

## Tasmania (Tas)

Tasmania, often abbreviated to Tassie and formally known as Van Diemen's Land, is a small island located off the southern coast of Australia. Although previously being left out of the pocket guide, Tasmania is obviously an integral part of Australia. It even shares a land border with Victoria, despite being an island. The island is famous for its pristine nature and wilderness, regardless of the fact that they keep cutting the forests down and the wilderness is on fire. Tasmania really has a lot to offer however that's something for a larger book which cares more about Tasmania.

### Hobart

Hobart is the largest city and capital of Tasmania and is basically where everyone lives, except all the people in Tasmania that don't live there. Hobart boasts the honour of being the main base for people visiting Antarctica, so if you're heading there to see the polar bears then odds are you will have to pass via Hobart so you might as well stop and visit it along the way.

### Highlights

Hobart like every other Australian city has a botanic gardens and a range of galleries and museums. It also has some art gallery which seems to be all the rage and if you climb up Mount Wellington you get some great views over the city. You can also go rock climbing there, which this book considers a fool's errand and does not endorse.

## Rest of Tasmania

### Port Author:

Port Author is a former penal colony which is located about 20 hours walk from Hobart (you can also drive, it's faster). It is one of the best preserved penal colonies in Australia and is a large open air museum with hours of entertainment for the whole family. It's also Tasmania's most popular tourist attraction, so if you find people scary don't go there.

## Cradle Mountain National Park:

If you happen to suffer from Enochlophobia and figure the literally 10's of people on Tasmania are too much for you then why not head to the Cradle Mountain National Park instead. It's a pristine national park in northern Tasmania which is considered one of the most surreal experiences in Tasmania. The national park is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, though make sure you visit it soon before the Tasmania government try to chop it down.

## Tessellated pavement:

The Tessellated pavement is an unusual rock formation which looks a bit like a tiled floor. It is located on the Tasman peninsular right beside the sea and despite its odd look is in fact entirely natural and caused by an usual form of erosion. Legend says drinking the water from one of the pools will be detrimental to your health and most medical professionals would agree as drinking salt water isn't good for you!



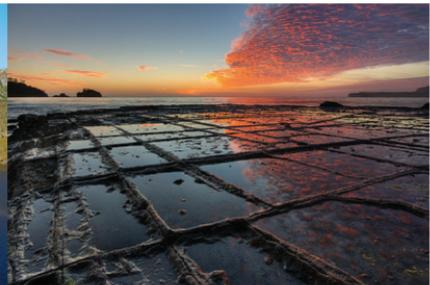
View over hobart  
Photo by the CSIRO



Port Author  
Photo by Andrew Braithwaite



Cradle Mountain National Park  
Photo by Bjørn Christian Tørrissen



Tessellated pavement  
Photo by Andrew McMillan

## Challenge

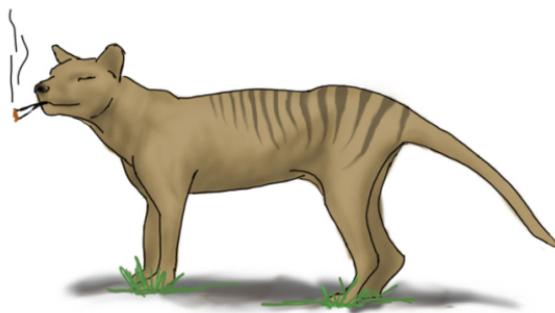
This is a new addition to this book and is currently unique to Tassie. Tasmania, being the odd place that it is, offers a special unique challenge for you while you're there:

### Find a Thylacine (Tasmanian tiger)

This challenge isn't for the faint hearted and may be quite difficult, but hey are you really the type to turn down a challenge? If so, then skip this bit and go to another page....

The challenge is to find a Thylacine. Just one will do though 2 would be ideal. The Thylacine is/was a carnivorous marsupial which weighed in at 30kg and was similar in appearance to a dog. They have been classified as extinct since 1936, so you have your work cut out for you. However, there are those who claim to have seen them and even some rather poor quality photos claiming to show them. So who knows maybe they are still out there and I think you'd be famous if you were the person to finally get a proper photo of one. Remember to hold the camera still though and focus when you take your photo or otherwise everyone will just think you're another madman.

So while you're in Tasmania why not give it a shot? And if you get a photo send it to us, we will believe you even if no one else does :).



An Artists impression of a Thylacine.  
You know to help you find one.  
By Aaron Murdoch