



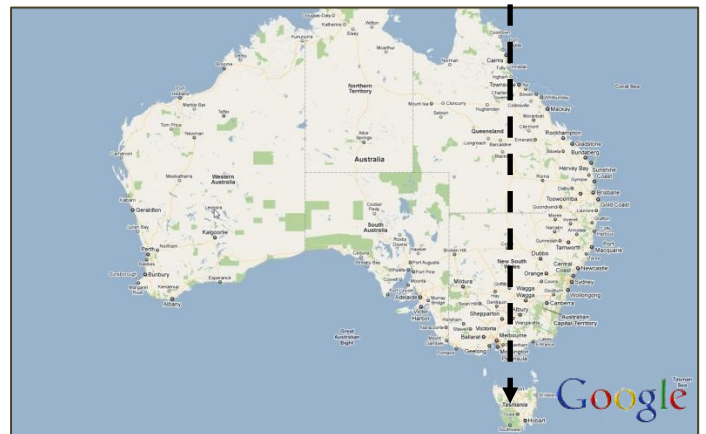
Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Australia, located at 41° S and 146° E.
- We have traveled approximately 11,820 miles (19,022 kilometers) from our starting point in California.





The city of Hobart, the second oldest in Australia, after Sydney (source: Asia.com)

Did you know?

Eleven Australian convict locations were added to the World Heritage List in 2010. Five of those are in Tasmania. These sites are popular with tourists and with those who are researching their ancestry.



sources: Heritage.Tas.gov.au, Think-Tasmania.com

People and Culture

- Tasmania is the smallest of the Australian states. It is located about 150 miles (250 kilometers) across the ocean from the state of Victoria.
- The Dutch explorer Abel Tasman originally named the islands Van Diemens Land. After being a British penal colony from 1803 to 1853 the name was changed to Tasmania.
- About 500,000 people live in Tasmania with the majority of the population (about 200,000) living in the capital city, Hobart.
- There are actually over 300 islands that comprise the state of Tasmania. Besides Tasmania there are only three other islands that have significant population. They are:
 - Flinders Island - population 1,000
 - King Island - population - 1,800
 - Bruny Island - population 600
- Our first hike, the Overland Track, is located in the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park / Tasmanian World Heritage Area. This area was first explored in the 1820s and the trail was created in the 1930s.



The Overland Track Route - we are hiking from bottom to the top (north to south). Click the image to view in Google Earth (source: parks.tas.gov.au)



Tasmanian devil in the wild and cartoon counterpart (sources: Encyclopedia.com, LooneyTunes.Wikia.com)



Nature and Environment

- The main island of Tasmania is about the size of West Virginia or the Republic of Ireland. About 40% of the island is set aside as national parks / reserves.
- Much of Tasmania's electricity is water (hydro) and wind generated. It contributes more than 50% all of Australia's renewable energy.
- The most well-known animal in Tasmania and famous as a cartoon character, the Tasmanian devil actually has black fur and is the size of a small dog. Once located throughout Australia, it is now only found in the wild in Tasmania.
- Classified as a marsupial, the Tasmanian devil received its name from its loud screeching, lunging and baring of teeth when it becomes angry. It actually sees only in black and white.
- A disease surfaced in the 1990's that has reduced the remaining population. As a result, the Tasmania devil was declared as an endangered species in 2009.

Our Plans

- We are just completing our trek! After a couple of rest days in Hobart, we will make our way back to Sydney.
- We will begin our next ocean voyage at the end of the week, leaving Sydney and going up the east coast of Australia. We will stop at the Great Barrier Reef and the northern city of Darwin.
- After visiting three Asian countries by ship, we will reach Singapore in early April.
- As we prepare to leave Australia and move on to Asia, let us know what questions or comments that you have. We look forward to hearing from you!

Climate Down Under

Even though it is so far south, Tasmania has a temperate climate. The average temperature in the summer is 70F (21C). In the winter, the average temperature is 52F (12C).

source: BrandTasmania.com

More Information

- <http://travelmedia.tourismtasmania.com.au/about/facts/facts.html>
- <http://www.discovertasmania.com/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overland_Track
- <http://a-z-animals.com/animals/tasmanian-devil/>
- <http://www.mountstuart.tased.edu.au/tasmanian%20devil%20site/Facts.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tasmanian_devil
- http://www.tasmaniatopen.com/lists/tasmanian_islands.php

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