

HISTORY

Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area



Centred on Kingston, 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.



BEFORE 1788

Polynesian Settlement

Archaeological evidence from Emily Bay indicates that the area was a Polynesian settlement between 1,000 to 650 years ago. The Polynesians left behind obsidian (volcanic glass) from the Kermadec Islands as well as archaeological evidence. This included a Marae (ceremonial site) and evidence of their houses and lives. Banana trees and canoe remains were also found by the first European settlers.

1788-1814

British 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 (Tasmania) in 1814.

1825-1855

British 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.

1856-PRESENT DAY

Pitcairn Settlement

Pitcairn families resettled on Norfolk Island, arriving in 1856, learning to farm unfamiliar foods and raise livestock. Families created homes in the abandoned buildings and farms of Kingston and Arthur's Vale. They established a community in a new place. The historic site is integral to the lives of all Norfolk Islanders.

HERITAGE

A Landscape of Woven Histories



World Heritage Listing

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

- 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

Norf'k language

The Norf'k language was added to UNESCO's world endangered languages list in 2007. Norf'k developed from a mixture of English, Tahitian, and West Indian Creole and was brought to Norfolk Island by the Pitcairn Islanders in 1856. You can try your hand at Norf'k language by reading some of the signs around Kingston and the attractions on this guide.

Visitor information

Royal Engineers Office (R.E.O.)
Kingston Pier Precinct
Norfolk Island

Telephone: (+6723) 23115
kingston@infrastructure.gov.au
kingston.norfolkisland.gov.au

Information Centre opening hours

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 8:30am-5:00pm
Wed: 8:30am-4:00pm
Sat, Sun: 8:30am-12:30pm



Kingston, Norfolk Island Daun'taun, Norf'k Ailen

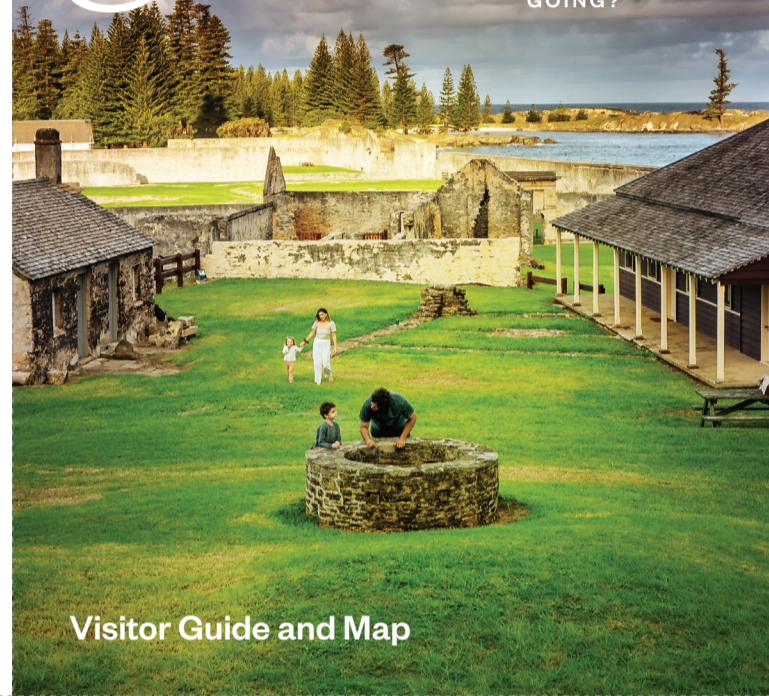


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WHERE ARE

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YOU

gWEN?
GOING?



Visitor Guide and Map

INFORMATION

Kingston and Arthur's Vale



The Royal Engineer's Office (R.E.O.)

Roiei Enjanias Ohfes

The place to begin your visit to the Kingston World Heritage site. The R.E.O. houses the museum shop and is the information centre for Kingston. 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
Telephone: (+6723) 23788
info@museums.gov.nf
norfolkislandmuseum.com.au

RESEARCH

Resources and archives



**No. 9 Quality Row (The Research Centre)
Namba 9 Kwohleti Roew (A Riiserch Senta)**

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 Kingston, 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. Research assistance fees apply.

The Research Centre is indicated by on the map overleaf.



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

MUSEUMS

Learn about Norfolk Island



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



**Pier Store (History Museum)
Piya Stor (Histri Myuusiam)**

HMAV Bounty, Pitcairn and Norfolk stories.



**HMS Sirius Museum
Sirias Myuusiam**

Maritime artefacts from the HMS Sirius, one of Australia's most significant shipwrecks.



**No. 10 Quality Row (House Museum)
Namba 10 Kwohleti Roew (Haus Myuusiam)**

Restored Georgian house built as the residence for the Foreman of the Works in 1844.



**Commissariat Store (Archaeological Museum)
Kohmeseyariat Stor (Aakiolohjekl Myuusiam)**

Settlement artefacts from archaeological digs in the Kingston area together with the island's fauna, flora and geology.



Kick off your shoes at Kingston.

ACTIVITIES

Things to see and experience



A stroll through Kingston 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.



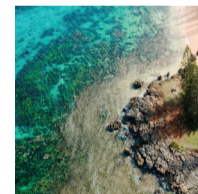
**Historic Architecture
Myuusiam**

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.



**Picnic Areas
Wetls**

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



**Emily Bay
Emile Bieh**

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



**Pier Precinct
Taun Piya**

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.



**Government House
Gauwment Haus**

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.

More information

To find out what's on during your stay, visit: kingston.norfolkisland.gov.au

Kingston Daun'taun






Arthur's Vale / Watermill Valley Aathas Wiel / Wortamil Waele

Cleared and farmed from 1788, this valley contains the earliest surviving evidence of agricultural activity in Australia.

- 1 Watermill and Dam
- 2 Colonial / Penal Settlement Agricultural Ruins
- 3 Ticket of Leave Settler's Hut (Private Lands)
- 4 Cenotaph War Memorial
- 5 Pier Street Bridge / Causeway (Convict Built)



Landing Place Ridge / Kingston Pier Laenden Said Rij / Taun Piya

British settlers arrived here in 1788 and established the first town and Government House. The current penal settlement buildings and the existing pier were constructed from 1825. The Pitcairn Islanders arrived here in 1856 on the Morayshire (ship).

- 6 Royal Engineer's Office (R.E.O) (Information / Museum)   
- 7 Double Boatshed
- 8 Single Boatshed / Former Police Office
- 9 Kingston Pier 
- 10 Pier Store (History Museum) 
- 11 Settlement Guard House
- 12 Crankmill
- 13 Landing Place
- 14 Surgeon's Quarters
- 15 Site of First & Second Government House
- 16 Small Cottage / Kitchen
- 17 Civil Hospital
- 18 Blacksmith's Compound

Prisoner Compounds / Slaughter Bay Prinas Kompaun / Slorta Bieh

During the Penal Settlement there were three separate walled compounds.

- 19 HMS Sirius Wreck Site 
- 20 Pentagonal Gaol (Ruins)
- 21 Prisoners' Barracks (Ruins)
- 22 Former Protestant Prisoners' Chapel (Sirius Museum) 
- 23 Lumber / Mess Yard (Ruins)

Chimney Hill / Emily Bay Chimne Hil / Emle Bieh

Named in the Colonial Settlement for the smoking chimneys of the lime kilns, this is also where salt was made by evaporation, and stone quarried. In the 1950s, the back of Emily Bay was planted with pines to stabilise the expanding sand dunes.

- 24 Lime Kiln
- 25 Site of Polynesian Settlement / Ceremonial Marae
- 26 Colonial Settlement Burial Ground
- 27 Salt House (Ruins)

Windmill Ridge Winnil Rij

There was a windmill here in 1800 but the surviving ruin dates from the 1840s. There were also stone quarries in the area.

- 28 Lone Pine
- 29 Point Hunter
- 30 Windmill


Swamp / Kingston Common Swomp / Kingstan Koeman

This swampland was drained from 1796 for farming. Buildings were constructed here in the 1840s and from 1856 the area was used for grazing. Today the wetland provides habitat for a number of migratory bird species.

- 31 Bounty Street Bridge / Causeway (convict built)

Military Row Miletri Roew

These three walled military compounds were built in the 1820s and 1830s.

- 32 Commissariat Store (Archaeological Museum) / All Saints Church 
- 33 New Military Barracks
- 34 Officers' Bath
- 35 No. 11 Quality Row / Former Clergyman's Quarters
- 36 Old Military Barracks


Government House Reserve Gauvment Haus Reserw

Built upon footings from the 1804 Government House, this 1829 building is one of the earliest Government Houses in Australia.

- 37 Government House / Outbuildings

Quality Row Kwohleti Roew

The Georgian style streetscape was built between 1832 and 1847 to house civil and military officers and clergy.

- 38 No. 10 Quality Row / Foreman of Works' Quarters (House Museum) 
- 39 No. 9 Quality Row / Royal Engineer's Quarters (Research Centre) 
- 40 No. 5 to No. 8 Quality Row / Civil Officer's Quarters (Private Residences)
- 41 No. 4 Quality Row / Duplex 2 & 3 - Ruins of Civil Officer's Quarters
- 42 No. 1 Quality Row / Stipendiary Magistrate's Quarters (Golf Clubhouse) 


Lowlands Lowlaen

Originally this area was drifting sands until it was stabilised as the Garrison Farm.

- 43 Golf Course




Cemetery Reserve Semetri Reserw

The earliest headstones date from 1798 and record convict deaths and revolts, and causes of death of marines, women and children. The Pitcairners and their descendants are also buried in this cemetery.

- 44 Cemetery 
- 45 Murderers' Mound

Bloody Bridge Bladi Brij

- 46 Bloody Bridge (convict built)

-  Lookout points
-  L1 Queen Elizabeth II Lookout
-  L2 Flagstaff Hill Lookout

Kingston Pier Precinct Daun'taun Taun Piya

The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston) is a World Heritage site located on Norfolk Island. One of Australia's most interesting and important heritage sites, Kingston is a living showcase of Polynesian, convict and Pitcairn Islander history.

The site is a traditional focal point for the Norfolk Island community. As a living heritage site, Kingston continues to contribute to the life, identity and culture of the Norfolk Island community.

Kingston is recognised for being among the best surviving examples of large-scale convict transportation and colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts. It is one of 11 sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property.

The Kingston Pier precinct is the perfect place to start your journey of discovery.

