

A Battery Point, one of Hobart's first maritime settlements, is full of cosy cafes.

B A seaplane tour is the best way to enjoy Tasmania's incredible landscape.

C Take in awe-inspiring views from the lookout at Mount Wellington.

D Henry Jones Art Hotel has the perfect mix of modern funk and historic charm.



MARITIME CULTURE

Battery Point (batterypoint.net), situated behind the warehouses of Salamanca Place, is one of Hobart's earliest maritime settlements. Stone-walled cottages – which once housed sea captains, sailors and fishermen – have been converted into guest houses, like the Grand Vue Private Hotel (grande-vue-hotel.com) and Battery

Point Guest House (7 McGregor Street, Tel: 61 3 6224 2111). Arthur's Circus is full of cafes, restaurants and gorgeous stores. Drop by Shipwrights Arms (shipwrightsarms.com.au) – locals call it Shippies' – which was established in 1846. Tuck into pub food like the Salmon Wellington (a filo pastry parcel of salmon, prawns, crab and coriander).

SEAPLANE ADVENTURES
Hop on board a DeHavilland DHC-2 Beaver seaplane from Kings Pier Marina for an unforgettable city tour from above (tasmanianairadventures.com.au). Enjoy stunning aerial views of the Tasman Bridge, Government House and Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. If you're game to venture farther – or feel like a splurge – head out for views of southern Tasmania's iconic landscape, including Storm Bay and the Dolerite Sea Cliffs, and Port Arthur's historic penal colony.



5 MUST-DOS HOBART

The Essential Quick Guide For Discerning Travellers

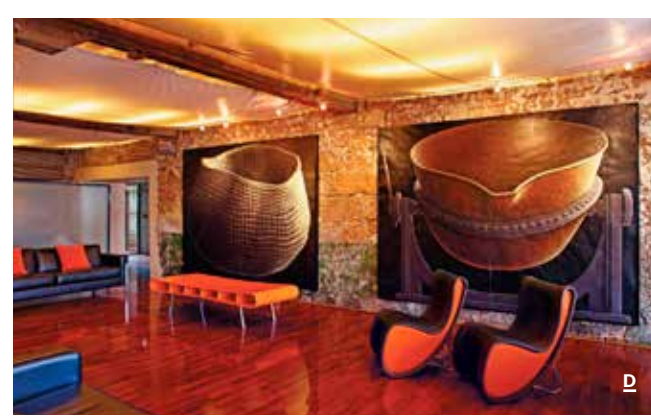
BY FIONA HARPER

ART TRAIL
Tasmanians are a creative lot. The Glover Prize, Australia's foremost landscape painting award, pays tribute to artist John Glover, whose works can be seen at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (tmag.tas.gov.au). There's also painter Geoff Dyer (despard-gallery.com.au) and author Richard Flanagan, whose novels draw inspiration from his Tasmanian heritage.

The Museum of Old and New Art or MONA (mona.net.au), a 15-minute drive from downtown Hobart, is the brainchild of Hobartian David Walsh. The philanthropist's eccentricity is evident throughout three levels of engaging, intriguing, often confronting and always entertaining installations and exhibitions. It's not your average museum. You can also get there by ferry which departs from the MONA Brooke St ferry terminal; the AU\$50 (US\$47) Posh Pit package gives you access to an exclusive lounge complete with complimentary canapes.

COOL STAYS
Salamanca Wharf Hotel (salamancawharfhotel.com) is a boutique hotel that complements its historic location in Salamanca Place. Somerset on the Pier (somerset.com/en/australia) has a contemporary style, concealed inside a 1930s pier building. Book the one-bedroom premier room to enjoy a harbour view. The Henry Jones Art Hotel (thehenryjones.com), located smack in the middle of Hobart's

waterfront, is a wicked fusion of art and history. Converted from a former jam factory, the intimate hotel showcases jarrah beams, raw hand-hewn brickwork pockmarked with protruding iron factory workings alongside modern bathroom pods. Wander along the halls to discover secrets of the past, like the overhead timber which remains blackened and charred after a squatter's candles caused a fire.



MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN
Rising 1,270m above historic Constitution Dock, Mount Wellington (wellingtonpark.org.au) – a 20km drive from downtown Hobart – is a sort of emotional barometer for Hobartians. When its summit is snow-capped and concealed by low altitude cloud, they scurry indoors to start log fires and sip local award-winning wines. During spring and summer, the mountain attracts bushwalkers and mountain bikers.

There's an all-weather viewing platform at the summit that offers stunning views all the way south past Bruny Island. Whatever time of year, wear warm clothing: the summit is one of the windiest spots in Hobart. Visit the historic Cascade Brewery (cascadebreweryco.com.au), sited within 1.2ha of heritage gardens. Linger over lunch and take in a brewery tour. Then hike the Cascade Walking Track, which links downtown Hobart with Mount Wellington.

Fast Facts

CURRENCY
Australian Dollar
US\$1 = 1.12 AUD

VISA
Requirements vary. Visit immi.gov.au/visawizard for details.

BEST TIME TO VISIT
Autumn (March to May) is a mellow season with calm and sunny days. It's also the best time to sample the fresh local produce.

HOW TO GET THERE
Singapore Airlines flies 4 times daily from Singapore to Melbourne, from where you can catch a connecting flight to Hobart.

MORE INFORMATION
discovertasmania.com