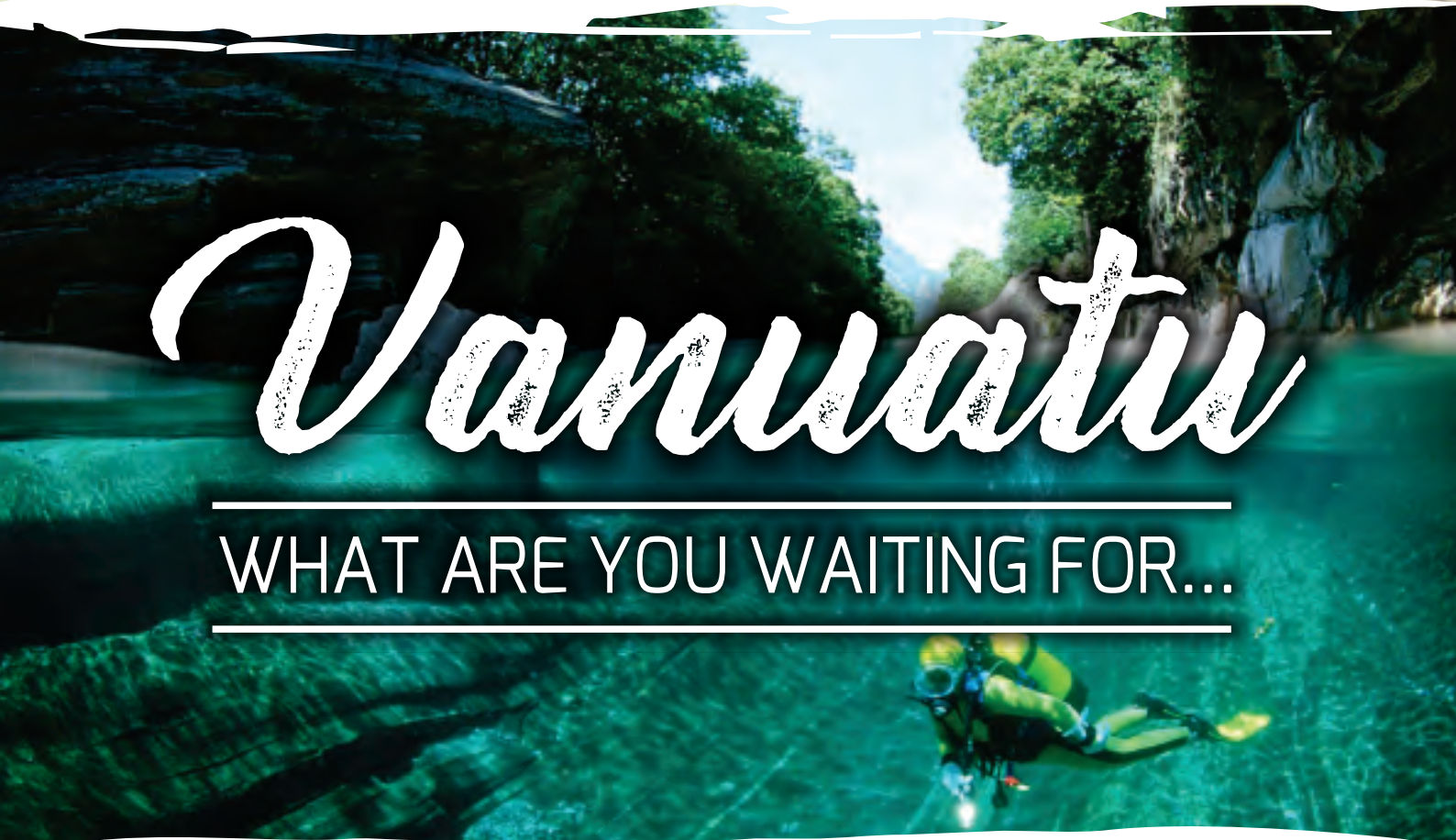




Vanuatu

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR...



Volume 01 2017



COMPLIMENTARY
VISITORS GUIDE

please take me home so you can keep
a little piece of paradise close by

The many islands of paradise

Highest rainfall & humidity
Waterfalls are abundant
Active volcanoes
Leave civilisation behind
Known for enormous coconut crabs
See many giant turtles
Excellent game fishing

Torres and Banks

The largest Island of Vanuatu
Mecca for Dive Enthusiasts
Home to WWII Coolidge Wreck
Explore Million Dollar Point
Many white sand beaches
Visit Popular Champagne Beach
Swim in Amazing blue water holes
Visit and explore The Caves
A growing number of Hotels

Espiritu Santo

The second largest island but most diverse
The Mountaineous terrain offers great trekking
Known for its custom dances and traditions
Relatively untouched by tourism
Offers good bird watching
Neighbouring small islands offer great snorkelling

Malekula

Lombenden Volcano (highest & most dangerous)
Excellent for hiking and walking
Many secluded Beaches
Very few tourists visit

Ambae

Famous for the once-in-a-lifetime land diving ritual
The 'Nagol' Ceremony is performed April-June
Known for basket weaving
See spectacular Waterfalls

Pentecost

Known for its twin volcanoes Mt Marum & Mt Benbow
See the Ancient Rom (masked) Dance
The Sorcery & Black Magic Center
Home to the best wood, stone and tree carvers

Ambrym

Home to the Capital, Port Vila (international airport)
The most developed Island boasting a rugged coastline
Rich marine life and snorkelling at Hideaway Island
A multicultural abundance of restaurants & bars
Day trip to the beautiful Havannah Harbour
Many tourist activities from Ziplining to Turtle Hatcheries
Take a Round Island Tour with Melanesian Tours to see it all
Many hotels including the popular Vanuatu Beachfront Apartments

Efate

• Port Vila

vanuatu beachfront apartments *stay in self-contained luxury*

1, 2, 3 and 4 Bedroom Apartments right on Port Vila's safest swimming beach



CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
2014 - 2015 - 2016

check out our reviews... you'll see why we're the best...

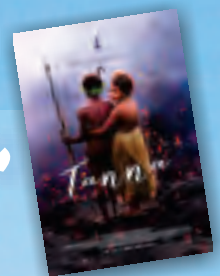
on-site pool
free water sports
on-site bar and café
kids club & playground
free on-demand movies
free in-room wifi
beach volleyball court

Walk the fiery rim of Mt Yasur Volcano
Swim in underwater caves and snorkel
Visit Untouched Waterfalls
See the island's wild horses
Experience an unchanged ancient culture
Home to the widely acclaimed movie TANNA

Tanna

Rich in Sandalwood trees
Ideal for the keen bushwalker
80 delicate species of orchids
Several waterfalls & hot springs
Excellent snorkelling of live coral reefs

Aneityum



Welcome

The sounds of soft beach waves, reggae music and genuine laughter are the very reasons Vanuatu has been voted twice happiest place in the world. She is home to rich Melanesian culture, modern amenities, astounding snorkelling and abundant natural beauty. From active volcanoes, to sand beaches, to custom villages and turquoise blue water holes, this truly is a magical place. Stay for a week, or a lifetime. The diversity on offer is exactly the reason why Vanuatu suits everyone. Choose to pull up a sun-lounge or soar through the trees on a Zipline...it's all on offer here. But as most will tell you, the real holiday starts when you take the time to chill out and talk with the locals (Ni-Vanuatu). They love to talk about their home, culture and families. If those beaming smiles and caring personalities don't win you over, then you need to check your pulse. By the end of your stay, your children will be swapping ipads and computers for soccer balls and flippers. And you will experience an amazing relaxed vibe you will want to bottle and take home with you.

GEOGRAPHY

The republic of Vanuatu is a South Pacific archipelago made up of 83 small islands that are of volcanic origin and cover around 12000sq kms. Around 65 of the islands are inhabited. The total population of Vanuatu is just over 270,000. The island of Espiritu Santo is the largest of the 83 islands, followed by Malekula and then Efate which is home to

the Capital, Port Vila. Flying time to the capital is only 2.5 hours North East from Brisbane and 3.5 hours from Sydney, Australia. Regular flights from Auckland, New Zealand are only 2 hours away. Many first timers to Vanuatu will arrive by one of the numerous cruise ships that visit every year. This short stay and introduction to Vanuatu only leads to wanting more.

HISTORY

Many of Vanuatu's islands have been inhabited for thousands of years, with archaeological evidence dating back to 2000 BC. Europeans began settling the islands in the late 18th century, after British explorer James Cook visited the islands on his second voyage, and gave them the name New Hebrides. In 1887, the New Hebrides began to be administered by a French-British naval commission. This resulted in an Anglo-French Condominium in 1906, and lasted for several decades until the push for independence started in the 1960s. Full sovereignty was finally granted on the 30th of July 1980, known as Independence Day, and is rejoiced every year by a week long series of festivities proving to be the most celebrated holiday period of the Nation.

ECONOMY

Small-scale agriculture provides a living for approximately 65% of the people. Fishing, offshore financial services and tourism make up the other top contenders.



WEATHER

Vanuatu is referred to as having two seasons. A 'warm summer' (May-Oct) where temps of mid to high 20s is experienced and minimal rainfall. And then of course there is the 'hot summer' (Nov-Apr) where temps sit at the 30s with higher humidity and intermittent heavy rainfall usually in the evenings.

CURRENCY/VAT

The local currency is the Vatu (VT). AUD dollars & credit cards (3.5 - 5% surcharges) are widely accepted in Port Vila, however if traveling to outer islands it is suggested you take Vatu. A 12.5% value added tax (VAT) is applicable but most prices are published inclusive of this. Major banks do exist but most use Goodies foreign exchange for great rates on converting foreign cash to the local Vatu.

FAST FACTS

FULL NAME

The Republic of Vanuatu

CAPITAL CITY

Port Vila on Efate Island

AREA

12,190km²

POPULATION

273,000(approx)

LANGUAGES

120 dialects exist in the islands, but only 3 official languages are spoken English, French & Bislama (pidgin English).

TIPPING

Vanuatu Custom does not practise, tipping or bargaining.

RELIGION

Christian (84%), Other (16)



Blue Lagoon

The turquoise blue waters of The Blue Lagoon has been described as nothing short of a wonder of the world. You only need to travel 25km anticlockwise from Port Vila to reach this spectacular haven. Pack a picnic and spend hours enjoying the cool waters of this natural rock pool or grab the Tarzan rope and launch yourself from the many levels available. Your will be in awe watching the local pikininis perform their mastery of the rope. After all, this is their 'Dreamworld'. For the more avid swimmer you can snorkel your way out of the narrow channel that leads to the open ocean. On arrival, there are now two entries. We suggest taking the new second entry that has recently been equipped with flushing toilets and sturdy picnic tables. Entry fee for the day is only 300vt (approx \$4.00). If you have chosen to stay at Vanuatu

Beachfront Apartments we recommend ordering their picnic hamper which contains a selection of fresh meat and salad rolls, fresh fruits, snacks and refreshments. Most bus drivers will take you here for a few hours before returning you back to your hotel for as little as 8000vt (approx \$100).

BOOK a round island day tour to see popular stops such as:

**☎ 5576545 Blue Lagoon
Turtle Cove
Lololima Falls (Rentaupo)
Hot Springs
WWII Museum
Chocolate Factory
Gideons Landing
Local Schools
Market Gardens
and more...**



info@melanesiantours.com



Zipline

Soar through the jungle canopy & experience a fantastic buzz while on numerous ziplines. Zip platform to platform high in the trees and enjoy breathtaking views overlooking Mele Bay & Port Vila. Designed for those of average mobility and strength who are in reasonably good



A must do... Post your waterproof postcard back to friends and family



health. A round trip from your hotel is included in the tariff. This attraction is one the whole family can enjoy as they cater for Ages 4 to 89. Remember to bring your camera so you can come away with some awesome memories. The bonus with this attraction is that it still operates in the rain, just bring a towel! You will have fun on a Zipline in any weather! Most will come away describing it as one of the highlights of their trip!

Hideaway Island Marine Sanctuary

You won't have to go far to visit this myriad of underwater wonders. It's only 10 minutes from the airport and a few minutes by ferry off the shores of Mele Bay. It is a fantastic day trip if the weather is on your side. Stepping off the boat you will find yourself landing on a small piece of paradise. Get ready because the real hidden gems at Hideaway can only be seen with the aid of a mask and snorkel. Bring your own, or for a small charge take advantage of their convenient rental sets. Just a few steps into the turquoise water the reef awaits. One of the beauties about Hideaway is the calm waters of this sheltered bay allowing for some of the most calm and serene snorkeling you

have ever done. The second you put your mask in the water you are welcomed with schools and schools of colourful fish from all varieties. Take a few more kicks and you will find yourself on top of a stunning reef that Hideaway boasts is only a few meters off the shore... This makes it perfect for swimmers of all capabilities and does not render its beauty for only the advanced. Hold your breath and dive down to post a great holiday memory to the world's only underwater post office. For the dive enthusiasts they have you covered too. Their experienced PADI Instructors and Divemasters will ensure you see the best of every site including the 90m steep walls..

Famous Friday Fire Show at The Beach Bar, Mele



Vanua Fire's amazing fire show is a must see for all tourists. It has been labelled by many as the best in the South Pacific. The show is a true stage performance with a mix of fire breathing,

twirling, stunts and dancing styles in both french Polynesian and modern hip hop. The music set is a clever blend of traditional and modern music. They do now perform all around Port Villa, but

we recommend you visit the place where it all started, The Mele Beach Bar at 7pm on Friday nights. They really are electrifying when performing in their home area.



Hot Springs

Now don't be put off by the sulphur smell, your skin and muscles will thank you for the experience. This simply is to die for, not to mention a barrel of laughs if you don't mind rolling around like a pig. The minerals in the mud bath will rejuvenate and nourish your skin. When you've finished, slip into the warm healing waters of the natural thermal spring and have a nice soak in the concreted pool areas.

Reef Explorer

Kids, come and find Nemo! Explore Port Vila from below the waterline. Hop on board the custom built Semi-sub vessel and see Port Vila from below water in the viewing room in the keel of the boat. Once moored off Iririki Island you can hand feed the tropical fish, view the stunning reef and use the provided snorkeling gear. Children come for FREE!



'Nagol' Land Diving

Pentecost Island has become famous throughout the world for the land diving ritual (Nagol) which occurs every Saturday between April to June. The ritual, which influenced the invention of bungy jumping by New Zealander AJ Hackett, sees local men and boys as young as seven jump from a 20-30m high manmade tower with only a vine attached to their legs. The tower itself takes locals five weeks to build using materials from the forest. Travelling to view this magnificent ceremony is a once

in a lifetime experience. No words can express the feeling of the ground vibrating under the dancing and stomping feet of villagers and the excitement of sitting beneath the tower waiting with unease for the diver to jump safely to ground. The awe inspiring ceremony celebrates the yam harvest and is a fertility rite for men. The story of the festival tells of a woman who hid in a tall tree from her husband. Her refusal to come down and apologise saw the husband climb the tree after her, but just as

he reached the top she jumped. In his anguish he jumped after her, only to realise that she had tied liana vines around her ankles. The woman survived while sadly, the husband perished. To this day, men jump from the tower as a show of strength to women in the village and as a statement that they cannot be tricked again. When the vine stretches at the end of the dive the land divers head curls under their shoulders to touch the earth, making it fertile for the following year's yam crop.

Cultural Nights

Held most Tuesday & Thursday evenings this is a must for the whole family. On arrival you explore the cultural centre & exotic gardens before meeting up in the chief's nakamal for the popular cultural show that boasts Vanuatu's traditional and custom singing, dancing & island magic.

After dancing to our string band and seeing the food taken out from our underground oven, you then feast on a delicious island buffet in the jungle restaurant. Pick up and drop off from your hotel is included. Approximate duration is 5.00 - 9.00pm. An easy and informative night.





Market Place

The Port Vila Markets are in the center of town and lend themselves to slow strolls through tables and tables of local Mummas selling their wares... It is a wonderfully vibrant shopping experience laden with the freshest of produce being restocked daily by different villages. Most items are only 100 or 200vt (\$1.20 - \$2.50) and this can get you anything from a bag of cherry tomatoes to a beautiful bunch of sugar bananas. You'll often catch a glimpse of a bag of

crabs or even some local fish for sale. Head out to the front of the pavilion and you will be spoilt with buckets of vibrantly coloured native flowers for a couple of dollars... Spoiling a loved one has never been more affordable. The journey does not stop here. Venture through to the second half of the Market House and you will find many a Mumma busy at an old Singer, sewing up a storm of brightly coloured island dresses. Pair these up with some shell jewellery or a finely woven

straw bag . For those with long locks you can pull up a chair and have your hair braided in many different styles. This can take about an hour so maybe the rest of your party will want to go and refuel in the food isles. You will find local laplap to fresh breads with jam and coffee. The markets are open 6 days a week (early till around 9pm). On Sundays the pavilion transforms into a Christian gathering and the sounds of Vanuatu Hymns and preaching fill the air.

A BIT OF BISLAMA

If you want to blong, tok tok like a local...

Today 95% of Bislama is based on English, with a few dozen French words and 'island language' thrown in. In order to understand Bislama, common advice is to throw in the words "long" and "blong" a few times every sentence and you'll just about have it. Here are some examples to get you started:

Thank you **Tankyu**
Food/eat **Kai Kai**
How are you? **Olsem wanem**
I'm okay **la oreat**
Full **Fulup**
My name is **Nem blong mi**
Do you know? **Yu save (savvy)**
I don't know **Mi no save**
The best **Nambawan**
Water **Wota**

Drinking water **Freswota**
Ocean **Solwata**
My Book **Buk blong mi**
Weigh **Skelem**
My child **Pikinini blong mi**
I'm happy **Mi glad tumas**
See you later **Lukim yu**
Ask **Askem**
Time **Taem**
Two of them **Tufala**

Mt Yasur Tanna



Mr Yasur sits proudly on Tanna Island and is the world's most accessible active volcano. It is relatively well behaved, making it ideal for observation by travelers and is sure to give them a spectacular 'show'. The glow of the volcano was apparently what attracted Captain James Cook on the first European journey to the island in 1774.

This South Pacific volcano has been blowing its stack for over 800 years and has become sacred to many of the locals who subscribe to the cargo cult based around the enigmatic man-god John Frum. The figure of John Frum is shrouded in mystery, some saying he is a white American serviceman, while others have described him

as a black man in a local dress. No matter his true form, to those who believe that he will lead them into a brighter future, he is a god. According to some, John Frum actually lives inside of Yasur Mountain, simply waiting to be reborn. Your hotel guest relations can help you book your unforgettable day or overnight trip to this spectacular volcano.

Scenic flight over
Mt Yasur during the day



**FREE ADMISSION
IN PORT VILA**



TANNA COFFEE
A Taste of the South Pacific

Visit the NEW Roasting House
& Café in Port Vila to taste
Vanuatu's own Unique Coffee

NEAR THE PORT
VILA GOLF CLUB

☎ 23661

The Coongoola

A "Must do" excursion ideal for all ages. A spacious 23 metre timber sailing ketch with twin diesel back up power that can carry 60 passengers. Visit secluded coves and beaches of fine white coral sand. Snorkel or dive in crystal clear warm water. Feed tame fish, maybe see the friendly dolphins at play. Also visit a baby turtle conservation rookery. The full day trip includes hotel transfers, morning/afternoon tea, BBQ lunch & snorkelling gear. The cruise runs mostly daily from the beautiful Havana Harbour where you will set out for a leisurely sail on the Tranquil waters of the magnificent sheltered harbour. Then it is onto "Sun and Moon Bay". Enjoy a dip in the clear crystal water, snorkel the coral reef, and feast on the delicious Barbecue that will be prepared for you from

Vanuatu's premier organic beef and a selection of local salads. From here you can choose to feed the tame fish, soak up the sun with a cool drink or two in hand from the licenced cooler box. For some the idea of curling up under a palm tree with a book in hand is the ultimate in relaxation. Choose your own theme, it can be Adventure, Fun, Romantic or just plain relaxing. The snorkelling is simply world class and is the main reason to choose this day trip, coupled with that, it gives you the opportunity to see the other side of the island that is not easily accessible by bus. The crew are very friendly and will chat to you about the history of the boat. The afternoon sail usually finishes off with a farewell gesture from the friendly dolphins who will lead you back to the shoreline.



Vanuatu Sky Bridge is a unique rainforest and lookout experience taking guests on an unforgettable walk with spectacular panoramic views across coral reefs and the bay. The Sky Bridge is 120 meters long and sits 65 m above the canyon floor. Located along Devil's Point Road just past Mele Bay. A beautiful setting for family photos, so be sure to bring a picnic and purchase a cold softdrink, beer or water on site.

Vanuatu Skybridge



to view the wonderful work
achieved so far visit
www.facebook.com/vanuatukids

The Smiles of the South Pacific need your help

vanuatu  kids

founded after Cyclone Pam 2015 by
Vanuatu Beachfront Apartments



Rentapao

The beautiful scenery at Rentapao AKA Lololima Falls is becoming increasingly popular as it becomes an alternative to the ever popular Mele Cascades placing it on the other side of the island. The helpful guides will meet you at the entry and offer a fruit plate and brief orientation. After a short easy walking track, the river opens up to cascading falls and a selection of kayaks you can use to explore its secret waterfalls.



Mele Cascades

The popular and photogenic swimming spot is a must see, and sits in Vanuatu's top 5 on the 'must do' list. On your slippery path you are guided by ropes and handrails through a series of clear aquamarine pools that terrace up the hill, culminating in an impressive 35m waterfall that will take your breath away. Enjoy a peaceful swim in the many natural plunge pools and soak up the serenity of it all.

