

CLIENT	Hobart Historic Cruises	PROJECT MGR	Cameron Heit
PROJECT	DERWENT RIVER CRUISES	WRITER	PF/Alison
SUBJECT	24b. Queen's Domain - Government House		
KEY No.			

Stop 24b - Government House, Queens Domain

As we come through the bridge up on the right you'll see Government House.

The famous 19th-century British novelist Anthony Trollope called Hobart's government house "the best belonging to any British colony".

Hobart wasn't always so well served – the original government house on Macquarie Street was called a "miserable shell" by the famous Captain William Bligh when he visited in 1809. Bligh opted to stay on his ship rather than lodge there.

The building you see today was commissioned by Tasmania's famous Governor Sir John Franklin in 1840, with a design by convict architect James Blackburn.

Construction finally started in 1855 after multiple delays.

By that time, Franklin had left to add another episode to the centuries-long quest to discover a north-west shipping passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans via the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. He died in the attempt and his body was never found.

Three more Tasmanian governors had to endure the old digs before governor Sir Henry Fox-Young was able to move into the new building in 1858.

Government House has 73 rooms. The scale, detail and finish of the entrance hall, grand corridor and state rooms, together with their furniture, are unequalled in Australia.

The ballroom has a splendid Huon pine floor. Its three mirrors were the largest in the southern hemisphere when they were installed.