

How to get to the Abel Tasman Monument, Tasmania

The Abel Jansz Tasman's Landing Place Monument stands in memory of the first Europeans to set foot on Tasmanian soil and plant the Dutch flag on 3 December 1642. From this historic landing site, Tasman and his crew would continue their exploration toward what they called Staten Landt, now known as New Zealand.

The monument is located on private land near Tasman Bay (formerly Prince of Wales Bay), within the grounds of Bangor — a 6,000-hectare working farm near Dunalley, Tasmania. The property also features the Bangor Vineyard Shed, heritage accommodation, and scenic coastal tracks. The area was once known as Van Diemen's Land, later New Holland, and now Australia — though in Tasman's day it was part of the mythical Terra Australis Incognita.

Access and permissions

Because the monument is on private property, visitors must respect Bangor's access rules and stay within designated public areas and tracks. Entry to the monument area is by foot only, and visitors are expected to observe all signage, gates, and fencing along the way. Bangor is a working farm, so livestock and farm machinery may be present.

Getting there

Access to Bangor is from the Arthur Highway, which connects Sorell, Dunalley, and Port Arthur. The roads within the property are gravel, so a suitable vehicle and careful driving are advised.

From the Arthur Highway, take Blackman Bay Road towards Lagoon Bay. Turn left just before the Lagoon Bay ALA windsock and continue towards the Lagoon Beach northern side camping site. This point is about a 30-minute drive from Bangor Heritage Cottage or roughly 40 minutes from the Bangor Vineyard Shed.

Just before reaching the Lagoon Bay camping area, there is a track on the left-hand side with a chain across it. This track, known on Google Maps as the Tasman Monument Track, heads north over the headland and down to Two Miles Beach. The track is marked with marine netting and a buoy near the beach (GPS approximately -42.87761 / 147.94788). The walk to the beach takes less than 30 minutes.

Walking to the monument

From Two Miles Beach, follow the shoreline north for about 30 minutes. Near the end of the beach, before the rocks, you'll notice a cluster of buoys (GPS around -42.86114 / 147.91956). From here, a path marked by cairns and multicoloured ribbons leads inland. Some parts of the track may be obstructed by fallen trees. This final section is the most challenging part of the route.

The monument itself sits above the beach, near an open-sided hut with benches (approximate GPS -42.85620 / 147.91614). The surroundings are largely untouched, and the landscape is said to resemble what Tasman and his crew would have seen nearly four centuries ago.

Timing and safety

The return walk from the Lagoon Bay camping site to the monument typically takes four hours, though five to six hours is a more realistic estimate depending on weather and conditions. Mobile coverage is limited once off the beach, so a satellite-capable phone or personal locator

beacon is recommended. Bring sufficient water and sun protection, and allow extra time for breaks and exploring.

Accommodation and local facilities

For those wishing to stay nearby, the Bangor Heritage Cottage provides historic accommodation dating from 1906 (extended in 1922), with two bedrooms and a sofa bed. The cottage, accessible through the Bangor Vineyard, features a coat of arms from Bangor in Wales.

The Bangor Vineyard Shed offers meals, tastings, and catering (+61 3 6253 5558).

Nearby facilities include the Cannery Bakery and Café, the Cannery Bar and Bistro, and the general store and petrol station in Dunalley. Fine dining is available at Ophir (formerly Van Bone).

The region also features the Bream Creek Farmers' Market, held on the first Sunday of each month, and Boomer Bay, well known for its excellent oysters.

A visit through time

Reaching the Abel Tasman Monument is a journey both physical and historical — a chance to stand where Tasman's crew first made contact with the island that would later bear his name. The rugged landscape, coastal winds, and unspoiled scenery still evoke the spirit of 1642, when the Dutch flag was raised for the first time on Tasmanian shores.

Respect for the landowners and care for the environment ensure that this site — and its connection to one of the earliest chapters of European exploration in Australia — will be preserved for future generations.

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