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Bernd Rohrmann Essay about Tasmania

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Pic's from two visits

① 1991 ② 2016/2107

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>>> Australia-Tasmania <<<



<> <> intro <> <>

the island of tasmania is one of the states of australia, the smallest one, its capital city is hobart. given its unique towns and unique landscapes, tasmania is highly attractive for travelers.



i have visited tasmania twice. first time: very long ago, in 1991: flying there, then focussed on hobart and queenstown, using a rental car.

second time, in 2016/7: flying to flinders island, then by ship to georgetown, bus to launceston, after that back to melbourne by ship from devenport.



<> <> *ships and boat tours* <> <>



tasmania is accessed daily by a large ship (for passengers and cars), connecting melbourne and devenport (see map).



a small freight ship connects flinders island and georgetown on the northern coast. this includes cabin offers for a few passengers.



on tasmania, ships for tours with visitors are operating about everywhere, and the size of the boats varies considerably. here is a convenient small one, which can enter little rivers as well.



very popular are rubber boats for rough rivers, requesting proficient actions. capsizing may happen!



what i preferred and did: joining a small group of travelers on a rubber boat with rudders, and then exploring sceneries and birdlife in remote rivers.



and this was indeed very enjoyable!



<> <> *mini history* <> <>



tasmania has been settled by aborigine people for a very long time. these were later, by british occupants, mostly exterminated. the first landing of an european occurred 1642, by the dutch explorer abel tasman



hundert years later several landings took place, including captain james cook (1777). then whalers based themselves on tasmania's islands.

in 1798 and in 1803 the new south wales governor established a small military outpost on the eastern shore of the derwent river - intending to outrun french interests.

the only interest of england, leading the british empire, when taking over tasmania was to create a penal colony - as had been the case when in 1787 the "first fleet" landed in sydney. the location was at first hobart, yet in 1830 that was moved completely to port arthur.

in 1825 the "van diemen's land" (belonging up to then to the colony of new south wales) claimed to be its own colony. finally in 1853 it renamed itself "tasmania".



<> <> *landscapes* <> <>

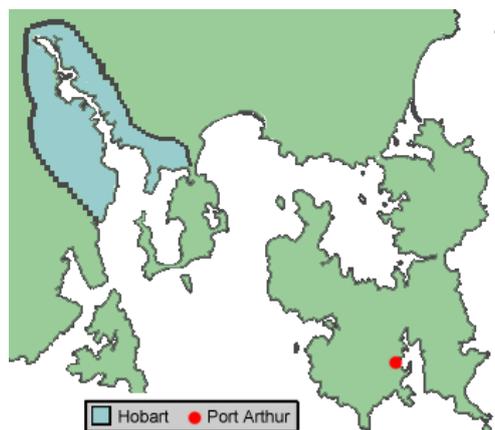


no lack of impressive landscapes in tasmania - - as you see below, lots of mountains, lakes, rivers, and all sorts of forests.





port arthur

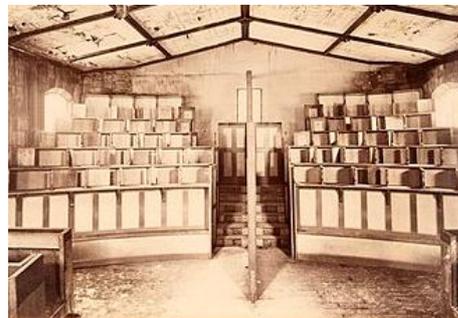


port arthur, located on a remote island, functioned as englands most important prison from 1830 to 1877. many of the buildings have survived and can now be visited.



the port arthur prison claimed to be a 'modern' one! for example, the convicts could participate in church services. however there were wooden barriers between the seats so that they could not talk with each other. altogether the treatments remained to be harsh and brutal.

by the way, there were lots of outside jobs - especially, a lot of work for building roads and bridges had to be done by prisoner teams!



many prison fortifications are still there, as well as the former church, as a ruin.



<> <> **hobart** <> <>

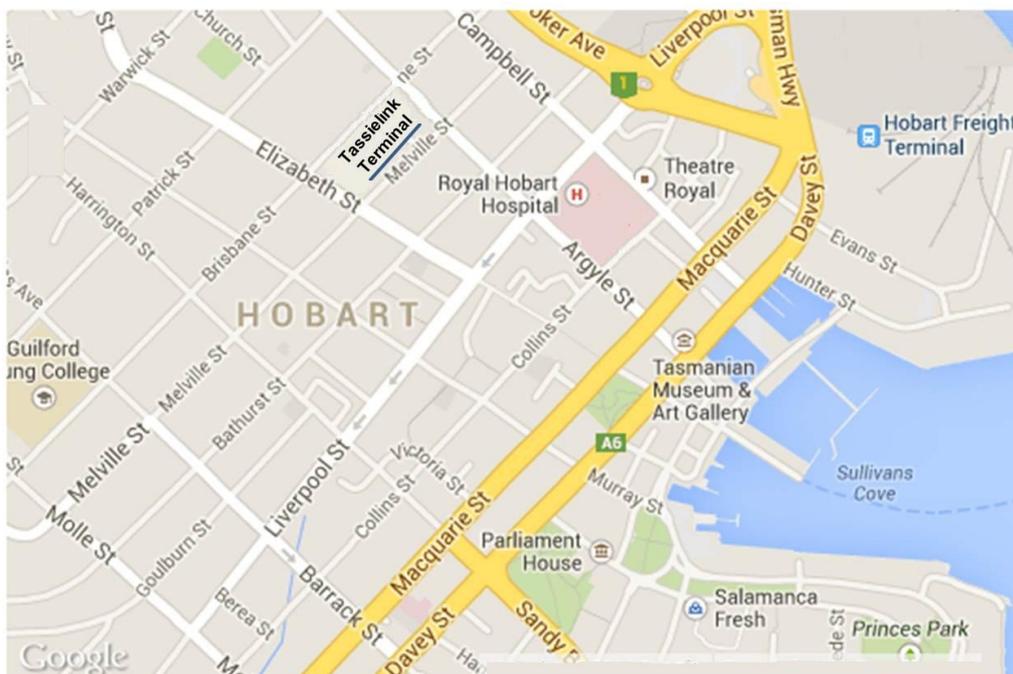


the largest city of tasmania was founded by english authorities in australia, in 1804, to become a penal colony.

this function was taken over in 1830 by port arthur. it is located where the river derwent flows into the ocean (see above map)..



hobart is above all a harbour city - but nevertheless excels in art and in museums as well, e.g., the "museum of old and new art" (mona). also, hobart is the official home port for the australian and the french antarctic operations.





its architecture covers a wide range from traditional to modern styles, downwards beside the river and up the hills.



famous is also the salamanca market, where really about everything is available, even live music!



Hobart Salamanca Market



finally - where is the certainly well-esteemed university of tasmania? of course in hobart.



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA



<> <> launceston <> <>



in the north-eastern area of tasmania sits launceston, its second-largest city. the cbd area is very friendly. and launceston has quite a few notable residences and also churches.





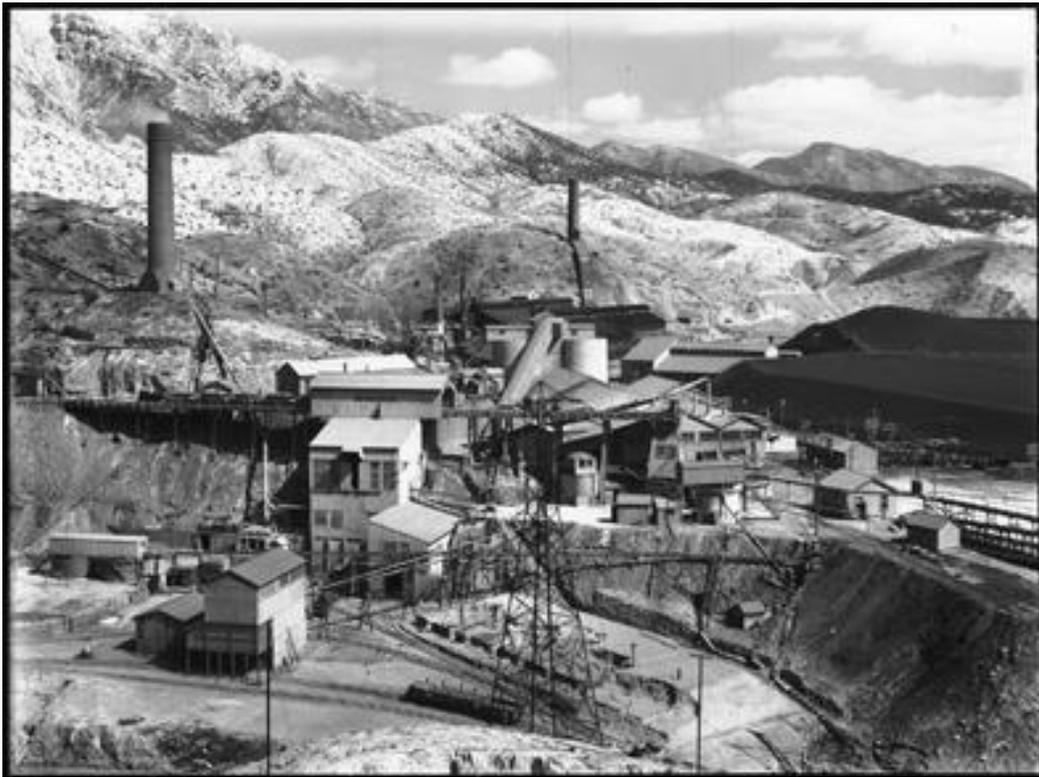
<> <> *queenstown* <> <>



since 1862, queenstown, in west-tasmania, was a mining town, for copper and even for gold. at that time it became a large and wealthy place; today it is just a little village.



two pictures show the historic venue. one mining area, when abandoned, run full with water and became an artificial lake (not for bathing though!).



several pretentious buildings have survived, like the post office or the largest hotel.



parts of the railway tracks from mining are nowadays used for trips offered to tourists.



finally, a very impressive memorial presents main features of living in a mining town.



<> <> *bridges* <> <>



well, yes, queenstown the mining municipality appears like a proper end to the tasmanian galleries - yet one issue is even more special - all the unique bridges one can visit and cherish! so, here are some:

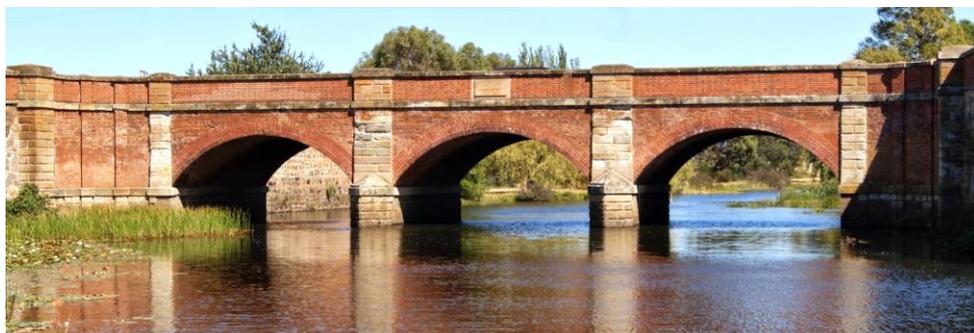
this one, the richmond bridge, is tasmania's oldest bridge, built by convicts (!) under very harsh conditions, and finished 1825.



the rossbridge, also built by convicts, was completed in 1836.



the red bridge, built by convicts as well, in 1837.



the tunbridge over the blackman river, built by convicts and finished in 1848, is a wooden-decked bridge. it's the oldest surviving of this type in australia.



this steel bridge, located near launceton, crossing the tamar river, was erected in two phases, 1863 and 1903.



the bridgewater lifting bridge spans the derwent river. the first work began in 1829, also heavily using convicts. the first bridge was completed in 1848, but didn't last. after further failures, the bridge was completely re-designed in 1939 and completed in 1946. lifting the central bridge section means that large ships can pass this bridge.



this suspension bridge near launceston, named alexandra bridge, was opened in 1904. in 1929 it was destroyed by a flood, and then rebuilt in 1934 and again in 2003.



the most-known, and most important one, is the tasman bridge in hobart. it is 1400 m long. built 1960-1965.

in 1975 a disaster happened: a freightship hit 2 pylons, and the middle section of the bridge fell down into the river. quite a few people lost their life.

the reconstruction of this crucial bridge began immediately, and in 1977 the improved version could be opened - to the relieve of whole tasmania!.



" " may it last " "

