

SOLOMON AIRLINE'S COMPLIMENTARY INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

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ISSUE 68

# Solomons



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Fax +677 20522

Email: [investment@commerce.gov.sb](mailto:investment@commerce.gov.sb)

**[www.investsolomons.gov.sb](http://www.investsolomons.gov.sb)**



**Ron Sumsum**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

#### Times - Past

A belated Christmas to all our travelers and a Safe and Prosperous New Year-2015 to all.

Much has passed in 2014 and like everything in life! Some parts have been good whilst others have not been so good. That is life and one must try to ensure that the 'not so good' times are audited to find amiable resolutions in moving forward.

We have just finished our democratic national elections in Solomon Islands and welkam the new Government under the stewardship of the new Prime Minister Honourable Manasseh Sogavare and his team.

#### BIG NEWS

It is with much anticipation that we announce a new service to Sydney, beginning in June 2015!

There is still much to be done but plans are underway to commence this new direct Honiara to Sydney return service on Monday afternoon to Sydney with the return leaving Sydney on Tuesday morning. More to come via our promotions and media campaign.

#### Fiji

The news, as most will have read by now, is that the Fiji impasse has ended and Solomon Airlines is recommencing services from 24th January and will maintain its original plans to service this route via Vila to Nadi in both directions but sadly, we still do not have any rights to lift between Vila and Nadi and vice versa yet our counterparts have the full rights from Vila to Honiara and return. It is our absolute resolve to ensure we receive fairness in all Air Service Agreements and trust some sensibility applies for the future.

#### Pathfinders

We have recently assisted in moving some 600 plus Pathfinders from Honiara to Brisbane for a major Jamboree beginning Jan'15 and they all return mid Jan'15 onwards. This was a major feat considering the complexities of waiting for Australian visas which has been a drawn out affair both for the clients, the staff in the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby and our airline. Waiting for these approvals and holding seats without guarantees that visas will be forthcoming is not a good business proposition. It does go to show that travelling on an Island passport; specifically a Solomon's passport

WELKAM FRENS

To all our valued customers

can indeed be trying for many reasons and the net effect usually ends with disappointment both by the client and the airline.

#### Refurbished Engineering Hangar

Our Engineering Department is getting a face lift with refurbishment both in the structure of office suits and added space to expand our capacity to ensure we better comply and also to see further positive results building on what we already changed in 2012 with a newer hangar. The floods in April last year devastated the hangar and we are learning valuable lessons from this.

#### New Travel Centre

In addition, we opened our new Travel Centre in Tongs Building at Point Cruz which is now inclusive of Panatina Travel (now closed and staff re-accommodated) all into one consolidated office environment. This is a much more productive office for all our clients and a much better working atmosphere. Solomon Airlines now has four travel centres in Town; Head Office-Henderson; International Airport and the Domestic Airport with both International and Domestic offices open 7 days weekly.

The airline's marketing meeting was held in November'14 and we are hoping to achieve better results based on the plans from this meeting in moving forward into 2015.

#### Stories ahead

Includes the following-

- Fishing and the culinary delights of fish on the other end of Santa Isabel
- A small story on Ngella for a weekend away
- A great line on Roderick Bay near Tulagi - review of Roderick Dhu Bay resort.
- Aotaha Cave Lodge on Bellona.....an interesting read!
- Charley's Chocolate...our very own Cocoa beans turned into a wonder of Chocolates

Lastly....a good old War Story solved...still very much a focus for Tourism in Solomon Islands

Again, great reading for all and please take an extra copy or two of our magazine to pass on to friends and neighbours.

We welcome your travels on our Best Little Airline in the Pacific and we expect to add to our array of announcements in the year ahead-2015; a Hapi-er New Year to all.

Tengiu tumas.

**Ron Sumsum**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



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# Solomons



INFLIGHT MAGAZINE ISSUE 68

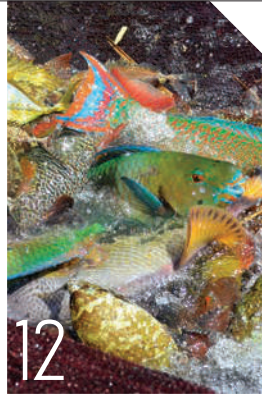
2015



Cover photo:  
**Captain Darryl Toepfer**

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*Publisher*  
**Godfrey Scoullar**

*Editor*  
**Samisoni Pareti**

*Editorial Consultant*  
**Gus Kraus**

*Advertising and Marketing Manager*  
**Sharron Stretton**

*Design*  
**Stanley Prasad**  
**Virendra Prasad**

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**Correspondence to the airline to:**

The Chief Executive Officer  
Solomon Airlines  
PO Box 23, Honiara  
Solomon Islands  
Tel: +677 20 031  
Fax: +677 23 992

**Editorial correspondence to:**

Solomons  
P O Box 12718, Suva, Fiji Islands.  
Tel: +679 3303 108  
Fax: +679 3301 423  
E-mail: editor@ibi.com.fj

**Advertising correspondence to:**

Abigail Covert-Sokia  
Advertising Consultant, Solomons  
PO Box 12718, Suva, Fiji Islands.  
Tel: +679 3303 108  
Fax: +679 3301 423  
E-mail: acovert-sokia@ibi.com.fj

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# OUT & ABOUT



## Ropiko Express

Getting from point A to point B within Honiara and immediate suburbs is now easier with a new bus service. Locally owned bus company (and only a few months old) Ropiko Express has 22-seater buses servicing the Henderson Airport to White River route improving movement between these locations. Unless you don't mind, Honiara cab fares can be pricey by kilometre (SBD\$10 per km) so get on a Ropiko Express bus, tender SBD\$3 and be transported in relative comfort to your next Honiara meeting point. It's the same three-dollar fare you pay for the usual van-type bus, except Ropiko vehicles are one up with air-conditioned rides. Bus or taxi, either way, you're supporting locally owned public transport entrepreneurs.



## Cruise with 360 Flyer

Travelers to locations like Ngella in the Central Province (close to Honiara) will benefit from the introduction of the new 300-plus sitter passenger ferry – 360 Flyer. Ngella is serviced daily by open, small outboard motor boats owned by independent operators, but this new vessel will add comfort, convenience, and speed to open-water journeys for visitors and locals. Based in Honiara, the vessel is likely to accumulate mileage between other shipping ports – Auki, Afio, and select destinations in the Western Province. Currently you can connect to provinces outside of Guadalcanal with Solomon Airlines' domestic fleet (Dash 8, Twin Otter and Islander) or you can take an equally fast option via 360 Flyer depending on your timeframe and budget. The boat is owned by BLK Investments, same company that operates the ferry 360 Discovery. Contact: 20555 for destination details, fares, & reservations

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## Qua Roviana

Looking for a place to stay in Munda without breaking your budget? Qua Roviana (Munda) now has five additional self-contained rooms. This increases room availability currently offered by Agnes Lodge and Qua Roviana, a locally owned and managed lodge.

This budget/medium accommodation is within walking distance to Munda Airport, Leaf Haus café, vegetable/seafood market, basic convenience stores, jetty, kava bar, and Agnes Lodge bar & restaurant. The Roviana lagoon is within reach to refresh your sense of adventure; the staff at Qua Roviana can arrange your island escapades or underwater excursion with Dive Munda.

Contact: T: 62123 or 7472472 | [quaroviana@gmail.com](mailto:quaroviana@gmail.com) | [www.quaroviana.com](http://www.quaroviana.com)



## Art in the Park

Last Sunday of every month is Art in the Park at the Children's Park, Rove. Art in the Park is an open air market patronised by Solomon Island craftsmen and craftswomen. It's an opportunity for local art practitioners - carvers, weavers, painters, to display and sell pieces of their natural talent.

Rendezvous with the artists, friends, family, get to know a little about art in the Solomons and support local crafts people in a smoke-free, alcohol-free and betelnut-free environment. Art in the Park is supported by Pacific Agencies, Solo Enviro Beautification, Honiara City Council, and Ko Kama Rafting Adventures.

Contact Anita Emmett | T: 7494788 | When: Last Sunday Every Month | Time: 9AM – 4PM | Where: Children's Park, Rove (opp. police station) | Fee: Free

# Solomon Islands get banking closer to home

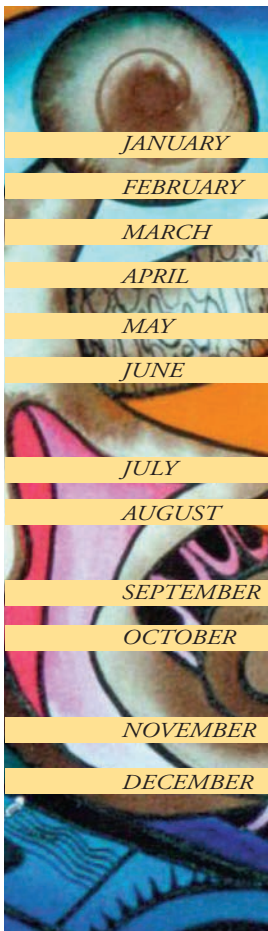
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# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY

*Papatura Surf Comp (Isabel Province Between January)*

FEBRUARY

*Dolphin Migration (Honiara)*

MARCH

*Isabel Second Appointed Day*

APRIL

*Start of best snorkeling period*

MAY

*Wogasia: Spear Fighting Festival (Santa Catalina, Makira-Ulawa Province)*

JUNE

*Banana (Huki) Festival (Kirakira, Makira-Ulawa Province)*

*Yacht Regatta (Roderick Bay, Sandfly Passage, Ngella)*

*Akuila Talasasa Arts Festival (Gizo, Western Province)*

JULY

*Solomon Islands National Trade Show (1st-10th Honiara)*

AUGUST

*World War Two Commemoration (7th Honiara)*

*Artificial Islands & Shell Money Festival (Busu Cultural Village, Langalanga Lagoon, Malaita)*

SEPTEMBER

*Gao Bugotu Cultural Festival (Lepi Village, Isabel Province)*

OCTOBER

*Stunt Mullet Fishing Competition (Zipolo Habu Resort, Munda, Western Province)*

*Beginning of Green Turtle & Leatherback Turtle Season (Tetepare, Western Province)*

*Bird Watching Season (Oct-Nov, Malaita Province)*

NOVEMBER

*Lagoon Festival (Munda, Western Province)*

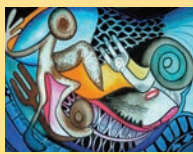
DECEMBER

*Gizo Mile Run (Western Province)*

*Western Province 2nd Appointed Day*

*For details contact Solomon Islands Visitors*

## ... and connect with Solomon Islands on the Internet



The excitement of Solomon Islands is now on the Internet. Sites featuring diving, fishing, holidaying and travelling in our islands are appearing on the World Wide Web. Here's a sample, not in any particular order.

If you've any sites you recommend we add to this list, e-mail editor@ibi.com.fj with the URL for the site.

*Share the excitement of the Solomons*

### Solomon Islands Web Directory

#### GENERAL

Solomon Airlines  
www.flysolomons.com  
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau  
www.visitsolomons.com.sb  
Immigration – Entry Requirements  
www.commerce.gov.sb/Divisions/Immigration/  
Immigration\_Requirements.htm  
Customs – Duty Free Allowances  
www.visitsolomons.com.sb/travel-infor/customs

#### ACCOMMODATION

**HONIARA**  
Heritage Park Hotel  
www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb  
Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel  
www.kitanomendana.com  
King Solomon Hotel  
www.kingsolomonhotel.info  
Pacific Casino Hotel  
www.solomon-hotel.com  
Raintree Cafe Bed & Breakfast  
www.raintreehoniara.com

#### GIZO

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www.gizohotel.com  
Sanbis Resort  
www.sanbisresort.com

Fatboys Resort  
www.fatboysgizo.com

#### MUNDA

Agnes Lodge  
www.agneslodge.com.sb  
Zipolo Habu Resort  
www.zipolohabu.com.sb  
Tetepare Eco-Lodge  
www.tetepare.org

#### MAROVO LAGOON (SEGHE & GATAKAE)

Uepi Island Resort  
www.uepi.com  
The Wilderness Lodge  
www.thewildernesslodge.org  
Matikuri Lodge  
www.matikuri-lodge.com

#### ISABEL ISLAND (FERA & SUAVANAO)

Papatura Island Retreat  
www.papatura.com  
Kagata Village Stay  
www.kagatasurfingfrens.com

#### MARAU

Tavanipupu Private Island Resort  
www.tavanipupupu.com

#### ACTIVITIES/TOURS

##### HONIARA

Tulagi Dive – Honiara Diving  
www.tulagidive.com.sb  
Travel Solomons – Tours  
www.travelsolomons.com  
Extreme Adventures – Diving and Day Trips  
www.solomonadventures.com

##### GIZO

Dive Gizo – Gizo Diving & Tours  
www.divegizo.com  
Kolombangara Island – Birdwatching  
www.kolombangara.org

##### MUNDA

Dive Munda – Munda Diving  
www.mundadive.com  
Go West Tours – Tours  
www.agneslodge.com.sb

##### MAROVO LAGOON (SEGHE & GATAKAE)

Kayak Solomons – Kayaking Uepi  
www.kataksolomons.com

Solomon Dive Adventures – Diving Gatakae  
www.solomondiveadventures.com

#### LIVE ABOARD DIVING

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#### OVERSEAS TRAVEL AGENTS

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www.diveadventures.com.au  
Go Tours  
www.gotours.com.au

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www.allwaysdive.com.au

Adventure World  
www.adventureworld.com.au

Coral Seas Travel  
www.coralseas.com.au

Battlefields Tours  
www.battlefields.com.au

Diversion Dive Travel  
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#### OTHER SERVICES

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www.commerce.gov.sb/Divisions/Investment/default.htm

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www.businessadvantagesolomons.com

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Bemobile – mobile phone services  
www.bemobile.com.sb



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**HONIARA** Ph (677) 30 274 - Fax (677) 30 692

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Hastings Deering



# The Other End of Santa Isabel

BY MERE TUQIRI



November 9th being a Sunday, Japhet Ihomana voiced his surprise that his band of able men netted a lunch-worthy catch of fish at Rapita reef. Sunday is a tools-down-respect-Sabbath day for the 62-year-old Isabel man, who was demonstrating a traditional fishing technique called Kwarao.

Relieved I was that the demo succeeded, given also that majority of the younger men were using that method for the first time. Reconfirmation to self – folks like Japhet are a reservoir of time-tested, priceless traditional knowledge and here's hoping the practice of like techniques outlive their practitioners.

Let me take you on a sojourn to Isaisa'o in the Isabel province. Depending on the horsepower, the outboard motor boat takes up to one hour from Suavanao Airstrip to isolated Isaisa'o. The eco-lodge is fairly new and adopts the location name.

## Kwarao

Because it requires much time and natural resources, Kwarao is/was used mainly during large communal events. I'm guessing this fishing method manipulates fish psyche. The trick is to make the fish think trapped through sound and sight of a dense wall of leaves. This is the initial and most important part of Kwarao (Chekeholo language).

Japhet says it's only central Isabel people that know how to Kwarao and for a man who hails from the highlands of Maringe he sure knows a lot about coastal fisheries. Low tide is best to execute this type of fishing; the fishermen can move with ease and control the process better.

Ten o'clock Sunday morning, sun high and hot, Japhet as the pa'ukulo or the mandatory leader of the Kwarao paced us out into the crystal clear waters of Rapita reef. Equipment: Bush vines as frame to tie leaves (long, slender), string net, and manpower. Usually a 200-metre-long vine is needed to lure a sizable catch. There are two groups, one with vine 'net' and another with string net.

Factors to consider: Size of reef, length of vine, number of men available. How: Standing in waist-high water team one form a semicircle while holding the vine-leaf 'net'; men at each end repeatedly bend and recoil vine; this action shortens the frame, creates a dense leaf wall, and closes the ring. The bending and recoiling continue as the men inch closer to team two ready to receive and net the catch of the day.

There is ample opportunity for fish to escape through or beneath the leaves and where the leaf and string nets exit and receive the fish. But they didn't.



## Ngali Nut Lamp

Before solar lights and kerosene-fueled lanterns, ngali nut wax lamps ruled. They were, at least, one source of natural light at Japhet Ihomana's Maringe highland home back in the day. It has become one of my favourite Solomon items. The scent of ngali nut wax is exquisite.

The solid wax is moldable and contains oil. Wrapped in large, dry leaves and tied with thin bush vines, the lamp was the perfect torch under the beam of the full moon as conversation and laughter wore way past midnight. Alternatively, put lumps of wax with hot charcoal in a coconut shell to scent the freshness that comes with outback air.

Aside from the bliss brought on by the sweet scent of the flaming torch, my niggling headache vanished with every inhale of its fragrant vapor.




### Custom Rules

In Kwarao only one person commands the actions of hauling, pulling, and bending. In the era when customs were truly alive in Santa Isabel, the village would assemble first to settle outstanding disputes before a Kwarao session occurred. An irate fisherman was not suited for the task. It was also essential for the men to meditate for at least one week away from home.

First time visitors to the fish catchment area at Rapita, I and another guest (Jenny Kusapa) were advised to wash our faces thrice with salt water. Why - To mask our 'fresh' appearance and be recognised by the 'keepers' of the site. We repeated the ritual before entering a dense forest of mangroves close to the lodge.



## Isaisao Eco-Lodge

Tall, virgin mangrove trees buttressed by their umbrella roots are the backdrop to the lodge. Honiara-based owners Whitlam and Melanie Togamae have additional plans for their island project. As evening falls the water-logged soil around the stilt-lodge bubble, twigs snap or could it be the sound of mangrove shells opening and closing, birds whistle, it's breezy. That happens all day and night. It's only at night that the impromptu symphony is magnified, sounds that will either lull you to sleep or captivate your waking hours. 

### FACT BOX

**Contact:** Melanie Khalegedi

T: 7822155 or 8715576

[mkhalegedi2014@adventure-isabel.com](mailto:mkhalegedi2014@adventure-isabel.com)

[www.adventures-isabel.com](http://www.adventures-isabel.com)

**Facebook:** Isaisao Homes & Island Tours

**Getting There:** Via Solomon Airlines to Suavanao.

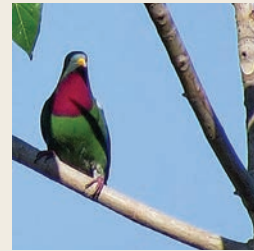
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Call the airline on T: +677 20177 or 20031

## Bird Alert

Bird enthusiast Phil Gregory spent two days (Sept. 2014) at Isaisa'o where he found the forest in "good condition," and where he saw, "my first ever North Melanesian Cuckooshrike, a very poorly known species. I did see some nice Solomon Islands specials such as the Solomons Pied Monarch and Chestnut-bellied Monarch, plus the Ultramarine Kingfisher. Other nice [finds] were the Nicobar Pigeon, much prized by birders. So it's definitely worth a look for a nice birding experience in wild surroundings. The Solomons has nearly 80 endemic bird species so the potential for birding is very high."

Phil Gregory ([www.sicklebillsafaris.com](http://www.sicklebillsafaris.com) & [www.cassowary-house.com.au](http://www.cassowary-house.com.au)) is an ornithological writer/ bird guide/ tour organiser.





## A weekend in

# Ngella

BY MERE TUQIRI

**G**reen-capped islands sprawled in a multi-blue-toned sea of ocean - shapes from atop Mt Pota in Ngella after a three-hour hike to the summit.

It's an easy to medium trek with gradual inclines and few, but manageable, steep climbs. The trek is one of the activities Pota Saurangi Eco-Lodge (Pota) offers. Ngella, in fact the islands in the Central Province, are accessible by boat from Honiara.

There are three main islands in Central Province – Savo, Russell and Ngella. And Ngella is divided into Ngella Sule (Big Ngella), Sandfly and Ngella Pile (Small Ngella).

Pota and neighboring Roderick Bay Accommodation are two lodges under Green Holidays, a tour organiser based in Honiara. I spent one day each in Pota and Roderick. We cruise into Ngella through Sandfly Passage, punctuated with low grassy hills that made me think of grazing wild goats.



# Silentworld



## Shipping, logistics and fuel re-sales.

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### Pota Saurangi Eco-Lodge

Location: Sandfly Passage. Owner: Peter & Annie Sagupari

This is a family-owned single lodge, but can sleep four people. Pota sits on a rise overlooking the bay. Peter's family will keep you entertained. Swim the calm bay that has clumps of nutrient-packed seagrapes (just wash and eat preferably with tuna flakes and a dash of chili).

For medium effort, trek up Mt Pota. At the summit you briefly feel like a lord or lady of the land as you survey distinct green shapes of islands within your real estate realm silently afloat within the perimeters of Sandfly Passage. Yours! All yours, oh but alas a fleeting burst of imagination! We feasted on ngali nuts, seasonal mangoes and cucumbers.

Peter plans to build a camp site at the flat-top peak for visitors who wish to spend a few nights up at Mt Pota.



## Roderick Bay Accommodation


Location: Roderick Dhu Bay. Owner: John Piluka.

Remember in year 2000 when the 87-meter German cruise liner World Discoverer sailed into the Solomon Islands? That was her last voyage. In her 25-year existence cruising the world's polar regions it was an uncharted rock in Sandfly Passage that ended her journey.

And she rests listed on the shores of Roderick Bay. John has maximized on the presence of the rusted shell of the World Discoverer using it as snorkel and dive opportunities for visitors to his lodge. Alternatively bush trek across the Ngella peninsular from Tulagi village to Roderick Bay or spend a day at Kobuana Island for water sports and picnic.





Trivia on how Roderick Bay was named – Assumptions only that the bay could've gotten its name from the 1800's labour recruiting schooner called Roderick Dhu that sailed the Queensland to Pacific (including Solomon Islands) route in search for man-labour 

[Source: [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au) – *The Brisbane Courier*, 23rd October 1903].

**FACT BOX**

**Getting there:** Arrange with operators on Ngella or through Green Holidays.

**Contact:** Green Holidays & Tours | T: 20020 or 7783157 | [infor@greentourism.com.sb](mailto:infor@greentourism.com.sb)  
Alternate number for Roderick Bay – T: 7484172 (Irene Koi).



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# Aotaha in a Time Capsule

BY MERE TUQIRI



Aotaha in the province of Mungiki (Bellona) hadn't changed dramatically in four years. Its residents have though. While neighbouring sister island Mungava (Rennell) is choked to environmental ruin, Bellona moves to its own tune where the rising of the sun and change of the moon guard by evening regulates human activity (except, of course, for the airline agent who needs his watch).

I might exaggerate a little on the regulation of the elements but, as you know or if you don't it will eventually hit you, island time is island time – blend and cope or don't and be eternally frustrated. That's a no brainer.

Some changes have occurred on Bellona. John Tai, the respectable gentleman that owns the land where his unique naturally-molded cave lodge sits, has started work on a honeymoon grotto. The elevated position and seclusion of the pre-existing cave makes it ideal. In fact this was a suggestion from his Scandinavian guests. Good on John for progress!

Aotaha Cave Lodge is located in Matangi, east Bellona. To the west is Sa'aiho, Bellona's anchorage point for large vessels.

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Communication to and within Bellona has improved with the installation of Telikom towers enabling better mobile connectivity. But it's still handy to always keep the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau phone number (T: 22442) in case you're unable to connect yourself.

Unlike four years ago there is now a truck belonging to another lodge operator and for SBD\$100 he will pick you (and others) from the airport to your destination (and vice versa). There is always the Bellonese form of getting from A to B – bicycle or foot patrol. That's the other thing, there's an influx of bicycles now so if you're friendly with someone that knows someone with a two-wheeler, you're set.

Fishing techniques are now part of John's activity list. John says they're special to Bellona but I think versions of them are practiced in other Pacific islands.





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Punu is a type of fishing that women do using bush vines about one inch thick. We descended to the shallow waters inside the reef with pockets of rock outcrops, home to fish and crustaceans. On a rock patch John proceeded to pound the coiled vine until the solid thickness splintered into strings. The stringy portion was folded in half and shoved and shaken between the rock crevices. Appropriate then that punu means push in Bellonese language.



The vines contain a sap that when released impact marine organisms unfortunate enough to consume (inhale?) its juice. The fluids don't affect humans once the fish is cooked and eaten. It's an efficient method of fishing for women because it doesn't take much effort, but it does exterminate any kind of marine life, big and small that inhabit the rocky abodes.

Hangota is another fishing technique. It means fishing on the reef and is low energy fishing with basket in hand to collect seashells that inhabit the reef flats. We managed to collect a handful of agingi, a succulent rubbery meat that took seconds to roast over open fire.



**FACT BOX**

Solomon Airlines does three flights weekly to Bellona. Call the airline on T: 20031 | View schedules here [www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)  
**Contact Aotaha** on T: 7784811 (John Tai), 7626102 (Edmund Tai), 7638832 (Bryan Tai).

That was our lunch – from reef to belly. No oil fats to cook in just straight out roast and a mouth to feed into. And this, friends, is why I love Bellona. You can enjoy the same when you book with Aotaha Cave Lodge in Bellona. 🇧🇲



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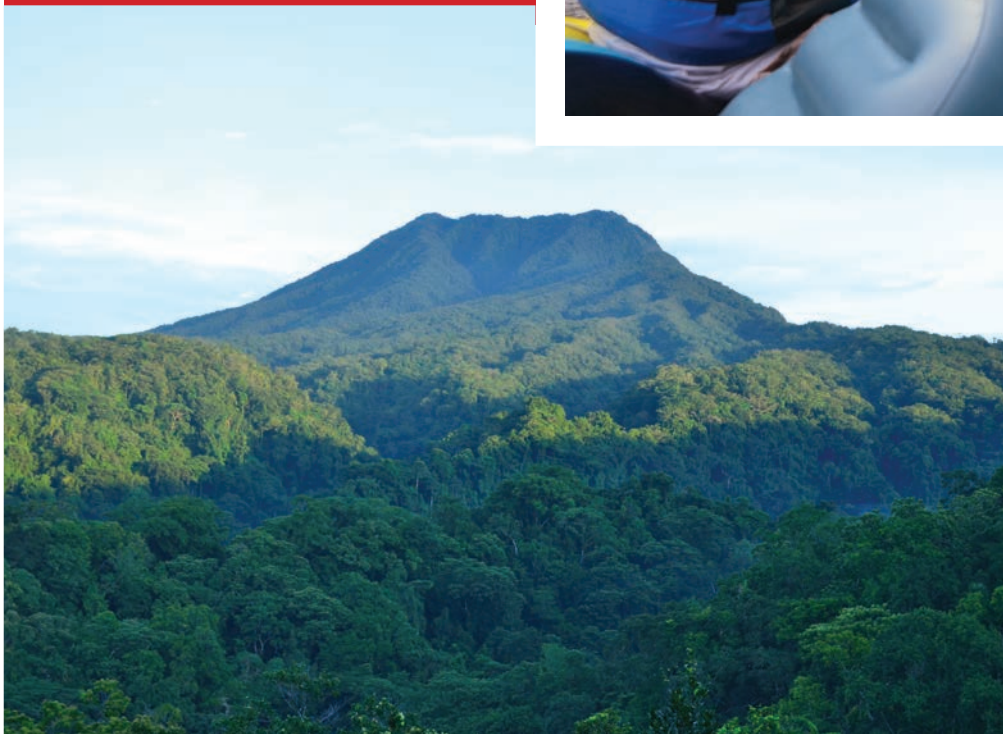


# 10 things to do in the Solomon Islands

**S**o you've done your research and crossed off the other three Melanesian countries in the South Pacific. Your choice: Solomon Islands. Excellent! Itinerary of activities – Check. Sunscreen – Check. Sense of fun – Check. Bug repellent – Check. Run short of ideas? Here's our list of 10 things you can do. Whether it's for leisure or work, Solomon Airlines wishes you an enjoyable stay in the Hapi Isles.



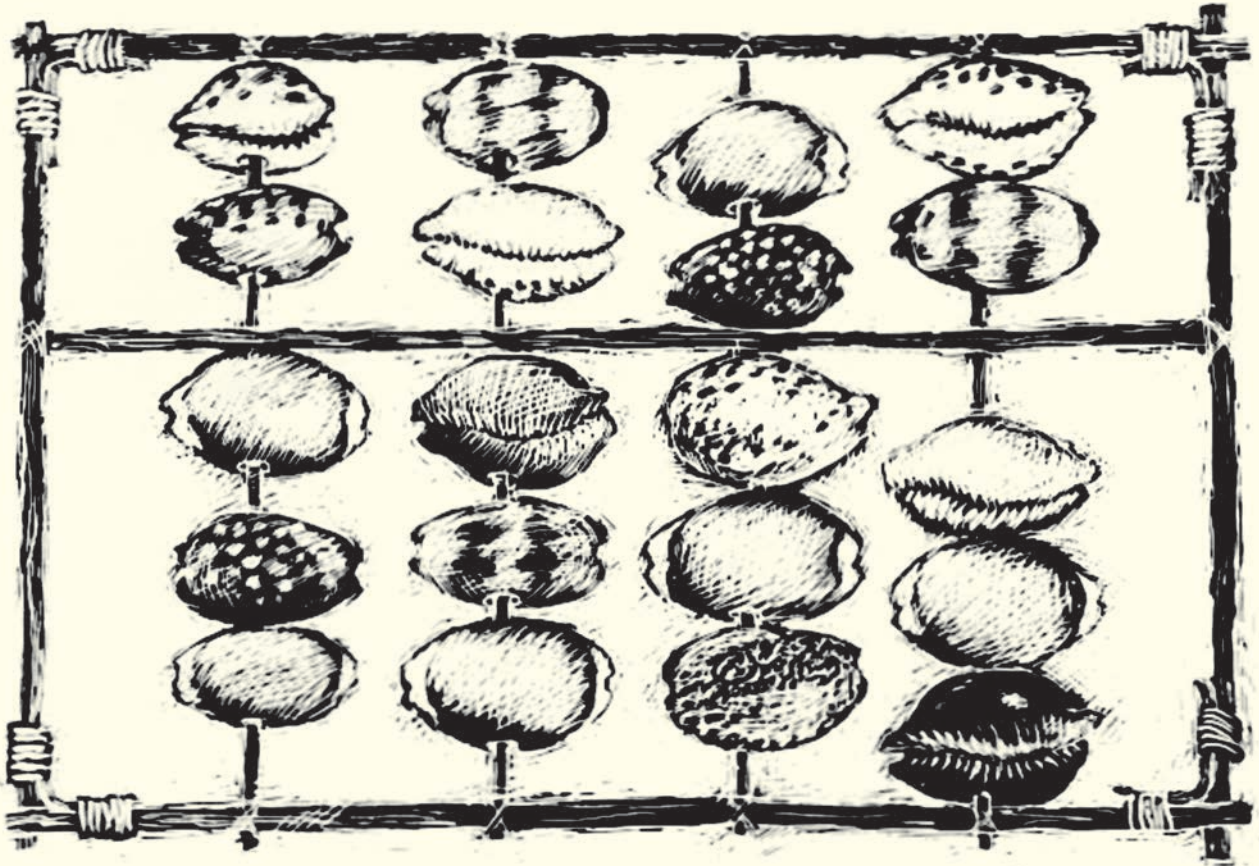
- Hike Mt Tepalamenggutu or Mt Veve in Kolombangara.



- Paddle Lunga River in a dinghy with Ko Kama Rafting.

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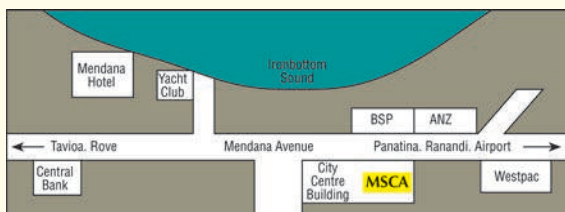
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- Cool off at the saltwater, semi-sheltered cave pool in Mavo, Ramata (New Georgia). It's an aquatic Eden; no surprise that the legendary Gerasi headhunters chose this spot to meditate prior to raids.



- Observe from a distance the crocodile whisperers of Makira-Ulawa Province; some folks can put crocs in a temporary trance, a customary skill.




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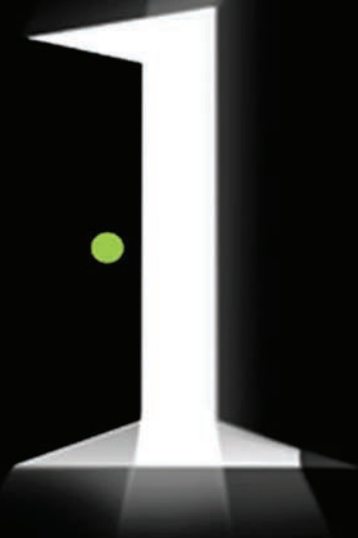
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- Dive, kayak, or snorkel the Marovo and/ or Roviana lagoons, Western Province.



- Visit outdoor war memorial museums around Honiara and explore World War Two airplane wrecks beneath the sea.

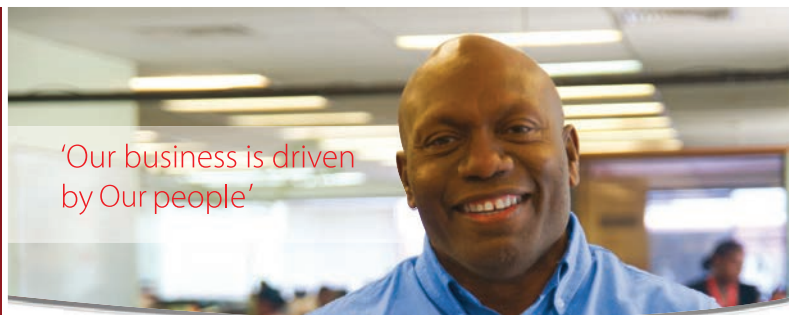
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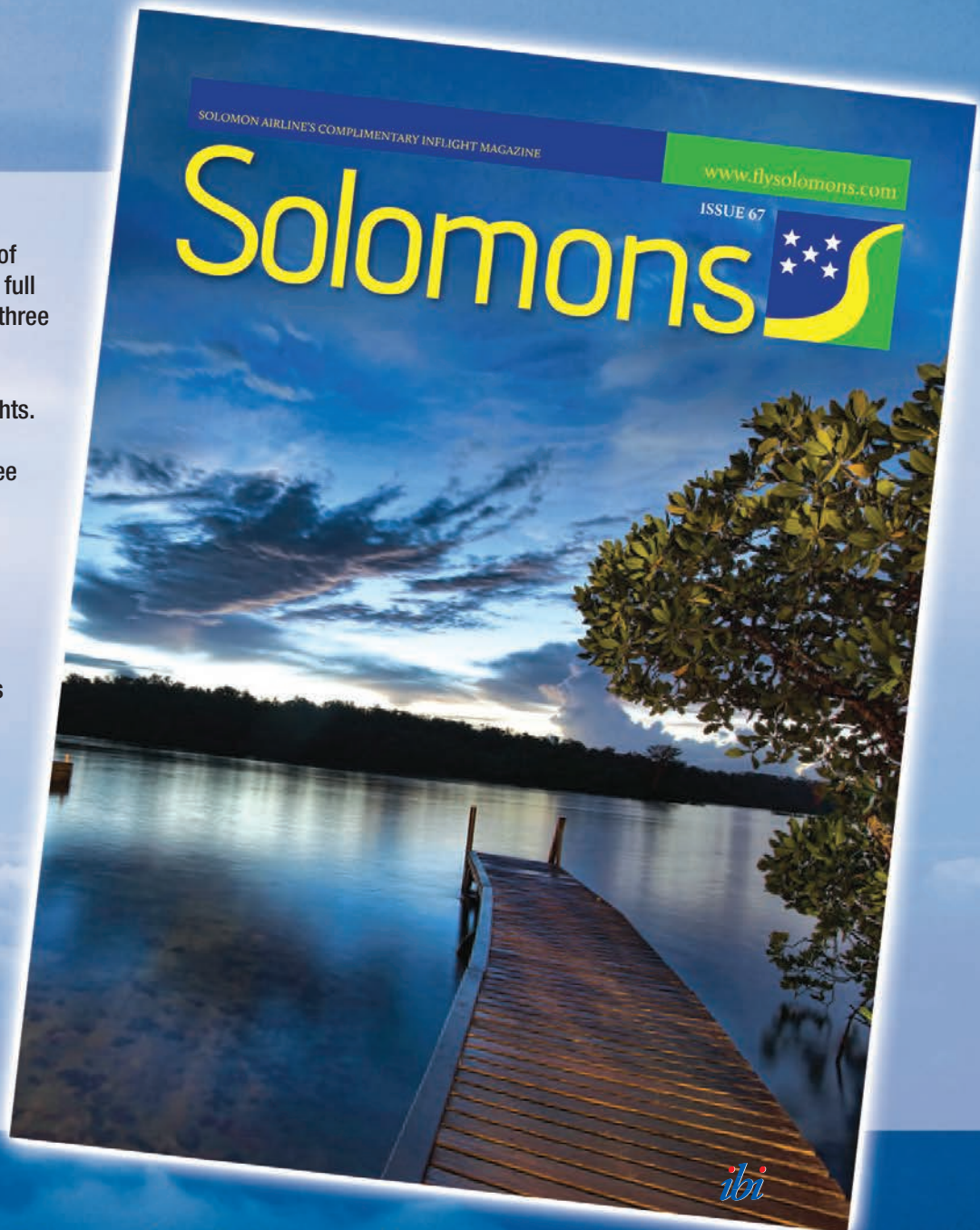
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**I**t may not be made in the Solomons, but the key ingredient in the premium single origin dark Charley's Chocolate is Solomon Islands grown cocoa.

Each of this Australian-made bar contains 70 percent cocoa, all of which is cultivated by farmers across several provinces in the mineral-rich Solomon group of islands.

Branding the Hapi Isles on a premium bean to bar product is bound to be good for the country; quality cocoa from the Pacific islands for high range consumables. Cocoa farmer from West Guadalcanal Mary Dismas has yet to taste the Charley's Solomon branded savory containing her cocoa, but the packaging describes the flavour as "...zesty lemon and lime overtones and a hint of tropical fruits."



Cocoa farmer from West Guadalcanal Mary Dismas has yet to taste the Charley's Solomon branded savory containing her cocoa, but the packaging describes the flavour as "...zesty lemon and lime overtones and a hint of tropical fruits."



You can't go wrong with lemon. Mary is happy though that cocoa from the Solomons can produce a top value-added product. Quality is in the smell and taste, the less smoky the better. Commodities Corporation Solomon Islands (C-Corp SI) based in the Ranadi industrial zone is the collection point and exporter of the cocoa to Australia and New Zealand.

Farmers either take their sacks of dry cocoa beans to Ranadi or if they're out in the provinces, the C-Corp coastal trading vessel KCB 2 does a collection run twice monthly from Weathercoast to Makira.

C-Corp SI general manager James Beeby says C-Corp SI "collects quality cocoa from farmers mainly in Makira Province, but also from Guadalcanal (where we also manage our own cocoa plantation), Temotu and Malaita."

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“While these are early days in developing our chocolate products, eventually we hope to start marketing a premium chocolate product into Solomons. We are keen to work with a variety of quality boutique chocolate makers to help develop Solomon Islands’ chocolate.”

How significant is it to have Solomon Islands on a product label overseas?

James Beeby: “It does say something about Solomon Islands being able to come up with an essential quality ingredient; Solomon Islands produces very good cocoa. It’s being picked up as having a good flavour.” 

**Contact** C-Corp SI | T: 23525 | [www.commoditycorp.com.au](http://www.commoditycorp.com.au)  
The company is a collection point for cocoa intended for export. Charley’s is the brand of Australian Chocolate Pty Ltd. They also produce single origin chocolate from PNG, Vanuatu, and Fiji cocoa.



## Solomon Jam

On the domestic front and still on trial is Solomon Jam. Creator Gabriel Titili hopes to eventually position his locally-sourced, value-added pineapple jam on Solomon store shelves.

Gabriel is a food technologist. He’s an expert in adding value to raw resources and a food preservation practitioner, which also involves post-harvest fisheries. Gabriel has been toying with various value-adding concepts and one of them is Solomon Jam.

“Pineapples are abundant in the Solomons,” Gabriel says. “I use the South American variety from Isabel. There are two varieties of pineapples in the Solomons, South American and English.”

“I’m happy that a farmer in the province is getting paid for his/her produce and that there is an outlet it. Eventually I’d like to diversify into other seasonal fruits.”

The Koge community in Isabel’s Hograno highlands is where the pineapples are sourced. Farmers take their packed fruit bags to the provincial Kaevanga Port where an inter-island ferry transports it to Honiara. Solomon Jam is available in 200-gram bottles.

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# War Mystery Solved Remains Recovered

BY RODERICK EIMES



The Solomons continue to throw up mysteries from the turbulent years of WWII.

One mystery solved recently has been with the rediscovery of a P-38 Lightning fighter that crashed on 5 June 1944 while on approach to what was then known as 'Fighter 2' (Kukum Field). This airstrip is now the golf course near historic Henderson Field, the main airport from which Solomon Airlines operates.

According to records from the time, the pilot Major Peyton S. Mathis, Jr (who was commanding officer of the 44th Fighter Squadron and a decorated pilot) was returning from an aborted mission to bomb Poporang Island in the Western Province. One engine failed during the return flight and after allowing the rest of his planes to land first, Peyton was seen to crash while on an easterly heading to make a landing.






In 2012, a local farmer struck metal while clearing land and called in local relic hunter, Jurgen Markwarth who, along with his brother Kurt, have been collecting war relics since childhood and have an impressive collection in their yard at Renadi, near the airport.

For reasons that remain a mystery, Peyton's aircraft flipped and crashed into swampy land six miles from the strip. Despite concerted attempts to recover Peyton's body from the submerged wreck, salvage was abandoned and the wreck site lost to time.

In 2012, a local farmer struck metal while clearing land and called in local relic hunter, Jurgen Markwarth who, along with his brother Kurt, have been collecting war relics since childhood and have an impressive collection in their yard at Renadi, near the airport.

The recovery of Major Mathis's remains was partially successful and have been collected by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) based in Hawaii.

For the last 12 months, the Markwarth brothers have been slowly recovering the aircraft with the hope that it might be restored at some time in the future.

If you are visiting Honiara and wish to view the Markwarth collection, call for an appointment and enquire about admission fees, which are used for funding current restoration projects which include an M3 Stuart tank and Buffalo amphibious landing craft. Ph: +677.7576455. 

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# FLAMBOYANT PORT VILA

BY MERE TUQIRI

**IT'S ALREADY LOOKING GOOD** for Vanuatu this year. This Melanesian country has made it into Flight Centre's top 10 hotspots for year 2015. Early European explorers in Vanuatu's history the likes of James Cook, Lois de Bougainville and Pedro de Queiros would certainly agree.

Flight Centre's survey showed a "34 percent increase in family bookings to Vanuatu over the past three years, signaling its practicality for families with children who don't want to give up on the dream of an overseas island getaway."

In issue 68 of Solomons we focus on the capital of Vanuatu and its largest tourism centre Port Vila where you are spoilt for choice whether it's recreation, dining or accommodation. Special acknowledgment goes to the Vanuatu Tourism Office and all operators highlighted here for their support.

## Contact Vanuatu Tourism Office

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## Coongoola Cruises

Sail Vanuatu's 'Lady of the Sea' to the sunnier side of Efate. Once a world cruiser and key support vessel in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the 23-meter Coongoola cruises the channel between Moso and Lelepa islands to Hapi Tok Beach on Moso for a snorkel and pit stop at the hawksbill turtle sanctuary at Tranquility. Why Coongoola? "For me the Pacific Islands is all about the sea. Being able to cruise on an old schooner, visit beautiful beaches and snorkel on a reef, was an opportunity not to be missed. The trip was nicely organised and no stress, which is particularly important when short of time." – Aik Hoe Lim, Malaysian national residing in Switzerland.

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[www.southpacdiverise.com.vu](http://www.southpacdiverise.com.vu)



## Eden on the River

Seventy-five hectares of land adjacent to Rantapao River is Efate's biblical Eden. Wholesome fun for the whole family, Eden on the River is a massive backyard of animals, suspension bridges, and a string of cool pools beneath mini cascades.

Contact T: +678 7748880 (Carolyn),

7710768 (Joe), 5424281, 7710765 (Office) |

[info@edenontheriver.com](mailto:info@edenontheriver.com) |

[www.edenvanuatu.com](http://www.edenvanuatu.com) |

Facebook: Eden on the River |

Tour contact: Evergreen



## Efate Round Island Tour

Reserve a seat with Atmosphere Tours for a full-day around the Efate Ring Road. Expert guides narrate (if its Alfred then it's a non-stop commentary from pickup to dropoff) points of interest leading to the seven stops. Tour takes you to Iarofa Cultural Village (village headman says: "To become a survivor you need information." He will show you how they use nature to live.), Blue Lagoon (natural fresh & saltwater pool), Eton Village, Pang Pang Village, Beachcomber Lodge at Takara (lunch), World War Two relics (Ernest's 40-year WW2 memorabilia began with a Coca Cola bottle), and Gideon's Landing. Efate is picturesque and dotted with varied topography (and cows – producers of Vanuatu A-grade beef).

Tour contact: Atmosphere (see Tour Operators below)



**Secret Garden**

This is an excellent starting point or end to your Vanuatu travels; the Secret Garden is interactive and jammed with information on all six Vanuatu provinces. Immerse yourself in Port Vila's history, the art of sand drawing, custom magic, and a plethora of other information. Ask about their Bali Hai kastom feast and custom magic show. You will need a lifejacket for the amount of information available at the Secret Garden!

Contact T: +678 26222 or 7747869 |  
 vanuatuscretgarden@gmail.com | www.vanuatuscretgarden.com |  
 Tour contact: Evergreen



**Bellevue Ranch**

Trot through parts of the 400-hectare plantation with Ni-Vanuatu equestrian club owner Tom Nangap. Novice or expert, the panoramic vistas from one of Tom's saddled horses is worth the Vatu. It's ideal for all levels of expertise and if you're a beginner remember to pull the right reins and apply the correct foot nudge for a pleasant ride. Ride options – Waterfall, sunset, or plantation. At Vanuatu's equestrian club it's absolutely true that "not a minute of life is ever wasted sitting in a saddle."

Contact T: +678 7747318 |  
 trail.rides@bellevue-ranch.com |  
 www.bellevue-ranch.com

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### Tanna Coffee Factory

Taste 100 percent Arabica coffee at Devil's Point, location of the Tanna Coffee Factory. Tanna Coffee uses the best coffee beans grown on Tanna's fertile volcanic soils. It's a small assembly site that generates tons of coffee for both the domestic and international markets (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Japan, & Samoa). Everything from production, packaging, retail, and a mini café under one roof, and let the staff tell you the "tree to the cup" story. Tanna Coffee – a source of income for some 500 independent farmers on the island of Tanna. Buy Tanna Coffee online in whole beans or grounds.

Contact T: +678 23661 | [coffee@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:coffee@vanuatu.com.vu) | [www.tannacoffee.com](http://www.tannacoffee.com) | Facebook: Tanna | Tour contact: Evergreen



### The Beach Bar

Cold drinks in one hand, wood-fired pizza slice in the other, grab a spot on the bench or sand for fireworks display Friday nights on the beachfront at Mele Cove's Beach Bar. Also check out their Tuesday movie & pizza night, and Sunday Sunset Circus.

Contact T: +678 5601132 | [beachbarme@gmail.com](mailto:beachbarme@gmail.com) | [www.vanuatubeachbar.com](http://www.vanuatubeachbar.com) | Facebook: Beach Bar

### Tour Operators

- Atmosphere is an emerging inbound tour operator that wants you to see Vanuatu "in first class." Tours include round island, marine conservation, Lololima Cascades. Contact T: +678 7751520 or 27870 | [atmosphere@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:atmosphere@vanuatu.com.vu) | [www.atmosphere-vanuatu.com](http://www.atmosphere-vanuatu.com) | Facebook: Atmosphere Tours & Transfers
- Evergreen prides itself as Vanuatu's leading indigenous inbound tour agent since 1999. Tours include Port Vila sight-seeing, coffee factory, Efate island and they exclusively service Mele Cascades and trips to Pele Island. Contact T: +678 23050 | [sales@evergreen.com.vu](mailto:sales@evergreen.com.vu) | [www.evergreenvanuatu.com](http://www.evergreenvanuatu.com) | Facebook: Evergreen



### Where to Eat

- L'houstalet – Chef Clement Martinez started with six tables in 1973 and 40 years later this French restaurant has multiplied furniture, staff, status, and building size. Try L'houstalet's flying fox dish marinated in red wine. As evidence you've enjoyed your flying fox meal Clement says "there must be a pile of white bones on the side. That's the way!" Contact T: +678 22303 | [houstalet@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:houstalet@vanuatu.com.vu)
- Vila Chaumières has 25 years of food service. Dine outdoors under sheltered covering overlooking calm Erakor Lagoon. House specialty – coconut crab. Contact T: +678 22866 | [vilchaum@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:vilchaum@vanuatu.com.vu) | [vilchaumieres.com](http://vilchaumieres.com) | Facebook: Vila Chaumieres Vanuatu Resort and Restaurant

### Where to Stay

- Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu is part of the global Inter-Continental chain of resorts and this maintains quality. It's suitable for corporate, couples, and family clientele. Couples can opt for a private adults-only overwater villa situated on the resort's private island. Children up to 12 years stay and eat for free and can join the exclusive kid's club. Contact T: +678 22040 | [reservations.vanuatu@ihg.com](mailto:reservations.vanuatu@ihg.com) | [vanuatu.holidayinnresorts.com](http://vanuatu.holidayinnresorts.com) | Facebook: Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu



### Mele Cascades

Owned by the same folks at Evergreen, Mele Cascades is all about natural freshwater pools from mountain to lowland creating a perennial evergreen environment around the water catchments. Complete your afternoon behind a wall of gushing water or use the smooth-faced rock walls to slide into the pools.

Tour contact: Evergreen



This is a new feature of Solomons, the re-publication of selected stories from past editions of the magazine. "Tulagi - a part of our history" was first published in 1991 in edition 6th of Solomons.

# Tulagi

## A part of our history



By Mike McCoy and R.A Lever

The early decades of the 20th century the pink parts on the map of the world reflected a British empire that literally spanned the world. From the perspective of time it is easy to condemn, often with some justification, aspects of those long-gone days of empire. Heady days of ambition and acquisition.

It was a time for the imposition of one culture upon another. Every Englishman felt it to be his moral obligation to bring, with "civilization", a sense of loyalty to King and country to those peoples he considered less fortunate than himself. But it was a time when life was simpler; gentler perhaps. A time when, outside the lofty corridors of Whitehall and the bars in Sydney and Suva where the old "island hands" gathered, few had ever heard of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

Tulagi was the capital of the protectorate in the days before World War Two. It was a small dot on an island in the Nggela group of the Solomons, a true outpost of the empire. It was overseen in absentia by the Western Pacific High Commission in Fiji and, in presence, by a British high commissioner.

In the 1930s R.A Lever was a young Englishman embarking on a career in agriculture. He was stationed at Tulagi for a number years. In common with so many of his peers, he considered a high point of his insular existence the brief and infrequent contact with the outside world in the Shape of the mail steamer.

Herecalls with clarity. "Inevitably, one starts with steamer day, that six-weekly call of the Burns Philp ship Malaita with its anticipated main on board. With her anchor dropped in the deep water harbour she began discharging food stores and all the items that had been ordered from the Crown Agents in distant Millbank, Westminster. Not everyone remembers that it was the topography of this sheltered, wide and deep harbour that led Admiral Lord Jellicose considering Tulagi as a possible Far Eastern naval base which, of course was, later changed to Singapore. After reading one's urgent private mail it was usual to board a launch and make for the bar to sink a schooner of iced Australian beer among returning colleagues and locals gathered for the same purpose."

In those days Tulagi was the epitome of everything required of a South Pacific outpost. It was a town where seedy waterfront bars were frequented by planters, traders, and sundry down-and-outers. It was a town of stiff upper lips, where gentlemen sweated and ladies perspired. A town where bare-chested members of the Armed Native Constabulary stoutly lined up for inspection by police officials sporting spotless white uniforms complete with starched collars and pith helmets. A town where tall gin-and-tonics were the order of the day after a round of golf amongst the more genteel set.

Lever remembers: "passing through a deep soapstone cutting, one came to the clubhouse, surrounded by palms and looking out to Mbangai Island. This building was naturally the social centre of

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“It is tempting to speculate on whether this former capital is ever visited by the ghosts of long-dead residents, from the first commissioner, Charles Woodford, to a long list of others...”

hotel perched on a hill near the prison where bachelors regularly gathered to sample quite tasty meals. Beyond Chinatown was a boat-building and repairing yard known as Sasape.”

Is the reference to “bachelors” intended to imply that no lady worth of the name would be seen at the “...hotel perched on the hill?” The cosmopolitan structure of white Tulagi society and the properties of the day are demonstrated in Lever’s description of the medical services:

“The hospital was on the waterfront and was administered by a genial Canadian, Dr H.B Heatherington aided by the popular Dr N.Crichton with a Tasmanian matron, Miss M.Cleaver. As an in-patient for rheumatism, I was promptly made aware that asking for marmalade with one’s breakfast was not allowed.”

Lever is an old man now. He lives in the English county of Surrey and obviously has a soft spot for Tulagi. From half a world away he concludes. “It is tempting to speculate on whether this former capital is ever visited by the ghosts of long-dead residents, from the first commissioner, Charles Woodford, to a long list of others who served their time in administering and trading there for half a century. In this writer’s mind is the fine view across to Makambo, with the hills of Nggela as a background, as seen from his window.”



the Small European population with a golf course, tennis courts and, inside, billiards saloon, and reading room. In charge of the bar was the unflappable and genial Au Sui. Owing to a complete absence of turf the greens were known as ‘browns’. I hit a 45 plus in 1931! An unusual hazard of the links was

a series of holes made by land crabs from which one could lift one’s ball.”

But life in 1930s Tulagi was no sojourn in paradise. Lever recalls: “Tulagi must have been one of the only empire capitals that lacked a school, a cinema, and a swimming pool. It should be mentioned that there was a

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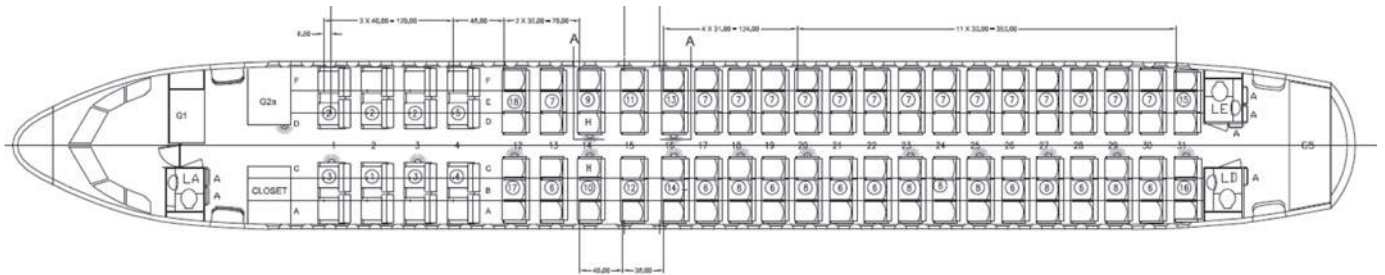


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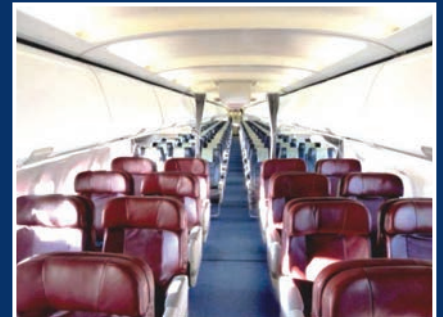
# SOLOMON AIRLINES FACT SHEET

## Aircraft: A320

**Registration:** H4 -BUS  
**Length:** 37.57 m  
**Wing Span:** 34.10m  
**Range:** 3,000 nm  
**Cruising Speed:** 830 kpm  
**Seating capacity:** 136  
**Configuration:** Business:16 Economy: 120  
**Current Routes:** Brisbane, Nadi, Port Vila



With an elegant leather finish, our luxurious cabin is specifically configured for space and comfort. Our 16 business class and 120 economy seat configuration provides all our customers with more personal space and privacy. Our traditional in-flight full service is second to none and allows customers to enjoy simplicity in a sophisticated modern setting.



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  - Additional baggage allowance/ Priority baggage
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# EMAIL: [belama@flysolomons.com](mailto:belama@flysolomons.com)



[www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

### AIRCRAFT: Dash 8-102



<b>Length:</b>	22.25 m
<b>Wing Span:</b>	25.91 m
<b>Range:</b>	2040 km
<b>Cruising Speed:</b>	490 kph
<b>Seating capacity:</b>	36
<b>Crew:</b>	3 Crew including 1 cabin crew
<b>Current Routes:</b>	Honiara; Seghe: Munda; Gizo; Kira Kira; Santa Cruz
<b>Aircraft in Fleet:</b>	1

### AIRCRAFT: Twin Otter



<b>Length:</b>	15.77 m
<b>Wing Span:</b>	19.81 m
<b>Range:</b>	4 hrs 10 minutes
<b>Cruising Speed:</b>	338 kph
<b>Seating capacity:</b>	16
<b>Crew:</b>	2
<b>Current Routes:</b>	All Ports in the Solomon Islands
<b>Aircraft in Fleet:</b>	2

### BNI: Islander



<b>Length:</b>	10.86 m
<b>Wing Span:</b>	14.94 m
<b>Range:</b>	5 hrs
<b>Cruising Speed:</b>	257 kph
<b>Seating capacity:</b>	9
<b>Crew:</b>	1
<b>Current Routes:</b>	All ports in the Solomon Islands
<b>Aircraft in Fleet:</b>	1

## SOLOMON AIRLINES GENERAL INFORMATION

### Head Office

Henderson Airport  
P.O.Box 23, Honiara  
Solomon Islands  
Ph: +677 20031  
Fax: +677 20232

### Travel Centre

Hibiscus Avenue  
Ph: +677 20152  
Fax: +677 23992  
Email: [corporate.travel@flysolomons.com.sb](mailto:corporate.travel@flysolomons.com.sb)

### Australia

Brisbane International Terminal  
Level 1  
Tel: +61 7 38605883  
Fax: +61 7 38604351  
Toll Free: 1300 894311 (Aus)  
0800 424980 (NZ)  
Email: [reservations@flysolomons.com](mailto:reservations@flysolomons.com)

### Fiji

#### Nadi Airport

Office 27, First Floor  
Tel: +679 6722831  
Fax: +679 6722140  
Email: [solomon@connect.com.fj](mailto:solomon@connect.com.fj)

**WEBSITE: [www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)**

# International & Domestic CONNECTIONS



## International Connections



**flysolomons**

Solomon Islands National Airline

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### The Solomon Islands are divided into nine provinces as follows:

Province	Area	Population	Highest Point	Capital
Guadalcanal	5,336 km <sup>2</sup>	141,403	2,447m	Honiara
Central	1,000 km <sup>2</sup>	27,928	510m	Tulagi
Western	5,279 km <sup>2</sup>	81,214	1,661m	Gizo
Ysabel	4,014 km <sup>2</sup>	26,310	1,392m	Buala
Malaita	4,234 km <sup>2</sup>	159,923	1,303m	Auki
Makira	3,188 km <sup>2</sup>	40,386	1,250m	Kirakira
Temotu	926 km <sup>2</sup>	24,412	923m	Lata
Choiseul	3,294 km <sup>2</sup>	25,870	1,060m	Taro
Rennell & Bellona	276 km <sup>2</sup>	3,025	220m	Tingoa

Country	Land	Population	Capital	Products
Solomon Islands	29,785 km <sup>2</sup>	530,669	Honiara	Agriculture, fisheries and forestry
Australia	7.6 million km <sup>2</sup>	19.6 million	Canberra	Agriculture, mining, manufacturing, services and tourism
Fiji	18,300 km <sup>2</sup>	850,000	Suva	Agriculture, clothing, fisheries, sugar and tourism
New Caledonia	18,576 sq km <sup>2</sup>	200,000	Noumea	Nickel, agriculture, fishing
New Zealand	264,000 km <sup>2</sup>	3.8 million	Wellington	Agriculture, forestry, services, manufacturing and tourism
Papua New Guinea	463,000 km <sup>2</sup>	6.1 million	Port Moresby	Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining
Vanuatu	12,180 km <sup>2</sup>	204,000	Port Vila	Agriculture, fisheries and tourism



## Domestic Connections

## Solomon Islands

### Solomon Islands Offices

**Head Office** P O Box 23, Henderson Airport, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
**Administration** Tel: (677) 20031 • Fax: (677) 20232  
**Finance** Tel: (677) 20031 • Fax: (677) 20232  
**Sales & Reservations** Tel: (677) 20031 • Fax: (677) 23992  
 Reservation - 177 (Local calls)

### Airport Offices

**HONIARA**  
 Operations Tel: (677) 36048 • Fax: (677) 36244  
 Engineering Tel: (677) 36104 • Fax: (677) 36040  
 Cargo Tel: (677) 36071 • Fax: (677) 36372  
 International Terminal Traffic Tel: (677) 36077 • Fax: (677) 36076  
 Domestic Terminal Traffic Tel: (677) 36048/36251 • Fax: (677) 36244

**SANTA CRUZ** Sales & Reservations Tel: (677) 53159 • Fax: (677) 53092  
**GIZO** Sales & Reservations Tel: (677) 60173 • Fax: (677) 60202  
**MUNDA** Sales & Reservations Tel: (677) 62152 • Fax: (677) 62152  
**KIRAKIRA** Sales & Reservations Tel: (677) 50070

### Overseas Administration Offices

**AUSTRALIA - Brisbane Airport**  
**Administration** Solomon Airlines, Level 1, International Terminal, Brisbane Airport, Eagle Farm, QLD. 4007  
 Tel (Aust Wide): 1300 894311 • Tel (Outside Aust): 617 3860 5883  
 Fax: 617 3860 4351 • Email: reservations@fysolomons.com

**Operations** Solomon Airlines, Level 1, International Terminal, Brisbane Airport, Eagle Farm, QLD. 4007 • Tel (Aust Wide): 1300 894311  
 Tel (Outside Aust): 617 3860 5883 • Fax: 617 3860 4351 • Email: reservations@fysolomons.com

**F I J I - Nadi**  
 Solomon Airlines  
 P O Box 10229, Nadi International Airport, Fiji • Tel: 679 672 2831 • Fax: 679 672 2140

### Provinces

The Solomon Islands is made up of 992 islands which are divided into nine provinces:  
**Choiseul** - Provincial capital: Taro • **Central** - Provincial capital: Tulagi • **Isabel** - Provincial capital: Buala  
**Renbell/Bellona** - Provincial capital: Tigoa • **Guadalcanal** - Provincial (& national capital): Honiara  
**Makira/Ulawa** - Provincial capital: Kira Kira • **Malaita** - Provincial capital: Auki  
**Western** - Provincial capital: Gizo • **Temotu** - Provincial capital: Lata

### Overseas General Sales Agents (GSA)

For all bookings, ticketing and flight enquiries:

**AUSTRALIA**  
 Australia Cargo GSA  
 Aircraft Loaders & Packers  
 Unit 3c, 17 Sugarmill Road  
 Eagle Farm  
 Ph: 07 3260 2603  
 Fax: 07 3260 2959  
 Mobile: 0419796065  
 Email: rob@qldcargo.com, or  
 alp@qldcargo.com  
 www.aircraftloaderspackers.com.au

**NEW CALEDONIA**  
 Axxess Travel, 22 Rue Duquesne,  
 Espace Moselle,  
 Quartier Latin, Noumea  
 BP 336, 98845, Noumea  
 Tel: (687) 286 677  
 Fax: (687) 274 050

**NZ PASSENGER GSA**  
 Airline Marketing New Zealand  
 Steve Rice | General Manager  
 Level 10, 120 Albert St | P O Box 6247  
 Wellesley St. Auckland 1010  
 Ph DDI: (64 9) 969 7477  
 Fax: (64 9) 969 7474 |  
 Email: steve.rice@airlinemarketing.co.nz

**NZ Cargo GSA**  
 GSA Cargo Services New Zealand Ltd  
 Carolyn Evans | Director  
 PO Box 107 027, Auckland  
 International Airport, New Zealand  
 2154  
 Phone: +64 9 2758767  
 Fax: +64 9 2758707  
 Mobile: +64 21757400  
 Email: carolyn@cargoga.com

**UNITED STATES**  
 Solomon Airlines  
 North America Sales & Marketing  
 5000 Birch Street -# 3000  
 New Port Beach  
 California 92660  
 Tel: (949) 752 5440  
 Fax: (949) 476 3741  
 Email: flysolomons@gmail.com

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
 Solomon Airlines  
 Flight House  
 Fernhill Road, Horley  
 Surrey, RH6 9SY  
 United Kingdom  
 Tel: +44 (870) 443 0757  
 Fax: +44 (870) 240 2208  
 Email: web@solomonairlines.co.uk

**VANUATU**  
 Sunata Tamaso Travel Limited  
 La Casa D'andrea,  
 Lini Highway, Port Vila  
 Tel: (678) 22666  
 Fax: (678) 24275  
 Email: tamaso-tours@vanuatu.com.vu

**VANUATU Cargo GSA**  
 Ridley Daniel  
 Right Freight Services  
 PO Box 1407, Port Vila, Vanuatu  
 Phone: +678 24690  
 Mobile: +678 7744690  
 Email: rfs@vanuatu.com.vu

### International Airport Information and Allowances Guide

Airport	HONIARA Solomon Islands	BRISBANE Australia	PORT MORESBY Papua New Guinea	PORT VILA Vanuatu	NADI Fiji
Distance to City	10km	10km	8km	6km	8km
Bus Fare	SBD10.00	AUD6.00	PGK10.00	VUV100	FJD1.00
Taxi Fare	SBD70.00	AUD30.00	PGK30.00	VUV800	FJD20.00
Duty Free	2 litres	2.250 litres	2 litres	1.5 litre	2.25 litres
Allowance	200 cigs	250 cigs	200 cigs	250 cigs	200 cigs
Exchange Rate	1 USD=8SBD	1AUD=7SBD	1PGK=3SBD	100VUV=7.48SBD	1FJD=5SBD

• Airport Tax for Honiara SBD100.00

\*Information as shown is to be used as a guide only and is subject to change without notice.

# New Zealand's GSA's Appointed



Steve Rice & his Airline Marketing team.

**SOLOMON AIRLINES APPOINTED** Airline Marketing New Zealand Limited and GSA Cargo Service New Zealand Limited as its New Zealand passenger and cargo general sales agents respectively since July of 2014 and only recently, a team from HQ in Honiara visited our new partners to welcome them aboard.

Under the GSA agreements, both agents will provide Solomon Airlines with all passenger sales, marketing, reservations and ticketing services, sales and freight marketing as well as BSP ticketing and freight support.

They have since been working closely with key industry partners in New Zealand to further develop business for Solomon Airlines and in addition, collaborate with the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau to expand New Zealand visitation numbers to the destination.

Announcing the appointments, Solomon Airlines General Manager Operations and Commercial, Gus Kraus, said he was delighted with the development which by implication was intended to have major impact on the airline's business development within the New Zealand market.


Airline Marketing New Zealand is the sister company of Airline Marketing Australia, both of which are the airline representation subsidiaries of the Consolidated Travel Group, the largest privately owned distributor of airline products in Australasia.

GSA Cargo Services New Zealand Limited on the other hand who operates from 1st floor of the freight centre at Auckland International airport also has wide representations and is GSA for other renowned carriers such as Emirates, Air new Zealand to name a few.



# Addition in Vanuatu

**IN VANUATU THE GENERAL** sales agent Surata Tamaso Travel Limited has served Solomon Airlines since 2013 and recently assisted in moving some 65 odd Solomon Islands nurses returning to Honiara prior to Christmas.


In addition, Right Freight Services, a recent addition to our GSA-Cargo in Vanuatu will also be operating under the Surata Tamaso brand and is already actively promoting our freight business throughout the Republic of Vanuatu. 

# BULA FIJI, WE ARE BACK!



**SOLOMON AIRLINES RETURNED TO FIJI** on 24th January 2015 after some seven months of non-operation due to both governments impasse on non-resolution of some basic inequalities regarding their Air Services Agreements (ASA).

We are pleased that part of this impasse has been resolved but we will continue to push for what is right and fair in the months ahead.

Vinaka vakalevu to all our faithful clients and thank you for your patience and safe travels. 

*Our staff in Fiji – Manager Raj Prasad and Joyti – are on standby to assist wherever required and necessary.*



# Solomon Star

Your Solomon Star Guide to the Solomon Islands

**CLIMATE:** Tropically warm and humid with coastal day temperatures averaging 28C. April to November tends to be drier, and November to April wetter.



**WHAT TO WEAR:** Light and casual. Keep brief beachwear for beaches.



**IMMIGRATION:** Commonwealth, United States and most West European visitors do not need holiday visas but need return or onward tickets. People intending to work must have a work permit.

**HONIARA:** The capital is eight kilometres from Honiara International Airport.

**AIRPORT TAX:** SB\$100 payable by passengers (12 years and over) boarding international flights.

**HEALTH:** Malaria is a problem. Take anti-malarial medication a week before arrival, once a week during your stay, and for four weeks after departure. Consult your chemist or doctor about an appropriate brand or tablet. Maloprin is usually recommended.



**CURRENCY:** \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 Solomon Islands notes; coins are \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c coins.

**BUSINESS HOURS:** Government and some business offices open Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm with a one-hour lunch break normally beginning at noon. Shops and some offices open Saturdays 8am - noon.

**BANKS:** Bank South Pacific opens Monday to Friday 8.30am to 3pm; and ANZ Banking Group and Westpac open Monday to Friday - 9am to 4pm.



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** Local and international calls may be made from Our Telekom public card phones which are in prominent locations in Honiara and provincial centres or GSM Mobile services. Telephone and Internet cards are readily available through shops, hotels and Our Telekom offices. GSM prepaid and postpaid mobile cards are available in Honiara, Gizo and planned deployment to all other provincial centres. Breeze Rifil cards are available for prepaid mobile top-ups. Our Telekom also provides ADSL broadband Internet service through landlines or you can access the Internet through Bumblebee wireless broadband hotspots located at major hotels, International terminal and Panatina Plaza.

**TIPPING:** Not expected and not encouraged.

**TRANSPORT:** Taxis and buses are readily available in Honiara. Rental cars: Avis, Economy, Travel Car Solomon, Zome.

**INTERNATIONAL AIR:** Solomon Airlines, Air Pacific, Air Niugini, Our Airlines, Pacific Blue and serve Honiara International Airport.

**DOMESTIC:** Solomon Airlines operates services throughout the country.



**ELECTRICITY:** 220-240 volts in Honiara and some outer island centres.

**RADIO:** PAOA FM broadcasts from transmitters at Honiara, Guadalcanal (97.7) and Malaita (101.7), Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation has medium wave and FM services. ZFM and religious stations broadcast in Honiara area. Radio Australia and BBC local relays are on FM in Honiara. Television: Our Telekom relays BBC and Australia Network services in the Honiara area.



**NEWSPAPERS:** The English-language Solomon Star is the only daily newspaper and covers local, regional and international



news. The National Express and Island Sun are other newspapers.



**HONIARA ACTIVITIES:** Golf, tennis, scuba diving, walks, battlefield tours, swimming,

sailing, bush walking and fishing.

**SOUVENIRS:** Solomon Islands law forbids unauthorised export of war relics retrieved from land sites or sunken wrecks. Consult the National Museum of the Solomon Islands for advice.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Rotary Club meets at the Flamingo Lounge, Honiara Hotel, at 5.30pm every Tuesday. Soroptomist International of Solomon Islands meets on the first Mondays of each month at the Mendana Hotel at 5.15pm.





# SUPREME CAR RENTAL



Supreme Car Rentals offers a variety of cars with feature you need for safety & comfort. For Business, we know how to treat your business with the services you need to keep your business on the move and within budget. For individual Renters, we have personal services to make your travels with us easier & more enjoyable.



Kukum Highway, P.O. Box 1298 Honiara, Solomon Islands

Located in Pacific Casino Hotel

Email: [carrental@pacificcasinohotel.com](mailto:carrental@pacificcasinohotel.com) • Tel: (677) 25009 ext 306 • Fax: (677) 25220

# OCEAN VIEW

**We Accept booking for the following:**

- SPECIAL FUNCTIONS
- COCKTAIL PARTY
- BUFFET

## *Restaurant*

“SPECIALIZED IN WESTERN CUISINE”



Kukum Highway, P.O. Box 1298, Honiara, Solomon Islands. Located in Pacific Casino Hotel

**Tel: (677) 25009 ext 305**

**Opens at 6:30am to 10:00pm daily**



# Pacific Casino Hotel

Kukum Highway, PO Box 1298, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tel: +677 25009 Fax: +677 22880 Email: [reservation@pacificcasinohotel.com](mailto:reservation@pacificcasinohotel.com) Website: [www.pacificcasinohotel.com](http://www.pacificcasinohotel.com)

## CONVENIENT LOCATION

Located in the middle of Honiara CBD and from Honiara's International Airport – It's the perfect location with a mile-long compound for business and tourist travellers alike!

## WELL-SET FACILITIES

Pacific Casino Hotel offers 170 spacious, comfortable and fully air-conditioned rooms with Satellite TV and 24Hr movie channels, private refrigerators and coffee/ tea services, with all Suites Room boasting separate seating lounges and private balconies. Keeping with total comfort, convenience and ease of access in mind for the international traveller, International Direct Dialling (IDD) in all rooms and Internet hotspots are available in various locations. Other services extended are laundry, Internet Cafe, Car Rental and Conference room facilities. For the leisure facilities are Swimming Pool, Billiard Room and Gym & Fitness centre.

## VARIOUS CUISINES FROM WESTERN TO ORIENT - 6 RESTAURANTS CATERING TO ANY TABLE PALETTE!

The famous Ocean View Restaurant serves the finest of Western cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, while on an outdoor dining balcony, taking in the spectacular ocean view backdrop. For the best authentic Asian cuisine, Jina's

Restaurant offers the best in Chinese cuisine, which is located between the hotel and the casino. Want more? Pacific Seafood Restaurant, the Korean Restaurant and Fun Cafe all host extensive wide range of international Asian cuisines – all at your choice.

## WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT – BARS, NIGHT CLUBS & KARAOKE LIGHTS UP YOUR NIGHT LIFE

Cowboy's Grill Bar & Restaurant newly established, specializing in Western cuisine, is all about convenience and fun for an unforgettable star experience. The very popular Captain's Bar provides a wide selection of cocktails, vintage wines, spirits and appetizers, located on the 1st floor of the Hotel which opens daily till late night. For more fun time, the Top 10 and Top Star Karaoke night clubs give the best in international and local beats for those not of the faint-hearted!

## FAMOUS & BIGGEST CASINO – CLUB SUPREME

As a guest, presentation of the room key allows a free entrance to the members-only Club Supreme, the biggest and the best Casino in Solomon Islands. It's that simple! So why not try your hand in Blackjack, Roulette, Baccarat or Pacific Poker? Or go for the Pokies Centre for a brilliant night with your luck.

Relax, enjoy and indulge at the Pacific Casino Hotel – a place where you can have it all !!!

