



The historic area was listed on the Norfolk Island Heritage Register in 2003 and the Australian National Heritage List in 2007, recognising the significance of all four settlement periods and their outstanding value to all Australians. The strong vibrant culture of Norfolk Island today evolved from these distinct physical and cultural layers of heritage.

Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area



Image: New York Public Library

Before 1788

Polynesian Settlement

Archaeological evidence from Emily Bay indicates that the area was a Polynesian settlement between c.1150CE and c.1450CE. The Polynesians left behind obsidian (volcanic glass) from the Kermadec Islands. Banana trees and canoe remains were also found by the first European settlers.



Image: State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

1788-1814

First (Colonial) Settlement

An agricultural penal settlement was established using convict labour to ensure occupation for the British. Convicts, the military and free settlers made Norfolk Island their home until the forced relocation of the population to Van Diemen's Land.

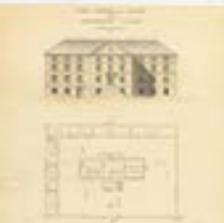


Image: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

1825-1855

Second (Penal) Settlement

Norfolk Island was a place of secondary punishment for convicts who reoffended and those convicted of crimes in the colony of New South Wales or other British colonies. Norfolk Island's isolation made it ideal for the harsh punishments handed down to prisoners. The penal colony closed in 1855.



Image: National Library of Australia

1856 to the present day

Third (Pitcairn) Settlement

The Pitcairners learned to farm unfamiliar foods and livestock and created homes in the abandoned buildings and farms of Kingston and Arthur's Vale. They created a community in a new place, and the historic site is integral to the lives of all Norfolk Islanders.

World Heritage Listing



Image: National Library of Australia

Image: National Library of Australia

Image: State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area is one of 11 historic sites that form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property. The Australian Convict Sites was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2010. Collectively, the sites are representative of the global phenomenon of the forced migration of convicts.

The 11 Australian Convict Sites include:

- Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island
- Old Government House and Domain, New South Wales
- Hyde Park Barracks, New South Wales
- Cockatoo Island Convict Site, New South Wales
- Old Great North Road, New South Wales
- Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania
- Cascades Female Factory, Tasmania
- Darlington Probation Station, Tasmania
- Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania
- Brickendon-Woolmers Estates, Tasmania
- Fremantle Prison, Western Australia.

Cover image: Robb Nisbet Photography



The unique and fragile Norfolk language was added to UNESCO's world endangered languages list in 2007. Norfolk developed from a mixture of English, Tahitian, and West Indian Creole and was brought to Norfolk Island by the Pitcairn Islanders in 1856.

kavha.gov.au



Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area

Visitor Guide

Part of



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Australian Convict Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2010



INR0320

Siyet... *explore*

Fainet... *discover*

Duwet... *experience*

Norfolk Island Museum



The Norfolk Island Museum is located in four heritage buildings in Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA). Each museum interprets a different aspect of Norfolk Island's history:

- Pier Store Museum (HMAV *Bounty*, Pitcairn and Norfolk stories)
- HMS *Sirius* Museum
- Commissariat Store Museum (settlement artefacts)
- No. 10 Quality Row (restored Georgian house).

A museum entry fee applies.

The Royal Engineers Office

The Royal Engineers Office (R.E.O.) is the place to begin your visit to the KAVHA World Heritage site.

The R.E.O. houses the museum shop and is the information centre for KAVHA. Here you can buy an extensive range of books and souvenirs, purchase museum entry tickets, or book a cemetery tour. Light refreshments are available for purchase.

The R.E.O. is indicated by  and the museum locations are indicated by  on the map overleaf.

Norfolk Island Museum contact details:

Telephone: (+6723) 23788 | info@museums.gov.nf
www.norfolkislandmuseum.com.au



Research Centre

The Research Centre is located at No. 9 Quality Row, Kingston. The house was originally built in 1839 as the residence for the Royal Engineer. Later, in 1856, it became the home of one of the families relocated from Pitcairn Island.

The Research Centre is a valuable stop for anyone with an interest in KAVHA, its settlements, the buildings, the landscape and people from the past to the present.

All visitors whether professional or just curious can explore the property and the extensive research resources kept there, including digitised convict records and a comprehensive reference book collection.

Research Centre staff can assist visitors to undertake research requests and genealogy enquiries. Entry and research assistance fees apply.

The Research Centre is indicated by  on the map overleaf.

Research Centre contact details:

Telephone: (+6723) 23009 | kavharesearch@nirc.gov.nf
www.norfolkislandmuseum.com.au

Historic and Natural Environment



A stroll through KAVHA allows visitors to experience the magic of this carefully conserved World Heritage site and walk back in time to discover the layers of a unique living cultural landscape.

The 1825–1855 penal settlement buildings, roads, bridges and stonework dominate the scene and mask the barely visible underlying remains of the earlier 1788–1814 colonial settlement.

Enjoy a picnic or BBQ on site to take advantage of the breathtakingly beautiful scenery.

Yorlfe it sam wetfs en aata orn de baes said orn erth.

Government House Open Days are held several times a year with entry proceeds going to local charities. Built in 1829 on the remains of the 1804 house, Government House is one of the earliest and most intact remaining government house buildings in Australia.

Swim, snorkel, paddle or surf in the clear waters and reefs of Emily and Slaughter Bays.

Gu naawi, snorkl, padl ula goe fe wan suf inaa bieh.

When in port, watch the unloading of the cargo ship where local workers use lighters and traditional skills to deliver freight of all sorts to and from Kingston Pier...much as it has always been done.

Sii dem mien worken 'a shep...daa de wieh wi duwet.