



Understand Tasmania

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Anna Krien details how a man's solitary protest in 1970 has evolved into Tasmania's compelling world of politics, industry and environmental activism.



population per sq km



Tasmania Today

A Renewed Respect

There's an expression from the 1980s: 'Wake up Australia, Tasmania is floating away!' These days, mainland Australia is definitely wide awake to the Apple Isle's loveliness. Sea-change migrants from the mainland are escaping to Tassie, reversing the historical legacy of Tasmanians migrating north, and savvy travellers from other Australian states and around the world are recognising the island's unique gifts. Tasmania's easygoing lifestyle, clean southern air, and astounding natural beauty are regarded as essential antidotes to the more complicated and pressured urban lifestyles to the north.

An Outdoor State of Mind

The modern Tasmanian identity is also mirrored in the island's ancient and remarkable landscape. Dark foliage and craggy peaks are whipped by notorious winds, and short winter days are infused by the stark clarity of southern light. The environment fosters a keen sense of adventure and an understated resilience. Rather than hiding indoors behind solid stone, Tasmanians embrace their wilderness beneath layers of thermals and Gore-Tex. Getting into it, over it, or on top of it, is something the Tassie work-life balance absolutely mandates.

An Evolving Urban Vibe

Hobart and Launceston's growing urban buzz is now proving irresistible to ex-Tasmanians, back home and confident they're really not missing anything that Melbourne, Sydney or London offers. Hobart has views to rival Sydney's, and continues to evolve into a cosmopolitan hub. Launceston has been busy transforming itself from colonial backwater into a boutique harbour city, and a rigorous arts scene infuses both centres.

Run by one passionate and energetic guy in Hobart, www.tasmaniantimes.com is a 'forum of discussion and dissent' and a great way to check the pulse of local politics or issues like the 'peace deal' between the pro-forestry and pro-environmental groups.

Top Books

- » **In Tasmania** by Nicholas Shakespeare
- » **Into the Woods: the Battle for Tasmania's Forests** by Anna Krien
- » **For the Term of His Natural Life** by Marcus Clarke

Best Blogs

- » **Mark's Tasmanian Bush Blog** www.tasbushblog.blogspot.com: Photos and bushwalking reports
- » **Rita's Bite** www.pc-rita.blogspot.com: Incorporating Hobart Food for Thought with restaurant and cafe reviews.

Big in Hollywood

- » **Errol Flynn** Born in Hobart in 1909, Flynn went on to become a big movie star. His reputation for bedding women with ease lives on in the expression 'in like Flynn'.
- » **Simon Baker** Launceston-born star of TV's *The Mentalist*.