

Introduction

Vanuatu which means 'Land Eternal' is located in the South West Pacific and consists of 83 islands.

A popular holiday destination for honeymoons, short or extended breaks, Vanuatu boasts year round tropical weather, picturesque beaches and forests and has a relaxing island pace.

Travellers to Vanuatu can experience the unique customs & culture of its indigenous people as well as a variety of outdoor activities.

Capital City

Port Vila, on the island of Efate.

Population

Approx 200,000.

Time Zone

GMT/UTC +11 or 1 hour ahead of AST

Language

Bislama (pidgin English), English and French are the official languages with another 120 distinct languages and dialects also in use.

Currency

Vatu (AUD\$1=approx 80 Vatu)

Climate

November - March is the wetter, hotter season, with daytime temperatures averaging 29°C.

April - October is drier and cooler with an average daytime temperature of 26°C.

The water is suitable for swimming all year round with the lowest sea temp averaging 24°C.

Health & Safety

Currently no vaccinations are required. Malaria is endemic in the outer islands and preventative medication is recommended.

Urban water is safe to drink.

Getting there

Air Vanuatu operates five flights a week from SYD to Port Vila and three times a week from BNE and Pacific Blue flies twice a week from BNE.

Getting around

Cars and 4WD's are available for hire and driving is on the right hand side of the road. Metered taxis are also plentiful.

Mini buses are frequent but not timetabled and a good way to explore Port Vila if not in a hurry.

Interisland travel is mostly by air and Vanair services all major islands within Vanuatu.

Culture & History

The indigenous people of Vanuatu are known as the 'Ni Vanuatu' and are predominantly Melanesian.

They have a unique culture and diverse customs that incorporate all aspects of life on the islands.

Songs, dance and storytelling are paramount to the Ni Vanuatu for communication and expression as they have no written language.

Where to stay

Vanuatu offers a range of accommodation including:

Iririki Island Resort and Spa

Situated on its own private island in the Port

Vila Harbour, Iririki attracts honeymooners and couples as it is strictly child free.

It currently has 70 fares available in categories Waterfront, Harbourview and Gardenview.

A new wing containing five star accommodation with single bedroom deluxe rooms, tri level penthouse suites and a new leisure centre is due for completion in 2006 and will allow children.

The current facilities include a pool, restaurant, cafe, bar and some water sports equipment.

The resort offers several wedding packages complete with a wedding coordinator.

Website: www.iririki.com

Email: info@iririki.com

Le Lagon Resort

Situated 3km from downtown Port Vila, Le Lagon is surrounded by 75 acres of tropical gardens alongside Erakor Lagoon.

The resort has 141 rooms including studio rooms, private bungalows and over water suites and each room offers garden or lagoon views with a patio or balcony.

The resort has a pool, two restaurants, an outdoor spa and tennis courts and there is a range of non-motorised watersports available.

A Kids Only Club is available for 3-12 year olds as well as a baby sitting service.

Website: www.lelagonvanuatu.vu

Email: res@lelagonvanuatu.com.vu

The Melanesian

Located in the heart of Port Vila, the Melanesian is a 3 star property which consists of 81 rooms.

This hotel boasts quality facilities at an affordable price and contains standard rooms overlooking the pool and bar, rooms that have kitchenettes and one and two bedroom fully self contained apartments.

It also features a 24 hour Italian restaurant, tennis courts, gaming lounge, a pool and a bar.

Website: www.vanuatutourism.com/melanesian_pv.htm

Email: melanesian@vanuatu.com.vu

Things to do

Ekasup Village Tour

Experience the culture of Vanuatu on this tour which visits a traditional village on the outskirts of Port Vila where visitors learn more about the Ni Vanuatu people and how they catch food, fish and use plants for medicine.

Evergreen Mele Cascades Tour

The Mele Cascades is a picturesque and easily accessible waterfall close to Port Vila.

Visitors take a short hike up to the waterfall and can swim in several plunge pools.

Coongoola Day Cruise

Operated by South Pacific Cruise Limited out of Port Vila, the "Coongoola" is a 23m sailing ketch which sails the waters of Havannah Harbour.

The day trip includes a stop at Tranquility Is Resort to visit a turtle conservation farm, reef snorkeling and a BBQ lunch at Hapi Tok Beach.

Links

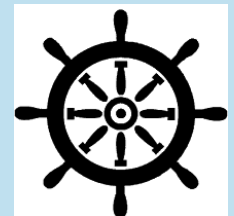
Iririki Island Resort and Spa



Le Lagon Resort



Coongoola Day Cruise



Evergreen - Mele Cascades Tour



This Destination Report was brought to you by the Vanuatu Tourism Office.

For further information on Vanuatu click here.



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