

# Proposal: South East Cape Walk

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## Proponent / s

Wild Bush Luxury Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Experience Co Ltd)

## Location

Southwest National Park

## Description of proposal

The *South East Cape Walk* proposal would give visitors the opportunity to walk to the tip of Australia's southern most accessible point in the rugged Southwest National Park in the company and care of two professional walking guides. This overnight walk would start from Australia's southernmost car park at Recherche Bay and involve walking along the renowned South Coast Track before heading off to South East Cape, following an existing route.

The project would involve constructing an environmentally sensitive hut for overnight accommodation for the walkers. The hut, which would have a small environmental footprint and be located discreetly from view of other park users would be built in accordance with the requirements of the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Management Plan. The hut would allow visitors to split the 10-12 hour return journey across two days with an overnight stay, within the national park.

Guests could join the experience in Hobart or with pickups in the Huon Valley or they could meet the party at Recherche Bay. It would be fully inclusive of transport, basic walking gear, park entry fees, food and accommodation and is designed to cater for small groups and two guides per trip.

The proposal seeks to enhance Tasmania's global reputation of providing outstanding tourism experiences in its wilderness areas and it will also raise the profile and visitation of the Huon Valley and Far South regions.

It would also help develop South East Cape into one of Australia's popular "must-do" trips for the touring visitor in the same way other extremities of the continent such as Cape York (north), Cape Byron (east) and Shark Bay (west) are viewed.

## Estimated jobs created

The South East Cape Walk would expect to employ seasonal guides and drivers plus two full time staff.

## Social, cultural and environmental impact

Experience Co Ltd is a highly reputable operator offering adventure tourism experiences across Australia and New Zealand. Wild Bush Luxury Pty Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Experience Co established for the purpose of operating the group's premium adventure business. Consistent with the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan values, the proposed environmentally sensitive hut would be pre-fabricated off site and transported via helicopter for assembly.

The hut would be powered mostly by renewable solar power, with rainwater collected from the roof and stored using onsite tanks. Environmentally sensitive dry composting toilets would be used to minimise water consumption and eliminate effluent.

The project would liaise with the Tasmanian Aboriginal representative groups with regard to respecting their traditions and culture and incorporate suggestions and values into the interpretation and overall experience.

In addition to a Reserve Activity Assessment through the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, the proposal is required to obtain any necessary statutory approvals through the Australian and State Government planning approval processes.