

# WridgWays Global

Guide to Living in Hobart





## Table of Contents

1. General Information	2
2. Culture, Lifestyle and Language	4
3. Visa and Migration	8
4. Housing	9
5. Banking Services	12
6. Medical Services	13
7. Schooling	17
8. Utilities	19
9. Telecommunications	20
10. Public Transport	21
11. Driving	24
12. Moving your Pet	29
13. Household Goods Shipment and Customs Information	30
14. Shopping	33

## 1. General Information



### Geographic Location

Hobart refers to both the city, and the greater metropolitan region surrounding the city which spans 1,695.5km<sup>2</sup> and is on the island of Tasmania, which is situated 240km off the south-east coast of Australia.

Hobart is the capital of Tasmania and sits on the River Derwent, it is the most southern of Australia's capital cities.

### Hobart City

The Hobart Central Business District (CBD) is also referred to as "Greater Hobart" to differentiate it from the City of Hobart.

Old sandstone warehouses host galleries and cafes in the famous Salamanca Place. Nearby is the historical district of Battery Point with narrow lanes and colonial-era cottages.

Mount Wellington is the city's backdrop and is 1,270m high, with sweeping views, hiking, and cycling trails.

Hobart is the second driest capital city in Australia with only half the amount of rain per year as Sydney.





### Climate

The Tasmanian climate is much cooler than the rest of Australia. It varies in different parts of the State, from the north which is a fraction warmer, to the drier inland regions and Mountain areas where it snows.

Compared to the northern hemisphere the seasons are reversed: winter is in the middle of the year and summertime at the end.

<b>Summer</b>	December to February
<b>Autumn</b>	March to May
<b>Winter</b>	June to August
<b>Spring</b>	September to November

Hobart experiences 86 wet days a year with an average annual rainfall of 611.9mm. There's an average of 172 days a year when the sun doesn't shine. The average temperature ranges for Hobart are:

City	January	July
<b>Hobart</b>	12.6° - 22.2°C	4.9° - 12.3°C

3pm in the summer months, as this is when the sun is at its hottest.

For current weather reports and conditions, see [www.bom.gov.au/](http://www.bom.gov.au/)

### Population

The population of Hobart is 206,100 people, based on data from the 2016 Census, with the state of Tasmania home to approximately 535,000 people.

### Time Zone and Daylight Savings

Australia has three standard time zones, with Tasmania operating on Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) during the colder months of the year, which is 10 hours in front of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

On the first Sunday of October, the people of Tasmania turn their clocks forward one hour for Daylight Saving Time (AEDT), allowing them to enjoy more of the nicer weather in the afternoons and evenings. The time reverts to normal after summer is over, when everyone changes their clocks back on the first Sunday in April.

To see more information on the current time and date for Hobart, as well as other local information, visit:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/australia/hobart>

## 2. Culture, Lifestyle and Language



### Hobart Lifestyle Overview

Hobart is the capital of Tasmania and is the second oldest capital in Australia. It has a friendly atmosphere and a colonial charm.

Hobart is known for its history, bushwalks and beaches. Battery Point was formerly a village of sailors and is now the historic city centre. There are many walking and mountain bike tracks only kilometres from the city. Mount Wellington has a spectacular view from the summit. Hobart is surrounded by water and there are a host of beautiful beaches close to the city.

The Sydney to Hobart race is held every year from 26 December to 1 January. The city comes to life during this time, with the anticipated arrival of yachts who have entered the race from all over the world.

Job opportunities mainly exist in agriculture and hospitality. Tasmania has quite a high unemployment rate so it may take some time to find a job.

With such a rich cultural background of Australians who have migrated from overseas, as well as our Indigenous population who have occupied Australia for over 50,000 years, it is difficult to define a typical Australian.

While British colonisation of Australia didn't occur until the late 1700s, it is Western culture that has had the most influence over its inhabitants, with many similarities between Canadian, American, and English ways of life.

On the whole, Australians like to view themselves as accepting and welcoming of all, and in many cases this is certainly true. The concept of a "fair go" is a quintessentially Australian ideal, which centres around giving equal opportunities to anyone, from any background or walk of life.

The Australian identity is often associated with our unique sense of humour which is as eclectic as our cultural make-up. Sarcasm and irony are key to this appreciation for the comedic, as well as a love for observational humour, and in finding the light side of any situation.

## People of Hobart

Tasmania's population is one of the fastest growing in Australia. With a mix of immigrants and people moving to Hobart from mainland Australia.

Around 71% of Hobarts residents were born in Australia. The remainder were born in England, China, India, New Zealand and Malaysia.

## Languages

English is the official language of Australia, however, languages other than English are also valued. Almost 30% of Australians speak languages other than English at home.

The most commonly spoken languages after English are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

## Australian English

While English is Australia's national language, there are certain words and expressions that have become regarded as uniquely Australian through common usage.

The use of these colloquial or slang words, often coupled with an Australian sense of humour that is characterised by irony and irreverence, can sometimes cause confusion for international visitors. There are a number of books on Australian colloquialisms and slang, including the **Macquarie Book of Slang**.

## Religious worship

Australia is a predominantly Christian country, with around 52% of all Australians identifying as Christians. However, most other major religious faiths are also practised, reflecting Australia's culturally diverse society.

Australia's earliest religions or spiritual beliefs date back to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have inhabited Australia for between 40,000 and 60,000 years. Indigenous Australians have their own unique religious traditions, languages and spiritual values.

Australia has no official state religion and people are free to practise any religion they choose, as long as they obey the law. Australians are also free not to have a religion with close to a third of Australians identifying as having no religion in the most recent Census.

## Vibrant Arts Scene

Australia has a vibrant arts scene that reflects both the nation's Indigenous cultural traditions and its rich mosaic of migrant cultures. All forms of the visual and performing arts have strong followings, including film, art, theatre, dance and music.

Visual artists have played an important role in shaping and reflecting Australia's image. They range from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to the nationalist painters of the Heidelberg School in Victoria, symbolic surrealists such as Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and Albert Tucker and modern artists reflecting issues confronting contemporary Australia.

Australia has a strong literary tradition, which started with the storytelling of Indigenous Australians and continued with the oral stories of convicts arriving in Australia in the late 18th century.

Australia has one Nobel Prize for Literature to its credit, with novelist Patrick White receiving the award in 1973 for his novel *Eye of the Storm*. Other recent Australian novelists whose work has a particularly Australian flavour include Peter Carey, Christos Tsiolkas, Bryce Courtenay, Kate Grenville, Elizabeth Jolley, Thomas Keneally, Christopher Koch, David Malouf, Colleen McCullough, Christina Stead, Morris West and Tim Winton.

## A Sporting Culture

Australians love sport, and enjoy participating in a wide range of sporting activities for both recreation and fitness. There is also a strong support base for spectator sports, and many Australians have a fierce passion for their chosen teams and favourite athletes.

The 10 most popular physical activities include walking, aerobics/fitness, swimming, cycling, tennis, golf, running, bushwalking, football (often referred to as soccer in Australia) and netball.

Other popular sporting activities include Australian Rules Football (AFL), rugby, hockey, basketball, baseball, car racing, horse racing, sailing and skiing.

The most watched sports in Australia include Australian Rules Football (a uniquely Australian game with roots traceable to early forms of rugby and Gaelic football), rugby league, rugby union, basketball and cricket.

## Celebrations and Holidays

Hobart has a few holidays that are unique to Tasmania, while others exist across Australia and many other Western countries. The dates of these holidays for 2020 include:

Date	Holiday
1 January	New Year's Day
27 January	Australia Day
10 February	Royal Hobart Regatta
9 March	Eight Hours Day
10 April	Good Friday
11 April	Easter Saturday
12 April	Easter Sunday
13 April	Easter Monday
25 April	Anzac Day
8 June	Queen's Birthday
25 December	Christmas Day
28 December	Boxing Day
31 December	New Years Eve



## Cultural Awareness

### Greetings

In most contexts within Australian culture, first names are the preferred method of greeting others, even upon first meeting. Older generations of Australians, and people from different cultural backgrounds may be less comfortable with this, but will let you know their own preference if it differs.

Professional titles are not prominent in Australian business culture, and are sometimes dismissed as pretentious. Announcing your title when meeting an Australian may be perceived as a form of pompousness.

A handshake is the preferred greeting. It is customary to shake hands at the beginning and end of a meeting. With the exception of handshakes, it is important to read verbal and non-verbal cues before making physical contact with others, until you are confident that it is appropriate.

When speaking to an Australian, keep an arm's length distance from the person. Maintaining personal space is important in Australian culture.

The unique Australian vernacular can make initial conversations a little confusing, but you will soon get your head around commonly used phrases, for instance if somebody asks you "How are you going?" they are asking "How are you?"

### Keeping Appointments

While Australians are generally quite relaxed by nature, it is still considered bad form to be late to an appointment or to cancel without giving enough notice. Most people will be responsible for their own calendars, and it is customary to quickly check by phone or email before setting up a meeting request unannounced.

Business hours in Australia are 9:00am – 5:00pm, and while some meetings outside of hours are unavoidable, it is bad form to schedule meetings in the early morning or evening without good reason.

Depending on the level of formality, there are a wide range of meeting styles in Australia, with the more important ones being held in a boardroom or office, and more casual meetings held in cafés or restaurants over lunch or coffee. There has also been a rise in the popularity of the "walking meeting" which addresses the problems associated with the sedentary lifestyles of most office workers, giving them a chance to leave the office.

### Dress Codes

In most scenarios, Australians adopt a neat-casual approach to dressing, and unless a specific dress code is referenced, you should assume this to be the case. In warmer climates and during the summer months, it is considered perfectly acceptable to wear cooler clothing options when appropriate.

In business settings, corporate attire is generally expected, which can include suits, and a wide range of other professional clothing variations. Some offices can be more casual, but it is best to dress more conservatively until you have established the nuances of a particular workplace, and it is considered good form to wear suits to important meetings.

### Eating

Most Australians will generally have three main meals throughout the day, breakfast, lunch and dinner, but will often have snacks for morning tea and afternoon tea as well.

Defining the typical Australian diet, is just as difficult as defining the typical Australian. A wide range of foods from a wide range of cultures are celebrated in homes and restaurants across the country, with chefs being influenced by the many types of foods that have now become the norm in Australian society.

Australians will generally eat home cooked meals most nights of the week, but have a strong appreciation for restaurant and café culture, which means that dining out is a treat for some and regular occurrence for others. The Aussie barbecue is one of the most popular options for feeding large groups of people at home, where people will often be encouraged to bring food to share, and to provide their own beverages.

### Gift Giving

Gift giving is generally not a part of Australian culture (apart from Birthdays, Christmas and Anniversaries). However, if you are invited for dinner, it's permissible to bring a token gift of flowers, chocolates, or wine.

### 3. Visa and Migration



Obtaining the correct visa for your pending relocation can often be time consuming and confusing. Allow us to remove this burden and handle your visa requirements - we do it for our valued clients every day. Our registered migration consultants offer extensive experience in visa and immigration matters and can provide advice and reassurance every step of the way.

#### General Visa Information

Non-Australian citizens require a valid visa to enter and spend time in Australia. With the exception of New Zealand citizens, all foreign nationals must obtain a visa before travelling to Australia. New Zealand citizens are issued with a visa upon arrival in Australia. Australian visas are all electronically attached to your passport so you don't need a label or stamp.

Standard three-month tourist visas, valid for multiple entries over one year, are issued free in some cases. Six-month visitor visas incur a fee. If you hold a three-month visa and want to stay longer, you can normally extend your visa while you are in Australia. Please contact our registered consultants for advice.

If you are under 31 years of age, depending on your country of passport you may also be able to obtain a 12-month working holiday visa. In some cases a second working holiday visa can be obtained where the applicant has completed three months of 'specified work' in regional Australia. If you are interested in the second working holiday visa program you should contact our registered advisors to discuss.

Employer sponsored visas allow companies to sponsor applicants for full-time positions in Australia. The position is usually skilled in nature, and the applicant must possess the necessary skills to fill the position. An employer sponsored visa will allow you to travel freely to and from Australia, and to take up a full-time position with the sponsoring company. The visa can be valid for up to 4 years, and may be extended in some cases. As this visa is granted on the basis of sponsorship, you will need permission from the Department of Immigration if you wish to change employer or occupation. Applications may be made in overseas countries or whilst temporarily in Australia, provided your existing visa will allow it.

Visas should always be arranged several months prior to travel to Australia, plan well ahead.

## 4. Housing



### Housing Options

#### Temporary Accommodation

Typically, fully furnished serviced apartments, or similar styles of accommodation, ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms are available in both city and suburban locations depending on requirements.

#### Long Term Accommodation/Rental/Tenancy

There are a wide variety of housing styles to choose from in Hobart from modern apartments and homes through to traditional tropical designed elevated homes to capture the breeze.

External looks can sometimes be deceiving as many of the older style homes may be fully renovated and refurbished with modern fittings and fixtures. The rental price is a good indicator of what the condition of the property will be, and whether the property has been recently updated/renovated.

There are no 'expat' specific areas in Hobart and new arrivals choose to reside in numerous and varied locations around Hobart's suburbs.

### Inspecting a property

Before you apply to rent a property, you will need to inspect it.

Inspections are arranged with the real estate agent or landlord. These can be arranged directly with them or the property may be open for inspection – where anyone can attend at a set time and date.

If you are entitled to Home Search assistance with WridgWays your Relocation Consultant will assist you to liaise with the agent or landlord to arrange an inspection.

It is recommended that you take a photocopy of your documents (see below applying for a rental property) and a pen so you can complete an application straight away if you need to. Many properties are in high demand, so filling out an application as soon as possible will help you to secure the property you want.

You may be able to get an application form from the agent or landlord before the inspection. Ask them for a copy or see if there is one on their website.

## Applying for a rental property

If you like a property, you will need to fill in an application form and provide the documents Real Estate Agent/Landlord ask for. These could include:

- + Your identification, including photo identification (driver license or passport), bank card or birth certificate
- + Names and contact details of people who will give you rental or personal references
- + Your rental history
- + Rent payment receipts or statements
- + Employment details and history
- + Proof of income, like current payslips from your employer or income statement
- + Bank details and copies of your bank statements

You will have to give the agent or landlord permission to contact anyone listed for references. Before you submit applications, tell the people you have listed as your references that agents may contact them.

The agent or landlord access a tenant database that shows if you have not paid your rent in the past. If you apply to rent the property, tell the agent if you are listed on a tenant database and why this happened, as they will find out when they check.

When you are successful in obtaining a property, you will need to agree to a date to move in. This date will be when your tenancy starts and you begin paying rent.

The landlord or agent will then ask you to sign a residential tenancy agreement – this is also known as a lease.

The lease describes the rights and responsibilities you have as a tenant, as well as the rights of your landlord.

All leases provided by an agency in Tasmania are a standard lease as set by the Residential Tenancy Act of Tasmania. As such, all the conditions in the lease are standard, except for the 'Special Conditions', or 'Additional Clauses', and these may vary from agent to agent.

Ensure you read through the Special Conditions and Additional Clauses particularly carefully. If you believe a special condition or clause is unfair or may be illegal, especially one that contravenes the conditions stated earlier in the lease, you can contact Consumer, Building and Occupations Services department of the Tasmanian Government for advice on the legality of the demands. It is important to know your rights.

Other details in the lease include:

- + The rental property address
- + The amount to be paid as bond
- + How much rent is to be paid and its frequency of payment
- + The commencement and duration of the agreement
- + The name and address of the landlord

It is a good idea to request a copy of the lease for review prior to signing the document. Please ensure you carefully review all the conditions in the agreement, prior to signing.

Remember that a lease is legally binding once signed by you and your landlord/agent, therefore make sure you understand and agree with every word on the lease. Ensure you retain a signed copy of the lease.



## Rental Bond

In addition to paying rent, at the commencement of the tenancy you are also required to pay a 'Bond'.

A bond is a payment made in advance by you (as the tenant) to cover any costs for which you may be liable at the end of the tenancy, such as damage to the property or chattels, outstanding water usage charges or unpaid rent. Accordingly, the bond is often referred to as a security deposit.

The bond cannot be more than the equivalent of four weeks' rent.

Rental bonds in Tasmania are held by a third party, this is the Rental Deposit Authority (RDA). Both the tenant and property owner must register through an online platform called MyBond.

You can claim a bond at the end of the tenancy, when everyone has moved out and returned the keys. An owner/agent must start a claim in MyBond within 3 days of receiving the keys.

A tenant cannot start a claim in MyBond until three days after returning the keys or until after a reasonable time for the owner/agent to finalise their claim amounts.

For further tenancy information visit:

<https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/topics/housing/renting>

## Furniture and Electrical Appliance Rental

Rental of furniture and electrical appliances is available on both a short and long term basis. Clients may request full kits including all furniture, linen, appliances and cooking utensils or select individual items.

There are several companies in Hobart, the main operators include:

- + Rent The Roo - [www.renttheroo.com.au](http://www.renttheroo.com.au)
- + Oze Rentals - [www.ozerentals.com.au](http://www.ozerentals.com.au)
- + Mr Rental - [www.mrrental.com.au](http://www.mrrental.com.au)
- + Radio Rentals - [www.radio-rentals.com.au/](http://www.radio-rentals.com.au/)

## 5. Banking Services

Australia has an advanced banking system, comprising a number of operators covering the whole of Australia, plus other banks who specialise in individual states. Almost all Australian banks operate country-wide, and you will be able to access their facilities wherever you are in Australia.

Each bank will offer their own mix of accounts and facilities, and associated fees.

### Currency

Australia was the first country in the world to have a complete system of bank notes made from plastic (polymer). These notes provide much greater security against counterfeiting. They also last four times as long as conventional paper (fibrous) notes.

The innovative technology with which Australian bank notes are produced - developed entirely in Australia - offers artists brilliant scope for the creation of images that reflect the history and natural environment of Australia. At the same time, the polymer notes are cleaner than paper notes and easily recyclable.

Australia's currency comprises coins of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and one and two dollar denominations; and notes of 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollar denominations.

**ATMs** (automatic teller machines) are located outside banks, and at most shopping centres. It is usually free, with most major banks having recently eradicated fees which were charged if you used a different bank's ATM.

**EFTPOS** (electronic funds transfer at point of sale) i.e. paying for goods using your bankcard. Most banks and retail outlets offer this facility and the funds may be taken from your current, savings or credit account. The larger retailers normally let you draw extra cash out as well, with no charge. Almost all EFTPOS machines now allow you to use Pay Wave or Tap and Go functionality for purchases under \$100, meaning that you do not need to provide a PIN or signature, and speeding up transactions.

**Credit/Debit Cards** American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Diners Club are widely accepted, however American Express cards are accepted in fewer places than Visa and MasterCard.

**Internet banking** is now offered by most banks, enabling you to check balances, transfer money between accounts, pay bills (BPAY system) and so on.

### Opening a Bank Account

When you arrive in Australia, opening your bank account is straightforward. You will need to show your passport and resident's visa. You will also have to provide a tax file number at some stage so that any interest paid to you is not taxed before you receive it.

The Australian Banking sector is dominated by the following four major banks: ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, National Australia Bank and Westpac Banking Corporation.

It is possible to open an Australian bank account before leaving your home country. The following Australian banks have Migrant Banking Services available:

- + National Australia Bank – [www.nab.com.au/movingtoaustralia](http://www.nab.com.au/movingtoaustralia)
- + ANZ Bank – [www.anz.com/aus/personal/Moving-To-Australia](http://www.anz.com/aus/personal/Moving-To-Australia)
- + Commonwealth Bank – [www.commbank.com.au/movingtoaustralia](http://www.commbank.com.au/movingtoaustralia)
- + Westpac – <https://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/bank-accounts/moving-to-australia/>

## 6. Medical Services



### Medical Emergency Checklist

Prepare a medical emergency checklist based on the following (as a guide):

- + Emergency services numbers
- + Emergency contact person information
- + Doctor's name and contact details
- + Dentist's name and contact details
- + Health Insurance Information (plan/policy number etc.)
- + Medical history (allergies, medicines, medical problem etc.)
- + Special instructions (diet restrictions etc.)
- + Other emergency info (including home address/ phone number)

### What do I do in case of a Medical Emergency?

#### **DIAL 000 for Ambulance, Fire or Police**

A full list of emergency care can be found within the first few pages the telephone directory or for further information visit:

[www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/public-safety-and-law/emergency-services](http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/public-safety-and-law/emergency-services)

**Health Direct** provides free trusted health information and advice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Registered nurses are available to provide information and advice when you're not sure what to do – whether you should see a local GP, manage the condition at home, or go to an emergency department.

Free call: 1800 022 222 or visit [www.healthdirect.gov.au/healthdirect](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/healthdirect) for more information.

**Major public hospitals** around the Hobart metropolitan area provide 24-hour emergency care which is free to all Medicare card holders. A list of public hospitals that provide emergency and accident care can be found in the front of the telephone book, by visiting [health direct](http://healthdirect) or <https://healthengine.com.au/>

**Ambulances should only be called in case of an emergency**, and the ambulance will transport you to the nearest available emergency hospital appropriate to your circumstances.

### Australia's Health System

The Australian healthcare system is mixed. Responsibilities for healthcare are divided between the federal and state governments, and both the public and the private sectors play a role.

Government programs underpin the key aspects of healthcare. Medicare, which is funded out of general tax revenue, pays for hospital and medical services. Medicare covers all Australians and Permanent Residents, pays the entire cost of treatment in a public hospital, and reimburses for visits to doctors.

Australians and Permanent Residents are entitled to free treatment as public patients in public hospitals. Patients with private health insurance can access public hospitals but they will be charged out of pocket expenses. Private patients have the option to choose doctors responsible for their care, and the doctors charge the patient directly for their medical care.

## Who is eligible to access Medicare?

Medicare is Australia's publicly-funded universal health care system, operated by the government authority Medicare Australia. Medicare is intended to provide affordable treatment by doctors and in public hospitals for all resident citizens and permanent residents except for those on Norfolk Island. Residents with a Medicare card can receive subsidised treatment from medical practitioners who have been issued a Medicare provider number, and fully subsidised treatment in public hospitals. Visitors from countries which have reciprocal arrangements with Australia have limited access to Medicare.

For further information see:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>

## Which countries have a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) and access to Medicare? How Do I Enrol?

If you come from one of the countries listed, you are entitled to limited subsidised health services for **medically necessary** treatment while visiting Australia.

- + Belgium
- + Finland
- + Italy
- + Malta
- + Netherlands
- + New Zealand
- + Norway
- + Ireland
- + Slovenia
- + Sweden
- + United Kingdom

For more information on enrolment process, entitlements, coverage and other related information, go to <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/enablers/rhca-medical-care-visitors-australia>

## Private Health Insurance

Private health insurance is an important component of funding of health care in Australia. Being a private health insurance member allows you to be treated in a private or public hospital as a private patient. This means that you may be able to choose the doctor that treats you, the hospital you are treated in and a time for treatment that suits you. Private health insurance also provides cover for services not covered by Medicare such as physiotherapy, dental, optometry and podiatry services. Many people rely on private health insurance to access services they would otherwise be unable to afford.

For further details, please refer to the [www.privatehealth.gov.au](http://www.privatehealth.gov.au) website.

## I have applied for a 457 visa, who is responsible for arranging Health Insurance?

All subclass 457 visa applicants are required to show that they have made adequate arrangements for health insurance prior to the approval of their visa. The level of coverage is specified by the Department of Immigration particular to the 457 visa. There are a number of Australian health insurance companies that provide a tailored package to meet these requirements.

As well as being a criterion for the approval of the visa it is also a condition on all subclass 457 visas that the holder must maintain this level of insurance while holding the 457 visa. Visa holders who fail to comply with this condition during their stay in Australia may have their visas cancelled.

Some countries have reciprocal health agreements with Australia and can access Australia's Medicare system once they arrive. Applicants in this situation can satisfy the condition of having to maintain health insurance once they are enrolled in Medicare. WridgWays registered migration advisors can help you understand the health insurance requirement as it applies to your individual situation.



## Private Health Insurance Options for Overseas Visitors

A number of private health insurers provide health cover for overseas visitors. Benefits available, membership costs and eligibility can vary between insurers. Most overseas visitors' health cover products have limited cover for pharmaceuticals. Overseas visitors may face significant out of pocket costs if they need treatment with pharmaceuticals, particularly oncology (cancer treatment). Lifetime Health Cover and the private health insurance rebate are not applicable for overseas visitors' health cover. Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10% is applied to overseas visitors' health cover.

For further information, go to <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/private-1>

## Child Immunisation

Childhood immunisation is highly recommended but not compulsory and is carried out at various stages of the development of the child. The Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule is a free immunisation program and provides inoculation against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, mumps, measles and rubella. All are also available for children and adults.

The service is offered through all municipalities and a record of the procedure noted in your public records. For before-school immunisations, parents will generally take younger children to any of the public immunisation sessions held at local council offices. Once children reach school age, the local council's immunisation nurse will visit your child's school to carry out the immunisation program.

It is necessary to show proof of all immunisations before entrance is allowed into schools, so bring your child's immunisation records with you when enrolling.

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (the Immunisation Register) is a national online database containing information on the immunisation status of all children living in Australia who are under the age of seven years.

Further details regarding the national childhood immunisation schedule can be found at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

## Ambulance Cover

The Tasmanian government covers the cost of ambulance to Tasmanian residents who require treatment and or transport by ambulance within Tasmania and its islands. There are however some circumstances where you will not be covered. However, you will not be covered in all states of Australia. Ambulance travel when not covered is very expensive. Please see Tasmanian government site for information in more detail.

[https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ambulance/fees\\_and\\_accounts](https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ambulance/fees_and_accounts)

## The Sun and Skin Cancer

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, mostly caused by over exposure to UV radiation. Around 750,000 people are treated for skin cancer and over 2,000 people die from the disease every year.

Most Australian medical practitioners are experienced in checking for signs of skin cancer, which can include irregular moles or skin abnormalities. Regular checkups can help with early-detection and prevention of skin cancer, and your GP will be happy to discuss any concerns with you.

## When should I use sun protection in the Tasmania?

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. In 2011, more than 2000 Australians died from this almost entirely preventable disease.

Fortunately, being SunSmart is a simple and effective way to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer.

Whenever ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 (moderate) and above, sun protection is required. At that level UV radiation can damage your skin and eyes and lead to skin cancer.

To see what the UV levels are for the day and the times sun protection is needed, go to SunSmart UV Alert in the weather section of the daily newspaper or visit: [www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv](http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv)

During high UV periods, ensure you have adequate sun protection including clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, hats, and seek shade. For further details see: [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)

## Hospitals and Medical Practitioners

Public Hospitals	
Royal Hobart Hospital	<a href="https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/hospital/royal-hobart-hospital">https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/hospital/royal-hobart-hospital</a> 48 Liverpool Street, Hobart, TAS 7000 Ph: 03 6166 8308
Private Hospitals	
Resources for list of private hospitals	<a href="http://www.yellowpages.com.au">www.yellowpages.com.au</a> search 'Hospitals private'

Chiropractor	
Australian Chiropractors Association	<a href="https://members.chiro.org.au/">https://members.chiro.org.au/</a> National Office Toll free: 1800 075 003
Dentist	
Australian Dental Association – TAS Branch	<a href="https://www.ada.org.au/ADATAS/Home">https://www.ada.org.au/ADATAS/Home</a> Ph: 03 6248 1546
Doctor	
Australian Medical Association – TAS	<a href="https://tas.ama.com.au/">https://tas.ama.com.au/</a> AMA House, 147 Davey St, Hobart TAS 7000 Ph: 03 6223 2047
Massage and Natural Medicine Therapists	
Australian Traditional Medicine Society	<a href="http://www.atms.com.au">www.atms.com.au</a> Toll Free Ph: 1800 456 855
Australian National Therapists Association	<a href="http://www.anta.com.au">www.anta.com.au</a> Toll Free Ph: 1800 817 577
Optometrists	
Optometry TAS Optometrists Australia	<a href="https://www.optometry.org.au/about-us/our-organisation/optometry-tasmania/">https://www.optometry.org.au/about-us/our-organisation/optometry-tasmania/</a> Unit 1/295 Sandy Bay Road Sandy Bay, TAS 7005 Tel: 03 6224 3360

## 7. Schooling



Australian education has a strong international reputation for excellence. Whether you study at a university, school, vocational or English language institute, you will receive a quality education that will form a strong foundation for your child's future success.

Schooling in Australia starts with a kindergarten or preparatory year followed by 12 years of primary and secondary school. Children between the age of six and fifteen must attend school. In the final year of secondary school, Year 12, you can study for a government-endorsed certificate (in Tasmania, the TCE Tasmanian Certificate of Education) that is recognised by all Australian universities and vocational education and training institutions. This Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is also recognised by many international universities.

Information and ratings on all schools in Australia (public and private) is available at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

Tasmania is well served by good schools throughout all communities. Schools belong in one of three main sectors:

- + Government (Public) Schools
- + Catholic Schools
- + Independent Schools

### Government schools (also commonly referred to as public schools)

Government Schools make up the largest sector, with just under two thirds of enrolments. The great achievement of government schools throughout Australia is to provide high quality, democratic education for everyone in the local region, irrespective of their means or background. There are public schools available to all residents, where education is free, however, parents must supply their children with books, uniforms and study material, and are often asked to pay "voluntary" annual fees. The majority of public schools are co-educational (both boys and girls).

### Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools form the next largest sector and provide Catholic education across the state to any Catholic students enrolled, regardless of their means. Most Catholic schools belong to a system like government schools, and attempt to provide Catholic education evenly across the states through mainly co-education (both boys and girls) schools. These schools are also known as systemic. Systemic Catholic schools are funded mainly by government and have low fees. There are also a large number of independent Catholic schools, often single-sex, usually run by established religious orders. Catholic Schools are bound by the same regulatory and curriculum requirements as all other schools. Schools may be co-educational (both boys and girls) or single sex. Some of the single sex schools may have a 'brother' or 'sister' school to share in after hours activities.

## Independent Schools (also commonly referred to as private schools)

Independent schools are also often referred to as 'private schools'.

Independent Schools are non-government schools, i.e. fee paying or 'private' schools. Most have their own boards responsible for the operation of the school including fundraising, spending, staff employment and disciplinary code. Many are under the auspices of religious foundations such as Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Church of England. However, many of these schools do not expect families to subscribe to any particular faith or religious allegiance. All independent schools receive some government funding; however, there are a broad range of fees which can be quite high.

Schools may be co-educational (both boys and girls) or single sex schools. Some of the single sex schools may have a 'brother' or 'sister' school to share in after hours activities.

## International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Course is the premier course for internationally mobile students throughout the world. It is valued everywhere for its portability. Successful students are sought by every major Australian and overseas University.

Based in Switzerland, the organisation has almost 1000 schools worldwide offering the two-year Diploma Course. There are a number of schools offering the course in Hobart and throughout Australia.

For those International Baccalaureate students wishing to do Tertiary studies in Australia, Universities have made special provisions within their selection procedures to incorporate requirements specifically related to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Course.

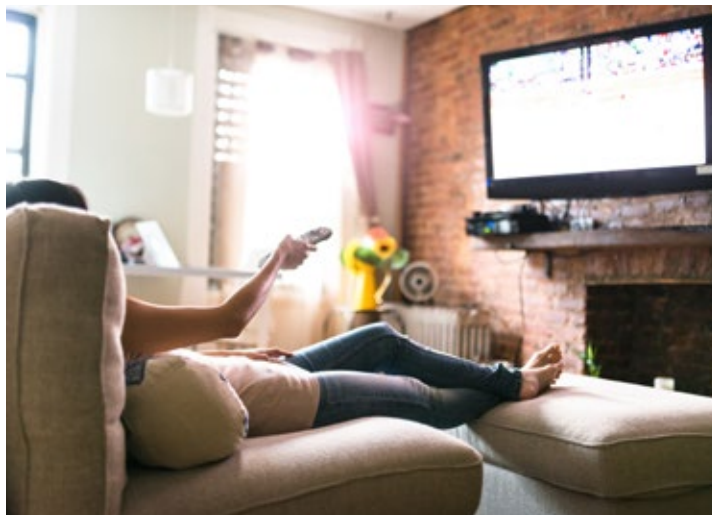
There are 24 government and non-government schools in Australia offering the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO). Only schools officially approved by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) are authorised to offer the two-year pre-university curriculum for students aged between 16 and 19 years of age.

Many students within and outside of Australia take the IB Diploma for admission to leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region. However, students considering a vocational career path should discuss their options with the school.

Further information is available at: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)



## 8. Utilities



### Electricity and Gas Suppliers

In Hobart, consumers are able to select which electricity and gas supplier they would like to obtain their energy from. You can either use the same company for both, or separate companies for gas and electricity. Some suppliers require consumers to take a contract for 12 or 24 months, whereas others do not lock you into any contractual arrangements, but you may find that their energy costs are slightly higher.

Electricity is supplied throughout Australia at 230 volts (50 hertz). You will likely need an adaptor/converter for your devices, chargers, and other electronic equipment.

Most electrical stores in Hobart will be able to help you out with these requirements once you arrive, if you have not acquired the necessary adaptors already.

### Water and Sewage

Tas Water, wholly owned by the Tasmanian State Government, manages Tasmania's water supply catchments, sewage, rivers and major drainage systems.

### Pay TV

There are a few options available for subscription based television in Hobart, with Foxtel and Netflix being a few of the most popular. For further details see:

- + Foxtel - [www.foxtel.com.au](http://www.foxtel.com.au)
- + Optus Yes TV - [www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)
- + Fetch - [www.fetchtv.com.au](http://www.fetchtv.com.au)
- + Netflix - [www.netflix.com/au/](http://www.netflix.com/au/)
- + Stan - [www.stan.com.au](http://www.stan.com.au)

## 9. Telecommunications



### Phoning in/out of Hobart

The Australian country code is +61 and the Hobart STD area code is 03.

When calling from outside of Australia, leave out the leading '0' from the STD area code or from the mobile telephone number.

Fixed line example calling Hobart from outside Australia:  
+61 3 (local eight digit number).

**E.g. +61 3 1234 5678**

Example calling a mobile from outside Australia:  
+61 4 (following eight digits of the mobile number)

**E.g. +61 4 1234 5678**

The outgoing IDD access code from within Australia is 0011.

### Telephone and Internet

Some of the major telephone and internet providers include:

- + Telstra - [www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au)
- + Optus - [www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)
- + Iprimus - [www.iprimus.com.au](http://www.iprimus.com.au)
- + Dodo - [www.dodo.com.au](http://www.dodo.com.au)
- + Virgin Mobile - [www.virginmobile.com.au](http://www.virginmobile.com.au)
- + Netspace - [www.netspace.net.au](http://www.netspace.net.au)
- + iinet - [www.iinet.net.au](http://www.iinet.net.au)

### Mobile Phone Providers

There are hundreds of choices of mobile phone plans and packages, and you will need to assess what is the best package to suit your personal usage and requirements. Some of the major mobile phone providers include:

- + Telstra - [www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au)
- + Optus - [www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)
- + Vodafone - [www.vodafone.com.au](http://www.vodafone.com.au)
- + Virgin - [www.virginmobile.com.au](http://www.virginmobile.com.au)
- + Dodo - [www.dodo.com.au](http://www.dodo.com.au)

Many operators provide bundle discounts if you put all your services with them i.e. internet, home phone and mobile phone services. It is also important to note that the two primary carriers, Telstra and Optus will be used by almost all of the other providers, with Telstra having slightly better coverage than Optus. If you plan to spend time in regional areas you may want to ensure you use one of the many providers utilising the Telstra network.

## 10. Public Transport



### Public transport overview

The whole coastline of Tasmania is populated. The majority of the population is in Hobart, followed by Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. The public transport network of buses runs between and in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. This network is called Metro Tasmania and is a government business enterprise. Devonport has a privately owned bus network called Merseylink coaches.

The bus services offered usually runs from 6am and people can use it until around 10.30pm. Buses run throughout the city and suburbs. There are park and ride services available.

For all your transport information needs within the Hobart area, contact the Transport Infoline.

Tel: 13 22 01 or Website: <https://www.metrotas.com.au/>

### Purchasing Tickets

The public transport system used in Hobart and the greater metropolitan region is called Greencard and uses a smartcard ticketing system. Simply add value to your Greencard, then tap on and tap off to pay your fares anywhere within the Greencard network.

You can obtain a Greencard in a number of different ways:

- + by registering online at:  
<https://www.metrotas.com.au/fares/greencard/>
- + at a Metro depot or Metro agent retailer (select convenience stores), visit <https://www.metrotas.com.au/fares/greencard/greencard-agents/> to find a location near you
- + Metro Shop Located on the ground floor at 22 Elizabeth Street in the Hobart City bus mall. The Metro Shop is open 8am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

## Air Travel

Qantas, Virgin Australia and Jetstar are the major domestic carriers and Rex (Regional Express) operates within Tasmania.

The **Qantas** Group operates an extensive network serving Australia and 40 other countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, the UK, Europe and southern Africa.

**Jetstar** is one of Australia's low fares airline with the aim to provide consistent low fares to Australian and New Zealand leisure travellers. Jetstar is wholly owned by Qantas but is managed separately and operates independently.

**Virgin Australia** commenced operations in August 2000, with headquarters in Brisbane, is part owned by Richard Branson of Virgin Atlantic. Virgin Australia has grown to become one of the largest, low cost price airlines in Australia.

### What is available for international travel?

Although Hobart airport is known as an international airport, international flights ceased into and out of Hobart in 1998. At present the international terminal is used solely by Skytraders for flights to Antarctica and occasional charter airline flights. Depending on where you are travelling to, you would need to go through one of the states in Australia that has an international airport to get to your international destination.

## Main Airport Location

Hobart Airport is located in the Hobart suburb of Cambridge. It is 18km (11 miles) south west of the city centre. Getting to the city from Hobart Airport (or vice versa) is easiest by bus or car.

The terminal has four parking bays. It can accommodate narrow-body (Boeing 737/Airbus A320-sized) aircraft, overlaid by two positions for small wide-body (Boeing 767-sized) aircraft. The terminal has a Qantas Club lounge, as well as a couple of shops and cafes.

## What transport options are available to and from the airport?

When travelling to and from the Airport, there are a number of options available:

- + Taxi
- + Car Rental
- + Bus
- + Ride-Sharing

Every arrival at Hobart Airport is met by taxis that will take passengers into Hobart city. The trip will take around 20 minutes.

There are eight rental companies located inside the arrivals terminal. You can rent a car, campervan or a motor home.

Skybus Hobart Express provides fast and low-cost airport transfers departing every 30 minutes daily, 7 days a week all year round to the heart of Hobart City. Tickets are available online through the SkyBus website: <https://www.skybus.com.au/>

Alternatively, you can purchase tickets at the e-kiosks conveniently located next to the luggage carousels. Skybus Hobart Express is a "turn up and go" service which means bookings are not necessary.

Uber is now available at Hobart Airport. To request a ride use the Uber app and meet your driver at the designated pick up area in the pick-up, drop off lane.



## How do I catch a Taxi (cab)?

Hobart taxis are numerous and easy to spot and are generally either yellow or silver. Drivers must always wear a neat uniform and have an identity card on show at all times. Hobart taxis can also be booked online or via your mobile app. For more information, see <https://www.13cabs.com.au>.

Taxis have their own taxi ranks in Hobart or can be hailed from the street. From 10pm to 6am higher tariffs apply. Hobart taxis are numerous and easy to spot. As well, drivers must always wear a neat uniform and have an identity card on show at all times. All taxis in Hobart must have security cameras installed, to protect drivers and passengers.

## Hailing a cab

Cabs often wait in designated ranks that are clearly signposted at central locations like major hotels in the CBD. You can also hail a taxi in the street if the rooftop light is illuminated, it means the taxi is available for hire. Or you can book a taxi online or by telephone.

## Fares and surcharges

Taxi meters are usually clearly visible, so you can keep check of your fare. Many operators will feature calculators on their apps or websites to give you an indication of your fare.

Late night taxi trips must be paid for in advance. Between 10pm and 6am, a surcharge applies and the driver may ask you for an up-front deposit, based on a table of point to point estimates. You can use the fare estimator to work out what your up-front costs are likely to be. Hobart cabs attract additional charges if your trip starts at the Hobart airport. If you soil a taxi you might have to pay a soiling fee of up to \$70. This is for the cost of cleaning the taxi. If you pay by a non-cash method, such as credit card or cabcharge, the driver may charge you a surcharge of up to 10% of the fare.

**Uber** is another common option for transportation. Whether you're headed to work, the airport, or out on the town, Uber connects you with a reliable ride in minutes. Once you have downloaded the app and created an account, you can use this whenever you like to book a car which comes directly to you. Your driver will know exactly where to go, and you will know the cost of the ride before it even begins, with the fee deducted from your account once the ride is complete. For more information, see: <https://www.uber.com/en-AU/cities/hobart/>

## 11. Driving



### Driving Overview

The most important rule for those new to Australia is that you drive on the left-hand side of the road. You must also wear a seatbelt and have your licence with you when you're driving (you'll be fined if you don't). In Tasmania (TAS), the speed limit on the open road rises to 100km/hr.

For information about driving in Hobart and Tasmania, visit the Transport Tasmania website:

<https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/>

Many visitors choose to use GPS and mapping apps on their phones or smart devices to navigate the city and its surrounds, which is often the most efficient way to get around. Please note that there are many regional areas that do not have 4G coverage, meaning that maps may not always be available if you have not downloaded them. You may want to pick up physical maps which are regularly provided for free from visitor centres before adventures in more remote areas.

### Which Street Directory should I purchase?

There is one option available with regard to street directories for Hobart and Tasmania. Street Directories can be purchased from newsagents, bookstores, petrol stations, corner stores, or online.

**UBD** – UBD is at the forefront of the mapping industry and is Australia's leading brand in street directories. Along with the yearly publication of six capital city street directories, UBD also publishes numerous regional and country cities and towns street directories. A variety of maps, atlases, guides and DVDs complete the UBD family.

## I am an International Driver, do I need a local Tasmanian license?

Your overseas home driver's licence or an international driver's licence (provided it is a current licence) will be sufficient for the first three months in Australia, as long as it has photo ID and it's for the same class of vehicle you intend to drive. It also needs to be in English or you must have an English translation attached to the licence. If you're staying more than three months, you'll need to get a Tasmanian licence.

The recognition of licences from certain countries was agreed nationally and commenced in Tasmania on 20 May 2002. When converting your overseas licence to a Tasmanian licence, if you hold an acceptable driver or rider licence from one of the recognised countries below, you will be exempt from the driver/rider knowledge test, and the practical driving/riding test.

Recognised countries:

- + Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark
- + Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guernsey
- + Ireland, Isle of Man (licences issued since 1 April 1991), Italy, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg
- + Malta (licences issued since 2 January 2004), Netherlands, New Zealand (except where a paper licence is presented), Norway, Portugal
- + Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA

If you do hold a licence from a recognised country above and are exempt from licensing tests, it is recommended that you read the Tasmanian Road Rules Handbook: [https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road\\_safety\\_and\\_rules/road\\_rules/tasmanian\\_road\\_rules/tasmanian\\_road\\_rules\\_booklet](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road_safety_and_rules/road_rules/tasmanian_road_rules/tasmanian_road_rules_booklet)

Further information is available at: [https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/interstate\\_or\\_overseas\\_licences](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/interstate_or_overseas_licences)

## What are the speed limits and road rules?

Be sure to familiarise yourself with the rules of the road before driving. In Australia we drive on the left-hand side of the road. Tasmania observes the same driving laws and regulations as the rest of Australia. Some key rules to note are:

- + Vehicles travel on the left hand side of the road
- + Wearing of seatbelts is compulsory for all passengers
- + When approaching roundabouts you must give way to vehicles already in the roundabout. Always use the left hand indicator prior to exiting
- + U-Turns are not permitted at traffic lights unless there is a displayed 'U-turn permitted' sign
- + You are required to give way to a public bus and always be alert when approaching a railway crossing, country trains do not always run to schedule
- + It is illegal to talk on your mobile phone if you are driving
- + Drivers must maintain a blood/alcohol level below 0.05 per cent, in order to drive within the legal limit.

Tasmania has severe penalties for anyone caught driving under the influence of alcohol or other drug stimulants.

If there are no speed limit signs, Tasmania has default limits that you must obey. The default speed limits are:

School Zone	40km/h
Built-up areas	50km/h
Unsealed roads, outside built-up areas	80km/h
Sealed road, outside a built-up area	100km/h

The Tasmanian Police Service employs radar and other speed monitoring devices, and fines are enforceable – even for visitors.

International road signs are in use in most parts of the state. If you do not immediately understand the meaning of the sign, you should proceed with caution. A Stop sign means just that – stop completely before the white line and give way to traffic to the right and left prior to proceeding. You need not fully stop at a Give Way sign but you must give way to traffic both ways.

Further information is available at:

[https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/publications/tasmanian\\_road\\_rules](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/publications/tasmanian_road_rules)

## Long distance driving

Caution should be taken if you are not used to long distance driving. The long stretches of road, and wide open spaces can lead to unintentional speeding, so you need to be aware. And for drivers not used to the conditions, and not taking adequate rest breaks, the combination of warm sun through the windscreen, long, straight sections of road, the soothing hum of wheels and lack of traffic, can have a hypnotic effect. Frequent stops and coffee breaks are recommended for anyone undertaking long distances, to refresh the driver and provide passengers with an opportunity to stretch their legs and have a look around.

## Watch out for Animals!

Many collisions in country Tasmania are vehicle versus animal. Even a minor collision with an animal can disable your vehicle and require expensive repairs.

Tasmania has plenty of native wildlife, so new drivers in the region need to be watchful for roaming animals such as kangaroos, wallabies, possums and birds that settle on the road. Wildlife is more active around dusk and dawn and are often confused by the sound of a vehicle, running towards the sound instead of away from it. The most effective way to keep the local wildlife and yourselves safe is to reduce your speed (particularly at dusk and dawn), and to be aware of the unpredictable nature of native animals.

If a large animal such as a kangaroo suddenly appears on the road in front of you, brake firmly and sound your horn. Do not try to swerve around the animal as you are likely to run onto the gravel verge and lose control or roll over.

If you do hit a large animal and kill it, try to remove the carcass from the road for the safety of other motorists. Injured animals are unpredictable, so take care when handling them. Be wary of the tail and rear legs of kangaroos as they can cause serious injury. Use towels and rugs for smaller animals.

## What is the law regarding seat belts and child restraints?

### National child restraint laws

- + Children up to the age of six months must be secured in an approved rearward facing restraint
- + Children aged from six months old but under four years old must be secured in either a rear or forward facing approved child restraint with an inbuilt harness
- + Children under four years old cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows
- + Children aged from four years old but under seven years old must be secured in a forward facing approved child restraint with an inbuilt harness or an approved booster seat. Children aged from four years old but under seven years old cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in an approved child restraint or booster seat
- + Children aged from seven years old but under 16 years old who are too small to be restrained by a seatbelt properly adjusted and fastened are strongly recommended to use an approved booster seat
- + Children in booster seats must be restrained by a suitable lap and sash type approved seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened, or by a suitable approved child safety harness that is properly adjusted and fastened.

If your child is too small for the child restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in their current child restraint until it is safe for them to move to the next level.

If your child is too large for the child restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of child restraint.

\*Source: <https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/roadsafety/people/carseats>

### Do we need a child restraint in a Taxi?

It is the law that all children travelling in a motor vehicle who are under 7 years of age, be restrained in a suitable restraint that is properly adjusted and fastened. A ride-source vehicle is just like any other private car and requires child restraints to be installed to transport children under 7. The driver of a ride-sourcing service, such as a taxi or uber, does not have an exemption from the child restraint laws and so must comply with all of the requirements for children up to 16 years of age.

Some ride-sourcing services may provide a car seat for a surcharge and others do not, so be sure to check with the company before booking. If you do not notify the company that a child will be travelling with you then they may refuse service on pick up if you do not supply a child restraint yourself.

It is recommended that parents provide their own child car seat when travelling in a taxi.

\* Source: <https://www.childcarseats.com.au/who-we-are>



## Tollways in Hobart

Currently Tasmania does not have any Tollways.

## Parking

Hobart has many parking meters and parking lots, though in peak times (Monday-Friday) it can be hard to find space for your vehicle. Most CBD streets and inner suburban shopping strips have new parking metres installed that offer mobile payment via an app called EasyPark, they accept credit card, Apple Pay or coins at the meter. (there are hefty fines if you let the meter expire). For parking lots in the city, depending on location, expect to pay around \$1.20 – \$4.00 per hour, these rates will differ on weekends and public holidays and may be capped at 3 hours.

There is free parking in Sandy Bay and Battery Point which are not far from the centre of Hobart.

For more information on parking in Hobart, visit: <https://www.hobartcity.com.au/City-services/Parking/How-to-pay-for-parking>

## Parking Signs

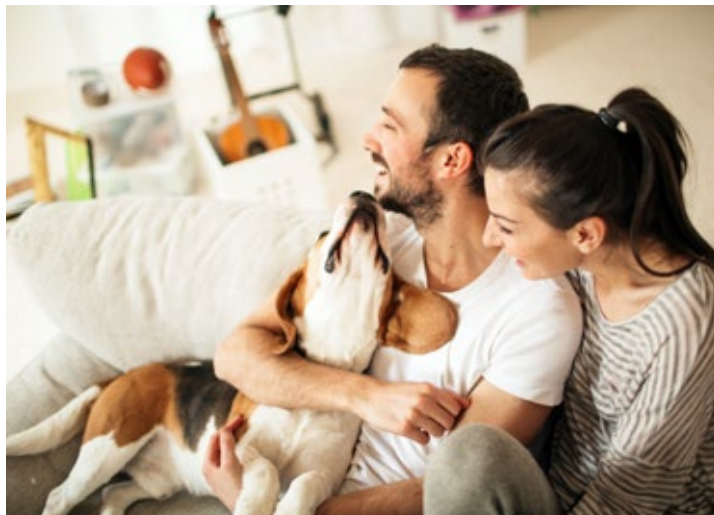
There are a range of parking signs that you will see in Hobart and around Australia. Australian Standard parking signs that are easier to read and understand have been introduced in Tasmania and progressively to the rest of Australia.

Local Councils are responsible for parking signs. You should contact your Council regarding any parking issues. Parking ticket inspectors are widespread so it is important to follow all parking signs and restrictions – not doing so could get you a hefty fine.

## Car Rental Options

Hobart has plenty of local and international car rental firms, offering a variety of vehicles and deals. The minimum age to rent a car is generally 25 years old, however some outlets will hire cars to under 25s, although surcharges and restrictions may apply. The main rental companies are Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz and Thrifty.

## 12. Moving your Pet



### Pet transport

Bringing your pet into Australia can be quite involved and requires serious consideration. The regulations pertaining to pet importation to Australia vary, depending on the country of origin.

WridgWays can arrange our trusted pet relocation partner to carefully plan your pet's relocation anywhere worldwide. If you require this assistance let your Wridgways Consultant know and they will arrange our pet relocation specialist to contact you to provide advice, guidance and reassurance every step of the way.

Information on importing dogs and cats into Australia, including information sheets, quarantine fees, application process, approved countries, and quarantine accommodation is available from <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs>

### Do I need to register my Pet?

State Government law requires every dog and cat to be registered with their local Council. A range of fees apply and typically discount fees apply for de-sexed cats and dogs. A registered animal is given an identification tag that should be worn at all times.

### What is Pet Micro-chipping?

Microchipping is a permanent form of identification for your pet. Inserting a microchip is like a vaccination, it only takes a few seconds. The procedure is very safe and your pet will feel little pain. Once done, your pet's details, your contact address and phone numbers are entered on a national database.

Collars can fall off or be removed and details on pet tags can fade or become outdated. Inserting a microchip means your pet can be easily identified by a ranger, animal shelter or veterinarian regardless of the situation. Once identified, you can be contacted immediately and informed of the location of your pet.

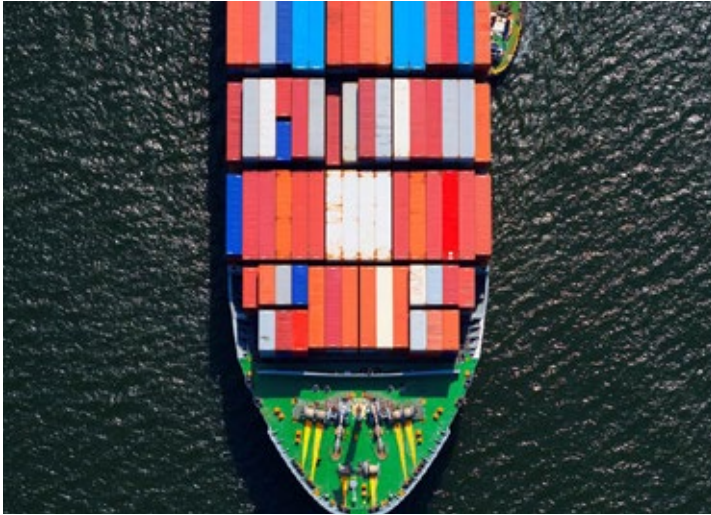
If your pet has been stolen and then later recovered, ownership of your pet can be challenged. Microchipping is the only way you can prove ownership of your pet (and yes this does happen).

Microchips are inserted at veterinary clinics.  
Some councils will also run pet micro-chipping sessions.

### Do I need to have my pet vaccinated?

It is not compulsory to vaccinate your pet, however, to safeguard your pet from potentially serious diseases, vaccinations are recommended. Dogs are typically vaccinated against: Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Parvovirus and the serious respiratory infection, Canine Cough. Your dog may require two vaccinations so that they are fully protected. Adult dogs often require an annual vaccination booster.

## 13. Household Goods Shipment and Customs Information



### Quarantine - Prohibited items into Australia

Due to strict Australian quarantine and customs regulations, there are various items that are prohibited from entering Australia. We have listed some of these items to assist you.

Should you have any specific questions relating to prohibited items into Australia, please ask your WridgWays Global consultant.

When importing goods into Australia all foodstuffs should not be included. Equally important, all traces of soil and other foreign matter should be removed from items such as vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers, golf clubs, garden tools, wheelbarrows, etc. prior to your removal uplift day.

The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) maintains a high level of physical inspections on incoming consignments into Australia of personal and household effects. AQIS applies a fee for services accordingly and these fees are recovered from the importer upon arrival of the consignment in Australia. Fumigation and other AQIS inspection treatments will also attract a fee.

To clear your goods through Australian Customs you will need to complete the relevant form and provide a photocopy of your current passport. This can be done either in Australia or at your point of origin.

### Prohibited Goods - The following goods must be declared:

- + Seeds and nuts - includes commercially packaged seeds, seed ornaments and necklaces (some seeds are prohibited), nuts out of shell such as salted nuts, in foil or roasted. Also includes raw unroasted nuts, raw peanuts, chestnuts and popping corn
- + Plant products - straw packaging, wooden articles, artifacts, handicrafts and curios - includes wreaths and decorations made of cereal or grain, articles stuffed with seeds or straw, carvings, items made from palm fronds or leaves (items made from banana leaves are prohibited)
- + Animal products - includes any items made with rawhide, such as drums, shields, artifacts, dog chews; and any treated skins, hides, furs, hair or feathers (some may be prohibited under international wildlife legislation)
- + Food - includes cooked, uncooked and ingredients
- + Dried or fresh fruit and vegetables. Includes all fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables
- + Herbs and spices of any kind - includes herbal medicines and remedies, tonics, teas
- + Biscuits, cakes and confectionery - includes chocolate, sweets, crisps, nuts, pretzels
- + Noodles and rice - includes processed and instant meals (noodles containing meat are prohibited)
- + Teas, coffees, and milk based drinks
- + Bamboo, cane or rattan basket ware and mats - including coconut carvings, cane baskets

- + Wooden articles - includes painted and lacquered items
- + Dried flower arrangements and fresh flowers and leis - (flowers that can be propagated such as roses, carnations and chrysanthemums, are prohibited)
- + Pine cones and potpourri - includes natural and decorative products such as wreaths
- + Shells or coral in any form - includes jewelry, curios and souvenirs (some may be prohibited under international wildlife legislation)
- + Feathers, bones, horns and tusks - must be clean and free of blood, skin, dung or soil
- + Stuffed animals - must be accompanied by a certificate stating that they have been prepared by a taxidermist (some may be prohibited under international wildlife legislation)
- + Wool (unprocessed) and animal hair - includes yarns, crafted rugs and clothing. Wool must be scoured and hair cleaned
- + Animal equipment (used) - includes clothing, footwear, grooming and veterinary equipment, saddles, bridles and birdcages
- + Sporting and camping equipment - includes tents, footwear, hiking boots, golfing equipment and bicycles
- + Bee products
- + Dairy, eggs and egg products includes whole, dried and powdered egg and some products with egg as an ingredient (infant formula accompanying an infant, and NZ dairy products are allowed)
- + Live animals includes birds, birds' eggs, fish, reptiles and insects
- + Meat and meat products includes all uncanned or fresh, dried, frozen, smoked or salted meat
- + Live plants includes cuttings, roots, bulbs, corns, rhizomes and stems
- + Handicrafts and souvenirs that contain or are made from seeds
- + Salmon and trout products - ask about special import conditions (canned salmon is allowed)
- + Biological materials - includes human/animal vaccines and therapeutic goods (ask about special import conditions)
- + Deer horn/velvet, edible birds nest packaged products - deer horn and/or antler from NZ are allowed (with certification)
- + Soil and sand - includes items filled with soil or sand (rocks free of soil and sand are allowed)

NOTE: Information in this guide is correct at the time of publishing. Quarantine conditions may change without notice. For accurate and detailed information, please visit <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/>

## Vehicle Transport

When importing a vehicle into Australia, you are required to obtain a Vehicle Import Approval which is a document issued by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development that grants permission for a road vehicle to be imported into Australia. It is required to enable the vehicle to clear Australian Customs.

Further information is available from:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/vehicles-machinery>

[https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/process\\_overview.aspx](https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/process_overview.aspx)

[https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how\\_to\\_apply.aspx](https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how_to_apply.aspx)



## 14. Shopping



### Shopping in Hobart Overview

The main shopping mall in Hobart is Elizabeth Street Mall, a pedestrian mall which runs between Collins Street and Liverpool Street in the Central Business District (CBD). Try exploring Hobart's laneways, arcades and smaller side streets for the more quirky shopping options; Hobart's CBD is safe and easy to walk around.

Shopping centres include Centrepont Shopping Centre, located on Murray Street and Cat and Fiddle Arcade.

If fresh produce is what you are looking for, there are many local markets, selling an array of fresh produce and arts, craft and clothing; including the world famous Salamanca market.

Other areas close to the CBD have a good retail options. Sandy Bay to the south, is renowned for fashion boutiques. Glenorchy and Bellerive also have a number of retail options.

Almost all outlets accept major credit cards such as MasterCard, Visa, AMEX and Diners, with most other stores also accepting Maestro or Cirrus electronic network debit cards.

### Usual Opening Hours

Store hours in Hobart vary with city shops generally open from 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. On Thursday and Friday most shops will remain open until 9pm. Saturday and Sunday opening hours in the CBD and shopping centres are generally from 9am to 5pm. As some stores in the city may not open on Sunday it is best to call and check.

Shopping hours change prior to Christmas, with many shops remaining open in the evenings and on Sunday when they would usually be closed. In summer, it is common for shops outside of the city centre to stay open longer.

On public holidays many shops will be closed, however in areas such as the CBD and large shopping centres trading will normally continue. Most businesses and shops will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



## Furniture Purchase

There are numerous large chain furniture shops across Hobart as well as many independent furniture retailers. Some of the main furniture retailers include:

- + Harvey Norman - [www.harveynorman.com.au](http://www.harveynorman.com.au)
- + Freedom - [www.freedom.com.au](http://www.freedom.com.au)
- + Amart Furniture - [www.amartfurniture.com.au](http://www.amartfurniture.com.au)
- + Fantastic Furniture - [www.fantasticfurniture.com.au](http://www.fantasticfurniture.com.au)
- + Forty Winks (Beds) - [www.fortywinks.com.au](http://www.fortywinks.com.au)

## Electrical Goods and Appliances

There are several large chain electrical goods and appliance retailers as well as many independent retailers.

The major players include:

- + The Good Guys - [www.thegoodguys.com.au](http://www.thegoodguys.com.au)
- + JB Hifi - [www.jbhifi.com.au](http://www.jbhifi.com.au)
- + RetraVision - [www.retravision.com.au](http://www.retravision.com.au)
- + Betta Electrical - [www.betta.com.au](http://www.betta.com.au)
- + Harvey Norman - [www.harveynorman.com.au](http://www.harveynorman.com.au)

## Food Shopping

There are two main supermarket chains in Australia – Coles and Safeway/Woolworths, and a further three smaller operators – Aldi, IGA (Independent Grocers of Australia) and Foodworks.

Coles and Woolworths are the biggest supermarkets and will typically offer the largest selection of items. You are typically able to purchase all food items at the supermarket and could in effect do all your shopping at these stores.

Many consumers buy fresh produce at local fruit and vegetable shops, butchers, bakers etc, or at markets. Each main shopping strip will typically have a green grocer, butcher, and bakery.

The main supermarkets are:

- + Coles - [www.coles.com.au](http://www.coles.com.au)
- + Safeway/Woolworths - [www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au)
- + Aldi - [www.aldi.com.au](http://www.aldi.com.au)
- + IGA - [www.iga.com.au](http://www.iga.com.au)
- + Foodworks - [www.foodworks.com.au](http://www.foodworks.com.au)



For more details on how WridgWays Global  
can assist you visit [wridgways.com.au](http://wridgways.com.au)

#### **About Us**

We manage thousands of removals throughout Australia and across the globe annually for a multitude of domestic, corporate and government organisations.

WridgWays philosophy of complete honesty and integrity is reflected in the number of repeat customers that we service each year and the high rate of referrals received.

The consultative approach of our customer service representatives ensures that they fully understand the dimensions of a project and the needs of customers before recommending the best solutions - after all we have a strong respect for our customers' property and personal circumstances and we know that no two relocations are ever the same.