

Tasmania's Florentine Valley

A place worthy of World Heritage protection



Canopy of the Upper Florentine Valley.

Photo: Rob Blakers

The Florentine, true wilderness

Tourists making the short drive from Hobart into the magnificent Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area can't fail to miss "Camp Flozza", a focal point for those trying to protect old growth forest in the Upper Florentine Valley from logging.

From Camp Flozza, which is surrounded by Mount Field National Park, Mt Mueller, the Needles and the Florentine River, it's a short walk along Timbs Track into the old growth forests of the Upper Florentine Valley.

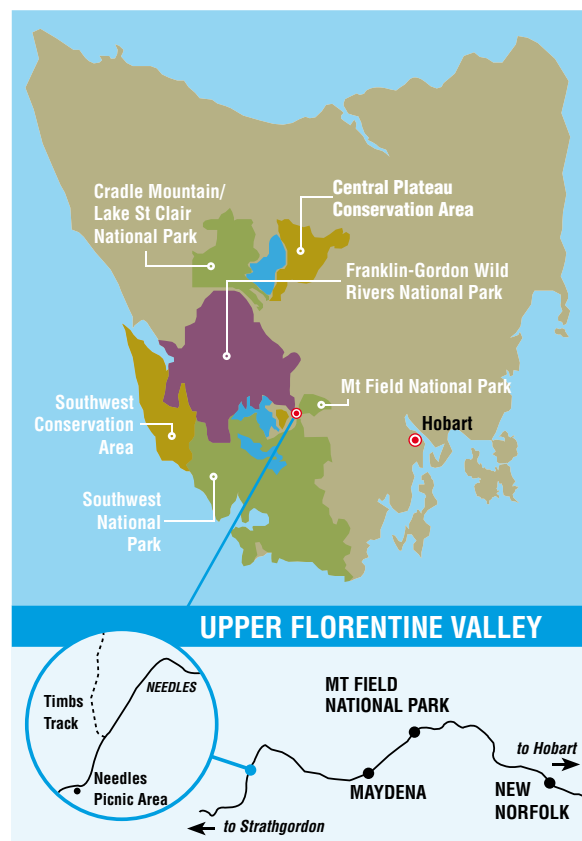
Virtually surrounded by World Heritage areas and until now untouched by industrial logging, the Upper Florentine Valley is one of the few remaining areas where you can find intact forest extending all the way from a lowland river valley to high mountain tops.

Outstanding ecological values

The Upper Florentine Valley forests contain a mix of Tasmania's rainforest trees – myrtle, celery-top pine, sassafras and leatherwood – as well as giant eucalypts up to 400 years old.

The forests are interspersed with patches of scrub and buttongrass moorland. This mix of vegetation types provides excellent habitat for a diverse range of birds and mammals, including the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, grey goshawk and spotted-tailed quoll.

Riddled with caves, underground streams and sinkholes, the Florentine Valley is the last known habitat of the Tasmanian Tiger before it was hunted to extinction, and holds Aboriginal



heritage sites dating back 30,000 years.

Including the Upper Florentine Valley within Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area would protect an outstanding example of the transition in vegetation types from lowland tall forests to alpine heaths.

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To find out more about the campaign to protect the Florentine go to www.facesoftheflorentine.com

Faces of the Florentine

Ordinary people standing up for an extraordinary forest

The growing number of people that want to see the Florentine Valley protected from logging and made part of Tasmania's World Heritage Area come from all walks of life.

Many of them live in the region, others come from Hobart and further afield.

The one thing they all have in common is that they want to see the Upper Florentine Valley protected for its unique natural and cultural values.

► Read their stories and find out how you can help by going to www.facesoftheflorentine.com.



“I want to be able to look my grandchildren in the eye and say that I did speak out to save these magnificent forests for future generations.”

Sandy, a registered nurse from New Town, Tasmania



Old growth forests, vital carbon sinks

The potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change mean that we should use every possible means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Research carried out by the Australian National University shows that old growth forests like those occurring in the Upper Florentine Valley play a major role in absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere.

This research also shows that undisturbed forests store much more carbon than forests regenerating after logging.

Under threat

Research by forest campaigners shows that the majority of tall wet eucalypt forest in the Upper Florentine is available for logging.

It also shows that:

- 37% of the area protected from logging is of no commercial interest (including buttongrass and rocky slopes).
- The area available for logging within the Upper Florentine catchment contains a high proportion of the tall wet eucalypt forest of most commercial interest.
- 80 per cent of *Eucalyptus regnans* old growth forest in the Upper Florentine is available for logging. This species is the tallest flowering plant on Earth.



Rainforest in the Upper Florentine Valley. Photo: Alan Lesheim

Protecting the Florentine

The best way of protecting the old growth forests of the Upper Florentine, Styx and lower Weld valleys is to include them as part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

This conservation zone has already been recognised as containing one of the world's best examples of "eucalypt-dominated landscapes", and the addition of the magnificent Upper Florentine, Styx and Weld forests would enhance the significant values of this area.

The biodiversity, cultural and aesthetic values of these areas are indisputable, and inclusion in the World Heritage Area would ensure Tasmania's tall wet eucalypt forests are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Take action

The Tasmanian Government has the power to protect these magnificent old growth forests.

Please join us in calling on Premier David Bartlett to end all current and future logging operations in the Upper Florentine Valley.

► Go to www.facesoftheflorentine.com to find out what you can do today.

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