is the access control.

Ferry (commercial)

Reviewed 26 Aug 2026 on encountermaria.com.au — verify: same-day return adult $59; overnight adult $70. Luggage rules differ. Winter timetable reduced.

Access & last towns

- **Hobart → Triabunna:** ~75–90 min / ~86 km on A3.
- **Fuel / supermarket scale:** Sorell (last reliable scale for many Hobart drives), then Triabunna / Orford.
- **Medical:** Hobart for full services; do not treat the island as having a clinic.
- **Gateway:** Maria Island Gateway, Triabunna, (03) 6123 4040 — hours vary.

Comms & safety

- Mobile reception limited / patchy. Do not invent carrier maps.
- 000 needs reception. Install Emergency+ for when you have signal.
- Offline maps. PLB is a sensible optional note for southern camps / Mount Maria.
- No shops. Treat all water. Pack rubbish out. Fuel stove — campfires often restricted/banned.
- Painted Cliffs: ~2 hours of low tide; no clifftop access.
- Bishop and Clerk: unfenced cliffs, scree scramble; skip summit in high wind.
- Keep ≥2 m from wildlife.

Packing ticks

- ☐ Ferry booking screenshot + Parks Pass
- ☐ All food for the hours you will actually be on the island
- ☐ Water + treatment
- ☐ Waterproof shell + warm layer
- ☐ Grip shoes
- ☐ Rubbish bag
- ☐ Headlamp if overnight
- ☐ Fuel stove if camping
- ☐ Offline map / tide note

Official links

- Parks Tasmania — Maria Island
- Parks Pass shop
- Alerts

- Bishop and Clerk
- Encounter Maria Island ferry
- Ferry fares

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