

GUIDE
2026



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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

Norfolk Island

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MAP OF Norfolk Island



QUICK FACTS

Getting There

AIRLINES FLYING TO NORFOLK ISLAND

Qantas is the sole airline operating direct flights from Australia to Norfolk Island. They offer services from both Sydney and Brisbane, with flights typically scheduled three times weekly from each city. Flights depart from the international terminals, even though travel to Norfolk Island is considered domestic.

PASSPORT OR VISA REQUIREMENTS

For Australian citizens, you do not need a passport or a visa to travel to Norfolk Island when travelling from mainland Australia. However, you will need photographic identification for all passengers, including children, for clearance by the Australian Border Force.

TRAVEL TIME

Flights from Australia to Norfolk Island are relatively short, making it an accessible destination for travelers.

From Sydney (SYD): Direct flights to Norfolk Island (NLK) take approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

From Brisbane (BNE): Direct flights are slightly shorter, with a duration of about 2 hours and 5 minutes.



CURRENCY

Norfolk Island officially uses the Australian dollar (AUD) as its currency.

Norfolk Island has one Commonwealth Bank branch and ATM in Burnt Pine. Bank@Post services are also available at the local Australia Post.

Most businesses accept credit cards and EFTPOS, but it's wise to carry some cash.



CLIMATE

Norfolk Island experiences two main seasons: summer, which runs from October to April, and winter, which lasts from May to September.



Low	High
19°C	28°C



Low	High
12°C	19°C



POPULATION

Norfolk Island has a population estimated at around 2,216 residents, a number that has remained relatively stable over the past few years.

Notably, around 25% of the population identifies as having Pitcairn ancestry, reflecting the island's unique historical roots tied to the descendants of the Bounty mutineers.

HISTORY & Heritage

NORFOLK ISLAND TIMELINE

Polynesian Settlement

c. 1150 – 1450 AD

Evidence suggests Polynesian navigators settled Norfolk Island centuries ago, though these early settlements were not permanent.

Captain Cook

1774

In 1774, Captain James Cook became the first recorded European to sight and land on Norfolk Island, claiming it for Britain and naming it "Norfolk Isle".

1st Convict Settlement

1788

The first convict settlement on Norfolk Island began in 1788, serving as a remote penal colony and source of timber and flax for the British Navy.

2nd Convict Settlement

1825

The second convict settlement began in 1825, when the island was re-established as a notorious penal colony for repeat offenders.

Pitcairn Islanders

1856

In 1856, descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian companions relocated from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island, starting a new chapter in its history.

Present

Today

Today, Norfolk Island is a strong community with a rich cultural heritage, welcoming visitors to explore its history, nature, and island lifestyle.

KEY HISTORICAL SITES & EXPERIENCES



Government House



Quality Row



Kingston Pier



Bounty Museum



Bloody Bridge



Cemetery Reserve

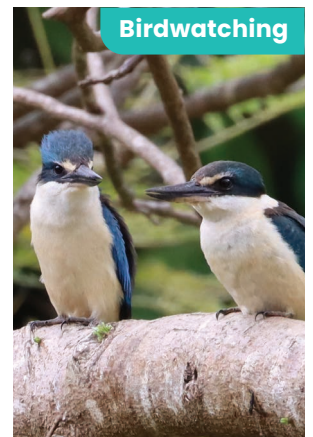
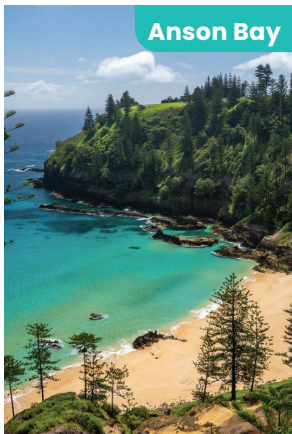
The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site on Norfolk Island, showcasing layers of the island's rich history. It includes remnants of the Polynesian era, early British convict settlements, and the later Pitcairn Islander community. With its well-preserved Georgian buildings, ruins, and stunning coastal setting, KAVHA offers a glimpse into Australia's colonial past and Norfolk Island's unique heritage. It's one of the most significant heritage sites in the South Pacific.

NATURE & OUTDOOR Adventures

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Norfolk Island is home to stunning natural attractions, each offering its own unique beauty. Emily Bay is a calm, crystal-clear lagoon perfect for swimming and snorkelling, while Anson Bay boasts dramatic cliffs and a secluded beach ideal for sunset views. Norfolk Island National

Park features lush forests, walking trails, and rare birdlife, making it a haven for nature lovers. At Captain Cook Lookout, visitors can take in breathtaking views of the rugged coastline where Cook first spotted the island in 1774.



WALKING & HIKING

Walking and hiking on Norfolk Island offer a unique way to explore the island's natural beauty, with trails winding through lush forests, coastal cliffs, and historic landscapes.

Hundred Acres Reserve on Norfolk Island offers a network of peaceful walks through coastal pine and white oak forests, leading to scenic spots like Rocky Point with its cliff-edge birdlife.

The Norfolk Island National Park boasts a diverse range of walking trails, from gentle strolls through subtropical rainforest to more challenging climbs offering panoramic coastal views and opportunities to spot endemic birdlife.

ACTIVITIES

Glass bottom boat tours in Emily Bay offer a unique perspective of Norfolk Island's vibrant underwater world, showcasing coral gardens and diverse marine life through crystal-clear waters.

Snorkelling is a popular activity, particularly in the protected lagoons of Emily and Slaughter Bay, where shallow reefs teem with colorful fish and accessible coral formations.

Birdwatching enthusiasts will be delighted by Norfolk Island's endemic and migratory species, with opportunities to spot rare birds like the Green Parrot and various seabirds along coastal cliffs and within the National Park.

LEISURE & Experiences

Whether you are drawn to history, food, nature or culture, Norfolk Island offers experiences shaped by community and the island environment. Leisure here feels unhurried, authentic and full of small moments that stay with you.



Fish Fry

The Norfolk Island Fish Fry is a much-loved tradition featuring freshly caught fish, homemade coconut bread and island-style dishes, sunset views, live music and warm hospitality.



Island Life

A guided snapshot of modern Norfolk Island life - people, culture, daily systems, and how the community functions today. Includes morning tea and a 2-course island-style lunch.



Bounty Day

Bounty Day on 8 June is Norfolk Island's major public holiday, commemorating the 1856 arrival of Pitcairn descendants with re-enactments, processions and traditional costumes.

BARS & Restaurants

Fresh and seasonal is simply the way of life. Islanders grow their own produce, and restaurants often serve the day's fishing catch with vegetables harvested that same day.



Two Chimney's Winery

Norfolk Island's only winery, nestled at Steele's Point. A family-owned vineyard and cellar door offering a warm welcome and a sense of place.



Hilli Restaurant

Hilli Restaurant offers elegant dining with fresh local ingredients, set in beautiful gardens and known for creative international cuisine.



Bailey's Restaurant

Bailey's Restaurant at Governor's Lodge serves modern Australian dishes in a charming, historic setting, ideal for dinner and special occasions.



Moffy's Pizza and Pasta

Discover a taste of Italy! Napoli style pizzas and handmade in-house pasta dishes, all made with passion.



Salty Beer Garden

Salty Beer Garden delivers a relaxed pub-style atmosphere with casual meals, a full bar and regular live music.



Norfolk Island Brewing

Norfolk Island's craft brewery serving locally brewed beers and ciders with woodfired pizzas in a lively, welcoming venue.

ACCOMMODATION & Getting Around

Accommodation on Norfolk Island is as welcoming and varied as the island itself, offering everything from charming heritage cottages to modern apartments and luxury villas. Whether you prefer a quiet rural retreat, a central stay close to shops and cafes, or stunning ocean views, there's something to suit every style and budget.

With warm island hospitality and self-contained comforts, you'll feel right at home. Many options also boast breathtaking views of the island's lush landscapes or the sparkling Pacific Ocean.



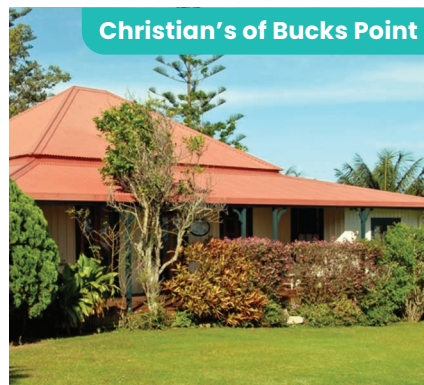
Governor's Lodge

Set in lush gardens these self-contained cabins offers on-site dining and central location near to shops and historic sites.



The Crest Apartments

These spacious, hilltop apartments offer ocean views and peaceful surrounds, perfect for a relaxing, self-catered stay.



Christian's of Bucks Point

A heritage island home with modern comforts and sweeping sea views, ideal for a private and luxurious escape.



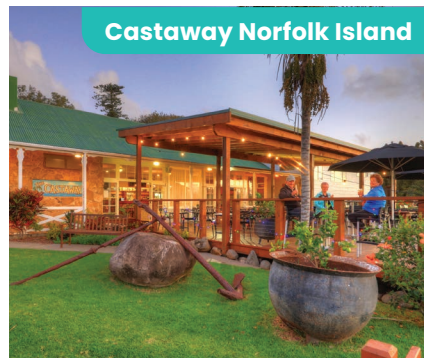
Jacaranda Park Holiday Cottages

Peaceful, roomy cottages in a quiet rural setting, offering comfort and space for a restful getaway.



Glencar Luxury Holiday Villas

Stylish, private villas with open-plan living and scenic views. Perfect for a spacious, high-end island stay.



Castaway Norfolk Island

Modern, friendly accommodation with an on-site bar and restaurant, just a short stroll from Burnt Pine's town centre.

Hiring a car is recommended on Norfolk Island because there's no public transport, and having your own vehicle lets you easily explore the island's many scenic spots, historic sites, and hidden gems at your own pace.

Crest Auto Rentals is a locally operated car hire company on Norfolk Island. They provide unlimited kilometres, free pickup and delivery, and 24/7 personalised service.

Crest Auto Rentals – Norfolk Island

Phone: +672 3 23833 | Email: cars@crestautorentals.nf



Crest Auto Rentals

QUESTIONS & Things To Know

Norfolk Island is known for its warm, respectful community, where friendliness is part of everyday life. A well-known custom is the “Norfolk wave”, a small gesture to acknowledge passing drivers, which visitors are encouraged to adopt. Politeness is valued, and it’s customary to greet locals in shops or public spaces. Many residents are descendants of the Pitcairn Islanders and Bounty mutineers, and showing respect for this heritage is always appreciated.

The island also maintains strong ties to the environment and traditional practices. Cows roam freely and have right of way on roads, so drivers should take care, especially in rural areas. Visitors are asked to stay on marked walking trails, avoid disturbing historical sites, and protect wildlife by not feeding animals or leaving litter. Respecting these local customs will help you feel welcomed and enhance your experience of island life.



Do you need travel insurance?

Travel insurance is strongly recommended for all visitors, even though Australian Medicare applies on Norfolk Island. Insurance can protect you against trip cancellations, travel delays, lost luggage, rental car excess, and other unforeseen expenses, especially as flight diversions or delays can occur due to weather.

What banks and medical facilities are available on Norfolk Island?

The Commonwealth Bank is the only bank with an ATM on the island, located in Burnt Pine. Most major credit cards are accepted, though it's worth carrying some cash for smaller purchases. Medical services are provided by the Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS), which offers 24/7 emergency care, a GP clinic, dental clinic, and allied health services.

What are the electricity & phones like on Norfolk Island?

Norfolk Island uses the same electricity as mainland Australia: 230V, 50Hz, with type I plugs, no adapter is needed for Australian devices. For phones, Australian and New Zealand SIM cards do not roam; visitors can purchase a Norfolk Telecom Visitor SIM for local calls, texts, and data. Wi-Fi is available at many accommodations and hotspots, and international dialing codes are needed to call between Norfolk Island and Australia.

What language is spoken on Norfolk Island?

The main language spoken on Norfolk Island is English. However, some islanders also speak Norfolk, a unique creole language that is a blend of 18th-century English and Tahitian, brought by the Pitcairn Islanders.



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