International Students

Weather and environment

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Weather and environment

What is Tasmania’s weather like?

Tasmania has four seasons, and is generally cooler than most other parts of Australia. It can rain at any time of year, but the driest and warmest months are from December to March, when the maximum temperature ranges from under 20°C to over 30°C. June to September is the coldest and wettest time of year, when the maximum temperature is often around 10°C and the minimum can be below 0°C – for more details see www.discovertasmania.com.au/about/climate-and-weather.

Tasmania is famous for its changeable weather, so it is important to be prepared for cold or wet weather at any time of year. For example, a few very hot days in summer can be followed by some much cooler, rainy weather, and in winter we often see bright sunny days as well as cold, wet, and occasionally snowy weather. Make sure you bring some warm clothes with you, even if you arrive in summer. It is also a good idea to carry a raincoat or small umbrella. For up to date weather details see www.bom.gov.au/.

Sun protection

Many students find the sunshine in Tasmania is much stronger than in their home country, so it is easy to get sunburned. This can cause skin cancer, so it is very important to use sunscreen and to wear a hat and clothes that protect you from the sun. See the Cancer Council website for much more information - see www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/.

Natural environment

Tasmania also well-known for its beautiful natural scenery. Because it is a big island with a small population, there are large areas of mountain and forest wilderness. The air is very clear and clean for most of the year, and night skies are full of stars. Many kinds of animals living in Tasmania cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Getting out and enjoying nature is a part of life for many Tasmanians, and there are many ways to do this, such as bushwalking, camping and fishing. There are beautiful places around and close to both Launceston and Hobart, so it’s not always necessary to travel very long distances. Make sure you use some of your time in Tasmania to experience this unique natural environment!

Cities and towns

Hobart and Launceston are both small cities, without big crowds, noise, or major traffic problems. Most residential areas are close to a local shopping area with a supermarket, where most people buy groceries and everyday items. Some supermarkets offer online shopping with home delivery. To buy other things, such as clothes, electrical items, or furniture, people usually go to the city centre or another bigger shopping centre.

Bus services provide public transport to most areas of both cities, including the University campuses - see www.metrotas.com.au. Outside the major cities, travelling by car is usually most convenient. See Getting around for more details on buses and other transport options.

Both Launceston and Hobart host all kinds of events throughout the year, from major international festivals to local community group events. So even though there are fewer entertainment venues than in bigger cities, there is something happening almost every weekend. A lot of smaller towns are known for a particular feature or attraction, so even though there are not many shops, they can be very interesting to visit. Many Tasmanians love to pause for a cup of coffee or tea, so there are cafés all over the cities and in most towns. See www.discovertasmania.com.au/ for more information.

Daylight saving

Daylight saving is observed in Tasmania and is the practice of advancing clocks one hour during the warmer months of the year. Daylight saving in Tasmania commences at 2am on the first Sunday in October each year, and people should put their clocks forward by one hour at this time. It concludes at 3am daylight savings time (2am standard time) on the first Sunday in April the following year, at which time people should put their clocks back by one hour.

For more information, including daylight saving in future years, please visit dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/daylightsaving.