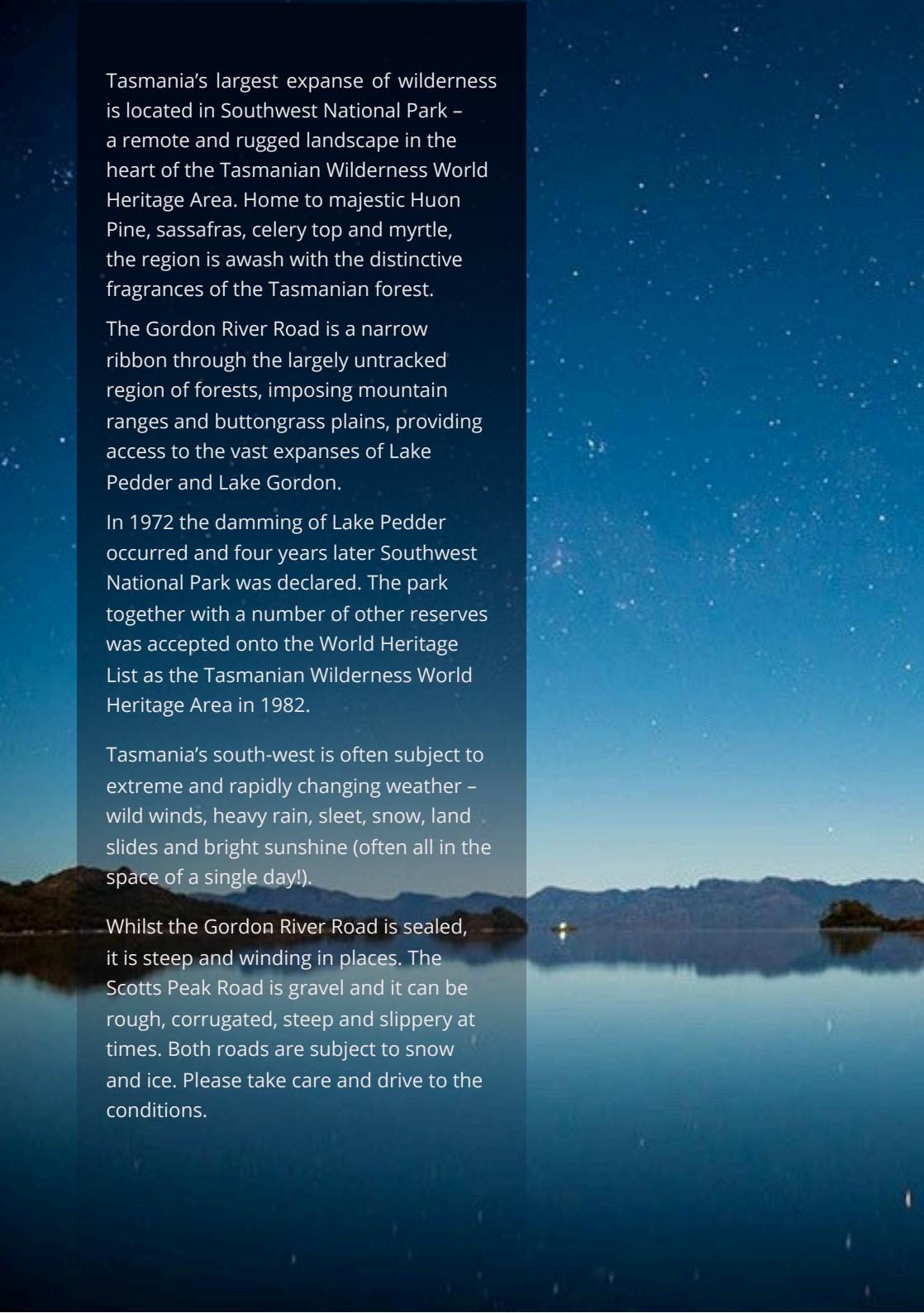
TRAILS & SIGHTS



PEDDER
WILDERNESS LODGE



Tasmania's largest expanse of wilderness is located in Southwest National Park – a remote and rugged landscape in the heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Home to majestic Huon Pine, sassafras, celery top and myrtle, the region is awash with the distinctive fragrances of the Tasmanian forest.

The Gordon River Road is a narrow ribbon through the largely untracked region of forests, imposing mountain ranges and buttongrass plains, providing access to the vast expanses of Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon.

In 1972 the damming of Lake Pedder occurred and four years later Southwest National Park was declared. The park together with a number of other reserves was accepted onto the World Heritage List as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in 1982.

Tasmania's south-west is often subject to extreme and rapidly changing weather – wild winds, heavy rain, sleet, snow, land slides and bright sunshine (often all in the space of a single day!).

Whilst the Gordon River Road is sealed, it is steep and winding in places. The Scotts Peak Road is gravel and it can be rough, corrugated, steep and slippery at times. Both roads are subject to snow and ice. Please take care and drive to the conditions.

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Where possible, please avoid driving in our reserves at night. You are sharing the roads with our native wildlife, so take it slow and watch out for animals on the road.

The Big Huon Stump

LOCATION: Pedder Wilderness Lodge (Main Entry)



Salvaged from Lake Pedder, this tree is dated by the CSIRO to over 2000 years old. Huon pine is one of the slowest-growing and longest-living plants in the world. It can grow to an age of 3,000 years or more. Only the bristle-cone pine of North America lives longer. Huon pine is found in Western and South Western Tasmania and is a relic of Gondwana – the first pollen records date back 135 million years.

International headlines were made with the discovery of a stand of Huon pines on the west coast still growing from a base root more than 10,000 years old. All the trees are male and are genetically identical.

In the early 1820s, convicts on Sarah Island, in Tasmania's remote west, constructed ships from Huon pine. The wood contains oil that retards the growth of fungi, hence its early popularity in ship-building. Later, piners on the Franklin and Gordon rivers felled Huons and floated them downstream.

Today Huon Pine is wholly protected and cannot be felled. However, wood on the forest floor, or buried in river beds, remains usable after hundreds of years and is still prized by modern woodworkers.

Forest Trail

DISTANCE: 1.5 km **TIME:** 30 mins return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

LOCATION: 200m west on Gordon River Road



This is a beautiful short walk in the rain forest and is located within walking distance from Pedder Wilderness Lodge. This walk is recommended to those who enjoy ducking under low hanging branches and stepping over logs and large tree roots.

Walk to the main road (Gordon River Road) and turn left. Once you pass the 100 speed limit sign you will see the sign "Forest Trail" on your right – the path starts just after the sign. The trail ends at Spring St where you turn right and will find yourself back on the main road opposite the Lodge.

Lake Pedder Lookout

LOCATION: 2.2 km west on Gordon River Road



Lake Pedder is a man-made impoundment and diversion lake located in the southwest of Tasmania. In addition to its natural catchment from the Frankland Range, the current lake was formed by the 1972 damming of the Serpentine and Huon rivers by the Hydro Electric Commission of Tasmania for the purposes of hydroelectric power generation.

The original glacial outwash lake was named after Sir John Pedder, English Australian politician and grazer, the first Chief Justice of Van Diemen's Land. It was much smaller than the current impoundment (9 square km vs 242 square km) and made famous due to its distinctive, almost 1 km wide, pink quartzite beach. Lake water owes its brown colour to tannins released by buttongrass growing abundantly in the Southwest.

Teds Beach

LOCATION: 3.7 km east on Gordon River Road

Teds Beach provides an excellent perspective on the vastness of Lake Pedder and serenity of the surrounding area and offers ideal entry point into the lake. Look west for a panoramic views of Wilmot and Frankland Range or follow the quartzite beach to the right to access a short boardwalk.



Teds Beach day use area and campground has parking, toilets, non-treated water, picnic tables, shelters and electric barbecues that are accessible to wheelchair users with assistance.

The beach owes its name to Edward (Ted) Hofto, Project Manager of the Gordon River Power Development Scheme. In order to promote the area and develop new facilities for Strathgordon residents, Ted decide to strip back buttongrass plain and expose underlying rock to erosion from rising lake waters. The idea was met witch skepticism, but 50 years later you can enjoy the results!

Twelvetrees Range Walk

DISTANCE: 3 km one way **TIME:** 2–3 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate
LOCATION: 4.3 km east on Gordon River Road just past Teds Beach



Named after William H. Twelvetrees, one of world's most highly respected 19th century Government geologists, who was responsible for surveying Tasmania's rich mineral deposits. This hike follows a gravel road up to a weather station and provides fantastic views of Lake Pedder and the untouched wilderness beyond.

The road is located a short drive from the Lodge, 400m past Ted's Beach, on the left-hand side. Parking space is available on the right side of Gordon River Road. The track is blocked by a boom gate - walk around and follow the gravel road straight up. Upon reaching the end of the road, follow a cairned pad for another 10 minutes to reach the exposed rocks on top of the ridge with a panoramic view of the area.

Gordon Power Station Lookout

LOCATION: 11 km west on Gordon River Road



The Gordon Power Station is the largest conventional hydroelectric power station in Tasmania, located in the Southwest region of the state. The power station is situated on Gordon River. Water from Lake Gordon descends 183 meters (600 ft) through the intake tower into the underground turbines and rejoins the Gordon River downstream of the Gordon Dam. The Power Station is not currently accessible to public.

Gordon Dam

DISTANCE: 700 m **TIME:** 20 mins return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate (200 stairs)
LOCATION: 12 km west on Gordon River Road



Gordon Dam Wall is a must see for any visitor to the Southwest and descending the stairs on to the face of the Gordon Dam is a treat for any adventurous traveler. With the dam wall already standing at a colossal 140 meters and holding 30 times the water of Sydney Harbour, the trip down on the steel mesh steps is not for the faint hearted.

500m before the Dam take a right turn to Knob Hill Lookout offering panoramic view of the dam and Lake Gordon.

A picnic table overlooking the lake is located here - a perfect spot for a quick snack and a unique photo session.

Serpentine Dam

LOCATION: 9.2 km west on Gordon River Rd, then 1.8 km south on Serpentine Dam Rd

A rockfill embankment dam with a concrete face and a controlled spillway across the Serpentine River. The Serpentine Dam, together with the Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dam, are the three major dams that form the headwaters for the Gordon River Power Development Scheme. The dam is located near Lake Pedder's most northwesterly point where the Serpentine River descends from the Frankland Range into what is now known as the Pedder Reach.



At the southern end of Lake Pedder Scotts Peak Dam impounds the upper reaches of the Huon River. The Edgar Dam forms a saddle dam at Lake Pedder's most easterly point. The water in Lake Pedder provides around 40% of the water used in the Gordon Power Station. The water flows to Lake Gordon via McPartlan Canal. Water from Lake Gordon then exits through the Gordon Power Station releasing via the tailrace into the Gordon River.

Mt Sprent Walk

DISTANCE: 6 km return **TIME:** 4-6 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Hard
LOCATION: 9.2 km west on Gordon River Road then 1.8 km on Serpentine Dam Road



The track is muddy and slippery all year round and ascends steeply right from the beginning. Starting at the Serpentine Dam car park overlooking the dam, walk across the dam wall and climb up the steep set of concrete steps on the left. Then follow the track steeply uphill. After around half an hour the track opens out to reveal spectacular views of Lake Pedder and the beautiful valleys beyond. After passing a rocky outcrop follow the track south towards the trig point at the summit. On a sunny day look west to make out the Indian Ocean off the Tasmanian West Coast.

The track is fairly overgrown, and it is recommended that you wear long trousers for this trek.

McPartlans Pass Canal Lookout

LOCATION: 19 km east on Gordon River Road

Lake Pedder was created in 1971 by flooding of the original Lake Pedder for Hydro development. Water from the lake is diverted through McPartlan Canal into Lake Gordon and the Gordon Power Station. The scheme has created the largest water storage in Australia. It is nearly eight times the size of Great Lake and three times the size of Lake Eucumbene, the largest lake in the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Lake Pedder has a total volume of 3.3 cubic kilometres.



Fishing in the new lake was legendary with the average size of trout approaching 5 kg. Since the early '80s the average size trout has stabilised at around 1 kg. Lake Pedder remains an angler's paradise with large bags of good-sized brown trout regularly taken.

Sentinel Range

DISTANCE: 4.8 km **TIME:** 3-5 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Hard

LOCATION: 23.3 km east on Gordon River Road (300m before Bitumen Bones sculpture)



The Sentinel Range is a quartzite mountain range about 6 km in length. The main walk to the summit is on the eastern end, but a traverse is an option for an experienced party. Going up is a quite steep climb with an overall gradient of 1:2.

Start from Wedge River picnic ground (not signposted) where a track leads to a crossing log on the Wedge River. A fairly clear pad leads upward over buttongrass plains and then ascends to the base of a cliff lined gully. Continue up particularly steeply following the cliff face on your left to the first crest then on to the main crest of the range. The summit is to the east - follow the pad up through the initial scrub. The views from the top include Lake Pedder to the south and Lake Gordon tot he north.

Mt Wedge Track

DISTANCE: 7 km **TIME:** 3-5 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Hard

LOCATION: 28 km east on Gordon River Road



The entrance to the car park clearing is marked with a small roadside sign (poorly visible when driving from the Lodge). The first 10 minutes of the track is part of the Wedge Nature Walk, then the track goes under the power lines and joins a gravel road. Turn left onto the road and follow it for about 5 minutes. Note the orange marker signifying the Mt Wedge track heading off the road to the right. Initially the track is flat and crosses a tiny creek then rises sharply (slippery when wet!). After about 1 hour of steep ascent the rain forest starts to clear. Shortly the first of the rock faces begins. The first face is a steep but not difficult rock climb. This climb is followed by several minor ones marked by rock cairns. Follow the ridge until the summit metal trig is visible. A communications building and a heli pad have been constructed in the summit area.

Scotts Peak Dam Rd & Red Knoll Lookout

LOCATION: 40 kms east on Gordon River Road and another 39 km to the lookout



Scotts Peak Road leads you to the southern end of Lake Pedder. On the way, you will pass the start of several famous Tasmanian walks including the Creepy Crawly Trail, Mt Eliza and Mt Anne (the highest peak in Southwest Tasmania), Lake Judd Track and Port Davey Track. The panoramic view of Western and Eastern Arthur Range will open before you.

At the southern end of the road you will find two campgrounds, Edgar and Huon, which both make for a good lunch spot amongst the dense forest canopy.

With 360 degree views, Red Knoll Lookout, at the end of Scotts Peak Road, is easily one of the best vantage points to take in the grandeur of Lake Pedder and Southwest Tasmania.

Note: Scotts Peak Road is gravel the whole way. Areas of potholes and corrugations make for a slow drive. In the summer the gravel is quite loose and in winter it can be slippery. Caution needs to be taken when traveling on this road.

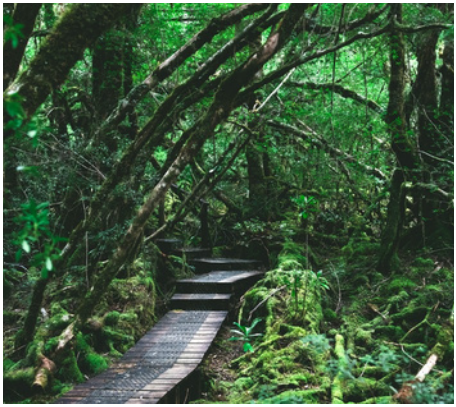
Creepy Crawly Nature Trail

DISTANCE: 1 km **TIME**: 25 minutes return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy

LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 3 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road

Take a walk through a lovely section of cool temperate rainforest. The fully-boarded track gently weaves its way around moss-covered trees and over giant logs. The track is not recommended for people who are unable to bend down and duck under branches.

The track has a hardened or compacted surface that may have a gentle hill section and occasional steps. The board walk may be slippery when wet so please take care.



Eliza Plateau

DISTANCE: 11 km **TIME:** 5-7 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Experienced
LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 20 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road



Standing alongside the towering Mount Anne, the highest peak in Southwest Tasmania, the Eliza Plateau offers expansive views over the mountain ranges and lakes of Southwest National Park. The track is well defined and low growing vegetation means that great views can be enjoyed for the duration of the climb. However the low vegetation also means there is little protection from the weather.

Just below the plateau, on a short side-track, is the small High Camp Hut. From here it is a challenging climb steeply uphill, scrambling over large boulders. On reaching the Eliza Plateau walkers are rewarded with views of the Eastern and Western Arthur Ranges and directly below, Lake Judd. Rest and refuel amongst cushion plants, pandani and pristine tarns before retracing your route or continue forward for Mt Anne summit.

Mount Anne

DISTANCE: 15 km **TIME:** 8-10 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Experienced
LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 20 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road

At 1423m Mt Anne is the tallest mountain in the Southwest and offers stunning views of Southwest National Park. The peak was first discovered by Europeans in 1835, when Surveyor-General George Frankland named the peak after his wife, despite never summiting it.

Once on the Eliza Plateau, pass track junction to Shelf Cap and continue on the plateau to the last steep climb to the peak.



Note: The peak is not for the faint of heart - some sections are very exposed and require basic rock climbing skills. The final summit should only be attempted in the finest of conditions.

Lake Judd

DISTANCE: 16 km **TIME:** 5-7 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate-Hard

LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 25 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road



Lake Judd is a deep, ice-carved lake surrounded by precipitous mountains. The track starts from the car park at Red Tape Creek (blue track sign is easy to miss!). First section of the recently renovated track takes you to the Anne River suspension bridge. After crossing the river, the track follows the base of Schnells Ridge, through buttongrass plains, all the way to the Lake Judd junction. At the junction take the left fork and once again cross the Anne River, this time on a newly constructed wooden bridge. Continue on for another 1 km to the lake (this section can be quite muddy and overgrown as it is not a part of the main Mt Anne Circuit track). The track ends near the outlet of the lake where there are good places to rest and enjoy the views, as well as a couple of basic campsites for overnight walkers.

Mount Sarah Jane

DISTANCE: 20 km **TIME:** 9-12 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Experienced

LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 25 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road



This 20 km walk to the summit of Mount Sarah Jane (1290 m) is a part of a challenging multiday Mt Anne Circuit. It should be attempted as a day walk only by experienced walkers with a good level of fitness.

From Red Tape Creek carpark follow the Mt Anne Circuit anti-clockwise. After climbing steeply up the ridge, locate track junction (marked with a rock cairn) and from there scramble up rocks and boulders to the summit. You will be rewarded with the panoramic views of Western and Eastern Arthur range to the south, Mt Anne and Mt Eliza to the north and Lake Judd below.

Port Davey Track

DISTANCE: 1-70 km **TIME:** 0.5h - 8 days return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy - Experienced
LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 36 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road



This iconic, over 70-km-long, walking track traverses Tasmanian remote wilderness between the southern end of Scotts Peak Dam Road and Melaleuca, remote settlement near Bathurst Harbour. It is also a starting point for bushwalkers attempting some of the most famous Tasmanian walking tracks including Lake Oberon, Western & Eastern Arthur Traverse and Port Davey-South Coast Track.

Start from the Port Davey Track car park, about 300 m before the Huon Campground. Follow the signs to the track, which winds through an interesting mixture of buttongrass moorland, scrub and rainforest. After a leisurely hour walk the track starts to deteriorate so this is a good return point as the path soon becomes rough and muddy.

Clear Hill

DISTANCE: 5 km **TIME:** 4-6 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Hard
LOCATION: 38 km east on Gordon River Road then 21 km north on Clear Hill Road



There is a small space to park, a small rock cairn and some pink ribbon marking the start of the trail on Clear Hill Road. No other signage is present so pay close attention to the road as it is fairly easy to miss.

The trail is rocky and steep initially, following a small stream through thick scrub, then gentler with occasional steeper sections. Some parts of the walk were affected by the recent bushfires so keep an eye on the rock cairns and pink tape to help keep you on track. Some boulder and rock scrambling will be required. You will be rewarded with great views along the way and in every direction from the summit: over the Thumbs, Gordon Gorge and a unique close view of the Cliffs of Insanity on the Stepped Hills.

Twisted Sister & Timbs Track

DISTANCE: 600m / 7km **TIME:** 15min / 3hr return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy / Moderate
LOCATION: 40 km east on Gordon River Road then 25 km south on Scotts Peak Dam Road

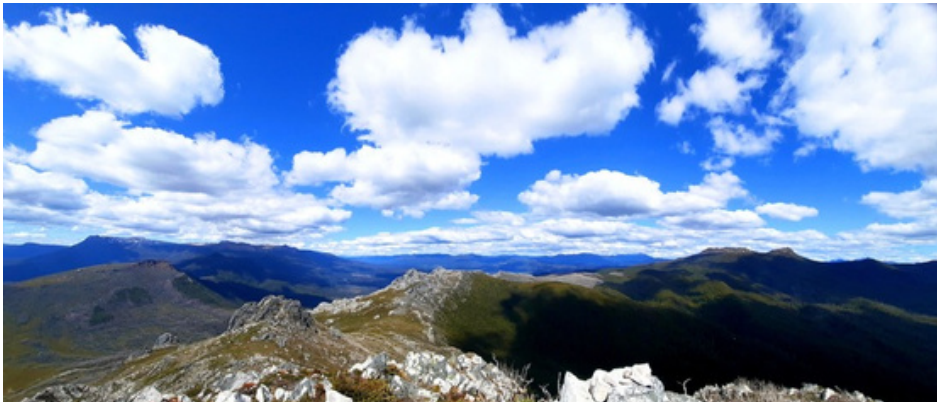


Twisted Sister is a short loop walk around the base of an impressive swamp gum tree named after it unique shape.

If you are feeling adventurous take a detour onto Timbs track. Follow the trail through a mysterious temperate rain forest onto a low ridge offering panoramic views. Follow the track to the end to discover Ewes Inn hut near the Florentine River crossing, along the old Adamsfield track.

The Needles

DISTANCE: 3 km **TIME:** 1.5-2.5 hours return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate
LOCATION: 55 km east on Gordon River Road (Highest Point on Road)



The series of jagged faced ridge line known as The Needles, located on the northern fringe of the Southwest National Park, provides the setting for one of the most rewarding, and seemingly unknown, short walks in Southern Tasmania.

The trail starts at the car park signposted as the highest point of Gordon River Road (elevation 651 metres). The trailhead is found 10 metres further west on the opposite side of the road (marked by cairns). Pink ties will quickly direct you through bush scrub to the walkers logbook and the continuation of the track, a sharp right about 20m in. From here the walk is a constant but manageable climb of 400m up a series of natural steps through to the final summit at 1020 metres.

Styx Tall Trees Reserve

DISTANCE: 700 m **TIME:** 20 minutes return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy
LOCATION: 70 km east on Gordon River Rd then 20 km south on Florentine and Styx Rds



A well-developed boardwalk with a viewing platform and a toilet. The easy grade path wanders among towering *Eucalyptus regnans*, also known as giant ash, which give the reserve its name. The height (numerous species measuring over 90 metres) and girth of these remarkable trees render them among the largest and tallest eucalypts on the planet.

Junee Cave

DISTANCE: 1 km **TIME:** 25 minutes return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy
LOCATION: 70 km east on Gordon River Road then 4 km north on Junee Road

The Junee Cave is part of a large cave system stretching 30km through some 295 caves including Niggly Cave, the deepest cave in Australia. The walking trail winds its way through a beautiful rainforest habitat and ends with a viewing platform at the entrance to the cave from which the Junee River rises.

Marriotts Falls

DISTANCE: 5 km **TIME:** 1.5 hour return **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate
LOCATION: 80 km east on Gordon River Road then 1 km north on Tyenna Road

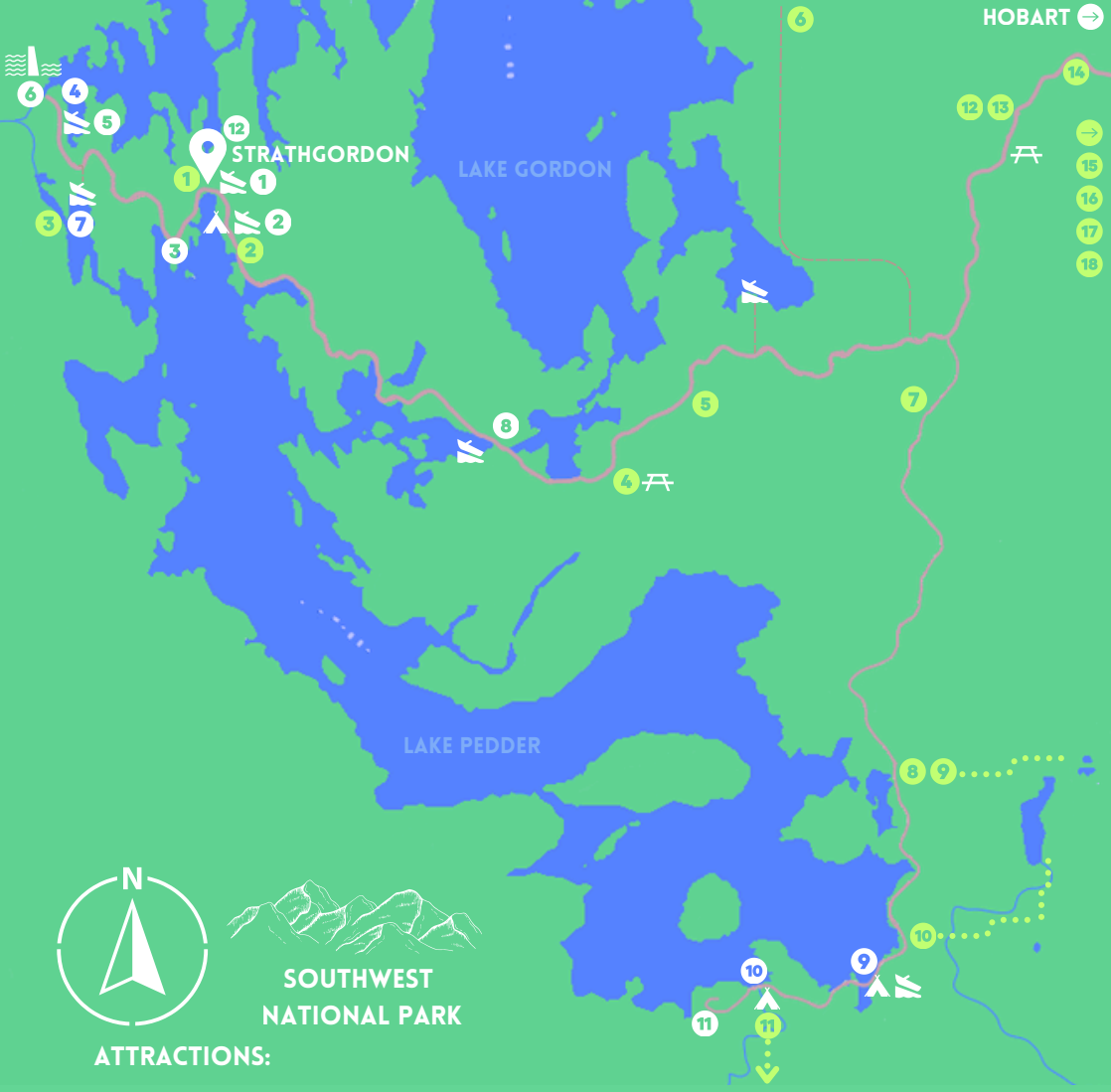
The walk to the majestic Marriotts Falls follows the Tyenna River over gentle inclines through open planes and beautiful moderate rainforest with towering tree ferns. Expect some muddy patches, slippery sections and fallen trees over the path.

Russell Falls

DISTANCE: 1.5 km **TIME:** 30 minutes return **DIFFICULTY:** Easy
LOCATION: 85 km east on Gordon River Road then 1 km north on Lake Dobson Road

A short and beautiful walk to Tasmania's favourite waterfall. Stand in the mossy, deep green forest, and watch the water cascading gently over multiple levels. Return via the same route or take the loop track back on the other side of the fern-filled creek. At night, glow worms can be seen among the vegetation on the approach to the falls.





ATTRACTIONS:

1. BIG HUON TRUNK
2. TEDS BEACH
3. LAKE PEDDER LOOKOUT
4. KNOB HILL LOOKOUT
5. GORDON POWER STATION
6. GORDON DAM
7. SERPENTINE DAM
8. MCPARTLAN PASS CANAL
9. EDGAR DAM
10. SCOTTS PEAK DAM
11. RED KNOLL LOOKOUT
12. NATIVE FISH MANAGEMENT

WALKS:

1. FOREST TRAIL
2. TWELVETREES RANGE
3. MT SPRENT
4. SENTINEL RANGE
5. MT WEDGE
6. CLEAR HILL
7. CREEPY CRAWLY
8. ELIZA PLATEAU
9. MT ANNE
10. LAKE JUDD
11. PORT DAVEY
12. TWISTED SISTER
13. TIMBS TRACK
14. THE NEEDLES
15. STYX TALL TREES RESERVE
16. JUNEE CAVE
17. MARRIOTTS FALLS
18. RUSSELL FALLS