SOCRATES Orientation Package

https://www.eol.ucar.edu/field_projects/socrates

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Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
# Table of Contents

Australia Entry/Exit Requirements .................................................. 3
Hobart, Tasmania ........................................................................... 3
Car Rentals & Driving .................................................................... 4
Lodging .......................................................................................... 4
Health Information .......................................................................... 5
Money ............................................................................................ 6
Electricity ....................................................................................... 6
Cell Phones & Communications ...................................................... 6
Miscellaneous Information .............................................................. 7
Operations Center ........................................................................... 8
SOCRATES Airport Operations ......................................................... 9
Office and Airfield Safety ................................................................. 12
General Travel Notes ...................................................................... 12
Dialing Phone Numbers in Australia ................................................ 12
Welcome to Hobart, Tasmania! This orientation package has been put together to help you become familiar with the Hobart area and hopefully answer some of the questions you may have when you arrive. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this package, please contact Cory Wolff (cwolff@ucar.edu; 303.335.6517).

Australia Entry/Exit Requirements

U.S. citizens entering Australia must have a passport valid for the duration of your stay. A visa is also required for US citizens entering Australia. We have been advised that the most appropriate visa for people to get is a Temporary Work visa (subclass 400). More information on this visa is available at: http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-.

It allows stays for specialized work of up to 3 months but comes with a detailed application, a variety of documentation requirements, and a cost of $280 AUD. The application must be completed online by setting up an ImmiAccount and logging in at http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Immi. All EOL employees will be required to obtain a Temporary Work visa. For other participants it is strongly recommended so that there are no problems with your entry into Australia for the project.

Most U.S. passport holders traveling to Australia for tourism or business visitor purposes for less than 90 days can obtain an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). When entering Australia on an ETA you are not technically allowed to do work. It is for purposes such as attending conferences or making business enquiries. More information on the ETA can be found at http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601-.

More information on entering Australia can be found at: https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/australia.html

For those who are ferrying to or from Hobart on the GV there may be issues with immigration since you will only have a one-way ticket. We will be providing one-way travelers with a letter to present to officials upon entering or departing the country if asked.

Hobart, Tasmania

You will arrive at Hobart International Airport (YMHB). The airport is in Cambridge and located about 17 km (11 mi) northeast of Hobart. Virgin Australia and Qantas are the primary services providers to Hobart with flights mainly to and from Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. There are no direct flights from the U.S. so you will connect through one of those airports, where you will clear customs.

Last Revised: 20 September 2017
Google maps provides very accurate and great visual information about the city. However, the roadways around the airport have recently been changed with new streets and parking areas. These changes are not well reflected in Google maps yet. The Maps app in macOS and iOS better represents the new streets and are used for images of the airport in this document.

Hobart is located at 42.9° S, 147.3° E. It will be summer but temperatures will be temperate. In January and February the average highs and lows are around 72 and 54, respectively. These are also two of the driest months of the year with average rainfall of 1.7 and 1.4 inches. The sun is extremely bright and intense due to the ozone layer conditions in this part of the Southern hemisphere. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, etc.

Car Rentals & Driving

Hertz, Avis, Budget, and Thrifty operate at the Hobart airport. Counters are located next to the baggage claim and the cars are a short walk away.

UCAR employees should accept the rental company insurance for damage and liability but not for personal belongings, if the rental car company offers these options. Other travelers please check with your home institutions for foreign rental car insurance policies.

Driving in Australia is on the left side of the road and all vehicles are right hand drive. The roads around Hobart have good signage and roads are well maintained. It is a pretty easy place to get around once you get used to driving on the left side. If you’re out walking please remember that cars will be approaching from the right when you cross the street. Luckily, there are reminders.

According to the Tasmanian Government web site, “You can drive in Tasmania on your overseas licence if you are a visitor OR have a temporary visa (e.g. international students, refugees, working, holiday).”

Lodging

Most EOL participants will be staying at the Old Woolstore located at the edge of the city coming in from the airport, (http://oldwoolstore.com.au/, 1 Macquarie St. Hobart,
Tasmania, Australia, 7000 Phone +61 3 6235 5355). This hotel has standard style hotel rooms, studios, one bedroom, and two bedroom apartments. The regular rooms have a refrigerator while the studios and above have kitchenettes or kitchens (refrigerator, microwave, stove), washers, and dryers. Pictures of all room types can be found on the webpage. The two bedroom apartments are nice and may work for those who want to save some money by doubling up. They have two separate bathrooms and a full kitchen.

A variety of other hotels and apartments are available in Hobart. These include:
- Hotel Grand Chancellor, Standard style hotel rooms
- RACV Apartment Hotel, Apartment style rooms with kitchens and washer/dryer
- Fountainside Hotel, Standard style hotel rooms and studios
- Mantra Collins Hotel, Standard style hotel rooms and apartments (1-2 bedroom)
- Hadley’s Orient Hotel, Standard style hotel rooms, Ops center location

This is the tourist season in Australia and hotels will be very full so please make your reservations as early as possible.

Reservations at the Old Woolstore for EOL staff will be paid by a UCAR contract, but a personal credit card will be required to pay for incidentals. The personnel schedule can be found [here](http://hadleyshotel.com.au/). **Please check the schedule carefully. If you need to change your dates at all please let the project managers know so that the hotel reservations can be updated.**

**Health Information**

You should coordinate with your Health Insurance provider to discuss coverage while in Hobart. It is important to have this coordinated ahead of your arrival to avoid mistakes should an emergency or a need for medical attention arise. The Royal Hobart Hospital is located downtown at 48 Liverpool St. (+61 3 6166 8308). For emergency ambulance, call 000.

There are Pharmacies (known as Chemists in Australia) located throughout the city (and at most grocery stores).

No additional vaccinations are required to enter Australia.
Money

There are a large number of banks in Hobart with 24/7 ATMs as well as an ATM at the airport. ATMs will charge you a service fee that varies depending on location of the ATM. Banks open at 9 and usually close by 5 pm. The national currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD). Bills come in denominations of $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100 notes while $1 and $2 are coins. The current exchange rate (09/1/2017) is about $1.25 AUD to $1 USD.

Electricity

Electrical power in Australia is 220-240VAC. Please take care when plugging in your electronic devices. Most computing equipment can handle that voltage with the proper adapter but other items will require conversion. Bring a conversion plug with you if you are concerned about the voltages. The most common types of plugs and receptacles are shown below.

Cell Phones & Communications

Unless you have an international data plan, it is a good idea to disable the data roaming in your smartphones before you leave the US. The rate for data roaming is $20/Mb, so if by the time you land you have data roaming active and your phone automatically gets your email, auto-updates apps, or gets MMS messages with a couple of pictures, you could already have a several-hundred dollar phone bill waiting for you at home.

Project participants that may need to make calls within Australia can do so by buying pre-paid cell phones or SIM cards. These can be purchased at many places in the Hobart CBD. There are many different cell phone providers such as Telstra, Optus, Virgin Mobile, Vodaphone, and Boost.

Last Revised: 20 September 2017
For personal communications with the US the best option is to use internet based apps (Whatsapp, Skype, Tango, Viber, etc.) with the connectivity provided by your international data plan or wireless internet at the hotel, airport, and many restaurants and cafes around town. Internet speeds at the Old Woolstore were found to be very good during the site survey and are expected to be good at other hotels as well.

EOL phones on AT&T will have unlimited data while those on Verizon will pay $20 for every 100 Mb. Voice calls are very expensive ($1.99/min) so using the device independent WhatsApp to text and call will be the preferred method of communication as it has worked very well on previous international projects. On the site survey we found cell phone coverage is very good with 4G available almost everywhere in and around the city.

Once on site a list of phone numbers will be made for the SOCRATES team.

**Miscellaneous Information**

- Consumables can be procured from BOC (http://boc.com.au), a local gas company in north Hobart. Most items are produced on the mainland and shipped to Tasmania so allow plenty of time for ordering.
- Small amounts of easily obtained consumables such as DI water or methanol may be obtained from the University of Tasmania’s Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Department. They may also have some laboratory space and freezers available for temporary use. Talk to Cory if you’re interested.
- Local Restaurants: There are a lot of good choices, especially on/near the waterfront and near Salamanca Place. These include Mures, Flippers, Cafe Lola, and the Drunken Admiral to name a few.
- Laundry Services: The rooms in the Old Woolstore have washers and dryers. For those staying in or near the CBD Status Dry Cleaners (68a Liverpool St.) offers laundromat and laundry services.
- Hardware Store: K&D Warehouse (143 Murray St.), a store similar to a Home Depot or Lowes is located in the CBD for tool or hardware needs. There is another K&D just off the Tasman Highway (66 Kennedy Dr., Cambridge, Tasmania) just before the exit for the airport.
- The largest grocery store chains are Woolworths and Coles with a variety of other smaller chains also available. Woolworths has a large store in the CBD. Grocery stores do not offer free paper or plastic bags at check out. You can purchase reusable bags when you check out or bring your own.
• The Elizabeth St. Mall is very close to the Hadleys (Operations Center) and about a 10 minute walk from the Old Woolstore and has a wide variety of quick service restaurants and shops, including a Target.

Operations Center

The SOCRATES operations center will be located at the Hadley’s Orient Hotel (34 Murray St; 10 minute walk from the Old Woolstore) in the John Webb Room. This is where daily planning meetings and any science team meetings will originate from. It will include secure wifi (10+ Mbps) and data storage along with a projector, printer, copier, and office supplies.

The Bureau of Meteorology will be providing forecast support from their office near the Hadley’s Orient. This will make it easy for them to come to the operations center and allow participants to visit the office for more in depth forecasts when the need arises.

Map of downtown Hobart showing locations of interest.
SOCRATES Airport Operations

The SOCRATES mission flights will be flown from YMHB, which is about a 20 minute drive from the Hobart CBD. There is some infrastructure around the airport including a mall, some restaurants, and a gas station. The terminal is small but has a coffee shop and cash machine.

The maps below show a couple of views of the airport. The GV will most often be parked on the ramp in front of some hangars to the southeast of the main terminal. During the summer months the Australian Antarctic Division operates flights with an A319 out of Hobart to Wilkins Aerodrome in Antarctica. This aircraft is based in Melbourne and comes to Hobart a day or two before the flight, returning to Melbourne after the mission. When the A319 is at YMHB the GV may be moved to the alternate parking location on the northwest side of the main apron in front of the terminal. The current schedule for the A319 shows 3 missions to Wilkins during SOCRATES so it shouldn’t cause major disruptions. The alternate parking location is quite a bit further away but we'll work with airport operations on the best way to get people and supplies to that area when necessary.

EOL has been able to secure work and storage space at a hangar about 1000 ft. from where the GV will normally be parked (see the maps below). This hangar will have some tables and chairs set up and provide space for instrument work, working with cylinders, storage for supplies and instrument spares along with restrooms, some small offices, and a kitchen area (see pictures). This hangar is not large enough to accommodate the GV, nor can the GV be parked near it due to weight restrictions on the taxiway leading to the hangar. We plan to provide internet access there using international Mifis that will use the local cellular network. It will not be high speed but will allow people to check email and do some work from the airport. This network cannot be used for data transfers; those must be done at the main operations center in Hobart.

Participants walking between the hangar and usual GV parking spot cannot be on the taxiway but must stay in the grassy areas next to it. Transportation of larger items such as cylinders or towing aircraft support equipment will be coordinated with the airport. Any pedestrians on the ramp must also stay off the active taxiway denoted by the red line.
Map of YMHB showing important locations for SOCRATES.

Zoomed in map of YMHB showing more detail for SOCRATES operations.
Details on car parking at the airport are still being worked out. Some cars may be allowed to park near the hangar on the airport grounds. Others may park near the airport administration building for free. Paid parking is always available in the lots in front of the terminal.

Views of the hangar work and storage area at the airport.

Badging and Access
Badges will be required for all SOCRATES participants who need access to the aircraft and must be worn at all times at the airport. The Hobart Airport Authority issues two types of badges: an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) and a Visitor Identification Card (VIC). The ASIC allows full airside (airport property) access and escort privileges. It costs $215 AUD, requires a detailed application and background check, and is good for the entirety of the project. The VIC allows airside access for 28 consecutive days, but the wearer must be escorted by an ASIC holder. It is a much
simpler application with no background check. Most project participants get a VIC with a subset getting the ASIC. The majority of ASIC holders will be EOL employees who will be at the aircraft the most often and available to escort people when needed (e.g. between the gate and aircraft and between the aircraft and work/storage area).

It is extremely important for people to be careful when walking airside and remain alert at all times. These are active areas of the airport and can be quite dangerous if people don't remember where they are and watch out for moving aircraft.

The typical entrance to the ramp will be on either side of the large hangar near the usual GV parking spot.

Office and Airfield Safety

- Use proper protective clothing when you are handling hazardous products/materials or performing tasks that would require additional protection. Talk to EOL staff if you need hearing protection.
- You are NOT allowed free roaming on the aircraft ramp even if you are badged.
- No open-toed shoes (i.e., sandals) are allowed when working on the aircraft or walking on the ramp.
- There is no smoking on the ramp or taxiway.
- Be very aware of aircraft, extension cords and other trip hazards when walking to the aircraft.
- Always lock vehicles and keep personal items out of sight.
- The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Australia is 000.

General Travel Notes

- Hobart per diem is $141 for M & IE.
- Keep your passport safely stored. Hotels may ask for (or make) a copy of your passport when you check in.

Dialing Phone Numbers in Australia

For simplicity purposes we'll assume that all the calls are being made to/from the USA. International access codes (from the USA) are 011, 00, and +. On some phones the plus (+) can be entered by just holding the 0 for a few seconds.
USA Country code: 1
Australia Country code: 61
Tasmania area code: 3
Australia mobile code: 4

To dial a landline phone number in Tasmania from the USA, the following three ways of dialing are equivalent. If this was a cell number the first 3 would be replaced by a 4.
011 61 3 6166 8308  
00 61 3 6166 8308  
+61 3 6166 8308

To dial numbers locally in Australia dial the full 10 digit number, which will start with 04 for a mobile and 03 for a landline in Tasmania or Victoria.

To call US from an Australian cell or landline dial 0011 1 (area code) (phone number).