Incredible Natural Beauty

The Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, located in the Central Highlands, comprises part of Tasmania’s World Heritage-listed Wilderness Area. The national park, which covers roughly 1610 square kilometres, is renowned for its natural beauty. Cradle Mountain, a spectacular jagged mountain at the park’s northern end, is one of the main tourist destinations in the state. Rising 1545 metres above sea level, the mountain offers stunning views of the park, including Dove Lake, which was formed by glaciation. Tasmania’s highest mountain, Mount Ossa, reaching 1617 metres above sea level, is also found in the national park.

Mountain Climbing and Walking

The park is popular with climbers and walkers. The Overland Track, a challenging 65-kilometre trek through magnificent mountainous terrain, is one of Australia’s most famous.
bushwalks. It starts at Cradle Mountain and ends at Lake St Clair – the deepest lake in the country, with a maximum depth of 167 metres – and takes approximately six days.

**SIGNIFICANT FLORA AND FAUNA**

The vegetation in the area is diverse, including ancient cool temperate rainforest, eucalypt forest, grassland and alpine meadows. Many of the flora species are endemic to Tasmania – that is, they are only found there – and some date back to Gondwanan times. The fauna includes Tasmanian devils, quolls, platypus and echidnas.

It was thanks to the dedication of Austrian immigrant Gustav Weindorfer that the area was declared a scenic reserve in 1922.

The spectacular Walls of Jerusalem National Park, which also forms part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, sits on the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park’s eastern boundary.

**TASMANIAN WILDERNESS**

The Tasmanian Wilderness Area covers approximately 20 per cent of the island of Tasmania. The Tasmanian Wilderness was included on the World Heritage List in 1982, recognised as having both natural and cultural values of global significance. The area conserves one of the last remaining wilderness regions on the planet. It is home to some of the oldest trees and tallest flowering plants and provides the habitat for several animals that are endangered or have become extinct on mainland Australia. Aboriginal occupation of the area dates back as far as 45,000 years. Limestone caves in the region contain some of the earliest forms of art. A number of sites within the Wilderness Area have been returned to Tasmania’s Aboriginal community.