



QUICK GUIDE & TRAVEL TIPS

Photo courtesy of SPTO
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Vanuatu, an archipelago of 83 beautiful tropical islands, formerly the New Hebrides, is a popular South Pacific tourist destination. The country, which was formerly ruled as a joint condominium of the French and British governments, obtained independence in 1980.

Vanuatu is a beautiful country with about 170,000 inhabitants. The indigenous population are Melanesian people called Ni-Vanuatu. Well over 100 different languages are spoken. The most common languages are Bislama (90%) English (53%) and French (42%) which are also official languages.

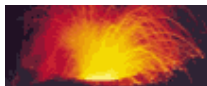
The Conference will be held in Port Vila on the main island of Efate.

Port Vila – Vanuatu



Port Vila is the capital city of Vanuatu lying on the South West coast of the island of Efate and has about 40,000 residents. Built around a magnificent natural harbour Port Vila offers a harmonious pot pourri of Melanesian, English, Chinese and French cultures. It has a vibrant night life and is renowned for its restaurants. It has two championship standard golf links. Magnificent diving is a major feature and other sporting and recreational facilities are available. The main street offers duty-free shops, cafes and handicraft galleries. Port Vila market comes alive every day except Sunday and is open all day and often in the evening. Here you can buy local fruits and vegetables, handicrafts and savour local specialities such as laplap. Most commodities can be purchased in Port Vila and there are two pharmacies with dispensing chemists. Alcohol is sold in both supermarket and bottle stores but not after 11.30am on Saturdays or on Sundays.

Other Islands to Visit



Aside from the cosmopolitan capital, 2 of Vanuatu's biggest attractions are the island of Tanna in the south, with its intact tribal culture and active volcano called Yasur, and Espiritu Santo in the north, a mecca for scuba divers. World war II wrecks, such as the US troop carrier the President Coolidge, as well as fabulous coral reefs provide wonderful diving opportunities on many islands.

Kava



The national drink is kava which is sold freely around the city (and elsewhere) at bars called nakamals. It is a relaxant which has none of the side effects of alcohol. It is usually drunk in the late evenings. For more information try www.vanuatakava.vu

Flights to Vanuatu



Vanuatu is only 2.5 hours flying time North East of Brisbane and 3.5 hours from Sydney, Australia. It's a little over 2 hours from Auckland, New Zealand.

There are no visa requirements for citizens of Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom staying up to 30 days.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES



Return flights in and out of Port Vila, via Australia, New Zealand, Noumea, Fiji, and Solomon Islands.



Return flights in and out of Port Vila, via Fiji onward to Australia, and New Zealand, Tongatapu, Tahiti, Honiara, USA, and Canada.



Return flights in and out of Port Vila via Noumea onward to France, and Japan.



Return flights in and out of Port Vila via Australia and New Zealand.



Accommodation

Port Vila has a large range of resorts, hotels, lodges and other forms of accommodation to suit all budgets and other requirements. Please see the Accommodation section of the Conference Website.

Touring

There are many local tours available, including diving, snorkelling, sailing, fishing, kayaking and cultural tours. For more information go to



English

www.tcsp.com/spto/export/sites/SPTO/destinations/vanuatu/activities.shtml



French

<http://www.vanuaturism.com/vanuatu/export/sites/VTO/fr/activities/tours.html>

As an example of what is available some internet links to tour sites are provided below under the heading "Tourism and Holiday Information".



Currency

The local legal tender is the vatu. Most credit cards are accepted in hotels, larger restaurants and some stores.

Business Hours

Shops are generally open from 8.00am to 11.30am and from 1.30pm to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 8.00am to 12.00 noon on Saturday.

Tipping

No tipping and no bargaining apply in Vanuatu.



Languages

French, English and Bislama are the three official languages. In addition, there are over one hundred local languages spoken throughout the islands.

Local Custom

Visitors are asked to respect local custom, especially as regards clothing. Beach wear should be kept for the hotel poolside or the beach. Melanesian people tend to be quietly spoken, modest and non-confrontational.



Transport

Port Vila is well provided for with taxis and buses. For the convenience of conference delegates, a shuttle bus will be provided each morning and afternoon for transport between the hotels listed in this brochure and University of South Pacific. This shuttle will also be available for transport to and from the hotels and the dinner venues.



Health

Port Vila is generally malaria free. Visitors should take sensible precautions in the evenings against being bitten by mosquitoes. Travellers are advised to take out health insurance. Medical and dental services are available if required and there is an optician. Coral cuts or skin abrasions should as soon as practical be thoroughly cleaned and then treated with an antiseptic.



Local Time

Vanuatu is 11 hours ahead of GMT. Eastern Australia is one hour behind Vanuatu. New Zealand is one hour ahead of Vanuatu.



Weather

The weather in November in Port Vila is likely to be very warm and sunny, however, as we will be approaching the rainy season, rainy days are possible. For up to date weather forecasts try

www.bbc.co.uk/weather/5day.shtml?world=3090

Web Resources

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Staying in Vanuatu

***NATIONAL TOURISM OFFICE** - www.vanuatutourism.com

A good place to start, this site contains a wealth of material.

***L'OFFICE DU TOURISME DE VANUATU** -

www.vanuatutourism.com/vanuatu/export/sites/VTO/fr/index.html

Si vous prévoyez un voyage aux Vanuatu, voici le meilleur endroit pour commencer.

JASONS VANUATU TRAVEL GUIDE - Travel information and vacation planner - accommodation, lodging, cruising, yachting, diving, fishing, maps, tourist attractions, adventure activities

www.pi-travel.co.nz/vanuatu/index.html

LONELY PLANET - DESTINATION VANUATU - a good general guide

www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/pac/van.htm

VANUATU ONLINE VISITORS BUREAU - Information on accommodation, tours, diving, fishing, weddings, culture, weather, resorts and hotels, language, restaurants, car hire, maps and everything else that defines a true Vanuatu experience.

<http://www.tourismvanuatu.com/>

VANUATU TRAVEL GUIDE - Vanuatu travel with author David Stanley

www.southpacific.org/text/finding_vanuatu.html

VANUATU A-Z - A quirky guide

www.vanuatuatoz.com

VANUATU CULTURAL CENTRE - <http://arts.anu.edu.au/arcworld/vks/vks.htm>

WAN SMOL BAG THEATRE - www.wan-smolbag-theatre.org

VANUATU GOVERNMENT - www.vanuatugovernment.gov.vu

The official site of the Vanuatu Government.

WEB DIRECTORY - <http://www.vanuatu.gov.vu/directory.html>

Directory of other Vanuatu Websites

SOUTH PACIFIC TOURISM ORGANISATION -

www.tcsp.com/destinations/vanuatu/index.shtml

TOURISM AND HOLIDAY INFORMATION

www.tcsp.com/spto/export/sites/SPTO/destinations/vanuatu/activities.shtml

Yasur Volcano - [Friendly Bungalows Tanna Vanuatu - accommodations close to Yasur Volcano](#)

Dive Aquamarine Santo - <http://www.aquamarine-santo.com/>

Bokissa Eco Island Resort - Castaway coral island exclusive to Bokissa with a maximum of 45 guests at any one time. Next to Santo Island.
<http://www.bokissa.vu/>

Dive Adventures Vanuatu - Underwater adventures, with special pages on Espiritu Santo, Port Vila, and Tanna.
<http://www.diveadventures.com/vanuatu.htm>

Hideaway Holidays - Sailing, diving, superb white sand beaches, great resorts, and more. The site includes an introduction to Bislama (Pidgin English).
http://www.hideawayholidays.com.au/vli_.htm

Cruising Vanuatu - Guide to yachting and cruising in Vanuatu
<http://www.cruising-vanuatu.com>

Yachting World - Welcoming yachts to Vanuatu
<http://www.yachtingworld-vanuatu.com>

Yacht Charter in Vanuatu
<http://www.yacht-charter-Vanuatu.com>

Adventure Centre Vanuatu - Guide and prices on accommodation, tours and island hopping in Vanuatu, South Pacific.
<http://www.adventurevanuatu.com/>

Paradise Adventures and Cruises - Explore Vanuatu, the Untouched Paradise, on your own private sailing yacht with crew.
<http://www.paradiseadventures.com.au/vanuatu.htm>

Vanuatu Island Safaris - Local tour operator established to develop sustainable eco-tourism in Vanuatu islands. Comprehensive itineraries including accommodation, air transport, transfers, adventure and cultural tours in the islands, scuba diving and sports.
<http://www.islandsvanuatu.com/>

VANUATU (New Hebrides) Discovery Tours - Escorted soft adventure tour offered by New Zealand Splendour Tours.
http://www.infohub.com/TRAVEL/SIT/sit_pages/4326.html

MORE TOUR OPERATORS & THEIR WEB ADDRESSES

ALL VANUATU	TELEPHONE
<u>Adventures in Paradise</u>	678 + 25200
<u>Destination Pacific Islands</u>	678 + 22595
<u>Island Safaris</u>	678 + 23288
<u>Silent World Adventure Cruises</u>	61 2 9221 4622
<u>The Tour Shop-Backpackers</u>	678 + 25609
<u>Unity Airlines Adventure Tours</u>	678 + 24475
EFATE	
<u>Coongoola Tours</u>	678 + 25020
<u>Evergreen Tours</u>	678 + 23050
<u>Lelepa Island Day Tour</u>	678 + 22714
<u>Meridian Charters</u>	678 + 43852
<u>Sailaway Cruises</u>	678 + 25155
<u>Tranquility Tours</u>	678 + 25020
