

Vanuatu




Air Vanuatu

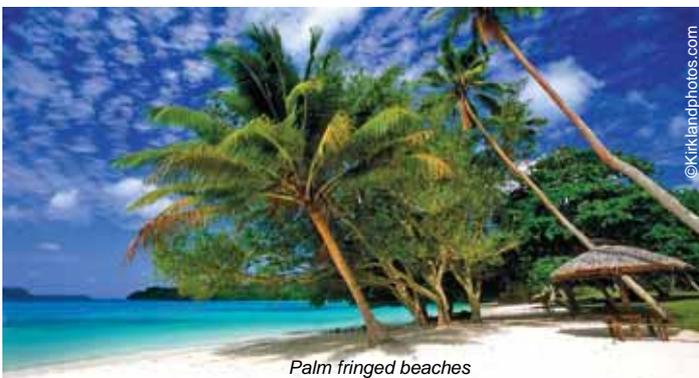
DIVE 
ADVENTURES
YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

Dive Adventures Vanuatu

Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 coral and volcanic islands sprinkled across 450,000 square kilometres of the South Pacific Ocean. This untouched paradise is only a few flying hours from the east coast of Australia. Its' closest neighbours are: Fiji to the east, New Caledonia to the south and the Solomon Islands to the north. Formally known as the New Hebrides, the group of islands was declared a condominium in 1906 with the British Queen of French President, joint heads of state. As the economy grew the Melanesian people became more active in their own politics and began dreaming of independence. In 1980 the dream became reality with the first President of the Republic being elected and Vanuatu, meaning "our land", was born.

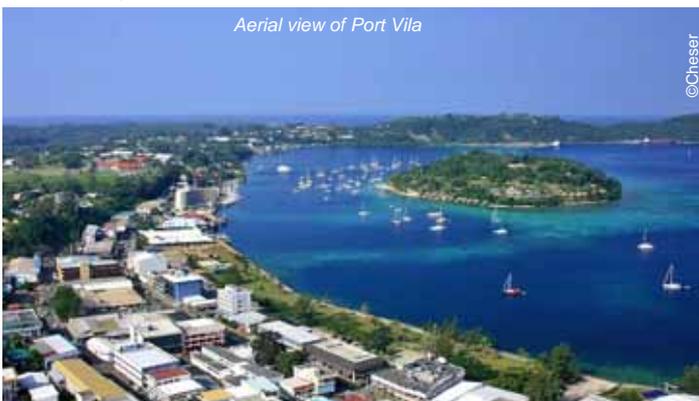


Vanuatu offers the visitor a diversity of experiences. The mountainous, volcanic islands have forged dramatic and naturally beautiful scenic wonders of palm fringed beaches surrounded by crystal clear waters, coral reefs rich in a diversity of marine life, rugged mountains rising above lush, tropical rainforests bursting with a magnificent array of flora and fauna, cascading waterfalls, vivid blue lagoons and bubbling hot springs, whilst on the islands of Tanna, Ambrym and Lopevi, volcanic activity can be observed.



Palm fringed beaches

Port Vila on the main island of Efate, is the capital and gateway to your adventure holiday. Port Vila is a delightful water front town with a selection of fine cuisine restaurants, duty free shopping and a bustling market place. Vila has a large variety of accommodation ranging from self-contained units through to 4 star International resorts, all within easy reach of the town centre. The vibrant Melanesian culture, welcoming smiles and natural warmth of the people will ensure your Vanuatu experience will be a relaxed and memorable one.



Aerial view of Port Vila



Happy Ni Vanuatu children

General Information:

Climate: Summer: November to March average temperatures of 28°C .

Winter: April to October average temperatures of 23°C .

Water Temperature: Varies from 21°C-27°C.

The People: Mostly Melanesian, known as Ni Vanuatu

Language: The official language of Vanuatu is Bislama (Pidgin English) English and French and are also widely spoken.

Currency: The Vatu is the local currency. Australian dollars and most of the major credit cards, are accepted at mainland hotels, resorts and restaurants. Outer islands will vary.

Electricity: 220-240 volts 50Hz.

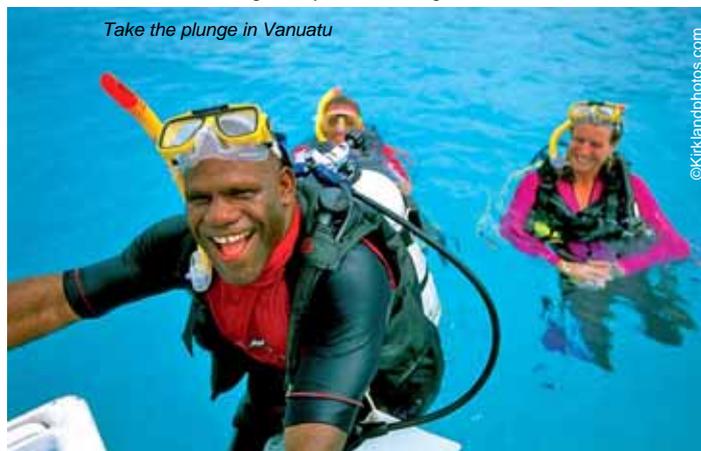
Dress: Light casual clothing, a sweater for the cooler evenings. Clothing should not be too brief, especially when worn outside the hotel perimeters.

Medical: Malaria precautions may be necessary when visiting some of the outer lying islands. Please check with your doctor for the most up to date information regarding your destination before you depart.



Yasur Volcano - Tanna

Entry Requirements: A valid passport with a minimum of 6 months validity from time of departure as well as a return or ongoing travel ticket is required. Australian citizens do not require an entry visa. Visas are also not required for most Commonwealth, European Union or U.S citizens. We advise checking with your travel agent.



Take the plunge in Vanuatu

Diving: The diving in Vanuatu is world class with a variety of dive sites suitable for the novice through to the most experienced of divers.

The warm, clear waters feature protected marine sanctuaries teeming with sea-life, shallow reefs to deep drop-offs, caves and numerous wrecks, all waiting to be explored. Of course diving in Vanuatu would not be complete without a visit to the island of Espiritu Santo to explore the "SS. President Coolidge", one of the largest and most accessible ship wrecks in the world.

Diving - Port Vila

Port Vila has a variety of dive sites with visibility ranging up to 40 metres. The outer areas of Mele Bay and the islands off the North Efate coast, offer deep drop-offs, grottoes and overhangs with underwater tunnels and chasms formed over time by frozen lava.

The running currents bring in an abundance of marine life and pelagic species while inside the protected waters of Mele Bay there are a number of interesting ship wrecks. The "Star of Russia", a three masted ship built in 1874, sits in 33 meters of water, "Kononda", formally an island trader,



Exploring one of the wrecks

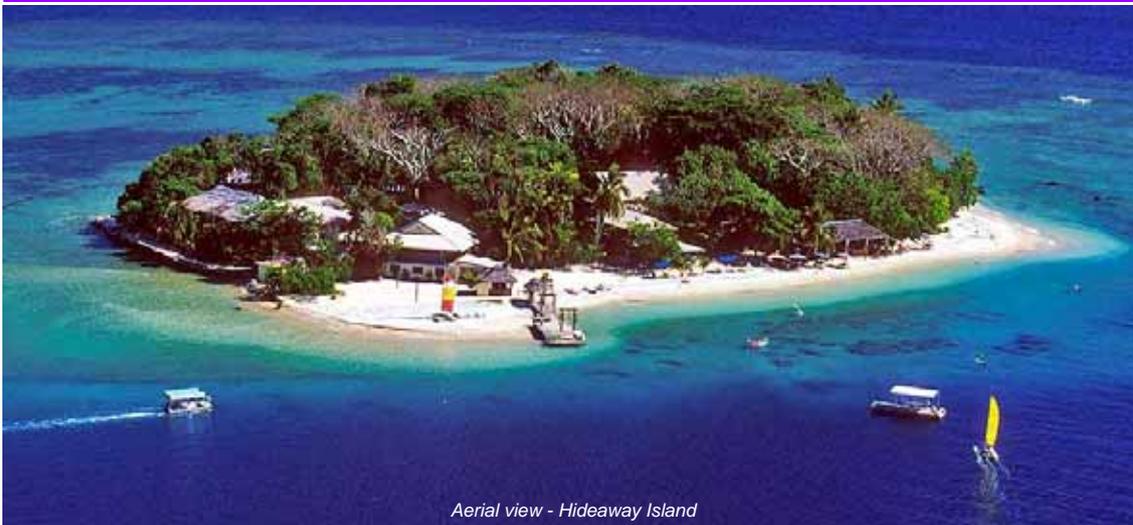
was scuttled in the harbour and the "Tasman" is an ex-Qantas, Sandringham flying boat. Further out in the bay, the "MV Semle Federsen" sits at a depth of 36 meters.

Big Blue Diving and Nautilus Scuba are the 2 main dive operators in Port Vila. Located waterfront in the centre of Port Vila, both offer a range of dive courses, dive guide services, facilities and dive gear for hire or sale. Weather permitting, their dive boats depart daily for expeditions around the Port Vila and Northern Efate areas. The operators pick-up and return divers to their accommodation in Port Vila.



Friendly marine life - Port Vila

Hideaway Island - Port Vila



Aerial view - Hideaway Island

Hideaway Resort has a variety of accommodation that's sure to please most tastes and budgets. All are set in lush, tropical gardens looking out over the waters of Mele Bay.

One bedroom Bungalows: The spacious bungalows have a separate bedroom, private bathroom facilities, ceiling fan, sofa, dining setting, fridge and tea / coffee making facilities.

The Beach Lodge:

The twin or double rooms each have a ceiling fan, fridge and wash basin. Bathroom facilities are shared. There is a wide, wrap around veranda for relaxation purposes.

The Dormitory:

The fan cooled, quad share rooms have bunk beds with individual night lights and

personal storage lockers. Shared bathroom facilities are housed nearby.

A recreational lounge area has a TV, DVD's and games. The resorts restaurant and bar is situated right on the beachfront. Activities include: diving, snorkelling, paddle boards, sea kayaking, sailing and beach volleyball. You can view the marine sanctuary from



Inside One-bedroom bungalow - Hideaway

the comfort of the glass bottom boat or join one of the many tours on offer.

Our Comment: The relaxed island atmosphere, accommodation choices and a marine sanctuary right on the doorstep make Hideaway the ideal place for dive groups, study groups, individuals, families and couples.

Hideaway Island Resort and Marine Sanctuary is situated on its' own private island, just a 5 minute ferry ride from the mainland and 15 minutes from Port Vila. Surrounded by the crystal clear waters of Mele Bay and live coral reefs supporting a diversity of prolific marine life, Hideaway Island has been declared a protected marine sanctuary.

Diving: Hideaway Island is one of the most popular diving areas in Vanuatu and one of only a few resorts in the world, to have its' own marine sanctuary on the doorstep. The reef in front of the resort is teeming with brilliantly coloured fish and marine life and can be explored by snorkelling or diving straight from the shore. The diving features a variety of colourful sponges, hard corals, sea anemones, gorgonian fans and an amazing number of tropical fish. The resort's independent PADI dive operation is staffed by professional instructors and dive guides and offers a complete range of dive courses as well as shore dives, boat dives and gear hire.

Hideaway Resort also boasts the world's first authentic, underwater post-office, sitting at a depth of 3 metres. Visitors can dive or snorkel down to post their specially waterproofed postcards to friends and family back home.



Exploring Marine Sanctuary - Hideaway Island

Waterfront restaurant - Hideaway Island



The Melanesian - Port Vila

This popular tourist class hotel and resort is only 15 minutes from the airport and within easy walking distance to Port Vila's town centre, restaurants, shops and markets. The Melanesian offers a range of spacious, well appointed rooms and a variety of onsite facilities and amenities. **Our comment:** Great family property. Suitable for short or extended stays



Poolside at The Melanesian

Facilities: All rooms are air-conditioned and have an ensuite bathroom, private balcony, queen size and a single bed (additional rollaway beds are available on request), TV with in house movies, refrigerator, mini bar, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities and an in room safe. The resort offers: 2 restaurants and bars, a club with gaming facilities, 24 hour room service, an adults and kids size swimming pool, deck chairs, BBQ area, tennis court, gift shop, library, games room, a tour desk and conference facilities.



Orchid room - The Melanesian

Iririki Island Resort - Port Vila

Located in Port Vila Harbour, Iririki Island Resort offers 2 completely different types of accommodation. One side of the island offers traditional, well appointed private fares (bungalows). This area of the resort caters for adults only. **Our comment:** An exclusive resort for the discerning traveller with a choice of 2 totally different holiday packages.



Iririki Island Resort

Over on the other side of Iririki Island, a brand new development at Snorkeler's Cove, features a range of ultra modern, self contained units and penthouses offering pool or ocean views. Snorkeler's Cove caters for families, couples and individuals who prefer a more contemporary modern style luxury.

Facilities: All room types are air-conditioned and have a private balcony, ensuite bathroom, bar fridge, television, in house movies and direct dial telephone. The resort has 4 restaurants, 2 swimming pools, tennis courts, games room and a health and beauty spa. The use of non motorized water sports including snorkelling, sailboards, catamarans and canoes is complimentary for guests staying at Iririki Island.



Inside Harbour view Fare

Ramada Resort Breakas Beach - Port Vila



Poolside - Ramada Resort

Located just 25 minutes from Port Vila Airport, Ramada Resort Breaka's Beach is a boutique property that caters for those looking for smaller resort with great ambience.

The resort is set amongst lush tropical gardens leading to a white sand beach fringed with palm trees. The stylish and private bungalows are scattered along the beach front and throughout the neatly manicured gardens. Each bungalow is furnished in a relaxed Melanesian styled elegance using local materials and artifacts.

Our comment: A great location for a secluded getaway or romantic honeymoon in understated style. Fabulous bathroom.

Facilities: Each individual bungalow has its' own uniquely styled, spacious and very private "open air" bathroom, a queen size bed, ceiling fan, fridge, mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities, phone and hairdryer. The resorts restaurant and bar is situated poolside offering panoramic ocean views. The infinity swimming pool has a swim up to bar and plenty of area for relaxation.



Inside bungalow

Coconut Palms Resort - Port Vila

Coconut Palms Resort is situated within easy walking distance to the heart of Port Vila. Surrounded by swaying coconut palms and tropical gardens the resort offers a good selection of accommodation. The self contained apartments are designed with couples and families in mind while the dormitory rooms are ideal for small groups, individuals and the budget conscious traveler.



Coconut Palms Resort

Facilities:The self contained units are air conditioned with en suite bathroom, queen size bed, TV, in house movies, full cooking facilities, microwave and fridge. The dormitory offers share accommodation and sleeps up to four people per room in bunk beds. Dormitory bathroom facilities are shared. The resort has a swimming pool, restaurant and bar, laundry and internet café facilities.

Our comment: A good value, quality property close to Port Vila.



Inside unit accommodation

Tranquillity Island Resort - Northern Efate

Tranquillity Island is an eco-tourism resort situated on Moso Island, north west of Efate. Tranquillity is approximately a 70 minute transfer by road and boat from the capital Port Vila. The proximity to some great dive sites, like Paul's Rock and Hat Island, make Tranquillity Island a popular destination for day visitors as well as those who wish to stay longer. Guests staying on the island can visit the turtle sanctuary, dive or snorkel straight from the beach in front of the resort, take guided bush walks, canoe rides and fishing expeditions. Note: Due to the remote nature of the island the amenities and facilities on Tranquillity are basic and limited.



Inside "Fare" - Tranquillity Island Resort

Facilities: Accommodation is in rustic "Robinson Crusoe-style" huts called fares. Although very basic, the fares are comfortable and feature natural hand-made furniture and a private bathroom with flush toilet and shower. All meals are included during your stay and are served in the Beach House, an undercover outdoor area. The supply of electricity and hot water are not constant, however, these facilities are available for up to several hours each day.

Our Comment: A friendly, laid back and relaxed resort but do be prepared to get back to nature and forgo a few of life's luxuries.



Turtles are fairly common around Tranquillity

Espiritu Santo

The island of Espiritu Santo is approximately a one hour flight north from Port Vila. The majestic beauty of Santo is what inspired James A. Michener to write his classic "Tales of the South Pacific". Today, little has changed and Santo remains a Pacific paradise of white sand beaches, lush tropical rainforests and mountainous terrain, with a treasure trove of WWII history to explore. Mysterious water holes of the most amazing blue colour are connected by underground caverns, reef systems of colourful corals teem with a variety of spectacular marine life and the tropical rainforests are home to numerous jungle birds and beautiful wild orchids.



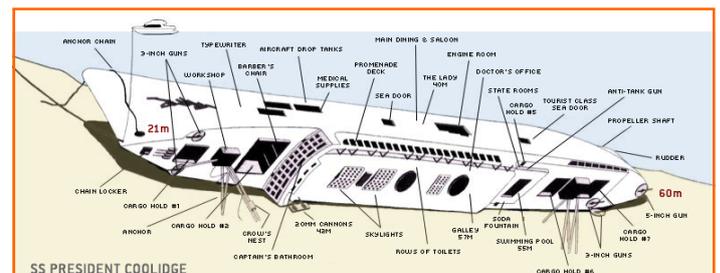
Local customs are strong in Santo



SS President Coolidge prior WWII

"SS President Coolidge"

For scuba divers Espiritu Santo is the Mecca of diving in the South Pacific. It is the final resting place of the 198 metre long, 22,000 ton luxury liner turned troopship, the "SS President Coolidge". Complete with munitions, military supplies and personal belongings it is one of the largest and most accessible ship wrecks in the world. In 1941 with the increase of war time activities, the US War Department began using the President Coolidge for occasional voyages to Honolulu and Manila. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 5 1941 she was fully commissioned as a transport ship for the reinforcement of garrisons in the Pacific. The SS President Coolidge was stripped of all her finery, painted gunmetal grey and by early 1942, had begun her days servicing the South West Pacific.



Exploring one of the many spectacular corners- Santo



During the Pacific Campaign of WW II over 100,000 allied troops and support staff were stationed on Santo and the time they spent there is still evident today. Remains of crashed B17 bombers, deserted Dakotas and WW II storage shelters are scattered throughout the thick jungles, while many wrecks lay below the surface of the clear blue waters. The township of Luganville is the capital of Espiritu Santo and features a range of accommodation from hotels to beach front resorts, restaurants, coffee shops a sports club and dive shops.



One of the many magical "Blue Holes" - Santo

As a troop carrier it was not intended the Coolidge would see any military action. A large military base and harbor had been established on Espiritu Santo with the harbor entrance heavily mined to protect against the entry of Japanese submarines. Information regarding safe entry to the harbor had been "accidentally omitted" from the Coolidge's sailing orders and on October 26 1942 unaware of the mines, she attempted to enter the harbor through the largest and most accessible channel. A "friendly" mine struck the ship near the engine room and moments later a second mine hit near her stern. The captain knowing that he was about to lose his ship ran her aground and ordered the troops to abandon ship. Today the Coolidge is protected by Vanuatu law and provides endless enjoyment for divers. Her dual identity allows divers to experience a luxury cruise liner and military ship. The wreck is surrounded by corals and many sea creatures such as turtles and moray eels call the wreck home.



Divers on the stern of the ship.

Espiritu Santo



Luxury liner "SS President Coolidge"



"SS President Coolidge" is the pinnacle of wreck diving. Lying close to shore with her bow at 21 metres and stern at 70 metres the almost completely intact shipwreck offers up to 20 unique dives. Diving is via a 50 metre walk line that leads from the shore to the ship's bow. Sense the history as you swim along corridors, up and down stairwells and view the **Lady and the Unicorn**, up close.

Visibility is 15 to 35 metres.

Million Dollar Point is another popular dive site in Santo. Following the end of WW11 the U.S. Navy disposed of tonnes of military supplies and machinery by dumping them into the waters around Santo.



"Lady & the Unicorn"

Allan Power Dive Tours and **Aquamarine Dive Centre** are the main 2 dive operators specialising in diving The Coolidge. Both offer professional dive guide services, boat and shore dives, Nitrox facilities and gear hire.

Other popular dive sites around Santo include:

The **USS Tucker** lies just off Malo Island. (max depth 20 metres). The former destroyer has a number of interesting swim throughs with port-holes and open bulk-heads providing plenty of light. Fish regularly seen include coral trout, cod, sweet lip, angle fish and batfish. Visibility ranges from 40 to 50 metres.

Fantastic, a boat dive at 26 to 42 metres, features sea mountains covered in large Gorgonian fans, a fantastic array of fish life and good visibility. Calm weather conditions are required for this dive

Tutuba Point is located at the northern tip of Tutuba Island, just a short boat ride from the township of Luganville.



Diver exploring "President Coolidge"



Some of the friendly locals - Santo

The spectacular reef offers a variety of beautiful marine life, hard and soft corals, caves and swim throughs. This drift dive has fantastic visibility at 40 to 50 meters.

Common sightings include turtles, reef sharks and Napoleon wrasse.

Deco Stop Lodge - Espiritu Santo

Panoramic view Deco Stop Lodge



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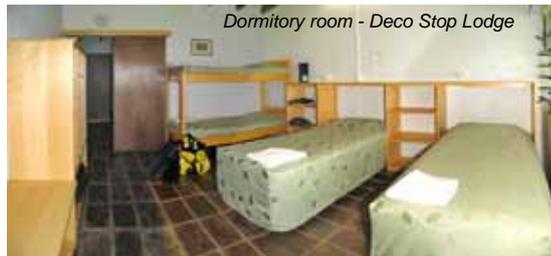
Deco Stop Lodge is situated on an acre of gardens overlooking Segond Channel, just a 5 minute walk to the centre of Luganville. Deco Stop offers quality, budget priced accommodation in comfortable relaxed surroundings. Accommodation consists of 4 x quad-share rooms with single and bunk beds and 6 private units with a double and single bed. The casual poolside bar and dining area offers a variety of delicious meals and panoramic views of the area. The friendly staff at Deco Stop will be happy to arrange a number of Island tours including a visit to local custom villages, the spectacular Millennium Caves, Blue Holes and Champagne Beach.

Facilities: All rooms are equipped with ceiling fans, insect screens, bar fridge, tea and coffee making facilities and private bathroom. The rooms are made up daily with clean linen and towels.

Facilities include a lockable wash area for dive gear, a restaurant and bar, laundry facilities, a recreation room with Satellite TV, table tennis, darts and home gym and a swimming pool with viewing deck and chairs.

Our Comment: Comfortable, basic and clean, budget accommodation with a casual atmosphere and friendly staff.

Dormitory room - Deco Stop Lodge



Coral Quays Resort - Espiritu Santo

Coral Quays Fish and Dive Resort is located on San Michele Bay just 10 minutes from Luganville. Set amongst 6 acres of tropical gardens the property offers 18 individual and spacious, private bungalows offering bay or garden views. The resort has a relaxed atmosphere with all the charm of the old south seas. Staff can assist in the arrangement of tours to local villages, popular historical sites and surrounding areas.

Facilities: A number of bungalows are air-conditioned while others are fan cooled. All have private bathroom facilities, fridge,

Bungalow accommodation



©cheser



Poolside - Coral Quays Resort

tea and coffee making facilities and an outdoor setting. The licensed restaurant offers fine dining either inside or alfresco on the veranda overlooking the bay. Other facilities include a swimming pool, day spa with massage facilities, canoes and bikes.

Our Comments: a relaxing retreat for the more discerning traveller, couples and honeymooners.

Hotel Santo - Espiritu Santo



Poolside - Hotel Santo

Hotel Santo is located in the township of Luganville, just 5 minutes from the airport. The two storey hotel has provided accommodation for divers and visitors to Santo, since the early 1970's. There

are 22 standard rooms as well as a number of budget rooms that are popular with divers. The hotel has a few cars for hire and can assist with the arrangement of tours to Blue Holes, Champagne Beach and around the island.

Facilities: The Standard rooms are air-conditioned with a queen and single bed, private bathroom facilities, bar fridge, tea and coffee making facilities and private balcony offering garden or bay views. The Budget rooms are fan cooled, have 2 single beds, private bathroom facilities, bar fridge and garden terrace. The hotel has a restaurant, bar swimming pool and drying area. **Our Comment:** A quality hotel offering good value and close to all amenities.



Budget divers room - Hotel Santo

Aore Island Resort - Espiritu Santo

Aore Island is located 3 kilometres across the water, just a 10 minute boat transfer from Luganville. Fronting a pristine, white sand beach the resort backs onto 900 acres of coconut plantation, beef cattle station and lush tropical jungle. Accommodation is in one of 18 individual bungalows with beachfront, deluxe beachfront and garden view settings. The open air restaurant is situated right on the beachfront. Visit the island's coconut plantation or take a picnic lunch to scenic Turtle Island.



Aore Island Resort

Facilities: All bungalows feature a large balcony, private bathroom, fridge, electric fans and tea and coffee making facilities. A swimming pool, snorkelling gear and kayaks are available for use by guests. **Our Comment:** A private and tranquil island retreat close to Santo and all the surrounding top diving spots.



Bedroom - Beachfront Bungalow

Beachfront Resort - Espiritu Santo

Beachfront Resort is located 10 minutes from Luganville overlooking Aore Island and the tranquil waters of Segond Channel. Fronting a sandy beach and surrounded by manicured tropical gardens, Beachfront Resort offers a range of excellent accommodation from self-contained units and bungalows to the newly built divers cottage and dormitory-style lodge. Resort facilities include a licensed restaurant, swimming pool and bar overlooking the water, laundry facilities, a secure area for drying and storing dive gear and computer and internet facilities (wifi). Activities include swimming, kayaking, volleyball and horse riding.



Inside unit - Beachfront Resort

Facilities:

All bungalows are self contained with a kitchenette, fridge, private bathroom, fan cooled or air conditioning and balcony. The cottage has 3 single and a double bed, a full kitchen and 2 bathrooms. The lodge comprises 2 x 6 bed dorms and 6 single, twin/double or triple share rooms, a kitchen, 2 bathrooms, lounge area and large veranda. **Our Comment:** A good value property offering kitchen facilities. Close to all amenities and dive sites.



Units - Beachfront Resort

Bokissa Private Island Resort - Espiritu Santo

Bokissa Island Resort is a 30 minute boat transfer from Santo. Set on 175 acres this exclusive resort is surrounded by lush tropical rainforest and bordered by sandy, palm fringed beaches. Accommodation is in luxurious individual bungalows all facing out over the water. All meals are included in your stay at Bokissa. The resort has its own well equipped dive operation, reference library and reading lounge. Other activities include beach volleyball, garden chess, fishing and free use of non-motorised water sports.. Weddings and conferences for up to 40 people are catered for.



Poolside - Bokissa Resort

Facilities: All bungalows have a covered verandah, air conditioning and ceiling fans, screened timber shutters, ensuite bathroom, hot shower, fridge with mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities and hairdryer. Hammocks hang from trees out front. The 25 metre freshwater swimming pool has a swim-up bar, large upper pool deck with recliners, umbrellas and ornamental waterfall. Meals are served in the a la carte/ buffet restaurant. The island bar is a great place to relax over a cocktail. **Our Comment:** A romantic "paradise lost" experience for the discerning traveller.



Inside "Beachfront Fare"

Tanna Island

Peeking inside the volcano - Tanna



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"Yasur" at night.



Located 45 minutes by air from Port Vila, Tanna Island is remarkably different from any other island in Vanuatu. Tanna is steeped in centuries old customs and traditions and mysterious cargo cult worship. It is also home to **Yasur**, the world's most accessible active volcano, where beautiful wild horses run free through stark contrasting landscapes of thick, tropical jungle vegetation and barren, moonscape-like ash plains. To view **Yasur**; travel by 4 WD through the highlands, past coffee plantations and villages then across the ash plains to the mountain side. Trek to the rim of the crater and witness the awesome power of nature as you watch glowing vents of lava and magma spurring up into the evening sky. A walk to this fiery volcano certainly makes a visit to Tanna an unforgettable take home experience!



White Grass Ocean Resort - Tanna Island

Restaurant - White Grass Resort



© Chesher

White Grass Ocean Resort is situated on 6 acres of landscaped gardens that lead to a private, white sand beach. The resort's restaurant and bar has panoramic views of the ocean and the most amazing sunsets. Facilities include a swimming pool, guest library, tennis court, volleyball net and 9 hole putt-putt golf course. Snorkel nearby virgin reefs, sea kayak, mountain bike ride and experience volcano and custom village safaris.

panoramic views of the ocean and the most amazing sunsets. Facilities include a swimming pool, guest library, tennis court, volleyball net and 9 hole putt-putt golf course. Snorkel nearby virgin reefs, sea kayak, mountain bike ride and experience volcano and custom village safaris.

Accommodation consists of 12 well appointed individual, Melanesian bungalows. Each bungalow has a covered veranda, en suite bathroom with hot water, tiled floors, ceiling fans, screened windows, queen size bed with mosquito net and tea and coffee making facilities.



Inside bungalow

© Chesher

Our Comments: A slice of luxury in a world that seems so far removed.

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