



Key Events AND Festivals

Wooden Boat Festival

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Late December to early New Year annually, Hobart

The Rolex Sydney to Hobart yacht race begins in Sydney Harbour on December 26, each year. The race, which covers the gruelling 628 nautical miles to Hobart, is considered one of the world's blue water classics.

This race is a feature of Australia's summer sport calendar. Few yachting events in the world attract such huge media coverage as the start on Sydney Harbour and the finish on the River Derwent, when it seems half of Tasmania comes to Victoria Dock to welcome the racers to Hobart.

www.rolexsydneyhobart.com

Taste Festival

December/January annually, Hobart

Tasmania's largest annual event, the Taste Festival, is a celebration of food, wine and entertainment and is held in the revamped Princes Wharf 1 on the Hobart waterfront.

From 28 December to 4 January each year Hobart's waterfront, all around the historic Sullivans Cove precinct, features stalls of local Tasmanian produce, eight days of live performance, summer sports, and community events. The Taste Festival annually attracts some 300,000 visitors.

There are more than 60 quality food and beverage stalls and whether you are craving fresh, skillfully prepared Tasmanian seafood, or prefer the sweetness of juicy, ripe Tasmanian berries, there is something to cater for every taste. You must visit The Brasserie and sample the products of artisan brewers and cider makers, in a beautiful waterfront setting, with great food to match. For seven days and nights, the Taste Festival stages will captivate you with non-stop entertainment. Whether you enjoy the sultry sounds of cool jazz, toe-tapping folk music or getting down to some funky soul and disco beats, there's something for everyone.

The Taste Festival is held at the same time as the Rolex Sydney to Hobart, the Melbourne to Hobart and the Launceston to Hobart yacht races and the mood on the waterfront is always enlivened by celebrating yachties.

www.tastefestival.com.au



Festivale, Launceston

MONA FOMA (Festival of Music and Art)

January annually, Hobart

An urban festival of music and art, MONA FOMA, has bombarded Hobart with a deluge of sights and sounds. Curated by Brian Ritchie, of the Violent Femmes, the music and art at MONA FOMA is blistering and challenging and provides audiences with the opportunity to discover new ways to look at music and listen to art. MONA Museum of Old and New Art opened in January 2011 and is the largest private museum in Australia. The diverse collection ranges from ancient Egyptian mummies to some of the world's most infamous and thought-provoking contemporary art. Its location on the River Derwent just north of Hobart, the building's subterranean design and the owner's unconventional and challenging curatorial approach makes it a must-see for any visitor to Australia. Entry fee to the museum. To get there you can catch the MONA fast catamaran service from the Hobart waterfront or MONA-ROMA mini-bus transport. Exhibits from the MONA Museum of Old and New Art will also be on display during MONA FOMA and most of the festival events will be held in and around the Salamanca precinct, Princes Wharf 1 and MONA's home at the Moorilla vineyard.

www.mofo.net.au www.mona.net.au

Australian Wooden Boat Festival

February 2015, biennial, Hobart

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival is a spectacular four-day celebration of maritime history, culture and craftsmanship. Now recognised as the most significant event of its kind in Australia, the festival not only attracts visitors from all over the world, but boats from far and wide are on display at the Hobart docks on the River Derwent.

Tassie's Australian Wooden Boat Festival has been on a rocket's trajectory since the first event in 1994 when 180 wooden boats graced Hobart's docks. In recent years there have been sailing and cuta boats, rowing boats and vessels from Holland.

There's also a Shipwrights Village where the craft of wooden boat building is demonstrated – visitors can follow the boat building process from the sawing of logs through lofting, roving and caulking.

In February 2013 over 500 boats – wooden craft of all shapes and sizes – congregated on the city's historic waterfront for the tenth festival. The 2015 event will once again be alive with maritime activity including an enormous collection of wooden boats of all descriptions, a display of model boats, nautical skill demonstrations, live music and theatre, boat handling demonstrations, trade exhibitions and much more including Tasmanian food and wine outlets with an emphasis on local seafood. Admission is free and this is a family friendly event.

www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au

Festivale

February, annually, Launceston

Celebrate food, wine and entertainment in al fresco style at Launceston's historic City Park. Festivale is one of Tasmania's premier events, attracting about 40,000 people each year.

More than 65 stalls offer patrons the opportunity to taste and savour highly renowned Tasmanian gourmet food and wine amid all the colour and fun of family entertainment dance, music and street theatre - provided by both local and interstate artists.

www.festivale.com.au



Festival of Voices

Ten Days on the Island

March – April 2015, biennial, across Tasmania

Ten Days on the Island, Tasmania's international arts festival (Ten Days) is a state-wide, international arts festival and one of Tasmania's premier cultural events. Since its inception in 2001, the festival has presented the work of an outstanding range of international, national and Tasmanian artists whose work celebrates global island culture. The festival has been presented to audiences in every corner of Tasmania, impacting the lives of over one million people over the seven festivals held to date. Ten Days presents a multi-art form programme of free and ticketed events across Tasmania. A biennial event, the festival is a platform for the promotion of Tasmanian artists who are presented within an international programme featuring other island cultures and/or artists whose work explores island themes.

Ten Days 2013 programme featured activities including theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature, film and food events and delivered a multitude of accessible, as well as specialised, arts and cultural experiences to people of all ages. A new creative engagement programme 'Beyond Ten Days' delivered workshops, artist talks and cultural exchanges throughout the ten Festival Towns, developing the legacy of the 2013 Ten Days on the Island festival and enriching the state's creative culture.

www.tendaysontheisland.com

Targa Tasmania

April/May, annually, across Tasmania

Some car aficionados believe Tassie has some of the best touring roads in the world. Hollywood star Eric Bana might be one of them – he has taken part in Targa Tasmania as it looped around the island state. Targa Tasmania is an annual six-day event with a field of some 300 cars, including late model Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Porsches and old head-turning classics. Together they purr over more than 2000 kilometres (1200 miles) of roads that wind through a diverse range of landscapes including coast roads and mountain passes.

Targa passes by some of the very best of Tasmania's acclaimed natural wonders including the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and an east coast touring route where, if the drivers weren't racing, they would surely stop at some of the charming fishing villages to sample fresh oysters and crayfish.

Enthusiastic spectators turn out each year along the various stages of Targa to see this multi-million dollar motor show. Of course if you can't make it to Tasmania in April you could take your own Targa – and tour the very best of Tasmania at a pace where it is okay to linger over fine food and wine, and wonderful World Heritage wilds and cultural sites.

www.targa.com.au

Dark MOFO

June, annually, Hobart

The newest addition to Tasmania's winter events calendar is Dark MOFO, the darker sister to MONA's summer event – the Festival of Music and Art (MOFO). The inaugural event held in 2013 and as with MOFO, delivers a program of arts, music and noise, a journey into mythologies both ancient and new, religious and secular traditions, themes of birth and death – and because it's winter – fire and ice, darkness and light. Festival highlights include large-scale public art programs and exhibitions in and around Hobart, a Winter Feast at Princes Wharf No 1, art installations throughout Hobart's city and waterfront precinct, a music program, film program and plenty of nourishing Tassie food.

www.darkmofo.net.au



The Festival of Voices

July, annually

The Festival of Voices is Tasmania and Australia's premier celebration of the human voice. The ten day Festival commences with the opening night bonfire in historic Salamanca Place which has become a popular community event for locals and visitors. The program is packed full of one-off events featuring over 70 performances and workshops. The Festival of Voices provides a platform for singers, celebrities, choirs, cabaret artists, performers, actors, speakers and thinkers to create memorable moments for audiences. Whether your taste is choral or cabaret, story-telling or hip hop: whether you want to learn, perform or just sit back and enjoy, you'll find something to savour at the Festival of Voices.

www.festivalofvoices.com.au

Junction Arts Festival

August, annually Launceston

Junction Arts Festival (Junction) is a five-day multi-arts international festival that takes place in Launceston, Tasmania. Junction has a particular focus on work that places the audience at the centre of the experience, through performances that invite active involvement by audiences, and installations outdoors and in public and private spaces that enliven the physical and cultural landscape of Launceston.

Junction carefully curates leading local, national and international artists and projects that artistically aim to challenge traditional relationships between artist and audience. It carefully curates leading local, national and international artists and projects that place the audience at the centre of the arts experience. It is dedicated to presenting contemporary art in a welcoming environment to all communities that is accessible to all ages and offers events free to the public.

www.junctionartsfestival.com.au

Tall Ships Hobart 2013

September 2013, Hobart

Tall Ships Hobart 2013 will see Tasmania play host to tall ships from around the world in September this year. Tasmania has hosted similar tall-ship events in 1988 and 1998, both of which were well-attended and most memorable. But Tall Ships Hobart 2013 is shaping up to be even bigger and better than both of these past events.

An impressive fleet of international ships are heading 'down under' to join Australian tall ships, primarily to help celebrate the Royal Australian Navy's 100th anniversary. A flotilla of these tall ships will gather in Hobart for five days, transforming Hobart's beautiful harbour into a spectacle reminiscent of yesteryear.

Shore-based activities including displays and food in Princes Wharf No 1, a parade and nautically themed entertainment on Parliament House Lawns are being organised to complement the presence of these magnificent ships during their visit to Hobart.

www.tallshipfestival2013.com



The Tasmanian Craft Fair

November, annually, Deloraine

Deloraine is a delightful rural town set in the foothills of the Great Western Tiers mountain range in Tasmania's north. The Tasmanian Craft Fair, Australia's biggest working craft fair, is held here every year during early November. Here you can try your hand at candle wicking, watch as kites and kaleidoscopes are crafted before your eyes and talk to the creators of fine silkscreen paintings, woodcarvings, lead lights, and hand-blown glassware. However, at any time of the year you'll find a wide selection of fine arts and crafts at the many local galleries.

www.tascraftfair.com.au

2013 Swisse Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge

December, 2013, across Tasmania

The Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge is run over four days during December. Highlighting Tasmania's most iconic adventure tourism locations, including Cradle Mountain, Freycinet and the Bay of Fires, the course will be designed to not only test the elite athlete, but to provide an opportunity for the less 'hard core' adventure sports enthusiasts to compete and challenge themselves.

As in previous years, the event is expected to attract a number of celebrities, elite athletes and high-profile visitors, whether as competitors or sponsors.

www.markwebberchallenge.com

Visit www.eventstasmania.com for other events held in Tasmania