







Norfolk Island

SOUTH PACIFIC

Norfolk Island offers beauty, tranquillity and the enjoyment of the simple things in life which so many of us had thought had long since disappeared. Nothing can match the smell of Norfolk Island's clean air, the sound of silence and the brightest starry sky in the whole world.

There is so much to see and do on the island that rarely can the tourist fit it all into one holiday. The only answer is to come back again... and again. The history buff is in his element. You do not just "see" the penal settlement and artifacts, you "feel" them. If you happen to time your visit in early June,

you will be lucky enough to experience the pride and enthusiasm of the descendants of the Pitcairners as they re-enact the landing of their forebears on Bounty Day. They will make sure you join in the celebrations to make the memories of your visit even more vivid.

The island caters for the energetic tourist, offering a wide choice of activities. They can choose from a range of sports to suit all tastes and levels of ability. The angler is well and truly catered for, as are the bushwalking fraternity. There is nothing quite like the feeling that you have really EARNED your breakfast after a brisk 5km walk.

If you are becoming weary simply reading about all these activities there are less tiring pursuits. Shopping is always attractive, especially when you can understand the money system and the language, and there is a wide variety of goods and shops available on Norfolk Island to interest the most fastidious shopper.

For those of you who have enjoyed your visit, here are some memories; for those of you who left the lens cap on, some photographs; and for those who have not yet visited Norfolk Island, a temptation...



Kingston

There's a strong sense of history all over the island, but it is most keenly felt at Kingston. Since the early 1970s there has been an extensive program of conservation and restoration of Kingston's historic buildings, many of which are beautiful examples of Georgian architecture. Access to the original plans has permitted faithful restoration of several significant buildings.

In other cases, buildings were adapted for use according to need. The Pitcairners, being God-loving people, needed a church, so the Commissariat was altered by removing the top floor and installing ecclesiastical windows at the eastern end, converting it to All Saints Church of today. The New Military Barracks and Officers' Quarters are used as administrative offices and the Old Military Barracks were the seat of the Legislative Assembly. Several restored buildings at Kingston Pier are enjoying new life as museums or other tourist facilities.

For many visitors, the serene beauty of the ruins at Kingston today makes it hard to accept that once it was the site of a brutal penal settlement. Washed by golden sunlight and weathered by time, the stone walls of buildings such as the Old Gaol, the underground cells and the hated Crank Mill have now become benign relics of a grisly period in Norfolk Island's history.

Clockwise from top: View from Queen Elizabeth Lookout, Government House, Pier Store, Guardhouse and Crank Mill, Kingston, Gallows Gate, Old lighter







Clockwise from top:

Kingston and Nepean Island,
New Gaol Gate, All Saints,
Number 10 Quality Row,
Ruins at Kingston





Clockwise from top: Sunrise over Kingston and Emily Bay from Flagstaff Hill, Cattle at Kingston



Clockwise from top: HMS Sirius Museum, HMS Sirius Memorial sculpture, Old Lighter, *Bounty* cannon from the Pier Store Museum, Ruins of the Civil Hospital, Anchor from *HMS Sirius*, Cannons from *HMS Sirius*, Rifle from HMS Sirius Museum (inset cannon balls).



Emily Bay

If a model for the perfect beach were needed, then Emily Bay would be exactly right. A graceful arc of fine blond sand edged with deep green pine trees and lapped by tranquil blue water, it is irresistible. Safe, wide and with the ideal proportion of shallows and deep water, it is suited to all ages and all sorts of activities. Swimming, snorkelling, wind-surfing, strolling or jogging on the sand are very popular, though there is plenty of support for dozing, daydreaming, playing and reading. The choice is yours.

Separated from Emily Bay by a narrow spit, Slaughter Bay is a dramatic contrast to its neighbour. Coral encrusted rocky reefs abound, endlessly interesting to the snorkeller or beach comber at low tide.

Standing sentinel over both bays is the old Salt House, a relic of the days when salt supplies for the island were produced by boiling sea water.



Clockwise from top: Aerial view over Emily Bay, Sunrise at Emily Bay, Emily Bay at low tide, Salt House, Kingston and Emily Bay





Slaughter Bay

One of the pleasures of Norfolk Island is the number of sea-centred interests and activities. In Norfolk's teeming waters, fishing is almost too easy for the enthusiast with a choice of deep sea thrills, rock, jetty or spear fishing available. For those who prefer looking to catching, Emily Bay or Slaughter Bay are perfect environments for scuba diving and snorkelling, being well endowed with a wide range of fish and other sealife as well as a fascinating coral reef. If you'd rather stay dry while looking, a jaunt on a glass-bottomed boat will reveal all these treasures.

Clockwise from top: Slaughter Bay and Lone Pine, Half in - half out, Glass bottom boat, Snorkelling at Slaughter Bay (inset: yellow coral)



Phillip Island



Clockwise from top:

Aerial view of Phillip Island,
Old lighter and Phillip Island,
Looking across the Golf course
to Phillip Island
(inset: Phillip Island hibiscus)

The current state of Phillip Island is a testament to the islanders' commitment to protect and conserve their unique environment. Reports from the early days of settlement describe Phillip Island as lushly vegetated. Unhappily, soldiers from the penal colony used the island for recreation and to provide themselves with sport as well as food, they introduced rabbits, pigs and goats. Within a short period the dense rainforest was virtually wiped out by these animals, leaving the precious topsoil to blow away in the wind. Denuded and eroded, the island remained neglected until 1983 when official help was sought to recover its original condition.

Since then, a slow, painstaking reclamation of Phillip Island has been in progress. Access is only possible by boat in optimum conditions, followed by a steep, treacherous climb. Despite these testing difficulties, steady improvement of the island's environment has been the reward of the dedicated workers.



Golf Course and Cemetery Bay

The pleasant sub-tropical climate of Norfolk Island is ideal for many sports and golf is one of the most popular with locals and visitors alike. The nine hole course overlooking the sea at Kingston must be one of the most attractive in the world. Its handsome clubhouse is located in a building that was originally the Stipendiary Magistrate's premises on Quality Row.

An extensive calendar of special events make the golfing year an exciting one. A brief look at the program shows tournaments for Veterans, at Easter, Christmas and The Open Classic. In typical Norfolk style, visitors are welcomed with hospitable warmth.

At the cemetery, epitaphs tell the often painful tales of convicts, judged to be hardened criminals, and their demise as they were deprived of sound, light and human interactions in the Old Gaol. These stories of disease and floggings mingle with evidence of love, humour and bravery, involving the forebears of people still prominent on the island. Uncompromisingly, the cemetery connects past lives with the present.

Like the cemetery, Bloody Bridge has a human scale. Legend has it that during the construction of the bridge, a particularly cruel overseer was murdered by the convicts and his corpse was hidden in the bridge. Afterwards, blood was said to seep from the stones. Walk over the bridge and feel the chilling atmosphere.



Clockwise from top: Golf course aerial, Golf course, Cemetery, Gravestones, Bloody Bridge (from both sides)





The Eastern Shore

Henry Lidgbird Ball was in command of *HMS Supply* when the First Fleet sailed to establish the first Australian Colony at Botany Bay in 1788. Admiring his fine navigational skills, Governor Phillip then commanded Ball to take a party of settlers to Norfolk Island. He assisted Lieutenant Governor Philip Gidley King to establish an outpost of the colony there. He made a number of trips to Norfolk and also to Batavia when Sydney's supplies ran short after the loss of the *HMS Sirius*. His diligent and reliable service led to a distinguished naval career. He is commemorated on the island in the naming of Ball Bay. The basalt slopes of the Bay's rounded coast are the remnants of a volcanic crater.

Further around the coast lies Bucks Point Reserve and Point Blackbourne. Bucks Point is an excellent venue for admiring great stands of the distinctive Norfolk Island pines in their spectacular natural setting. This tree (*Araucaria heterophylla*) grows prolifically all over the island reaching heights up to 45 metres. Its majestic symmetry is unforgettable, making it easy to understand why it has been adopted with pride as the symbol on the island's flag.

Separation from other land masses has also led to development of other endemic species such as the Phillip Island hibiscus, the Norfolk Island palm and the Norfolk Island passionfruit. Other introduced sub-tropical or tropical plants such as frangipani, hibiscus, Banyan trees and Cabbage Tree palms grow in profusion.



Clockwise from top: Ball Bay, Aerial view over Bucks Point, White Tern chick, Red tailed Tropic Bird, White Tern feeding her chick





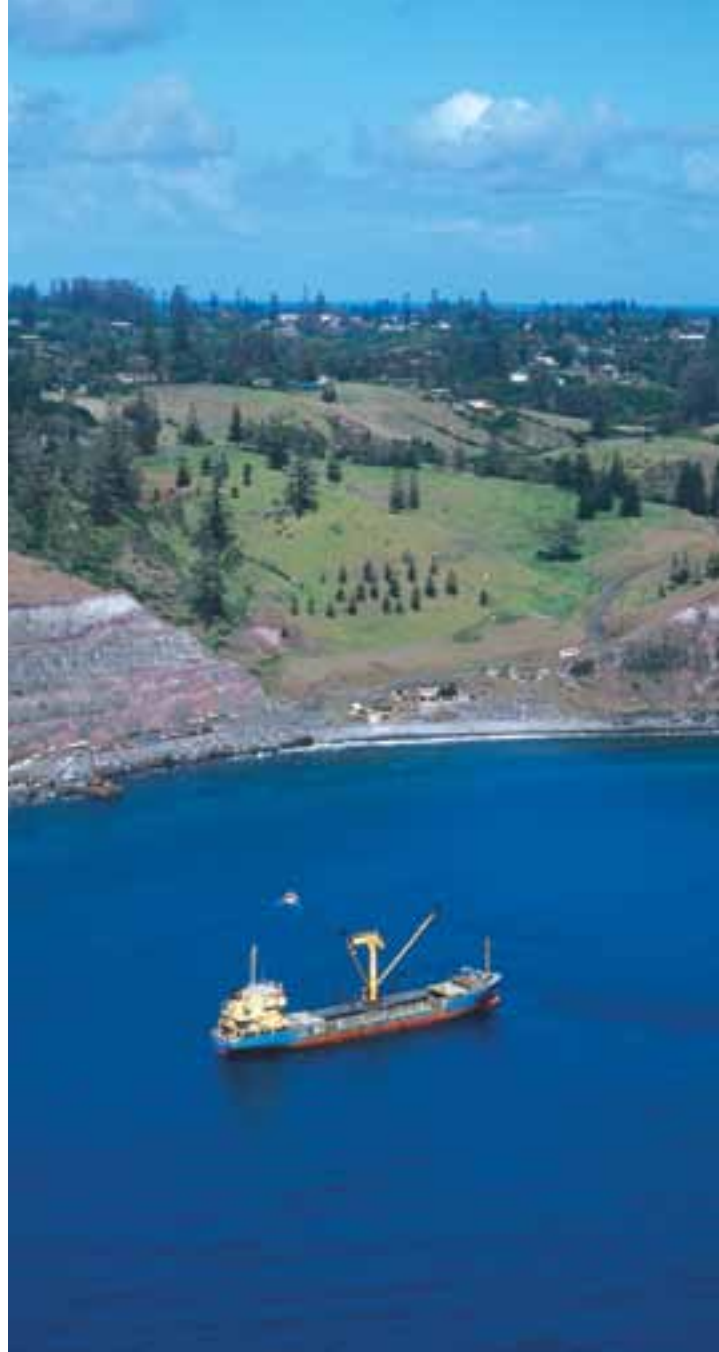
Cascade Bay

As there are no natural harbours suitable for berthing on Norfolk Island, vessels bringing cargo must anchor offshore. Cargo is then unloaded by locals into lighters and brought to the jetty. Whenever a ship is unloaded, visitors and locals alike are drawn to the pier to watch the process. The attraction is the skill of the islanders who manage to unload the contents of large ships into small lighters. Often they are required to navigate their small craft in seas which to the onlooker, seem alarmingly hazardous.

For the islanders, unloading boats is a process full of promise, as most of the goods on the island still arrive by sea. Until the airstrip was built during World War II, there was a long tradition of ships being the only connection to the outside world and the only provider of goods the islanders could not supply themselves.



Clockwise from top: Cascade Point, Cockpit Falls, Aerial view over Cascade Bay, Lighters bringing freight ashore





History comes alive!

Re-enactment of significant events has become a popular and traditional activity on Norfolk Island. Two of the most important re-enactments are Foundation Day on the 6th of March and Anniversary (Bounty) Day on the 8th of June. The first occasion celebrates the landing of Lt King and his party, marking the beginning of the first settlement. Islanders dressed in period clothing set up camp and listen as "Lt.King" proclaims British sovereignty over the island.

On Anniversary Day, the more meaningful occasion to the islanders, descendants of the Pitcairners celebrate the arrival of their forebears on Norfolk Island in 1856. The costumes are faithfully and lovingly maintained year after year, even including the hand-woven hats worn by many. The procession winds its way to the cemetery where floral tributes are laid on the graves of their ancestors and the beautiful Pitcairn hymns are sung in the Norfolk language.

There are numerous opportunities for the visitor to become involved in Norfolk's living history. Take an island culture tour to learn about the local language, crafts and cuisine, or enjoy a progressive dinner in island homes. Perhaps a traditional fish fry or convict dinner while wearing convict gear for that touch of authenticity is your choice. Alternatively, see the convict period brought to life in a sound and light show. Want to know more about the *Bounty* mutiny? Watch it from the comfort of an outdoor amphitheatre. History is never dull on Norfolk Island.

*Clockwise from top: Captain Bligh is removed from the *Bounty* as part of the outdoor sound and light show, Scenes from the *Bounty* sound and light show, locals re-enact historic events to commemorate Anniversary Day*





Burnt Pine

The commercial centre of Norfolk Island, Burnt Pine is a shopper's paradise. A huge variety of goods is offered and as the merchandise is tax-free, the prices are usually significantly cheaper than elsewhere. Add friendly traders, no traffic lights or parking meters, easy parking in a compact area and you have hours of pleasure. There are even seats outside most shops for waiting partners!

All the usual services such as banks, the Post Office, the Tourist Bureau, restaurants and cafes are there to make your visit convenient and comfortable.



Clockwise from top: Aerial view over Burnt Pine, Local traders, the shopping district, horses in the main street at Burnt Pine





Norfolk Island National Park

Geologically, Norfolk Island is an extinct volcano and a peak in the vast Norfolk Island Ridge stretching from New Caledonia to New Zealand. Its crater is the present site of Ball Bay. Being an island, many memorable vistas involve the rugged coast or the clean arcs of its pale gold beaches. Offshore islands such as Phillip and Nepean Islands or some of its rocky outcrops such as Bird Rock are dramatic focal points in the boundless sweep of the surrounding Pacific Ocean.

Away from the sight of the sea, vivid green rolling hills, often studded with weathered relics of stone buildings, are dominant features. Press on to Mt Pitt and the hills give way to a lush tangle of vines, ferns and palms. The reward at the summit is a spectacular view of the island in all its aspects.

For the more energetic, time spent walking through Norfolk Island National Park is well worthwhile. Experience the church-like silence of treading beneath towering trunks of mighty Norfolk pines on a thick carpet of dropped pine "leaves" or pass through thickets of red-berried palms and hardwoods festooned with epiphytes. Then, to complete your encounter with natural Norfolk, visit Mt Pitt at sunset.

Clockwise from top: View from Mount Pitt, view from the deck at the Botanical gardens, Dwarf Cardamom flower (*Alpinia nutans*), Norfolk Island butterfly, Rainforest on Mt Bates track, Norfolk Robin, Green Parrot, young fern frond, Botanical Gardens Interpretive Centre







The North Coast & Duncombe Bay

The decision to establish a settlement on the island in 1788 is largely due to reports to the Admiralty made by James Cook after he discovered the island in October 1774. His landing site at Duncombe Bay on the northern coast of the island is marked with a stone monument and provides majestic views along the coast and out to sea. A walk along the nearby tracks provides excellent views of the rocky outcrops of the coastline framed by the natural vegetation.

Cook noted the vegetation in his log. He believed the Norfolk Pines would be good for masts and spars. He also observed the native flax plants in abundance and wrote that these would be useful for making sail cloth. The fact that neither proved to be as useful as he thought in no way diminishes the achievements of this master mariner and his legacies of discovery throughout the Pacific.

Clockwise from top: Sea view from near Bird Rock, Duncombe Bay, Bird Rock and Elephant Rock, Natural Arch, Captain Cook Lookout
(inset: Captain Cook Monument)







The Western Shore

When large winter swells arrive on the island's western coastline, keen surfers might have some interest in the waves that curl and crash onto the rocky ledge at Anson Bay. The reserve above the beach is an ideal barbecue and picnic location and for avid beachcombers a path leads down to the pebbled beach. In 1902 the Pacific Overseas Cable Station was established here to link the island with the outside world. The area remains an important telecommunications base.

The western orientation of Puppy's Point and easy car access makes a drive there a charming interlude at sunset when the Pacific Ocean and sinking sun make a stunning background for the silhouettes of the majestic pines.

Clockwise from top: Aerial view above Anson Point, Sunset from Puppy's Point, Anson Bay, Anson Bay shoreline







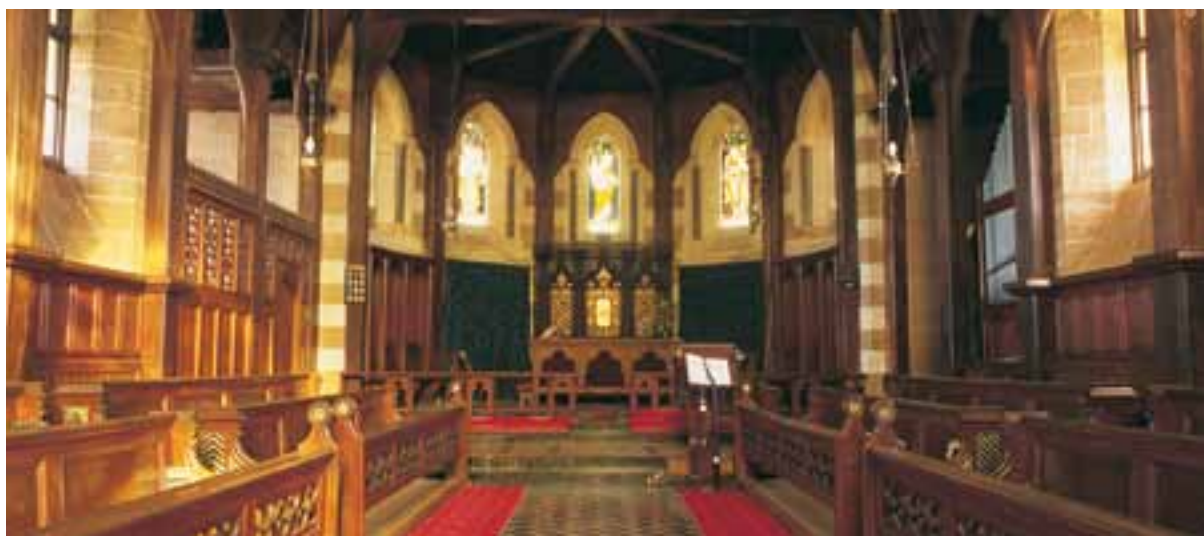
St Barnabas

Built of rough-hewn stone from Kingston, Norfolk's historic chapel, St. Barnabas, was dedicated in 1880 to the late Bishop of Melanesia, John Patteson. Today the Chapel and Bishop's Court are two of the few reminders of the large Melanesian Mission which operated on Norfolk Island from 1867 until approximately 1920.

Inside, massive dark timbers frame five stained glass windows designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and the famous rose window. Other gems are the carved walnut reredos with mosaic inlay, the polished marble floor and marble font and the pews decorated by pearl-shell Christian symbols hand-carved by Solomon Islanders and the great silver cross. The charming little chapel is rightly considered one of the most beautiful old buildings in the South Pacific.

South of St Barnabas on Headstone Road lies the Rocky Point Reserve which includes 100 Acres Reserve. This area of pristine coastal forest contains Norfolk Island pines and white oaks and has extremely high conservation value. Returning towards Burnt Pine along New Farm Road, a small detour down Rocky Point Road takes you to The Stables which was a convict building erected in 1846. Its ten arches displays an architectural flourish beyond the norm for convict buildings.

Clockwise from top: St Barnabas Chapel, Inside St Barnabas Chapel, Rose window inside St Barnabas Chapel





Clockwise from top:
Norfolk Island Banyan Trees,
Fig trees at 100 Acres
Reserve,
Branka House,
The Stables



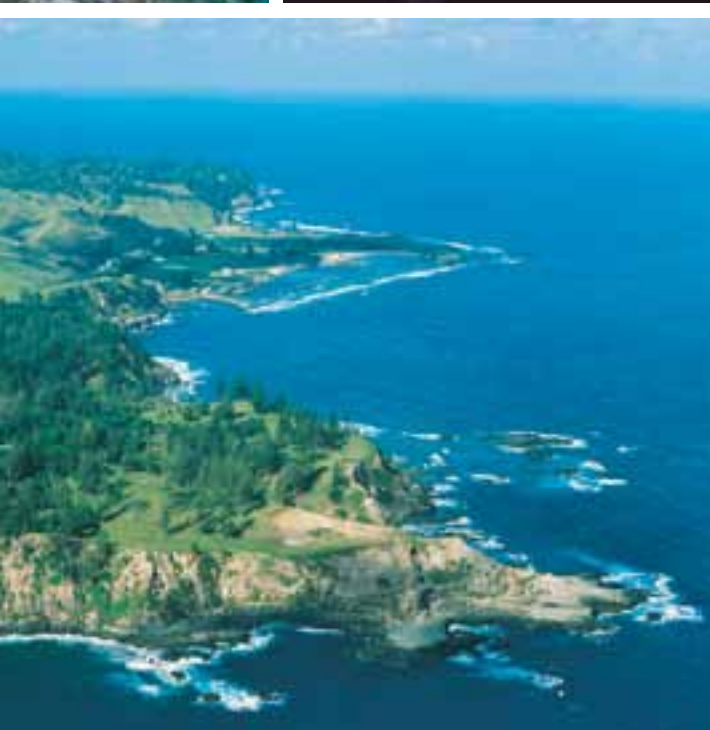
Point Ross, Cresswell Bay & Bumbora Reserve

Following a creek from the grassy picnic area, a well maintained boardwalk leads to a pretty cove. The small sheltered beach at Bumbora Reserve is a popular location for fishing, snorkelling, and learning to surf on the gentler waves that roll into Cresswell Bay.

Situated at the south west extremity of the island, Point Ross offers spectacular 270 degree sea views. Sea birds glide overhead and nest on the steep grassy slopes that overlook a complex array of rock formations where Pacific swells crash and spray with infinite booming variations. Experienced and fit walkers can reach the rock platforms via a steep, roped track but care is needed for the descent and also for the tides. At low tide on calm days, it is possible to reach Crystal Pool to swim or just to admire its clear water and the jewel box-like floor.

Clockwise from top: Crystal Pool at low tide, Cresswell Bay from Bumbora Reserve, Sunrise at Cresswell Bay, Waves crash into the Crystal Pool at Point Ross, Aerial view over Point Ross







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