

This time I shall give you a brief look at Tasmania. Tasmania is an island, about 80% the size of Hokkaido. It is a state of Australia and lies about 130km to the south of the main island. It is like Hokkaido in many respects in so far as it has a small population compared to the country as a whole. In the case of Tasmania it has a total population of only 650 000.

The island was formed many millions of years ago as two land masses slid past each other. The eastern part is reasonably flat compared to the western half which was active volcanically as recently as 8 million years ago. The basalt rocks that erupted from the volcanoes in the North West produce a very fertile soil for farming.

Tasmania produces over 95% of its electricity from hydro-electric power. It mines many minerals that in turn give us copper, tin, nickel, lead, gold, silver and some other metals.

The climate is quite mild in the North West with maximum temperatures of between 10C to 14C in winter and 23C – 27C in summer. The South East part has a slightly more extreme climate. And because of its geographical position, Tasmania has the purest air and rain in the world. The westerly winds blow right round the globe and only touch land at the extreme south of South America at Tierra del Fuego. The weather station at Cape Grim, at the northwest tip of the island near Woolnorth Point, is the world standard for measuring the purity of the atmosphere.

On the map below, the green parts are protected wilderness areas.



Tasmania has many unique animals like the Tasmanian Devil as well as the others such as the echidna, platypus, various species of wallaby, quoll and wombats. Tasmania also produces 40% of the world's medical opiates from poppy cultivation.

Below are a few photos taken around the state.

Cradle Mountain Area. (Between Rosebery & Deloraine)



Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake

Deloraine Area



Devil feeding time



Haruka-san with a wombat



Echidna



Marakoopa Caves

Wilmot, on the way to Cradle Mountain has a number of unusual post boxes.



Penguin, a small town between Ulverstone and Burnie, has its own statue.



The Big Penguin



Santa Penguin at Xmas

Down the **East Coast**.



Bicheno



Chain of Lagoons



Coles Bay



Hobart from Mount Wellington



Port Arthur Prison site



Hobart harbour

Sheffield Area, south of Devonport. A town of many tens of Murals painted on the sides of shops and houses.



West Coast.



Queenstown Post Office



Strahan Village

Northwest Coast.



Near Ulverstone



Near one of Ulverstone's beaches



Opium Poppies near home.



Tulips at Wynyard

Visitors seem to think that because Tasmania is so small compared to Australia you can get round it in a day or two. This is not the case, three weeks is needed to see most of it.

I hope you have enjoyed the brief pictorial glimpse of Tasmania.