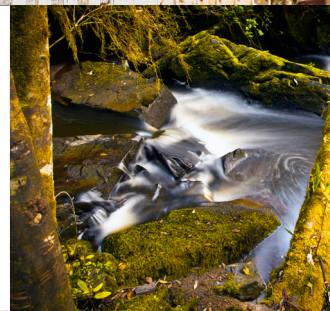


The Cataract Gorge is the jewel in the crown of Launceston's rich history. An ancient formation surrounded by native bushland, the Gorge has been a source of nature and recreation for as long as most can remember.



Just a short walk from the city centre, the Gorge offers something for everyone and entry is free.



History

Formed through a series of large scale geological dramas over millions of years, it is likely the first people traversed the Gorge about 40,000 years ago. Today, the Gorge has a spiritual significance for many Aboriginal people.

Geology

The Gorge is one of the best geological attractions in Australia. It has two large amphitheatre-like bowls, called the First and Second Basin. Famous for its large cliff-like surfaces with their vertical and horizontal fractures, the Gorge also boasts oddly perched columns of rock, waterfalls, plunge pools and cascades.

Wildlife

Amongst the 200 native plant species, watch out for prancing peacocks and wandering wallabies. And potoroos, pademelons, fairy-wrens, bandicoots, quolls, snakes and skinks are some of the other species you're bound to spot, but please don't feed any of them.



More in the Gorge

Find out more about what Launceston Cataract Reserve has to offer, including brochures on specific aspects of geology and flora, by visiting City of Launceston Customer Service, or Basin Cottage.

Basin Cottage

69 Basin Road, Launceston
T 03 6333 0715

City of Launceston Customer Service

18 St John Street, Launceston
T 03 6323 3000
www.launceston.tas.gov.au



Launceston's Cataract Gorge Reserve

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Getting around the Gorge

What to do

Walk

Stroll among flora and fauna or take a hike to Duck Reach via the suspension bridge.

Swim

Cool down in the pool which is supervised by lifeguards in summer.

Ride

Hop on the chairlift and traverse 300m across the First Basin.

Eat

Sit back with a refreshing beverage and sample local produce at the Basin Café and Gorge Restaurant. Or enjoy a picnic at our free BBQ area.

Where to walk

Cataract Walk

1km, 20 mins, easy/sealed, linking Kings Bridge to the Gorge grounds and First Basin.

Zig Zag Track

1km, 20 mins, hard/unsealed dirt and rock, also linking Kings Bridge to the First Basin.

First Basin Loop

900m, 20 mins, easy/part-sealed, taking you through the Gorge grounds and across the Alexandra suspension bridge.

Duck Reach Trail

approx 2km, 45 minutes each way, moderate/un-sealed gravel, linking Duck Reach and First Basin.

Reedy and Snake Gully Track

approx. 2.5km, hard / unsealed shared track linking Duck Reach and First Basin

Popular Destinations

1 Band Rotunda

2 Alexandra Suspension Bridge

3 Basin Cottage

4 Kings Bridge

5 Duck Reach Power Station

6 Alexandra Lookout

7 Cataract Lookout

8 Eagle Eyre Lookout

9 Sentinel Lookout

