



on Norfolk Island, the island's population exceeded 1,000. Some of these were convicts who elected to stay on as free farmers after serving out their sentences. However, due to its remoteness and the absence of a safe harbour, almost all of the population was transferred to Tasmania by 1813.

In 1825 Norfolk Island was re-populated with convicts who had been convicted of further crimes after arriving in Australia. During this 30-year second penal settlement, Norfolk Island's remoteness was viewed as a plus as Norfolk was then the ultimate punishment short only of death. Living and working conditions were horrifying, food was scarce, and even trivial infractions were punished excessively. The last convicts were transported to Tasmania finally in May 1855.

A little more than a year later, June 1850 marked the arrival of the residents of an overpopulated Pitcairn Island. All were descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian wives. Although some of these families elected to return to Pitcairn in 1858 and 1863, even today roughly half of Norfolk's population of about 1,900 is descended from those Pitcairn Island immigrants. Norfolk Island's population also grew in the nineteenth century as whalers stayed on when their ships called at the island to re-supply.

The New Zealand army garrisoned Norfolk Island during World War II, and an airbase was built on the island. Fortunately, Norfolk was never attacked during the war.

Norfolk Island has been self-governing since 1979. Australia controls

the island's foreign affairs. Sponsorship by a current resident is necessary in order to obtain residency. Alternatively, one can apply for residency by investing in an island business. Although the government is run from Kingston, Burnt Pine is the main commercial centre. Education is available only through secondary school.

English is the main

language on Norfolk. However, the islanders also speak Norfolk, which is a Creole consisting of eighteenth-century English and the Tahitian language. There is air service to Norfolk Island from Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland. Some 80 km (50 miles) of roads exist on Norfolk. A number of interesting historical and cultural tours are run by local tour operators. Most visitors arrive from Australia and New Zealand on one-week package tours. The importation of fresh fruit and vegetables to Norfolk Island is prohibited. Also, interestingly, non-Australian visitors who come to Norfolk Island from Australia require a multiple entry visa in order to return to Australia!

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