

Hobart

Eguide

Hobart is the second oldest capital city in Australia and sits between Mt Wellington and the Derwent estuary.

Hobart was declared in 1812 and made the capital of Van Diemen's Land. Hobart developed as a whaling port and as a centre of ship building.

Downtown Hobart is around Sullivans Cove on the Derwent River, a busy area for ships of all sizes. And the end point of the famous Sydney to Hobart sailing race held every January.

Hobart Places

Alexandra Battery

Alexandra Battery is near the Shot Tower. It was built in 1885 to defend Hobart from possible invasion, and was named in honour of Princess Alexandra of Denmark. It has fine views over the Derwent River.

Anglesea Barracks

Anglesea Barracks is the oldest military headquarters still occupied in Australia. The Barracks were ordered by Governor Macquarie in 1811 and are still used by the military. Davey Street.

Battery Point

This was one of the first areas of Hobart to be settled and it contains some stately colonial housing, now mostly used as up-market accommodation or as restaurants.



Cenotaph

The Cenotaph is a prominent monument, on a hill overlooking Macquarie Point and the Yacht Club.

General Post Office

The magnificent General Post Office is in the heart of Hobart. It was from this building on 8th March 1912 that Roald Amundsen sent his telegram to confirm to the world that he had indeed reached the South Pole and returned safely.

Franklin Square

In the centre of Hobart, diagonally opposite the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre on the corner of Davey and Elizabeth Streets, is Franklin Square, with Sir John Franklin standing at its centre. He was Governor of Van Diemen's Land from 1837 until 1843, and was also a polar explorer. He perished while trying to locate the North-West Passage.

Hobart has a long association with Antarctic exploration, being the closest Australian city to the southernmost continent, so you will also find in this square photographs of the 1898 - 1900 Antarctic Expedition led by Carstens Borchgrevink.

This was the first expedition to spend a winter in Antarctica. The members are pictured paying their respects to Sir John Franklin in this spot upon their return to Hobart in April 1900. One member, the physicist Louis Bernacchi, was from Hobart.

International Wall of Friendship

The International Wall of Friendship is at the Commonwealth Government Centre providing a tribute to the migrants who have settled in Tasmania. *188 Collins Street, Hobart.*



Kelly's Steps

Leading up from Salamanca Place is a flight of steps. These are Kelly's Steps, built in 1839 by the adventurer James Kelly to connect Salamanca Place with Battery Point. They lead into Kelly Street.



Old Hobart Gaol

In the northern part of the city is Old Hobart Gaol, with its Penitentiary Chapel. This was constructed in 1831, and later, part of it was converted into law courts. The Chapel continued in use until 1961 and the Courts were used until 1983. There are underground passages, cells for solitary confinement and an execution yard.

Parliament House

Parliament House is adjacent to Salamanca Place. It was designed by the famous convict architect John Lee Archer as a customs house and built by convicts between 1835 and 1840. Only when self-government was granted in 1856 did it become the home of the Tasmanian Parliament. There is a museum on the ground floor and a popular lawn outside in Parliament Square.

Runnymede

Runnymede is a stately home built in about 1836 and now restored by the National Trust. *61 Bay Road, New Town. (03 6278 1269).*

Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site

A collection of redbrick buildings which are some of the oldest in Tasmania. The Penitentiary Chapel was completed in 1835 and used for compulsory church services for convicts. Corner of Brisbane and Campbell Streets.

Salamanca Place

Salamanca Place consists of a splendid row of Georgian sandstone warehouses dating back to the 1830s, now converted into cafes, craft shops, galleries and restaurants.

Shot Tower

The Shot Tower was built in 1870 and, of course, its purpose was the manufacture of lead shot by the process of dropping molten lead from a height so that it would form spherical pellets and solidify before hitting the ground. The tower is 48 metres high. It is no longer used for the manufacture of lead shot, but offers a good lookout over the city. *Channel Highway about 10 km south of Hobart.*

Yacht Club

The Yacht Club, just north of the city centre, is where the famous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race finishes.

St. David's Cathedral

The building of St. David's Cathedral, commenced in 1868, the handsome edifice being the work of George Bodley.

It is generally thought to be his best creation outside England. There is a small museum in the cloisters. *125 Macquarie Street.*

Tasman Bridge

The Tasman Bridge lies a little over one kilometre north of the city centre. It was the scene of a disaster when, at 9.27pm on 5th January 1975, the bulk ore carrier Lake Illawarra crashed into one of the piers and brought down a 127-metre section of the bridge.

Four vehicles were on the section at the time and the five people in those vehicles died, together with seven crew members of the Lake Illawarra.

Two cars were left suspended precariously over the gap in the bridge, but their occupants escaped.

Hobart Fun Places

Alpenrail

Alpenrail consists of a model Swiss village and railway and is located in the north of the city not far from the Cadbury factory. *82 Abbotsfield Road, West Claremont.*

Antarctic Adventure

Experience the Antarctic with displays of the fauna and flora, geology and history.

The displays bring the Antarctic to life and includes visits to a field camp, experience sub zero temperatures, ski in a blizzard and see live images from the Australian Antarctic Base. *Salamanca Square (03 6220 8220).*



Cascade Brewery

The Cascade Brewery is Australia's oldest brewery, founded in 1824, and is another example of splendid nineteenth century architecture, especially as it stands against the backdrop of Mt. Wellington. There is a small museum here and outside there are some fine gardens, with tours available. *140 Cascade Road.*

Cadbury Factory

North of the city is the Cadbury Factory, established in 1921. This factory uses over a million litres of milk a week. Tours are available. *Cadbury Road (03 6249 0333).*



Maritime Museum of Tasmanian

A collection of maritime memorabilia and other items to illustrate Tasmanian maritime history. *Corner of Davey Street and Argyle Street.*

Mercury Print Museum

The Mercury is Hobart's newspaper, dating from 5th January 1854, and the Mercury Print Museum is in Ingle Hall on the corner of Macquarie and Argyle Streets. The museum adjoins the newspaper's main printing operation. It is housed in a fine old Georgian building dating from somewhere between 1811 and 1814 and probably owned originally by a man named Edward Lord who sold it to his friend John Ingle in 1831. For three years from 1846, it was the site of the Hutchins School for Boys. Around the turn of the century it was a 'coffee palace' and later it became a boarding house, before being purchased by the Mercury in 1962.

Narryna Heritage Museum

Narryna Heritage Museum is housed in one of the early Hobart colonial homes, dating from 1836. It now contains a collection of furniture, china, paintings and fine arts. *103 Hampden Road.*

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has a collection of fauna, gemstones, sea life and modern Australian art. *40 Macquarie Street.*

Tasmanian Distillery and Museum

At the point in Davey Street where it curves round to join Macquarie Street, you will find the Tasmanian Distillery and Museum. Sullivans Cove Whisky is produced here, in what was formerly the Gasworks. Tours operate continuously and discounted products are available in the shop.

Another part of the Gasworks, you will observe, has been converted into a high-class hotel, while other areas serve as restaurants and shops.



Tasmanian Transport Museum

The Tasmanian Transport Museum is in the former New Town Station, containing a display on the history of Tasmanian Railways. There are also steam and diesel locomotives and railcars, trams, buses and trolley-buses. *Anfield Street, Glenorchy.*

Hobart Parks

Bororong Wildlife Park

Animals from around Tasmania can be seen and heard here. *Brighton.*

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are within walking distance, about two kilometres north of the city centre. There is a path running beside the railway which leads to the lower entrance to the gardens and which will avoid walking along the main road.

These gardens were established in 1818, only two years after Australia's first botanical gardens in Sydney, and they are some of the most pleasant gardens in the country.

St. David's Park

St. David's Park was once a graveyard and there are still tombstones dotted about it which make interesting reading.

Considering its proximity to the city centre, it is a very pleasant little park in which to relax for a few minutes. *Corner of Sandy Bay Road and Davey Street.*



Hobart Wild Places

Mount Nelson

Mount Nelson is where the Signal Station was built in 1811 to announce the arrival of any ships sighted. It was linked with other signal stations, so that a message could be passed between here and Port Arthur within twenty minutes. Inside the tiny old Station building, you can learn the codes used for the signals. There is an excellent view from here and a tearoom is available. There is also a walking track, so that you can, if you wish, take the bus up its twisting route and return on foot down the slopes of the mountain.



Mt. Wellington

One of the great sights of Hobart is the view from the top of Mt. Wellington. Mt. Wellington rises to a height of 1,270 metres and provides a magnificent backdrop to the city of Hobart.

At the top of the mountain it is generally cool, if not cold. One problem with this excursion is that it is often misty up there too, so try to pick a good day. The view on a fine day is truly magnificent. The whole of Hobart and the Derwent Estuary lie spread below you.

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