

*So Solomons,  
So Different!*

# Solomon Islands

VISITOR GUIDE 2018 EDITION



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT US:

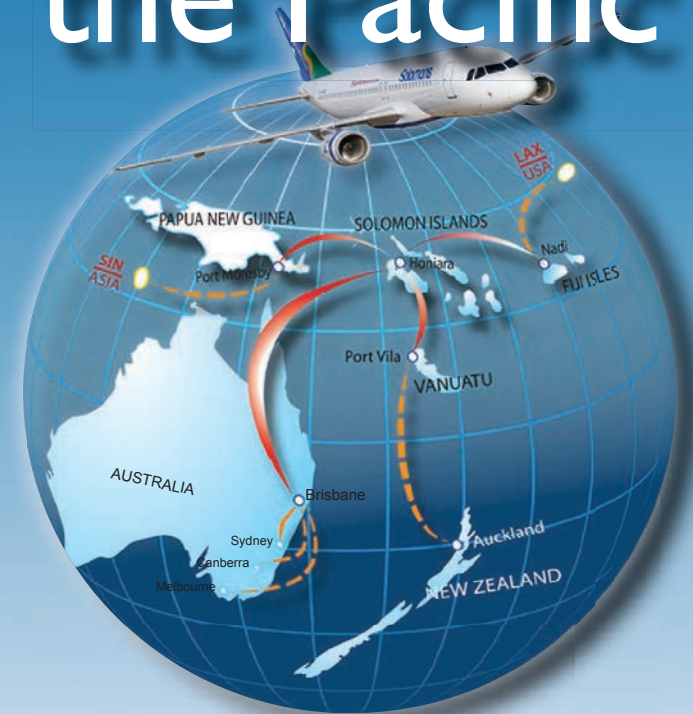
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau  
PO Box 321, Mendana Avenue,  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22442 E: info@sivb.com.sb  
visitsolomons.com.sb



SO SOLOMONS, SO DIFFERENT!  
visitsolomons.com.sb



# Bridging the Pacific



A truly proud local, serving the nation for 53 years



**flysolomons**

# The Map



MAP NOT TO SCALE



## THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AT A GLANCE

<b>Political status:</b>	Independence from Britain in 1978
<b>Land area:</b>	28,370 sq km
<b>Population:</b>	Approx. 550,000
<b>Capital:</b>	Honiara
<b>Languages:</b>	Pidgin, English & provincial based dialects
<b>GDP per capita:</b>	SBD\$6735 (ADB, 2007)
<b>EEZ:</b>	1,340,000 sq km





A scattered archipelago of some 900-odd richly forested mountainous islands and low-lying coral atolls, the Solomon Islands has been attracting international tourism since 1568 when Spanish explorer

Alvaro de Mendana first sailed into this tucked away corner of the South Pacific.

Mendana's legacy can still be found in the Solomon Islands today with many of the islands still bearing the Spanish names he gave them - Santa Isabel, San Cristóbal and perhaps the most famous of all, Guadalcanal, the name synonymous with World War II which takes its name from a small township in Andalucia in southern Spain.

But for the most part the Solomon Islands and their quiet, reserved people - a mix of Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian cultures - were left pretty much alone after Mendana's visit until 300 years later when Great Britain was given control of the entire territory.

Things changed dramatically during World War II and the Solomon Islands became a household name when the forces of Imperial Japan invaded, the region becoming the scene for some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific theatre and most famously the battle of Guadalcanal when thousands of Japanese and US servicemen lost their lives.

The British re-gained control in 1945 and in 1976, the Solomon Islands became self-governing before gaining full independence in 1978.

Little has changed in the Solomon Islands since then and it's thanks to this that the Solomon Islands have become such a breathtakingly fresh destination for those international travellers hardy enough to get off the beaten track and look for a new and very different experience.

Today World War II buffs and veterans and their families - mostly American and Japanese - SCUBA divers and surfers looking for the ultimate uncrowded wave, make up the bulk of the 25,000 or so international travellers who visit every year.

But the destination is fast attracting a brand new breed of travellers from around the world - family groups, honeymooners, sports fishermen, yachties, culture-lovers and simply those looking to make their own tracks. The newly emerging, multi-faceted Solomon Islands can pretty much cater to every taste, desire and budget with its myriad choice of accommodation - from the 'big gun' hotels of the capital Honiara to boutique resort accommodation, eco-lodges and home-stays dotted across the entire archipelago.

Best of all, and quite a surprise for many travellers, the Solomon Islands are very easy to reach - it takes less than three hours to reach the Solomon Islands' capital Honiara from Brisbane flying a sleek Solomon Airlines Airbus A 320 complete with full onboard service. Welkam to the Solomon Islands



Freda. Unusi  
Marketing Manager, SIVB



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

PO Box 321, Mendana Avenue,  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
Call (677) 22442 Email [info@sivb.com.sb](mailto:info@sivb.com.sb)  
[www.visitsolomons.com.sb](http://www.visitsolomons.com.sb)  
[www.facebook.com/visitsolomonislands](https://www.facebook.com/visitsolomonislands)



# Solomons' Top 10 Must Dos

- 1 Watch the spectacular display of Kavachi's underwater volcano in south of Ngatokae, Western Province.
- 2 Visit Honiara's cosmopolitan and colourful food market in downtown Honiara, a vibrant and living melting pot of the Solomons!
- 3 Treat yourself to watching the wild antics of frocking dolphins out of a cove on Savo Island.
- 4 Free the spirit of adventure inside you by surfing some of the world's top surf hideaways in lau lagoon in Malaita or Tagovave on Guadalcanal's Weathercoast.
- 5 Be mesmerized by the calm expanse of Marovo lagoon in the Western Province, the largest saltwater lagoon in the world and home to an array of teeming marine life.
- 6 Take a flight and be awed by the raised atoll islands of Rennell & Bellona, which is the home of Lake Tegano, a World heritage site.
- 7 Enjoy the water's underwater in clear conditions by diving Gizo's Grand central Station or the Japanese wreck, the Toa Maru.
- 8 Catch a glimpse of the fierceness of World War II battles and be touched at the bravery of soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice by visiting war sites in and outside Honiara, on land and underwater.
- 9 Be blown away by the poignant sound of panpipe music of 'are'are in Malaita.
- 10 Let nature surprise you by visiting nestling grounds for green turtles, leatherback and hawksbill, most of which are considered critically endangered.

# Contents

MAP	1
WELCOME	2

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO	4
----------------------	---

## ABOUT THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Location	8
History	9
People	10
Flora & Fauna	10
Culture	11
Religion	11
Economy	12
Government	13

## DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Solomon Islands Missions Overseas	14
Foreign Missions in Solomon Islands	15

GENERAL INFORMATION	17
---------------------	----

## AROUND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS: PROVINCES

Honiara	26
Guadalcanal (beyond Honiara)	39
Central Province (Florida & Savo Island)	42
Western Province	46
Ysabel Province	60
Choiseul Province	64
Malaita Province	66
Rennell & Bellona Province	70
Makira & Ulawa Province	73
Temotu Province	79

Disclaimer: Extra care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is as accurate and reliable as possible. However, Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau or other contributors to this guide booklet cannot guarantee that any information in this guide booklet, including but not limited to, contacts, website addresses, telephone numbers, facts and figures or any services will remain unchanged. Operators can change or close and new operators may be established at any time. For verification of any information in this guide, please contact: Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau T: (677) 22442 E: info@sivb.com.sb www.visitsolomons.com.sb

# About the Solomon Islands

## LOCATION

Centred at longitude 160 degrees east and latitude 9 degrees south of the equator, Solomon Islands comprises 992 islands of which 147 are inhabited.

These stretch 1448 kilometres (900 miles) in a south-easterly direction from the Shortland Islands on the border with Papua New Guinea on the northeast to the Santa Cruz Islands, which borders with Vanuatu on the southeast.

The archipelago covers an area of 461,000 sq km (249,000 sq nautical miles) of which 28,446 sq km (10,938 sq miles) is landmass.

The six biggest islands are Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira.

On the atlas, Solomon Islands lie northeast of Australia and southwest of Hawaii.

Deeply forested mountainous islands add a towering contrast to low-lying coral atolls, right down to the tiny artificial islands built of coral and soil common on Malaita's northern coast.

## HISTORY

Archaeological and linguistic evidence show that Solomon Islands was settled between 4000-5000 years ago by people from Southeast Asia.

From here, a group continued east and south settling in what is now known as Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji and the Polynesian islands of Tonga and Samoa. It was not one way though as archaeologists point to a return migration of mainly Polynesians sometime later. Their descendants now live in atolls that border Solomon Islands' northern, southern and eastern boundaries.

It was not until the 16th century that the Europeans came to learn of the Solomon Islands.

Spanish explorer Álvaro de Mendana made the first contact in 1568. When he discovered alluvial gold on Guadalcanal, he thought he had found the source of King Solomon's (of the Bible fame) great wealth and named it the Isles of Solomon. It was through his influence that many of the islands in the archipelago bear original Spanish names.

After Mendana, others mainly Dutch and French explorers made forays into the group. Then it was the turn of the Germans and British.

The islands of New Georgia, Guadalcanal, Makira and Malaita became a British protectorate in 1893 with Tulagi proclaimed the protectorate capital in 1896.

The islands of Santa Cruz, Rennell and Bellona were included between 1898 and 1899. The Shortlands, Choiseul, Santa Isabel and Ontong Java were not part of the protectorate until 1900.

Japanese aggression turned the islands into a war theatre during World War II. Both the Japanese and allied forces suffered huge losses in land, sea and aerial battles.

Over 60 years later, the archipelago is littered with war wrecks and some of the country's infrastructures today like airstrips and roads owe their existence to the war.

Solomon Islands gained independence from Britain on July 7, 1978. Twenty years later, in 1998, tribal rivalries erupted into armed hostilities on Guadalcanal which prompted Australia and its Pacific Islands neighbours to launch RAMSI, the regional assistance mission to Solomon Islands, in July 2003. Hostilities have ended and the nation is back on track with an elected government in power.

## PEOPLE

As Part of The Melanesian group of islands, which also includes Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji, the Solomon Islands was first settled by hunters and gatherers from Southeast Asia. Seafarers followed later.

Through the tracing of a distinct type of pottery called lapita, archaeologists say the original settlers of Polynesia in eastern Pacific trace their origins back to Melanesia, to Solomon Islands actually.

Today, between 70 to 80 percent of the population live a subsistence form of life in their small villages, settlements and islands away from the main urban centres. This number is expected to erode as people move from rural to urban areas for higher education and employment.

## FLORA & FAUNA

The main Islands of Solomons are volcanic in origin covered with fast flowing rivers and streams. They are home to many endemic flora and fauna species, which includes the common cardinal lorry.

Current estimates put a total of 4500 plant species and 173 species of birds including the famous megapode bird that nests in the thermal sand of some islands in Central and Western provinces. In the World heritage listed Rennell Island alone, 10 plants and 4 species and nine subspecies of birds have been identified as endemic.

Also endemic is the saltwater sea snake known as the krait. A book written by Solomon Islander environmentalist Patrick Pikacha, titled "Wild West", widely covers wildlife species ranging from birds to butterflies.



## CULTURE

Communal, clan and family ties remain strong in these islands with the existence of the Wantok system.

A key part of the Melanesian culture, Wantok means people from the same language group who are blood relatives. They are part of the extended family support and assist one another.

Kastom, the pidgin term for custom, refers to traditional beliefs and land ownership. Despite the predominance of devout Christians, traditional practices are still being followed especially by those living in the hinterland of the country's larger islands.

Off the beaten path, village life remains much as it has been for centuries. While some do welcome strangers, not all do - so ask local authorities first before venturing to visit these remote and far-flung areas.

## RELIGION

About 95% of The Population are Christians. The principal religions are church of Melanesia (Anglican) about 25%; Roman Catholic 19%; South Seas Evangelical 17% United Church (Methodist) 11% and Seventh Day Adventist 10%. Other religions have made an impact notably the Baha'i faith, Jehovah's Witness, Assemblies of God and Baptist.



## ECONOMY

Driven By high commodity prices, the Solomon Islands economy had been performing quite well in recent years.

In 2007, for instance, the economy grew by 10.3%, the highest in the South Pacific Region for that year.

It slowed down to around 6% in 2008 but an impressive growth rate nevertheless. Much of that growth was attributed to high levels of log exports.

However, experts say current rates of tree felling are unsustainable, restrictions on log harvesting therefore have been imposed.

Good commodity prices for copra, cocoa and fish exports had also been helpful, and also stimulating the economy was the government's expansionary fiscal policy, bulk of which is going towards building and improving infrastructure like roads and bridges.

Because of this and recent wage increases awarded to government workers, consumer spending has been bullish.

That, together with high prices of imported goods, especially fuel, pushed inflation up to peak at 16.5% in 2008.

Commercial bank credit has also been strong, growing by 34.3%.

Like other free market economies, Solomon Islands economy is not immune to the impact of the global financial meltdown. Lesser growth is being projected for 2009 and 2010.

Things might change for the better if the country's sole gold mine Gold ridge overcomes funding issues and commences gold exports soon.

The security and safety that RAMSI brought to the Solomon Islands in 2003 has also provided a strong base for economic growth. New investors in the country are now able to start businesses with a renewed sense of confidence and certainty about the future.



## GOVERNMENT

Solomon Islands follow the Westminster system of democracy with the British Monarch retained as head of state and represented in the country by a Governor-General.

The Prime minister, elected by parliament, is the head of government and leads a group of cabinet ministers.

The country's 50 seat parliament is perched on a ridge overlooking Honiara city. Parliamentary representation is based on single-member constituencies.

For local government purposes, the country is divided into 10 administrative areas of which nine are provinces, administered by elected provincial members and the 10th is the city of Honiara, administered by a city council, headed by a mayor.

# Diplomatic Missions

Solomon Islands have diplomatic relations with a number of countries and has a representative based there.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OVERSEAS

**Australia**  
Canberra  
Solomon Islands High Commission  
Suite 3, 18 Napier Close, Deakin,  
Canberra, ACT, 2600, Australia  
T: 61 2 6282 7030  
E: info@solomonemb.org.au

Sydney  
Honorary Consul of Solomon Islands  
Suite 13, Level 1, 376 Victoria Street,  
Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010, Australia  
T: 61 2 9361 5866

**Belgium**  
Embassy of Solomon Islands  
Avenue Edouard Lacomble 17/1040,  
Brussels, Belgium  
T: 322 732 7085 / 322 732 7285  
E: siembassy@compuserve.com

**Fiji**  
Solomon Islands High Commission  
34 Reki Street, Suva, Fiji  
T: 679 310 0355

**Papua New Guinea**  
Solomon Islands High Commission  
Unit 2, GB House, Poreporena  
Highway Port Moresby,  
Papua New Guinea  
T: 675 3234 333

**Republic of China (Taiwan)**  
Embassy of Solomon Islands  
7f, no.9-1, lane 62 Tien Wy W. Road,  
Shih-lin Taipei, Republic of china  
(Taiwan)  
T: 886 22873 1168  
E: embassy@solomons.org.tw

**United States of America and  
Canada**  
Solomon Islands Permanent  
representative to the United Nations  
& Solomon Islands High  
Commissioner to Canada, New York,  
NY, 10017-4709, USA  
T: 1 212 599 6192/3 E: smi@  
foreignaffairs-solomons.org

**Indonesia**  
Consulate of Solomon Islands  
D2/24 Duta Mas Fatmawati  
Jalan R S Fatmawati 39, Jakarta,  
12150, Indonesia  
T: 62 21 726 4606

## FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

There are several foreign  
diplomatic missions based  
in Honiara.

**Australia**  
High Commission  
Mud Alley Road, PO Box 589  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 21561

**United Kingdom**  
British High Commission  
East Kola, Tanuli Ridge, PO Box 676  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 21705

**European Union**  
Commission  
3rd floor, City Centre Building  
Mendana Avenue, PO Box 844  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22765

**Japan**  
Embassy  
3rd Floor NPF Building  
Mendana Avenue, PO Box 560  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22953

**New Zealand**  
High Commission  
3rd Floor, City Centre Building  
Mendana Avenue. PO Box 697  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 21502

**Papua New Guinea**  
High Commission  
1st floor, Anthony Saru Building  
Mendana Avenue, PO Box 1109  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 20561

**Republic of China (Taiwan)**  
Embassy  
Panatina Plaza  
Kukum Highway, PO Box 586  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 38050

**France & Germany**  
Honorary Consul  
City Centre Building  
Point Cruz, PO Box 114  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22588

**United States**  
Consular Agent  
BJS Building,  
Commonwealth Street  
Point Cruz, PO Box 1194  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 23426  
T: (675) 321 1455 (Port Moresby)

**Israel**  
Consular Agent  
Suite 211  
Hyundai Mall  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
(677) 28292

**Republic of Korea**  
(South Korea)  
Honorary Consul, PO Box 623  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 28292





# General Information

## AIRPORT

Honiara International airport is your gateway into the Solomon Islands. It used to be named Henderson airport after a World War II US air force pilot. The airport is located 12 kms from Honiara city centre. Taxis (approx SBD\$100) and public bus services (Approx SBD\$5) are available on arrival. Most major hotels in Honiara will provide a shuttle bus service (for a fee) if requested in advance. The domestic terminal is located a few hundred metres from the International Terminal.

Inter-terminal and Honiara transfer services can also be arranged through Solomon Islands Terminal Services, who are based at the International Terminal.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS TERMINAL SERVICES

Honiara International Airport  
T: (677) 36912 E: [info@siterminalservices.aero](mailto:info@siterminalservices.aero)  
[www.siterminalservices.aero](http://www.siterminalservices.aero)

## CITY SHUTTLE SERVICES

"Trading as Airport shuttle & Sightsee Solomon SI Tours"  
T: (677) 760 7888 E: [tours@sightseesolomon.com.sb](mailto:tours@sightseesolomon.com.sb)  
[www.sightseesolomon.com.sb](http://www.sightseesolomon.com.sb)

## AIRLINE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Honiara International Airport is currently served by 4 international airlines flying direct from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji.

**Solomon Airlines** - [www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com) - The national carrier, flies to Honiara from Australia (Brisbane), PNG (Port Moresby), Vanuatu (Port Vila) and Fiji (Nadi) with connections from New Zealand, Europe, Asia and North America.

**Air Niugini** - [www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg) - Fly into Honiara from PNG (Port Moresby) with direct connections from Singapore and other Asian ports.

**Air Pacific** - [www.fiji Airways.com](http://www.fiji Airways.com) - Link Honiara with Fiji (Nadi) where flights connect with services from North America and other Pacific Islands.

**Virgin Australia** - [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com) - also flies into Honiara from Australia (Brisbane) with direct connections from New Zealand.

## AIRLINE SERVICES DOMESTIC

**Solomon Airlines** - [www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com) - Fly to 22 airports around the Solomon Islands. Many services connect with international flights at Honiara.

## SOLOMON AIRLINES SALES OFFICE LOCATIONS:

### Solomon Islands

Toll free call (Solomon Islands wide): 177 or T: (677) 20031  
[www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

Honiara Customer & Sales office - Domestic Terminal & Corporate office (City)

Gizo - Waterfront, next door to Gizo Hotel  
Agents located at all ports served.

## OVERSEAS OFFICES:

### Australia - Brisbane

L1, Brisbane International Terminal, Eagle Farm, Qld 4007  
T: (AUS) 1300 894 311 T: (outside AUS) +617 3860 5883  
E: [reservations@flysolomons.com](mailto:reservations@flysolomons.com) [www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

### Fiji - Nadi

Nadi, International Terminal Arrivals Concourse  
T: (679) 672 2831 E: [solomon@connect.com.fj](mailto:solomon@connect.com.fj)  
[www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

### Papua New Guinea - Port Moresby

T: (675) 76492401 E: [png.ops@flysolomons.com](mailto:png.ops@flysolomons.com)  
[www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

### New Zealand

Toll free call to Australian office: (0800) 424 980

## GENERAL SALES AGENTS (GSA):

### UK & Europe

London - Flight Directors, Flight House, Fernhill Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9SY, United Kingdom  
T: 44 (0) 8717 440336  
[www.solomonairlines.co.uk](http://www.solomonairlines.co.uk)

### United States

Los Angeles - North America Sales & Marketing, 5000 Birch St, #3000 Newport Beach, California 92660  
T: 949 752 5440 E: [flysolomons@gmail.com](mailto:flysolomons@gmail.com)  
[www.flysolomons.com](http://www.flysolomons.com)

## TRAVEL AGENTS - HONIARA

Guadalcanal Travel Service - Mendana Ave, PO Box 114, Honiara  
T: (677) 22586 E: [guadtrav@solomon.com.sb](mailto:guadtrav@solomon.com.sb)

Charis Travel Services - NPF Plaza, Unit 24 , PO Box 2084  
T: (677) 24193 E: [admin@charistravel.com.sb](mailto:admin@charistravel.com.sb)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the United States and most (British) commonwealth and European Union countries do not need a visa. If you have a valid passport (minimum 6 months validity from planned date of entry) and a return or onward ticket, you can acquire a visitor's visa valid for three months on arrival. Tourist visas are usually issued for 30 days on arrival. There are some exceptions, so do check with the Solomon Islands Immigration Service on (677) 22179, 22194 or 22199.  
E: [immdir@commerce.gov.sb](mailto:immdir@commerce.gov.sb) [www.commerce.gov.sb](http://www.commerce.gov.sb)

## DRESS CODE

Lightweight (cotton), casual clothing, and comfortable footwear are the usual dress worn. Occasionally, a light sweater may be handy for those rare cool nights. Bikini and other beachwear are acceptable at hotels/ resorts but not when out shopping in towns or visiting villages.

## CUSTOMS (DUTY FREE)

200 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco, and /or 2 litres of spirit or equivalent. Other dutiable goods ought not to exceed S\$1500 for gifts or S\$3000 for personal items.

## DEPARTURE TAX

This is usually included in the cost of your airline ticket. (Consult your travel agent)

## CLIMATE

The Solomon Islands has a tropical climate with a year round average temperature of about 29°C . Drier months are May through to October. Annual average rainfall is around 2520mm.

## TIPPING

Not encouraged or recommended.

## TIME ZONE

Eleven hours ahead of Greenwich mean time. One hour ahead of Brisbane, and one hour behind Fiji or Auckland (at non daylight saving time).

## NATIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The following dates are observed nationally on an annual basis. Actual days may change due to calendar.

New Year's Day	1st January
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Saturday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Whit Monday	3rd Monday of May
Queen's Birthday	2nd Friday of June
Independence Day	7th July
Christmas Day	25th December
National Day Of Thanksgiving	26th December

## PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Choiseul Province	25th February
Isabel Province	2th June
Temotu Province	8th June
Central Province	29th June
Renbel Province	20th July
Guadalcanal Province	1st August
Makira Ulawa Province	3rd August
Malaita Province	15th August
Western Province	7th December

## CHURCH SERVICES

Most Solomon Islanders are religious and visitors are welcome to attend local services. Check with your hotel reception for direction.

## ELECTRICITY

220 - 240 volts is the standard. Australian three pin style plugs are standard. For 110 volts, ask or buy a voltage converter. If your electrical appliances are other international plugs, we recommend you bring an adapter with you.

## POST OFFICE

Main post office in Honiara is next to the British high commission on Mendana Avenue. Mail is also processed at post offices in the main provincial centres. Some hotels also handle guest mail. DHL's courier service is available at BJS Building, Point Cruz.

## CURRENCY & MONEY EXCHANGE

Solomon Islands dollar (SBD) is the base currency. Notes available in - \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5. Coins in - \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c. As at 1 March 2013, AUD\$1 = approx SBD\$6.05 ; US\$1 = approx SBD\$7.95. Note rates are subjected to change.

Solomon Post and Solomon Islands Terminal Services operate currency exchange facilities at Honiara International airport. All 'commercial' banks in Honiara, Auki and Gizo handle exchange transactions. Western union agencies will be found in all BSP branches and Solomon Post's main office in Honiara.

Most hotels and resorts will provide currency exchange services for Australian and US dollars. Some overseas airports and banks may exchange Solomon Islands currency, however you should plan on exchanging currency when you arrive in the Solomon Islands.

## CREDIT CARDS

MasterCard and Visa accepted at some tourist facilities and restaurants. A surcharge normally applies. American Express is accepted in major hotels in Honiara. Generally speaking, smaller guest houses will only accept cash.

## BANKS

There are three main commercial banks: Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (ANZ), Bank of South Pacific (BSP) and Pan Oceanic Bank (POB) and the newest bank in town is Bred Bank, ATM's in selected locations around Honiara.

Banking Hours 9am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays. ANZ & BSP Bank operates ATM machines in Honiara, Auki & Gizo.



## ACCOMMODATION

Refer "where to stay" under each Province section.

## HEALTH

The main public hospital is in Honiara with smaller facilities in major provincial centres. Private clinics are also found in Honiara. Malaria medication and prevention is recommended; insect repellent and sleeping under a mosquito net is highly recommended, especially in remote areas.

It is recommended you ensure you are up to date with immunisations for travel to the Solomon Islands. Please consult your doctor in advance of your trip. We recommend you take out comprehensive health and travel insurance for your visit, to cover any unforeseen circumstances.

Tap water should be boiled prior to drinking. Bottled water is readily available in hotels and shops throughout the Solomon Islands.

## DINING OUT

Refer "where to eat" under each Province.

## NIGHTLIFE

Major hotels provide entertainment with contemporary and cultural performances on certain places like the Point Cruz Yacht Club, the Capitains bar at Pacific Casino Hotel, Club HP at the Heritage Park Hotel and IBS Club at the Iron Bottom Sound Hotel.

Supreme Casino, Honiara Casino and the Coral Sea Resort & Casino offer poker, baccarat, blackjack and roulette for both casual and serious gamblers.

Some nightspots around Honiara offer DJ or live band music.

Another popular hangout is the Golf clubhouse at Ranadi as well as the Ranadi Beach club. In Gizo, check out the PT 109 Koburutavia lodge, named after the WWII boat of the late John f Kennedy who later became President of united States of America, and SB Bar at Sanbis resort. Normal level of care should be observed when going out at night.



### TRANSPORT

Sea, air and land transportations are available but the main ones are sea and air.

Ships and canoes powered by outboard motor are cheaper. Because the islands are scattered, roads are only limited to very few places. Most international island ships leaving Honiara depart from the Point Cruz wharf area.

This is generally the best place to find out when boats are leaving. There is a fast cat service between Honiara and Auki (Malaita), whilst other passenger services generally depart once or twice a week. Daily services are available across to Tulagi.

### TELECOMMUNICATION & INTERNET SERVICES

Our Telekom has a modern telephone network in Honiara offering IDD telephones in major hotels. Public phones in Honiara and rural centres are accessible to international calls to the rest of the world.

You can easily purchase phone cards through Our Telekom or BeMobile through agencies located throughout the Solomon Islands. Similarly wifi cards can be purchased and major hotels have wifi hotspots. Sim cards for mobile phone and internet use are also available.

Solomon Telekom and BeMobile also have roaming arrangements with number International phone providers. Please check with your phone service provider prior to see if they have mobile roaming arrangements in the Solomon Islands.

### DOING BUSINESS

Investors are always welcome. Visit the Solomon Islands Investment Board, which is always available to lend a hand.

Attractive concessions are available especially in sectors such as manufacturing, commercial agriculture, timber processing, fisheries, electronics, electrical engineering, tourism, mining, food processing and textile.

#### For more information, please contact:

The Secretary, Investment Board,  
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Employment,  
T: (677) 22856 M: (677) 747 5207  
E: [investment@commerce.gov.sb](mailto:investment@commerce.gov.sb);  
[www.investsolomons.gov.sb](http://www.investsolomons.gov.sb)

### MEDIA

Solomon Islands have a vibrant media industry. The Solomons Star is the leading daily newspaper, with other publications being the Island Sun and the Sunday Isles newspapers.

There are 3 commercial FM stations in addition to the national service operated by Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. Stations broadcast mainly in Pidgin, which many visitors find easy to comprehend. They broadcast local music with familiar island beat. Reggae music is also popular. In some areas international services such as BBC and Radio Australia signals can be heard.

Hotels and some residents subscribe to Australia's ABC and BBC service through satellite TV on offer through the Fiji-based Sky Pacific service. The Fiji television service also owns emTV in neighbouring Papua New Guinea whose signal can also be picked up in the country.



## LANGUAGE

There are about 90 languages in the country. Whilst English is taught in schools and is the official language, locals use a mixture of Melanesian and English called Pidgin to converse.

Here are some useful phrases to know:

<b>Good morning</b>	mone/moning
<b>Hello</b>	halo
<b>Goodbye</b>	baebae(pron:bae-bae)
<b>See you again</b>	lukim yu moa
<b>Yes</b>	yes/yah
<b>No</b>	no/nomoa(pron:no-more)
<b>When</b>	wanem taem/wat taem
<b>Where</b>	wea/lo wea
<b>Little</b>	smol/smolfala/lelebet
<b>Plenty</b>	plande/staka
<b>Quick</b>	kwiktaem
<b>Eat</b>	kaikai
<b>Come</b>	kam
<b>Where are you going?</b>	yu go wea/wea nao yu go?
<b>One</b>	onefala
<b>Two</b>	tufala
<b>Thank you</b>	tagio tumas
<b>I'm sorry</b>	mi sore/sore tumas
<b>Where are you from?</b>	yu bilong wea?
<b>I'm from Australia</b>	mi blong Australia
<b>My name is</b>	nem blong mi hem
<b>Do you speak English?</b>	yu save tok englis
<b>I do not understand</b>	mi no save/mi no undastadem
<b>it's prohibited</b>	hem tamboo
<b>I'm a vegetarian</b>	mi vegiteriaen/mi no kaikai meat



## INBOUND TOUR OPERATORS

The following companies cater for accommodation and tour bookings throughout the Solomon Islands.

### Destination Solomons Travel & Tours

PO Box 1350, Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 23444 M: (677) 7488150

E: destsolo@destinationsolomons.com

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

### Solomon Islands Hotel Link

PO Box 21, Gizo, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 60526 E: info@solomonislands-hotels.travel

[www.solomonislands-hotels.travel](http://www.solomonislands-hotels.travel)

### Travel Solomons Ltd

PO Box 1784, Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 24081 M: (677) 7489974

E: travelsol@solomon.com.sb

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

### Wantok Inbound Tours & Travel Services

PO Box 1231, Honiara, Solomon Islands

M: (677) 7473290 or (677) 7449908

E: wantok.francis@gmail.com

### City Shuttle Services

"Trading as Airport shuttle & Sightsee Solomon SI Tours"

T: (677) 760 7888 E: tours@sightseesolomon.com.sb

[www.sightseesolomon.com.sb](http://www.sightseesolomon.com.sb)

### Charis Travel Services

PO Box 3084, Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 24193 E: admin@charistravel.com.sb



Honiara is the national capital and gateway to the Solomon Islands. For most international visitors this will be your first port of call.

Located on the north coast of Guadalcanal, Honiara is the seat of the national Government and the country's major commercial centre.

With a population of about 50,000 inhabitants, Honiara is a bustling tropical city. The main shopping and commercial area is around Point Cruz. There is also a busy Chinatown and industrial areas along the coast at Ranadi. For those on business Honiara is home to most commercial head offices and the primary centre for Government Business. The city has a number of conference centres that regularly host regional and international conventions.

**Population:** 84,000 approx  
**Airport:** Honiara International (HIR)  
**Seaport:** Honiara

## THINGS TO DO

### DIVING

The Solomon Islands diving has gained an enviable worldwide reputation that is unsurpassed. With an abundance of World War II history, there are numerous wreck dive sites close to Honiara and just offshore in Iron Bottom Sound. You can also arrange day trips across to the Florida Islands (Central Province) for reef and wreck diving. Currently there is 1 dive operator based in Honiara. Additionally, Bilikiki Cruises operate live aboard dive cruises out of Honiara

#### Tulagi Dive

Point Cruz, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 25700 M: (677) 7475043  
E: [dive@tulagidive.com](mailto:dive@tulagidive.com)  
[www.tulagidive.com.sb](http://www.tulagidive.com.sb)

A great way to see the diverse array of diving's the Solomon's has to offer is aboard one of the two charter boats based in Honiara. In addition to the well documented, world-renowned diving, Solomon Islands also offer a hidden wealth of cultural and natural wonders. During trips to villages you will be welcomed by the shy, friendly smiles of the Solomon Islands people offering local, hand-made souvenirs for sale. In the evenings you can fish for kingfish, Wahoo, yellowtail or tuna, with assistance from the crew.

#### Solomon Islands Dive Expeditions

PO Box R28, Honiara Solomon Islands  
M: +677 759 9571 C: 604 315 5932  
North America: +1 206 925 2953  
International: +1 206 925 3953  
E: [book@dive-solomon.com](mailto:book@dive-solomon.com)  
[www.solomonsdiving.com](http://www.solomonsdiving.com)

#### Bilikiki Cruises

(Live-aboard Diving, cruising around the Solomon Islands)  
Canada Office - PO Box 656, Iroquois Falls, Ontario, Canada  
T: (1) 416 800 1676 / Toll Free in North America  
(USA/Canada) 1800 663 5363 E: [bilikiki@bilikiki.com](mailto:bilikiki@bilikiki.com)

Honiara Office - PO Box 876, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 20412 E: [bilikiki@bilikiki.com](mailto:bilikiki@bilikiki.com)  
[www.bilikiki.com](http://www.bilikiki.com)



## FISHING

The waters of the Solomon Islands are renowned for big game, reef, wreck, beach and estuary fishing. There are plenty of spots within easy reach of Honiara. Extreme Adventures and other charter boats from PCYC offer fishing charters from Honiara.

### Ripples Boat Charters

M: (677) 7494163

E: ripplesfreedom@hotmail.com

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

### Coral Sea Fishing Charter

Tandai Highway, Town Ground

PO Box 1171, Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 26288 E: reception@coral-sea-resort.com

## GOLF

The Honiara Golf club is an 18 tee 11 whole course. It has a small clubhouse that has undergone refurbishments to improve the bar and member facilities. Members range from expatriates from all corners of the world to local Solomon Islanders that have represented their country in the South Pacific Games known as the Pacific Games. The Honiara Golf club was the former site of the US army air corps fighter 2 airfield where Lockheed lightning's were based during the Battle of Guadalcanal. Visitors are welcome and clubs are available for hire.

### Honiara Golf Club

Ranadi, PO Box 195, Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 30181 E: hongolfclub@solomon.com.sb

## SURFING

There are a number of surfing locations that are accessible from Honiara. These are mostly located in the Northern region of Malaita Province, Gizo and Munda in the Western Province. Papatara Island retreat, Kagata Village stay and Solsurf in Isabel Province and Star Harbour in the Makira Province. The best surf conditions are generally from November to March.

### Surf Solomons

PO Box 1854 Honiara, Solomon Islands

T: (677) 22086 E: info@surfsolomons.com

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

## Go Tours

Head office: 2/33 Dominions Road

Ashmore Queensland 4214 Australia

T: +61 (07) 5527 9855 E: info@gotours.com.au

[www.gotours.com.au/solomon-islands](http://www.gotours.com.au/solomon-islands)

## TREKS AND ADVENTURE

There are numerous walking and jogging tracks in and around Honiara. The walks noted below are particularly good both for their scenery and because they are reasonably easy to find and arrange. For longer walks, we highly recommend you hire a guide - they are quite inexpensive and will ensure you arrive at your destination without losing your way.

These can be arranged by contacting Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau office in Honiara.

- Mataniko Cascades, Honiara
- Tenaru Waterfall, Tenaru
- Savo Volcano, Savo Island
- Kolombanara trekking & adventure
- Travel & Tours Guadalcanal

## WORLD WAR II TOURS

Some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place in and around Honiara. Names like Bloody Ridge, Red Beach, Skyline Ridge and Henderson Field will live long in the memories of both sides. Here, in 1942, World War 2's bloodiest and longest campaign saw the loss of nearly 38,000 lives and the turning point of the war in the Pacific. There are many battle sites and relics of the war found not only around Honiara, but also throughout the islands.

Some places to see in and around Honiara include:

### Point Cruz

A five-minute walk from major hotels was the centre of many battles. Views to the east and west will give you a good perspective of the terrain. In December 1942, US army guns were lined up almost wheel-to-wheel shelling targets further west.

### Betikama School Relics

As you travel from downtown Honiara towards the airport, take the road that goes right just before Lunga Bridge. This takes you to Betikama Seventh Day Adventist School, which is on the west bank of the Lunga River, opposite Henderson airport. This was a US camp area during the battle of Guadalcanal and the 1st marines were on the nearby hills. There are relics on display including a P400, Bren carrier and US and Japanese artillery.

### Bonegi

Along the coast west of Kokumbona. Wreck of transport Kinugawa Maru lies at rest on the beach. There is a S\$20.00 entry fee. Across the road, a trail goes towards an old US firing range that has the gull of a Sherman Jezebel on it. Follow the track a few hundred yards past the tank and you will find a 1943-45 US military dump. A range of equipment was simply dumped down a hillside, including jeep parts, Jerri cans, fuel drums, hundreds of empty whisky and coca cola bottles, etc.

### Chinatown

East bank of the Matanikau. This area saw heavy fighting for months. Cross the Matanikau Bridge and then turn right and follow the road along the east bank. Then you come to the 2nd bridge across the river (this was the original bridge site). Look upstream from the middle of this bridge and that's where US wooden footbridges were during the November 1942 fighting.

### Henderson Airfield

Japanese Zero propeller on the wall in the lounge. Japanese 75mm AA gun outside the terminal. Plaque to Lofton Henderson. Memorial garden with various plaques and trees dedicated to various units and individuals. A few hundred yards west of the terminal is the 1943 control tower and a memorial to the Edsons Ridge Battle.

### Thin Red Line

Cross the Matanikau Bridge and drive two miles south down the east bank. Here, you can wade across the river and hike up the valley towards the area known as the Thin Red Line to see foxholes on Sims ridge. These can be treacherous on the muddy coral ridges after rainfall!

### American War Memorial

Located on the ridge behind town. From here you can view many of the battlefield sites & enjoy expansive views across Iron Bottom Sound.

### Vilu War Museum

Open air display of relics. Wildcat, P400 remains, corsair, P38, assorted wings, Japanese artillery and lots of smaller items can be found further up the coast towards cape Esperance.

## CORAL SEA RESORT

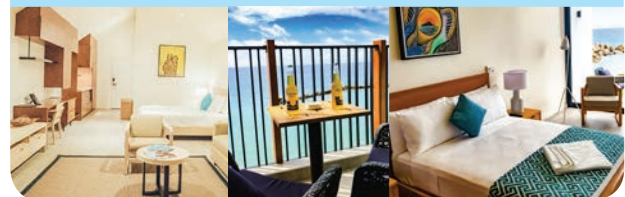


The Coral Sea Resort is a unique blend of warm Solomon Islander hospitality and South Pacific sophistication. Located on the waterfront overlooking the Pacific Ocean & Florida Islands, the Coral Sea Villas are nestled in the heart of tropical landscape gardens with direct access to the ocean, and only 1.5 km from Honiara CBD, and 11.5 km from Henderson International Airport. Our Resort offers 24 hour reception, Free WiFi, a deluxe pool, a casino and a Charter Boat.

Our room types are the Luxury Waterfront Villa, Seaview Suites, Garden view suites & Long Stay Suites.

We offer two dining options. Haydn's Steakhouse is your perfect choice for modern Australian and European cuisine. For the more adventurous, why not try The Boardwalk which specializes in South-East Asian street food. Enjoy pure indulgence when you and your family (or friends) choose Honiara and Coral Sea Resort as your travel destination.

Tandai Highway, Town Ground  
PO Box 1171, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 26288 E: [reception@coral-sea-resort.com](mailto:reception@coral-sea-resort.com)  
[www.coral-sea-resort.com](http://www.coral-sea-resort.com)



## WHERE TO STAY

### HOTELS

#### Heritage Park Hotel

Seafont, Mendana Avenue,  
Point Cruz, Honiara,  
T: (677) 24007  
E: info@heritageparkhotel.com.sb  
[www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb](http://www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb)

Newly built in 2009 this international standard hotel is located in central Honiara. 48 hotel rooms and 27 one, two & three bedroom apartments. All air-conditioned with private facilities, tea/coffee making facilities, fridge. Apartments have kitchens. Hotel facilities include restaurant, poolside cafe, terrace bar, conference facilities, business centre, gym, swimming pool, gift shop, members club. Airport transfer service, room service and in-house laundry available. All major credit cards accepted.

#### Honiara Hotel

Chinatown, Honiara  
T: (677) 21737  
E: reservations@honiarahotel.com.sb

90 executive air-conditioned rooms and suites with private facilities. Also budget rooms with shared facilities. Room amenities include TV, tea/coffee making facilities, fridge, IDD telephone. Hotel facilities include 3 restaurants, 2 bars, function rooms, gym, currency exchange, souvenir shop, internet service and swimming pool. Airport transfers and in-house laundry available. Major credit cards accepted.

#### Iron Bottom Sound Hotel

Rove Road, Seafont,  
PO Box 1892 Honiara,  
T: (677) 28633/28632  
E: ibs\_hotel@yahoo.com  
[www.ironbottomsoundhotel.com](http://www.ironbottomsoundhotel.com)

36 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities. Room amenities include TV, tea/coffee making facilities, fridge, IDD telephone. Hotel facilities include 3 restaurants, 2 bars, function rooms, currency exchange, souvenir shop, internet service and swimming pool. In-house laundry available. Major credit cards accepted.

#### King Solomon Hotel

Hibiscus Avenue, Point Cruz,  
PO Box 205 Honiara,  
T: (677) 21205  
E: reservations@kingsolomon.com.sb  
[www.solomonislandsresorts.com](http://www.solomonislandsresorts.com)

60 air-conditioned rooms and apartments overlooking Point Cruz and Iron Bottom Sound. All rooms have private facilities, IDD telephone, fridge, tea/coffee making facilities. There is a restaurant, bar, conference centre, wifi internet, nightclub, hair salon and swimming pool. In-house laundry service available. Major credit cards accepted.

#### Pacific Casino Hotel & Apartments

Kukum Highway, Seafont,  
PO Box 1298 Honiara,  
T: (677) 25009  
E: reservations@pacificcasinohotel.com.sb  
[www.solomon-hotel.com](http://www.solomon-hotel.com)

150 air-conditioned suites, rooms and apartments. All air-conditioned with private facilities. Some have fridge and TV. Hotel facilities include 2 restaurants, bar, casino, nightclub, business centre, gift shop and currency exchange, swimming pool, function centre and tennis courts. Airport shuttle and laundry service available. Credit cards accepted.

#### Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel

Mendana Avenue on the Seafont,  
Point Cruz, PO Box 384 Honiara,  
T: (677) 20071  
E: reserve@mendana.com.sb  
[www.kitanomendana.com](http://www.kitanomendana.com)

100 air conditioned suites, executive, deluxe seaview and garden rooms. All rooms have private facilities, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, fridge and IDD telephone. Hotel facilities include 2 restaurants (Western and Japanese), cafe, bar, conference hall and business centre. Wifi hotspot. Swimming pool, gift shop, currency exchange. Airport transfers, room service and laundry service available. Major credit cards accepted.

#### Seafly Green Hotel

Town Ground  
PO Box 1171, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
M: (677) 7779999  
E: SeaflyGreenHotel@163.com

#### Travellers Motel

Fijian Quarter, Vave Street,  
PO Box 56, Honiara,  
17 standard single & double rooms with shared facilities, cooking facilities provided for guests. Housekeeping & public phone available.

#### Coral Sea Resort & Casino

Tandai Highway, Town Ground  
PO Box 1171, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 26288  
E: reception@coral-sea-resort.com  
[www.coral-sea-resort.com](http://www.coral-sea-resort.com)

The Coral Sea Resort is a unique blend of warm Solomon Islander hospitality and South Pacific sophistication. Located on the waterfront overlooking the Pacific Ocean & Florida Islands, the Coral Sea Villas are nestled in the heart of tropical landscape gardens with direct access to the ocean, and only 1.5 km from Honiara CBD, and 11.5 km from Henderson International Airport. Our Resort offers 24 hour reception, Free WiFi, a deluxe pool, a casino and a Charter Boat.

### SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENTS

#### Sanalae Apartments

Panatina Ridge, East Honiara  
T: (677) 39218  
E: sanalae.apart@solomon.com.sb

A 12 room apartment property in East Honiara on Panatina Ridge. Offer self-contained units with kitchenette, private balconies overlooking the ocean or landscaped gardens. All rooms have queen or twin beds and ensuite. Wireless/WiFi access is available. Property facilities include dry cleaning/laundry service, luggage storage, on-site parking and housekeeping, self-service laundry facilities. Airport and city transfer service available.

### BUDGET & BACKPACKERS

#### Airport Motel

Henderson Highway past airport  
PO Box 251, Honiara  
T: (677) 36446

29 standard air-conditioned rooms, double, single, family suites with private facilities, credit card facilities, TV channels, restaurant, bar, gift shop & night club.

#### Chester Guest House

Lower Vavaya Ridge  
PO Box 1479 Honiara  
T: (677) 26355  
E: mbhches@solomon.com.sb  
8 rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen with cooking utensils.

#### Tanuli Royal Plains

Kola'a Ridge Road Tanuli Ridge  
P.O. Box 700, Honiara  
T: (677) 20203 M: (677) 74 79740  
E: trmp@solomon.com.sb

Airport transfers on request, housekeeping, public phone available, EftPos card facilities available. Offers air-conditioned self-contained single and double rooms, communal kitchen with cooking facilities provided for guests, in-house TV channel.

#### Bulaia Backpackers 1

Chinatown, P.O. Box 849, Honiara  
T: (677) 28819

28 Self-contained rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen.

#### Bulaia Backpackers 2

Tehamurina, Honiara  
T: (677) 22450

32 self-contained rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen.

#### Bulaia Backpackers 3

Kola Ridge, Honiara  
T: (677) 38025

22 Standard Rooms with shared facilities and 4 self-contained rooms.

#### Rock Haven Inn

Lower Vavaya Ridge, East Honiara  
PO Box 152, Honiara  
T: (677) 25218 or 25221 or 25219  
E: reservations@rockhaveninn.com.sb

46 air conditioned or fan cooled rooms with private or share facilities. Restaurant, bar and conference room on site. TV and telephone service available. Airport transfers on request. Major credit cards accepted.

#### Red Mansion Comfort Inn

Panatina Ridge, PO Box 995,  
Honiara  
T: (677) 38463  
E: btekulu@solomon.com.sb

21 rooms and self contained apartments with private facilities. TV with in-house video, Internet cafe, restaurant and bar. Function room, house keeping and telephone service available.

#### **St. Agnes Mothers Union**

Lower Vavaya Ridge,  
PO Box 1715, Honiara,  
T: (677) 25575

8 standard rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen. In-house laundry & public phone available.

#### **United Church Guest House**

Lower Vavaya Ridge  
PO Box 620 Honiara  
T: (677) 22064

E: mrtokuru@gmail.com  
10 standard single & double rooms with shared facilities, cooking facilities provided for guests. Housekeeping & public phone available.

## WHERE TO EAT

Apart from eating out in hotel restaurants, Honiara has some decent and quite reasonably priced eateries.

There are those that serve a la carte meals like the ocean-view restaurant at the Pacific casino hotel, and Hong Kong Palace on Hibiscus Avenue.

At Honiara hotel, you have the oasis and club havannah, the Golden crown restaurant is in town centre. For a gourmet sandwich or cappuccino in air-conditioned surrounds, a popular watering hole, especially for the expatriate community, is the Lime Lounge and the Break Water cafeteria in downtown Honiara, on Commonwealth Street is the Lime Lounge, The Break Water cafeteria between Mendana Hotel and Heritage Park Hotel. To the Ranadi end of town, Panatina Plaza offers an open market type of eatery. There are quite a lot of newly opened eateries in town.

If you want to avoid fizzy drinks, order a fresh, chilled green coconut juice or freshly crushed bush lime as most restaurants and cafes stock them.

If Indian cuisine is your thing, then Taj Mahal is the place to be and is located at the NPF Plaza Food Court.



## GETTING AROUND

Taxis are widely available in Honiara. Whilst some have meters, it is advisable to set the price prior to commencing your trip. Ask at your accommodation reception or office prior for an estimate on trip prices. Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau staff can also assist.

Buses generally operate along the main East-West corridor from King George School at the eastern end to Rove and White River to the west. Services also operate inland to up to Naha. Less frequent routes also extend further afield. Fares range from SBD\$3.00 to SBD30.00 depending on distance travelled.

Rental cars are also available. There are a number of operators in Honiara if you need one:

#### **Avis Car Rental**

Ela Motors

T: (677) 24180 E: avishoniara@ela.com.sb

[www.avis.com.sb](http://www.avis.com.sb)

#### **Economy Car Rental**

Mendana Avenue, Honiara

T: (677) 27100 E: economy@solomon.com.sb

[www.economycarrentals.com.sb](http://www.economycarrentals.com.sb)

#### **Kosol Car Rental**

Kosol Corporation Ltd

Ranandi Industrial Area, Honiara

T: (677) 30703

E: kosol@kosol.biz

#### **Supreme Car Rental**

Pacific Casino Hotel, Kukum Highway, Honiara

T: (677) 25009 ext. 306

E: carrental@pacificcasinohotel.com

#### **Paradise Motors Limited**

No.2538, Ranadi Industrial Area,

Prince Philip Highway, East Honiara

T: (677) 30290 or 30291

F: (677) 30289

E: sales@motors.paradisegrp.com

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



**HERITAGE  
PARK**  
HOTEL  
HONIAARA

**HERITAGE PARK HOTEL**  
Seafront, Mendana Avenue,  
Point Cruz, Honiara,  
T: (677) 24007

E: [info@heritageparkhotel.com.sb](mailto:info@heritageparkhotel.com.sb)  
[www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb](http://www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb)

Newly built in 2009 this international standard hotel is located in central Honiara. 48 hotel rooms and 27 one, two & three bedroom apartments. All air-conditioned with private facilities, tea/coffee making facilities, fridge. Apartments have kitchens. Hotel facilities include restaurant, poolside cafe, terrace bar, conference facilities, business centre, gym, swimming pool, gift shop, members club. Airport transfer service, room service and in-house laundry available. All major credit cards accepted.

Solomon Islands water front accommodation and is Located on the former residence of the erstwhile British governor and two governor generals, Sir Baddeley Devesi and Sir George Lepping of the Independent Solomon Islands is Heritage Park Hotel. You will find numerous monuments honouring the history of Honiara and the nine Provinces of Solomon Islands around the hotel's premises.

Our Hotel Rooms overlook the beautiful landscaped gardens and Pacific Ocean. Our deluxe and executive suites are tastefully furnished with a comfortable queen bed or twin beds, a well-appointed ensuite, wardrobe, tea and coffee facilities and private balcony with lounge and dining area and free Wi-Fi access during your stay.

Our executive suites will give you that bit of extra space to really relax with a Studio layout and all facilities of a serviced apartment, these rooms have stunning views of the lush landscaped gardens and a vista of the sea. The suites are fully furnished with kitchenette, laundry facilities, bathroom and wardrobe, tea/coffee making facilities and free wifi access during your stay. Ideal for short to medium term stay.

Single bedroom serviced apartments are designed for short or long term occupants in mind, our one bedroom serviced apartments have all the amenities you need to really get comfortable during your visit to Honiara. Our two bedroom serviced apartments are the business class option of accommodation in Honiara while our three bedroom apartments offer a step into your own private oasis with our presidential apartments.

Boasting three of the best dining experiences in Honiara, heritage park hotel's restaurants and bars cater to all discerning taste buds. Stop by for a leisurely bite to eat at Splash Bar & Grill or enjoy a full fine dining experience at GG's Restaurant. If you are after something in between try out The Terrace Restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch or dinner.





Apart from being home of the country's capital, Honiara, Guadalcanal is a mountainous tropical island. It was the scene of many fierce battles during the Pacific War from 1942 to 1945.

There are very few roads beyond Honiara, which makes access challenging. For the intrepid traveller Guadalcanal abounds in natural wonders.

At the eastern tip lies Marau Sound, an area of turquoise waters dotted with lush tropical islands. From Marau you can access the south side of Guadalcanal, known as the Weather Coast. Here you will find remote villages nestled along a rugged and dramatic coastline.

Iron Bottom Sound, the body of water between Guadalcanal, Nggela Islands and Savo is so-called because the sea channel is the watery graves for many warships and fighter planes - allied and Japanese alike.

**Provincial (& national) capital:** Honiara  
**Population:** 60,275  
**Airport:** Honiara International Airport (HIR) & Marau (RUS)  
**Seaport:** Honiara

## THINGS TO DO

### DIVING

There are a number of dive sites along the northern coastline of Guadalcanal, including famous battlefield areas such as Bonegi Beach.

### FISHING

Local guides can be arranged to take you around Marau Sound (in the East) and fishing spots can also be found around the river estuaries of north western Guadalcanal.

### SURFING

Surfing locations are being explored along Guadalcanal's Weather Coast. For an update please contact Surf Solomons T: (677) 22086 or E: info@surfsolomons.com

### TREKS AND ADVENTURE

There are a number of inland treks that will take you to waterfalls and to visit villages and through lush rainforest. A guide is essential for such trips. These can be arranged through local villages or with assistance from Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau office in Honiara.

## WHERE TO STAY

### RESORTS

#### Tavanipupu Private Island Resort

Marau Sound, Guadalcanal  
P O Box 236, Honiara  
T: (677) 36082  
E: wsuhara@yahoo.com.au  
or tavanipupu@gmail.com  
or reservations@tavanipupu.com  
[www.tavanipupu.com](http://www.tavanipupu.com)

Around a 20 minute boat ride from Marau airstrip, Tavanipupu has 8 tastefully decorated lagoon view bungalows. Each bungalow has private facilities and patio. Resort facilities include restaurant and bar. Access to telephone and internet is available. Activities include snorkelling, fishing, village and cultural tours.

### LODGES

#### Parangiju Mountain Lodge

Marau Sound, Guadalcanal  
Belaha, Central Guadalcanal  
T: (677) 7405220

Parangiju Mountain Lodge is a first of its kind family owned Eco Tourism service accommodation located in the lush tropical rain forest of Central Guadalcanal.

#### Ginger Beach Retreat

Northwest Guadalcanal  
T: (677) 8846262

Ginger Beach Retreat is located northwest of Guadalcanal and is about 35 minutes' drive from Honiara. Ginger Beach Retreat is sure to offer a beautiful and safe environment to enjoy your holiday or weekend out from Honiara City.

**Dolphin View Beach**  
Aruligo, Northwest Guadalcanal  
T: (677) 740 2429

Dolphin View Beach is an eco-tourism destination located 25.5km or 45minutes drive west of Honiara, Guadalcanal province.

#### VILLAGE STAYS

These can be arranged around Marau Sound and along the Weather Coast, however advance planning and notice is required. Please Contact Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau office in Honiara for more information.

## WHERE TO EAT

Meals are provided at the different accommodations in Guadalcanal. Apart from these accommodations, there are very few places to eat around Guadalcanal beyond Honiara. Generally meal arrangements will need to be made through village hosts or through pre-purchasing food in Honiara prior to travelling around Guadalcanal.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines fly 3 times a week from Honiara to Marau. Local motorised canoes travel from Marau along the Weathercoast. There are irregular shipping services from Honiara. Some bus services operate along the eastern and western roads form Honiara.



- We organize holiday arrangements from:
  - Airport Transfers and Welcome
  - Hotels and resort bookings
  - Honiara Tours (WW2 Historical tours, Honiara City Tour,)
  - Cultural and village Tours, Waterfall tours, and full day excursions to Savo and the Florida Islands.
  - Cruiseship shore excursions
- Sports Tourism: Fly Solomons Marathon and Fun Run annually in September.
- Island Hopping to explore the many islands in the Solomons

Contact us:  
Tel: 677 24081 fax: 677 24223  
E: [travelsol@solomon.com.sb](mailto:travelsol@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.travelsolomons.com](http://www.travelsolomons.com)

*Your local holiday specialist in the Solomon Islands*



This group of islands comprises the Nggela (or Florida) group across Iron Bottom Sound from Honiara, Savo and Russell Islands, to the north east of Honiara.

Attractions are superb dive sites and natural wonders like the unique megapode birds breeding on thermal springs on Savo Island. Tulagi, the colonial capital of Solomon Islands, boasts historic tales and sites. Russell Islands has one of the largest coconut groves in the South Pacific.

**Provincial capital:** Tulagi  
**Population:** 21,577  
**Airport:** Yandina (Russell Islands) (XYA)

## THINGS TO DO

### DIVING

Wreck and reef diving sites are located throughout the Florida Islands and Iron Bottom Sound. With dozens of major war relics scattered through the islands, both above and below the water.

### Tulagi Dive

Point Cruz, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 25700 E: [dive@tulagidive.com](mailto:dive@tulagidive.com)  
[www.tulagidive.com.sb](http://www.tulagidive.com.sb)

### FISHING

The waters of the Solomon Islands are renowned for big game, reef, wreck, beach and estuary fishing. There are plenty of spots within easy reach of Honiara. Extreme Adventures offer fishing charters from Honiara.

### Extreme Adventures

Mendana Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 23442 M: (677) 7495415  
E: [adventures@solomon.com.sb](mailto:adventures@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.solomonadventures.com](http://www.solomonadventures.com)

### Raiders Hotel

Tulagi Waterfront  
T: (677) 32070 M: (677) 7494185 or 7938017  
E: [raidershotel@solomon.com.sb](mailto:raidershotel@solomon.com.sb)

### SURFING

There are a number of surfing locations in the Central Province Islands. You can choose to stay at one of the guest houses around the islands and make arrangements locally, or use the services of a Honiara based operators. The best surf conditions are generally from November to March.

### Maravagi Island Resort

PO Box 36, Tulagi Central Province  
T: (677) 29065

### Surf Solomons

PO Box 1854 Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22086 E: [info@surfsolomons.com](mailto:info@surfsolomons.com)  
[www.surfsolomons.com](http://www.surfsolomons.com)

### WORLD WAR II TOURS

Some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place in the area around Tulagi and the Central Province. Some of the more well known sites include: The old base at Tulagi, Japanese tunnels and sites, Guvutu and numerous underwater ships and aircraft wrecks make for great diving.



## WHERE TO STAY

### Tulagi Station

**Raiders Hotel**  
Tulagi Waterfront  
T: (677) 32070  
M: (677) 7494185 or 7938017  
E: raidershotel@solomon.com.sb

3 ensuite rooms and 5 standards rooms. A dive shop offering guided dives to WW2 Aircraft and Ship wrecks, Reef, Wall and Drift dives in the local area. Facilitate Snorkeling trips, Village Tours, WW2 Tours and Trekking in the local area.

**Mothers Union Guesthouse**  
PO Box 52, Tulagi Station  
T: (677) 32113

A few minutes' walk from the centre of Tulagi Station and market area, 6 rooms with ceiling fans and shared facilities. Communal kitchen.

**Vanita Restaurant & Accommodation**  
PO Box 14, Tulagi Station  
T: (677) 32052/32166/84148  
E: vanita@solomon.com.sb

Village tours on request, accommodation, and airport transfers by arrangement. Offers budget single & double room with shared facilities & private facilities, restaurant, bar, dive shop.

### Sandfly Passage

**Roderick Bay Guest House**  
Sandfly Passage, Ngella Island

Tours on request, accommodation, island transfers by arrangement. Offers budget single & double room with shared facilities.

**Island Triangle Homestay**  
Buena Vista, Floridas Islands  
T: (677) 855513/7975959

**Nugu Beach Guest House**  
Buena Vista, Floridas Islands  
M: (677) 7477657  
E: nbresort@yahoo.com

3 bungalows with shared facilities. Guests have the choice of cooking for themselves or have meals provided. Access via motorised canoe from Honiara or Tulagi.

### Savo Island

**Megopode Backpackers Eco-Lodge**  
Savo Islands,  
M: (677) 8564071 or 8673343

Located right in the bush of north savo, it can cater for up to 8 people per night with a so unique, so different experience on the volcanic island of Savo, locally built with bush materials to give a taste of the popular Savo Island. Activities ranging from: Bush & Volcanic trekking, the famous megapode bird watching, village tour and many more others that can be arranged on arrival.

**Savo Sunset Lodge**  
Savo Island  
T: (677) 7238977

Tours, accommodation, meet & greet on arrival, island transfers. Offers budget single & double room with shared facilities, self-contained rooms, kitchen & bar.

## Mangalanga Island

**Maravagi Island Resort**  
PO Box 36, Tulagi  
T: (677) 29065 M: (677) 873 8777  
E: maravagiresort@solomon.com.sb

Village tours on request, accommodation, meet & greet on arrival, airport transfers. Self-contained bungalows, restaurant & bar.

## WHERE TO EAT

There are a few takeaway style eateries in Tulagi Station as well as restaurant facilities at the two main motels and accommodation on Savo Island. Beyond Tulagi around the Floridas you can either arrange for your hosts to provide meals or bring your own food supplies from Honiara.

## GETTING AROUND

Daily boat services operate from Honiara to Tulagi. These depart from the Point Cruz wharf area next to Yatch Club. On occasions the fast-ferry, Discovery 360, stops in Tulagi en route (just under one hour from Honiara) to or from Malaita. Check with operator Silent World in Honiara on telephone (677) 20956.

Apart from services to Tulagi, other transport around the central province is via motorised canoe and these mostly depart from the Point Cruz wharf area or adjacent to the yacht club in Honiara.



# Western Province

Comprising 11 main islands including new Georgia, Vella Lavella, Kolombangara, Rendova, Ranongga, Vangunu and the Shortlands. Dubbed the mecca of Solomon Islands' tourism, the province boasts magnificent aerial views of verdant islands and azure lagoons.

Perfect underwater visibility makes the west an excellent dive destination, teeming with marine life and corals.

fierce battles during World War II left behind wrecks that are must dive sites now like the Toa maru in Kololuka Bay and the Grand central Station near Gizo. Kennedy Island named after the late US President J f Kennedy is about 10 minutes by speedboat from Gizo. The Kavachi underwater submarine volcano offers a rare display of nature at work, and the massive Marovo lagoon is a proposed World heritage site.

Eco-lodges dot Marovo and Vonavona lagoons, once home to the dreaded headhunters of the province. Skull shrines can still be found in the region. These bodies of calm water are great fishing spots as well.

Vella Lavella is - like Savo Island in the Central Province - home to megapode birds.

Provincial capital: Gizo Population: 62,739 airport: Gizo, Munda, Seghe, Ramata, Gatokae & Balalai. Seaport: Noro and Gizo are the main ones.

**Provincial capital:** Gizo

**Population:** 62,739

**Airport:** Gizo, Munda, Seghe, Ramata, Gatokae & Balalai.

**Seaport:** Noro and Gizo are the main ones.

## THINGS TO DO

There are a few takeaway style eateries in Tulagi Station as well as restaurant facilities at the two main motels and accommodation on Savo Island

### DIVING

Solomon Islands diving have gained an enviable worldwide reputation that is unsurpassed. Throughout these magic islands is an endless variety of dive sites to suit all tastes and levels of experience. If you are not a diver, but interested in learning, there could be no better place to discover this completely new world, than the warm crystal clear waters of the Solomon Islands. Here, Mother Nature weaves her watery spell amongst the wrecks of World War II. you will experience an extraordinary array of differing structures and bio-assemblage; including Shallow and deep coral gardens with magnificent drop-offs, ledges and gutters, sharks, all manner of light game fish and an enormous range of reef fish. Turtles, mantas, and eagle rays are common sights, together with friendly hammerheads.

### Coast Watchers

**Contact:** Geoff Allen  
PO Box 1037 Honiara  
T: (677) 74 73672

### Dive Gizo & Adventure Sports Gizo

**Contact:** Danny & Kerry Kennedy  
PO Box 2, Gizo, Western Province  
T: (677) 60253 E: [divegizo@solomon.com.sb](mailto:divegizo@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.divegizo.com](http://www.divegizo.com)

### Solomon Water Sports

**Contact:** Hans Mergozzi  
PO Box 144, Gizo Western Province  
T: (677) 60646 E: [relax@sanbisresort.com](mailto:relax@sanbisresort.com)  
[www.solomonwatersports.com](http://www.solomonwatersports.com)

### Dive Munda

**Contact:** Graeme Sanson & Jen Will  
PO Box 158, Munda  
T: (677) 62156 E: [divemunda@solomon.com.sb](mailto:divemunda@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.mundadive.com](http://www.mundadive.com)

### Solomon Dive Adventures

**Contact:** Lisa Choquette  
Paeva Village, Marovo lagoon Western Province  
E: [lisa@solomondiveadventures.com](mailto:lisa@solomondiveadventures.com)  
[www.solomondiveadventures.com](http://www.solomondiveadventures.com)

### Sun Reef & Wreck Dive

**Contact:** Luke Water  
PO Box 1298, Pacific Casino Hotel, Honiara  
T: (677) 23812 E: [lukewate@hotmail.com](mailto:lukewate@hotmail.com)

### Uepi Island Resort

**Contact:** Grant & Jill Kelly  
Marovo lagoon, Western Province  
C/O PO Box 149, Mount Eliza, Vic 3930, Australia  
T: (613) 978777904 E: [info@uepi.com](mailto:info@uepi.com)  
[www.uepi.com](http://www.uepi.com)

### LIVEBOARD DIVING

The ultimate way to see the diverse array of diving the Solomons has to offer is aboard one of the two charter boats based in Honiara. In addition to the well documented, world-renowned diving, Solomon Islands also offers a hidden wealth of cultural and natural wonders. During trips to villages you will be welcomed by the shy, friendly smiles of the Solomon Islands people offering local, hand-made souvenirs for sale. In the evenings you can fish for kingfish, wahoo, yellowtail or tuna, with assistance from the crew.

### Bilikiki Cruises

(Live-aboard Diving, cruising around the Solomon Islands)  
**Canada Office** - PO Box 656, Iroquois Falls, Ontario, Canada  
T: (1) 416 800 1676 / Toll Free in North America  
(USA/Canada) 1800 663 5363 E: [bilikiki@bilikiki.com](mailto:bilikiki@bilikiki.com)

**Honiara Office** - PO Box 876, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 20412 E: [bilikiki@bilikiki.com.sb](mailto:bilikiki@bilikiki.com.sb)  
[www.bilikiki.com](http://www.bilikiki.com)

## Experience the natural wonder and culture of this authentic and exciting part of the Pacific

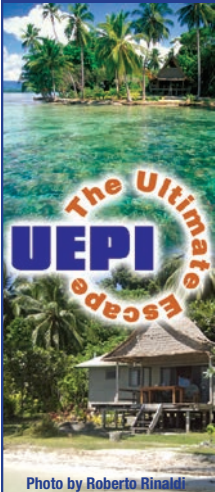


Photo by Roberto Rinaldi

A relaxed and intimate resort situated on Uepi, a barrier reef island. Covered in rainforest, defined by fringing reef and sandy beach; flanked by the warm waters of the Marovo Lagoon on one side, and the oceanic depths (6000ft/2000m) of "The Slot", a deep marine abyss, on the other. World-class diving, snorkelling and sea kayaking are enhanced by beachfront bungalow style accommodation, friendly personal service and meals based on fresh local produce.



For further information contact  
**Tropical Paradise Pty Ltd**  
Booking office for  
**Uepi Island Resort and Kayak Solomons**

Ph + 613 9787 7904 • Fax + 613 9787 5904  
E-mail [info@uepi.com](mailto:info@uepi.com) • Website [www.uepi.com](http://www.uepi.com)  
E-mail [info@kayaksolomons.com](mailto:info@kayaksolomons.com)  
Website [www.kayaksolomons.com](http://www.kayaksolomons.com)





### SPORT FISHING

You can troll along the sheer drop-offs for Spanish mackerel, wahoo and dogtooth tuna or cast into the surf for giant trevally, red bass and coral trout. The serious game fishermen can pursue Pacific sailfish, blue, black and striped marlin, yellow fin tuna. In the quiet jungle rivers you can catch mangrove jack, estuary cods, brassy trevally and spot tail bass. Try your luck with a line, a spear, a net or even other fishing methods...with 992 islands surrounded by 1.35 million sq km of sea you are bound to catch something.

#### Coast Watchers

**Contact:** Geoff Allen  
PO Box 1037 Honiara  
T: (677) 74 73672

#### Solomon Water Sports Honiara

T: (677) 74 95840

#### Solomon Water Sports

**Contact:** Hans Mergozzi  
PO Box 144, Gizo Western Province  
T: (677) 60646 **E:** relax@sanbisresort.com  
**www.solomonwatersports.com**

#### The Wilderness Lodge

Fishing & Spear Fishing  
Ngatokae, Marovo lagoon  
**E:** peava@thewildernesslodge.org

#### Zipolo Habu Resort

PO Box 165, Munda, Vona Vona Lagoon  
T: (677) 61178 **E:** zipolo@solomon.com.sb  
**www.zipolohabu.com.sb**

#### Uepi Island Resort

**Contact:** Grant & Jill Kelly  
Marovo lagoon, Western Province  
C/O PO Box 149, Mount Eliza, Vic 3930, Australia  
T: (613) 9787 7904 **E:** info@uepi.com  
**www.uepi.com**

#### Mavo Lodge

Ramata Island, North New Georgia

### TREKS AND ADVENTURES

The island of Kolombangara, about 50 minutes by boat from Gizo has a number of hiking trails and bush walks. This volcanic island features lush flora and fauna and many species of birdlife. Guides can be arranged in advance and overnight accommodation is available at a number of village stay lodges around the island. For further information contact:

#### Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA)

Ringgi Cove, Kolombangara Island,  
T: (677) 60987 or (677) 740 1198  
**E:** coordinator@kibca.org  
**www.kibca.org**

### KAYAKING

The joy of the Solomon Islands is that you can kayak just about anywhere. If you think the coastline is beautiful standing on the beach, you will be amazed just how spectacular it is from offshore. Sharks and turtles scurrying underneath you as you glide over turquoise worlds. Peaceful, stressful, challenging and rewarding.

#### Kayak Solomons

**Contact:** Grant & Jill Kelly  
Marovo lagoon, Western Province  
C/O PO Box 149, Mount Eliza, Vic 3930, Australia  
T: (613) 9787 7904 **E:** info@uepi.com  
**www.uepi.com**

### SURFING

Solomon Islands is a surfing perfection! Only a few breaks have been discovered. Be the first to surf new breaks in one of the world's last frontiers. This is the new Bali with uncrowded surf perfection in a pristine natural and cultural environment. The best season for waves is November to April when the North Pacific awakens.

### **Surf Solomons**

PO Box 1854 Honiara, Solomon Islands  
T: (677) 22086 E: info@surfsolomons.com  
[www.surfsolomons.com](http://www.surfsolomons.com)

### **Inn Titiana Village**

Gizo Western Province  
T: (677) 76660 E: mockyaaron@solomon.com.sb

### **Sanbis Resort**

Mbabanga Island, Gizo  
T: (677) 60646 E: relax@sanbisresort.com  
[www.sanbisresort.com](http://www.sanbisresort.com)

### **Zipolo Habu Resort**

Lola Island, Vonavona lagoon, PO Box 165,  
Munda Western Province  
T: (677) 62178 E: zipolo@solomon.com.sb  
[www.zipolohabu.com.sb](http://www.zipolohabu.com.sb)



### **WORLD WAR II TOURS**

The Western Province features many World War II battlefield sites and wrecks that can be explored. The main sites are around Gizo and Munda. Just off Gizo is "Kennedy Island" where future US President John F Kennedy was marooned after his patrol boat, PT109, was sunk in 1943.

Numerous ship and aircraft wrecks also remain in the area, both above and below the water. The following companies can arrange World War II tours around Gizo and Munda:

#### **Dive Gizo & Adventure Sports**

T: (677) 60253 E: [divegizo@solomon.com.sb](mailto:divegizo@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.divegizo.com](http://www.divegizo.com)

#### **Go West Tours**

Based at Agnes Lodge  
T: (677) 62133 or 62190  
E: [mundamagic@solomon.com.sb](mailto:mundamagic@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.agneslodge.com.sb](http://www.agneslodge.com.sb)

### **BIRDWATCHING**

Many parts of the Western Province boast great bird watching, with a number of unique species. The main areas to explore are Vella Lavella, Ranongga and Kolombangara all accessible from Gizo. Tetepare Island. The Marovo Lagoon area and Gatakae also offer guided birdwatching tours. For more details contact the following:

#### **Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA)**

Ringgi Cove, Kolombangara Island, Western Province  
T: (677) 60987 E: [coordinator@kibca.org](mailto:coordinator@kibca.org)  
[www.kibca.org](http://www.kibca.org)

#### **Dive Gizo & Adventure Sports**

T: (677) 60253 E: [divegizo@solomon.com.sb](mailto:divegizo@solomon.com.sb)  
[www.divegizo.com](http://www.divegizo.com)

#### **Tetepare Eco-Lodge**

Tetepare Island, Roviana Lagoon  
T: (677) 62163 E: [teteparebookings@gmail.com](mailto:teteparebookings@gmail.com)  
[www.tetepare.org](http://www.tetepare.org)

#### **Marovo Lagoon and Gatakae**

Refer accommodation listings.

## WHERE TO STAY

### Gizo Town

#### Gizo Hotel

PO Box 30, Gizo  
T: (677) 60199  
E: gizohotel@solomon.com.sb  
[www.gizohotel.com](http://www.gizohotel.com)  
[www.solomonislandsresorts.com](http://www.solomonislandsresorts.com)

Massage parlour, in-bound island tours, airport transfers, portage, in-house laundry, housekeeping, room service, and money exchange, offers air-conditioned rooms, self-contained or standard with shared facilities, credit card facilities, and wireless internet and Australian TV channels, souvenir shop, restaurant and bar, pool & dive shop.

In-bound island tours, airport transfers, in-house laundry, housekeeping, room service, dedicated all day babysitter, offers traditional built bungalows with own shower and toilet facilities, bar and restaurant, and water sports and scuba diving facilities.

SB Bar, a newly built bar over the water where you relax with a cold Sol brew on your left hand and fishing rod on the other.

#### BUDGET MOTELS AND GUESTS HOUSES

##### Rekona Lodge

PO Box 91, Gizo  
T: (677) 60368  
E: rekona.lodge@gmail.com

Public phones available, 24 hour security, offers budget single & double rooms with shared facilities and cooking facilities. Self-contained rooms also available.  
All rooms with ceiling fans.

##### Naqua Motel

PO Box 127, Gizo  
T: (677) 60274 or (677) 60012  
M: (677) 754 2173  
E: mngodoro@yahoo.com or kmlhardware2017@gmail.com

Offers 9 self-contained rooms, In-house laundry on request, housekeeping, public phones, offers self-contained rooms with air condition, standard rooms with ceiling fans, dormitory rooms available with shared facilities and a communal kitchen with cooking utensils provided free for guest use.

##### Gelvinas Motel

PO Box 106, Gizo  
T: (677) 60276 or 60553

Self-contained rooms with air conditions, a communal kitchen with free cooking utensils for guests. All rooms air conditioned with shared kitchen facilities.

##### Motel New Georgia

PO Box 194, Gizo  
T: (677) 7917856/7844850  
E: Robert.lukies@gmail.com

Public Phones available, 24-hour security, offers budget single & double rooms with shared facilities and cooking facilities. Self-contained rooms also available.

##### Harbour View Lodge

Gizo Hill Top T: (677) 60594

Located on Gizo Hilltop the lodge has 3 rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen.

##### Green Motel

PO Box 145, Gizo  
T: (677) 60005 or 60549  
E: greenmotel.gizo@hotmail.com

Budget dormitory rooms with shared shower and cooking facilities with ceiling fans and air condition rooms. Self-contained units with air condition with private facilities and a communal kitchen for guests is also available.

##### Paradise Lodge

PO Box 56, Gizo Hill Top  
T: (677) 60024  
E: plodge@solomon.com.sb

In-house laundry on request, housekeeping, public phones, conference facilities available, functions, pick up on arrival / drop off guests from Gizo town. all rooms fitted with ceiling fans, singles, double rooms with shared facilities, self-contained rooms also available, a communal kitchen provided with free cooking utensils for guest.

##### Phebes Guesthouse

P.O. Box 61, Gizo Hill Top  
T: (677) 60161  
M: (677) 743 1083

Hilltop location and ideal for backpackers and budget travellers. 5 dormitory style rooms with shared facilities and communal kitchen all rooms have ceiling fans.

##### PT109 Lodge

P.O. Box 61, Gizo Hill Top  
T: (677) 60257  
E: pt109gizo@gmail.com

Located on the waterfront with restaurant and bar adjacent, 3 upstairs rooms with shared facilities and communal kitchenette. Ideal for small family.

### Gizo Off-Shore

#### Fatboys Resort & Restaurant

Mbabanga Island, P.O. Box 140, Gizo  
T: (677) 60526  
M: (677)7443107 or 7740560  
E: fatboys@solomon.com.sb  
[www.fatboysgizo.com](http://www.fatboysgizo.com)

In-bound island tours, airport transfers, in-house laundry, housekeeping. Offers four traditional bungalows with modern facilities, coffee and tea making facilities, and a new self-contained modern styled private apartment.

#### Oravae Cottage

Sepo Island  
M: (677) 7400774  
E: nb.oravae@gmail.com  
[www.oravaecottage.com](http://www.oravaecottage.com)

15 minutes boat ride from Gizo. Private retreat situated by the water's edge on its very own island. Spacious cottage is made up of 2 buildings and comfortably sleeps 5 or 6 adults. There is a small kitchenette and private facilities. Meals can be provided. Boat transfers, tours and activities can be arranged.

#### Sanbis Resort

Mbabanga Island, PO Box 144, Gizo  
T: (677) 43109 (resort)  
T: (677) 60646 (Gizo)  
M: (677) 7443109  
E: relax@sanbisresort.com  
[www.sanbisresort.com](http://www.sanbisresort.com)

10 minutes from Gizo by boat. 6 beach bungalows with ensuite, plus "The Lodge" which features air conditioned beach bungalows, lounge and dining area. Resort facilities include 2 bars and 2 restaurants and on site Dive centre. Day trips and water sports available.

## Munda & Surrounds

### Agnes Lodge

PO Box 161, Munda  
T: (677) 62133  
E: mundamagic@agneslodge.com.sb  
www.agneslodge.com.sb

3 minute stroll from Munda Airport on the waterfront. 30 cottages and rooms with fans and private facilities. Lodge facilities include Restaurant, a bar and laundry service. A dive centre is adjacent to the lodge. Tours available. Credit cards accepted.

### Munda Transit Lodge

PO Box 165, Munda  
T: (677) 62168  
E: harvey@solomon.com.sb  
Housekeeping, 24-hour security, offers standard single & double rooms with private shower facilities, restaurant & in-house laundry.

### Tituru Eco Lodge

Rendova, Western Province  
M: (677) 8593230  
E: info@titiruecolodge.com  
www.tetepare.org

Nestled in a private Saqiri Bay, Tituru offers life enrichment experience in total relaxation of mind and soul in secluded and serene environment. You will be at home at Tituru via a one-hour direct flight from Honiara to Munda where a pickup boat will take you to the bay. Offer accommodation in well-built traditionally designed leafhaus in garden, seafront and overwater bungalows to suit couples, families, & individuals.

## Marovo Lagoon - Gatakae & South-East Marovo

### GUEST HOUSES, ECO-LODGES AND VILLAGE STAYS

#### The Wilderness Lodge

Peava Village, Gatakae Island  
Satellite T: (61) 145 125 948  
Reservations: Dive Adventures  
Australia T: (61) 2 9299 4633  
E: wilderness@uuplus.com  
www.thewildernesslodge.org

Housekeeping, credit card facilities, tours, dive trips, 24 hour security, airport transfers and village tours. offers double & single rooms with shared facilities. restaurant, bar, gift shop, dive & snorkelling gear.

### Qua Roviana

Munda, Western Province  
T: (677) 62123  
E: quaroviana@gmail.com

5 minute stroll from the airport catering for budget travellers. 10 rooms and dormitory style accommodation with shared facilities. Common kitchen and lounge area for guests.

### Zipolo Habu Resort

Lola Island, Vona Vona Lagoon  
PO Box 165, Munda  
T: (677) 62178  
E: zipolo@solomon.com.sb  
www.zipolohabu.com.sb

Located on Lola Island, about 20 minutes by boat from Munda. 11 Bungalows. Some are fitted with kitchenettes, fridge & have shared shower facilities whilst others are self-contained bungalows with private facilities. Facilities include restaurant & bar, BBQ area & a range of activities. Credit cards accepted.

### Tetepare Eco-Lodge

Tetepare Island, Roviana Lagoon  
T: (677) 62163  
E: teteparebookings@gmail.com  
www.tetepare.org

Housekeeping, tours, 24-hour security, transfers. Offers leaf house accommodation with shared facilities. a common kitchen with cooking utensils provided free for guests.

### Ropiko Eco lodge

Gatakae Island, Marovo Lagoon  
T: (677) 28065  
E: sales@ropikioecolodge.com

Double & single rooms with shared facilities. Kitchen is shared by guests.

### Rogosakena Eco-lodge

Marovo Lagoon  
M: (677) 740 9326  
E: ralph\_tenapiko@yahoo.com

Located on Vangunu Island accessible by boat from Batuna, Gatakae or Seghe airports. 3 traditional leaf house style bungalows with shared facilities. Guests can self cater or arrange to have meals provided. Tours around the lagoon can be arranged.

## Gizo - Nearby Islands

### LODGES, GUEST HOUSES AND VILLAGE STAYS

#### Kolombangara

Imbo Rano Lodge  
PO Box 382, Ringgi Cove  
T: (677) 60380 or 60872  
E: coordinator@kibca.org  
www.kibca.org

20 minutes drive up from Ringgi Cove, Imbu Rano lodge features an 18m-long balcony with stunning views. Accommodation is in lodge style rooms with shared facilities and communal kitchen.

## Marovo Lagoon - Seghe & North-West Marovo

### RESORTS

#### Uepi Island Resort

Uepi Island, Marovo Lagoon,  
Australia T: (613) 9787 7904  
E: info@uepi.com  
www.uepi.com

Money exchange, housekeeping, credit card facilities, room service, tours, dive trips, airport transfers, dive tours & village tours. offers bungalows built on a privately spaced jungle garden-style but just metres from pristine waters, restaurant & bar overlooking Marovo lagoon & dive shop.

#### Evis Resort

Nggatirana Island, Western  
Province, Solomon Islands  
M: (677) 7968237  
E: andy.granger1@yahoo.com.au

Set amongst the beautiful trees on the lagoon side of Nggatirana Island, the resort comprises luxury beach-side bungalows & a central restaurant/bar/reception area. The island is a 15 hectare designated conservation area within which you can enjoy the wildlife, birds & orchids. We recommend off-the-beach snorkelling along a 300m stretch of unspoilt coral that supports a myriad of small fish & other aquatic species. The round-the-island footpath can be used to explore & to access your bungalow by easy-access ramp.

#### Ranongga

Nyiami Village Stay  
Nyiami Village, Ranongga Island,  
T: (677) 747 8526  
E: cttanito@yahoo.com

This village stay accommodation contains a leaf house with shared facilities on Ranongga Island about 45 minutes by boat from Gizo. An ideal base of bird-watching, bush walking and enriching cultural experiences.

### GUEST HOUSES, ECO-LODGES AND VILLAGE STAYS

#### Berina Guest House

Seghe, Marovo Lagoon  
M: (677) 7403838

3 minute stroll from seghe airport on the shores of Marovo lagoon. 4 dormitory style rooms with shared facilities. Meals are provided and there is a small shop adjacent. Lagoon tours available.

#### Sea Lodge

Chuchulu, Marovo Lagoon  
M: (677) 7503732 or (677) 7757479

About 15 minute boat ride from Seghe airport, located within Chuchulu village, on the shores of Marovo Lagoon offer comfortable accommodation in a traditional leaf house, with 3 guests rooms, accommodate maximum of 8 people.

#### Matikuri Eco Lodge

PO Box Seghe Postal Agency  
Marovo Lagoon  
M: (677) 746 7177  
E: kaniotokuben@gmail.com  
www.matikuri-lodge.com

Bungalows with separate shared facilities. common kitchen provided.

#### Vuana Kino Home Stay

PO Box c/o Juliette Kimi, Marovo Lagoon  
T: (677) 7486693

Village tours on request, meals provided and transfers. offers bungalows with separate shared facilities, including common kitchen.

#### Seghe Tranist Lodge

Marovo Lagoon  
M: (677)755000  
www.seghelodge.com

## Shortland Islands Ramata Islands

### Mono Clinic Guest house

Mono Island, Shortland Islands  
C/O Mono Clinic

Double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guest use.

### Nila Vocational Guest House

Nila Station, Shortland Islands  
C/O Nila Catholic Parish

Double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, a common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests.

### Mavo Guest House

Ramata Island, Marovo lagoon  
P.O Box Ramata Postal Agency

T: (677) 24951/22422  
E: adventure@ccka.com.au

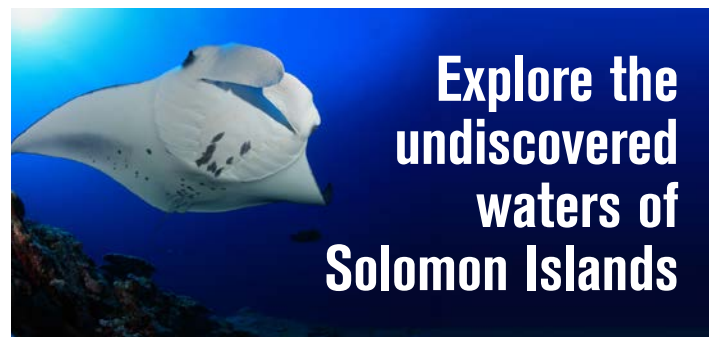
Rooms with shared facilities, restaurant with kitchenette provided for guest use.

## WHERE TO EAT

Apart from Gizo Township, most meals will be taken at your accommodation. If in Gizo PT-109 Bar & Restaurant on the town's waterfront is a great location and it is also home to Gizo Yacht Club. There are also some Chinese takeaways along the main shopping area. The Gizo Hotel's restaurant is open to the public. Sanbis Resort and Fatboys welcome visitors for lunch and dinner. They can arrange transport from Gizo and it is recommended you call ahead to book.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines offer daily flights from Honiara to the main airports in the Western Province (Gizo, Munda and Seghe). Other airports are served a few times a week (Ramata, Batuna and Gatakae), whilst the Shortland Islands (Ballalae) are served once a week, or with boat connections from Choiseul. There is also a weekly passenger ferry service from Honiara. Check with the shipping offices around Point Cruz in Honiara for details. Travelling around the Western Province is generally by motorised long boat or canoe. Most accommodation places offer water transfer and transport services for hire. There is a regular service operated by Agnes Lodge between Munda and Gizo with stops en-route. Journey time is about 3 hours. Contact Agnes Lodge (refer where to stay section) for details. The islands surrounding Gizo are served by private boats operating out of the wharf area at Gizo.



## Explore the undiscovered waters of Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands boasts some of the best diving in the world, and we invite you to come aboard and experience it directly from MV Solomon Star. Explore pristine untouched reefs, WWII wrecks, warm waters all year round and the unmatched hospitality from our friendly and experienced dive masters and liveaboard crew.

- 2 Night- Florida Islands** - Explore sheer walls, fan gardens, manta ray feeding stations, lava tubes and more
- 3 Night- Russell Islands** - Dive the world famous Mirror Pond, Wreck of the Ann, find macro critters, schooling barracuda and sharks
- 7 Night- Central Province** - Dive cuts, caverns and caves, hang with pelagics, enjoy an uninhabited island picnic and visit a local village

For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.solomonsdiving.com](http://www.solomonsdiving.com)



**SIDE**  
SOLOMON ISLANDS DIVE EXPEDITIONS  
[SOLOMONSDIVING.COM](http://SOLOMONSDIVING.COM)





Isabel Province is made up of one main island lying to Guadalcanal's north west.

Buala's laid back atmosphere is a big draw card and the provincial capital has a lot to offer to those out for an adventure. Activities range from guided bush walks, visit to a village built on stilts in Kia, breeding sites for the endangered hawksbill turtles or lessons in traditional dances.

Isabel is also famous for its unique dance for women, the story of its vanishing lake and numerous skull shrines depict a violent past. Bird and crocodile watching can be organised as well as attending a pan pipe concert.

**Provincial capital:** Buala  
**Population:** 20,421  
**Airport:** Fera (FRE) serving Buala & Suavanao (VAO).  
**Seaport:** Buala and selected points

## THINGS TO DO

### FISHING

Papatura Island Retreat, offers a range of game fishing options. Species in the area include, sail fish, sweet lip, job fish, king fish, trevally, wahoo and some big snapper. The retreat has some fishing gear, but if you are a little more serious, you may wish to bring your own. For more details visit [www.papatura.com](http://www.papatura.com)

### SURFING

Isabel offers some of the best kept surfing secrets in the Solomon Islands. The best season for waves is November to April. Main areas are around Papatura Island and further north at Kia. For further details contact:

#### Papatura Island Retreat

c/o Go Tours Ashmore. QLD, Australia

T: (61) 7 5527 9855 E: [info@gotours.com.au](mailto:info@gotours.com.au)

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

**Papatura Island Retreat**

Surf, Fish, Snorkel, Relax

Book Your Weekend Away

**PAPATURA ISLAND RETREAT**  
Solomon Islands

Ph: (+61) 07 55 279 855  
 Email: [papatura@gotours.com.au](mailto:papatura@gotours.com.au)  
 Web: [www.papatura.com](http://www.papatura.com)

### Kagata Village Stay

Kia, Isabel Province

M: (677) 748 8954 E: kagatasurfingfrens@yahoo.com

[www.epodcentral.com.au/kagatasurfingfrens](http://www.epodcentral.com.au/kagatasurfingfrens)

### TREKS AND ADVENTURE

There are many walking tracks and hiking areas that can be accessed from the provincial capital, Buala. The island of San Jorge, just of the south of Santa Isabel also has some great bush walking trails for the intrepid explorer. Guides can be arranged locally.

### BIRDWATCHING

An emerging attraction in Isabel province. There are a number of unique species of bird to be found around Isabel. Guided bird watching trips can be arranged from Buala through your accommodation. For more information contact:

#### Maeholo Birdwatching

T: (677) 35136 E: williammanahage@yahoo.co.nz

### CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Amongst the many cultural attractions to be found around Isabel, the province is home to some of the most well-known Solomon Islands pan-pipe music groups and most accommodation houses can arrange village visits to see authentic pan pipe performances.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines fly from Honiara to Fera and Suavanao about 3 times a week. There is a twice weekly passenger ferry service (usually departing Honiara on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons), that serves a number of villages around the province. Check at Point Cruz wharf area for the latest schedule and fares. Getting around Isabel is mainly by motorised long-boats that provide transport to and from main centres.

## WHERE TO STAY

### Buala

#### DOY Rest House

PO Box 6, Buala  
T: (677) 35004  
E: doy@solomon.com.sb

Single and double rooms with shared facilities, kitchen and cooking utensils for guests, conference venue available.

#### Maringe Lagoon Lodges

M: (677) 752 7754 or  
(677) 751 0860  
E: dyates@honiarahotel.com.sb

### Around Isabel

#### Gagaha Village Stay

Poro Village  
M: (677) 851 2726 or  
(677) 758 4878  
E: homestaygagaha@yahoo.com

Single and double rooms with shared facilities, kitchen and cooking utensils for guests.

#### Kaolo Sunset Eco-lodge

San Jorge Island  
T: (677) 25358 F: (677) 35015

Single and double bungalow with shared facilities, kitchen and cooking utensils provided for guests.

#### Vavaghio Guest House

Kia, Santa Isabel  
M: (677) 751 2262  
E: vavaghio@gmail.com  
[www.solomonsurf.com](http://www.solomonsurf.com)

#### Putuo Lodge

Kia Village  
Rooms with shared facilities, kitchen and cooking utensils provided for guests.

A few minutes stroll from central Buala. 3 bungalows set on the lagoon's edge. Each have kitchenette, and private facilities. Restaurant nearby serves meals on request.  
Tours can be arranged.

#### Mothers Union Rest House

P.O. Box 6, Isabel  
T: (677) 35136  
E: mothersuniond@yahoo.com

Single and double rooms with shared facilities, kitchen and cooking utensils provided for guests, conference venue available.

#### Kagata Village Stay

Barora Fa Island, Kia,  
M: (677) 7488954  
E: l.leketo@gmail.com  
[www.epodcentral.com.au/kagatasurfingfrens](http://www.epodcentral.com.au/kagatasurfingfrens)

Around one hour by motorised canoe from Suavanao airport. Caters mainly for the surfers. 3 rooms and a dormitory with shared facilities. Meals and surfing guides are included in your stay. Tours available.

#### Papatura Island Retreat

C/O Go Tours Ashmore. QLD, Australia  
T: (61) 7 5527 9855  
E: papatura@gotours.com.au  
[www.papatura.com](http://www.papatura.com)

10 minute boat ride from Suavanao airport. 4 semi-detached bungalows with shared facilities; 2 loft bungalows and a Sunset bungalow with private facilities. Meals are included and there is a beachfront open deck bar and restaurant. Tours and transport can be arranged.

## WHERE TO EAT

There are few places to eat outside your accommodation. Buala station has some takeaway food outlets. Base provisions can be obtained from stores in Buala and there is a fresh produce market.



# Choiseul Province

Under-developed, Choiseul is an adventure's haven.

Comprising one large island of 3294 square kilometres and lying north of Western Province, Choiseul's main attractions are its virgin, untouched natural wonders like the nestling grounds of the endangered hawksbill turtles. Whales have also been sighted in the surrounding waters. Choiseul is home to rare pottery and weaving.

**Provincial capital:** Taro

**Population:** 20,008

**Airport:** Choiseul Bay (CHY) serving Taro, Kagau Island (KGE)

**Seaport:** Selected points around the island.

## THINGS TO DO

### TREKS AND ADVENTURE

Choiseul is a natural frontier. Waterfalls and bush trails abound. Village life around Choiseul has changed little and the island is covered in lush tropical rainforest. Your accommodation hosts can arrange land and water touring and visits to waterfalls.

## WHERE TO STAY

#### Airport Bungalows

Taro Island  
T: (677) 63120

Village & waterfall tours on request. Offers fully furnished bungalows with self-contained facilities.

#### Taro Island Transit lodge

PO Box 21, Taro Island  
T: (677) 63171

Village & waterfall tours on request, offers self-contained with ceiling fan rooms, single rooms with shared facilities also available. Cooking utensils provided free for guests. Home or village stay also available.

#### ES Lodge

Taro Island  
T: (677) 63111

Village & waterfall tours on request, offers double & single rooms with shared facilities, kitchen, bar & cooking utensils.

#### Micron's Rest House

PO Box 15, Taro, Choiseul Province  
T: (677) 63176 M: (677) 57771

Basic shared facilities, Kitchen for Self catering.

#### Kimasar Rest House

PO Box 15, Taro, Choiseul Province  
M: (677) 7439394 or (677) 7701752

11 rooms with 2 double bed and 9 single rooms with bathrooms. Self contained apartment.

## WHERE TO EAT

There are few places to eat outside your accommodation. Taro station has a couple of takeaway food outlets. Base provisions can be obtained from stores in Taro and there is a fresh produce market.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines fly from Honiara to Choiseul Bay about 3 times a week, with some flights stopping at Gizo en route. There are generally 2 flights a week to Kagau Island from Honiara. Regular ferry services operate from Gizo through to Choiseul Province, with less frequent services from Honiara.

# Malaita Province

A natural and cultural delight as its main attractions, Malaita comprises one main island to Guadalcanal's east as well as atolls to the extreme north namely Ontong Java and Sikiana whose inhabitants are Polynesians.

Man-made islands in and near Auki, the provincial capital, are a must see. Malaita is also home of the traditional but still in circulation shell money. Ancestral worship ceremonies and other rituals as shark calling are still practised in certain regions. Some villages especially those up in the mountains are difficult to access. The province is also renowned for the haunting sound of its unique panpipe bands especially along 'are 'are lagoon. A more recent find are the perfect surf breaks in Lau Lagoon and Suava Bay in northern Malaita. Through support from Surf Solomons, landowners are encouraged to open eco-lodges in the area.

**Provincial capital:** Auki

**Population:** 122,620

**Airport:** Auki (AKS), Atoifi (ATD), Afutara (AFT)

**Seaport:** Auki and other selected centres.

## THINGS TO DO

### SURFING

Solomon Islands is a surfing perfection! Northern Malaita offers some unique surfing experiences. The best season for waves is November to April when the north Pacific awakens. For further details contact:

#### Surf Solomons

T: (677) 22086 E: [info@surfsolomons.com](mailto:info@surfsolomons.com)

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

### TREKS AND ADVENTURE

Malaita offers many bush walking and trekking opportunities. The rugged interior of the island and undiscovered north east coastline are dotted with villages, waterfalls and lush tropical rainforests. Guides can be arranged through your accommodation.

### CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Malaita is also home of the traditional but still in circulation shell money. Ancestral worship ceremonies and other rituals such as shark calling are still practiced in certain regions. The province is also renowned for the haunting sound of its unique panpipe bands especially along the 'are 'or lagoon area.

## WHERE TO STAY



#### Rarasu Motel

T: (677) 40454

E: [jfiulaua@solomon.com.sb](mailto:jfiulaua@solomon.com.sb) or [rarasumotel@solomon.com.sb](mailto:rarasumotel@solomon.com.sb)

Rarasu is a newly built motel and fully equipped with facilities & amenities for the comfort of visitors & clients. The 14 rooms have features which include, air-condition, ceiling fans, TV, fridge, tea/coffee making facilities, private balcony & conference facilities.

#### Auki Lodge

PO Box 171, Auki

T: (677) 40131 M: (677) 7481148

E: [jtloakalo@gmail.com](mailto:jtloakalo@gmail.com)

Rooms with private facilities, restaurant and bar.

#### Auki Motel

PO Box 153, Auki

T: (677) 40014

E: [aukimotel@solomon.com.sb](mailto:aukimotel@solomon.com.sb)  
Only a 2 minute walk from central Auki, the motel has a range of accommodation including dormitory with shared facilities as well as standard, family and self-contained units with private facilities. Living/ dining area serving meals on request. Transport and tours arranged.

**Hotel Malaita**  
M: (677) 40650

Located on a hilltop with sea views. 12 rooms with private or shared facilities. Restaurant, bar and conference facilities on site. Transport and tours arranged.

**BH Family Inn**  
T: (677) 40233  
E: bharohau@yahoo.com

Homestay accommodation in the heart of Auki. Rooms with shared facilities, communal kitchen, dining and living area. Transport and tours can be arranged.

**Dave's Transit**  
PO Box 179, Auki  
T: (677) 40442

Rooms with shared facilities.

## Around Malaita Langa Langa Lagoon

**Busu Cultural Village and Home Stay**  
PO Box 159, Auki  
T: (677) 40344  
M: (677) 7507906  
or (677) 840 6010

Rooms with shared facilities, kitchenette provided. Experience the culture, tradition of langa langa and how they make shell money.

## Lau Lagoon

**Lagoon Dwellers**  
E: laulagoon@gmail.com

On the shores of Lau Lagoon 1.5 hours by motorised canoe from Auki. Lodge for up to 8 guests with shared facilities. Meals are provided. Cultural tours, village visits around the lagoon and snorkelling trips, can be arranged.

**FE Travellers Motel**  
T: (677) 40153

6 budget rooms with shared facilities and communal kitchen.

**Sea Sound**  
Auki, Solomon Islands  
M: (677) 740 3477 or (677) 7561835

7 rooms with shared facilities. On the waterfront a few minutes drive from Auki airport.

**Hilltop Guest House**  
Auki, Malaita Province  
M: (677) 7768334 or (677) 7974766  
E: masjid9@gmail.com

**Serah's Lagoon Hideaway**  
M: (677) 74 72344 or 40344  
E: serahkei@gmail.com

Bungalow with shared facilities.

**Solwata Surf Camp**  
T: (677) 22086  
E: info@surfsolomons.com  
[www.surfsolomons.com](http://www.surfsolomons.com)

Catering for the surfing market, located in Lau Lagoon 1.5 hours by motorised canoe from Auki. Offers simple shared facility accommodation. Guided surf touring and meals are included.

## Malu'u

### Malu'u Rest House

About 3-4 hours drive north of Auki, overlooking Malu'u harbour and station. Once a family owned residence and now turned into guest house, with 2 bedrooms that can sleep to 8 people.

**Grassroot Inn**  
M: (677) 7942755 or 7481124  
E: 599konairamo@yahoo.com

About 3-4 hours drive from Auki in downtown Malu'u station. 2 bedrooms and can sleep up to 4 people with shared facilities.

**Malu'u Lodge**  
T: (677) 7572103  
About 3-4 hours drive from Auki in downtown Malu'u station. Lodge-style guest house that can sleep up to 7 people with shared facilities.

**511 Motel**  
Malu'u, North Malaita,  
Malaita Province  
M: (677) 7633457

A family owned and operated guest house and is situated along the roadside. About 3 hours' drive from Auki. It offers the opportunity for guests to experience the scenic view of Suava Bay and Manaoba Point. The establishment is surrounded by the village community and enjoys a peaceful environment. The buildings are built of permanent materials. The surrounding community is friendly and well secured having police and health services nearby at Maluu Town.

## Afio

**Afio Lodge**  
Afio Station, South Malaita  
M: (677) 750 4179 or 749 6299  
E: rhou@post.com

Located in the seaside village of Afio, around 3 hours by motorised canoe from Afutara airport. 8 standard rooms with shared facilities. Communal kitchen. Transport and tours can be arranged.

## WHERE TO EAT

There are a few small restaurants and takeaways around Auki. A few of the hotels will cater to visitors staying elsewhere. Outside Auki meals are provided by accommodation lodges.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines have regular flights to Auki and flies to Atoifi 2 days a week. There is a fast ferry that goes to Auki twice a week with a journey time of 3 hours. Other ferries take around 5-6 hours and they travel to Auki from Honiara three days a week. Contact shipping office at Point Cruz Passenger ferry dock area for more details. There is a road network north and south of Auki. Other means of transportation is via motorised canoe. Services to Lau and the Langalanga lagoon operate from Auki or points nearby.



Rennell, a World heritage site, is the main attraction with the South Pacific's largest inland lake of lake Tegano.

The two-island province of uplifted coral lies directly south of Guadalcanal. The lake and its surrounds are home to numerous endemic birds and plants. Activities for visitors include land crab hunting, spear diving, night fishing and dolphin watching.

A number of rest houses are by the lake while Bellona offers cave accommodation. The islanders are Polynesians thus visitors get exposed to ancient songs and dances.

**Provincial capital:** Tingoa

**Population:** 2,377

**Airport:** Tingoa(RNL) serving Rennell and Bellona (BNY)

**Seaport:** Lavanggu on Rennell and Potuhenua is the port for Bellona.

## THINGS TO DO

### TREKS AND ADVENTURE

With its World Heritage Listing, Lake Tegano on Rennell is a major natural and biologically-diverse attraction. You can easily spend two or three days exploring the lake. Many species of birds can be found. Bellona boasts a rugged coastline yet this belies a tranquil island that you can easily explore. Push bike is the main form of transport and there are numerous tracks to explore.

### CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Unlike most parts of the Solomon Islands, Rennell and Bellona's people are of Polynesian descent and visitors are able to share in a rich and ancient Polynesian culture that through time has evolved into a uniquely Solomon Islands Polynesian culture and way of life. Both islands are famous for their traditional singing and dancing.

### For tours around Rennell Island contact:

#### Rennell World Heritage Tours

M: (677) 746 4285 E: [ianpuia@solomon.com.sb](mailto:ianpuia@solomon.com.sb) or [itaupongipuia@gmail.com](mailto:itaupongipuia@gmail.com)

## WHERE TO STAY

### Rennell

**Kiakoe Lakeside Lodge**  
East Rennell  
C/O Tigoa Postal agency

Village tours on request, meet & greet on arrival, airport transfers by arrangement, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests & conference.

**Moreno Guest House**  
Tigoa Airstrip, West Rennell  
C/O Tigoa Postal agency

Village tours on request, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests.

**Nukuma'anu Guest House**  
Tigoa West Rennell

Village tours on request, meet & greet on arrival, airport transfers by arrangement, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests, conference room.



## Bellona

**Aotaha Cave Lodge**  
East Bellona  
**T:** (677) 27796  
**M:** (677) 7784011  
**E:** aotaha.host@gmail.com  
**www.aotaha.yolasite.com**

A unique experience, this cave lodge is located on the east coast of Bellona, overlooking the sea. 10 cave rooms all with shared facilities. Meals are provided. The dining area offers spectacular views. Transport and tours can be arranged.

**Tatiana Homestay**  
East Bellona  
**M:** (677) 749 9030 or  
(677) 7774268  
**E:** tengemoana@gmail.com

Village tours on request, airport transfers by arrangement, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests, conference & bar.

## WHERE TO EAT

Meals are provided by your accommodation. Small stores are located on both Rennell and Bellona for basic supplies and both islands have fresh produce markets.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines operate twice a week from Honiara to Rennell and Bellona. Passenger shipping services run on an irregular basis. Please check with the shipping offices around Point Cruz in Honiara for departure details.

**Suan Guest House**  
Tangakitonga Village, Central Bellona

Village tours on request, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests, conference & workshop venues.

**Tungua Eco-Lodge**  
West Bellona  
**M:** (677) 74 97253

Village tours on request, accommodation, meet & greet on arrival, airport transfers by arrangement, offers double & single basic rooms with shared facilities, common kitchen & cooking utensils provided free for guests, conference room.



Visitors will find this province lying south of Malaita and southeast of Guadalcanal is full of surprises.

Some cultural practices are unique to Makira and Ulawa like ancient fishing methods, crocodile wrestling and the shark hole underneath a church altar at Suholo village in ulawa. Witnessing the island's annual land crab harvest should be a highlight. It is where the rare Pacific Ridley turtle nests.

**Provincial capital:** Kirakira  
**Population:** 31,006  
**Airport:** Ngorangora, Santa Ana, Arona & Nana  
**Seaport:** Kira Kira and key point on the islands.

## THINGS TO DO

### SURFING

Great surfing locations can be found at Star Harbour, at the Eastern end of San Cristobel Island. The season runs from November to April. For further details contact Star Beach Lodge (see details under where to stay).

### Star Beach lodge

Namuga Star Harbour, Makira Ulawa Province  
T: HF Radio through SIVB Honiara

### BIRDWATCHING

There are numerous unique bird species on San Cristobel and surrounding islands. Birdwatching guides are available for guided trips from Kira Kira. Arrangements can be made through your accommodation provider.

### CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

There are several cultural highlights each year that take place in Makira Ulawa province. Including, the land crab harvest and spear dancing festival (May) on Santa Catalina. The banana festival (June) on Kirakira is also a highlight.

## WHERE TO STAY

### Kirakira

**Fresh Winds Guest House**  
Kirakira  
E: freshwind@solomon.com.sb

Tours and meals on request, offers budget single & double room with shared facilities.

**Joridona Guest House**  
Kirakira  
T: (677) 50015  
E: amarahora@yahoo.com

Budget single & double room with shared facilities.

**Sanbis Rest House**  
Kirakira

Budget single & double room with shared facilities.

**San Cristobel Lodge**  
Kirakira  
T: (677) 50226

Budget single rooms with shared facilities.

**Mupic Rest House**  
Kirakira

Budget single rooms with shared facilities.

**Transit House**  
Kirakira  
T: (677) 50281

Self-contained rooms with own kitchenette.

**Zambon**  
Kirakira  
T: (677) 50248

Self-contained and bedroom units.

## Around Makira Ulawa

### Star Harbour

**Star Beach lodge**  
Namuga, Star Harbour, San Cristobel  
SIVB hf two-way radio

Single and double rooms with shared facilities.

### Santa Ana

**Obed's Guesthouse**  
Santa Ana Island  
SIVB hf two-way radio  
E: santaana@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Single and double rooms with shared facilities.

## WHERE TO EAT

There are few places to eat outside your accommodation. Kirakira station has a couple of takeaway food outlets. Base provisions can be obtained from stores in Kirakira and there is a fresh produce market.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines fly from Honiara to Kirakira about 4 times per week and there are weekly flights to Santa Ana and Arona. Infrequent passenger/cargo ships sail from Honiara to Makira province. You should check at the inter-island wharf area at Point Cruz in Honiara. There is no road system around Makira and transport is generally via motorised canoe or long boat.










# Temotu Province

Comprising three main islands in the extreme east, Temotu offers a historical and culturally unique experience for visitors.

The French La Perouse wrecks were found here and Spanish explorer Álvaro de Mendana entered the Solomons' archipelago through Temotu, proven by sites of a Spanish village he attempted to build.

The country's most active volcano is at Tinakula and the unique red feather money is found here. Ancient and massive Kauri trees grow at Vanikoro and Santa Cruz. In addition, if you are a surfer, perfect curls can be found at Carlise Bay.



**Provincial capital:** Lata, Santa Cruz Island  
**Population:** 18,912  
**Airport:** Santa Cruz (SCZ) serves Lata  
**Seaport:** Lata, Kala Bay, Nangu & Mohawk Bay.

## THINGS TO DO

### DIVING

The Temotu Province offers some of the remotest diving sites in the world. Diving can be done from Ngarando Island resort in the Reef islands (refer accommodation listing for contacts). Wall dives, drop offs, coral gardens & fish life are some of spectacular dives that one must not miss in this area.

### FISHING

The waters of the Temotus abound with fish life and the chance for a range of fishing opportunities. You can troll along the sheer drop-offs for Spanish mackerel, wahoo and dogtooth tuna or cast into the surf for giant trevally, red bass and coral trout. Try your luck with a line, a spear, a net or even other fishing tactics the locals used to catch different types of fish. The islands are remote and surrounded by sea, you are bound to catch something.

### SURFING

In the Temotus only few breaks have really been discovered. Be the first to surf new breaks in one of the world's last frontiers. Surfing is enjoyed more by children and done as a fun recreational activity. They use plywood piece or broken dugout canoe as surf boards. Wooden canoes are mostly used to ride waves. Be amongst them where they will cheer you up with their endless laughter.

### TREKKING & ADVENTURE

Trekking is part of everyday life in the islands. To travel to another village you will need to walk as all of the island group have no access to motor vehicles except the capital Lata.

Experience the wild rooster hunting. These roosters believed to have been brought by Alvaro de Mendana, a Spanish Explorer when he landed on Gracious Bay to settle here.

Travel by boat to view the only live volcano, Tinakula with elevation of 851m above sea level. It erupts every hour in plume of ash & rocks. The first eruption as far as the records shows was in 1595. Polynesian people occupy southern part of the volcano since then, but have to be evacuated in 1971 when another eruption occurred. Now the volcano is deserted.

## WHERE TO STAY

### *Lata, Santa Cruz*

#### **Fresh Wind Guest House**

Lata  
Rooms with shared facilities, kitchenette provided.

#### **Leulta Guest House**

T: (677) 53155  
Lata station. 12 budget rooms with shared facilities. Restaurant and bar.

#### **Temotu Provincial Guesthouse**

Lata  
C/O Lata Postal agency  
T: (677) 53027  
Rooms with shared facilities, kitchenette provided.

#### **Lata Accommodation**

C/- Lata Postal Agency, Lata,  
T: (677) 53076 or 7454264  
On the waterfront in downtown Lata overlooking Gracious Bay only 5 minutes walk from the airport. 13 rooms, some with private facilities and some with

shared facilities. Communal kitchen. Meals can also be arranged on request.

#### **Rotary Lodge**

lata, Temotu  
T: (677) 53115

Located close to the jetty & airport. Shared facilities including kitchen and eating utensils.

### *Pigeon Island, Reef Islands*

#### **Ngarando Island Resort**

Pidgeon Island Mohawk Bay, reef Islands  
T: (677) 7495914  
E: hepworth\_ben@yahoo.com

On a private island amongst the Reef island group, about 2-3 hours by motorised canoe from Lata. A self-contained chalet with private facilities. Boat transport and tours around the Reef Islands available.

## WHERE TO EAT

Outside your accommodation Lata station has a couple of eateries and takeaway food outlets. Base provisions can be obtained from stores and a fresh produce market in Lata.

## GETTING AROUND

Solomon Airlines fly from Honiara to Lata twice a week. There are irregular shipping services. Transport around Temotu is via motorised canoe.

**Disclaimer:** Extra care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and reliable. However, we cannot guarantee that contacts and numbers would remain unchanged. For verification, please contact:  
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau Mendana Avenue PO Box 321 **Telephone** (677) 22442 **facsimile** (677) 23986  
**email:** info@sivb.com.sb