



**Learning  
Through  
Discovery**

# **Tasmanian Government Schools**

# **Pre-departure Guide**



# → Planning your Trip →

## A Quick Checklist

Do you have all the documents you will need?

- Valid passport
- Valid visa
- Letter of Offer/Confirmation of Enrolment
- other personal identification eg. international driver's licence,

Have you checked:

- that your flight is to the correct city
- that you arrive in time for orientation

Make sure that you carry with your hand luggage:

- this booklet, with emergency contact phone numbers
- some cash in Australian dollars
- warm clothing, such as a sweater and jacket

Have you packed:

- jeans/trousers
- t-shirts/shirts
- sweaters/jumpers/windcheaters
- one 'formal' outfit
- walking shoes, sports shoes
- alarm clock
- raincoat
- photographs
- a dictionary
- any medical items or prescriptions
- power adaptors and/or transformers

## Booking Flights

Please make sure that you have booked your flight to the correct city. There are flights into both Hobart and Launceston. If you book your flight to the wrong city, there is a 2½ hour bus trip between them which only travels twice a day.

We recommend that you book your international flight to Melbourne, as this is the easier airport for transfer. Give yourself plenty of time between your flights so that you will not worry about missing your connecting flight.

Please be aware that some airlines have very strict baggage and check-in regulations, and that Australian domestic airlines that connect you to Tasmania may have different weight restrictions for your baggage. Check the airlines' websites for details.

## Climate

There are four seasons in Tasmania. Check which time of year you will be coming to see what the weather will be like:

## Clothing

Some Tasmanian high schools require students to wear a uniform, but not all of them. Study tour students will need to discuss the uniform requirements with their school. Often, it's okay for students to wear a similar outfit. Some second hand clothing may also be available cheaply.

Students at Tasmanian senior secondary colleges do not wear a uniform and usually dress informally. Buying clothing in Australia can be expensive compared with other countries, so try to bring as much as you can from home.

Time of Year	Season	Hobart Daily Temperature	Launceston Daily Temperature	Average No. of Rainy Days
December - February	Summer	Average: 23°C Range: 18-35°C	Average: 24°C Range: 18-34°C	24
March - May	Autumn	Average: 17°C Range: 15-21°C	Average: 19°C Range: 15-22°C	26
June - August	Winter	Average: 12°C Range: 9-14°C	Average: 13°C Range: 10-14°C	41
September - November	Spring	Average: 17°C Range: 15-21°C	Average: 19°C Range: 15-22°C	37



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## Cost of Living

Tasmania has a lower cost of living than many of the larger mainland cities in Australia. Rents are much lower and transport costs are not as high, as it is easier to move around the smaller cities.

The table below can help you with estimating how much you will need to spend on living costs while you are in Tasmania.

Minimum Yearly Expenditure*	Homestay <small>(price range \$180-\$190 p/w)</small>	Residences (part catered)	Residences (non-catered)	Private Share-House
Accommodation	\$8360.00	\$9328.00	\$6160.00	\$3520.00
Electricity/Heating	Included	Included	Included	\$600.00
Food	Included	\$1700.00	\$3650.00	\$3650.00
Local Transport	\$634.00	\$634.00	\$634.00	\$634.00
Books, Equipment	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Personal Spending	\$2000.00	\$2000.00	\$2000.00	\$2000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11794.00</b>	<b>\$14462.00</b>	<b>\$13244.00</b>	<b>\$11204.00</b>

\* Based on 44 weeks per year, Australian dollars.

Please note that this table is only a guide – the actual cost of living depends upon your lifestyle and budgeting skills.

## A Price Guide

Here are some common items and their *approximate* prices to give you an idea about how much money you may need:

1kg rice	\$3
250g beef	\$4
12 eggs	\$5
Packet noodles (50g)	80c
Can of Coca Cola	\$1.50
Cup of coffee	\$3.50
Movie ticket	\$14
Lunch, take away	\$8 - \$12
Restaurant meal	\$30+
MacDonalds Big Mac	\$3.95
Connecting electricity	\$52
Connecting phone	\$59

## Money

Please do not bring or travel with large amounts of cash. It is advisable to carry only up to AU\$100.00 in cash. Automatic teller machines are common throughout Australia. Remember that it may take some time to transfer money to a bank account in Australia, so you should bring money in traveller's cheques for safety. Most banks are open for exchange of

### Take care!

Please do not bring a large amount of money with you without declaring it at Customs – this is illegal and you may be prosecuted. It is also potentially dangerous.

traveller's cheques between Monday and Friday 10am – 3pm. Post offices and some travel agencies can also change traveller's cheques, although you may need to shop around for the best exchange rates.

## Credit Cards

MasterCard and Visa are the most commonly used credit cards in Australia. Others, such as American Express and Diners Club are also used, but some cards, such as JCB are limited.

## Money changer

These are available in business hours (9am - 5pm):

Travelex Hobart      40 Murray Street  
Travelex Launceston   54 Brisbane St



# ..... Planning your Trip .....>

## Goods that must be declared

These items must be declared and inspected on arrival for signs of insects, contamination or disease. Some may require treatment before being allowed in, but most will be permitted after they have been inspected by a quarantine officer.

### FOOD

- Commercially prepared, cooked and raw food and ingredients
- Dried fruit and vegetables
- Canned meat products
- Dairy products that contain less than 10 per cent dairy - as per the manufacturers ingredient list
- Cheese - must be commercially prepared and packaged and originate from countries free from foot and mouth disease
- Fish and other seafood products
- Instant noodles and rice
- Packaged meals
- Herbs and spices
- Herbal and traditional medicines, remedies, tonics and herbal teas
- Snack foods
- Biscuits, cakes and confectionery
- Black tea, coffee and other beverages
- Infant formula (must be accompanying a child)

### OTHER GOODS

- Biological specimens including tissue culture craft and hobby lines made from animal or plant material
- Used sporting and camping equipment, including tents, footwear, hiking boots, golf equipment, bicycles and fishing equipment (need to be checked to ensure they are clean and free from soil contamination)

### PLANT MATERIAL

- Wooden articles and carvings including painted or lacquered items
- Items that include bark (will require treatment or removal of the bark)
- Artefacts, handicrafts and souvenirs made from plant material
- Mats, bags and other items made from plant material, palm fronds or leaves
- Straw products and packaging
- Bamboo, cane or rattan basket ware and furnishings
- Potpourri and coconut shells
- Christmas decorations, wreaths and ornaments
- Dried flowers and arrangements
- Fresh flowers and leis (excluding flowers that can be grown from stems such as roses, carnations and chrysanthemums)

### ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- Feathers, bones, horns, tusks, wool
- Skins, hides and furs
- Stuffed animals and birds (taxidermy certificate required - some may be prohibited under endangered species laws)
- Shells and coral (including jewellery and souvenirs)
- Bee products including honey, beeswax and honeycomb
- Used animal equipment, including veterinary equipment and medicines, shearing or meat trade tools, saddlery and animal or bird cages

## DECLARE OR BEWARE

You must declare for inspection all food, plant material and animal products on arrival in Australia, to ensure they are free of pests and diseases. Some products may require TREATMENT to make them safe. Items PROHIBITED due to pest and disease risks will be seized and destroyed by Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS). You can dispose of prohibited items in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. If you're not sure, ask a quarantine officer.

## Tick 'YES' on your incoming passenger card

Before landing in Australia, passengers are given an Incoming Passenger Card to fill in. This is a legal document. You must tick YES to declare if you are carrying any food, plant material or animal products. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Every piece of luggage is now x-rayed or screened. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration:

- you will get caught;
- you could be fined over \$200 on-the-spot; or
- you could be prosecuted and fined up to \$60,000 and risk 10 years imprisonment.

## What happens to things I declare?

Prohibited items will be seized and destroyed by AQIS. In many cases, the goods you declare will be returned to you after inspection. However, any item that presents a disease risk or is found to contain insects or larvae will be withheld. You will be given a range of options for the item depending on the quarantine risk:

- treating the item to make it safe (for example fumigation, irradiation)\*;
- holding the item until an import permit is presented\*;
- storing the item at the airport for collection when you leave Australia\*;
- re-exporting the item\*;
- destroying the item.

AQIS makes every effort to minimise the risk of damage but does not accept liability for damage that may occur as a result of treatment.

\*These treatments are subject to fees.

## Goods that are prohibited

These items must be declared. Items will be seized and destroyed by AQIS, or you can drop them in quarantine bins at the airport.

### DAIRY AND EGG PRODUCTS

- Dairy products (fresh and powdered) including milk, cheese and 'non-dairy' creamers - from countries with foot and mouth disease
- Airline food containing dairy including milk, yoghurt and sandwiches containing cheese
- All whole, dried and powdered eggs, and egg products that contain more than 10 per cent egg as an ingredient, such as mayonnaise
- Homemade egg products including noodles and pasta that are not commercially manufactured.

### ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- All uncanned meat including fresh, dried, frozen, cooked, smoked, salted or preserved from all animal species
- Sausages, salami and sliced meats
- Airline food including sandwiches with meat
- Pet food - including canned products and rawhide chews
- Rawhide articles and handicrafts including drums

### PLANT MATERIAL

- All potted/bare rooted plants, cuttings, roots, bulbs, corms, stems and other plant material flowers that can be grown from stems such as roses, carnations and chrysanthemums
- Banana products including food (fresh and dried) and souvenirs made with banana leaf
- Souvenirs made with or filled with straw, including Thai cushions

### SEEDS AND NUTS

- Cereal grains, popping corn, raw nuts, pine cones, birdseed, unidentified seeds, some commercially packaged seeds, and ornaments including seeds
- Airline food/snacks

### FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

- All fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables

### LIVE ANIMALS

- all mammals, birds, birds' eggs and nests, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects

## Detector Dogs

You may see a quarantine detector dog at the baggage carousel. They're screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products of quarantine concern. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. Sometimes dogs will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

For more information about Australia's duty free allowance and other restricted imports, visit [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au). This brochure is available in other languages from AQIS. Information in this guide is correct at time of printing. Check [www.aqis.gov.au](http://www.aqis.gov.au) for latest information. Quarantine conditions may change without notice.



# ..... Your Flight to Tasmania .....>

## Transfer Information at Sydney Airport

The international and domestic terminals are in different buildings. Terminal 2 is the domestic terminal for Qantas flights to Tasmania (QF1600 and above) as well as Virgin and Jetstar. Please check which terminal your flight leaves from as these can change.

After you land:

- Go through immigration
- Pick up your luggage
- Go through customs
- Check which terminal your flight leaves from
- Go to the Domestic transfer corridor for your airline
- Check in your luggage
- Take the terminal transfer bus or train to the correct Domestic Terminal – buses run every 10-20 minutes.

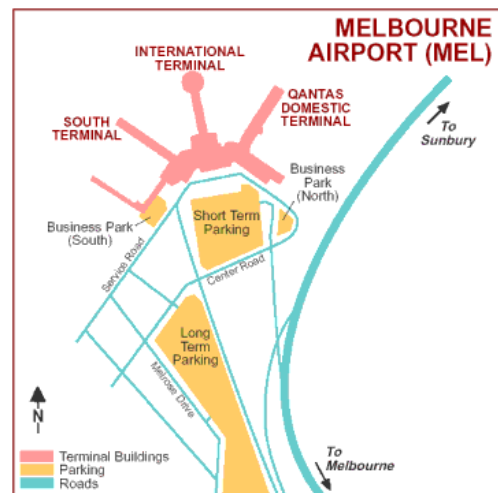


## Transfer Information at Melbourne Airport

The international and domestic terminals are in the same building. The Qantas Domestic terminal is to the right of the international terminal. Virgin Blue and Jetstar are in the South Terminal, which is next to the International Terminal.

After you land:

- Go through Immigration
- Pick up your luggage in the central hall
- Go through Customs
- Check in for your domestic flight





# ..... Your Arrival in Tasmania .....>

## Hobart Airport

At Hobart, you will get off the plane and walk directly to the terminal building. The air stewards will point you in the right direction. Hobart Airport is small, so you will not have any problem with finding what to do. You will pick up your luggage in the Arrival Hall. The airport shuttle bus leaves from the front of the terminal and will usually take you door-to-door.

Distance from CBD	20 km from Hobart Airport
Travel time	15-20 minutes by car
Taxi to CBD	\$40 (approx)
Bus to CBD	Airport Shuttle bus: \$16 one way

## Launceston Airport

As in Hobart, at Launceston Airport you will get off the plane and walk directly to the terminal building. Launceston Airport is also small, so you will not have any problem with finding what to do. You will pick up your luggage in the Arrival Hall. The airport shuttle bus leaves from the front of the terminal and will usually take you door-to-door.

Distance from CBD	16km from Launceston Airport
Travel time	10 minutes by car
Taxi to CBD	\$30 (approx)
Bus to CBD	Airport Shuttle bus: \$15 one way

## Airport Pickup

Airport pickup is free. Please make sure that you have informed us that you require airport pickup before leaving your country. If you have requested Airport Pick-up, your homestay host, or one of the International Student Advisers or their representative will be waiting for you. They will be holding a sign with your name.

## Orientation

Every student will attend an orientation session with your International Student Adviser. We recommend that you arrive for orientation at least two working days before your course starts. If you are coming for a long time, come at least one week before the start of your course.

Orientation sessions will welcome you, help you get to know your International Student Adviser, inform you about a wide range of subjects from culture shock to your homestay and also provide practical help, such as opening a bank account. There will be a tour to help you find your way around the city.

## International Student Advisers

Each school and college has International Student Advisers to help you with all aspects of your stay.

- If you have any problems, either personal or about your study, the International Student Advisers will help you. In situations where they cannot help, they will find the right direction for you to take.
- The International Student Advisers will have regular updates from your teachers about your study and attendance. If they feel that you may have some difficulty, they will be anxious to help.
- It is very important that you keep in regular contact with the International Student Advisers, particularly if you are experiencing any difficulty with your life and study programme.

Please email your International Student Adviser or [info@geti.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@geti.tas.gov.au) for more detailed information about orientation.



## .....Other Useful Things to Know.....>

### Electricity

The electrical current in Australia is 240/250 volts AC. The Australian three-pin plug is very safe. You will need to bring an adaptor for your appliances. If your country has a different voltage, you will also need a transformer.

### Shopping

Shops are generally open between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am to 3.00pm on Saturday. Some stores are open late until 9.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Supermarkets are open 7 days per week till late.

### Transport

Students have a discounted rate on public buses. To qualify, you will need to speak to your school about receiving a student ID card. With the discount, a single bus trip will cost \$1.30.

Taxi fares vary according to time of day, duration and distance of travel. As a guide to prices, the average flag fall is \$3.30 with trips charged at around \$1.80 per kilometre. A one-way fare between Hobart Airport and the city is around \$45.00; from Launceston Airport to the city, the fare averages \$30.00.

### Community Contacts

There are a number of nationality based community contacts that are available at Multicultural Tasmania, <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/multitas/>

Please ask us if you are particularly interested in a certain religious or student group.

### Your Life in Tasmania

For information on what to do in Tasmania, please look at:

<http://www.tas.gov.au/tasmaniaonline/about/>

<http://hobart.citysearch.com.au/>

<http://www.discoverlaunceston.com>

For sports and other clubs:

<http://www.tas.gov.au/tasmaniaonline/community/>

For directory assistance, contact Sensis Ph. 1234

or look at white pages online:

<http://www.whitepages.com.au>

Other information about Tasmania can be found at

<http://www.discovertasmania.com.au>

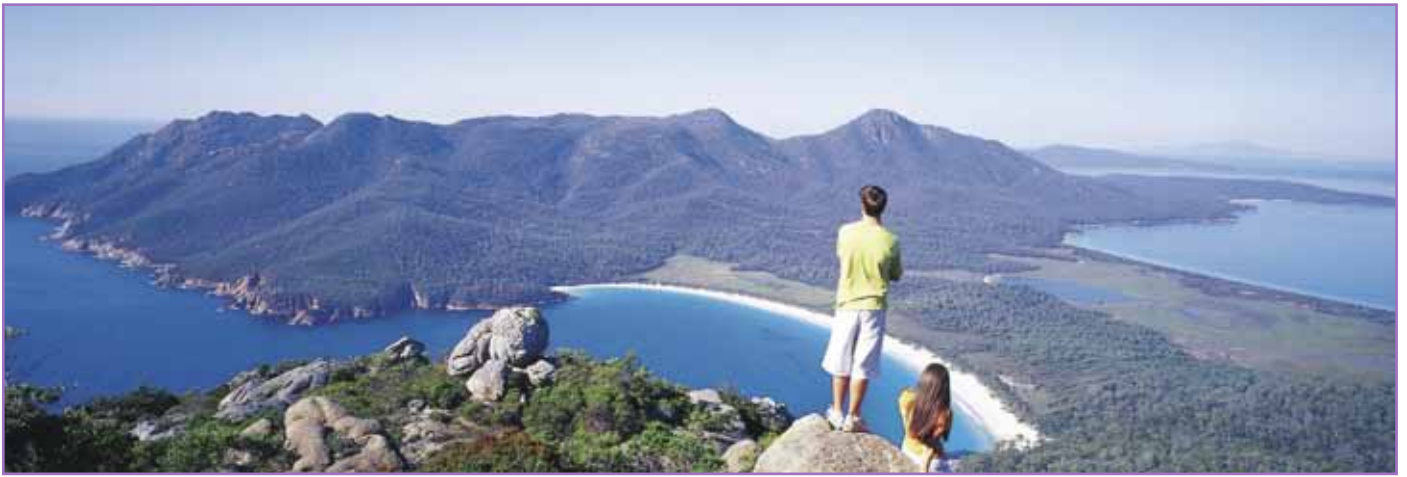
## Emergencies

If you need to see a doctor and need help to make an appointment, see your International Student Adviser. If you have a medical emergency:

- **Phone 000** and ask for an ambulance
- In Hobart go to the Royal Hobart Hospital
- In Launceston go to the Launceston General Hospital

If you require the police or fire brigade urgently:

- **Phone 000**



## ..... Contact Details .....



Government Education and  
Training International (GETI) Office :  
+61 3 6233 3020  
[info@geti.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@geti.tas.gov.au)

GETI Launceston  
Homestay Coordinator  
+61 3 6336 2771

GETI Hobart  
Homestay Coordinator  
+61 3 6233 7018