

Hobart Waterfront with
Mount Wellington in the distance.
(Photo: Tourism Tasmania & Robin Nyfeler)

HOBART

A MUST-SEE DESTINATION



Named by Lonely Planet as one of the best cities in the world to visit and Australia's hottest destination, Hobart will play host to this year's Australia New Zealand Rotary Conference. Whether your motivation is the Conference or the cheese, the presentations or the Pinot, the meetings or the mountains, Tasmania should be on your bucket list this September.

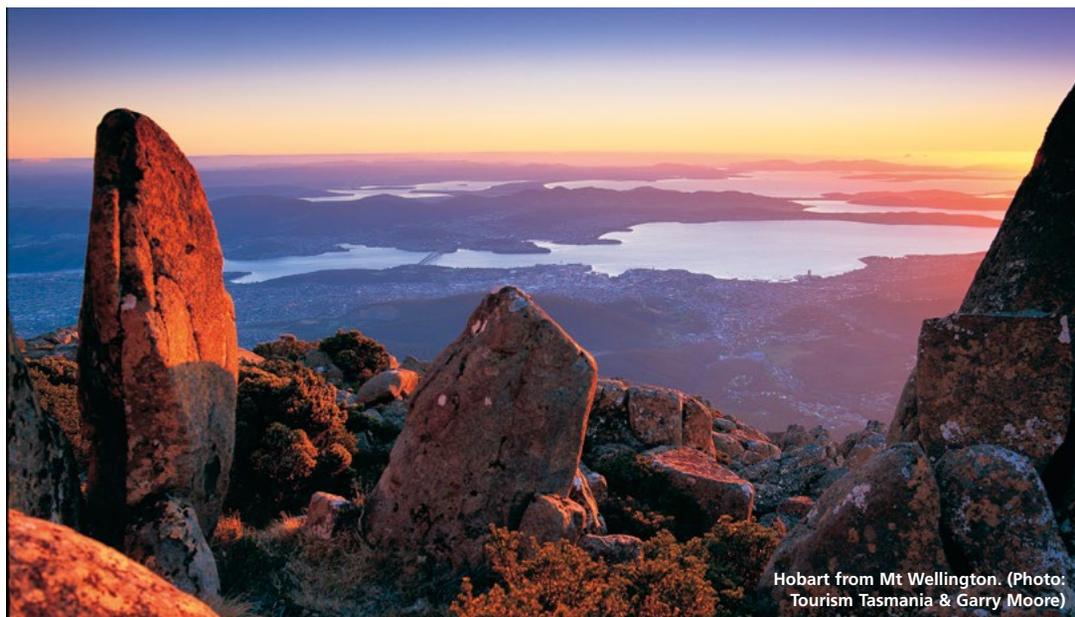


The Void Bar and Theatrette.
(Photo: Tourism Tasmania & Graham Freeman)

Hobart has undergone a transformation in the past decade, shaking off its former reputation as a sleepy outpost to emerge as one of Australia's hottest destinations. The historic city is now a thriving cultural centre, home to critically acclaimed arts venues, world-class restaurants and eclectic markets. Matched with colonial architecture and epic scenery, it should be on everyone's must-see list.

MONA

The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) is a museum quite unlike any other. Described by proprietor David Walsh as a "subversive adult Disneyland", MONA's single-storey aspect belies its true nature. Visitors



Hobart from Mt Wellington. (Photo: Tourism Tasmania & Garry Moore)

begin their tour via a lengthy, spiral staircase leading down to three subterranean levels carved out of cliff rock.

There are no windows in the labyrinthine depths, to purposefully menacing effect: Walsh believes

the sense of danger heightens the experience of viewing art. To leave, visitors must slowly make their way out in an ascending corkscrew, taking in 300 pieces ranging from ancient Egyptian mummies to controversial modern art.

A winery and vineyard, restaurant, wine bar, cinema and the MONA Library and Gallery are also located on the 3.5-hectare site, along with eight super-stylish accommodation pavilions, each named after an influential Australian artist or architect and featuring artworks from the MONA collection.

For those staying elsewhere, a high-speed ferry is available from Hobart's waterfront, which travels up the Derwent River right to MONA's steps. Tasmanians can enter the museum for free, however, an entry fee is charged

to interstate and overseas visitors.

Notably, MONA also offers "Eternity Membership", which includes lifetime free admission and, uniquely, the right for members to have their cremated remains housed at the MONA cemetery.

Mount Wellington

Towering over Hobart is the 1271-metre-high Mount Wellington, otherwise known as *kunanyi*. Only a 20-minute drive from the city centre, the views from the summit are truly unforgettable. Nature lovers will love the many walking and bike trails coiling over the mountain face, weaving through rainforest to sub-alpine shrubbery scattered between lichen-flecked boulders. It's not uncommon to see snow at the summit, even in the height of summer.

Evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin was a notable visitor, climbing the mountain in 1836 during his famous travels on the HMS *Beagle*. He recounted: "In many parts the Eucalypti grew to a great size, and composed a noble forest. In some of the dampest ravines, tree-ferns flourished in an extraordinary manner; I saw one which must have been at least twenty feet

high to the base of the fronds, and was in girth exactly six feet. The fronds forming the most elegant parasols, produced a gloomy shade, like that of the first hour of the night. The summit of the mountain is broad and flat, and is composed of huge angular masses of naked greenstone."

Very little has changed in the intervening years; Mount Wellington retains all the natural beauty that entranced Darwin so long ago. Be sure to catch a glimpse of one of the mountain's most distinctive features: the towering, dolerite columns formed during the Jurassic known as the 'Organ Pipes'.

Salamanca Place

Formerly the stomping ground of whalers and port workmen, Salamanca's sandstone warehouses have since been converted into a thriving cultural hub pulsing with creative exhibitions, historical treasures and boutique shopping.

Located right on the Hobart waterfront, every Saturday the vibrant Salamanca Markets draw thousands of locals and tourists to browse over 300 stalls of every description. Visitors wind their way through a plethora of

locally produced food and design, including organic produce, hand-worked glass, bespoke fashion, Tasmanian timber products and gourmet cheeses, wines and spirits. Tantalising hot street food vendors tempt even the most finicky taste buds. Boutique seafood sausages, authentic Persian cuisine and spiced hot chocolate are just some of the delights on offer.

Officially Tasmania's most visited tourist attraction, the markets have won many awards for excellence – including taking out the prize for Major Festivals and Events category at the Tasmanian Tourism Awards in 2016 and 2017 and a finalist in the national Australian Tourism Awards.

Throughout the week, the Salamanca Arts Centre showcases pieces from over 70 arts organisations and individuals. Visitors can peruse works from established and up and coming artists and enjoy live musical and theatre performance. Every Friday evening the doors open for Rektango, a free live music event run by local musicians themselves. Ready yourself for dancing to everything from Latin sambas to disco.

There is also the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, home to a collection of 800,000 diverse objects, from fossils to fine art. It's been in operation since 1863, expanding from a small corner on Argyle and Macquarie streets to encompass an entire city block. The buildings are as much an exhibit as the collection they house; the site including some of Tasmania's most historically significant architecture – including Tasmania's oldest surviving building, the Commissariat Store, built circa 1808.

Battery Point

Adjoining Salamanca is the historic suburb of Battery Point. Settled in the earliest days of Hobart Town as a defensive outpost, it draws its name from the various gun batteries once mounted along the waterfront (they were never used in battle – the only enemy they destroyed was nearby windowpanes when fired during practice).

Kelly's Steps, named for 19th century sea captain James Kelly, join Salamanca to Battery Point. From there it is a short stroll to the Narryna Heritage Museum, a 1830s merchant house showcasing colonial furnishings and artifacts.

Much of the area's original character has been retained, with the precinct's winding streets largely



Street entertainment at Salamanca Market. (Photo: Tourism Tasmania & Rob Burnett)



Salamanca Market is famous for its fresh, local produce. (Photo: Tourism Tasmania & Tony Lomas)

SHARE ROTARY AT THE 2018 HOBART CONFERENCE

"Share Rotary" is a common catch cry in Rotary, but Rotary International director Noel Trevaskis has thrown the challenge to ALL Rotarians and Rotaractors to make the call a reality at the 2018 Australia New Zealand Rotary Conference in September.

The Conference is planned for Hobart's magnificent Grand Chancellor Hotel from September 14-16 and RI president-elect Barry Rassin has confirmed the appointment of current RI president Ian Riseley and his wife Juliet as official representatives for him and his wife Esther.

Rotary International has sanctioned the change of name from "Institute" to "Conference" to ensure no Rotarian is intimidated by the aura and history surrounding Rotary Institutes. As a bonus for youth, registration fees for Exchange Students have been wiped and Rotaractors will only pay \$200.

The Conference guest speaker list is already outstanding:

- Current RI President Ian and Juliet Riseley;
- New RI director Raffy Garcia;
- Mary Beth Growney Selene (RI director 2013-15; TRF trustee 2016-19);
- Rotarian Marga Hewko (wife of RI general secretary John), with extensive Rotary service in Russia, Ukraine and USA.

Visit www.rotaryinstitute.org.au to register for the Conference.

ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE SEMINAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, HOBART

Alongside this year's Australia and New Zealand Rotary Conference in Tasmania, a one-day, hands-on, interactive Public Image Seminar will be held at Hotel Grand Chancellor, to assist district public image chairs and club public image directors create a better public image for Rotary in their local areas.

Seating is limited. For registration details contact PDG Gina Growden, Rotary International Zone 8 public image coordinator, via gina.growden@bigpond.com or 0412 128 106.

unchanged from when they were first built almost two centuries ago. Various bookstores, antique sellers and cafes are scattered throughout sandstone buildings and charming old-world cottages, mixed with landmarks and sites of historical curiosity.

The old-school Shipwrights Arms Hotel (known to locals as 'Shippies') is the perfect place to stop for lunch – their seafood chowder topped with gremolata and mussels is famous. Founded way back in 1846, an impressive and unique collection of maritime memorabilia lines the walls, gifted from various crews over the decades. It's still a favourite watering hole for seafarers – filling post-race with Sydney to Hobart teams and supporters every December.

A free guided tour, available in written and audio form, is available for download at www.batterypointwalk.com.au

Pennicott Wilderness Journeys

Pennicott Wilderness Journeys offers six incredible, award-winning tours, which set sail from Hobart or its surrounds. The name will be familiar to Rotarians – in 2011 operator Rob Pennicott circumnavigated Australia in a 5.4m inflatable dinghy to raise \$300,000 for The Rotary Foundation's efforts to eradicate polio and environmental conservation.

Recognised by the Australian Tourism Awards as Australia's Best Tourist Attraction on three separate occasions, the Bruny Island cruise is a three-hour adventure exploring some of Australia's highest sea cliffs, deep-sea caves and to the point where the Tasman Sea meets the might of the Southern Ocean. You'll be given the chance to drift up close to Breathing Rock – a unique rock formation with a gap right at water level that sucks in waves then blows them out – as well as observe a diverse array of coastal wildlife.

The Iron Pot cruise circumnavigates Betsey Island and Hobart's waterways in specially crafted vessels fit with large glass windows, allowing guests to take in the views within a spacious, leather-seated cabin. The 2.5-hour cruise finishes at Iron Pot, Australia's oldest lighthouse, where your guide

will share fascinating stories of Hobart's early settlement.

The coastline of Tasman National Park and Cape Pillar's sea cliffs (the highest in the Southern Hemisphere) is the focus of the Tasman Island tour. The shores are home to an abundance of wildlife, including sea colonies, migrating whales and sea birds in their thousands. At any time of the year, expect to see diving gannets, albatross, sea eagles and peregrine falcons. Pods of dolphins are also known to come and say hello and play in the bow wave of the boat.

Foodies will delight in the two taste tours on offer, which mix gourmet dining with adventure. The Bruny Island Traveller Tour is a full-day tour of the island, exploring spectacular landscapes and local culinary delights. You'll taste cheese, oysters, fudge, berries, wine and whisky, as well as learn firsthand from producers about how they are made and sourced. Visitors are also left to explore deserted beaches, pristine bush and rainforest; if you're lucky you might catch a glimpse of the island's rare white wallabies.

Tasmanian Seafood Seduction is another full-day tour departing from Hobart, which takes participants down the Derwent River and into the sheltered waters of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. Following this, the voyage heads south, leaving civilisation behind for picturesque wilderness. Rock lobster, oysters shucked straight from the water, and a selection of Tasmanian wines, boutique beers and cider are on the menu. You'll also get to watch your guide dive for abalone and sea urchin, which will then be served up fresh on the boat.

For more details visit www.pennicottjourneys.com.au •

Bruny Island Cruises – Pennicott Wilderness Journeys (Photo: Sean Scott)

