

## 1. Getting there

Drive through the Tyenna Valley to Maydena (90 km from Hobart) on the Gordon River Rd.

Go 2.5 km past Maydena and turn right onto the gravelled Florentine Rd. Turn right again onto the Styx Rd and drive beneath the overpass. You are now in an active logging area so beware of log trucks and industrial vehicles.

Stay on the Styx Rd and drive past Roberts, Risby Basin, Stump, Maynes, Mueller, and Gold Creek Roads. You can glimpse the mountains of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area on your right as you go.

## 2. The Styx Bridge

After about 10.4 km you will come to the Styx Bridge. Stop here to see the beautiful junction of the Styx and South Styx Rivers. Here the river has a mysterious feel, its waters stained a tea colour by patches of buttongrass further upstream.

## 3. 9B Walk

A new walking track has been created in the threatened forest of coupe SX9B. Turn right onto Jubilee Road, cross the bridge and pass through the gate before taking the first left turn. Follow this road through the remains of forest that was Coupe SX9C, logged in early 2010. Wind your way up hill to the very end of the road and follow the pink tags that wind a loop through spectacular giants. The Wilderness Society volunteers are measuring the carbon contained within this patch of forest in a Citizen Science project that confirms it as some of the most carbon-dense forest in the world.

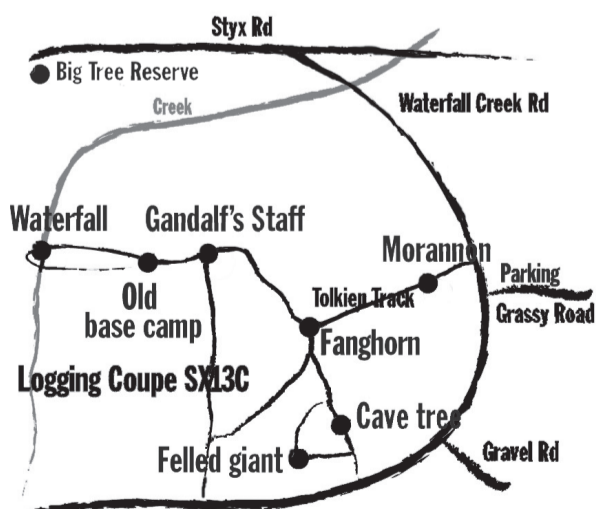
## 4. The Big Tree Reserve

This tiny reserve was established to protect some of the giant trees that are found throughout the valley. In 2005 this reserve was expanded to include the Tolkien Track. A boardwalk has been established to provide a quick circuit of the reserve.

## 5. The Tolkien Track

600m on from the Big Tree Reserve, turn right onto Waterfall Creek Rd. Drive for 800m and park near the small grassy track on your left. Walk back down the road 40m to the start of the Tolkien Track. This track winds through a spectacular piece of forest that was once threatened by logging. Use the map to explore

### ● The Tolkien Track Enlargement



the network of trails. You can retrace your steps to return to the road near your car, or join the road further up and walk back down the hill to your car.



There is plenty to see on this track. Walk under Morannon, the “Black Gate”; see the 75-m giant with twin trunks named Fangorn; enter the Cave Tree; walk along the trunk of the Felled Giant; and stand in awe under Gandalf’s Staff, the 84-m tall giant that was host to the Global Rescue Station.

If you are in the mood for a longer walk, follow the track to the intimate seclusion of the waterfall (20 minutes). This track can be slippery, so please take care.

## 6. The Chapel Tree

Once on the Styx Rd again, continue 2.9km then turn right onto Gee Creek Rd. Veer right again after 800m onto Skeleton Rd.

About 1 km up the hill from the creek you will see markers indicating the 50-m track to the Chapel Tree. This tree is the second most massive living thing in Tasmania. It is so old the hollowed out centre has breached the trunk, creating a quiet, peaceful ‘chapel’ big enough to walk into. Take a torch along to get a good look at the inside of the tree.

Eucalypt trees take over 100 years to develop hollows for birds and animals to nest in. The large hollows that have developed in this 400-year-old giant provide fantastic habitat for creatures such as pigmy possums, owls, bats and black cockatoos.

There is a 30-minute, moderate to difficult track marked between the Chapel Tree and the Christmas Tree. Follow the pink tags and wind your way through more fantastic forest. You’ll exit the forest on the same road you entered it from and can either return the same way or walk down the road to your car.

## 7. Shinglebend

800m further along the Styx Rd (about 150m before Jacques Rd on the right) is the start of the track to the picturesque Shinglebend. This is a lovely shingle bank on the Styx River surrounded by rainforest. Shinglebend suffers occasionally from flood damage. Walk quietly as you approach the river, keeping your eyes open for platypus and native water rats. Shinglebend is the perfect spot for lunch or a snack; don’t miss it.

**Warning! Swimming is dangerous here due to submerged logs and the swift current.**

Although the Styx River and Road wind further down the Valley, there is no reliable exit from the Styx Rd at Karanja. This is a private road with gates that are often locked. Feel free to explore the rest of the valley, but you will need to retrace your route back out to Maydena.

**When leaving the Styx Valley be alert for the overpass, and turn hard left immediately after it to rejoin the main road.** If you miss this turnoff you could be driving for a long time! Turn left at the bitumen road to return to Maydena.

Wilderness Society accepts no liability for any injury or damage resulting from such hazards.

In November 2003 logging coupe SX 13C became the focus of activities, with the launch of the

## Global Rescue Station

logging. The Wilderness Society's campaign delayed that coupe SX 15B scheduled for destruction in 2000. With its neighbour the Chapel Tree, was in logging international media attention. This tree, along an enormous star. This giant *Eucalyptus regnans*—giant in the Valley with nearly 3000 fairy lights and in December 1999 the Society decorated a 77-m

## The World's Tallest Christmas Tree

experience its beauty for themselves. on encouraging visitors to visit the Styx and years. Since 1999 the campaign has focused the protection of the Styx Valley for over 20 The Wilderness Society has been calling for

## The Styx Campaign

River, and several waterfalls. Snowy Range, the winding, tannin-stained Styx limestone caves, the high dolerite bluffs of the oaks and rosellas. Other features of the valley are Pygmy Possum, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, the majestic Wedge-tailed Eagle, the Eastern home to many native species of wildlife, including *delegatensis* and rainforest. These forests are also contains large areas of tall *E. obliqua*, *E.* trees and flowering plants on Earth. The Styx *Eucalyptus regnans*—the tallest hardwood The tallest trees in the Styx are the mighty Earth.

one of the great temperate wilderness areas on Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area— (about 90 kilometres by road) on the edge of the The Styx Valley lies 70 kilometres west of Hobart

## The Styx Valley of the Giants

# Styx

## Valley of the Giants

### Self-Drive and Walking Guide

Updated January 2011



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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When forests are logged much of that carbon up to 1500 tonnes of carbon per hectare.

Upper Florentine, Styx and Weld Valleys can store soils. Ancient oldgrowth forests like those in the draw in carbon from the atmosphere. This carbon dangerous carbon locked away. As trees grow they dense' in the world—keeping millions of tonnes of Tasmania's forests are some of the most 'carbon

## Forests & Climate Change

Minister himself had promised. short of what was expected and what the Prime Trees Reserve. This protection, though, fell far expansions of the Big Tree Reserve and the Tall in the North Styx Reserve, along with small northern side of the Styx River was protected forests. In 2005 most of the forest on the Styx Valley and other threatened Tasmanian Minister John Howard promised to protect the During the 2004 Federal Election the then Prime

## The Prime Minister's Promise

more. meetings, written letters, talked to politicians and in Adelaide; thousands of people have attended rallied in the Styx, in Hobart, in Melbourne and politicians and celebrities; thousands of people Valley, including people from all over the world, Thousands of people have visited the Styx

## Thousands Rally for Tassie's Forests

forests. highlighted the destruction of Tasmania's ancient of national and international media attention and the summer of 2003–04 the GRS became a focus canopy of Gandalf's Staff. For five months over tree sit, suspended 65 m above the ground in the Global Rescue Station (GRS). The GRS was a

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## How you can help

- **Sign up** for email updates via our website, facebook and Twitter. Visit [www.wilderness.org.au/tasmania](http://www.wilderness.org.au/tasmania) for more details.
- **Shop** at The Wilderness Society Shop at Salamanca. Profits go to the campaign to protect Tasmania's forests.
- **Sign on** your support for the Statement of Principles at [www.wilderness.org.au/forestfuture](http://www.wilderness.org.au/forestfuture)
- **Write a letter** to the Prime Minister urging her to protect threatened oldgrowth forests in Tasmania, including the Florentine Valley. Arrange for your family and friends to write letters.
- **Come along** to a Wednesday Campaign lunch meeting. They are every week at 1:00pm.
- **Join** The Wilderness Society or make a tax-deductible donation to the Tasmanian Forest Campaign. Freecall 1800 030 641 or visit [www.wilderness.org.au/join](http://www.wilderness.org.au/join)
- **Write letters** to the editors of Tasmanian and interstate newspapers.

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• Tasmania's image as a clean, green state will be preserved, in a major boost for tourism sustainable protecting and developing timber jobs that are – forests will occur over the next 12 months – detailed planning and consultation for the timber industry to transition out of native formally protected Tier and the Upper Florentine Valley will be Rainforest, Great Western Tiers, Styx, Blue • world class forests like the Tarkine huge, including: The benefits for the whole of Tasmania are over logging.

remaining native forests and resolve the conflict a sustainable timber industry, protect its Tasmania a unique opportunity to create forest unions and the industry that gives conservation groups, timber communities, of Principles has been agreed between collapse, a way forward is here. A Statement But with the Tasmanian timber industry in conservation-value native forests.

arrests and, sadly, ongoing logging in our high This unresolved dispute has led to protests, have been trying to protect their industry. forests from destruction, while timber workers trying to protect Tasmania's stunning, ancient For decades, environmentalists have been

## A solution is achievable

to climate change and increasing the risk of Protecting forests from logging is one of the cheapest and quickest ways we can help stop dangerous climate change.

## Important Information

Although suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles, the roads get slippery in the wet, and very dusty in the dry. Ensure you have a spare tyre and jack. Drive slowly at night and at dusk to spare wildlife. Beware of logtrucks, especially if you decide to drive into these areas on a weekday.

These are dirt roads, many kilometres from the nearest township and out of mobile phone range. Fill your petrol tank before leaving Maydena. Drive no faster than 50 kph and slow down for potholes, corrugations and other hazards.

Bring food, water, sunhat, raincoat and stout shoes. After leaving Maydena there are no more built toilets, so bring toilet paper and a shovel.

Note that the Styx Bridge has a five tonne limit, which excludes use by larger buses.

## Bushfire Warning

**Please do not light campfires or smoke cigarettes while in the forest. It is not advisable to visit the forest on days of total fire ban or high wind.**

**DISCLAIMER:** Visitors to this area should be aware that natural hazards occur within Tasmania's forest environments. The Wilderness Society accepts no liability for any injury or damage resulting from such hazards.