
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Report

The island at the end of the earth



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

What is your **ideal** holiday **destination**?

It could be the tiny Pacific island of Palmerston. With its beautiful white sand, **transparent** water, and palm trees, you may think you have arrived in paradise.

But this is one of the most **remote** islands in the world. Surrounded by thousands of miles of ocean, it is only **accessible** by boat. The journey takes nine days from Tahiti, and is long and dangerous. However, it's well worth it.

"Nothing goes wrong in Palmerston," says Bob Marsters, the **mayor**, who greets visitors in his boat. He, like all except three of the other 62 islanders are **descendants** of one man – William Marsters, an Englishman who settled here 150 years ago with his three wives.

There's no shop on the island and drinking water comes from rainwater. A ship with **supplies** calls just twice a year. The main street is a **narrow** piece of sand no more than 100 metres long, and has only **half a dozen** buildings.

But what the island **lacks** in **amenities**, it makes up in its beauty and peace. If you want **to get away from it all**, this island 'at the end of the earth' could be the place to go. You may never want to go back home.

Vocabulary

ideal

perfect; best possible

destination

place where someone is going

transparent

if something is transparent, you can see through it

breeze

a light wind

remote

far away

accessible

able to be reached

mayor

leader of a town or city

supplies

things like food and medicine that you need to live

narrow

not wide

half a dozen

six (a dozen = 12)

lacks

doesn't have

amenities

things that make life more pleasant and easy

to get away from it all

to have a break somewhere far away

This story is based on an original BBC News story:

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