

Mole Creek – a centre for wonderful walks and nature trails

Plan to be safe when bushwalking in Tasmania

The wilderness can be a harsh and unforgiving place – unwary bushwalkers have lost their lives by not respecting it. Careful planning is essential for serious bushwalks or walks in exposed and/or remote areas. Tracks which are considered to provide a safe environment for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience by the general public, given a normal level of fitness and personal care, are marked with a tick. ✓

Alum Cliffs/Tulunpunga ✓

An enchanting short walk (about 40 minutes return) to a forest lookout perched high above the Mersey River. Turn off Mole Creek Road (B12) just east of Mole Creek township - the turn-off is well signed - and follow the signs to the carpark. About 5 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Devils Gullet lookout walk ✓

A short alpine walk (about 30 minutes return) to a stunning lookout platform overhanging a sheer cliff face. Take the B12 (C38) west from Mole Creek, past Marakoopa and King Solomons Caves, then Mersey Forest Road for a very short distance, turning left at the signposted road to Devil's Gullet and Lake Mackenzie. There is about 14 km of good gravel road - but it's worth it! About 35 minutes drive from Mole Creek.

Westmorland Falls

These beautiful falls were recognised as a major attraction in earlier editions of the Lonely Planet Guide. The track, which offers an easy 2 hour return walk, is largely unknown, to be enjoyed by the mildly adventurous who don't mind a few creek crossings where a little agility is required. Unspoiled rainforest surrounds the high, magnificent cascade of Westmorland Falls, as well as a series of smaller cascades in the surrounding area and along the way there. From Mole Creek, travel about 6 km along Caveside Road to a T-junction. Go right into Wet Cave Road, which is unsealed. The Wet Cave reserve is soon reached straight ahead and you take the left turn and continue past the last farm on the right (a deer farm, recognizable by its fencing). There is a small car park on the right with a sign 'Mole Creek Karst Conservation Area', and large rocks mark the track entrance. About 5 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Parsons Track

Parsons Track offers a 6 hour return walk from the foothills to the sandstone rock which is visible near the top of the Great Western Tiers looking south from Mole Creek village. If you don't want to walk the whole way, shorter walks will take you to signposted landmarks along the Track - Hills Logging Hut (2 hours return), Norms Spring and Loftys Lookout (3 hours return) and Haberles Hut (4 hours return). Access is via Caveside Road (C169), right into Pool Road, left into Fernleigh Road and right into Parsons Road. About 10 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Lobster Falls

A 2 hour return walk through forest to Lobster Falls lower cascade. The track follows a route high above the river

before dropping down steeply to the river bank. A side track will take you to the upper cascade and another to a ledge overlooking the lower falls. The start of this walk is signposted on road B12 nearing the top of the rise which follows the long, straight section of road east of Chudleigh. About 10 minutes' drive from Mole Creek..

Fern Glade Walk ✓

This short (30 minute return) all-weather walk starts at the Marakoopa Cave ticket office and leads to the cave entrance, following the creek as it tumbles down the hillside from inside the cave itself. You can enjoy this walk for its own sake, or as a part of your cave experience; just leave yourself 15 minutes before your tour departure time and leave your car at the ticket office carpark, rather than driving up to the cave entrance. Drive west from Mole Creek on road B12 until you see the sign for Marakoopa Cave; turn left into Mayberry Road and continue on to the ticket office at the end of the road. About 15 minutes from Mole Creek.

Liffey Falls ✓

There are two walking tracks through beautiful rainforest to Liffey Falls, which is part of Tasmania's World Heritage area. The 45 minute return walk from the top car park offers developed picnic facilities and a shorter, higher grade walking track. The alternative track from the lower car park offers minimal facilities and a longer and less developed walking track. Access to the upper track from Mole Creek is via Deloraine or Western Creek to Lake Highway, then Riversdale Road (just follow the signs). About 40 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Pine Lake Walk ✓

This short 30 minute return walk is very accessible, having no steps and being wheelchair-friendly. A boardwalk takes you in to the lake (just a few hundred metres) and crosses a complete, condensed alpine landscape, all well interpreted with signs en route. Continue several kilometres south on Lake Highway past the Liffey Falls turn-off and you will find Pine Lake on the right hand side. Approximately 40 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Quamby Bluff Track

A steep walk to the top of Quamby Bluff is rewarded with 360 degree panoramic views across the Great Western Tiers, as far as Launceston and Devonport on a clear day. About 4 - 5 hours return. Access from Mole Creek is via Deloraine or Western Creek and Lake Highway. About 25 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Stoodley Forest Track

Located on the Railton-Sheffield Road, this 30 minute loop takes you through towering exotics, such as Douglas Fir, European Beech and Radiata Pine, planted in the 1940s in a sheltered and secluded valley and now grown to a great size. About 35 minutes drive from Mole Creek.



Western Creek Tracks

Westrope Road at Western Creek gives access to several tracks which climb the face of the Great Western Tiers and offer magnificent views along the way. These include -

- Higgs Track, leading to Lady Lake and the restored Lady Lake Mountain Hut (3 hours return)
- Western Creek Track
- Syds Track (2 hours return)
- Mother Cummings Peak Track (3 hours return)

Be prepared for changing weather conditions on these exposed tracks. From Mole Creek, take Caveside Road (C169) until you see the sign for Western Creek. Turn right and follow that road to Westrope Road. About 15 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

Meander Forest Reserve

Enjoy a full day's walk to Meander Falls (5 - 6 hours return) where you can experience Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area - and possibly not see another single person! Other walks within the Meander Forest Reserve include -

- Chasm Falls and Zig-Zag Rock Track (3 - 4 hours)
- Split Rock Track (2 - 3 hours)
- Stone Hut/Bastion Cascades Circuit (5 - 6 hours)

Access from Mole Creek is via Western Creek to Meander, then follow the signs to Meander Forest Reserve. There is a bush toilet and shelter hut provided at the car park. About 25 minutes' drive from Mole Creek.

The Upper Mersey Valley

Take road B12 west from Mole Creek, past the Caves to the Mersey Forest Road, and follow the signs to Walls of Jerusalem. The road is sealed as far as Lake Parangana. About 50 minutes' drive from Mole Creek. Along the way you will find -

- Gadds Falls Track - a 30 minute return walk, climbing up beside Gadds Creek as it tumbles down to the Mersey River; series of small cascades lead to a waterfall
- Arm River Forest Reserve offers many walks through forest and along the river to the Arm Falls
- Lees Paddocks Track starts at the south end of Lake Rowallan (4 hour return)
- Chalice Falls Track - a 6 hour return walk suitable for experienced and well prepared bushwalkers only, starting at the end of Mersey Forest Road, past Lees Paddocks

Rinadeena Falls

This easy 2 hour return walk offers lots of photographic opportunities and spectacular forests. The track is easy walking, following old logging roads up the valley through stands of young myrtle and across the swiftly flowing Little Fisher River. After about 20 minutes walking, the track leaves the old roads and begins to climb gently up the valley, following the course of the river. About 1 hour 15 minutes' drive from Mole Creek, in the upper Mersey Valley

Walls of Jerusalem National Park

At the end of Mersey Forest Road (the last 10 km gravel), Walls of Jerusalem National Park is considered to be one of Tasmania's most beautiful wilderness areas. The park offers a range of walks but it should be noted that these are only suitable for experienced and well prepared bushwalkers. About 1 hour's drive from Mole Creek.

Mt Roland Walk Track

A 6 hour (10 km) return walk, starting at Gowrie Park, will take you to the summit of Mt Roland, the huge rugged mountain seen at the western end of the valley in which Mole Creek lies. The walk begins in forest, following a 4WD track. At the log bridge across Oneills Creek, the track narrows and starts to climb. 30 minutes climb will bring you to the saddle at 900 feet, from which point you can see Reggie Falls. A track to the left will take you to the summit of Mt Roland (approx 1 hour). At the summit you can enjoy 360 degree views to Bass Strait, Cradle Mt and Barn Bluff.

Access to the Mt Roland walk track is from the north side of the mountain. Take the B12/C138 towards Cradle Mountain and follow that route to the Sheffield-Cradle Mountain Road (C136). Turn right towards Sheffield, then right just past Gowrie Park into Oneills Road where, about 1 km along, there is a carpark at the start of the track. To return to Mole Creek by a different route after your walk, turn right out of Oneills Road toward Sheffield, then right into C137, which will take you on a scenic drive across the Gog Range, rejoining the B12 five km west of Mole Creek. Approx 1 hour's drive from Mole Creek.

There is also a track to the summit of Mt Roland which starts from the Mt Round Lookout parking on Olivers Road (C138), before it reaches the C136.

Cradle Mountain

Cradle Mountain National Park offers a wonderful range of walks. If a short visit combined with perhaps a half day's walking is what you are looking for, then Mole Creek offers an easy day trip - and a stunningly scenic 90 minutes each way drive.

Information courtesy of Mole Creek Tourism Assn Inc

www.molecreek.info

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