

# A NEW LIFE IN... HOBART



Tasmania's capital city is both hip and contemporary with plenty of exciting cultural attractions, yet the cost of living is very attractive, writes **Jenny Wells**

The former fishing port has grown into a diverse and beautiful city



When people think about moving to Australia they often focus on the big cities such as Melbourne and Sydney, but if you are looking for some of Australia's most beautiful landscape and some of the least expensive real estate then there is another option.

Tasmania is the most southerly Australian state and is an island of some 68,000 square kilometres separated from the mainland by the Bass Strait.

Nestled at the foot of Mount Wellington and situated on the estuary of the Derwent River sits Hobart, Australia's second oldest city. Established as a whaling port in 1803; this beautiful fishing port has grown into a diverse and extremely livable city.

In Hobart you can find a wonderful cultural heritage, beautiful scenery, a dynamic arts and cultural scene, amazing Tasmanian produce, alongside superb sporting events. Hobart is a hip and contemporary city which offers so much and yet the cost of living is very attractive.

## LAIID-BACK LIFESTYLE

Living in Hobart is low on stress and big on enjoyment, whether it be relaxing with a coffee on the waterfront, exploring the iconic Salamanca Market, immersing yourself in the exhibitions of the MONA gallery, feasting on Tasmanian salmon, cheeses, chocolate and wine or discovering the beauty of Tasmania in one of the island's 19 national parks.

If you are not keen on very hot weather you will find that the climate in >>>



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The Hobart skyline, as seen from Bellerive on the Eastern Shore

Hobart is cooler than the rest of Australia and has four distinct seasons. The summer months of December, January and February sees the warmer temperatures averaging 21 degrees Celsius. The evenings are cool but warm enough to enjoy the outdoors.

The Taste of Tasmania Festival and the annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race are key summer events which bring an exciting atmosphere to the city and where the temperature is perfect! The autumn months of March, April and May see beautiful wild flowers erupt around Hobart and locals and tourists alike find it is one of the best seasons to sample fresh Tasmanian produce.

In winter, June, July and August, temperatures can fall to between 3-12 degrees, which brings with it the Antarctica Mid-Winter Festival and Chocolate Winterfest. It is also the best time to do some whale watching. Spring again brings beautiful flowers and this is when locals revisit the national parks and enjoy Tasmania in bloom.

**GETTING AROUND**

With only around 217,000 people living in Hobart, traffic is not such an issue as with other big Australian cities and most public transport is by bus.

Travel on the buses is relatively cheap and there is also a ferry service which runs during the week from Bellerive as well as a water taxi service which runs along the Derwent River. If you are a keen cyclist you will find there are many cycle lanes to encourage this means of transport.

**FINDING WORK**

There are a number of skill shortages in Tasmania and this is true for Hobart also.



Hobart Wharf, where a lot of fun festival action takes place

Hobart is the commercial and business centre for Tasmania and has a diverse economy. The largest industry sector is Public Administration followed by Health Care and Social Assistance. Metal production is one of Tasmania's main contributors to the economy and for Hobart one of the main metal producers is a zinc processor.

The great range of education providers within Hobart, such as the University of Tasmania, offer opportunities for those in the Education sector. Employers such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research organisation and the Menzies Institute offer opportunities for those in the professional, scientific and technical services industry, whilst retail and tourism are also among the top industry sectors.

Tourism is growing and with regular cruise ships visiting Hobart it is not surprising that there are plenty of opportunities for those working in food and hospitality.

Job seekers should access the free mobile app 'Applocation Australia', which gives tips on finding employment and guides you to useful websites. Tasmania is keen to encourage business people and entrepreneurs and is willing to support their migration.

**EDUCATION**

There are excellent education options in Hobart with around 51 schools. Most schools are government schools as well as numerous Catholic schools with a selection of independent schools also. Visit [www.australianschoolsdirectory.com](http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com).



The University of Tasmania's Centenary Building

[au/hobart-schools.php](http://au/hobart-schools.php) to see the range of schools available.

Any child who is at least five years old as of 1 January in any year must be enrolled in full-time Prep at a school or at four years old as of 1 January can start at kindergarten. The school year runs from February through to mid December.

Students can leave school at the end of year 10 but there is a strong move to encourage students to stay on through years 11 and 12 for Senior Secondary to sit for their Tasmanian Certificate of Education. Find out more information at [www.aussierelocation.com](http://www.aussierelocation.com). For those choosing to go on to university, the University of Tasmania in Hobart is one of Australia's oldest universities.

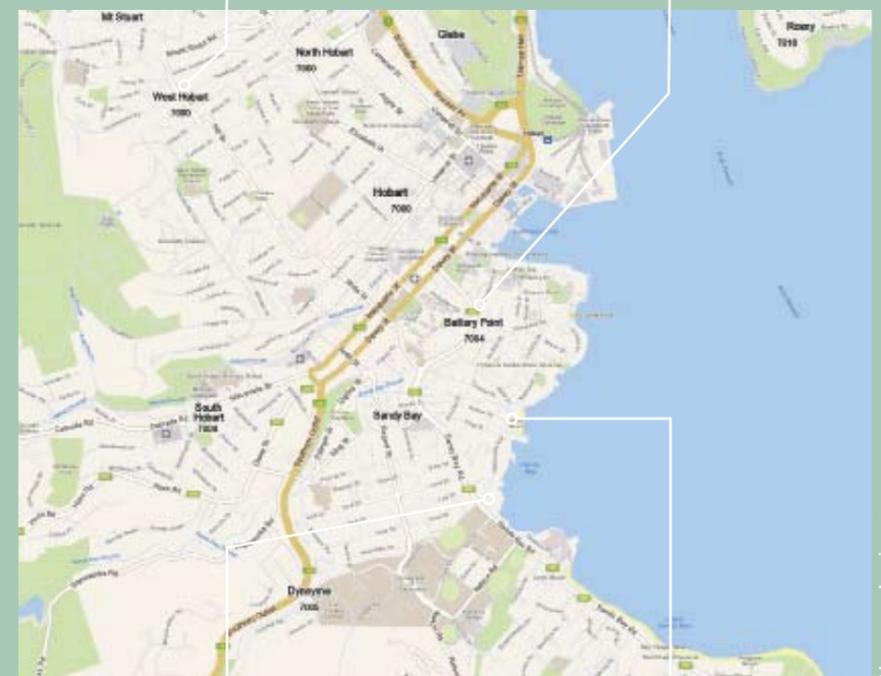
In 2013, the University was ranked in the top 10 research universities in Australia and in the top two per cent of universities worldwide in the Academic Rankings of World Universities, making Hobart a popular choice for international students. Living here allows for students to study at a prestigious university and to enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of Hobart. >>>



Attractive West Hobart offers a diverse selection of properties



Battery Point is close to the CBD so property here is pricier



Map: [www.wherere.com](http://www.wherere.com)



Taroonas lovely beaches and offers easy access to the bush



The affluent suburb of Sandy Bay is popular with families

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

- To find out more about the city of Hobart, visit [www.migration.tas.gov.au/move](http://www.migration.tas.gov.au/move).
- Other useful websites worth a visit are:
- [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au) - a job site
- [www.aussierelocation.com](http://www.aussierelocation.com) - for useful relocation tips
- [www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au](http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au) - for information about schools
- [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au) - to view properties for sale or rent



The acclaimed MONA museum



Macquarie Street, the focal point of Hobart's economy

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# WHERE TO LIVE

Whether you prefer the hustle and bustle of city life or a rural retreat, Hobart offers many affordable property options...

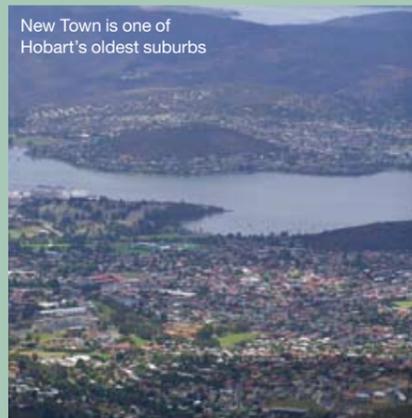
Tasmania is one of Australia's least expensive areas although properties nearer to the CBD, beaches, and good transport links will come with an increased price.

Whether you prefer the hustle and bustle of city life or a rural retreat, Hobart is an affordable option which is well worth considering.

## CLOSE TO THE CBD

If being close to the CBD is important to you Battery Point is a good option, although it is one of the more expensive suburbs. Salamanca is a short walk away, with its many bars and restaurants and iconic markets.

Singles and young couples like the trendy feel of the area but it is also popular with families who are happy to sacrifice a bit of space (less backyard) to be amongst the action. Lots of smart new apartment buildings can be found around the Salamanca area but there are also lots of lovely old terrace homes on old narrow



New Town is one of Hobart's oldest suburbs

streets, historic cottages and grand homes on the waterfront with water views.

Within walking distance the affluent suburb of Sandy Bay is a great suburb situated just over four kilometres south from the CBD. Sandy Bay is popular with families due to a number of good schools and playgrounds. There are several great beaches, such as Sandy Bay Beach, a popular sailing club and the area has lots of

great cafés, shopping and gastronomic delights. Here you will find beautiful old homes with established gardens, lovely tree-lined streets and on the hills behind newer more modern luxury homes. Many of these homes either have stunning views of the Derwent River or of Mount Wellington.

## CHARACTER HOMES

If you love character homes the adjacent suburb of Dynnyrne has some wonderful grand homes with large gardens and some tiny weatherboard cottages.

South West of the CBD is South Hobart, known for its vibrant community and the charm and character of its homes. Here Federation homes mix with Art Deco units, charming cottages and historic mansions, many enjoying views of the Derwent River. It has a real village atmosphere.

Behind Sandy Bay sits Mount Nelson, with its large blocks and walking trails. In Sandy Bay itself there are lots of walking



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trails here and a mixture of houses, apartments and townhouses, with most being built in the 1970s.

North Hobart has a bohemian hilltop feel to it and has a strong community where people can sit on their verandah and chat to passers-by. Mainly, the homes are character homes such as terraced houses, but there are also smaller renovated period homes and some newer townhouses.

This area is popular with students as it is more affordable. Elizabeth Street offers many interesting bars and restaurants.

Of a similar vibrant feel is West Hobart, which is around two kilometres from the CBD and offers some great schools. It is a popular area with families, couples and singles. There are some lovely old worker's cottages around Goulburn Street, and new townhouses.

Knocklofty Park, with its frog ponds and wooded walking trails,

is the most popular reserve but there are two other great parks for children also.

The suburb holds plenty of affordable period homes as well. New Town is one of Hobart's oldest suburbs and offers some lovely housing options, including grand period homes. It is only five minutes north of the city and enjoys the vibrant shopping and café strips of nearby North Hobart.

## LIFESTYLE ORIENTATED

Taroona is 15 minutes drive south of the CBD and offers some lovely beaches. It is more affordable than areas close to the CBD, is green and has easy access to the bush.

Many of the homes date from the 1930s but on the hills there are some wonderful modern properties. Further south, only 12 kilometres from CBD, Kingston offers a quieter location perfect for those who like a quieter lifestyle but prefer beach living.

In the 1950s this area was inhabited by many Dutch migrants who have had an influence on the area. Kingston boasts a lovely sporting complex and stunning golf course. If you prefer a more rural lifestyle, then there are some charming options available – from beach bungalows to eco friendly housing estates and modern moderately priced homes.

Below Kingston, but only 20 minutes to Hobart, is Blackman's Bay, where some homes have a spectacular view of the water and passing cruise ships. A mixture of affordable older and modern homes is available in this friendly community.

On the eastern banks of the Derwent River, Howrah, only 10 minutes drive from Hobart, with its wonderful mountain and valley views, stunning beaches and modern family homes and new subdivisions is becoming increasingly popular with families.

Thirty-five minutes drive to the CBD, to the east, is Dodges Ferry and close by is Carlton and Primrose Sands, which sit close to the Carlton River. It is not unusual to see families partaking in all sorts of watersports, from kayaking to surfing. Primrose Sands is a growing, friendly community.

Historic Richmond, nestled in the Coal River Valley, is popular with families. It has some lovely Georgian architecture, good dining and is only a 30 minute drive to Hobart CBD. Pontville, at the other end of the Valley, is situated on the river. It too is a historic settlement which offers more space for your money. 🇦🇺

■ Jenny Wells works at Elite Executive Services, who can provide relocation services including home search, school search and orientation advice for settling in all major cities in Australia. Jenny relocated to Australia from the UK. Web: [www.eliteexecutiveservices.com.au](http://www.eliteexecutiveservices.com.au)



Historic Richmond is only a 30 minute drive away from Hobart's CBD