

# Hobart & Around



Australia's second-oldest city and southernmost capital, Hobart dapples the foothills of Mt Wellington, angling down to the slate-grey Derwent River. The town's rich colonial heritage and natural charms are accented by a spirited, rootsy attitude: hip festivals and top-notch food and drink abound. Laid-back to near-horizontal, Hobartians hang out in cafés joking about the daily 'rush minute', dressed ready to plunge into the wilderness at any moment. On summer afternoons the sea breeze blows and yachts tack across the river; on winter mornings the pea-soup 'Bridgewater Jerry' fog lifts to reveal the snowcapped summit of the mountain.

It's a gorgeous place, but until quite recently Hobart was far from cosmopolitan or self-assured. This was a town of instant coffee and tragic cover bands, where the stigma of history and a downtrodden economy furrowed every brow. It's taken a while for Hobartians to feel comfortable in their own skins, but with a happy island economy, there's money in pockets – and you can get a good latte! In fact, locals have become protective of their town, shouting 'Hypocrites!' at Sydney and Melbourne escapees who've invested in Hobart's Georgian and Federation houses. The mainland attitude to Hobart has shifted from derision to delight, investors recognising that Tassie's abundant water, stress-free pace and cool climate are precious commodities. Hobart's essential attractions – the waterfront, the architecture, the market, mountain and river – have always been here, but these days Hobart is boutique, not backward. Also, not far from town are some great beaches, mountains and historic villages.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Elbowing through the crowds at Hobart's Saturday **Salamanca Market** (p85)
- Boning up on architectural history as you stroll through historic **Battery Point** (p85)
- Gawping at the view from the summit of **Mt Wellington** (p88)
- Anticipating the tasting session at the end of a **Cascade Brewery** (p88) tour
- Sipping a Friday night beer at Hobart's best pub, **Knopwood's Retreat** (p105)
- Window shopping for menus along the **North Hobart restaurant strip** (p102)
- Swimming on one of seven empty miles at **Seven Mile Beach** (p118)
- Feeling the cold-water spray of Russell Falls on your face on a day trip to **Mt Field National Park** (p116)



# HOBART

03 / pop 203,600

No doubt about it, Hobart's future is looking rosy. Tourism is booming, and the old town is treading gingerly onto the world stage. Plan on staying a while – you'll need at least a week to savour the full range of Cascade beers flowing from the city's pubs.

## HISTORY

Hobart's original inhabitants were the semi-nomadic Mouheneenner band of the Southeast tribe, who called the area Nibberloonne. In 1803 Van Diemen Land's first European settlers pitched their tents at Risdon Cove on the Derwent's eastern shore, which became the site of the first massacre of the Mouheneenner (Risdon Cove was returned to the Aboriginal community by the state government in 1995). The colony relocated a year later to the site of present-day Hobart, where water running off Mt Wellington was plentiful.

When Britain's gaols overflowed with sinners in the 1820s, Hobart's isolation loomed as a major selling point. Tens of thousands of convicts were chained into rotting hulks and shipped down to Hobart Town to serve their

sentences in vile conditions. In the 1840s, Hobart's sailors, soldiers, whalers and rascalions boozed and brawled shamelessly in countless harbourside pubs.

With the abolition of convict transportation to Tasmania in 1853, Hobart started to toe a slightly more moral line, and the town came to rely on the apple and wool industries for its fiscal fortitude.

In the 20th century Hobart stuttered through the Great Depression and World Wars, relying more heavily on industry (paper, zinc and chocolate production, most notably) and the deep-water Derwent River harbour to sustain it. Hobart has always been a key Australian port. Unlike inland cities, ports look outwards to the world, and bring the world to them via trade and travellers. Harbourside pubs sustain this traffic with the same free-floating spirit – the day Hobart's waterfront is no longer the place to go for a beer is the day Hobart loses its sea-born soul.

Indeed, the city has only ever partially sobered up, but today's convicts are more likely to be white-collared than bad company at the bar. Skeletons rattle in Hobart's closet – indigenous Tasmanians and thousands of

## HOBART IN...

### Two Days

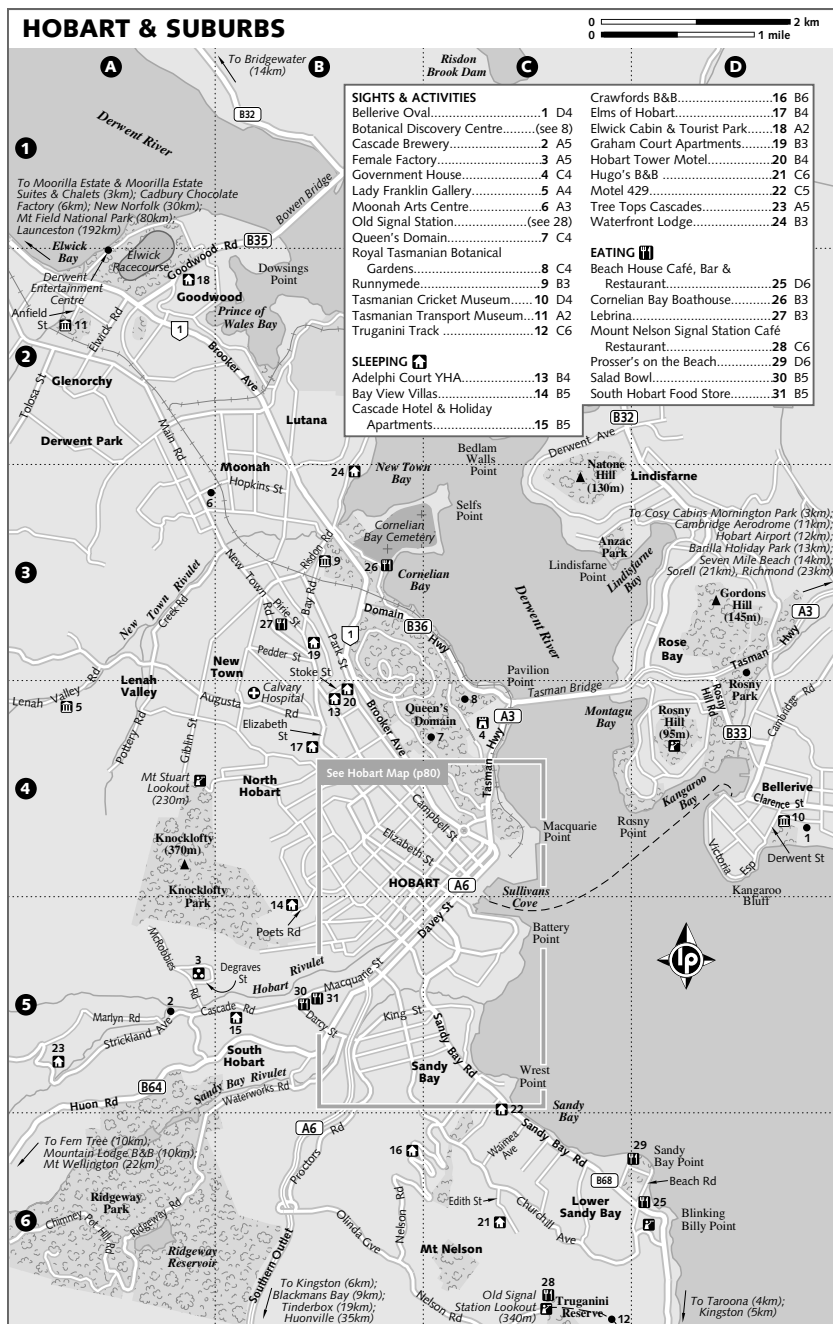
Get your head into history mode with a stroll around **Battery Point** (p85) – coffee and cake at **Jackman & McRoss** (p103) will sustain your afternoon explorations of nearby **Salamanca Place** (p84). Bone up on maritime history at the **Maritime Museum of Tasmania** (p87) before a promenade along the Sullivans Cove waterfront and fish and chips for dinner from **Flippers Fish Punt** (p101) on Constitutions Dock. Wash it down with a few Cascades at **Knopwood's Retreat** (p105), the quintessential Hobart pub.

On day two recuperate over a big breakfast at **Retro Café** (p101) then blow out the cobwebs with a ramble around the rocks on **Mt Wellington** (p88) – on a clear day the views are jaw-dropping. Come down to earth with dinner, drinks and some live music at **Republic Bar & Café** (p106), North Hobart's happening hub.

### Four Days

If you've got a bit more time on your hands, take a **river cruise** (p93) north to the **Cadbury Chocolate Factory** (p88), followed by a wine-splashed lunch at **Moorilla Estate** (p88). If beer is more your vice, take a tour of the legendary **Cascade Brewery** (p88) in South Hobart. Snooze the afternoon away on the sunny lawns of the **Botanical Gardens** (p89) before a classy dinner at **Marque IV** (p102).

Feeling energetic? On day four take the **Pedal 'N' Paddle** challenge (p91) – plummeting down the flanks of Mt Wellington on a bike, followed by sea-kayaking around the Hobart docks. If you're just not Iron Man material, take a photo-worthy day trip to nearby **Richmond** (p109) or the waterfalls and peaks of **Mt Field National Park** (p116).





convicts suffered here – but the old town’s shimmering beauty and relaxed vibe scare away the ghosts of the past.

**ORIENTATION**

Hobart is sandwiched between Mt Wellington and the wide Derwent River estuary. With scant flat land, the city has spread along the riverbanks – it’s now about 20km long, and very narrow. The steep western suburbs streets will give your thighs a workout!

The city centre is compact and navigable, with a grid of one-way streets encircling the Elizabeth St Mall. The visitors centre, banks, bus stops and post office are on Elizabeth St; the main shopping area extends west from the Mall.

Salamanca Pl, a grandiose row of Georgian sandstone warehouses, lines the southern fringe of Sullivans Cove, the city’s harbour and social epicentre. Just south of Salamanca Pl (usually just called ‘Salamanca’) is Battery Point, Hobart’s increasingly gentrified early colonial district. South of Battery Point is cashed-up Sandy Bay, home to the University of Tasmania and the landmark/eyesore Wrest Point Casino.

The northern side of the city is bounded by the Queen’s Domain (usually just called ‘The Domain’), a bushy hillock that harbours the Botanical Gardens. From here the Tasman Bridge arcs across the river to the eastern shore and the airport (16km from the CBD). North Hobart is the city’s bohemian enclave – the Elizabeth St strip sustains cafés and restaurants by the dozen. The snoozy eastern shore suburbs probably won’t wake up as you pass

through (unless you’re at Bellerive Oval for the cricket).

**Maps**

The visitors centre supplies basic city maps. For more comprehensive coverage try the *Hobart & Surrounds Street Directory* (\$18) or the *UBD Tasmania Country Road Atlas* (\$31), available at larger newsagents and bookshops. Travellers with disabilities should check out the useful *Hobart CBD Mobility Map* from the visitors centre.

Hobart map sources:

- Hobart visitors centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6230 8233; www.hobarttravelcentre.com.au; cnr Davey & Elizabeth Sts; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, Sun & public holidays; 🗺)
- Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania** (RACT; Map p80; ☎ 6232 6300, 13 27 22; www.ract.com.au; cnr Murray & Patrick Sts; ☎ 8.45am-5pm Mon-Fri)
- Service Tasmania** (Map p82; ☎ 1300 135 513; www.service.tas.gov.au; 134 Macquarie St; ☎ 8.15am-5pm Mon-Fri)
- Tasmanian Map Centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 9043; www.map-centre.com.au; 100 Elizabeth St; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Bushwalking maps and Lonely Planet guides.

**INFORMATION**

**Bookshops**

- Fullers Bookshop** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 2488; www.fullersbookshop.com.au; 140 Collins St; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) Super range of literature and travel guides, plus a café upstairs.
- Hobart Book Shop** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 1803; www.hobartbookshop.com.au; 22 Salamanca Sq; ☎ 9am-6pm

**INFORMATION**

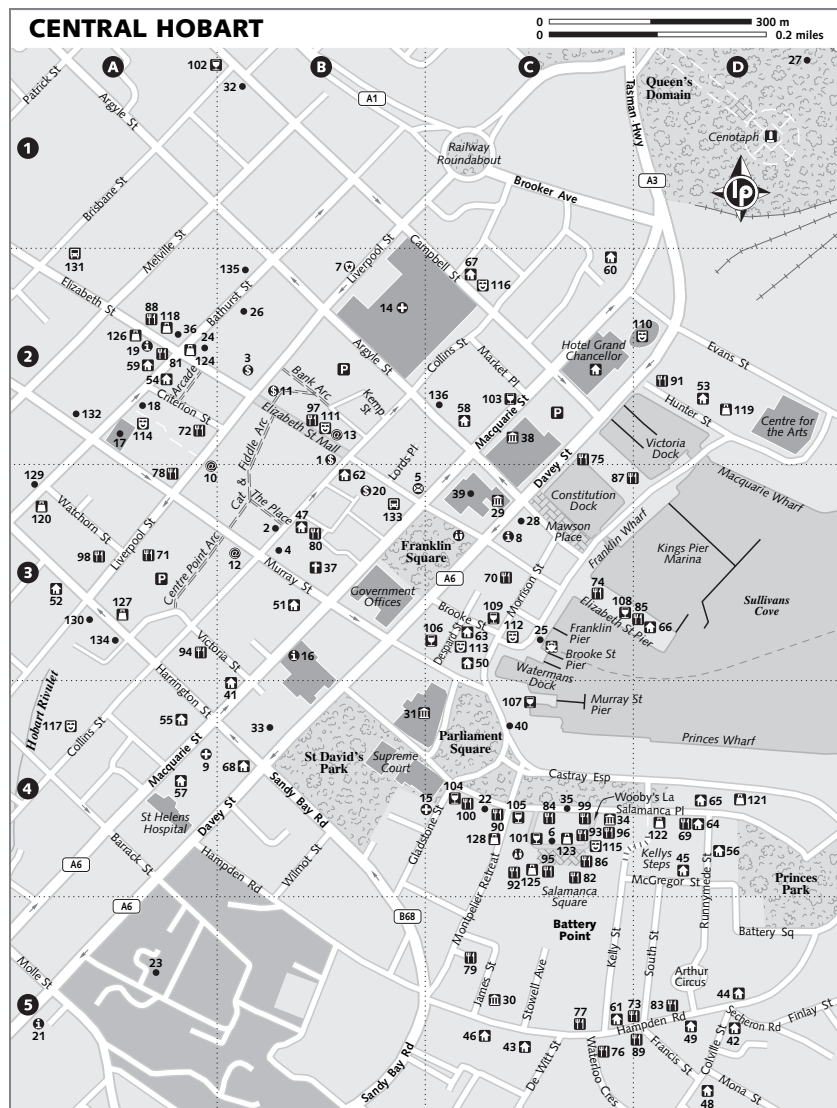
North Hobart Post Office.....1 A1	Narrara Backpackers.....18 B3	Vanidol's.....36 A1
RACT.....2 B2	Pickled Frog.....19 B3	Woolworths Supermarket.....37 B5
Sandy Bay Post Office.....3 C5	Quest Trinity House.....20 B1	Woolworths Supermarket.....38 B2

**SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**

Hobart Aquatic Centre.....4 C2	Waratah Hotel.....23 B2	Republic Bar & Café.....39 A2
St George's Anglican Church.....5 C4	Woolmers Inn.....24 B4	Soak/Kaos.....(see 33)

**SLEEPING**

Amberley House.....6 D6	Amulet.....25 A1	ENTERTAINMENT 🎬
Battery Point Manor.....7 D4	Annapurna.....26 A1	State Cinema.....40 A1
Blue Hills Motel.....8 C4	Casablanca.....27 B2	<b>SHOPPING</b> 🛍
Corinda's Cottages.....9 C2	Chon-Na-Kau Thai Restaurant.....28 B5	Tasmanian Wine Centre.....41 B4
Edinburgh Gallery.....10 B4	Coles Supermarket.....29 C5	<b>TRANSPORT</b>
Grosvenor Court.....11 B5	Fish Bar.....30 C5	AutoRent-Hertz.....42 B3
Hobart Hostel.....12 B3	FreSCO Market.....31 A2	Bargain Car Rentals.....43 B3
Lodge on Elizabeth.....13 B2	Gilt.....32 C5	Europcar.....44 B3
Marquis of Hastings Hotel.....14 A3	KaOs Café.....33 B2	Redline Coaches.....(see 45)
Mayfair Plaza Motel.....15 C5	Metz.....(see 32)	Transit Centre.....45 B3
Mercure.....16 B3	Rain Check Lounge.....34 A1	
Merre Be's.....17 C5	Restaurant 373.....35 A1	



Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) Tasmania-centric titles, Tassie writers and second-hand selections.

**Wilderness Society Shop** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 9370; www.wilderness.org.au; Shop 8, The Galleria, 33 Salamanca Pl; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) Environmental publications, wildlife posters, DVDs, maps and calendars.

**Emergency**

**Police, Fire & Ambulance** (☎ 000)  
**Hobart Police Station** (Map p82; ☎ 6230 2111; www.police.tas.gov.au; 43 Liverpool St; ☎ 24hr)

**Internet Access**

Expect to pay \$5 to \$6 per hour at internet cafés:

**INFORMATION**

- ANZ Bank.....1 B2
- Chemist on Collins.....2 B3
- City Doctors & Travel Clinic.....(see 2)
- Commonwealth Bank.....3 B2
- Drifters Internet Café.....(see 22)
- Fullers Bookshop.....4 B3
- General Post Office.....5 B3
- Hobart Book Shop.....6 C4
- Hobart Police Station.....7 B2
- Hobart Visitors Centre.....8 C3
- Macquarie Pharmacy.....9 A4
- Mouse on Mars.....10 A3
- National Bank.....11 B2
- Outzone.....12 B3
- Parks & Wildlife Service.....(see 16)
- Pelican Loft.....13 B2
- Royal Hobart Hospital.....14 B2
- Salamanca Medical Centre.....15 C4
- Service Tasmania.....16 B3
- State Library.....17 A2
- Sustainable Living Tasmania.....18 A2
- Tasmanian Map Centre.....19 A2
- Westpac Bank.....20 B3
- Wilderness Society Office.....21 A5
- Wilderness Society Shop.....22 C4
- YHA Office.....(see 58)

**SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**

- Allport Library & Museum of Fine Arts.....(see 17)
- Anglesea Barracks.....23 A5
- Bike Hire Tasmania (Appleby Cycles).....24 A2
- Boat Cruise Booking Offices.....25 C3
- Carnegie Gallery.....(see 29)
- Climbing Edge.....26 B2
- Derwent Bike Hire.....27 D1
- Hobart Harbour Jet Boat.....(see 25)
- Lark Distillery.....28 C3
- Maritime Museum of Tasmania.....29 C3
- Military Museum of Tasmania.....(see 23)
- Narryna Heritage Museum.....30 C5
- National Trust.....(see 32)
- Navigators.....(see 25)
- Parliament House.....31 B4
- Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site.....32 B1
- Peppermint Bay Cruise.....(see 25)
- Real Tennis Club.....33 B4
- Salamanca Arts Centre.....34 C4
- Salamanca Market.....35 C4
- Skigia & Surf.....36 A2
- St David's Cathedral.....37 B3
- Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.....38 C2
- Tassielink.....(see 131)
- Theatre Royal.....(see 116)
- Town Hall.....39 C3
- Wild Thing.....40 C4

**SLEEPING**

- Astor Private Hotel.....41 B4
- Avon Court Holiday Apartments.....42 D5
- Barton Cottage.....43 C5
- Battery Point Boutique Accommodation.....44 D5
- Battery Point Guest House.....45 D4
- Battery Point Heritage B&B.....46 C5
- Central City Backpackers.....47 B3
- Colville Cottage.....48 D5
- Coopers Cottage.....49 D5
- Customs House Hotel.....50 C3
- Grand Mercure Hadleys Hotel.....51 B3
- Harrington's 102.....52 A3
- Henry Jones Art Hotel.....53 D2
- Hobart Mid City Hotel.....54 A2
- Leisure Inn Hobart Macquarie.....55 A4
- Lenna of Hobart.....56 D4
- Macquarie Manor.....57 A4
- Montgomery's Private Hotel & YHA.....58 C2
- New Sydney Hotel.....59 A2
- Old Woolstore.....60 C2
- Prince of Wales Hotel.....61 C5
- Quest Savoy.....62 B3
- Quest Waterfront.....63 C3
- Salamanca Terraces.....64 D4
- Somerset on Salamanca.....65 D4
- Somerset on the Pier.....66 D3
- Theatre Royal Hotel.....67 C2
- Welcome Stranger Hotel.....68 B4

**EATING**

- Ball & Chain Grill.....69 D4
- Catch.....70 C3
- City Supermarket.....71 A3
- Criterion St Café.....72 A2
- Da Angelo.....73 D5
- Fish Frenzy.....74 C3
- Flippers Fish Punt.....75 C2
- Francisco's on Hampden.....76 C5
- Henry's Harbourside.....(see 53)
- Jackman & McRoss.....77 C5
- Jam Packed.....(see 53)
- Kafe Kara.....78 A3
- Kelley's Seafood Restaurant.....79 C5
- La Cuisine.....80 B3
- La Cuisine.....81 A2
- Machine Laundry Café.....82 C4
- Magic Curries.....83 D5
- Maldini.....84 C4
- Marque IV.....85 D3
- Mezethes.....86 C4
- Mures.....87 C3
- Nourish.....88 A2
- Piccadilly.....89 D5
- Retro Café.....90 C4
- Saffron.....91 D2
- Salamanca Bakehouse.....92 C4
- Salamanca Fresh Fruit Market.....(see 105)
- Sals on the Square.....93 C4

- Sirens.....94 A3
- Sticky Fingers.....(see 107)
- Sugo.....95 C4
- Tricycle Café Bar.....96 C4
- Undertone.....97 B2
- Vanny's.....98 A3
- Vietnamese Kitchen.....99 C4
- Zum Salamanca.....100 C4

**DRINKING**

- Bar Celona.....101 C4
- Brisbane Hotel.....102 A1
- Hope & Anchor Tavern.....103 C2
- IXL Long Bar.....(see 53)
- Irish Murphy's.....104 C4
- Knopwood's Retreat.....105 C4
- Lower House.....106 C3
- New Sydney Hotel.....(see 59)
- Observatory.....107 C4
- Quarry.....(see 100)
- T-42.....108 C3
- Telegraph Hotel.....109 C3

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Federation Concert Hall.....110 D2
- Halo.....111 B2
- Isobar.....112 C3
- Mobius.....113 C3
- Peacock Theatre.....(see 34)
- Playhouse Theatre.....114 A2
- Salamanca Arts Centre Courtyard.....115 C4
- Syrup.....(see 105)
- Theatre Royal.....116 C2
- Village Cinemas.....117 A4

**SHOPPING**

- Antiques Market.....118 A2
- Art Mob Gallery.....119 D2
- Bathurst St Antique Centre.....120 A3
- Despard Gallery.....121 D4
- Handmark Gallery.....122 D4
- Kathmandu.....123 C4
- Mountain Designs.....124 A2
- Salmon Shop.....125 C4
- Snowgum.....126 A2
- Spot On Fishing Tackle.....127 A3
- Wursthaus.....128 C4

**TRANSPORT**

- Avis.....129 A3
- Budget.....130 A3
- Captain Fell's Historic Ferries.....(see 25)
- Hobart Bus Terminal.....131 A2
- Lo-Cost Auto Rent.....132 A2
- Metro City Bus Stops.....133 B3
- Retro Car.....(see 5)
- Rent For Less.....134 A3
- Rent-a-Bug.....(see 132)
- Selective Car Rentals.....135 B2
- Tassielink.....(see 131)
- Thrifty.....136 C2

**Drifters Internet Café** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 6286; www.errolfynn.com.au; Shop 9/33 Salamanca Pl; ☎ 9am-6.30pm) Printing, scanning and faxing available.

**Mouse on Mars** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 5421; www.mouseonmars.com.au; 1st fl, 112 Liverpool St; ☎ 10am-10pm) Statewide wi-fi hotspots (see website for details), plus cheap long-distance calls, tour-booking desk and backpacker info.

**Outzone** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 0775; 1st fl, 3/66 Murray St; ☎ 10am–7pm Sat–Thu, to 10pm Fri)

**Pelican Loft** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 2225; 1st fl, 35a Elizabeth St; ☎ 8.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, noon–4pm Sat & Sun)

**Service Tasmania** (Map p82; ☎ 1300 135 513; www.service.tas.gov.au; 134 Macquarie St; ☎ 8.15am–5pm Mon–Fri)

**State Library** (Map p82; ☎ 6233 7529; www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au; 91 Murray St; ☎ 9.30am–6pm Mon–Thu, to 9pm Fri, to 12.30pm Sat) Thirty minutes free for Australians; \$5.50 for international visitors.

## Internet Resources

**Hobart City** (www.hobartcity.com.au) City council website.

**LIVE Tasmania** (www.livetasmania.com) Theatre, puppetry, dance and music listings.

**The Dwarf** (www.thedwarf.com.au) Online gig guide.

**Totally South** (www.totallysouth.com.au) Southern Tasmania tourist guide.

**Welcome to Hobart** (www.welcometohobart.com.au) Official visitors guide.

## Media

The visitors centre stocks free Tassie tourist publications highlighting Hobart's attractions. Hobart's long-running newspaper the *Mercury* (aka 'the Mockery') is thin on quality global reportage but handy for discovering what's on where; the Thursday edition lists entertainment options. The free monthly *Sauce* entertainment rag provides detailed arts listings.

## Medical Services

**Australian Dental Association Emergency Service** (☎ 6248 1546) Advice for dental emergencies.

**Chemist on Collins** (Map p82; ☎ 6235 0257; www.chemistoncollins.com.au; 93 Collins St; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Mon–Thu, to 6pm Fri, 9.30am–4pm Sat)

**City Doctors & Travel Clinic** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 3003; www.citydoctors.com.au; 93 Collins St; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri) Standard consultation is \$60.

**Macquarie Pharmacy** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 2339; 180 Macquarie St; ☎ 8am–10pm)

**Royal Hobart Hospital** (Map p82; ☎ 6222 8423; www.dhhs.tas.gov.au; 48 Liverpool St; ☎ 24hr) Argyle St emergency entry.

**Salamanca Medical Centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 8181; 5a Gladstone St; ☎ 8.30am–6pm Mon–Fri, 10am–3pm Sat, noon–3pm Sun) Bulk-billing doctors; free for Australian Medicare Card holders.

## Money

The major banks have branches around Elizabeth St Mall, open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday:

**ANZ Bank** (Map p82; ☎ 13 13 14; www.anz.com.au; 40 Elizabeth St)

**Commonwealth Bank** (Map p82; 13 22 21; www.commbank.com.au; 81 Elizabeth St)

**National Bank** (Map p82; ☎ 13 22 65; www.nab.com.au; cnr Elizabeth & Liverpool Sts)

**Westpac Bank** (Map p82; ☎ 13 13 31; www.westpac.com.au; 28 Elizabeth St)

## Post

The following **Australia Post** (☎ 13 13 18; www.auspost.com.au) branches are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday:

**General Post Office** (GPO; Map p82; cnr Elizabeth & Macquarie Sts)

**North Hobart** (Map p80; 412 Elizabeth St)

**Sandy Bay** (Map p80; cnr Sandy Bay Rd & King St)

## Tourist Information

**Hobart visitors centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6230 8233; www.hobarttravelcentre.com.au; cnr Davey & Elizabeth Sts; ☎ 8.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Sat, Sun & public holidays; ⓘ) Brochures, maps, information and statewide tour and accommodation bookings. Collect a copy of the useful *Welcome to Hobart* booklet.

## Useful Organisations

**Parks & Wildlife Service** (Map p82; ☎ 1300 135 513; www.parks.tas.gov.au; 134 Macquarie St; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri) Information and fact sheets for bushwalking and all national parks; inside the Service Tasmania office.

**Sustainable Living Tasmania** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 5566; www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au; 1st fl, 102 Bathurst St; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri) Community resource centre stocking environmental publications.

**Wilderness Society Office** (Map p80; ☎ 6224 1550; www.wilderness.org.au; 130 Davey St; ☎ 9.30am–5pm Mon–Fri) Head office on the outskirts of the city.

**YHA Office** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 9617; www.yha.com.au; 9 Argyle St; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri) YHA's Tasmanian HQ is at Montgomery's Private Hotel & YHA (p96).

## SIGHTS

Most of Hobart's big-ticket sights are in or near the city centre and waterfront area, within easy walking distance of each other. On the city outskirts are historic houses, wineries and the famous Cascade Brewery, plus the stoic bulk of Mt Wellington.

## Salamanca Place

This picturesque row of four-storey sandstone warehouses on Sullivans Cove (Map p82) is a classic example of Australian colonial architecture. Dating back to the whaling days of the

## SALAMANCA MARKET

Every Saturday morning since 1972, the open-air **Salamanca Market** (Map p82; ☎ 6238 2843; www.hobartcity.com.au; ☎ 8.30am–3pm Sat) has lured hippies and craft merchants from the foothills to fill the tree-lined expanses of Salamanca Pl with their stalls. Fresh organic produce, secondhand clothes and books, tacky tourist souvenirs, ceramics and woodwork, CDs, cheap sunglasses, antiques, exuberant buskers, quality food and drink – it's all here, but people-watching is the real name of the game. Rain or shine – don't miss it!

1830s, Salamanca Pl was the hub of Hobart Town's trade and commerce, but by the mid-20th century many of the buildings had fallen into ruin. The 1970s saw the dawning of Tasmania's sense of 'heritage', from which flowed a push to revive the warehouses to house restaurants, cafés, bars and shops – an evolution that continues today. The development of the quarry behind the warehouses into **Salamanca Square** has bolstered the atmosphere. The eastern end of Salamanca Pl has been the subject of major developments in recent years, including the conversion of four old wheat silos into luxury apartment towers.

Operating behind the scenes here is a vibrant and creative arts community. The nonprofit **Salamanca Arts Centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 8414; www.salarts.org.au; 77 Salamanca Pl; ☎ shops & galleries 9am–6pm) occupies seven Salamanca warehouses, home to 75-plus arts organisations and individuals, including shops, galleries, studios, performing arts venues (including the Peacock Theatre, p107) and versatile public spaces. Check the website for the latest happenings.

To reach Salamanca Pl from Battery Point, descend the well-weathered **Kellys Steps**, wedged between warehouses halfway along the main block of buildings.

## Battery Point

An empty rum bottle's throw from the once-notorious Sullivans Cove waterfront, the old maritime village of **Battery Point** (Map p82; www.batterypoint.net) is a nest of tiny lanes and 19th-century cottages, packed together like shanghaied landlubbers in a ship's belly. Its name derives from the 1818 gun battery that

stood on the promontory, protecting Hobart Town from nautical threats both real and imagined. Built in 1818, the guardhouse is now Battery Point's oldest building. The guns were never used in battle and the only damage they inflicted was on nearby windowpanes when fired during practice.

During colonial times Battery Point was a salty maritime enclave, home to master mariners, shipwrights, sailors, whalers, cooperers and merchants. Architectural styles here reflect the original occupants' varying jobs (and salaries), ranging from one- and two-room fishermen's cottages (like those around Arthur Circus), to lace-festooned mansions. Most houses are still occupied by Hobartians; many are now guesthouses where you can stay (usually for a pretty penny) and absorb the village atmosphere.

While away an afternoon exploring on your own, or follow our walking tour (p91). Stumble up **Kellys Steps** (Map p82) from Salamanca Pl and dogleg into **South St** (Map p82) where the red lights once burned night and day and many a lonesome sailor sheltered from the storm. Spin around the picturesque **Arthur Circus** (Map p82), then explore **Hampden Rd** (Map p82) where slick cafés and restaurants cater to a more dignified clientele than the ale houses of the past. Check out **St George's Anglican Church** (Map p80) on Cromwell St or shamble down **Napoleon St** (Map p80) to the waterfront where yachts strain against their moorings in the tide. For a fortifying stout, duck into the salty Shipwrights Arms Hotel (p98).

The **Anglesea Barracks** (Map p82) were built adjacent to Battery Point in 1811. Still used by the army, this is the oldest military establishment in Australia. Inside is the volunteer-staffed **Military Museum of Tasmania** (Map p82; ☎ 6237 7160; fax 6223 1111; cnr Davey & Byron Sts; admission free; ☎ 10am–noon Tue, other times by appointment). Free 45-minute guided tours of the buildings and grounds depart the front gates at 11am every Tuesday.

See also Narryna Heritage Museum (p87).

## The Waterfront

Hobartians flock to the city's waterfront like seagulls to chips. Centred around **Victoria Dock** (Map p82; a working fishing harbour) and **Constitution Dock** (Map p82; chock-full of floating takeaway-seafood punts; see p101) –

it's a brilliant place to explore. The obligatory Hobart experience is to sit in the sun, munch some fresh fish and chips and watch the harbour hubbub. If you'd prefer something with a knife and fork, there are some superb restaurants around here too; head for Elizabeth St Pier (p101).

Celebrations surrounding the finish of the annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (p61) also revolve around Constitution Dock at New Year. The fabulous food festival The Taste (p94) is also in full swing around this time – there are so many people around the waterfront, Hobart feels like it could be Monaco! The waterfront on New Year's Eve is both an exhilarating and nauseating place (depending on how late you stay out).

**Hunter St** (Map p82) has a row of fine Georgian warehouses, most of which comprised the old Henry Jones IXL jam factory. It's occupied these days by the Art School division of the University of Tasmania and Hobart's glam-est hotel, the uber-swish Henry Jones Art Hotel (p97) and its affiliated restaurants and galleries. These developments have remained true to the area's heritage and retain the original façades, but not all of the hotel's neighbours can make the same claim. It's no secret that the design of the large, modern hotel and apartment complex at the corner of Davey and Hunter Sts has few admirers; many Hobartians consider it totally inappropriate for the historic area (and you'd be forgiven for feeling the same way about the naff hotel and concert hall opposite too).

Most of the Hobart waterfront area is built on reclaimed land. When the town was first settled, Davey St marked the shoreline and the Hunter St area was an island used to store food and imported goods. Subsequent projects filled in the shallow waters and created the land upon which the Hunter St and Salamanca Pl warehouses were constructed. On Hunter St itself, there are markers indicating the position of the original causeway, which was built in 1820 to link Hunter Island with the long-since-demolished suburb of Wapping.

### Historic Buildings

Hobart's cache of amazingly well-preserved old buildings makes it exceptional among Australian cities. There are more than 90 buildings classified by the National Trust here – 60 of these are on Macquarie and Davey Sts. The intersection of Macquarie and Murray

### WHALES IN THE DERWENT

In the 1830s Hobartians joked about walking across the Derwent River on the backs of whales and complained about being kept awake at night the ocean giants cavorting offshore. In typical Tasmanian style, the ensuing whaling boom was catastrophic, driving local populations of southern right and humpback whales to near extinction. Though still endangered, the occasional foraging whale returns to the Derwent during June–July northbound and October–November southbound migration. If you spy one, call the Parks & Wildlife Service Whale Hotline on ☎ 0427 WHALES (☎ 0427-942 537).

Sts features a gorgeous sandstone edifice on each corner. For detailed information contact the **National Trust** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 5200; www.nationaltrust.org.au; cnr Brisbane & Campbell Sts; ☎ 9am-1pm Mon-Fri), or pick up the *Hobart's Historic Places* brochure from the visitors centre.

Ruminating over the court rooms, cells and gallows of the **Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 0911; www.penitentiarychapel.com; cnr Brisbane & Campbell Sts; tours adult/concession & child/family \$8/7/16; ☎ tours 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm), writer TG Ford mused, 'As the Devil was going through Hobart Gaol, he saw a solitary cell; and the Devil was pleased for it gave him a hint, for improving the prisons in hell.' Take the excellent National Trust-run tour, or the one-hour **Penitentiary Chapel Ghost Tour** (☎ 0417-361 392; www.hobartghosts.com; adult/child/concession \$10/6/8; ☎ 8.30pm) held most nights (bookings essential).

Presiding over an oak-studded park adjacent to Salamanca Pl is the low-lying, sandstone **Parliament House** (Map p82; ☎ 6233 2200; www.parliament.tas.gov.au; Salamanca Pl; 45min tours free; ☎ tours 10am & 2pm Mon-Fri except when parliament sits), completed in 1840 and originally used as a customs house. No-one knows what it was used for, but there's a tunnel under Murray St from the building to the Customs House Hotel opposite (a few MPs looking unsteady on their feet?).

Take a backstage tour of Hobart's prestigious **Theatre Royal** (Map p82; www.theatroyal.com.au; 29 Campbell St; 1hr tours adult/concession & child \$8/6; ☎ tours 10.30am & noon Mon, Wed & Fri), built in 1837 and Australia's oldest continuously operating theatre. See p106 for performance details.

Hobart's **Real Tennis Club** (Royal Tennis Club; Map p82; ☎ 6231 1781; www.hobarttennis.com.au; 45 Davey St; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) dates from 1875 and is one of only five such courts in the southern hemisphere (the others are in Melbourne, Ballarat, Sydney and Romsey in country Victoria). Real (or 'Royal') tennis is an archaic form of the highly strung game, played in a jaunty four-walled indoor court. Visitors can watch, take a lesson (\$45) or hire the court (\$15 per hour).

**Runnymede** (Map p79; ☎ 6278 1269; 61 Bay Rd, New Town; adult/child/family \$8/6/16; ☎ 10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-4.30pm Sat & Sun) is a gracious 1840 sandstone-and-slate residence 5km north of the city centre. It was built for Robert Pitcairn, the first lawyer to qualify in Tasmania, and named by a later owner, Captain Charles Bayley, after his favourite ship. It's now managed by the National Trust – delightfully doddery volunteers staff the house and conduct free tours if you're interested. To get here, take bus 15 or 20.

Finally being recognised as an important historic site (one in four convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land was a woman!), the **Female Factory** (Map p79; ☎ 6223 1559; www.femalefactory.com.au; 16 Degraives St, South Hobart; tours adult/child/concession/family \$10/5/8/25; ☎ 9am-4pm, 1hr tour 9.30am, extra 2pm tour Dec-Apr) was where Hobart's female convicts were incarcerated. Major archaeological work is ongoing and tour bookings are essential. It's not far from the Cascade Brewery (p88) – combining the two makes for a fascinating afternoon. To get here by public transport, take bus 43, 44, 46 or 49 and jump off at stop 16.

Other notable edifices include the 1864 **Town Hall** (Map p82; 50 Macquarie St), which takes its architectural prompts from the Palazzo Farnese in Rome, and the austere **St David's Cathedral** (Map p82; cnr Murray & Macquarie Sts).

### Museums & Galleries

The enduring **Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery** (Map p82; ☎ 6211 4177; www.tmag.tas.gov.au; 40 Macquarie St; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm) incorporates Hobart's oldest building, the Commissariat Store (1808). The museum features Aboriginal displays and colonial relics; the gallery curates a collection of Tasmanian colonial art. There are free guided tours at 2.30pm from Wednesday to Sunday (hordes of school kids might be a little less interested in proceedings than you are). There's a cool café here too.

Celebrating Hobart's unbreakable bond with the sea, the excellent **Maritime Museum of Tasmania** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 1427; www.maritimetas.org; 16 Argyle St; adult/child/concession/family \$7/3/5/16; ☎ 9am-5pm) has a fascinating, salt-encrusted collection of photos, paintings, models and relics (try to resist ringing the huge brass bell from the *Rhexenor*). Upstairs is the council-run **Carnegie Gallery** (admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm), exhibiting contemporary Tasmanian art, craft, design and photography.

Cricket fans should slap a straight six towards Bellerive Oval on Hobart's eastern shore, where the **Tasmanian Cricket Museum** (Map p79; ☎ 6211 4000; www.tascricket.com.au; cnr Church & Derwent Sts, Bellerive; admission adult/child \$2/1, tours adult/child \$7/2; ☎ 1-3pm match days, plus 10am-3pm Tue-Thu, 10am-noon Fri) resides in willow-and-leather splendour. Oval and museum tours run at 10am on Tuesdays (except on match days). Don't miss the impressive portraits of a latter-day Boonie and a mean-looking Ricky Ponting. Buses 285 and 287 service Bellerive Oval.

The **Allport Library & Museum of Fine Arts** (Map p82; ☎ 6233 7484; www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au; 91 Murray St; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 2.30pm last Sat of the month) is at the State Library. Inside is a collection of rare books on the Australia-Pacific region, plus colonial paintings, antiques, and a special collection of artworks it dusts off for display several times a year.

**Narryna Heritage Museum** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 2791; www.nationaltrust.org.au; 103 Hampden Rd; adult/concession/child/family \$6/5/3/12; ☎ 10.30am-5pm Tue-Fri, 2-5pm Sat & Sun, closed Jul) is a stately Georgian sandstone-fronted mansion (pronounced 'Narina') built in 1836, set in established grounds and containing a treasure-trove of domestic colonial artefacts.

The **Moonah Arts Centre** (Map p79; ☎ 6214 7633; www.mac.gcc.tas.gov.au; 65 Hopkins St, Moonah; admission free; ☎ 12.30-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) is a community arts centre staging everything from indigenous arts exhibitions and concerts to workshops and special events. Buses departing stop E on Elizabeth St go to groovy Moonah.

**Lady Franklin Gallery** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 0076; www.artstas.com; Ancanthe Park, 268 Lenah Valley Rd; admission free; ☎ 1.30-5pm Sat & Sun), in a colonnaded 1842 sandstone building called Ancanthe (Greek for 'Vale of Flowers'), displays work by Tasmanian artists. To travel here take bus 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 to the Lenah Valley terminus from stop G on Elizabeth St.

Train rides are available on the first and third Sundays of each month at the **Tasmanian Transport Museum** (Map p79; ☎ 6272 7721; www.railtasmania.com/tms; Anfield St, Glenorchy; adult/child \$6/\$3; ☎ 1-5pm Sat & Sun). When the trains run, admission increases to \$8/4 per adult/child. At other times, mourn the loss of Tasmania's passenger train network, which called it a day in the mid-1970s. Take bus X1 from stop F on Elizabeth St: the museum is a short walk from Glenorchy bus station.

## Tastes of Hobart

### CASCADE BREWERY

Around a bend in South Hobart, standing in startling, Gothic isolation, is the **Cascade Brewery** (Map p79; ☎ 6224 1117; www.cascadebrewery.com.au; 140 Cascade Rd, South Hobart; 90min tours adult/child/concession/family \$18/7/14/42; ☎ tours 9.30am, 10am, 1pm & 1.30pm Mon-Fri except public holidays, additional summer tours). Australia's oldest brewery, it was established in 1832 next to the clean-running Hobart Rivulet, and is still pumping out superb beer and soft drinks today. Tours involve plenty of stair climbing, with tastings at the end (including Cascade Premium, the global sales smash). Wear flat, enclosed shoes and long trousers (no shorts or skirts); bookings essential. You can take a tour on weekends, but none of the machinery will be operating (brewers have weekends too). See also the boxed text, p42.

To get here, take bus 43, 44, 46 or 49 from Elizabeth St at Franklin Sq and jump ship at stop 18.

### MOORILLA ESTATE

Twelve kilometres north of Hobart's centre, **Moorilla Estate** (off Map p79; ☎ 6277 9900; www.moorilla.com.au; 655 Main Rd, Berriedale; tastings free; ☎ 10am-5pm) occupies a saucer-shaped peninsula jutting into the Derwent River. Founded in the 1950s, Moorilla plays a prominent and gregarious role in Hobart society. Stop by for wine and 'Moo Brew' beer tastings (ooooh, the pinot noir...), have lunch or dinner at the outstanding restaurant the **Source** (mains \$25-33; ☎ noon-2.30pm daily & 6.30-9pm Fri & Sat), catch a summer concert on the lawns (Alex Lloyd, Cat Empire, The Pretenders et al), or splash some cash for a night in the uber-swish accommodation (p98). Hold your breath for **MONA** (www.mona.net.au), Moorilla's Museum of Old and New Art, which is being dug into the Moorilla peninsula as we speak. It's slated to open in 2010.

To get here take bus X1 from Stop F, or a cruise from the waterfront (see p93).

### CADBURY CHOCOLATE FACTORY

A must-see for sweet-tooths and Willie Wonka wannabes is the **Cadbury Chocolate Factory** (off Map p79; ☎ 6249 0333, 1800 627 367; Cadbury Rd, Claremont; adult/child \$5/free; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Fri except public holidays), 15km north of the city centre. You can enjoy samples, invest in low-priced choc products and watch a chocolate-making video.

Some companies offer day trips and river cruises incorporating the Cadbury tour (see p93), or book directly with Cadbury and make your own way here on bus 37, 38 or 39 to Claremont from stop E on Elizabeth St.

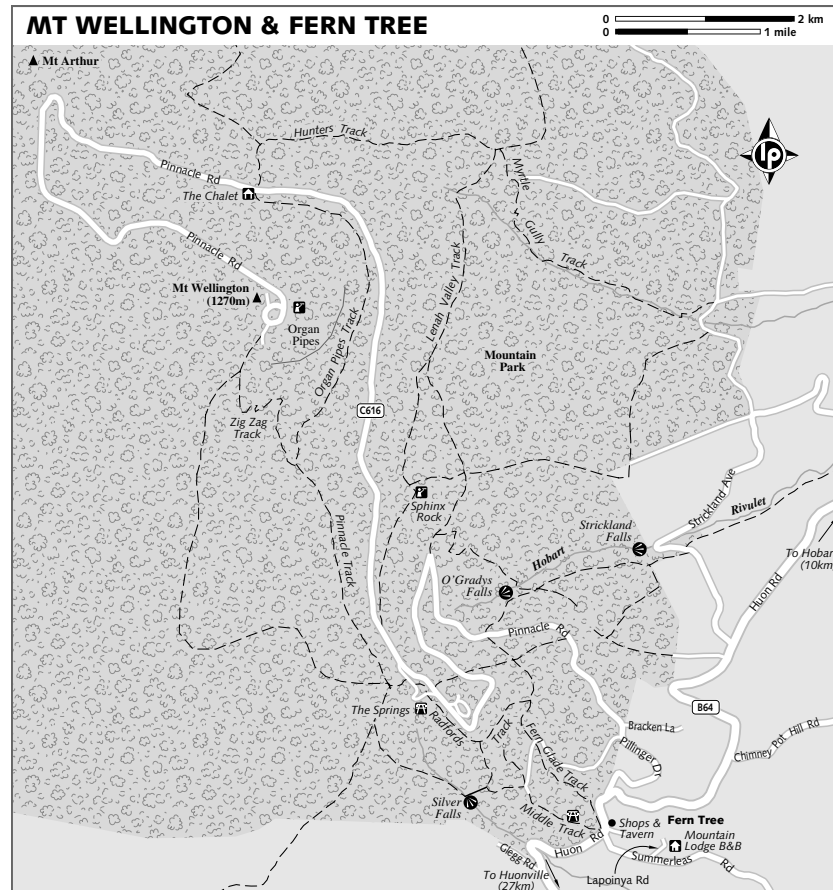
### LARK DISTILLERY

Continuing the boozy theme is the **Lark Distillery** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 9088; www.larkdistillery.com.au; 14 Davey St; admission free, tours per person \$11; ☎ 10am-6pm Sun-Wed, to late Thu-Sat), near the visitors centre, which produces fruit liqueurs (free tastings) and single malt whisky (\$2.50 per tasting). Distillery tours happen at 11am and 2pm, Monday to Saturday. You can also get a bite to eat here, and it morphs into a lounge bar with live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

### Mt Wellington

Cloaked in winter snow, **Mt Wellington** (Map p89; www.wellingtonpark.tas.gov.au) peaks at 1270m, towering over Hobart like a benevolent overlord. The citizens find reassurance in its constant, solid presence, while outdoorsy types find the space to hike and bike on its leafy flanks. And the view from the top is unbelievable! Don't be deterred if the sky is overcast – often the peak rises above cloud level and looks out over a magic carpet of cotton-topped clouds.

Hacked out of the mountainside during the Great Depression, the 22km road to the top winds up from the city through thick temperate forest, opening out to lunar rockscapes at the summit. If you don't have wheels, local buses 48 and 49 stop at Fern Tree halfway up the hill, from where it's a five- to six-hour return walk to the top via Fern Glade Track, Radfords Track, Pinnacle Track, then the steep Zig Zag Track. The Organ Pipes walk from the Chalet (en route to the summit) is a flat track below these amazing cliffs. Pick up the *Mt Wellington Walks* map (\$4.10 from the visitors centre) as a guide. Alternatively, Mt



Wellington Walks (p94) runs organized hikes on the mountain from easy to adventurous.

Some bus-tour companies include Mt Wellington in their itineraries (see p93); another option is the **Mt Wellington Shuttle Bus Service** (☎ 0408-341 804; per person return \$25), departing the visitors centre at 10.15am and 1.30pm daily. City pick-ups by arrangement; call to book and confirm times.

Feeling more intrepid? Bomb down the slopes on a mountain bike with **Island Cycle Tours** (☎ 1300 880 334, 0418-234 181; www.islandcycle.tours.com; tours incl hotel pick-up adult/child \$75/70), which provides a van ride to the summit, followed by more than 21km of downhill cruising (mostly on sealed roads, but with off-road options). Tours depart at 9.30am and 1.30pm daily,

with a two-person minimum. There's also the option of combining the 9.30am bike descent with sea-kayaking around the Hobart waterfront; see p91.

### Queen's Domain

When Hobart was settled, the leafy hill on the city's northern side was the Governor's private playground, which prevented housing being built. Today the hillock is called the Queen's Domain (Map p79) and is public parkland, strewn with cricket grounds, an athletics stadium, native grasslands and hilltop lookouts. Pedestrian overpasses on the western side provide easy access to North Hobart.

On the hill's eastern side is the small but beguiling **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**

**DAVID BUTTON**

David Button is a Hobart architect and all-round Tassie enthusiast, with a penchant for national parks, bushwalking and the good life.

**Where can travellers see some well-preserved colonial architecture around Tassie?** Tasmania has some of Australia's best early-colonial architecture. The standouts, of course, are Port Arthur (p127) and intact villages like Richmond (p109) in the south, Evandale (p225) in the north, and Ross (p156) in the Midlands.

In Hobart there's Battery Point (p85) and the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (p87), which includes building fabric dating back to 1810 – one of the oldest surviving buildings in Tasmania. The Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site (p86) is a bit grim, but it's an intact remnant of early Hobart Town. Salamanca PI (p84) is all 1840s and '50s sandstone warehouses that have taken on a new life now – full of restaurants, cafés, boutiques and bars. It's certainly not the hard-drinking place it was in the 1830s when Hobart was an international whaling port.

**Your favourite Tasmanian national parks?** I like the beaches on the east coast, especially around Freycinet Peninsula National Park (p175). It's accessible – an hour's walk up over the saddle to Wineglass Bay (p179). You don't have to stray very far from your car and you're in another world. You can camp at the far end of Wineglass Bay too – about 20 minutes along the beach.

Maria Island National Park (p168) is great for camping, and there are a couple of mountains to climb, lovely beaches and some tranquil, isolated spots. Take a bike too, because there are plenty of gravel tracks and only two rangers' vehicles on the island. I've had some brilliant sunsets there, riding through large groups of kangaroos and wallabies grazing.

**How about some short walks?** It depends on your mode of transport. If you don't have a car, there are good places close to Hobart. You can walk from the city around Sullivan's Cove, through the docks, around Battery Point and down to Sandy Bay Beach. Otherwise, get a bus up to Fern Tree and explore Mt Wellington (p88). Make sure you've got warm clothing, water and food, and allow a day to make a good job of it.

You can catch a bus up to Mt Nelson and walk down Truganini Track through a valley of dry eucalypt forest. It feels like the Tasmanian bushland as it's always been: almost no signs of human habitation. The undergrowth is thick but the track is fairly clear. It brings you out onto the Channel Hwy at Tarooona, from where you can catch a bus back to the city.

The Hartz Mountains National Park (p148) is a pleasant alpine walk in summer – you'll need transport to get there. As with everywhere in Tasmania above 1000m, take some warm and waterproof clothes with you. I went for a walk there last January (the hottest part of summer) and stepped into a blizzard and heavy snow cover. It happens often enough to always be prepared.

In the southeast there's a walk from Cockle Creek to South Cape Bay (p152). It's a two-and-a-bit hours' drive to Cockle Creek from Hobart, then a two-hour walk from there. It's a pretty easy walk – some of it along boardwalks – to one of the wildest ocean beaches in the world, with the huge Southern Ocean swell crashing in. If people want to get away from everything, all alone with just the huge surf on the edge of a primeval forest, it's a magic spot!

*As related to author Charles Rawlings-Way*

(Map p79; ☎ 6236 3076, tours 6236 3075; www.rtbg.gov.tas.au; Queens Domain; admission free, 1hr tours per person \$5; ☎ 8am-6.30pm Oct-Mar, to 5.30pm Apr & Sep, to 5pm May-Aug, tours 11am Mon, Tue & Thu). Established in 1818, it features more than 6000 exotic and native plant species over 14 hectares. Explore the flora in detail at the **Botanical Discovery Centre** (admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm), which also houses a gift shop, kiosk and restaurant. Don't miss TV icon Peter Cundall's veggie patch!

Next door to the Botanical Gardens is palatial **Government House**, the state governor's

digs. It's not open to the public and not visible from the road, but you can get a good view of the turrets and towers from high on Queen's Domain.

Bus 17 runs daily to the Botanical Gardens.

**Mt Nelson**

If Mt Wellington is cloud shrouded, the **Old Signal Station** atop Mt Nelson (Map p79), which is much lower, provides immaculate views over the city and Derwent estuary. When Port

Arthur was operating as a penal site, a series of semaphore stations were positioned atop hills to transmit messages across the colony. The one on Mt Nelson – established in 1811 – was the major link between Hobart and the rest of the colony.

There's a pretty good restaurant beside the signal station (see p104), and there are barbecues and picnic tables here too. To get here, drive up Davey St then take the Southern Outlet towards Kingston and turn left at the top of the hill. Local buses 57, 58 and 156-8 also come here. Alternatively, you can also walk to the top via the 90-minute return Truganini Track (opposite) which starts at Cartwright Reserve beside the Channel Hwy in Tarooona.

**ACTIVITIES**

See also p56 for information on bushwalking, canoeing and rafting, caving, fishing, sailing, skiing, scuba diving and snorkelling around Hobart.

**Cycling**

A useful navigational tool is the *Hobart Bike Map* (\$4 from the visitors centre and most bike shops), detailing cycle paths and road routes. Pick up a pair of wheels from any of the following.

**Bike Hire Tasmania** (Appleby Cycles; Map p82; ☎ 6234 4166, 0400-256 588; www.bikehires Tasmania.com.au; 109 Elizabeth St; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Quality mountain/road bikes from \$35/45 per day.

**Derwent Bike Hire** (Map p82; ☎ 6260 4426, 0428-899 169, www.derwentbikehire.com; Regatta Grounds Cycleway; ☎ 10am-4pm Sat & Sun Sep-Nov, Apr & May, daily Dec-Mar) Mountain and touring bikes from \$20/125 per day/week.

**Island Cycle Tours** (☎ 1300 880 334, 0418-234 181; www.islandcycletours.com) Organises a range of guided bike trips around the state, including the popular three-hour Mt Wellington Descent (see p89), seven days exploring the east coast or west coast (\$2325 all inclusive), and a 13-day lap of the island (\$4315). More affordable are its east coast Beachcomber tours: \$495/650 per three/four days. You can also combine the Mt Wellington descent with a sea-kayaking experience around the Hobart docks (see right), or hire mountain or touring bikes from \$30/160 per day/week.

**Indoor Climbing**

**Climbing Edge** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 3575; www.theclimbingedge.com.au; 54 Bathurst St; admission adult/child \$14/10, shoe & harness hire \$4; ☎ 10am-9.30pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) offers world-class climbing walls inside a

converted warehouse. Don your nifty rubber shoes, chalk up your paws and up you go.

**Sea-Kayaking**

Kayaking around the docks in Hobart, particularly at twilight, is a lovely way to get a feel for the city. There are a couple of operators: **Blackaby's Sea-Kayaks & Tours** (☎ 0418-124 072, 0438-671 508; www.blackabyseakayaks.com.au) Morning, afternoon and sunset paddles around the Hobart waterfront, running on demand; \$50 per person. Ask about paddling adventures further afield (Port Arthur, Fortescue Bay, Gordon River).

**Island Cycle Tours** (☎ 1300 880 334, 0418-234 181; www.islandcycletours.com) Combines its Mt Wellington Descent (see p89) with a two-hour paddle around the docks after the cycle. The five-hour 'Pedal 'N' Paddle' outing costs \$129/119 per adult/child, including a light meal. Departs 9.30am daily; not available July or August.

**Swimming & Surfing**

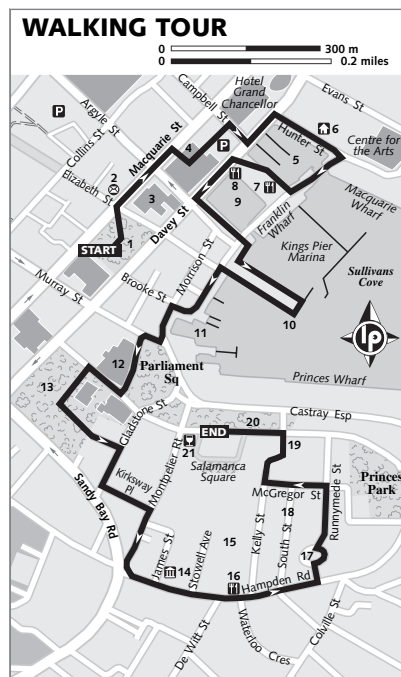
Hobart's city beaches look inviting, especially at Bellerive and Sandy Bay, but the water here tends to get a bit soupy. For a safe, clean swim, you'll be better off heading further south to Kingston, Blackmans Bay (p119) or Tinderbox (p120), or east to Seven Mile Beach (p118). The most reliable local surfing spots are Clifton Beach and Goats Beach en route to South Arm.

The **Hobart Aquatic Centre** (Map p80; ☎ 6222 6999; www.hobartcity.com.au; 1 Davies Ave; admission adult/child & concession \$5.30/4; ☎ 6am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat & Sun) offers recreational moisture when it's raining outside. Inside are leisure pools and 'formal pools' (dressed in a tux?) for lap swimming etc. There's also a spa, sauna, steam room, aqua-aerobics and aerobics for land-lubbers.

**WALKING TOUR**

Old school versus New World – ready for a Hobart history lesson? Launch your expedition at **Franklin Square (1)**, where skaters collide with canoeing school kids beneath the bird-poo-stained statue of Governor Sir John Franklin. Track northeast down Macquarie St past the 1906 sandstone clock tower of the **General Post Office (2; p84)**, the 1864 **Town Hall (3; p87)** and into the **Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (4; p87)**. Soak up some culture for a while, or duck through the café, out into the courtyard and across the car park. Navigate across Campbell and Davey Sts and shuffle around **Victoria Dock (5)**, where the fishing boats bump and sway.





### WALK FACTS

**Start** Franklin Sq  
**Finish** Knopwood's Retreat  
**Distance** 3km  
**Duration** Three hours

Have a quick stickybeak at the renovated **Henry Jones Art Hotel (6; p97)**. Formerly the IXL jam factory headed by the entrepreneurial Henry Jones (who did indeed excel), it was once Tasmania's largest private employer. Cross the swing bridge and fishtail towards **Mures (7; p101)** or **Flippers Fish Punt (8; p101)** for a sea-sourced lunch by **Constitution Dock (9)**. This place is party central for yachties celebrating the finish of the famous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (p61) on New Year's Eve.

Next stop is the slickly reworked **Elizabeth St Pier (10)**, jutting into Sullivan's Cove – classy accommodation upstairs, restaurants and bars downstairs. If the tide is out, take the low-road steps around **Watermans Dock (11)**. Cross Morrison St then wander through the acorn-infested Parliament Sq in front of **Parliament**

**House (12; p86)**. Resist the photogenic façades of Salamanca Pl for now, turning right instead to detour through **St David's Park (13)**, with its picturesque pergola, undulating lawns and walls of colonial gravestones. Hobart Town's original cemetery, it became an overgrown eyecore and was converted into a park in 1926. Cut through Salamanca Mews, jag right onto Gladstone St, left onto Kirksway Pl then right onto Montpellier Retreat, arcing uphill towards the colonial delights of **Narryna Heritage Museum (14; p87)**, built in 1836.

Hampden Rd leads you into the heart of **Battery Point (15; p85)**, Hobart's oldest 'hood. Reconstitute with a coffee and croissant at **Jackman & McRoss (16; p103)**, then turn left into Rynnmede St to check out **Arthur Circus (17)**, an improbably quaint roundabout lined with eave-free Georgian cottages. After a play on the swings, continue down Rynnmede St and turn left into McGregor St, casting an eye up well-preserved **South St (18)** – take away the BMWs and power lines and this could easily be 1856! Turn right onto Kelly St and bumble down **Kellys Steps (19)**, an 1839 sandstone link between Battery Point and the redeveloped warehouses of **Salamanca Place (20; p84)**. Not far along is Hobart's best pub, **Knopwood's Retreat (21; p105)**. Settle into a couple of quite Cascades and regale the locals with tall tales of your adventures.

### HOBART FOR CHILDREN

Parents won't break the bank keeping the troops entertained in Hobart. The free Friday-night music in the courtyard at the Salamanca Arts Centre (p106) is a family-friendly affair, while the street performers, buskers and visual smorgasbord of Saturday's Salamanca Market (p85) captivate kids of all ages. There's always something interesting going on around the waterfront – fishing boats chugging in and out of Victoria Dock, yachts tacking and jibing in Sullivan's Cove – and you can feed the whole family on a budget at the floating fish punts (p101) on Constitution Dock.

Rainy-day attractions to satisfy your child (or inner child) include the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (p87), the Maritime Museum of Tasmania (p87), the Cadbury Chocolate Factory (p88) and the Discovery Centre at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (p89).

Hobart is a naturally active kinda town: take a boat cruise up or down the river; assail

the heights of Mt Wellington or Mt Nelson; rent a bike and explore the cycling paths; pack the teens into the Kombi and go surfing at Clifton Beach. The minute you head out of town the child-friendly options increase, with an abundance of animal parks, beaches, caves, nature walks and mazes to explore; see the Around Hobart section (p100).

### TOURS

Most cruises and bus and walking tours run daily during summer (December to February), but schedules and prices vary with the season and demand; call in advance to confirm.

### Bus Tours

**Bottom Bits Bus** (☎ 1800 777 103, 6229 3540; www.bottombitsbus.com.au) Small-group, backpacker-oriented full-day trips from Hobart: Cradle Mountain, Wineglass Bay or Mt Field National Park. All trips \$105.

**Gray Line** (☎ 6234 3336, 1300 858 687; www.grayline.com.au) City coach tours (from adult/child \$39/20), plus longer tours to destinations including Mt Wellington (\$42/21), Mt Field National Park (\$99/50), Bruny Island (\$155/110) and the Huon Valley (\$163/109). Free hotel pick-ups.

**Red Decker** (☎ 6236 9116; www.reddecker.com.au) Commentated sightseeing on an old London double-decker bus. Buy a 20-stop, hop-on-hop-off pass (adult/child/concession \$25/15/23), or do the tour as a 90-minute loop. Pay a bit more and add a Cascade Brewery tour (\$44/25/42) or river cruise (\$48/37/46) to the deal.

**Tasman Island Cruises** (☎ 6250 2200; www.tasmancruises.com.au; full-day tour adult/child \$220/150) Take a bus to Port Arthur for a three-hour ecocruise around Tasman Island, then explore the Port Arthur Historic Site and bus it back to town. Includes morning tea, lunch and Port Arthur admission. Departs Hobart visitors centre at 8am; bookings required.

**Tassielink** (☎ 6230 8900, 1300 300 520; www.tassielink.com.au) Full-day trips to Lake St Clair (adult/child \$75/38) and Freycinet National Park (\$85/51), or a half-day trip to Huonville and Franklin (\$16/8). Tours depart the terminal at 64 Brisbane St. See p338 for info on multiday Explorer Passes.

### Cruises

Several boat-cruise companies operate from the Brooke St Pier and Watermans Dock area (Map p82), cruising around the harbour and up and down the river.

**Captain Fell's Historic Ferries** (☎ 6223 5893; www.captainfellshistoricferries.com.au) Good-value lunch (from \$28 per adult) and dinner (\$49) cruises on cute old ferries. It also runs coach or double-decker bus sightseeing trips

around town and to Mt Wellington, the Cadbury Chocolate Factory and Richmond.

**Hobart Harbour Jet Boat** (☎ 0404-078 687; www.hobartharbourjet.com.au) Water-taxi rides to Hobart locales (Moorilla, Bellerive, West Point Casino) from \$10 per person, plus splashy hold-onto-your-lunch jet-boat river tours from adult/child \$35/20.

**Navigators** (☎ 6223 1914; www.navigators.net.au) Slick ships sailing north to Moorilla Estate (adult/child \$25/12), and south to Port Arthur (\$149/110 including site entry and return coach trip), Tasman Island (\$65/45) and the Iron Pot lighthouse (\$35/18).

**Peppermint Bay Cruise** (☎ 1300 137 919; www.peppermintbay.com.au/cruises) A five-hour float down the D'Entrecasteaux Channel to the sassy Peppermint Bay development at Woodbridge (see p142). Prices start at adult/child \$78/48 including lunch on board; cruise only from \$48/28.

**Wild Thing** (☎ 6224 2021; www.wildthingadventures.com.au) A speedy red boat churning up the froth on tours around the Derwent (adult/child \$24/15), Bruny Island (from \$125/99), Cape Raoul (\$125/99) and the Iron Pot lighthouse (\$55/35).

### Scenic Flights

**Par Avion** (☎ 6248 5390; www.paravion.com.au) Scenic flights into the southwest from Cambridge Aerodrome near Hobart Airport. A four-hour Southwest World Heritage Tour including a boat ride on Bathurst Harbour costs adult/child \$180/144; an eight-hour Day In The Wilderness tour costs \$290/236 including lunch and a visit to Port Davey.

**Rotor-Lift Helicopters** (☎ 6248 4117; www.rotorlift.com.au) Twenty-minute helicopter flights over Hobart and Mt Wellington for \$150, or one-hour sightseeing over Hobart and the Tasman Peninsula for \$395. Departing Hobart Airport.

**Tasair** (☎ 6248 5088; www.tasair.com.au) Thirty-minute flights over Hobart for \$94 per person, plus longer flights to the Tasman Peninsula (\$125), the east coast (\$243) and the Southwest (\$243). Departing Hobart Airport.

### Walking Tours

**Ghost Tours of Hobart & Battery Point** (☎ 0439-335 696; www.ghostsofthobart.com.au) Walking tours oozing ectoplasmic tall tales departing The Bakehouse in Salamanca Sq at dusk. Bookings essential; \$30 per person.

**Hobart Historic Tours** (☎ 6278 3338, 0429-843 150; www.hobarthistorictours.com.au) Highly informative walking tours of Hobart (10am) and historic Battery Point (3.30pm). Also available is an Old Hobart Pub Tour (5pm) taking in three waterfront watering holes, and a Polar Pathways Walk (10.30am Sat) exploring Hobart's Antarctic heritage. All tours cost adult/child/concession \$28/12/25; winter hours vary. Bookings essential.

**Louisa's Walk** (☎ 6230 8233; www.livehistory.com.au; 1½hr tour adult/family \$25/60) Engaging tours of Hobart's female convict heritage at the Female Factory (p87), interpreted through 'strolling theatre'. Tours depart Cascade Brewery at 10.30am and 2pm. Great feedback from readers on this one.

**Mt Wellington Walks** (☎ 0439-551 197; www.mtwellingtonwalks.com.au; half-/full-day walk adult \$120/69, child \$99/59) Runs organised hikes on Hobart's high hill, from easy to adventurous.

**Penitentiary Chapel Ghost Tour** (p86) Historic hauntings at Hobart's old gaol.

**Waterways Tours** (☎ 6230 8233; www.welcome.tohobart.com.au; adult/concession/family \$19/13/40; ☎ 4.45pm Tue & Thu Jan-Feb, 4.45pm Thu Mar-Dec) A subterranean tour of the Hobart Rivulet which sluices along beneath the CBD. Tours depart the council offices at 16 Elizabeth St, opposite the visitors centre. Bookings essential.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Hobart hosts a cavalcade of festivals and events throughout the year.

### December–January

**Falls Festival** (www.fallsfestival.com) The Tasmanian version of the Victorian New Year's Eve rock festival is a winner! Three days of live Oz and international tunes (Paul Kelly, John Butler Trio, Kings of Leon etc) at Marion Bay, an hour south of Hobart.

**Hobart Summer Festival** (www.hobartsummerfestival.com.au) Hobart's premier festival, focussed around the waterfront: two weeks of theatre, kids' activities, concerts, buskers, New Year's Eve shenanigans and The Taste (see below).

**Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** (p61; www.royal.sydneymhobart.com) Yachts competing in this annual race start arriving in Hobart around 29 December – just in time for New Year's Eve! (Yachties sure can party...)

**The Taste** On either side of New Year's Eve, this week-long harbourside event is a celebration of Tassie's gastronomic prowess. The seafood, wines and cheeses are predictably fabulous, or branch out into mushrooms, truffles and raspberries! Stalls are a who's who of the Hobart restaurant scene.

### February

**Australian Wooden Boat Festival** (www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au) Biennial event (odd-numbered years) to coincide with the Royal Hobart Regatta. The festival showcases Tasmania's boat-building heritage and maritime traditions.

**Royal Hobart Regatta** (www.royalhobartregatta.com) Three days of aquatic yacht-watching and mayhem on the Derwent River.

### March–April

**Ten Days on the Island** (www.tendaysontheisland.com) Tasmania's premier cultural festival – a biennial event (odd-numbered years, usually late March to early April), celebrating island culture at statewide venues. Concerts, exhibitions, dance, film, theatre and workshops.

**Southern Roots** (www.southernroots.com.au) A rootsy music, food and wine festival in Hobart's Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, held annually over Easter. Artists like Keith Urban, John Fogarty and Angus and Julia Stone have graced the stage.

### June

**Antarctic Midwinter Festival** (www.antarctic-tasmania.info) Celebrate the winter solstice at this 10-day Hobart festival, designed to highlight and celebrate Tasmania's connection with the Antarctic.

### October

**Royal Hobart Show** (www.hobartshowground.com.au) Enduring rural-meets-urban festival showcasing the state's primary industries. Showbags, hold-onto-your-lunch rides and the fecund aromas of nature.

## SLEEPING

The pumping-est areas to stay in Hobart are the Sullivans Cove waterfront and Salamanca Pl (and to a lesser extent Battery Point), though prices here are usually sky-high and vacancy rates low. The CBD has less atmosphere, but most of the backpacker hostels, pubs with accommodation and midrange hotels are here. To the north of the city centre are suburban North Hobart and New Town, where apartments and B&Bs are within walking distance of the North Hobart restaurants. Accommodation in waterside Sandy Bay is surprisingly well priced, but it's a fair hike from town (check that you won't be in for a long walk). Most of Hobart's motels are out of town along Brooker Ave heading into the city from the north (those listed here are closer in).

Despite Tassie's obvious suitability for camping, there are no camp grounds within walking distance of Hobart's city centre (now *there's* a business opportunity!). Aside from the options following under Around Hobart (p100), there's also a campground at Seven Mile Beach (p118).

Top-end Hobart accommodation can be quite reasonable. If your budget stretches to \$200 you can afford something quite special: designer hotels, historic guesthouses and modern waterside apartments.

## HOBART'S ANTARCTIC LINKS

Tasmania was the last chunk of Gondwanaland to break free from Antarctica, which is now about 2500km south of Hobart across the Southern Ocean. Hobart is arguably the world's leading Antarctic gateway city, and has become a centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean science: the Australian Antarctic Division has its headquarters at suburban Kingston (p119); the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Division of Marine Research is in Battery Point; and the Institute of Antarctic & Southern Ocean Studies and the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre reside on the University of Tasmania campus. Down on the waterfront, the Antarctic Division's garish orange research vessel *Aurora Australis* and the CSIRO's boats *Southern Surveyor* and *MV Franklin* often dock at Hobart's wharves, alongside international research ships.

Pick up a copy of the free *Polar Pathways* brochure from the Hobart visitors centre, which details the key Antarctic sites around town on walking and driving tours. If you're in Hobart in June, check out the 10-day **Antarctic Midwinter Festival** (www.antarctic-tasmania.info), which warms up winter visitors with celebrations highlighting Tasmania's Antarctic connections. Highlights include live music, ice carving and photographic displays, the huskie dog picnic, and cult screenings on the 21 June solstice in the **Longest Night Film Festival** (www.longestnightfilmfestival.com).

For a sense of Antarctic life, check out the climate-controlled Subantarctic Plant House at Hobart's Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (p89), which re-creates the flora (and soundtrack!) of Tasmania's Macquarie Island, en route to Antarctica.

Like the rest of Tasmania, midrange accommodation here isn't exactly a bargain. If you're visiting in January, book as far in advance as humanly possible. Outside peak season and holidays, many plush hotels offer weekend accommodation/dinner deals and walk-in rates, while luxury B&Bs also slash prices.

## City Centre

### BUDGET

**Transit Centre Backpackers** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 2400; www.salamanca.com.au/backpackers; 199 Collins St; dm \$21-23, tw/d \$52/60; ☎) The cheapest beds in town are at this functional hostel above the Redline Transit Centre. Rooms lead off a huge communal area, which is strewn with grungy couches, bookshelves and a kitchen. The vibe is inclusive and relaxed, with helpful owners and bathrooms cleaner than the dorms.

**Hobart Hostel** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 6122; www.hobarthostel.com; cnr Goulburn & Barrack Sts; dm \$21-26, tw & d with/without bathroom \$90/70; ☎) In a former pub (the ever-rockin' Doghouse), Hobart Hostel offers clean, cheap but cram-'em-in dorms, with better value twins and doubles upstairs. Take up smoking on the tiny deck overlooking Hobart's city rooftops.

**Welcome Stranger Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 6655; www.welcomestrangerhotel.com.au; cnr Harrington & Davey Sts; dm/s/d \$22/85/99) Only a discerning eye will appreciate the aesthetic qualities of this modern redbrick pub, but upstairs the decent pub

rooms (all with en suite) and small backpackers section will appeal to your wallet. It's on a noisy intersection, but windows are double glazed. Downstairs is Hobart's best pool hall. Limited parking.

**Narrara Backpackers** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 3191; www.narrarabackpackers.com; 88 Goulburn St; dm/s/d/tw \$23/60/69/81; ☎) In a three-level townhouse on the city fringe, casual Narrara has some of the cheapest beds in town, but attracts mixed reports from readers. Travellers slump on couches in front of the TV, working through the pain of last night's efforts.

**Pickled Frog** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 7977; www.thepickledfrog.com; 281 Liverpool St; dm \$23-25, s/d & tw \$60/65; ☎) Not for the moderate or meek, this huge, ramshackle hostel fills an old pub on the CBD fringe with party vibes. Cheap beer, big-screen TVs, pool table, shaggy backpackers – you get the picture.

**Central City Backpackers** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 2404, 1800 811 507; www.centralcityhobart.com; 138 Collins St; dm \$23-27, s/d \$55/69; ☎) Smack-bang in the middle of the city, this maze-like hostel has loads of communal space, a great kitchen, OK rooms, friendly staff and extras such as baggage storage and tour desk. Bathrooms a tad shabby; linen extra.

**New Sydney Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4516; www.newsydneymotel.com; 87 Bathurst St; dm \$25) Casual, ebullient downtown pub with small, basic dorms upstairs. Good pub grub, and live

music most nights (see p106) – don't expect a monastic retreat. Twelve beds, 12 beers on tap – coincidence?

**Montgomery's Private Hotel & YHA** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 2660; www.montgomerys.com.au; 9 Argyle St; dm \$26-29, s & d with/without bathroom \$113/90; 📺) Attached to Montgomery's pub, this YHA offers clean, bright, secure accommodation right in the middle of town. Spread over three levels are dorms of all sizes, and nifty en suite singles and doubles. A solid, conservative option; family-sized rooms also available.

**Waratah Hotel** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 3685; www.thewaratah.com; 272 Murray St; s/d \$70/90, extra person \$40) Known as 'W Block' to truant students from the nearby college, the red-brick Waratah pub is short on charisma (nowhere near as pretty as its namesake native flower), but offers good-value beds a short walk from town. Pub meals downstairs, and a pool table or two.

**Astor Private Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6611; www.astorprivatehotel.com.au; 157 Macquarie St; s with/without bathroom \$115/75, d \$150/89, all incl breakfast) A rambling, downtown, 1920s charmer, the Astor retains much of its character: stained-glass windows, old furniture, ceiling roses and the irrepressible Tildy at the helm. Older-style rooms have shared facilities; newer en suite rooms top the price range. Strict 'No Bogans' policy!

## MIDRANGE

**Edinburgh Gallery** (Map p80; ☎ 6224 9229; www.artaccom.com.au; 211 Macquarie St; s \$85, d \$125-205; 📺) This funky, art-filled boutique hotel puts an eclectic stamp on an old Federation home, just to the west of the CBD. Some rooms share immaculate bathrooms, all have quirky, artsy décor (try for a veranda suite). Excellent winter reductions and help-yourself breakfast bar. Gay-friendly too.

**Theatre Royal Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6925; 31 Campbell St; d with/without bathroom \$120/100) Exit stage right for theatre-goers (it's right next door to the Theatre Royal), this gracious hotel has spotless rooms (all with TVs) leading off baby-blue corridors. Downstairs are two bars and a restaurant, attracting a yuppie slice of the Hobart social meleé.

**Harrington's 102** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 9277; www.harringtons102.com.au; 102 Harrington St; d incl breakfast \$115-160, extra person \$25) After the shock of the naff postmodern office façade subsidies, you'll find the rooms here well equipped but a tad small. Still, the price is good given that continental breakfast is included and you're

within walking distance of everywhere. Good winter rates.

**Hobart Midcity Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6333, 1800 030 966; www.hobartmidcity.com.au; cnr Elizabeth & Bathurst Sts; r \$135-215) The Midcity strikes a chunky '70s pose, rising nondescriptly into the Hobart skyline. But forget aesthetics: the staff are great, the location is primo, there's 24-hour reception and an on-site restaurant and bar. A perfectly good all-rounder.

**Mercure** (Map p80; ☎ 6232 6225; www.mercure.com.au; 156 Bathurst St; d \$144-244; 📺) A fave with blow-in yachties, touring rock bands and business bods, the demure Mercure looks a bit 'prison block' but delivers 140 stylishly updated rooms right in the middle of town, each with a little semicircular balcony overlooking the rooftops.

**Leisure Inn Hobart Macquarie** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4422; www.leisureinnhotels.com; 167 Macquarie St; d \$155-210; 📺) The architecture here is funky (c 1968), but the ongoing makeover shifts the interior design forward 40 years: coffee-and-cream colours, dark timber floors, flat-screen TVs and natty bathrooms. A great location too, close to the city and waterfront (views to either from most rooms). Internet deals sometimes include breakfast.

**Grand Mercure Hadleys Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 4355, 1800 131 689; www.accorhotels.com.au; 34 Murray St; d from \$175; 📺) This sumptuous place has clocked up more than 150 years of hospitality (and almost as many owners) in the heart of the CBD – ideal for meeting-plagued businesspeople. It's acquired plenty of modern embellishments since its colonial beginnings, including a restaurant and lobby bar.

## TOP END

**Quest Savoy** (Map p82; ☎ 6220 2300; www.questapartments.com.au; 38 Elizabeth St; r \$165-250; 📺 📺) The Savoy offers super-duper modern studios – all with kitchenette and living/dining area – smack bang in the middle of downtown Hobart. If you're travel-weary, there's a therapeutic spa on site. Quest Waterfront (3 Brooke St) and Quest Trinity House (149 Brooker Ave, Glebe) offer similar rates.

**Macquarie Manor** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 4999, 1800 243 044; www.macmanor.com.au; 172 Macquarie St; r \$200-300) Plush, high-ceilinged heritage rooms and cooked breakfast buffets are the order of the day at this central, well-groomed, Regency-style guesthouse. Enough chesterfields and mahogany writing desks to fill three gentlemen's clubs.

## Waterfront & Salamanca Place

### MIDRANGE

**Customs House Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6645; www.customshousehotel.com.au; 1 Murray St; d \$125-160) Renovated, stylish pub rooms (all with en suite, some with harbour view) are upstairs at this ever-popular harbourside watering hole, dating from 1846. The location is magic, but light sleepers should look elsewhere, especially later in the week when the live music downstairs cranks up the decibels. Tasty pub food too.

### TOP END

**Old Woolstore** (Map p82; ☎ 6235 5355, 1800 814 676; www.oldwoolstore.com.au; 1 Macquarie St; d from \$190, apt d from \$215, extra person \$35; 📺) Oodles of parking and superfriendly staff are the first things you'll notice at this large, lavish hotel/apartment complex. You won't notice much wool lying around – it hasn't been a wool store for 100 years. Spend up on a roomy apartment (up to three bedrooms), with kitchen, laundry, stereo and video.

**Somerset on the Pier** (Map p82; ☎ 6220 6600, 1800 766 377; www.staysomerset.com.au; Elizabeth St Pier; apt from \$250; 📺) In a definitively Hobart location on the upper level of the Elizabeth Pier, this stylin' complex offers luxurious apartments with beaut harbour views and breezy, contemporary design. You'll pay more for a balcony, but with these views, you won't need to do any other sightseeing! Winter rates as low as \$170. The same management also runs Somerset on Salamanca (8 Salamanca Pl).

**Henry Jones Art Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6210 7700; www.thehenryjones.com; 25 Hunter St; d \$290-390, ste \$390-850; 📺) Since opening in 2004, superswish HJs has become a beacon of sophistication. Absolute waterfront in a restored jam factory, it oozes class but is far from intimidating (this is Hobart after all, not Sydney). Modern art enlivens the walls, while facilities and downstairs distractions (bar, restaurant, café) are world class. The hotel also makes smart use of recycled materials.

## North & West Hobart

### BUDGET

**Adelphi Court YHA** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 4829; www.yha.com.au; 17 Stoke St, New Town; dm \$24-27, d & tw with/without bathroom from \$75/60) Rooms here occupy a spruced-up 1950s-style apartment block built around a courtyard behind a Federation manor. It's out of the way – 2.5km from the

city – but reasonably close to the North Hobart strip. Limited reception hours; call ahead. Take bus 15 or 16 from stop H in Elizabeth St to stop 8, or any bus leaving stop E to stop 13, which is close to Stoke St.

**Hobart Tower Motel** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 0166; www.hobarttower.com.au; 300 Park St, New Town; s/d from \$68/78/96) The Tower is close to busy Brooker Hwy and more than a walk from town (the buses that service Adelphi Court YHA stop nearby), but the quieter rooms out the back are as good as any Hobart motel. And what old-fashioned prices! Management seems to enjoy lagging behind the pace – they only recently took down the sign out the front advertising 'Colour TV'.

**Waterfront Lodge** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 4748; www.waterfrontnewtownbay.com; 153 Risdon Rd, New Town; d \$75-115, extra person \$15; 📺) Overlooking the quasi-industrial New Town Bay and the Cornelian Bay Cemetery 5km north of the centre, this funky renovated motel has spotless, modern units, all with kitchenette. There's also a guest kitchen. Great value if you don't mind the outlook or the drive.

**Marquis of Hastings Hotel** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 3541; www.marquishotel.com.au; 209 Brisbane St, West Hobart; s/d from \$85/99, extra person \$15) Ask for a water-view room at the Marquis, another of Hobart's red-brick '70s pubs with a conjoined motel wing off to one side. It's a killer hike up vertiginous Brisbane St, but you can recover with a schnitzel and a beer or three at the bar.

## MIDRANGE

**Grosvenor Court** (Map p80; ☎ 6223 3422; www.grosvenorcourt.com.au; 42 Grosvenor St, Sandy Bay; d \$130-145, q \$149-290; 📺) Grosvenor Court is a strange mix of good and evil: quiet street, obnoxious tiling; lovely linen, ugly brickwork; exciting leather lounge suites, weary kitchens. As is often the case in Hobart (and indeed Tasmania), friendly owners lessen any disappointment and make things feel homy. Wireless internet access.

**Lodge on Elizabeth** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 3830; www.thelodge.com.au; 249 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; s/d incl breakfast from \$140/160, self-contained cottage from \$190; 📺) Built in 1829, this old-timer has been a school house, a boarding house and a halfway house, but now opens its doors as a value-for-money guesthouse. Rooms are dotted with antiques (not for the modernists); all have en suites. The self-contained cottage overlooks the courtyard out the back (two-night minimum).

**Graham Court Apartments** (Map p79; ☎ 6278 1333, 1800 811 915; www.grahamcourt.com.au; 15 Pirie St,

New Town; d \$145-170, extra person \$25) Probably Hobart's best-value self-contained option, this block of 23 well-maintained apartments sits amid established gardens in the subdued northern suburbs. Units range from one to three bedrooms (décor from '70s to '90s), with a playground and cots, high chairs and babysitters on call. Wheelchair-accessible units available.

**Elms of Hobart** (Map p79; ☎ 6231 3277; www.theelmsofhobart.com; 452 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; d incl breakfast \$160-230; ☎) Built in 1917 for the Palfreymans, a haughty Hobart merchant family, this self-assured mansion features beautiful gardens (perfect for sunny afternoon G&Ts), six luxurious rooms and cooked breakfasts. Pro: close to the North Hobart action. Con: no kids under 14.

**Bay View Villas** (Map p79; ☎ 6234 7611, 1800 061 505; www.bayviewvillas.com; 34 Poets Rd, West Hobart; d \$169-265, extra adult/child \$25/20; ☎) Two kilometres up the steep West Hobart slopes from the city, this family-focussed option offers a games room, playground, indoor pool and spa. It looks a bit '80s externally, but the two- and three-bedroom units here are surprisingly hip. East-facing rooms have water views and are pricier (it's not really a bay, but 'Estuary View Villas' doesn't have quite the same ring to it).

#### TOP END

**Corinda's Cottages** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 1590; www.corindascottages.com.au; 17 Glebe St, Glebe; d incl breakfast \$220-250) Gorgeous Corinda, a renovated Victorian mansion with meticulously maintained parterre gardens, sits high on the Glebe hillside a short (steep!) walk from town. Three self-contained cottages (garden, coach house or servants' quarters) provide contemporary comforts with none of the twee, olde-worlde guff so may Tasmanian accommodations wallow in. Breakfast is DIY gourmet (eggs, muffins, fresh coffee etc). Cheaper rates for longer stays. Outstanding.

**Moorilla Estate Suites & Chalets** (off Map p79; ☎ 6277 9900; www.moorilla.com.au; 655 Main Rd, Berriedale; d \$350-395, extra person \$40; ☎) For a slice of luxury, rent a secluded chalet at Moorilla Estate (p88), 12km north of the city. These modern self-contained pavilions (one- and two-bedroom) are superbly equipped, featuring private balconies, wine cellars, river views and oh-so-discreet service. Over-14s only; wireless broadband.

#### Battery Point, Sandy Bay & South Hobart BUDGET

**Cascade Hotel & Holiday Apartments** (Map p79; ☎ 6223 6385; www.view.com.au/cascadehotel; 22 Cascade Rd, South Hobart; s/d \$70/85, extra person \$15) Famed for its steaks, the Cascade pub is en route to Cascade Brewery (how handy), on a residential strip 2km from town (Cascade Rd is the continuation of Macquarie St). Behind the pub are four unassuming, self-contained brick units, with free guest laundry and bargain rates.

**Shipwrights Arms Hotel** (Map p80; ☎ 6223 5551; www.batterypoint.net/shippies; 29 Trumpeter St, Battery Point; d with bathroom \$150, s/d without bathroom \$75/80) Nested in the Battery Point backstreets, 'Shippies' is one of the best old pubs in town. Soak yourself in maritime heritage at the bar (you can almost taste the brine sheeting down from the sails), then retire to your clean, above-board berth upstairs. Great pub meals in the beer garden.

**St Ives Motel** (Map p80; ☎ 6224 1044; www.stivesmotel.com.au; 67 St Georges Tce, Battery Point; d \$97-155) Within walking distance of Battery Point and the city is this reasonable option – a curvilinear '80s building with dozens of rooms, all with kitchens. The whole place was getting a makeover when we visited: expect prices to spike when the paint has dried.

#### MIDRANGE

**Hugo's B&B** (Map p79; ☎ 6225 1902; www.hugosbb.com.au; 22 Edith Ave, Sandy Bay; s/d incl breakfast from \$90/110, extra adult/child \$30/20) Down south in Sandy Bay is Hugo's, a modern, unobtrusive B&B with a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom unit, both with sensational Derwent River views. To get here take Regent St (which becomes Churchill Ave) off Davey St, then turn right onto Edith Ave after 2.5km.

**Crawfords B&B** (Map p79; ☎ 6225 3751; www.crawfordsbb.com; 178 Nelson Rd, Mt Nelson; s/d incl breakfast \$100/130) Located on an elbow of Nelson Rd, winding up from Sandy Bay to Mt Nelson, Crawfords' is a homy self-contained unit under the owners' house. Great views and private garden, but beware: chintzy prints and wallpaper. Bus 58 stops nearby.

**Battery Point Heritage B&B** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 3124; www.batterypointbedandbreakfast.com; 74 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; d incl breakfast \$100-165) 'Heritage' is indeed the most apt description for this one (much curlicue, floral print and twee twiddle-dee-dee), but the three rooms here come with hefty cooked breakfasts and rates as good as they get in this neck of the woods.

**Blue Hills Motel** (Map p80; ☎ 6223 1777, 1800 030 776; www.bluehills.bestwestern.com.au; 96a Sandy Bay Rd, Battery Point; d from \$115) Before they painted this modern gem cream and blue, it was a stark and stunning white. There's just no accounting for taste. The same applies inside where it's all a bit 1994, but still, it's in a stellar location on the fringe of Battery Point, and B&B internet deals are solid value.

**Prince of Wales Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 6355; www.princeofwaleshotel.net.au; 55 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; r incl breakfast \$120-140) A severe '60s glitch in Battery Point's urban planning (would Prince Has approve?), the POW is nonetheless exquisitely located and offers cheery, spotlessly clean pub-style rooms, all with en suite. Off-street parking.

**Mayfair Plaza Motel** (Map p80; ☎ 6220 9900; www.mayfairplaza.com.au; 236 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; r \$120-150) The redevelopment of the Mayfair in the '90s sent Sandy Bay into an architectural tailspin, but if that doesn't bother you, these cavernous modern rooms are well located and pretty good value. There are lots of eating options in the 'hood, and plenty of parking.

**Motel 429** (Map p79; ☎ 6225 2511; www.motel429.com.au; 429 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; d \$120-160; ☎) Not far from the casino, this motel's recent face-lift has tarted things up externally but fails to deliver inside, where the rooms remain shamelessly middle-aged. That said, the staff are friendly and everything's clean and shipshape. Deluxe rooms lift the bar a little.

**Merre Be's** (Map p80; ☎ 6224 2900; www.merrebess.com.au; 17 Gregory St, Sandy Bay; d incl breakfast from \$120) On a quiet street close to the Sandy Bay shopping strip, this 1901 colonial house has been transformed into an upmarket B&B with large rooms (some with spa), and almost-as-large bathrooms. Colonial interiors are on the tasteful side of excessive; breakfast is a full buffet affair.

**Mountain Lodge B&B** (Map p89; ☎ 6239 1005; jfaircloth@bigpond.com; 9 Lapoinya Rd, Fern Tree; s/d incl breakfast \$120/125) With one hectare of lovingly maintained mountain gardens and views to Bruny Island, this B&B is superclose to Mt Wellington's walking trails. To get here, head for Mt Wellington but go past the turn-off to the summit then turn left after the Fern Tree Tavern. A bottomless bottle of port eases the chill of altitude.

**Battery Point Manor** (Map p80; ☎ 6224 0888; www.batterypointmanor.com.au; 13-15 Cromwell St, Battery Point; s \$135, d \$155-195, incl breakfast) Absorb the magi-

cal river views from the outdoor terrace at this homely manor, built c 1834. There's a range of large rooms here, all with en suites, some with king-size beds, as well as a separate two-bedroom cottage.

**Woolmers Inn** (Map p80; ☎ 6223 7355, 1800 030 780; www.woolmersinn.com; 123-127 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; d from \$138) A solid choice not too far from the action, despite lashings of brown-brick colonial coach-house style. Spacious studio and two-bedroom units, all with kitchenette, cable TV and video. Some disable-access units too.

**Avon Court Holiday Apartments** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 4837, 1800 807 257; www.avoncourt.com.au; 4 Colville St, Battery Point; d \$140-200, extra adult/child \$40/20) Overlook the ugly nouveau-sandstone exteriors and bland, motel-style interiors and you'll find yourself brilliantly poised in a spacious apartment, right in the heart of Battery Point. Larger apartments sleep up to six. Off-street parking a bonus.

**Coopers Cottage** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 0355; www.cooperscottage.com.au; 44a Hampden Rd, Battery Point; r \$150, extra person \$15) Nooked in behind an old-time Hampden Rd shopfront is this self-contained option, perfect for two or three, with extras such as video, CD player and washing machine. The Gods of Décor do not ordain the carpet... Reception is next door at the Village Store.

**our pick Tree Tops Cascades** (Map p79; ☎ 6223 2839; treetops@treetopscascades.com.au; 165 Strickland Ave, South Hobart; d \$150-160, extra person \$35) Book ahead for this superb three-bedroom house in an idyllic bush setting, 6km from town near Cascade Brewery. Built on 6 acres, there's a zoo-full of wildlife about: possums, bandicoots and tame kookaburras (which you can feed on the BBQ deck). Three bedrooms means lots of room for families and groups. Buses 46, 47 and 49 run here from bus stop M on Elizabeth St next to Franklin Sq.

**Battery Point Boutique Accommodation** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 2244; www.batterypointaccommodation.com.au; 27-29 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; d \$165, extra person \$35) Yet more colonial midrangery, this time in a block of four salmon-coloured serviced apartments (sleeping three, with full kitchens) in Battery Point's heart (somewhere near the left ventricle). Off-street parking a bonus. Direct inquiries to Unit 1.

#### TOP END

**Battery Point Guest House** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 2111; www.batterypointguesthouse.com.au; 7 McGregor St, Battery

Point; s/d incl breakfast from \$155/190) Originally the coach house and stables for the nearby Lenna of Hobart (below), this stress-free guesthouse is a stone's throw from Salamanca Pl, but is hemmed in by a child-care centre and an apartment tower (no views). Fussless rooms come with cooked breakfast, with discounts on stays of three nights or more. Self-contained cottages also available.

**Barton Cottage** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 1606; www.bartoncottage.com.au; 72 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; s/d incl breakfast from \$155/190) In the midst of well-heeled Battery Point is the symmetrical, double-storey Barton Cottage, a National Trust-listed building dating from 1837. Beyond a new red roof and wrought-iron veranda trimmings are six well-appointed rooms, run by the same folks as Battery Point Guest House (p99).

**Colville Cottage** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 6968; www.colvillecottage.com.au; 32 Mona St, Battery Point; s/d incl breakfast from \$165/210) An enduring, endearing B&B in Battery Point, where you can peruse the cultured cottage gardens from a shady veranda. There's a welcoming, elegant interior, full of colonial heritage but without the clutter.

**Amberley House** (Map p80; ☎ 6225 1005; www.amberleyhouse.com.au; 391 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; d \$180-240) An elegant, high-ceilinged 1890s mansion, Amberley is a top-quality guesthouse with young owners. The rooms have benefited from a face-lift, which has seen the introduction of soothing neutral colours and choice pieces of furniture. Too far from town to walk, but off-street parking is available.

**Lenna of Hobart** (Map p82; ☎ 6232 3900, 1800 030 633; www.lenna.com.au; 20 Runnymede St, Battery Point; r & ste \$205-295) Knocked into shape in 1874, this grand Italianate mansion squats on a bluff above Salamanca Pl amid manicured gardens. The newer concrete wing houses the accommodation – rooms are large and the facilities first class, but the décor is looking dated. More up-to-speed are the apartments at Salamanca Terraces (93 Salamanca Pl), managed through Lenna.

## Around Hobart BUDGET

**Elwick Cabin & Tourist Park** (Map p79; ☎ 6272 7115; www.islandcabins.com.au; 19 Goodwood Rd, Glenorchy; unpowered/powerd sites \$20/30, cabins \$90-115, 3-bedroom house per d \$130) The nearest camping area to town (about 8km north of the centre), with a range of cabins but limited powered sites (book ahead). The three-bedroom houses

sleep eight (extra adult/child \$25/20). Tight security and roaming bull mastiff.

**Barilla Holiday Park** (off Map p79; ☎ 6248 5453; 1800 465 453; www.barilla.com.au; 75 Richmond Rd, Cambridge; unpowered/powerd sites \$26/28, cabins \$85-160; 📶 🚰 🚿) A decent option for those with wheels, Barilla is midway between Hobart (12km) and Richmond (14km), close to the airport and some great wineries. The river-plains grounds are dotted with well-kept cabins, plus minigolf and an on-site restaurant serving wood-fired pizzas.

**Cosy Cabins Mornington Park** (off Map p79; ☎ 6211 4811; www.cosycabins.com.au; 346 Cambridge Rd, Mornington; cabins from \$99; 📶 🚰 🚿) Family-friendly cabin park out in the 'burbs (the first suburb you reach approaching the city from the airport). No camping sites, but a passable mishmash of cabins, barbecues, playground and trampoline.

## EATING

Downtown Hobart proffers some classy brunch and lunch venues, but when the sun sinks behind the mountain, the city streets are overrun with 'bogans' (Hobart's version of standard, low-IQ, pugilistic hoons), stuck on an endless petrol-wasting loop of the city block – head for the harbour or North Hobart without delay!

The waterfront streets, docks and piers are the collective epicentre of the city's culinary scene – quality seafood is everywhere you look. Salamanca Pl is an almost unbroken string of excellent cafés and restaurants, especially thronging during Saturday morning market festivities. Battery Point's Hampden Rd restaurants are always worth a look, while Elizabeth St in North Hobart has evolved into a diverse collection of cosmopolitan cafés, multicultural eateries and improving pubs. Pub meals citywide are dependable (if somewhat predictable), and are usually big enough to keep you walking for a week.

## City Centre

**La Cuisine** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 1274; 85 Bathurst St; meals \$5-8; 📶 breakfast & lunch Mon-Fri) When La Cuisine opened its doors in the mid-'80s, no-one in Hobart had seen a croissant before. With Basque house cakes, stuffed sourdough rolls, juicy quiches and sensational salads, La Cuisine dragged the city out of the white-bread culinary quicksand. Also at 108 Collins St.

**Undertone** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 1033; 37a Elizabeth St; meals \$5-10; 📶 breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat) Dig it! Underground Undertone is a hip new record

bar-café attracting wired-for-sound city workers and students looking for something different. The hip young staff make a mean coffee, and serve a small but tasty section of salads, frittatas, toasted sandwiches, rolls and gluten-free cakes.

**Vanny's** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 1457; 181 Liverpool St; meals \$6-10; 📶 lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) Supermodest café-takeaway plating up cheap Cambodian-style curries and satays, including vegetarian options.

**Criterion Street Café** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 5858; 10 Criterion St; mains \$8-15; 📶 breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat) It's a short menu on a short street, but Criterion Street Café manages to keep vegetarians happy (try the pan-fried polenta with mushrooms and spinach) and caffeine fiends buzzing. Be seen on the sidewalk tables.

**Nourish** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 5674; 129 Elizabeth St; meals \$8-15; 📶 breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat, dinner Thu & Fri) Don't eat wheat? Dairy scary? Nourish is a god-sent café for the allergic and intolerant, serving curries, salads, stir-fries, risottos and burgers – all gluten-free, and mostly dairy-free too. Vegetarians and vegans also catered for.

**Kafe Kara** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 2332; 119 Liverpool St; mains \$10-18; 📶 lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) A pioneering Hobart café with a loyal following, offering early breakfasts and all-day eating in its stylish *loong* room. There'd be a riot if it ever took the chicken salad off the menu. If it does, order a *panini*, pasta or risotto.

**Sirens** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 2634; 6 Victoria St; mains \$18-20; 📶 dinner Mon-Sat) Sirens serves up creative vegetarian and vegan food in a warm, welcoming space, offset by excellent service and impeccable ethics. But it's not all earnest long-hairs stirring lentils – there's some sophisticated cooking going on in the kitchen! Try the three-cheese beetroot ravioli in champagne, dill and pink peppercorn cream.

The most central self-catering option is **City Supermarket** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4003; 148 Liverpool St; 📶 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, noon-5pm Sun).

See also New Sydney Hotel (p95).

## Waterfront & Salamanca Place

**Salamanca Bakehouse** (p82; ☎ 6224 6300; 5 Salamanca Sq; items \$3-8; 📶 24hr) Gone are the days of nothing-open-past-10pm in Hobart – the Salamanca Bakehouse is open 24/7! Pies, pastries and rolls to soak up the beer and build a better tomorrow for nocturnal drinkers.

**Sticky Fingers** (p82; ☎ 6223 1077; Murray St Pier; snacks \$5-10; 📶 11am-10pm) Upbeat, kid-friendly place

for a pit stop, full of sweet treats like sundaes, smoothies, cakes, crepes and vats of ice cream and *gelati*.

**Flippers Fish Pub** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 3101; Constitution Dock; meals \$5-12; 📶 lunch & dinner) With its voluptuous fish-shaped profile and alluring sea-blue paint job, floating Flippers is a Hobart institution. Not to mention the awesome fish and chips! Fillets of flathead and curls of calamari – straight from the deep blue sea and into the deep fryer.

**Retro Café** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 3073; 31 Salamanca Pl; mains \$6-18; 📶 breakfast & lunch) So popular it hurts, funky Retro is ground zero for Saturday brunch among the market stalls. Masterful breakfasts, bagels, salads and burgers interweave with laughing staff, chilled-out jazz and the whir and bang of the coffee machine. A classic Hobart café.

**Mures** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 2121; www.mures.com.au; Victoria Dock; 📶 lunch & dinner) Mures and Hobart seafood are synonymous. On the ground level you will find a fishmonger (selling the Mures fleet's daily catch), a sushi bar, ice-cream parlour and the hectic, family-focussed bistro Lower Deck (mains \$7 to \$13), serving meals for the masses (fish and chips, salmon burgers, crumbed scallops). The Upper Deck (mains \$20 to \$28) is a sassier affair, where patrons can take in silvery dockside views and à la carte seafood dishes.

**Zum Salamanca** (p82; ☎ 6223 2323; 29 Salamanca Pl; meals \$7-15; 📶 breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Wed-Sat) A long, lantern-lit space receding to a courtyard where metrosexual young staff serve heart-starting breakfasts (muffins, ricotta hotcakes, egg-and-bacon *panini*), moving on to risottos, pastas and pastries to plug stomach holes later in the day.

**Vietnamese Kitchen** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 2188; 61 Salamanca Pl; mains \$8-14; 📶 lunch & dinner) With slick waterfront eateries closing in on all sides, it's refreshing to discover this cheap, kitsch kitchen, with its glowing drinks fridge and plastic-coated photos of steaming soups and stir-fries. Eat in or takeaway.

**Tricycle Café Bar** (p82; ☎ 6223 7228; 71 Salamanca Pl; mains \$8-16; 📶 breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat) This newish, red-painted nook just near the Salamanca Arts Centre serves up a range of café classics (BLTs, toasties, free-range scrambled eggs, salads and Fair Trade coffee). Arty types sip wines by the glass from the mirror-backed bar and discuss budgets for upcoming productions.

**Jam Packed** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 3454; 27 Hunter St; mains \$9-20; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Inside the redeveloped IXL Jam Factory atrium next to the Henry Jones Art Hotel, this café is jam-packed at breakfast time. If you're sporting a hangover of some description, the BLT is the perfect reintroduction to life, while the prawn *putanesca* spaghetti, simmered in olive, tomato and caper sauce, makes a filling lunch.

**Sugo** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 5690; 9 Salamanca Sq; mains \$10-16; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Tomato-red walls, serious coffee and a menu heavy with Italian influences (pasta, pizza, risotto, *panini*) make this a *perpetto* café choice. Kudos to the semi-dried tomato and mozzarella scrambled eggs on cornbread (\$12). Oz wines by the glass or bottle.

**Machine Laundry Café** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 9922; 12 Salamanca Sq; mains \$10-17; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Hypnotise yourself watching the tumble dryers spin at this bright, retro-style café, where you can wash your dirty clothes while discreetly adding fresh juice, soup or coffee stains to your clean ones. Five dollars per load.

**Fish Frenzy** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 2134; Elizabeth St Pier; meals \$10-25; ☺ lunch & dinner) A casual, waterside fish nook, perennially overflowing with fish fiends and brimming with deliciously prepared fish and chips, fishy salads (spicy calamari, smoked salmon and brie) and fish burgers. The eponymous 'Fish Frenzy' (\$15) delivers a little bit of everything. No bookings.

**Saffron** (p82; ☎ 6231 4150; 15 Hunter St; mains \$13-21; ☺ lunch & dinner) Festooned with subcontinental paraphernalia, Saffron slides back the windows on summer nights so curry-munchers can enjoy the warm airs and Victoria Dock views. The prawn vindaloo will knock your little cottons socks off.

**Sals on the Square** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 3667; 55 Salamanca Pl; mains \$15-28; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Is it a bar? Is it a café? Is it a food court with occasional live music? Sals somehow manages to be all of the above. Walk past the Salamanca Pl takeaway counter into the wider café-bar fronting Salamanca Sq, where pastas, risottos, steaks, burgers and salads rule the roost.

**Mezethes** (p82; ☎ 6224 4601; Salamanca Sq; mains \$17-28; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Tried and true Greek dishes and Adonis-like staff come together perfectly at Mezethes. All the classics (mous-saka, souvlaki, lamb, fish, *saganaki*, baklava) plus, in true Hellenic style, a dazzling array of starters. The entrée platter (\$23 for two) is hard to beat.

**Ball & Chain Grill** (p82; ☎ 6223 2655; 87 Salamanca Pl; mains \$22-42; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly) This carnivorous cave has been here so long, it's almost convict-era. Predictable, yes, but when you're onto a good thing, stick with it: steaks, grilled game, chicken and seafood with perfectly paired wines.

**Catch** (p82; ☎ 6234 3490; 11 Morrison St; mains \$23-30; ☺ lunch & dinner) Inside the flamboyantly renovated City Mill (cast-iron columns, white-painted timber, black-and-white stripy chairs) is this sharp but relaxed eatery, serving up (you guessed it) seafood, straight from the deep blue sea to you and me. Top service, interstate chefs.

**Henry's Harbourside** (p82; ☎ 6210 7700; 25 Hunter St; lunch \$16-19, dinner \$23-35; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Inside the schmick Henry Jones Art Hotel is this better-than-most lobby eatery. Breakfast is pricey (up to \$22); lunch is better value (salads, oysters, fish, vegetarian lasagne); dinner sees prices escalate again, but the food is high-quality stuff. Aim for an atrium table.

**Maldini** (p82; ☎ 6223 4460; 47 Salamanca Pl; mains \$24-34; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Midrange Italian joint trying to climb the culinary rungs, with essential pasta and risotto dishes plus mains like Sicilian fish stew, osso bucco and baked calamari. Tiramisu and grappa to polish the palate and close out the night.

**Marque IV** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 4428; Elizabeth St Pier; mains \$35-40; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) High-class dining hits waterfront Hobart at Marque IV, a discrete food room halfway along Elizabeth St Pier. You could start with an 'amuse' but, at these prices, it doesn't pay to dally. Begin with a *carpaccio* of cured Marawah beef on a warm *nicoise* salad, followed by caramelised pork belly with Granny Smith dumplings, walnuts and sage gnoc-chi. Desserts? Sensational. Wine list? Superb. Service and décor lag very slightly behind.

Gourmet self-caterers should head to Wursthau (p107) for deli produce or the **Salamanca Fresh Fruit Market** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 2700; 41 Salamanca Pl; ☺ 7am-7pm) for fruit and groceries.

See also T-42\* (p105).

## North & West Hobart

**Kaos Café** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 5699; 237 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$5-19; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) A few blocks south of the main action, this laid-back, gay-friendly café busies itself with a tasty assortment of dishes (burgers, sal-

ads and risottos), serving until late (usually around 11.30pm). Soak@Kaos (p105) bar is next door.

**Amulet** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 8113; 333 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; lunch \$10-16, dinner mains \$22-26; ☺ lunch & dinner daily, brunch Sat & Sun) The stylishly understated Amulet serves innovative, well-priced food infused with a mindset of 'sustainability, seasonality and community'. For lunch, how about asparagus ravioli with lemon crème fraîche, or roast-capsicum soup with pickled eggplant? Dinner choices are just as appealing, and desserts are worth leaving room for.

**Rain Check Lounge** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 5975; 392 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$12-27; ☺ breakfast & lunch Mon-Sun, dinner Wed-Sat) A slice of mainland urban cool (straight out of Fitzroy or Darlinghurst), Rain Check's cool Moroccan-styled room and sidewalk tables see punters sipping coffee, reconstituting over big breakfasts and conversing over impressive Mod Oz dinners.

**our pick Annapurna** (Map p80; ☎ 6236 9500; 305 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$14-17; ☺ lunch & dinner) It seems like half of Hobart lists Annapurna as their favourite eatery (bookings advised). Northern and southern Indian options are served with absolute proficiency – the best Indian meal you'll have on the island, guaranteed! The *masala dosa* (south Indian crepe filled with curried potato) is a crowd favourite. BYO; takeaway available. Also at 93 Salamanca Pl.

**Vanidol's** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 9307; 353 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$16-25; ☺ dinner Tue-Sun) A pioneering North Hobart restaurant (both in location and cuisine), Vanidol's simple purple walls belie a complex menu – a creative confluence of Asian-fusion dishes like beef and vegetables stir-fried in Thai green curry paste with Indian spices (\$16). Oodles of vegetarian options; BYO.

**Casablanca** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 9900; 213 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$18-34; ☺ dinner Mon-Sat) Loads of Italian choices at this upmarket BYO with down-home quality. If you're after pizza, pasta, risotto, *scallopine* or *cotoletta*, you've come to the right place. Takeaway available. No sign of Humphrey Bogart.

**Restaurant 373** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 9186; 373 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; mains \$28-33; ☺ dinner Tue-Sat) Artsy, high-end eatery on the Elizabeth St strip in a lovely old shopfront with wide floorboards and splashes of dark red paint and white linen. The young owners give local produce a Mod Oz twist – try the Flinders Island wallaby fillet

with beetroot couscous and native peppercorn sauce. Excellent service; brilliant wine list and desserts. One of Hobart's best.

**Lebrina** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 7775; 155 New Town Rd, New Town; mains \$35-45; ☺ dinner Tue-Sat) Foodies effuse about Lebrina. Isolated in Hobart's northern reaches, it looks small and unremarkable from the outside, but inside it's sheer dining pleasure, from the décor to the service to the wine list – and of course the creative modern food. Bookings essential.

Self-caterers should find what they need at **Fresco Market** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 2710; 346 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; ☺ 8.30am-8pm) or **Woolworths Supermarket** (Map p80; ☎ 6211 6911; 189 Campbell St, North Hobart; ☺ 8am-10pm).

See also Republic Bar & Café (p106) and Moorilla Estate (p88).

## Battery Point, Sandy Bay & South Hobart

**Jackman & McRoss** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 3186; 57-59 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; meals \$7-11; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Be sure to swing by this conversational, neighbourhood bakery-café, even if it's just to gawk at the display cabinet full of delectable pies, tarts, baguettes and pastries. Early-morning cake and coffee may evolve into quiche or soup for lunch. Staff stay cheery despite being run off their feet.

**South Hobart Food Store** (Map p79; ☎ 6224 6862; 356 Macquarie St, South Hobart; meals \$7-14; ☺ breakfast & lunch) OK, so it's a little way out of the city centre, but any trip to the Food Store will reward the intrepid traveller. It's an old shopfront café full of booths, bookish students, brunching friends and kids under the tables. A mod-rock soundtrack competes with the coffee machine, which runs at fever pitch.

**Gilt** (p80; ☎ 6224 0551; 231 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; meals \$8-16; ☺ breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Thu-Sat; ☑) Check your guilt at the door and rip into a big Gilt breakfast (a pancake stack or some 'eggs benedictus', perhaps), or graze over dips, tapas or more substantial salads, soups and wraps right through the day. Flamboyantly decorated, with a piano that gets a bashing on weekends. Free internet.

**Fish Bar** (p80; ☎ 6234 5691; 50 King St, Sandy Bay; meals \$8-20; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) A chipper fish-and-chipper, popular with locals for fresh (uncooked) seafood, plus a swathe of cooked fishy combos and subaquatic treats (Thai fish cakes, seafood curry, Cajun-style trevally). Oily-smelling air; worn timber booths.

**Francisco's on Hampden** (p82; ☎ 6224 7124; 60 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; tapas \$9-11, mains \$24-27; ☎ lunch Fri, dinner Tue-Sun) Upbeat, noisy tapas bar of the fertile Spanish persuasion, adorned with posters of toreadors and dusky dancing maidens. Try some snacky tapas sloshed down with rioja, or a larger meal (paella, seafood or meat platters) if you want a plate all to yourself.

**Chon-Na-Kau Thai Restaurant** (p80; ☎ 6223 3600; 50c King St, Sandy Bay; mains \$12-17; ☎ lunch &, dinner) No-frills suburban Thai food room where you get what you pay for – Thai beef salad, green chicken curry etc. The food, surpassing; the décor, middling.

**Magic Curries** (p82; ☎ 6223 4500; 41 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; mains \$13-22; ☎ dinner) The Indian cricket team eat here when they're in town, so the food gets the stamp of approval. Settle into a Kingfisher beer and contemplate an Indian fave (from mild to face-meltingly hot, depending on your mood). Ace vegetarian options; takeaway available.

**Metz** (p80; ☎ 6224 4444; 217 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; mains \$15-25; ☎ breakfast, lunch & diner) If you haven't been in Hobart for 10 years, you'll be forgiven for looking twice at superslick Metz, once a grungy student bar with rotten floorboards. Today it's an all-day café with a huge outdoor deck, transforming nightly into a bar (DJs Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons). Less surprising is the menu: salads, pastas, wood-fired pizza, plus upmarket dinner mains.

**Da Angelo** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 7011; 47 Hampden Rd, Battery Point; mains \$17-27; ☎ dinner) An enduring (and endearing) Italian *ristorante*. Da Angelo presents an impressively long menu of homemade pastas, veal and chicken dishes, calzone and pizza with 20 different toppings. Colosseum and Carlton Football Club team photos add authenticity. Takeaway and BYO.

**Kelley's Seafood Restaurant** (p82; ☎ 6224 7225; cnr James & Knopwood Sts, Battery Point; mains \$26-43; ☎ lunch Thu-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat) A Hobart institution, Kelly's is hidden in a geranium-dappled, 1849 sailmaker's cottage in the Battery Point back streets. Creatures from the sea define the menu: try the chowder or the trademark Accidental Occy (tenderised and grilled octopus). Bookings advised.

**Piccadilly** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 9900; cnr Hampden Rd & Francis St, Battery Point; 4 courses with/without wine \$125/80; ☎ dinner) Piccadilly is the latest incarnation of this corner cook-house – with a bit of luck

the French 'assiette' menu (meaning 'selection') will ensure longevity. Expect modern creations like handmade linguini with spanner crab, and caramelised tomato tart with crushed olives and fetta. Ramp it up to five courses if you're hungry.

Sandy Bay self-caterers should head to **Coles Supermarket** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 3291; 246 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay; ☎ 7am-midnight) or nearby **Woolworths Supermarket** (Map p80; ☎ 6211 6611; 57 King St, Sandy Bay; ☎ 7am-midnight). In South Hobart, the **Salad Bowl** (Map p79; ☎ 6223 7728; 362 Macquarie St, South Hobart; ☎ 7am-late) stocks picnic fodder, wine, cakes, fresh groceries and deli delights.

See also Shipwrights Arms Hotel (p98).

## Around Hobart

**Mount Nelson Signal Station Café Restaurant** (Map p79; ☎ 6223 3407; 700 Nelson Rd, Mt Nelson; lunch \$11-19, dinner \$20-29; ☎ breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Fri & Sat) Try for a window table at this elegant restaurant with awesome D'Entrecasteaux views, inside Mt Nelson's historic signalman's house. On offer are morning and afternoon teas, lunches, and dinner later in the week (dinner bookings essential in winter). Try the Thai chicken curry or the signalman's beef and burghundy pie.

**Beach House Café, Bar & Restaurant** (Map p79; ☎ 6225 4644; 646 Sandy Bay Rd, Lower Sandy Bay; mains \$12-28; ☎ breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Wed-Sat) A rockin' pub in the '70s, the Beach House is now a stylin' mod café, and the pride (rather than shame) of the snooty Lower Sandy Bay set. Wander along the beach before retiring for creative seafood and pasta, Tasmanian wines and good vegetarian options.

**Cornelian Bay Boathouse** (Map p79; ☎ 6228 9289; Queen's Walk, Cornelian Bay; lunch \$13-26, dinner \$25-30; ☎ lunch daily, dinner Mon-Sat) Hip, stylish restaurant-bar in a converted beach pavilion on shallow Cornelian Bay, 3km north of town. On the menu is contemporary cuisine starring quality local produce, with great service. Try the Boat House chowder followed by some crispy Szechwan pepper-spiced chicken.

**Prosser's on the Beach** (Map p79; ☎ 6225 2276; Beach Rd, Lower Sandy Bay; mains \$27-30; ☎ lunch Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) A glass-fronted pavilion by the water on Sandy Bay Point, classy Prosser's is BIG on seafood: try a fresh cray and avocado cocktail with warm citrus dressing, or scallops with Huon Valley mushrooms, chives and lemon sauce. It's a taxi ride from town, but worth the trip. Bookings recommended.

## DRINKING

Hobart's pretty young drinkers are 10,000 leagues removed from the rum-addled whalers of the past, but the general intentions remain true: drink a bit, relax a lot and maybe take someone home. Salamanca Pl and the waterfront host a slew of pubs and bars – outdoor imbibing on summer evenings; open fires in winter. North Hobart is another solid (or rather, liquid) option.

**Knopwood's Retreat** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 5808; 39 Salamanca Pl; ☎ 11am-late) Adhere to the 'when in Rome...' dictum and head for Knoppies, Hobart's best pub, which has been serving ales to seagoing types since the convict era. For most of the week it's a cosy watering hole with an open fire; on Friday nights the city workers swarm and the crowd spills across the street.

**T-42** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 7742; Elizabeth St Pier; ☎ 9am-late) Waterfront T-42° makes a big splash with its food, but also draws late-week barflies with its minimalist interior, spinnaker-shaped bar, ambient tunes and Charlie, the quintessential Hobart barman. If you stay out late enough, it does breakfast too.

**Quarry** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 6552; 27 Salamanca Pl; ☎ 11am-late) Yet another slick Salamanca renovation yielding profits, this place lures swarms of sassy Hobart young 'uns, encircled by predatory, aging musos and bombastic businessmen itching their wedding rings. Great Mod Oz menu too (pan-fried haloumi salad; mussel linguini with tomato, fresh basil and chives).

**Observatory** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 1273; L1, Murray St Pier; ☎ 3pm-late Wed-Sun) The newest bar in town has them queuing at the gates (bouncers are picky – don't dress down). Sip a 'Big O' cocktail as you swan between lounchy nooks and the raised VIP platform in a viewless corner of the room (you can pretend you're the Big Cheese, but this ain't the Big Apple...). DJs Friday and Saturday.

**Bar Celona** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 7557; 23 Salamanca Sq; ☎ 10am-late) The impressive renovation is almost irrelevant here, the main focus drifting between divorcees eyeing each other across the crowd and the effervescent staff, bubbly as champagne in tight yellow T-shirts. The tapas menu deserves scrutiny. DJs on Saturday nights.

**IXL Long Bar** (Map p82; ☎ 6210 7700; 25 Hunter St; ☎ 5pm-late) Prop yourself at the glowing bar at the Henry Jones Art Hotel (p97) and check out Hobart's fashionistas over cock-

tails. If there are no spare stools at the not-so-long bar, flop onto the leather couches in the lobby.

**Hope & Anchor Tavern** (Map p82; ☎ 6236 9982; 65 Macquarie St; ☎ 11am-late) It wasn't *that* long ago that you wouldn't be caught dead in here (for fear of ending up that way), but these days it's an atmospheric place, cashing in on its 1807 origins. The downstairs bar has pool tables, lounges and regular acoustic acts; upstairs is an amazing, museumlike bar and dining room.

**Lower House** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 0067; basement, 9-11 Murray St; ☎ noon-late Mon-Sat) Across the road from Parliament House is this hip basement bar, keeping escapee MPs lubricated with top-shelf whiskies, cocktails and a massive wine list. Mature crowd; DJs once a month.

**Lizbon** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 9133; 217 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; ☎ 4pm-late Tue-Sat) A cool wine bar, Lizbon lures a late-20s crowd with excellent wines by the glass, antipasto platters, smooth tunes, a pool table and intimate nooks and crannies. Occasional live jazz.

**Soak@Kaos** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 5699; 237 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; ☎ 10am-2pm) Perfect for an intoxicating urban afternoon or evening, gay-friendly Soak is a cloistered little lounge bar attached to Kaos Café (p102). Consume burgers and cakes from the café alongside handsome cocktails, while listening to the resident DJ on Friday and Saturday nights.

See also the Shipwrights Arms Hotel (p98), New Sydney Hotel (p106) and Republic Bar & Café (p106).

## ENTERTAINMENT Nightclubs

It's gotta be said – no-one comes to Hobart for the clubs. Still, the action is here if you know where to look. Anyone wanting to tap into the gay and lesbian scene should head to Kaos Café (p102) or consult the Gay & Lesbian Travellers section in the Directory (p324).

**Syrup** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 8249; www.syrupclub.com; 39 Salamanca Pl; admission free-\$12; ☎ 9pm-late Thu-Sat) Spreading syruple like over two floors above Knopwood's Retreat (left), this is an ace place for late-night drinks and DJs playing to the techno/house crowd.

**Mobius** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 4411; 7 Despard St; admission free-\$10; ☎ 9pm-late Thu-Sat) A pumping, clubby dungeon behind the main waterfront area, Mobius (hey wasn't he the guy in *The Matrix*?) is a going concern. Breakbeats, hip-hop, drum and bass – the crowd gyrates in unison.

**Halo** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6669; 37a Elizabeth St; admission \$5-10; 🕒 10pm-late Wed-Sun) Hobart's best-credentialed club is Halo, which sees touring and local DJs spinning acid, hard trance, electro and hip-hop. Access is off Purdy's Mart.

**Isobar** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 6600; www.isobar.com.au; 11a Franklin Wharf; admission free Wed, \$5/8 Fri/Sat; 🕒 10pm-5am Wed, Fri & Sat) Downstairs here is a slick bar (open 5pm Fridays, 7pm Saturdays), while Isobar itself – the club upstairs – plays commercial dance and blows hot and cold with the locals (most of whom seem to be there to pick up).

## Live Music

**Republic Bar & Café** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 6954; www.republicbar.com; 299 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; 🕒 11am-late) The Republic is a raucous Art Deco pub hosting live music every night (often free entry). It's the number-one live-music pub in town, with an always-interesting line-up (Holly Throsby, Sarah Blasko) and an understandably loyal following. Some say the pub food is the best in Tasmania.

**New Sydney Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4516; www.newsydnehotel.com; 87 Bathurst St; 🕒 noon-10pm Mon, to midnight Tue-Sat, 4-9pm Sun) Low-key folk, jazz, blues and comedy playing Tuesday to Sunday nights (usually free), with the occasional pub-rock outfit and end-of-week crowds adding a few decibels. Great pub food, plus budget accommodation upstairs (see p95).

**Brisbane Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4920; 3 Brisbane St; 🕒 noon-late) The bad old Brisbane has dragged itself up from the pit of old-man, sticky-carpet alcoholism to reinvent itself as a progressive live-music venue. This is where anyone doing anything original, offbeat or uncommercial gets stage time: punk, metal, hip-hop and singer-songwriters.

**Irish Murphy's** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 1119; www.irishmurphys.com.au; 21 Salamanca Pl; 🕒 11am-late) Pretty much what you'd expect from any out-of-the-box Irish pub: crowded, lively, affable and dripping with Guinness. Free live music of varying repute from Wednesday to Sunday nights; original acts Thursdays.

Other rowdy waterfront pub-rock options (both free) include the Art Deco **Telegraph Hotel** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6254; 19 Morrison St; 🕒 11am-late) and the nearby Customs House Hotel (p97), where live music raises the rafters from Wednesday to Sunday nights. See also the Lark Distillery (p88).

## FRIDAY NIGHT FANDANGO

Some of Hobart's best live music airs every Friday year-round from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Salamanca Arts Centre courtyard, just off Wooby's Lane. It's a free community event that started about eight years ago, with the adopted name 'Rektango', borrowed from a band that sometimes plays here. Acts vary from month to month – expect anything from African beats to rockabilly, folk or gypsy-Latino. Drinks essential (sangria in summer, mulled wine in winter); dancing optional.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**Federation Concert Hall** (Map p82; ☎ 6235 3633, 1800 001 190; www.tso.com.au; 1 Davey St; 🕒 box office 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Welded to the Hotel Grand Chancellor, this concert hall resembles a huge aluminium can leaking insulation from gaps in the panelling. Inside, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra do what they do best (tickets from \$51).

## Cinema

**State Cinema** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 6318; www.statecinema.com.au; 375 Elizabeth St, North Hobart; tickets adult/concession \$15/13; 🕒 box office noon-10pm) Saved from the wrecking ball in the '90s, the State shows independent and art-house flicks from local and international film makers. There's a great café and bar on site (you can take your wine into the cinema).

**Village Cinemas** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 7288; www.villagecinemas.com.au; 181 Collins St; tickets adult/child/concession \$15/11/12; 🕒 box office 10am-10pm) An inner-city multiplex screening mainstream releases. Cheap-arse Tuesday tickets \$9.

## Theatre

**Theatre Royal** (Map p82; ☎ 6233 2299, 1800 650 277; www.theatroyal.com.au; 29 Campbell St; shows \$20-60; 🕒 box office 10am-5pm) This venerable old stager is Australia's oldest continuously operating theatre, actors first cracking the boards back in 1837. Expect a range of music, ballet, theatre, opera and university revues. See p86 for backstage tour information.

Other thespian outlets:

**Playhouse Theatre** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 1536; www.playhouse.org.au; 106 Bathurst St; tickets from \$20; 🕒 box office 7-8.30pm performance nights) Home of the Hobart Repertory Theatre Society (musicals, Shakespeare, kids' plays).

**Peacock Theatre** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 8414; www.salarts.org.au; 77 Salamanca Pl; 🕒 box office 9am-6pm) This intimate theatre is inside the Salamanca Arts Centre, along with a handful of other small performance spaces.

## SHOPPING

Shopping in Hobart tends to be a utilitarian and practical experience rather than frivolous or indulgent (particularly when it comes to fashion – it seems most people here dress in preparation for impromptu wilderness experiences), but speciality shops selling Tasmanian crafts and produce are definitely worthwhile. Head to Salamanca Pl for shops and galleries stocking Huon pine knick-knacks, hand-knitted beanies, local cheeses, sauces, jams, fudge and other assorted edibles. The hyperactive Salamanca Market (p85), held here every Saturday, overflows with gourmet Tasmanian produce and sassafras cheeseboards.

The CBD shopping area is the place for less specialised needs, extending west from Elizabeth St Mall through the inner-city arcades. On Elizabeth St between Melville and Bathurst Sts is a swathe of stores catering to the aforementioned outdoors types.

## Antiques

Antique stores proliferate across the state, some selling little more than browse-worthy bric-a-brac, others specialising in well-aged articles of jewellery, artworks, furniture and colonial artefacts. This antique bounty echoes back to the settlers who migrated here from Europe in the 19th century, lugging their furniture with them.

There are a few good antique stores in the city centre and around the junction of Hampden Rd and Sandy Bay Rd in Battery Point. Pick up the free *Antique Shops of Hobart* and *Antiquarian & Secondhand Booksellers & Printsellers in Hobart* brochures from the visitors centre, detailing a few options. Our favourites:

**Antiques Market** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4425; www.theantiquesmarket.com.au; 125 Elizabeth St; 🕒 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat, noon-3pm Sun)

**Bathurst St Antique Centre** (Map p82; ☎ 6236 9422; www.antique-art.com.au; 128 Bathurst St; 🕒 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat)

## Food & Wine

Fine Tasmanian produce is available everywhere – barnstorm into the nearest super-

market for great cheeses, sauces and other assorted digestibles. Then hit Saturday morning's Salamanca Market (p85) and walk away with more oil, jams and fudge than you might have planned...

Other essential stops:

**Tasmanian Wine Centre** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 9995; www.tasmanian-wine.com.au; 201 Collins St; 🕒 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat) Stocks a hefty range of Tassie wines; also organises shipping, winery tours and educational tastings for groups.

**Salmon Shop** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 9025; www.tassal.com.au; 2 Salamanca Sq; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) Tasmanian salmon in all shapes and sizes – whole fish, steaks, smoked fillets, burgers, kebabs – plus marinades and sauces.

**Wursthaus** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 0644; www.wursthaus.com.au; 1 Montpelier Retreat, Battery Point; 🕒 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, 9.30am-4pm Sun) Fine-food showcase off Salamanca Pl selling speciality smallgoods, cheeses, breads, wines and pre-prepared meals.

## Galleries

Pick up a copy of the *Gallery Guide* brochure from the visitors centre to guide you around Hobart's arty hot spots. Some of the best:

**Art Mob** (Map p82; ☎ 6236 9200; www.artmob.com.au; 29 Hunter St; 🕒 10am-late) Gorgeous Aboriginal fine arts.

**Despard Gallery** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 8266; www.despard-gallery.com.au; 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point; 🕒 11am-6pm Mon-Fri, noon-5pm Sat) Top-notch contemporary Tasmanian arts.

**Handmark Gallery** (Map p82; ☎ 6223 7895; www.handmarkgallery.com; 77 Salamanca Pl; 🕒 10am-6pm) Exquisite local ceramics, glass, wood, jewellery and textiles, plus paintings and sculpture.

## Outdoor Clothing & Equipment

There's a plethora of stores on Elizabeth St catering to outdoorsy types in a state overflowing with national parks and wilderness. See p81 for info on where to buy topographic maps.

**Kathmandu** (Map p82; ☎ 6224 3027; www.kathmandu.com.au; 16 Salamanca Sq; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun)

**Mountain Designs** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 3900; www.mountaindesigns.com; 111 Elizabeth St; 🕒 9am-5.45pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sat)

**Snowgum** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 0777; www.snowgum.com.au; 119 Elizabeth St; 🕒 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm Sat)

**Spot On Fishing Tackle** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4880; www.spotonfishing.com.au; 89-91 Harrington St; 🕒 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 3.45am Sat) Fishing supplies.



## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

For information on domestic flights to/from Hobart, see p335.

### Bus

There are two main intrastate bus companies operating to/from Hobart:

**Redline Coaches** (Map p82; ☎ 1300 360 000, 6336 1446; 199 Collins St; www.redlinecoaches.com.au) Operates from the Transit Centre.

**Tassielink** (Map p82; ☎ 1300 300 520, 6230 8900; 64 Brisbane St; www.tassielink.com.au) Operates from the Hobart Bus Terminal.

Additionally, **Hobart Coaches** (☎ 132 201; www.hobartcoaches.com.au) has regular services to/from Richmond, New Norfolk and Kingston, south along the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and to Cygnet. See those towns for specific timetable/fare info, check online or visit Metro Tasmania's Metro Shop (right) inside the General Post Office on the corner of Elizabeth and Macquarie Sts.

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

**Hobart Airport** (☎ 6216 1600; www.hiapl.com.au) is at Cambridge, 16km east of town. The **Airporter Shuttle Bus** (☎ 0419-382 240; www.redlinecoaches.com.au/airporter/; 199 Collins St; one-way adult/concession & child \$13/6) scoots between the Transit Centre and the airport (via various city pick-up points), connecting with all flights. Bookings essential.

A taxi between the airport and the city centre will cost around \$33 between 6am and 8pm weekdays, \$38 at other times.

## Bicycle

See p91 for details of bike-rental places in Hobart.

## Boat

There are plenty of Hobart river cruises (p93), but little by way of commuter ferries. Harking back to 1975 when the Tasman Bridge collapsed and everyone used ferries (the Derwent became a mini Sydney Harbour), Captain Fell's Historic Ferries (p93) runs a weekday service between Hobart and Bellerive, transporting eastern shore residents to/from work. The ferry departs Hobart's Franklin Wharf at 7.50am and 5.25pm; return boats are at 8.15am and 5.40pm. A one-way/return ticket is \$4/8.

## Bus

**Metro Tasmania** (☎ 13 22 01; www.metrotas.com.au) operates the local bus network, which is reliable but infrequent outside of business hours. The **Metro Shop** (Map p82; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri), inside the General Post Office on the corner of Elizabeth and Macquarie Sts, handles ticketing and enquiries. Most buses depart this section of Elizabeth St, or from nearby Franklin Sq.

One-way fares vary with distances ('sections') travelled (from \$2 to \$4.50). For \$5 you can buy an unlimited-travel Day Rover ticket, valid after 9am Monday to Friday, and all day Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. Buy one-way tickets from the driver (exact change required) or ticket agents (newsagents and most post offices); day passes are only available from ticket agents. Alternatively, buy a book of 10 discounted tickets for use any time of day (\$16 to \$36, depending on sections).

## Car

Timed, metered parking predominates in the CBD and tourist areas like Salamanca and the waterfront. For longer-term parking, large CBD garages (clearly signposted) offer inexpensive rates, often with the first hour for free.

The big-boy rental firms have airport desks and city offices as follows:

**AutoRent-Hertz** (Map p80; ☎ 6237 1111; www.aurorent.com.au; cnr Bathurst & Harrington Sts)

**Avis** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 4222; www.avis.com.au; 125 Bathurst St)

**Budget** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 5222, 13 27 27; www.budget.com.au; 96 Harrington St)

**Europcar** (Map p80; ☎ 6231 1077, 1800 030 118; www.europcar.com.au; 112 Harrington St)

**Thrifty** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 1341, 1300 367 227; www.thrifty.com.au; 11-17 Argyle St)

Cheaper local firms offering daily rental rates from as low as \$25 include the following.

**Bargain Car Rentals** (Map p80; ☎ 6234 6959, 1300 729 230; www.bargaincarrentals.com.au; 173 Harrington St)

**Lo-Cost Auto Rent** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 0550, 1800 647 060; www.locostautorent.com; 105 Murray St)

**Rent-a-Bug** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 0300, 1800 647 060; www.rentabug.com.au; 105 Murray St)

**Rent For Less** (Map p82; ☎ 6231 6844; www.rentforless.com.au; 92 Harrington St)

**Selective Car Rentals** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 3311, 1800 300 102; www.selectivecarrentals.com.au; 47 Bathurst St)

## Taxi

You'll have no trouble hailing a cab in the busy, touristed areas. Fares are metered.

**City Cabs** (☎ 13 10 08)

**Maxi-Taxi Services** (☎ 6234 8061) Wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

**Taxi Combined Services** (☎ 13 22 27)

# AROUND HOBART

You won't have to travel too far from Hobart to swap cityscapes for natural panoramas, sandy beaches and historic sites. Reminders of Tasmania's convict history await at Richmond, and the waterfalls, wildlife and fantastic short walks at Mt Field National Park make an easy day trip. New Norfolk is a curious place to visit, while Seven Mile Beach and the Channel Hwy towns are great for an estuarine escape.

See p93 for info on companies offering day trips out of Hobart.

## RICHMOND & AROUND

☎ 03 / pop 750

Straddling the Coal River 27km northeast of Hobart, historic Richmond was once a strategic military post and convict station on the road to Port Arthur. Riddled with 19th-century buildings, it's arguably Tasmania's premier historic town, but like the Rocks in Sydney and Hahndorf in Adelaide, it's become a parody of itself with no actual 'life', just a parasitic tourist trade picking over the bones of the colonial past.

That said, Richmond is undeniably picturesque, and kids love chasing the ducks around the riverbanks. It's also quite close to the airport – a happy overnight option if you're on an early flight. There are no banks in town, but both main street supermarkets have ATMs.

See www.richmondvillage.com.au for more information.

## Sights & Activities

The chunky but not inelegant **Richmond Bridge** (Wellington St) still funnels traffic across the Coal River, and is the town's proud centrepiece. Built by convicts in 1823 (making it the oldest road bridge in Australia), it's purportedly haunted by the 'Flagellator of Richmond', George Grover, who died here in 1832.

The northern wing of the remarkably well-preserved **Richmond Gaol** (☎/fax 6260 2127; 37 Bathurst St; adult/child/family \$7/3/18; ☎ 9am-5pm) was built in 1825, five years before the penitentiary at Port Arthur. Like Port Arthur, fascinating historic insights abound, but the mood is pretty grim.

Other interesting historic places include the 1836 **St John's Church** (Wellington St), the first Roman Catholic church in Australia; the 1834 **St Luke's Church of England** (Edward St); the 1825 **Courthouse** (Forth St); the 1826 **Old Post Office** (Bridge St); the 1888 **Richmond Arms Hotel** (Bridge St); and the 1830 **Prospect House** (Richmond Rd), a historic B&B just south of town.

Also here is the curious **Old Hobart Town Historic Model Village** (☎ 6260 2502; www.oldhobarttown.com; 21a Bridge St; adult/family \$10/25; ☎ 9am-5pm), a re-creation of Hobart Town in the 1820s built from the city's original plans.

Herd the kids into the wooden-walled **Richmond Maze** (☎ 6260 2451; 13 Bridge St; www.townsof-tasmania.com/richmond/maze; adult/child/family \$7/5/20; ☎ 9am-5pm). They'll be safe, as the resident Minotaur has taken long-service leave. There are also tea rooms here, serving breakfast, light lunches and the obligatory Devonshire tea.

**Oak Lodge** (☎ 6260 2761; www.nationaltrust.org.au; 18 Bridge St; admission by gold-coin donation; ☎ 11am-3.30pm), opposite the maze, is worth a sticky-beak. It's one of Richmond's oldest homes (c 1831), now owned by the National Trust and operated by the Coal River Historic Society. Inside is a museum and gallery offering an insight into colonial life.

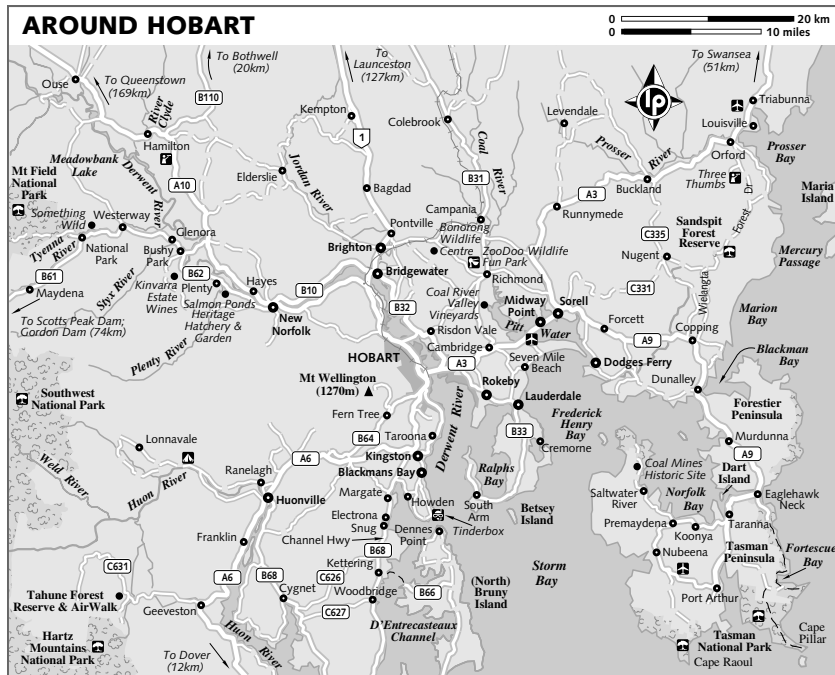
**Tours of Richmond** (☎ 0409-935 139; www.toursof-richmond.com) runs good-value 45-minute daytime walking tours (adult/child \$10/5) and nocturnal ghost tours (\$25/12.50). Minimum numbers apply; bookings essential.

## COAL RIVER VALLEY VINEYARDS

Richmond is also the centre of Tasmania's fastest-growing wine region, the **Coal River Valley** (Map p110; www.coalrivervalley.com.au), with wineries popping up all over the place. Some are sophisticated affairs with gourmet restaurants; some are small vineyards, quietly making wine with cellar doors open by appointment. Some of our favourites:

**Coal Valley Vineyard** (☎ 6248 5367; www.coalvalley.com; 257 Richmond Rd, Cambridge; mains \$16-28;

☎ 9am-4pm Thu-Sun) Sunny terracotta-tiled tasting room and excellent restaurant (open breakfast and lunch Thursday to Sunday). Pinot, riesling and tempranillo.



**Craigow Vineyard** (☎ 6248 4210; www.craigow.com.au; 528 Richmond Rd, Cambridge; ☞ 11am-5pm Jan-Mar) Opposite Meadowbank, offering tastings in a colonial cottage. Great whites: riesling, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

**Meadowbank Estate** (☎ 6248 4484; www.meadowbankwines.com.au; 699 Richmond Rd, Cambridge; mains \$15-25; ☞ 10am-5pm) Overlooking the Mt Pleasant Observatory 9km southwest of Richmond. Acclaimed restaurant serving lunch daily, plus art gallery and kids play area. Don't miss *Flawed History*, an in-floor jigsaw by local artist Tom Samek. Winning pinot gris, sauvignon blanc and pinot noir.

**Puddleduck Vineyard** (☎ 6260 2301; www.puddleduckvineyard.com.au; 992 Richmond Rd, Richmond; ☞ 10am-5pm) Small family-run vineyard producing just 1000 cases per year. Rosé, cabernet, chardonnay and 'Bub-bleduck' sparkling white.

#### WILDLIFE PARKS

**ZooDoo Wildlife Fun Park** (Map p110; ☎ 6260 2444; www.zoodoo.com.au; 620 Middle Tea Tree Rd; adult/child \$16/10; ☞ 9am-5pm), 6km west of Richmond on the road to Brighton, has 'safari bus' rides, playgrounds, picnic areas and enough captive wildlife – from miniature horses to Tasmanian

devils, wallabies and a nursery farm – to keep the kids engaged.

**Bonorong Wildlife Centre** (Map p110; ☎ 6268 1184; www.bonorong.com.au; 593 Briggs Rd, Brighton; adult/child \$16/9; ☞ 9am-5pm) is about 17km west of Richmond (or alternatively, signposted off Hwy 1 at Brighton). 'Bonorong' derives from an Aboriginal word meaning 'native companion' – there are plenty of those here (devils, koalas, wombats, echidnas and quolls), fed daily at 11.30am and 2pm. The emphasis here is on conservation, education and the rehabilitation of injured animals.

#### Sleeping BUDGET

**Richmond Cabin & Tourist Park** (☎ 6260 2192, 1800 116 699; www.richmondcabins.com; 48 Middle Tea Tree Rd; unpowered/power sites \$18/24, cabins \$60-110; ☞) Over the back fence of Prospect House, this park is 1km south of town but provides affordable accommodation in neat, no-frills cabins. Kids will be happy with the indoor pool and games room.

**Richmond Arms Hotel** (☎ 6260 2109; www.richmondarmshotel.com.au; 42 Bridge St; d from \$99) Sneaking

into the budget category by \$1, the grand old Richmond pub has four good-quality motel-style units in the adjacent former stables. Plans for developing more accommodation are afoot.

#### MIDRANGE

**Richmond Cottages** (☎ 6260 2561; www.richmondcottages.com; 12 Bridge St; d \$125-165, extra adult/child \$30/15) Just can't get enough colonial accommodation? On offer here are two self-contained abodes: Ivy Cottage, a family-friendly, three-bedroom home (complete with claw-foot bath), and behind it The Stables, a rustic one-bedroom cottage with spa. Breakfast provisions provided.

**Laurel Cottage** (☎ 6260 2397; www.view.com.au/laurel; 9 Wellington St; d \$130, extra adult/child \$25/18) Ramshackle, two-bedroom convict-brick cottage beside the bridge, with a wood fire. Self-catering kitchen; breakfast provisions supplied. Kids welcome.

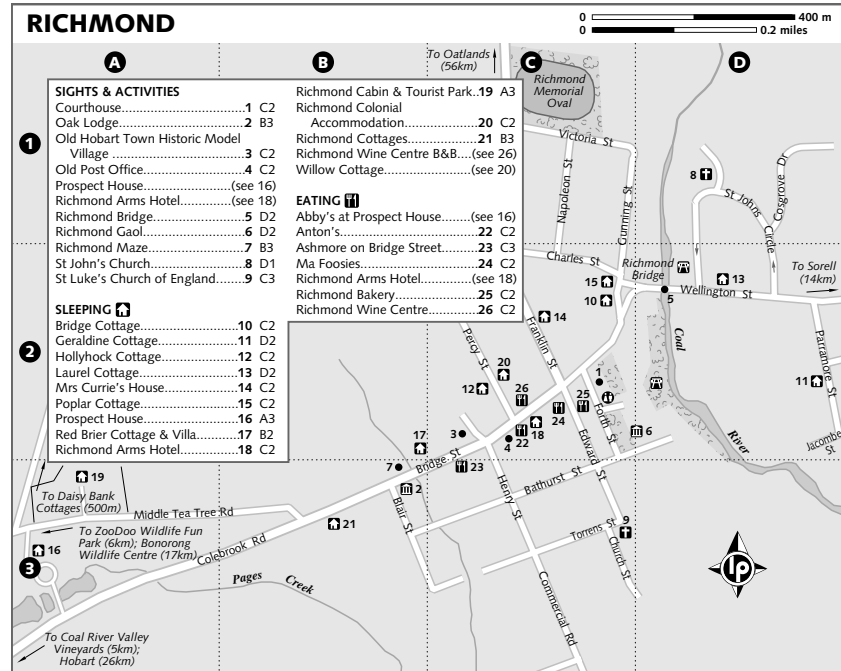
**Geraldine Cottage** (☎ 6260 2397; www.view.com.au/geraldine; 12 Parramore St; d \$130-150, extra adult/child \$30/25) Run by the same folks as Laurel Cottage (and with similar rates), Geraldine – a former

schoolhouse – is a bit bigger, a bit more refined and a bit newer (yeah, like 1839 is new). More flowers in the garden than a bee could ever service.

**Mrs Currie's House** (☎ 6260 2766; www.mrscurrieshouse.com.au; 4 Franklin St; d incl breakfast \$140, extra person \$35) The oldest part of this accommodation was once the Prince of Wales Inn, a rammed-earth structure dating from the 1820s. On offer are four tastefully furnished rooms, plus cooked breakfasts, open fires and snooker-table-flat lawns. Mrs Currie lived here for 80 years last century.

**Daisy Bank Cottages** (☎ 6260 2390; www.daisybankcottages.com; Daisy Bank, off Middle Tea Tree Rd; d incl breakfast \$140-150) This place is a rural delight: two spotless, self-contained units (one with spa) in a converted 1840s sandstone barn. There are loft bedrooms, views of the Richmond rooftops and plenty of farmy distractions for the kids.

**Richmond Colonial Accommodation** (☎ 6260 2570; www.richmondcolonial.com; 4 Percy St; d \$140-160, extra adult/child \$30/15) Manages three (Willow, Bridge and Poplar) well-equipped, family-friendly historic cottages around town.



All are self-contained with a roll-call of colonial touches.

**Hollyhock Cottage** (☎ 6260 1079; www.hollyhockcottage.com.au; 3 Percy St; d \$160) Hollyhock is a cutesy National Trust-listed brick-and-timber cottage off the main street, renovated using original materials, with a few modern indulgences like a double spa. Breakfast provisions supplied. Mind your head on the convict-height doors.

**Prospect House** (☎ 6260 2207; www.prospect-house.com.au; 1384 Richmond Rd; d \$160-180; ☑) About 1km west of Richmond is this haughty Georgian mansion, built in 1830, offering heritage-style guest rooms in converted outbuildings. The grounds evoke an old-money rural splendour, and there's an upmarket restaurant here too (see right). Dinner, bed and breakfast costs \$249 for two.

#### TOP END

**Red Brier Cottage & Villa** (☎ 6260 2349; www.redbriercottage.com.au; 15 Bridge St; d cottage/villa \$140/200, extra person \$50) There are two mod accommodation styles on offer here: an intimate, fully equipped cedar cottage lashed with heritage décor, and a plush modern villa with king-size beds, two en suites, spa, flat-screen TVs, sound system and fantastic private garden with barbecue. Both sleep four.

#### Eating

**Richmond Bakery** (☎ 6260 2628; off Edward St; items \$3-8; ☒) breakfast & lunch) Pies, pastries, sandwiches, croissants, muffins and cakes – take away or munch in the courtyard. If the main street is empty, chances are everyone is in here.

**Ma Fooseys** (☎ 6260 2412; 46 Bridge St; dishes \$6-12; ☒) breakfast & lunch) Cosy tearoom serving breakfast till 11.30am (pancakes, stuffed croissants, bacon and eggs) and an array of light meals, including ploughman's lunch, grilled *panini*, quiche and lasagne. Gluten-free menu available.

**Anton's** (☎ 6260 1017; 42a Bridge St; mains \$8-13; ☒) lunch Tue-Sun, dinner Fri-Sun) Next to the pub, this small shop churns out first-class pizzas (try the Indian curry and lamb), plus pasta, antipasto, salads, desserts and *gelati*. Grab some picnic bits and head for the river, or there are a couple of tables inside and out.

**Richmond Wine Centre** (☎ 6260 2619; 27 Bridge St; mains \$12-25; ☒) breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Wed-Sat) Don't be duped by the name – this place dedicates itself to fine food as well as wine.

Slink up to an outdoor table then peruse the menu. Tassie produce reigns supreme. There's also a B&B here.

**Ashmore on Bridge Street** (☎ 6260 2238; 34 Bridge St; mains \$13-18; ☒) breakfast & lunch daily, dinner Tue) Cheery corner food room with the sun streaming in through small-paned windows. Order up a big breakfast (scrambled eggs, cinnamon French toast with berry compote), and zingy lunches (beef lasagne, garlic prawns, Caesar salad). The best coffee in town too.

**Richmond Arms Hotel** (☎ 6260 2109; 42 Bridge St; mains \$13-22; ☒) lunch & dinner) This laid-back sandstone pub, popular with day-tripping, moustachioed bikers, has an uncreative but reliable pub-grub menu (plus a kids' menu). The streetside tables are where you want to be. Coal River Valley wines available.

**Abby's at Prospect House** (☎ 6260 2207; 1384 Richmond Rd; mains \$27-30; ☒) dinner) Classy restaurant in an 1830 mansion just west of town. The menu includes established staples like duck breast (we hope they don't take them from the pond), saddle of venison and beef eye fillet; the wine list highlights local drops. Good reports from readers.

#### Getting There & Away

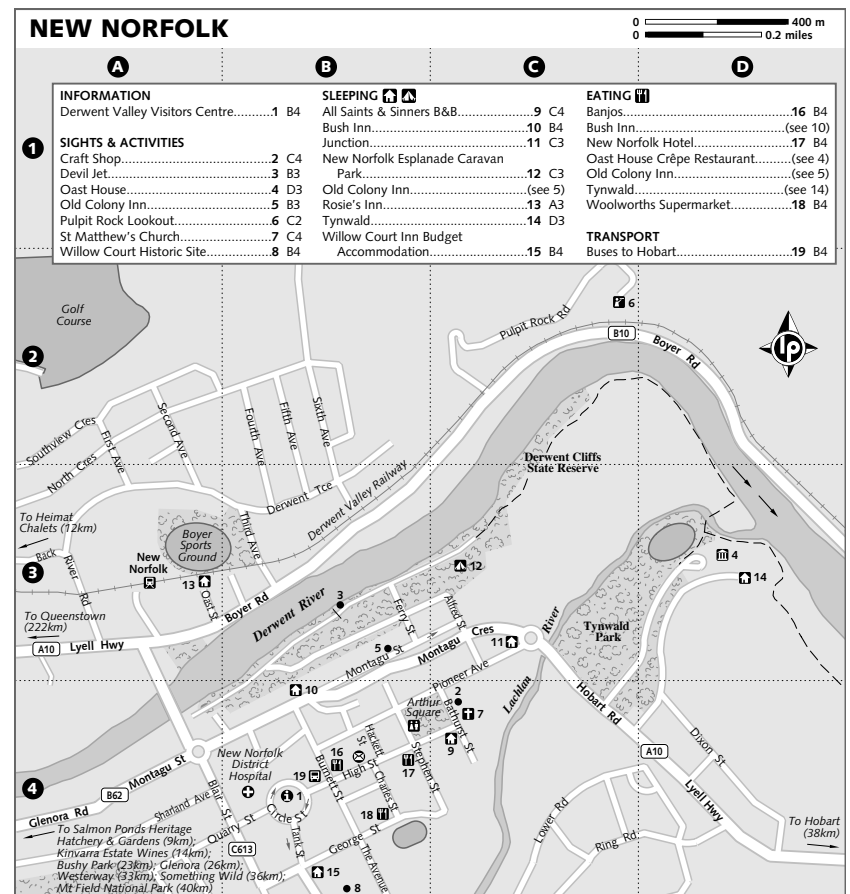
If you have your own wheels, Richmond is a 20-minute drive from Hobart. If not, you can get to Richmond on a scheduled bus service with **Tassielink** (☎ 1300 653 633; www.tassielink.com.au) from the Hobart Bus Terminal (64 Brisbane St), Monday to Friday at 9.15am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm and 5.30pm (one way \$6.40).

The **Richmond Tourist Bus** (☎ 0408-341 804; per person return \$25; ☒) 9.15am & 12.20pm) runs a twice-daily service from Hobart, with three hours to explore Richmond before returning. Call for bookings and pick-up locations.

#### NEW NORFOLK & AROUND

☎ 03 / pop 9000

Cropping up unexpectedly amid the lush, rolling countryside (and heavy industry) of the Derwent Valley is New Norfolk, disarmingly referred to by locals as 'Norfick'. Here, 38km north of Hobart, the Derwent River narrows to just a few hundred metres across, and black swans rubberneck across the water – an Irish ex-con was so impressed, he knocked up the first house here in 1808. By the 1860s the valley had become a hop-growing hub, which explains all the old oast houses dotted around



the valley (used for drying the plant). Hops, which give beer its bitterness, are sensitive to wind, so banks of trees were planted as wind barriers; today, distinctive rows of tall poplars mark the boundaries of former hop fields.

Through the 20th century, New Norfolk was sculpted (and stigmatised) by two forces: the insane asylum Willow Court and the Boyer newspaper print mill just downstream. Hobart viewed New Norfolk as mainland Australians viewed Hobart: somehow lesser, reduced, utterly working class and morally debased. These days the asylum is no more, and the town is a weird mix of colonial remnants and slow-poke sensibility: locals say 'G'day' as they shuffle along the beleaguered main street.

#### Information

**Derwent Valley visitors centre** (☎ 6261 3700; www.riversrun.net.au; Circle St; ☒) 10am-4pm) is behind the courthouse, and handles accommodation bookings and local low-down. The free brochure *Historic Walks of New Norfolk* will guide you around the old-time sights.

See also www.newnorfolk.org and www.derwentvalley.net.au, both of which are useful for finding accommodation.

#### Sights & Activities

##### HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The jauntily designed **Oast House** (☎ 6261 4723; Tynwald Park; adult/child \$5/3; ☒) 9am-4.30pm) on the perimeter of Tynwald Park, off the highway on the Hobart side of town, was built in the

1820s and served as a piggery before selflessly devoting itself to hops from 1867 to 1969. The timber building's kilns were used to dry and package hops for delivery to breweries. Take a self-guided tour of the museum, following the story of how hops were processed. Also here are a local craft gallery and a czerperie (p116).

**St Matthew's Church** (☎ 6261 2223; www.newnorfolk.org/~st\_matthews; 6 Bathurst St; admission free; ☺ service 9.30am Sun), built in 1824, is Tasmania's oldest Anglican church. It's been extensively altered since it first rose from the ground – its best features today are the impressive stained-glass windows. In the adjacent St Matthew's Close is a sporadically staffed **Craft Shop** that raises money for the church's restoration – on one wall is a massive clock face from the tower (long since demolished) of Willow Court asylum, around which the town evolved in the 1850s.

The infamous **Willow Court Historic Site** (www.newnorfolk.org/~willow\_court; George St; ☺ daylight hr) itself dates from the 1820s, and housed invalid convicts before it became part of the state's mental-health program. In 1968 it housed 1000 patients, but by the 1980s asylums began to be phased out in favour of community-based treatment and housing. In 2000 the asylum was finally closed. Big plans are underway to redevelop the stately old buildings, slated to include gardens, restaurants, residential units, and even a five-star boutique hotel. Until then, it remains a mildly unnerving place to wander around.

The **Old Colony Inn** (☎ 6261 2731; www.newnorfolk.org/~old\_colony\_inn; 21 Montagu St; adult/child \$2/50c; ☺ 10am-5pm) is a higgledy-piggledy, black-and-white-striped museum full of colonial furnishings and artefacts, built in 1815 as a hop shed. It's on a one-way street, so prepare to make a tight U-turn at the top end of the road division on Montagu St if you're approaching from Hobart. There's also accommodation here (see opposite).

#### OTHER ATTRACTIONS

For camera-conductive views over New Norfolk and a sweeping Derwent River bend, take the road along the northern side of the river eastward for 1km, then up a steep, unsealed side road to **Pulpit Rock Lookout**.

**Devil Jet** (☎ 6261 3460; www.deviljet.com.au; Esplanade; trips per adult/child \$55/30; ☺ 9am-4pm) offers 30-minute jet-boat rides on the river, propelling you 10km upstream and back. Be prepared for 80km/h over shallows, traversing rapids and

360-degree spins. Trips depart on the hour; bookings recommended.

#### NEW NORFOLK TO MT FIELD

As you head west from New Norfolk towards Mt Field, you leave the Derwent River behind and slip into the folds of the narrow Tyenna River Valley.

In 1864, rainbow and brown trout were bred for the first time in the southern hemisphere at **Salmon Ponds Heritage Hatchery & Garden** (Map p110; ☎ 6261 5663; www.ifs.tas.gov.au; Salmon Ponds Rd, Plenty; adult/child/family \$7/5/20; ☺ 9am-5pm), 9km west of New Norfolk at Plenty. You can feed the fish in the display ponds, visit the hatchery and check out the angling museum. The restaurant here, **Pancakes by the Ponds** (meals \$8-17) specialises in sweet and savoury crepes, plus island wines and decent coffee.

About 5km further west is **Kinvarra Estate Wines** (☎ 6286 1333; www.kinvarra.com.au; 1211 Glenora Rd, Plenty; ☺ by appointment), with wine tastings and sales in a lovely 1827 homestead. Riesling, point noir and sparkling white are the tipples of choice. It tends to open and close on a whim, so call for an appointment.

Further west, in the three historic rural towns of **Bushy Park**, **Glenora** and **Westerway**, you can see old barns, a water wheel and rambling hop fields. The shingled buildings hereabouts are typical of the local farms built in the 19th century. Hop-growing has vanished from much of Tasmania, but it's still pursued commercially around Bushy Park – the largest hops-producing town in the southern hemisphere. In late summer and autumn you can see hops vines winding up thin leader strings. For food in Westerway, try the Possum Shed (opposite); for accommodation try the Platypus Playground (opposite) and Duffy's Country Accommodation (opposite).

On the Tyenna River 4km before Mt Field is **Something Wild** (☎ 6288 1013; 2080 Gordon River Rd; www.somethingwild.com.au; adult/child/concession/family \$13/6.50/11/39; ☺ 10am-5pm), a wildlife sanctuary that rehabilitates orphaned and injured wildlife, and provides a home for animals unable to be released. Visit the animal nursery, see native wildlife (devils, wombats, quolls), and maybe spot a platypus sniffing around the grounds.

#### Sleeping BUDGET

**New Norfolk Esplanade Caravan Park** (☎ 6261 1268; fax 6261 5174; Esplanade; unpowered/powerd site \$15/20,

on-site vans \$45, cabins \$65-95) Shady, poplar-studded grounds on the Derwent's south bank. There are only four cabins, which have toilets – everyone else uses the astonishingly well-renovated amenities blocks. Prices for two people.

**Willow Court Inn Budget Accommodation** (☎ 6261 8780; 15 George St; dm \$20-25, s & d from \$25-60; ☑ ) Part of the ongoing Willow Court redevelopment is this newish hostel, offering affordable accommodation in bright, simple rooms. It's a rambling, immaculately maintained place, with TVs in most rooms, internet access, a pool table in the games rooms and asylum-strength metal bunks.

**Bush Inn** (☎ 6261 2256; www.thebushinn.com.au; 49 Montagu St; s/d incl breakfast \$50/70) Established in 1815, the Bush Inn is one of many pubs around the country claiming 'Australia's oldest' status. Inside are serviceable pub rooms with shared facilities and guest lounge. Discuss boasts of longevity with the staff when you order dinner at the bar (see right).

**Old Colony Inn** (☎ 6261 2731; www.newnorfolk.org/~old\_colony\_inn; 21 Montagu St; s/d incl breakfast \$70/90) Set in picture-perfect gardens patrolled by a nonplussed tabby cat, the Old Colony Inn has a snug cottage for the romantically inclined, plus a spacious suite (sleeps three) inside the main house. Dinner, bed and breakfast packages for two are a very reasonable \$120. There's a tearoom here too.

#### MIDRANGE

**All Saints & Sinners B&B** (☎ 6261 1877; www.allsaintsandsinners.com.au; 93 High St; s/d incl breakfast \$100/120) Named for its equidistant location betwixt churches and pubs, this renovated 1833 inn has a handful of attractive, recently upgraded B&B rooms. Big cooked breakfasts. No kids.

**Heimat Chalets** (☎ 6261 2843; www.heimatchalets.com; 430 Black Hills Rd, Black Hills; powered sites \$28, chalets d \$125-140, extra person \$35) About 9km out of town (signposted off Lyell Hwy west of the bridge) is Heimat, offering family-friendly accommodation in an amenable rural setting. There are two powered, en-suite sites, and two self-contained chalets, plus a playground, all-weather barbecue hut and chalet breakfast provisions. Dinner by arrangement; book ahead.

**Platypus Playground** (☎ 6288 1123; www.riverside-cottage.com; 1658 Gordon River Rd, Westerway; d \$130) You can't miss this cute, red riverside cottage at Westerway, offering ecofriendly accommodation. Winning features include an outdoor deck over the river and the chance to spot a

platypus or hook a trout. The owners make it a priority to minimise guests' environmental impact: there's no stove as they'd prefer you didn't cook with oils and fats (but there is a toaster, kettle and microwave, and breakfast provisions for \$20); ecofriendly toiletries and detergents are supplied; and the *pièce de résistance* is the outdoor, gas-operated toilet!

**Duffy's Country Accommodation** (☎ 6288 1373; www.duffyscountry.com; 49 Clark's Rd, Westerway; d \$120, extra adult/child \$25/15) Overlooking a field of raspberry canes are two immaculate self-contained cabins – one a studio-style cabin for couples, the other a two-bedroom relocated rangers' hut from Mt Field National Park. Breakfast provisions provided: toast, eggs and homemade raspberry jam!

Other options:

**Junction** (☎ 6261 4029; www.junctionmotel.com.au; 50 Pioneer Ave; s/d from \$95/110) Recently refurbished motel complex.

**Rosie's Inn** (☎ 6261 1171; www.rosiesinn.com.au; 5 Oast St; d \$120-180) Quiet, motel-like B&B with rude red-and-purple carpets.

#### TOP END

**Ourpick Tynwald** (☎ 6261 2667; www.tynwaldtasmania.com.au; 1 Tynwald St; d incl breakfast \$145-190; ☑ ) Tynwald is a turreted, three-storey 1830s mansion overlooking the river, with six antique-furnished guest rooms (done utterly tastefully), a heated swimming pool, extensive gardens, tennis court and cooked breakfasts. There's also a self-contained stone cottage on the grounds. Tynwald is run with casual style by two chefs – the restaurant here is the best in Norfolk (see p116). Wireless internet access too.

#### Eating

**Banjos** (☎ 6261 8766; cnr Burnett & High Sts; items \$3-8; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Banjos seems to employ every teenager in town, and (not coincidentally) is the liveliest place in town. Locals scoff down pizza rolls, pies, quiches and laugh it up as Pat Benatar wails on the stereo.

**Possum Shed** (☎ 6288 1364; 1654 Gordon River Rd, Westerway; meals \$7-29; ☺ breakfast & lunch Wed-Mon Oct-Mar, Thu-Sun Apr-Sep) At Westerway en route to My Field is this brilliant riverside foodie haunt, with outdoor seating, a resident platypus (sightings not guaranteed) and locally sourced lunches and snacks (salads, pancakes, wraps, BLTs). The coffee is great too, and service comes with a grin.

**Bush Inn** (☎ 6261 2256; 49 Montagu St; mains \$10-20; ☺ lunch & dinner) This old pub has a classic menu

of seafood- and meat-heavy pub favourites, including surf 'n' turf (steak topped with prawns), rump steak, roast of the day and chicken Kiev. There's a kids' menu too, plus an outdoor deck with dreamy river views.

**Oast House Crêpe Restaurant** (☎ 6261 4723; Tynwald Park; mains \$14-20; ☺ lunch daily, dinner Fri & Sat) As well as its museum and craft shop, the Oast House offers up a great crepe restaurant, serving sweet and savoury varieties, plus all-day breakfasts, light lunches and Devonshire teas. You can sip a glass of wine here too.

**New Norfolk Hotel** (☎ 6261 2166; cnr Stephen & High Sts; mains \$15-20; ☺ lunch & dinner) Amid the clash and bingle of the poker machines there's standard pub fare: fish and chips, steaks and chicken schnitzels, plus the odd oddity like flounder fillets. Big serves, and a kids menu.

**Tynwald** (☎ 6261 2667; Tynwald St; mains \$27-33; ☺ dinner) In addition to its accommodation (p115), Tynwald has an outstanding, seasonally shifting menu, with French influences and an emphasis on game meats (rabbit, hare, quail, even reindeer!). Desserts raise the bar even higher. Bookings recommended.

There's a **Woolworths Supermarket** (☎ 6261 1320; cnr Charles & George Sts; ☺ 8am-8pm) for self-caterers.

### Getting There & Away

**Hobart Coaches** (☎ 13 22 01; www.hobartcoaches.com.au) is the main operator between Hobart and New Norfolk (buses 130 and 134), and provides five services a day in both directions on weekdays, and three on Saturday (\$7 one way, 50 minutes). In New Norfolk, the buses leave from Burnett St; in Hobart they depart from stop F on Elizabeth St.

### MT FIELD NATIONAL PARK

☎ 03 / pop 170 (National Park township)

Mt Field, 80km northwest of Hobart (and 7km beyond Westerway), was declared a national park in 1916 and is famed for its mountain scenery, alpine moorlands, lakes, rainforest, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. To many locals it's simply known as National Park, a moniker given to the small town at its entrance. It's an accessible place to visit for a day, or to bunk down overnight with the kids.

### Information

The **Mt Field National Park visitors centre** (☎ 6288 1149; www.parks.tas.gov.au; 66 Lake Dobson Rd; ☺ 8.30am-

5pm Nov-Apr, 9am-4pm May-Oct) houses a café and displays on the park's origins, and has reams of information on walks and ranger-led activities held from late December until early February. There are excellent day-use facilities in the park, including barbecues, shelters and a children's playground.

See p64 for national park entry fees.

### Walks

Pick up a copy of the *Welcome to Mt Field National Park* brochure, which details walks in the park, from the visitors centre.

### SHORT WALKS

The park's most touted attraction is the cascading, 40m-high **Russell Falls**, which is in the valley close to the park entrance. It's an easy 20-minute circuit walk from the car park along a wheelchair-suitable path. From Russell Falls, you can continue past **Horseshoe Falls** and **Tall Trees Circuit** to **Lady Barron Falls**, a two-hour return walk past mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*, the world's tallest flowering plants).

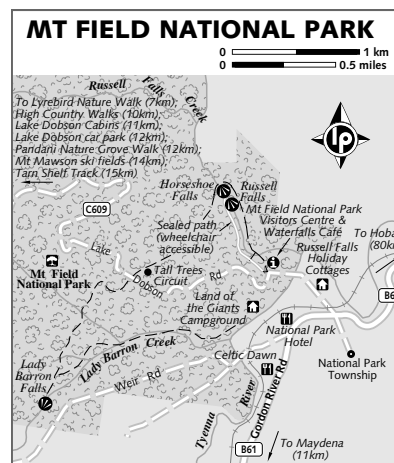
The 15-minute **Lyrebird Nature Walk** starts 7km up Lake Dobson Rd. It's a pocket-sized introduction to park flora and fauna – great for kids – with numbers along the track corresponding to information in a brochure from the visitors centre.

For kids (and adults!) who don't mind a longer walk, there's the **Pandani Grove Nature Walk**, which traces the edge of Lake Dobson through magical stands of endemic pandani palms that grow up to 12m high before toppling over. This walk takes 40 minutes. Park at Lake Dobson car park, 16km from the park entrance.

### HIGH-COUNTRY WALKS

There are some awesome walks at the top of the range, where glaciation has sculpted steep cliffs and bruised deep valleys into what was once a continuous plateau. Shimmering lakes perforate the valley floors; smaller tarns adorn the ridge-tops.

If you're setting out on a walk to the high country, take waterproof gear and warm clothing – the weather is mutable year-round – and check weather and track conditions with the visitors centre before you set out. Walks here include those to **Lake Nicholls**, **Seagers Lookout** and **Lake Seal Lookout** (all two hours return), the **Mt Field East Circuit** (four to five hours return) and **Lake Belcher** (five to six hours return).



### TARN SHELF TRACK

The **Tarn Shelf Track** is a brilliant walk year-round in clear weather. In summer the temperature is mild; in autumn deciduous beech leaves along the way turn golden. In winter you may need skis or snowshoes; in spring the sound of melting snow trickling beneath the boardwalk seems to somehow enhance the silence.

There's a 4WD gravel road from Lake Dobson to the ski fields and Tarn Shelf, but this is only open to authorised vehicles. Most mere unauthorised mortals walk from Lake Dobson car park along the Urquhart Track to its junction with the gravel road; both track and road are steep. Continue along the road to the ski fields, at the top of which is the start of the Tarn Shelf Track.

The track is fairly level, with a boardwalk protecting delicate vegetation and keeping walkers out of the mud. Either continue as far as you like along the track and then return via the same route, or take one of two routes branching off at Lake Newdegate then circle back to the ski fields. If you travel east past Twisted Tarn, Twilight Tarn and Lake Webster, the walk takes five or six hours return from the car park, while the wonderful Rodway Range circuit to the west takes six or seven hours return.

### Skiing

Skiing was first attempted here on **Mt Mawson** in 1922. A low-key resort with clubby huts and rope tows has evolved, and when nature

sees fit to offload some snow (infrequently in recent years) it makes a rootsy change from the commercial ski fields on mainland Australia. The ski field is open 10am to 4pm weekends and school holidays, weather permitting. The cost for a day's snowploughing is \$30/15 per adult/child. Up-to-date snow reports are available online at [www.ski.com.au/reports/mawson](http://www.ski.com.au/reports/mawson), or via a **recorded message service** (☎ 6288 1166).

There are no ski-equipment hire outlets here; hire ski and snowboard gear in Hobart at Skigia & Surf (below).

### Sleeping & Eating

**Land of the Giants Campground** (☎ 6288 1526; unpowered/powered sites \$16/25) A privately run, self-registration campground with adequate facilities (toilets, showers, laundry and free barbecues) just inside the park gates. Bookings not required. Site prices are additional to national park entry fees.

**Lake Dobson Cabins** (☎ 6288 1149; www.parks.tas.gov.au; Lake Dobson Rd; cabins up to 6 people \$40) Get back to your pure mountaintop essence at these three simple six-bed cabins about 14km inside the park. All are equipped with mattresses, cold water, wood stove and firewood (there's no power), and have a communal toilet block. Visitors will need to bring gas lamps and cookers, plus utensils. Book at the visitors centre.

**Russell Falls Holiday Cottages** (☎ 6288 1198; fax 6288 1341; 40 Lake Dobson Rd; d \$140, extra adult/child \$20/15) In a super location next to the park entrance, these spotless, self-contained cottages have been the happy recipient of a slick makeover. Buy your food in New Norfolk before you arrive, or go hungry.

**Celtic Dawn** (☎ 6288 1058; www.celticdawn.com.au; 2400 Gordon River Rd; light meals \$5-10; ☺ lunch Sat & Sun) About 600m west of the national park turn-off

### WINTER ROAD WARNING

If you're staying in the Lake Dobson huts, skiing Mt Mawson or tramping the Pandani Grove Nature Walk or other high-country walks, you'll have to drive the 16km, unsealed Lake Dobson Rd. In winter, despite climate change's best efforts, you'll need chains and antifreeze for your car. Hire them in Hobart through **Skigia & Surf** (Map p82; ☎ 6234 6688; 123 Elizabeth St; ☺ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat).

is this kooky little octagonal café with only a couple of tables. Tacos, soups, filo pastries and great coffee are the order of the day. There are also a couple of great-value rooms here: one double room (\$70) and one room with two single beds (\$25), both with bathrooms and a shared outdoor kitchen.

**Waterfalls Café** (☎ 6288 1516; 66 Lake Dobson Rd; meals \$8-15; ☺ lunch) Simple eatery next to the visitors centre, serving up reasonable café fare (burgers, nachos, soup and schnitzels).

**National Park Hotel** (☎ 6288 1103; Gordon River Rd; mains \$15-27; ☺ dinner) This relaxed rural pub, 300m past the park turn-off, cooks up mixed grills, chicken dishes and steaks. The barmaid shakes her head and says, 'They love their meat 'round here...' Skip the ordinary pub accommodation (single/double \$50/85) unless you're desperate.

There's also accommodation at Maydena (p300), 12km east of Mt Field.

## Getting There & Away

The drive to Mt Field through the Derwent River Valley and Bushy Park is an absolute stunner: river rapids, hop fields, rows of poplars and hawthorn hedgerows. Public transport connections to the park are limited to **Tassielink** (☎ 1300 300 520; www.tassielink.com.au) services, running on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (\$30, 3½ hours) from December to March. Some Hobart-based tour operators (see p93) offer Mt Field day trips, usually taking in Something Wild wildlife sanctuary (p114) as well as the national park.

## SEVEN MILE BEACH

☎ 03 / pop 450

Out near the airport, 15km east of Hobart, is this brilliant, safe swimming beach (Map p110; seven miles long!), backed by shacks, a corner store and pine-punctured dunes. When the swell is working, the point break here is magic.

A two-minute walk from the beach, **Seven Mile Beach Cabin Park** (☎ 6248 6469; www.comfycabins.com.au; 12 Aqua Pl; unpowered/powered sites \$15/25, cabins \$120) is a spacey patch with blue-painted corrugated-iron cabins and free gas BBQs – as low-key as can be.

Follow Surf Rd out past the airport runway and around to the left for 2km and you'll come to **Barilla Bay Oyster Farm** (☎ 6248 5458; www.barillabay.com.au; 1388 Tasman Hwy, Cambridge; tours adult/child \$10/5, mains \$28-35; ☺ lunch daily, dinner daily Oct-Jun

& Tue-Sat Jul-Sep). Hit the slick restaurant, or grab a dozen shucked oysters (\$10) washed down with some Oyster Stout, brewed on site. Tours most days; call for bookings and to confirm times.

To get to Seven Mile Beach, drive towards the airport and follow the signs. Local buses 191, 192, 291 and 293 also run here.

## CHANNEL HIGHWAY

The convoluted Channel Hwy (Map p110) is the continuation of Sandy Bay Rd, mimicking the D'Entrecasteaux Channel coastline as it flows south. It was once the main southbound road out of Hobart, but was relegated to pleasant tourist drive once the Southern Outlet (Hwy A6) from Hobart to Kingston opened in 1985, stealing most of the traffic. Drive slowly and check out the views, hilltop houses and gardens en route south.

## Taroona

☎ 03 / pop 2000

Ten kilometres from Hobart is snoozy Taroona, its name derived from an Aboriginal word meaning 'seashell'. It's a bush-meets-beach hippy 'burb that peaked during the '70s, but has since lost much of its feel-good community vibe. Taroona's main claim to fame is as the hometown of Mary Donaldson, now Crown Princess Mary of Denmark (see the boxed text, opposite).

On the suburb's southern fringe stands the **Shot Tower** (☎ 6227 8885; fax 6227 8643; Channel Hwy; adult/child \$5.50/2.50; ☺ 9am-5pm), a 48m-high, circular sandstone turret – each block precisely curved and tapered – built in 1870 to make lead shot for firearms. Molten lead was dribbled from the top, forming perfect spheres on its way down to a cooling vat of water at the bottom. The river views from atop the 318 steps (we're pretty sure we counted them correctly...) are wondrous. The tower is surrounded by leafy grounds and has a snug **Tearoom** (light meals \$4-8; ☺ 11am-3pm) downstairs. If it's sunny, devour a Devonshire tea on the stone rampart outside.

On the northern fringe of Taroona is Truganini Reserve and the bottom end of Truganini Track (p90), which leads up a wooded valley to Mt Nelson Signal Station.

**Hillgrove** (☎ 6227 9043; hill.bb@bigpond.net.au; 269 Channel Hwy; d \$130), directly opposite the Shot Tower, is a 19th-century cream-and-green Georgian house with a steep, spooky-

## CROWN PRINCESS MARY OF DENMARK (AKA MARY DONALDSON OF TAROONA)

A few Tasmanians have found themselves in the spotlight recently, but no-one has garnered more international attention than Mary Donaldson, the girl from Taroona now living a modern-day fairy tale in Europe. Mary was born in Hobart in 1972 to Scots who had emigrated to Australia a decade earlier. The youngest of four children, she attended Taroona High School before graduating from the University of Tasmania (commerce and law) in 1993. Mary moved to Melbourne and worked in advertising, then travelled through Europe and the US before returning to Australia to live in Sydney.

Mary met Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik in a Sydney pub during the 2000 Olympic Games; the prince was in Oz with the Danish sailing team. The pair sailed into a relationship that sent the gossip mags into a frenzy of speculation until Mary and Fred announced their engagement in 2003. They married in a lavish ceremony in Copenhagen in 2004 with a sea of well-wishers lining the streets, waving Danish and Australian flags. Interest in Tasmania as a holiday destination for the Danes has skyrocketed, and Tassie produce has found a new export market in Denmark.

'Our Mary' is never far from the covers of Danish and Australian gossip mags, as journos dissect every aspect of her life: is she too thin? Does she own too many shoes? How's her Danish coming along? Of course, the real show-stoppers have been Frederick and Mary's two kids: HRH Prince Christian, born October 2005, and HRH Princess Isabella, born April 2007.

looking mansard roof and beautiful gardens. Guests get the run of the two-bedroom, self-contained ground floor (sleeps three), plus a large veranda from which to absorb the leafy Shot Tower views.

To get to Taroona from Hobart, take **Metro Tasmania** (☎ 13 22 01; www.metrotas.com.au) bus 56, 61-3, 67, 68, 94, 162, 167 or 168 from Franklin Sq stop O. A one-way adult fare is \$3.

## Kingston

☎ 03 / pop 13,000

Sprawling Kingston, 12km south of Hobart, is a booming outer suburb of the city. It started to evolve from a sleepy beach enclave when the Southern Outlet roadway established a rocket-shot route into town. The beach here is a super spot to laze away a sunny afternoon and reflect on how a long, clean, sandy beach so close to an Australian capital city has remained so low-key and uncommercial (there are no high-rise apartment blocks here – for now).

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

As you branch off from the Southern Outlet and approach Kingston, continue straight ahead at the first set of lights instead of turning right onto the Channel Hwy; this road takes you down to the beach. If you're trundling down the Channel Hwy from Taroona, turn left at these lights.

**Kingston Beach** is a popular swimming and sailing spot, with steep wooded cliffs at each end of a long arc of sand. There's a picnic area

at the northern end, accessed by a pedestrian bridge over the pollution-prone, nonswimmable (and therefore aptly named) Browns River. Behind the sailing clubhouse at the southern end of the beach is a track leading to a beautiful little swimming spot called **Boronia Beach**, which has a deep rock pool. Sections of this track are heavily eroded.

**Blackmans Bay**, about 3km from Kingston Beach, has another decent beach and a blowhole (down Blowhole Rd). The water at these beaches is usually quite cold, and there's rarely any surf.

Beside the Channel Hwy south of Kingston is the headquarters of the **Australian Antarctic Division** (☎ 6232 3209; www.aad.gov.au; 203 Channel Hwy; admission free; ☺ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri), the department administering Australia's 42% wedge of the frozen continent. Australia has a long history of exploration and scientific study of Antarctica – it's one of the original 12 nations that ratified the Antarctic Treaty in 1961. Visitors can check out the displays here, which feature Antarctic equipment, clothing and scientific vehicles, plus ecologic info and some brilliant photographs. The centre's cafeteria is open to the public.

## SLEEPING & EATING

**Kingston Beach Motel** (☎ /fax 6229 8969; 31 Osborne Esplanade; s/d \$85/120, extra person \$20) Old-style motel opposite Kingston Beach that was undergoing a major overhaul when we visited. Only four rooms were available at the time, but there

#### DETOUR: TINDERBOX

Make time to drive through Blackmans Bay and a further 10km to **Tinderbox**. The views along the way are eye-popping, and at Tinderbox itself is a small beach bordering **Tinderbox Nature Marine Reserve** ([www.parks.tas.gov.au/marine/tindbox](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/marine/tindbox)). Here you can snorkel along an underwater trail running alongside a sandstone reef, marked with submerged information plates explaining the rich local ecosystem. Bruny Island is just across the water – locals often launch their outboards here and skim over to Dennes Point for a BBQ.

From Tinderbox, continue around the peninsula to Howden and back to Kingston via the Channel Hwy.

will be nine once the extravagant rebuild is finished (prices may rise too). Cheaper rates off season.

**On the Beach** (☎ 6229 3096; [wilksey@bigpond.com](mailto:wilksey@bigpond.com); 38 Osborne Esplanade; d \$100, 2br unit \$150) Not quite on the beach, but directly across the road from it, with one self-contained unit attached to the rear of the owners' home. There's also a large two-bedroom unit upstairs under the steeply pitched roof that's perfect for two couples (no kids).

**Citrus Moon Café** (☎ 6229 2388; 23 Beach Rd; mains \$10-16; ☕ breakfast & lunch) Bright, retro café with

a predominantly vegetarian menu. Devour brekky until noon, then choose from burgers, bagels or salads for lunch, or swing by for coffee and homemade cake (vegan, flourless or regular options available). If you *must*, there's a few tasty beef, chicken and fish dishes too.

**Beachside Hotel** (☎ 6229 6185; 2 Beach Rd; mains \$14-22; ☕ lunch & dinner) Good-quality traditional pub fare (the curried sausages are a coronary in disguise) right across the road from the beach, with an outdoor patio perfect for beery lunches. Cheap bar snacks and occasional live music in summer.

**The Beach** (☎ 6229 7600; Ocean Esplanade, Blackmans Bay; mains \$20-27; ☕ lunch & dinner) On a sunny day there's no better spot than the outdoor terrace of this angular, metal-finned café-bar, south of Kingston opposite Blackmans Bay beach. Wood-fired pizzas, risotto, lamb shanks and pasta, all done with élan.

#### GETTING THERE & AWAY

To get to Kingston from Hobart take **Metro Tasmania** (☎ 13 22 01; [www.metrotas.com.au](http://www.metrotas.com.au)) bus 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 94, 162, 167 or 168 via Taroona, or bus 174, 184 or 185 via the Southern Outlet. Buses depart Hobart's Franklin Sq stop O; a one-way adult fare is \$3.

**Hobart Coaches** (☎ 13 22 01; [www.hobartcoaches.com.au](http://www.hobartcoaches.com.au)) runs regular services (buses 89, 90, 92-4, 96 and 98) from Hobart to Kingston. Bus 89 continues to Blackmans Bay. The fare to both destinations is \$3.10 one way.