

Directory

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ACCOMMODATION

Tasmania offers everything: serene camping grounds, grungy hostels, gourmet breakfasts in guesthouses, ecoresorts, colonial high-ceilinged hotels and clean motel lodgings. It's worth noting that despite this variety, main tourist centres are often fully booked

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

in summer, at Easter and during other public holidays, so it's wise to book ahead.

More and more, mainland Australians are embracing the idea of the weekend escape, which means that accommodation from Friday night through to Sunday can be in greater demand (and pricier) in major tourist centres. If you have the luxury of time, be on the lookout for midweek packages.

High-season prices are quoted in this book unless otherwise indicated. Use our prices as a guide and remember that stand-by (walk-in) rates and low-season rates (not to mention weekend specials and the like) can be lower than anything quoted in this book. Walk-in rates are best queried late in the day; also check websites such as www.wotif.com for last-minute deals.

The listings in the Sleeping sections of this guidebook are ordered from budget to mid-range to top end. We generally treat any place that charges up to \$50/100 per single/double as budget accommodation. Midrange facilities are \$100 to \$180 per double, while the top-end tag is applied to places charging more than \$180 per double.

In most areas you'll find seasonal price variations. Over summer (December to February) and at other peak times, particularly school and public holidays, prices are usually at their highest. The cooler winter months (June to August) experience significantly less tourist traffic and there can often be decent savings on accommodation prices.

A few notes about facilities: if you're travelling around Tasmania in the cooler months, you may find your accommodation very cold when you arrive, particularly if you're staying in a cottage or self-contained unit. Ask about heating when you make your booking, and if you know your arrival time, ask your hosts to light a fire or turn on the heating in advance. The good news is that many establishments have electric blankets on their beds. Conversely, air conditioning is rare apart from in big-city hotels. Most accommodation in Tasmania offers nonsmoking rooms (many places, especially hostels and guesthouses, are entirely nonsmoking). If you have a car, ask about parking when booking accommodation for central Hobart and Launceston.

PRACTICALITIES

- If you're after news, the main local newspapers are *Mercury* (www.news.com.au/mercury), covering Hobart and the south, and the *Examiner* (www.examiner.com.au) in Launceston and the north.
- *Tasmania 40° South* (www.fortysouth.com.au) is a glossy quarterly magazine (\$12.50) packed with articles about the state.
- On TV, watch the ad-free ABC, the government-sponsored and multicultural SBS, or one of two commercial stations, namely WIN (the equivalent of Channel Nine on the mainland) and Southern Cross (broadcasting programs from the mainland's Channels Seven and Ten).
- Plugs have three flat pins; the electricity supply is 220-240V AC, 50Hz.
- For weights and measures, the metric system is used.

If you are interested in eco-accommodation, the 'Natural State' has a growing number of options. These green-friendly businesses are listed in the GreenDex in the back of this book (p368).

The **Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania** (RACT; ☎ 13 27 22, 6232 6300; www.ract.com.au) has an annual statewide accommodation directory *Experience Tasmania* (\$8) that suits all budgets. It's available from the club shop (and its affiliates, such as the RACV in Victoria or NRMA in New South Wales). Alternatively, check the online listings on the useful website **Travelways** (www.travelways.com.au). **Tourism Tasmania** (www.discovertasmania.com) also lists myriad options, from apartments to camping (click on Accommodation).

Camping & Caravan Parks

There are plenty of magical places in Tasmania where you can camp for free or at little cost. For details of over 145 camp sites in reserves, conservation areas and roadside bays, check out the *Camping Guide to Tasmania* (3rd edition), compiled by Craig Lewis and Cathy Savage (about \$15), or go online to the website of the **Parks & Wildlife Service** (PWS; www.parks.tas.gov.au) – click on Outdoor Recreation, then Camping and Caravanning. Camping in most national parks requires you to purchase a park pass (see p64) and then pay a small (unpowered) site fee (\$15/10/5 per family/couple/child, additional adult \$5). Quite a few parks don't have site fees, though this can mean they have minimal facilities.

Tasmania has a large number of camping and caravan parks (sometimes calling themselves 'tourist parks'), which generally comprise the state's cheapest form of accommodation and are conveniently close to town centres (with the notable exception of

Hobart). Nightly costs for two campers are anywhere between \$15 and \$26, slightly more for a powered site. In general, caravan parks are well maintained and represent good value, with almost all of them equipped with hot showers, kitchens and laundry facilities. Some parks offer cheap dormitory-style accommodation and more expensive on-site cabins. Cabin sizes and facilities vary, but expect to pay \$70 to \$140 for two people in a cabin with kitchenette.

If you intend to do a lot of caravanning/camping, consider joining one of the major chains such as **BIG4** (☎ 9811 9300, 1800 632 444; www.big4.com.au), which offers 10% discounts for members at its six Tasmanian parks including Hobart, Bicheno and Coles Bay.

A good general resource for campers and caravanners is the free *Caravan and Holiday Park Guide to Tasmania* brochure (available from most large visitors centres), and the website www.caravantasmania.com.au, which lists the majority of sites around the state.

Guesthouses & B&Bs

Tasmania is the land of the B&B. New places are opening all the time, with everything from restored convict-built cottages, rambling old houses, upmarket country manors and beachside bungalows. Note that some places advertise themselves as B&Bs but are in fact self-contained cottages with breakfast provisions supplied, or (beware) a suburban home with a room set aside, a decanter of oxidised port and a chocolate from last Easter.

Only in the cheaper B&Bs are you likely to have to share the bathrooms and the toilets. Breakfast might be 'continental' (think cereal and toast), 'hearty' (add muffins or fruit) or