

STOPOVER HANDBOOK FOR VANUATU

EDITION
2026
2027



Yellow Flap
Guides



Vanuatu
TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTRE

For more information, contact:

Port Vila Branch

☎ +678 22 813

✉ reservationsportvila@vanuatu.travel

📍 Tamarama Building, Port Vila

Santo Branch

☎ +678 36 616

✉ reservationssanto@vanuatu.travel

📍 ACOM Building, Luganville

Tanna Branch

☎ +678 77 88813

✉ reservationstanna@vanuatu.travel

📍 Thomas Lakin Building, Lenakel

Malekula Branch

☎ +678 7530186

✉ reservationsmalekula@vanuatu.travel

📍 Before Market House, Lakatoro



The Stopover Handbook for Vanuatu warmly invites cruisers to the six stunning archipelagos, comprising 83 islands of melanesian culture. This destination offers a rich tapestry of cultural heritage and awe-inspiring natural beauty. Here, you'll experience the essence of Vanuatu's diverse traditions and the legendary hospitality of its people.

Whether exploring the volcanic landscapes of Tanna, the serene beaches of Santo, the Ni-Vanuatu fisherman villages in Maskelynes, the bustling markets of Port Vila, or the untouched beauty of Torba and Penama islands, every moment is filled with discovery.



Map 2
General Map of Vanuatu showing the 6 Provinces (Island Groups)

Ports of entry 3
and security at sea

Clearance procedures 4
Arrival procedures: Immigration, Customs, Biosecurity, Health, Waste management

Practical information 6
Emergency and useful contacts, general information



Tafea province 8
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities

Shefa province 14
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities

Malampa province 20
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities

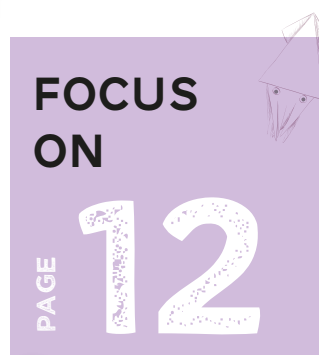
Sanma province 23
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities

Penama province 23
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities

Torba province 23
Map, Anchorages, Services Offered, & Activities



Lenakel bay



Flag & coat of arms 7

Cultural heritage 18

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) 19

Dugongs 19

Responsible cruisers 23



Top Rock, Port Vila



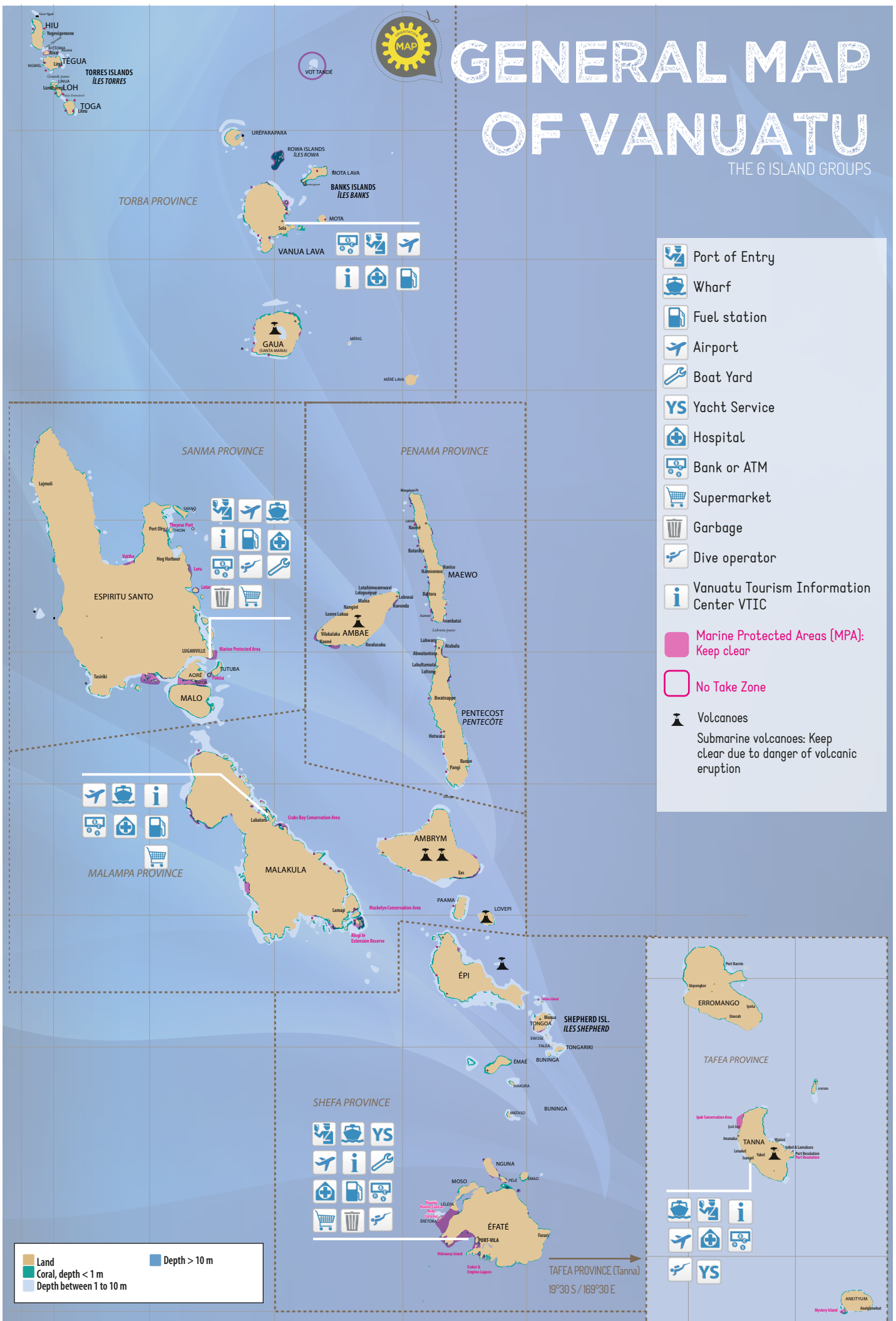
Waisisi bay



Created by ©Archipelagoes SARL.
Editors: S. Betz/S. Renard.
Printed by STP Multipress, Tahiti, Nov. 2025
Advertising & contacts:
edition@archipelagoes.net
Editorial board: S. Betz/E.Kokot Bill
Design: Archipelagoes SARL, Infographies
Translation: Alene D. Rice.
Photo credits & pictures: Vanuatu Tourism Organisation, Archipelagoes SARL, s/v Sugar Shack, Malog Bungalows.
Special thanks: Vanuatu Tourism Organisation, Department of Tourism Vanuatu, Market Development Facility, and each provincial government council.

GENERAL MAP OF VANUATU

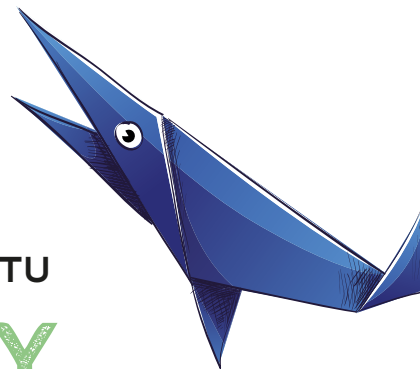
THE 6 ISLAND GROUPS



WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?

PORTS OF ENTRY

ARRIVING IN VANUATU



There are 4 entry ports in Vanuatu for cruisers: Lenakel (Tanna), Port Vila (Efate), Luganville (Santo) and Sola (Vanua Lava).

PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL

As soon as you leave your previous port and head to Vanuatu, you must turn your AIS on for customs purposes. It is also essential to send advance notice of arrival **before leaving the previous port.**

72 hours, 48 h and 24 h prior to arrival, you need to inform both Customs and Ports & Harbour where you will be arriving and estimated time of arrival.

OFFICIAL DECLARED-ENTRY PORTS

Vessels must fly the Q flag (yellow flag) until they are completely cleared in by Customs, Immigration, Health and Quarantine/Biosecurity. Please also fly the Vanuatu courtesy flag. The captain should contact the harbourmaster (VHF 16, email, or phone) or Customs on arrival to be given instructions on where to berth and give permission for officers from the departments of Customs, Immigration, Health and Quarantine/Biosecurity to board the yacht. You may also be requested to visit their offices ashore.

Lenakel in Tanna

There is no harbourmaster in Lenakel, so send an email with ETA to Customs and copy Ports & Harbour in Port Vila. Anchor in front of Lenakel (if the sea is calm), or heave to while going ashore by dinghy. Prior authorization is required for arrival at Port Resolution (an undeclared port).

Port Vila in Efate

Before entering Port Vila harbour, you must call both the Customs and Port authority on VHF 12/16 and wait for their approval. They will let you know where to anchor while waiting for official clearance.

All visiting small craft are liable for port dues of 7,875 VT (vatu) (\$66.30) for a 30-day period. After 30 days from the date of first arrival, the vessel is liable for an additional charge of 100 VT (\$1) per day. Port dues are to be paid upon departure at the Ports & Harbour office in Port Vila or Luganville. If you clear out from Sola or Tanna, pay your harbour fee with Customs.



Luganville

Luganville in Santo

Contact both Harbourmaster and Customs and tie up to the yellow quarantine buoy located in front of the international port or anchor in 12 m sand and mud.
VHF 16 / Ph. + 778 3338

Sola in Vanua Lava

No Ports & Harbour official here yet, so just anchor in front of Sola and contact Customs to clear in.

UNDECLARED ENTRY PORTS

In order to clear in at Port Resolution (Tanna), you must request permission from the Director of Customs (CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu) at least 48 hours before departing your last port and obtain permission before setting sail for this undeclared port. Be prepared to pay for officers' transfers from their office in Lenakel to Port Resolution plus 6,000 VT for Customs.

PORTS & HARBOUR CONTACTS

Port Vila (Efate)

Ports & Harbour Department
VHF 12/16
John Nasak:
Ph. +689 77 99763
hnasak@vanuatu.gov.vu
Weao Manderson:
Ph. +689 7501097
wmanderson@vanuatu.gov.vu
jvaug@vanuatu.gov.vu

Luganville (Espiritu Santo)

Harbourmaster:
Terry Ngwele
Ph. +678 36090 / +678 778 3338
/ +678 537 3323
tngwele@vanuatu.gov.vu
ngwele.terry@gmail.com

Sola (Vanua Lava) and Lenakel (Tanna) do not have a Port & Harbour official: send your ETA to Port Vila or Luganville port officials.

SECURITY AT SEA

VMSA is responsible for Search and Rescue operations and coordination in Vanuatu waters. They are supported by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in New Caledonia (MRCC) for Mass Operations and Distress Beacon Activation monitoring.

Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA)

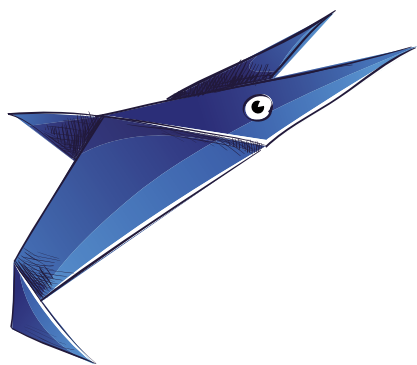
Call 114 for maritime emergencies (free)
VHF 16 (up to 20 NM from Port Vila)
Call Deputy officer Kenbro Manderson:
Ph. +678 35445 / +678 7747434 / +678 7389290
kmanderson@vmsa.vu /
hsiba@vmsa.vu

MRCC New Caledonia inmarsat

Ph. + 422 799 194
For safety, running your AIS is recommended.



Port Vila



WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?

PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES UPON ARRIVAL

WHERE TO START?

IMMIGRATION PROCEDURE

Passports need to be valid for at least 6 months when entering Vanuatu.

Visa information

For nationals from exempt countries, a **120-day tourist visa** is granted upon entry. This cannot be renewed without exiting the country and returning. A resident visa will be required for longer stays.

Cruisers from non-exempt countries need to apply for a 120-day visa and receive approval before traveling to Vanuatu. Application can be made via **Visa Application** – Department of Immigration and Passport Services (gov.vu). Cost: 5,150 VT (online payment).

■ immigration.gov.vu/visa-application/?form=MG0AV3

In order to receive spare parts in Luganville or Port Vila, apply for a TIN (Tax Identification Number) from Customs and employ a private customs agent:

List of exempt & non-exempt countries:

■ immigration.gov.vu/visa-exempted-countries:

Immigration clearance: 4,800 VT per yacht for 120 days to be paid directly to the immigration cashier upon arrival. For further clarification: visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu

Immigration notice of arrival:

Before heading to Vanuatu, notify the immigration office by completing the **Immigration Arrival Form**. Download the form at:

■ immigration.gov.vu and send to visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu

Violette customs agent:
luganvillea@gmail.com

Agence Gauchet:
sgauchet@hotmail.fr

One-way permit procedure

Prior approval from immigration is required if crew is planning to join the boat in Vanuatu. The skipper must contact Immigration to obtain a **"One-way ticket requirement letter of authorisation"**, and crew must arrive in Vanuatu with the letter. Send to immigration:

- Copy of passport of the crew. (If crew is from a non-exempt country, a visa application will also be required.)
- Letter of invitation from the skipper
- Registration certificate of the boat
- Crew's one-way flight ticket
- Proof of payment of 6,000VT to immigration. As payment must be in advance and only in cash to the immigration cashier, we recommend using the services of a yacht agent. See list below.

A one-way permit letter will be issued by Immigration which must be carried into Vanuatu by the crew when arriving. If crew is disembarking in Vanuatu, a return flight ticket is required and the skipper will need to inform Immigration.

IMMIGRATION CONTACTS

■ <https://immigration.gov.vu>

Sola (Vanua Lava) – Torba Province
Contact: Gauthier – Ph. +678 36724
visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu

Luganville (Espirito Santo) – Sanma
Fire station
Immigration officer: Hudson Salai
hsalai@vanuatu.gov.vu

Isangel (Tanna) – Tafea Province
15-minute walk from Lenakel
(2-hour drive from Port Resolution)
Willie Kapalu:
Ph. +678 7112468 / +678 33907
visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu

Port Vila – Efate Province
Department of Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Services
Kumul Highway, Tamarama Building, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Kevin Joshua or Marcel Tokon:
Ph. +678 5138538 or +678 22354
tnaupa@vanuatu.gov.vu

CUSTOMS PROCEDURE

Yachts traveling to Vanuatu should be aware of the following customs regulations and visit:

■ customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu/index.php/travellers/yacht-clearance

Customs restriction on length of stay

Foreign vessels may enter and remain temporarily in Vanuatu without paying customs duty for up to **12 months**, but only if the owner or individual using the boat is not a Vanuatu resident and does not work during his stay. Also, the boat shall not be sold, rented, or lent to a third party. After 12 months, the boat must be imported and importation taxes paid. Otherwise, the vessel must depart Vanuatu waters and enter another country for at least 24 hours.

Prior to arrival

Have your AIS on from your last port until Vanuatu (for customs purposes). Upon leaving the last port and/or 72 hours before your expected arrival, send the following information to Customs. This will be uploaded into customs' digital platform.

Completed notice of arrival & inward clearance form:

■ customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu/customs/forms-2.html

- Boat registration papers
- Copy of passport of the skipper
- Picture of the boat
- Last 3 ports of stopover before Vanuatu
- ETA and port of arrival

Upon arrival, Customs will provide the skipper with an inward clearance that is used as a cruising permit. If you have crew changes during your stopover, you need to inform the customs office where you cleared in. **Customs Clearance is FOC** (free of charge), except after working hours or on weekends & public holidays.

Undeclared ports clearance procedure

If you plan to clear in at Port Resolution, you must request permission from the Director of Customs via email at least 48 hours (working days only) before departure from the previous country and obtain permission before heading for Vanuatu. Be prepared to pay additional fees.

CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu

Recommendation: For Tanna, use a yacht agent's services to coordinate the transfer of officers and to pay clearance fees in VT in cash.

Upon arrival in official port of entry

Upon arrival, Customs will grant approval for entry and clearance. In **Luganville, Sola, Lenakel & Port Vila**, call Vanuatu Customs on VHF 16 to organise clearance formalities. You will be advised whether you will be boarded or requested to come ashore. While waiting for clearance, use the quarantine buoy outside the seawall in Port Vila, and outside the main wharf in Luganville.

In **Lenakel and Sola**, call Customs on VHF 16 and wait for their instructions.

NOTE

Entering Tanna or Port Vila, send NOA to: CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu

Entering Sola or Luganville, send NOA to both: CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu & customsbordersanto@vanuatu.gov.vu

CUSTOMS CONTACTS & WEBSITES

Sola (Torba/Banks) Customs Office

Torba Provincial Head Quarter
Ph. +678 33760 / +678 33780
customsbordersanto@vanuatu.gov.vu / mjaysen@vanuatu.gov.vu

Luganville (Sanma) Customs Office

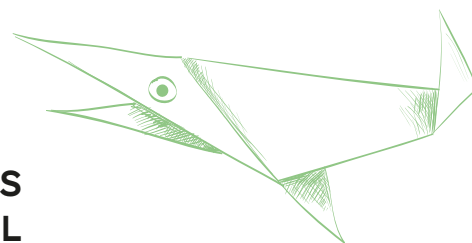
Santo Wharf, Luganville, Santo
Ph. +678 33780
customsbordersanto@vanuatu.gov.vu / CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu

Port Vila (Shefa) Customs Office

Waterfront apartments (near Yachting World Marina)
Ph. +678 33010 or +678 33590 –
Mob +678 7710781
CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu

Tanna (Tafea) Customs Office

Isangel, Tanna Island
Ph. +678 88058 / Voip: 8340 or 8335
CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu



WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?

PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES UPON ARRIVAL

WHERE TO START?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Arms and munitions must be declared on arrival and will be held at Customs until your departure, unless suitably secure sealing arrangements exist on board.

Duty free fuel is only available in Port Vila (at Yachting World) and Luganville (at international wharf) just before departure from Vanuatu. Minimum order is 200L. Ask the Customs officer for the form when you do your outward clearance.

Duty free allowances are 2.5L of alcohol and 250 cigarettes per person.

If you would like to donate goods in the islands, items that will be landed must be declared to Customs upon arrival.

YACHT AGENCIES & SERVICES

Tanna:

Tanna Tours for Yachties
FB: Tanna Tours for Yachties
Ph. +678 7742766
tannatoursforyachties@gmail.com
■ www.tannalavaview.com

Port Vila:

Yachting World
Ph. +678 23273
yachtingworldmarinaportvila@gmail.com
■ yachtingworld-vanuatu.com

Virginia Greg
Ph. +678 735 6630
info@portofcallvanuatu.com
■ portofcallvanuatu.com

Seal Superyachts Vanuatu
Justin Jenkin: Ph. +678 771 9174
Brad Potgieter: Ph. +678 550 3334
vanuatu@seal-superyachts.com
■ www.seal-superyachts.com

Port Vila has the following embassies: France, Japan, USA, China, and the High Commission of New Zealand and Australia.

BIOSECURITY & HEALTH

Biosecurity measures are crucial for safeguarding aquatic environments and preventing the spread of diseases, pests, and invasive species. You are not completely cleared in until you have met with Biosecurity officials.

Prior to arrival, send to Biosecurity:

- A Sanitation Certificate is not mandatory; however, a Biosecurity officer will board the yacht for inspection and, if necessary, arrange for a pest control company in Vanuatu to carry out further checks.
- Notice of arrival
- Crew list
- Masters Certificate (download & fill out via link below)
■ biosecurity.gov.vu/images/Forms/Yacht_masters_certificate.pdf

biosecurity@vanuatu.gov.vu

Upon arrival in Vanuatu, yachts must meet with a Biosecurity officer to fill out a passenger arrival card (the card will be provided by Biosecurity):

- vanuatucustoms.gov.vu/images/Forms/border_control/PASSENGER_ARRIVAL_CARD_INT.pdf

Items such as fresh produce and plants must be declared. You are allowed to bring in fresh food & packaged/labelled meat, but they must be declared and stay on board. Bringing honey into Vanuatu is prohibited. Note that if your arrival port is Port Resolution, you will also have to cover Biosecurity officer travel fees.

In-the-water hull cleaning is forbidden in Vanuatu. Ballast water & holding tanks must be empty before entering Vanuatu waters. During your stay, use holding tanks in all conservation areas and near villages.

AVOID SPREADING THE RHINOCEROS BEETLE

Tanna, Efate, Espirito Santo, Malo and Aore are infected by the Rhinoceros Beetle. They are nocturnal and attracted by lights, so if you plan to sail from Santo, Efate, Tanna, Malo or Aore to any other island, set sail before dark.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Upon arrival, all rubbish must be disposed of for biosecurity purposes. It will be collected by quarantine/biosecurity agents in Port Vila or Luganville. The charge for disposal and destruction is 3,500VT/m³. If you clear in Sola or Lenakel, keep your trash aboard until you arrive in Port Vila or Luganville.

- www.environment.gov.vu

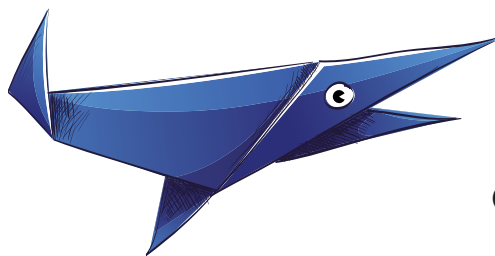
During your stay you must use the city council yellow (Port Vila) or red (Luganville) prepaid trash bags,

available in any grocery. **Please only dispose of trash from goods purchased and sourced locally.** Garbage in prepaid trash bags can be disposed of in municipal rubbish bins in Port Vila and Luganville. In Port Vila, Yachting World also offers garbage collection service. Disposal of burnable trash (cardboard, paper...) is permitted on the outer islands only with permission from Biosecurity. No other trash may be landed. Biosecurity can be contacted

by phone, or by email through community personnel (Chief, Area Administrator, etc.). **Grey and blackwater waste may only be discharged 3-5 NM offshore.** Recyclable waste and lead batteries can be disposed of in Port Vila. Contact Recyclecorp. Ph. Port Vila: +678 5588047 vilayard@recyclevanuatu.com Ph. Santo: +678 5547150 santoyard@recyclevanuatu.com ■ recyclevanuatu.com



WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?



GETTING YOUR BEARINGS IN VANUATU

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The archipelago of Vanuatu is comprised of 83 coral and volcanic islands spread over 6 provinces, 65 of which are inhabited, located at the border of the Coral Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Languages: Bislama, English, and French. 326000 inhabitants to be respected.

HEALTH

Health facilities in Vanuatu are basic, with limited availability of modern equipment and medications. For serious medical conditions, medical evacuation is often necessary. It is essential to have adequate travel health insurance.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Promedical / Ambulance

Efaté - Port Vila:

Ph. +678 26996 - Free Call: 115

Santo - Luganville:

Ph. +678 37983 - Free Call: 112

Ambulance: Ph. +678 22100

Fire: Ph. +678 22333 - Free Call: 113

Police: Ph. +678 22222 - Free Call: 111

Hospitals & Health

Tanna - Isangel:

Ph. +678 88659 / +678 71 00156

Santo - Luganville: Ph. +678 771 0885

Efaté - Port Vila: Ph. +678 22100

Vanua Lava - Sola:

Flying Doctor: Mark Naomi Turnbull:

Ph. +678 5512345

TIME ZONE UTC (+11)

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Ports & Marine operates on VHF 16 & VHF 12 in Port Vila and Luganville.

As a responsible sailor in Vanuatu, make it a practice to monitor VHF 16, both at anchor and while underway. This will enable you to offer assistance to local boats and fellow sailors if needed.

COMMUNICATION

Country code: +678 (no local area codes).

Directory inquiries

Dial 010 / +678 24222

■ www.yellowpages.vu

Local Phone Networks

Vodafone and Digicel. These networks offer data, call, and text services. Ensure your phone is unlocked and compatible with GSM networks (900/1800 MHz) and bring your passport as ID when purchasing a SIM card. International roaming is working in Vanuatu.

Internet Connection

To get WiFi in Vanuatu, consider getting a local SIM card.

Public WiFi: Cafes, restaurants, and hotels offer free WiFi

Starlink: Using your Starlink equipment is allowed during your stay in Vanuatu.

WATER

Fresh water available at Yachting World dock in Port Vila.

Tap water is potable at most islands.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Buoy A system, but markers are rare.

Boats above 50 meters must use pilot services in Port Vila and Luganville.

PLASTICS

Vanuatu has banned the use of plastic bags and straws.

GAS & POWER

Electricity

Voltage: 230 V

Frequency: 50 HZ

Gas

Origin Energy Vanuatu Ltd can refill cylinders in Port Vila and Luganville. They fill some gas cylinders; however, not the blue camping gas cylinders. Bring your bottle to the gas company's floating dock in Port Vila.

Note that in Australia, cylinders without an Australian Safety mark will not be filled, so, it is advisable to leave Vanuatu with full cylinders to avoid having to buy new ones in Australia.

■ www.originvanuatu.com

Fuel

Port Vila provides good quality low sulfur diesel.

Lunganville also has fueling services but pre-ordering is recommended. In the outer islands, you will need to bring your jerry cans ashore for filling.



SAILING IN VANUATU

Vanuatu's climate varies with latitude, from wet tropical in the northern islands, to the dryer subtropical in the southern extremes of the archipelago. Seasonal and interannual variations in climate are driven by changes associated with El Niño.

Winds

November to April: Austral summer, hot and humid season, generally N-NE winds, air temp up to 30 °C, sea up to 28°C.

May to October: Austral winter, cooler and dryish season, generally SE winds (occasionally west), air temp around 22°C, sea temp average 20-22°C.

Forecast:

■ www.vmgd.gov.vu/marine-forecast

Tides & current

2 lunar tides per day, average range 1,2 m. Details on www.tide-forecast.com. There are strong tidal currents in the narrow passes between islands.

Swell

The predominant swell direction in this region is S to SE. New Caledonia lies SSW of Vanuatu and blocks much of the southerly swell.

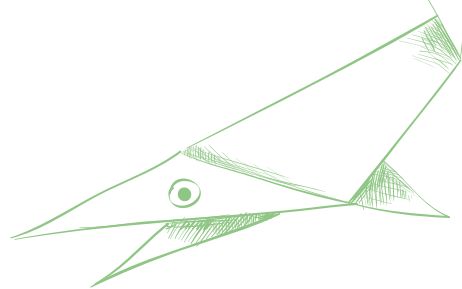
Cyclones

Cyclones are common during the warm months of November to April. Generally, approaching storms are forecast at least three days in advance. Havanna harbour is a natural hurricane hole.

Anchoring

Vanuatu offers a variety of anchorages, each providing different levels of protection and amenities. When anchoring, it's important to be mindful of local regulations and environmental considerations. Some areas might have restrictions to protect marine life or cultural sites. At small islands, always visit the chief of the village before exploring the island.

WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TRANSPORTATION

Airlines flying into Port Vila

Fiji Airways, AirCalin, Air Niugini, Solomon Airlines, Qantas, and Virgin.

Inter-Island flights: Solomon Airlines, Unity Airlines, Air Vanuatu, Vanuatu Helicopters, Air Taxi.

Bus

In Port Vila, buses are minivans with license plates starting with «B.» They are plentiful and easy to use. You can flag them down anywhere by waving your hand. Luganville has fewer buses but plenty of inexpensive taxis.

Taxi

Taxis have license plates starting with «T». They are often cheaper than a bus for groups of 3 or more.

Car Hire

Foreign driving licenses are accepted in Vanuatu.

Driving Tips

Drive on the right-hand side. The speed limit is 50 km/h in towns and 80 km/h out of town. Roads outside towns can be rough; watch for people and animals, and ensure you have enough fuel.

VANUATU TOURISM WELCOMES CRUISERS

Vanuatu is dedicated to providing a warm welcome to cruisers. Their team at the 5 Vanuatu Tourism information centers - VTIC - will be happy to assist you with activity planning, booking flights, recommending provisioning services, and pointing you to must-see spots, all in either French or English.

■ www.vanuatu.travel

FB: Vanuatu Tourism Office (EN)

Office du Tourisme du Vanuatu (FR)

Tanna - Lenakel

Ph. +678 7788813 / +678 7100597
reservations@tanna.travel

Efate - Port Vila

Ph. +678 22 813 / +678 37 551
info@vanuatu.travel / info@tourism.vu

Malekula - Lakatoro: Ph. +678 753 0186
reservations@malekula.travel

Santo - Luganville: Ph. +678 36616
reservations@santo.travel

Santo - Sola: Ph. +678 7611236
janmth@trade-vanutu.gov.vu

CALENDAR OF FESTIVITIES

■ www.vanuatu.travel/en/lokol/events-festivals

PROVISIONING

The largest markets and supermarkets are at Port Vila and Luganville. In each major village, you'll find small groceries and local markets with fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, meat, handicrafts...

Updated info and contacts for restaurants and activity providers.

Tourism office information center:

■ www.vanuatu.travel/en

Rocket guide:

■ rocket-guides.com

Hotspot:

■ hotspotvanuatu.com



©VTIC

CURRENCY

Vanuatu uses the Vanuatu Vatu (VUV). 120 VT = 1 USD\$ (2025)

There are banks and ATMs in main cities, but plan ahead for travel to the outer islands.

BUSINESS HOURS

Business hours are typically from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday. Most shops are closed on Sundays.

HANDICRAFTS

If you purchase any vegetal handicrafts, take them to the quarantine office in Port Vila to get a certificate allowing them to be taken into other countries.

DRONES

Flying drones is permitted in Vanuatu, but specific regulations need to be followed:

■ drone-laws.com/drone-laws-in-vanuatu/?form=MG0AV3

FLAG & COAT OF ARMS

More than just "logos", both are a window into the heart of Vanuatu's identity and *kastom*. The flag was officially adopted on February 18, 1980, just before the country gained independence from joint British and French colonial rule on July 30, 1980. Its colors represent the country's hard-won independence and cultural pride.

Black: Symbolizes the melanesian skin color of the Ni-Vanuatu people and their connection to the fertile land.

Red: Represents the blood of wild boars and men, symbolizing strength and courage.



Green: Stands for the rich islands and lush vegetation in Vanuatu.

Yellow: Depicts the light and Christianity, and the golden

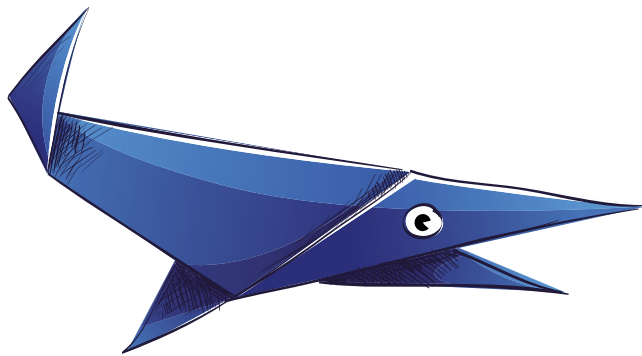
opportunity that lies in the future of the Ni-Vanuatu people. A yellow-edged Y-shape represents the geography of Vanuatu and its islands.

The boar's tusk: A traditional symbol of prosperity — and two crossed **Namele leaves** (Palm leaves), which are symbols of peace.

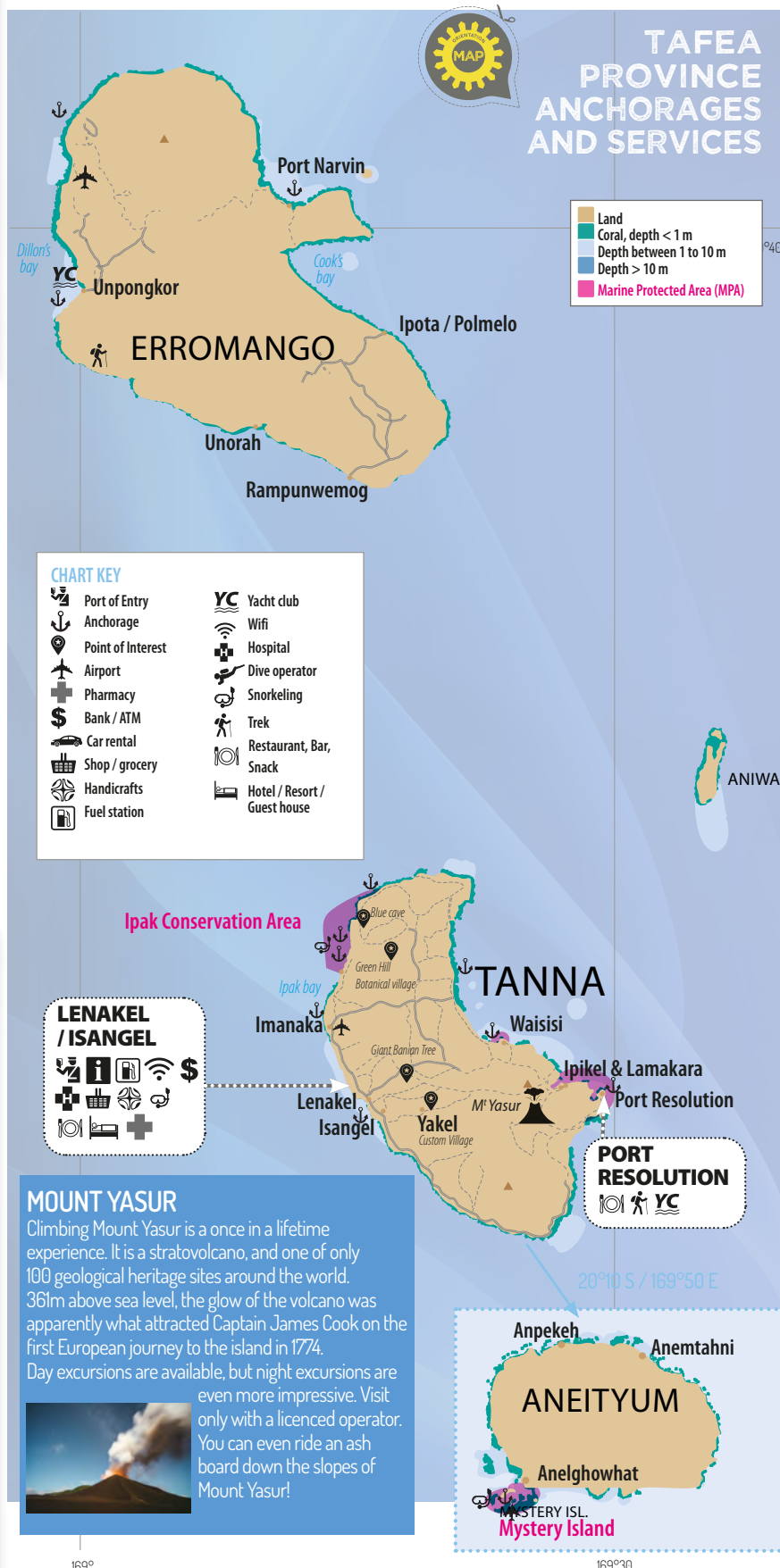
The Coat of arms is proudly displayed on buildings, documents, and monuments.

It tells a rich story of culture, tradition, and national pride. At its center stands a Melanesian warrior holding a spear, symbolizing strength and protection. Behind him is a curved boar tusk, one of the most sacred symbols in Vanuatu, representing traditional wealth and social status. The two green **namele leaves** stand for peace and unity. Below it all is the national motto in Bislama: "*Long God Yumi Stanap*", meaning "*With God We Stand*".





WHERE? WHEN? HOW? TAFEA &



Tafea, the southernmost province of the six provinces in Vanuatu, is an acronym derived from the five islands that make up the region: Tanna, Aneityum, Futuna, Erromango, and Aniwa.

The island of Tanna has the world's most accessible volcano, Mount Yasur, the highest peak of the province at 361 meters. Aniwa is the only coral island in Vanuatu; the other four islands are volcanic.

TANNA

The west coast offers spectacular coral reefs for snorkeling and diving and the stunning Blue Cave, while the east coast has hot springs and the sheltered bays of Port Resolution and Waisisi with white and black sand beaches. The island's interior is home to the Mount Yasur volcano, several cultural villages, and the impressive Giant Banyan Tree.

VANUATU TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER

The Tourism Office is located in Lenakel, opposite Mama's Market. You can book activities, flights, and accommodations. Credit cards accepted.

Opening hours: 8 am to 5 pm.

Ask for the calendar of the major events:

- Fish festival in South Imaki
- John Frum Festival - in February
- Nekowiar Ceremony
- Toka Festival...

For inquiries, contact Maree Kiel at +678 7100597
reservations@tanna.travel

MUST DO IN TANNA

- Hike the crater rim of Mount Yasur, one of the world's most active volcanoes.
- Visit John Frum village - Lamakara
- Bathe in the hot springs of Sulfur Bay
- Snorkel at the Blue Cave
- Visit Yakel Custom village

No rental cars available, but it's better to hire a driver anyway as roads are in poor condition.

Volcano Visitation Tips

Always go with a guide as there is no clear path. Follow your guide's directions for safety. Travel and tours can be arranged with the VTIC office in Lenakel.



TASTE THE TANNA COFFEE

Tanna coffee is grown on the slopes of active M^t Yasur volcano in unique climatic conditions. This pure organic 'Arabica' coffee is full-bodied with wonderful aromatics and a pleasant nutty flavor, finishing with a long, smooth, non-bitter aftertaste.

ISLAND GROUP OF TAFEA

TANNA: BLACK MAN TOWN

Sail from one island to another during daylight hours to avoid attracting the Rhinoceros beetle which is drawn to the boat's lights at night.

APPROACH

If Tanna is your entry port, you must clear in at Lenakel and call the Customs officer on VHF 16. The anchorage area near the wharf is limited in size, and not recommended in NW to ESE winds or with big swells. In calm weather and out of the ferry rotations you may dock on the ferry pier. If you enter in Port Resolution, use the services of a yacht agent to organize transfers of officers.

Tanna Tours for Yachties

Ph. +678 7742766

tannatoursforyachties@gmail.com

■ www.tannalavaview.com

WASTE

Foreign garbage is not allowed to land in Lenakel. Garbage disposal is only permitted in Port Vila and Luganville; it is not allowed on any other islands of Vanuatu. Disposal of burnable trash (cardboard...) is permitted only with permission from Biosecurity.

SHOPS & SERVICES

Grocery stores with basic products, one butcher and one liquor store.

Handicrafts and vegetables at the market.

Network: Digicel & Vodafone wifi.

Ferries: 2 ferries from Port Vila / week.

Lenakel Hospital and pharmacy.

(No dentist) Ph. +678 88659 / 7100156

ATM and banks available in Lenakel.

Fuel stations (Lenakel): jerry cans only.

OTHER ANCHORAGES ON THE WEST COAST:

Port Resolution

Great sheltered anchorage (except in strong N winds) for up to 40 boats in 8 meters depth.

No markers; entering in daylight is advised. No waste disposal at all.

Village with traditional *tabu* areas and conservation marine areas, so ask to meet the chief to seek advice prior to exploring the area.

Suggestions: Visit & support the village kindergarten, buy fish from inhabitants, go surfing at the entrance of the bay, go snorkeling. Enjoy a guided tour to the hot springs, John Frum village, the volcano...

Port Resolution Yacht Club

Restaurant and bar (BYO permitted) - fresh water (jerry cans). When there are several boats in the bay, the YC may organize a custom ceremony with the chiefs of the 6 villages in the vicinity. Good internet, SIM cards for sale.

Fuel: One shop sells fuel.

Cash only.

Meet with Werry: VHF 16

Ph. +678 778 7259

portresolution@vanuatu.com.vu

Tanna's nickname is Black Man town since only natives of Tanna are allowed to open or run a business on the island.

ANCHORING SUGGESTIONS

The Blue Cave

A nice day anchorage is located near the airport and White Grass resort. 16 m sandy bottom. Snorkel the 2 blue holes — one of the best snorkeling spots in Vanuatu. Obtain permission from locals prior to visiting as this is a protected marine area and no fishing zone.

White Grass Ocean Resort & Spa (and dive operator)

Ph. +678 30010

info@whitegrasstanna.com

whitegrasstanna.com



Ipak Village / Cove - (Conservation area)

Anchor in Ipak Bay and land on the beach for a short walk to Ipak village. This is a marine conservation area where local fishing methods using bamboo and fishing line (no nets) are used. Meet with Samy Naihu (+678 5621437) for assistance and advice. He

will drive you to the Sea Museum, the underwater source, and to the Blue Cave carved by natural spring water which reflects the sunlight. Request a BBQ and Kava party on the beach.

In the vicinity: Rock Water resort (adults only) or the Evergreen resort.

Waisisi Bay

Waisisi is a contraction of a sentence from Captain Cook: "the way is easy". There is a good anchoring spot in front of this fishing and farming tribal village (436 inhabitants).

Go ashore and greet Simon, the chief. Waisisi has a church and a kindergarten, and offers fuel and

outboard engine repairs. You can drop off burnable garbage here. Go fishing, snorkeling, surfing, or explore the underwater grave with the villagers for an authentic experience.



THE OTHER ISLANDS OF TAFEA PROVINCE

Erromango Island

Dillon's Bay

Beautiful white sand beaches and great snorkeling. You can visit the village and meet the friendly locals. The yacht club will help you to organise activities, visit the cave and interact with inhabitants.

Port Narvin

Discover the stone carvings about Captain Cook and the first shells of Kava from the legend of the marriage of Kava and the Coconut Palm in the village Ranulevie.

Ipota

Located on the western coast, Ipota features stunning black sand beaches and vibrant coral reefs. You can also explore the nearby forests to see a variety of wildlife and visit the local markets where you will find traditional handicrafts and souvenirs.

Aniwa Island lagoon

This northwest lagoon is open to the sea. Anchoring is possible, though it can be challenging. Look for a white square painted on the coral face. Shipping of goods or passengers is via either the monthly inter-island

shipping service or the numerous small outboard motor boats operated by individuals. A road accessible to vehicles links almost all parts of the island.

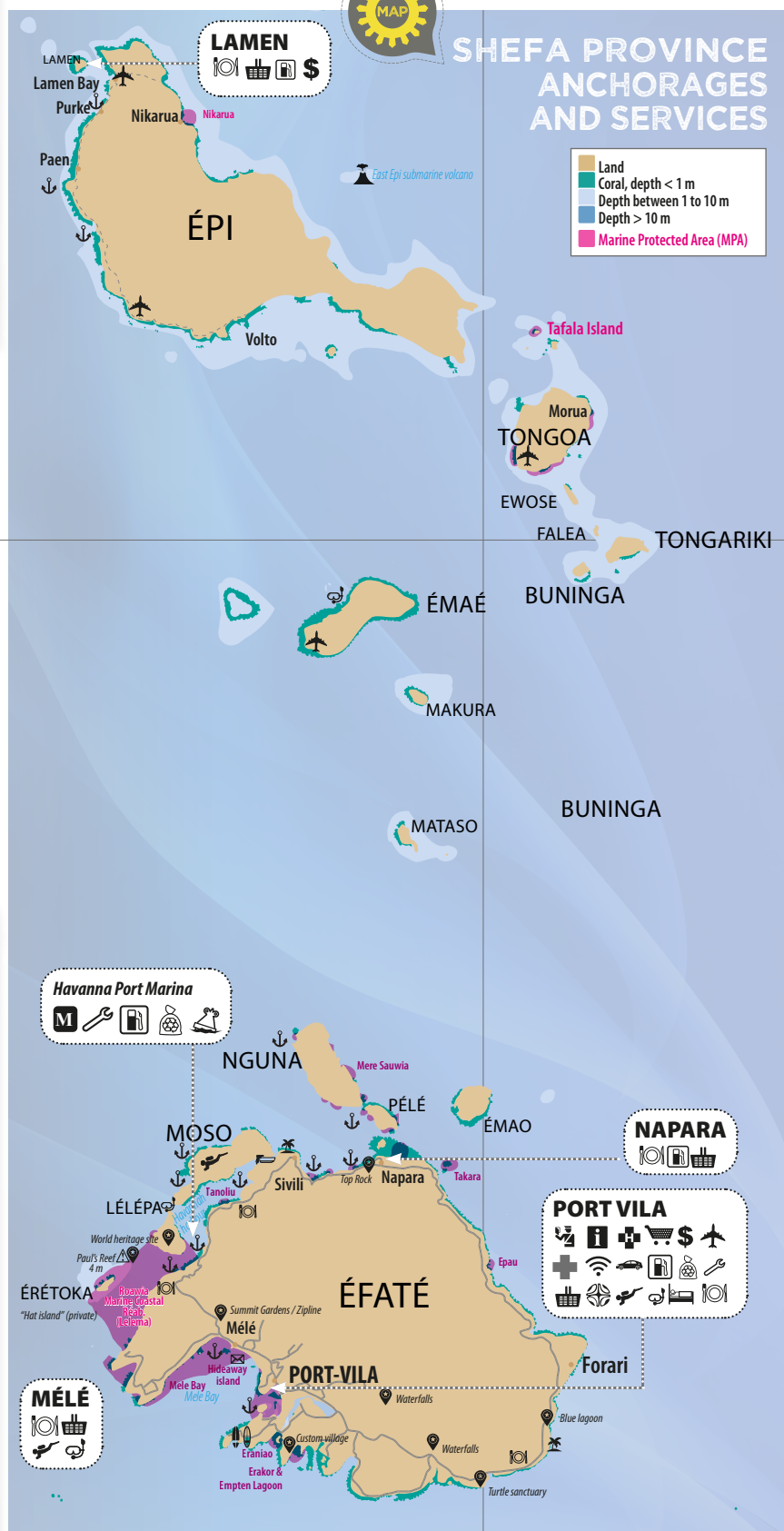
Aneityum Island

Anelghowat village, near Mystery Island, is a good anchorage sheltered from the swell. Visit the beach market (when cargo comes), and taste their slow-

cooked food prepared using traditional methods (Slow Food). No ATM. Great snorkeling around Mystery Island with turtles, healthy coral, and giant clams.



WHERE? WHEN? HOW? SHEFA,



Shefa province includes the island of Efate (with Port Vila) and the Shepherd Islands group. Shefa hosts several marine sanctuaries to preserve marine life and promote sustainable tourism. You can spot endangered species like turtles and dugongs. The province also includes the submarine volcanoes Kuwae and Makura.

APPROACH OF EFATE

Contact the harbourmaster on VHF 16 or 12 before entering or leaving Port Vila harbour.

Port Vila Harbour is safe and straightforward for yachts. There are two main entrances: the northern one is best for Yachting World Marina and the fuel wharf. The southern entrance via Pontoon Bay is marked by red and green lights - obtain permission from the harbourmaster before entering Pontoon Bay and to use the channel between Pontoon Bay and the south part of Paray Bay. **There's an overhead electric cable stretching from the eastern side of Iririki Island to Vila town.** Passage under the cable is restricted to yachts with less than 23m (75ft) mast height.

Paradise Cove: If you arrive too late to enter Port Vila harbour, this is a good anchorage in 7m sand.

Nice beach, bar and restaurant directly on shore.

■ paradisecoversortvanuatu.com

If Port Vila is your entry port, anchor near the yellow quarantine buoy north of the lead markers with 10-12 meters depth and call Port Vila Harbour Control on VHF 16 (07:30 - 16:30, Monday to Friday). Customs, Immigration, Health and Biosecurity, and Ports & Harbour departments are available to fully complete your clearances in & out.

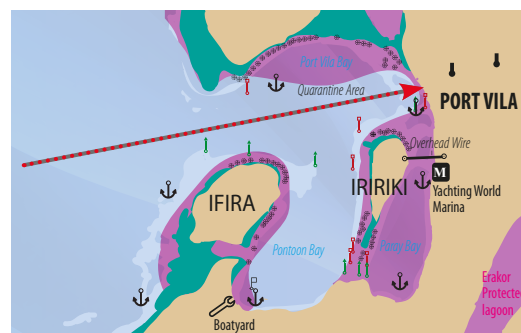
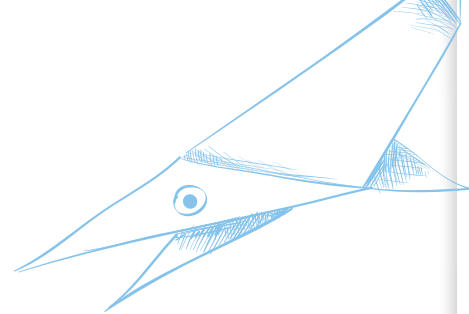


CHART KEY

	Anchorage		Waste		Hotel / Resort
	VTIC		Yacht service / repair		Dive operator
	Airport		Fuel station		Beach
	Point of Interest		Car rental		Surf spot
	Hospital		Supermarket		Submarine post
	Pharmacy		Shop / grocery		Mooring
	ATM		Handicrafts		Dinghy landing
	WiFi zone		Restaurant / Bar		Caution



ISLAND GROUP OF SHEFA

TUGETA YUMI GRO*

* "Together we carry the wisdom of the past to build a better future"



ACTIVITIES

It is worthwhile to **rent a car or book a day tour** around Efate to see the island, especially on Sunday.

- Snorkel at **Rock lookout**.
- **Blue Lagoon** has rope swings from the trees (east Efate).
- Take a refreshing swim at **Raru Waterfall** near Blue Lagoon.
- Visit the **national museum** in Port Vila showcasing traditional artifacts, Chief Roi Mata's burial site, and an archival space called the Tabu Room. For guided tours & a Kastom school, contact Mr. Edgard, museum curator. Ph. +678 710 6698
■ vanuatumuseum.gov.vu
- Visit a **nakamal** and taste the strongest Kava in the Pacific.
- Visit the **Aelan Chocolate Factory & the 83 Islands Distillery** (5-min. drive out of town)
- Go gaming in one of the **casinos**
- Book a **scuba dive**
Ask VTIC for contacts

- **Ekasup cultural site** (Erakor village)
tatokatours@vanuatu.com.vu
- **Tana Cinéma**
FB: Tana Cine
■ yellowpages.vu/index.php/tana-cine
- **Vanuatu Buggy Adventure**
Ph. +678 22775
buggyfun@onwheelsgroup.com
- **Port Vila Golf & Country club**
18 holes
Ph. +678 2256
pvgcc@vanuatu.com.vu
■ www.pvgcc.club
- **Zipline**
Ph. +678 555 0423
■ www.vanuatujiunglezipline.com
- **Vanuatu Chess Federation**
Ph. +678 738 7969

Map & Events Calendar

- www.vanuatu.travel/en/provinces/shefa-province/efate-port-vila/efate-map
- www.vanuatu.travel/en/lokol/events-festivals



Port Vila

Port Vila is the capital and largest city of Vanuatu. All public services are available: Central Hospital, plenty of restaurants, bars, cinema, shopping, and Cultural center.

USEFUL CONTACTS

IN PORT VILA

Tourism Office
Ph. +678 22 813 / +678 37 551
info@vanuatu.travel
info@tourism.vu



OTHER ACTIVITIES AROUND MELE

- Great snorkeling in the bay. You may spot turtles and dugongs.
- Walk to the Mele waterfalls.
- Vanuatu Jungle Zipline, Swing and Skybridge.
- Surf spot at "Devil's point".
- Horseback riding.

WORLD'S ONLY UNDERWATER POST OFFICE



This is a real post office with opening hours and collection times, 50 m from the shore and 3 meters deep. A special flag is raised on a buoy above the site when employees are on duty in the water. Tie up your dinghy and walk into the shop right off the dock to buy waterproof postcards. This unique post office was designed to encourage underwater exploration of the riches the archipelago has to offer.



Vanuatu Parliament house.

The Parliament house of Vanuatu is where the country's leaders meet to make laws and important decisions. It is the heart of Vanuatu's government and democracy. The building shows the country's pride, blending traditional and modern styles. It is important because it helps guide the future of Vanuatu and represents the voice of its people. Visit and learn about how the country is run and why it matters to the nation.



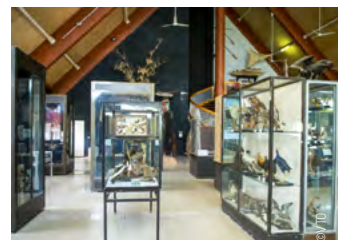
Chief Nakamal

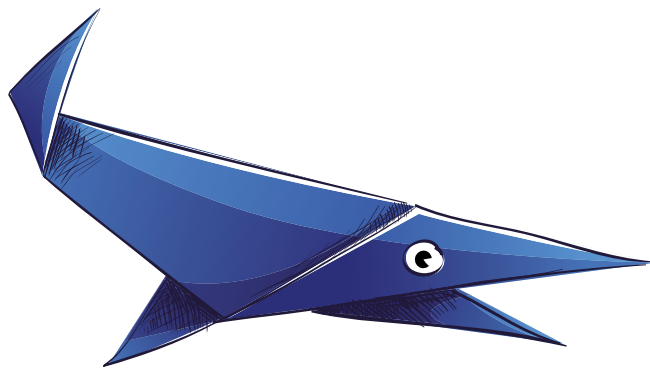
The Chief Nakamal is a traditional meeting place of Vanuatu's chiefs. It is where important discussions and decisions are made about customs, land, and community matters. The *nakamal* is a symbol of Vanuatu's culture and respect of *kastom* (custom law). It plays a key role in keeping traditional ways alive and strong. Visitors can learn about how chiefs help lead and protect the community.



Vanuatu National Museum

The Vanuatu National Museum shows the rich history and culture of the islands of Vanuatu. It has displays of traditional tools, art, music, and stories from the past. The museum helps protect and share Vanuatu's heritage with both locals and visitors. It is an important place to learn about the customs, languages, and traditions that make Vanuatu unique.





WHERE? WHEN? HOW? SHEFA

YACHT SERVICES

Chandleries & Hardware

Vila Marine (Mercury only)
Ph. +678 23 329/M: +678 7544993
roger@vilamarine.com
www.vilamarine.com

Port Vila Hardware Store

Ph. +678 23 274 - +678 24 782
pvh@vanuatu.com

Wilco Hardware Port Vila

Ph. +678 22 385
enquiryvila01@cnbmwilco.com

Trade Tool Direct

Ph. +678 22 940

A/C and Fridge

Vila Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Ph. +678 22 178
info@vilaref.com

Supercool Vila Ltd

Ph. +678 35 690 / Mob. +678 77 43572
supercool@vanuatu.com.vu

Air Conditioning: Ph. +678 28690

Electricity: Ph. +678 7722564

Refrigeration: Ph. +678 25025

Repairs

Electricity: Ph. +678 7722564

Refrigeration: Ph. +678 25025

Aluminium boat & general engineering

Ph. +678 23244 / +678 7377991

Sail repairs and canvas

Saddlery and sails: Ph. +678 7113459

Haul Out and Marina

Port Havannah Harbour

Opening in Feb. 2027, up to 60 tons.

Port Vila Boatyard

Tel: +678 23417

info@portvilaboatyard.com

Yachting World Marina

Ph. +678 23273

yachtingworldmarinaportvila@gmail.com

The Point Marina

This private residential marina sales berth

■ www.thepointmarina.com

Waste

Purchase specific yellow bags.

YACHTING WORLD MARINA

The friendly staff of Yachting World in Port Vila offers a full range of services for visiting yachts, including a sea-wall marina, swing moorings, dinghy dock, laundry facilities, serviced apartments, fuel, a dinghy wharf, WiFi, and a restaurant & bar.

They also have limited stern-to berthing along the wall at Yachting World. Book directly with them. Depth is 3m at the sea wall dropping down to 6m.

Fuel

For boats with less than 2m draft, there is a marine fuel station at Yachting World Marina wharf; however, larger boats will have to organize a fuel truck at the commercial wharf.

Dinghy landing is available at Yachting World Marina or at several pontoons along the waterfront.

Waste

Purchase the red community bags and drop them in any container, or use the services at Yachting World.



PROVISIONING AND OTHER SERVICES

General stores & markets

Au Bon Marché Nambatu

Big store with a lot of EU products: bread, meat, fish, dairy, fruit & veg...

Dynamic Supermarket

Food & beverages - local & imported products.

Pre-order online for delivery to Yachting World Marina dock.

Ph. +678 5550026

marion@dynamicvanuatu.com

■ www.dynamicvanuatu.com

4P meats: Long-lasting local dried

meats. Vacuum-bagged beef sausage and *kekabs*. Devils Point Road, Bukura, or delivered to the pier in Port Vila.

info@4pfarm.com

Ph. +678 5279757

Laundry

Ezy wash

Ph. +678 24386

Pacific Wash and Dry, ironing and folding

Ph. +678 22 335 /

pacificwashanddry@vanuatu.com.vu



Lamen Bay

©VTD

HAVANNAH PORT NEW MARINA

Opening in February 2027, Port Havannah will offer marina berths and moorings, travel lift up to 60 tons, a jetty for fuel (with duty free fuel available on departure), basic mechanical repairs, welding, and general maintenance.

info@porthavannah.com

■ www.porthavannah.com

EATING OUT IN PORT VILA

The Waterfront Bar and Grill

Near Yachting World Marina.

Ph. +678 23273

Grand Hotel

Center of Port Vila town.

Ph. +678 28882

Iririki Island

Access by dinghy.

Ph. +678 35060

Kesorn's Exotic Thai Restaurant

Ph. +678 773 1751

Three Pigs

Restaurant, bar, pizzas and burgers.

Ph. +678 772 8066

Mg Cocomo Resort Restaurant

Western & Asian cuisine.

Ph. +678 25505

Stonegrill Restaurant

Ph. +678 546 4506

Cafe Vila Restaurant & Bar

Organic meat and seafood.

Ph. +678 28128

Taste Of India

Restaurant, bar & café.

Ph. +678 549 0071

Pikinini Bar

Ph. +678 735 9732

Waterfall Port Vila

Ph. +678 555 4000

Au Faré

French cuisine.

Ph. +678 25580

L'Houstalet Restaurant

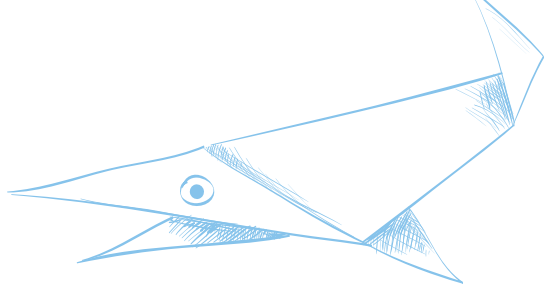
French cuisine, famous for flying fox in red wine.

Ph. +678 552 2303

Nambawan Cafe

Access by dinghy.

Ph. +678 25246



ISLAND GROUP OF SHEFA

"WELKAM" CRUISERS

OTHER SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

Mele Bay & Hideaway Island (MPA area)

Mele Bay has a good anchorage 5NM from port Vila in 5-7m with good holding in black sand, well sheltered from ESE-SE winds. Mele village is the most populated village of Efate. Groceries, handicraft shop, great place to interact with inhabitants and school children.

MPA: Fishing not allowed in this bay.

The Beach Bar offers entertainment and lots of services for yachts including laundry, water, and trash collection.

Tuesday: Movie night.

Friday: "Fire show" on the beach after dark.

Sunday: Live music and Sunset Circus

Ask about their beach cleanup program:

Ph. +678 5601132

beachbarme@gmail.com

Hideaway Island

Known for its marine sanctuary and snorkeling opportunities, this spot is perfect for underwater exploration. The resort has a restaurant & bar, a PADI dive shop, and glass bottom boat to explore the marine sanctuary and its vibrant underwater life.

Hideaway Island Resort & Marine Sanctuary

Ph. +678 22963

hideawayisland2024@gmail.com

■ hideaway.com.vu



Contact **Marine Roawia Coastal Rehabilitation**

to book customized boat tours to explore the surrounding areas, including the Turtle Sanctuary, Paul's Reef (4 m depth - fish feeding) and private island Eratoka to learn more about its history and Chief Roi Mata peace ceremony. Or enjoy a guided visit of Mangalelu village and interact with school children. Roawia is also keen to provide services such as laundry, garbage collection, fresh fruit and vegetables...

info@roawiacostal.vu

ERATOKA, "HAT ISLAND"

Chief Roi Mata's Domain is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Paul's reef is a MPA. A local tour guide is required for visitation.

Your guide will show you the best snorkeling areas on Paul's Reef.

■ www.vanuatu.travel/fr/chief-roimatas-domain-world-heritage-site

Havannah Harbour

Havannah Harbour is a natural cyclone harbour, but be aware of the strong current between Moso and Lelepa.

Esema Bay: An anchorage well protected from wind with a pontoon for dinghies to access the village of Ulei or catch a bus to Port Vila on the main road. Lunch, fruit or fish available from inhabitants.

Lelepa Island is a World Heritage site, so no anchoring is allowed. 400 locals live a self-sustaining, community-minded existence in Lelepa. As Chief Roi Mata's descendants, they are the guardians of this World Heritage site. If you drift dive between Moso and Lelepa, use a surface marker buoy as there is boat traffic.

Moso Island: Visit Tasiriki school, or join a yoga session.

Ph. +64 274 136 334 / FB: Yoga on Moso

Crusoe Fishing Adventures (deep sea fishing)

Ph. +678 774 5490 / crusoeffishing.com,

Lunch at **The Moso Vanuatu** (pre-booking).

The Havannah Vanuatu

Great restaurant and bar. Pre-booking only. No children allowed.

Anchorage not allowed in front of the resort.

Ph. +678 26300 / +678 35600

reservations@thehavannah.com

The Moso Vanuatu resort

Eco-friendly. Community-minded.

Ph. +678 776 7459

mikamlongmoso@themosovanuatu.com

Tranquility Island Eco and Dive resort

Eco-resort with dive center. Turtle sanctuary and island adventures.

Ph. +678 588 8803 or +678 22560

tranquility@vanuatu.com.vu

North West Efate

There are a couple of anchorages along the northern coast between **Launwere Beach** and **Kakhula Island**. Anchor in 6-10m. Good wind protection. Access **Siviri village** and **Top Rock**. Great snorkeling in the vicinity. Sandy beaches and a kite surfing spot. Encompassing the islands of **Nguna** and **Pele**, the **Marine Protected Area Network** offers protected anchorages with stunning coral reefs and marine life.

Siviri village and its community marine reserve

Very pleasant typical Vanuatu village.

The inhabitants oversee Valeva

Cave, discovered 1,800 years ago.

Entrance fee: 500 VT per person.

They also offer a guided kayaking experience for 1,000 VT per person.

Top Rock lookout

Near Saama village, Top Rock is a nice place to have lunch and enjoy this beautiful snorkeling spot and its cave (entry fee).

Pre-book with George Pilate

(CC accepted):

Ph. +678 5167939

Shepherd Islands

Tongoa Island

Offers several protected anchorages with scenic beauty and calm waters.

Epi Island

Epi is a tranquil island with beautiful white and black sand beaches, inshore reefs, and lush rainforests. It features small lakes for fishing and swimming. They grow kava, and peanuts.

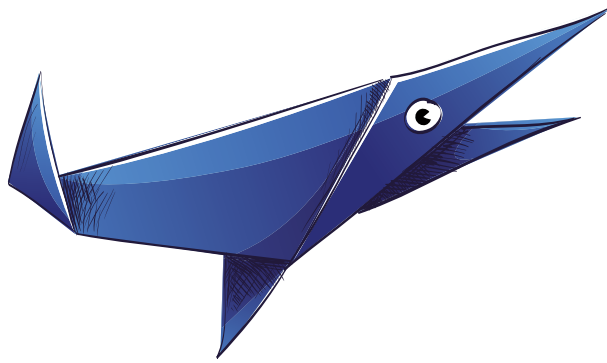
Lamen Bay, NE Epi. Anchor in 5-8m in front of the village. Good holding, slightly roly. Avoid the SE corner as this is the fragile sea grass feeding habitat for dugongs and turtles. Go ashore to the small village to enjoy lunch at **Sanda Café**, find some basic groceries, & the Epi island health center. Ask for a guided tour to the small island in the bay to find dugongs.

Pele and Nguna Islands

North Pele: Great anchorage in 4m sand - watch out for coral areas.

Drift snorkeling between Pele and Nguna.

Nguna: Anchor NW of the islands. Good holding and protection from the swell, but could be exposed to the wind.



WHERE? WHEN? HOW? MALAMPA:

Spend time in this province to immerse yourself in the Ni-Vanuatuan simple life, have a magic swim with dugongs or above giant clams, taste their Slow Food, learn about the big and small Nambas tribes...

LAMAP ART FESTIVAL

In early August, the local community of Lamap celebrates their culture, traditions and unique way of life with a two-day art and cultural festival. A typical program includes an authentic pig exchange ceremony, skill displays, custom dancing and storytelling.

Malekula Island

Located only 20 NM from Santo, Malekula is indented with many bays and coves offering safe anchorage. The SE coast is comprised of a string of islands named the **Maskelynes**.

Walla Island

Great anchorage just off the beach on the NW side of Walla. The community created **Walla Island Yacht Club** in order to welcome all cruisers. They provide an island information center, inland tours to historical sites, Slow Food activities and nighttime activities. Etienne Tiasinmal: Ph. +678 5685852 or +678 7114485 etienntiasinmal@gmail.com

Port Stanley

A couple of anchorages with good holding. Protected from SE winds. Provides access to the villages of Litzlitz and Lakatoro.

Lakatoro and Uri

Lakatoro is the main village. Market (fish and vegetables), butcher, handicrafts and grocery shops, ATM.

Tourism VTIC office:

Ph. +678 753 0186
nlunabek@vanuatu.travel

Visit the tourism office to book land tours and interact with inhabitants.

On the west side of Port Stanley is the lovely village of Uri. Visit here to get consent to snorkel the turtle sanctuary.

Crabs Bay

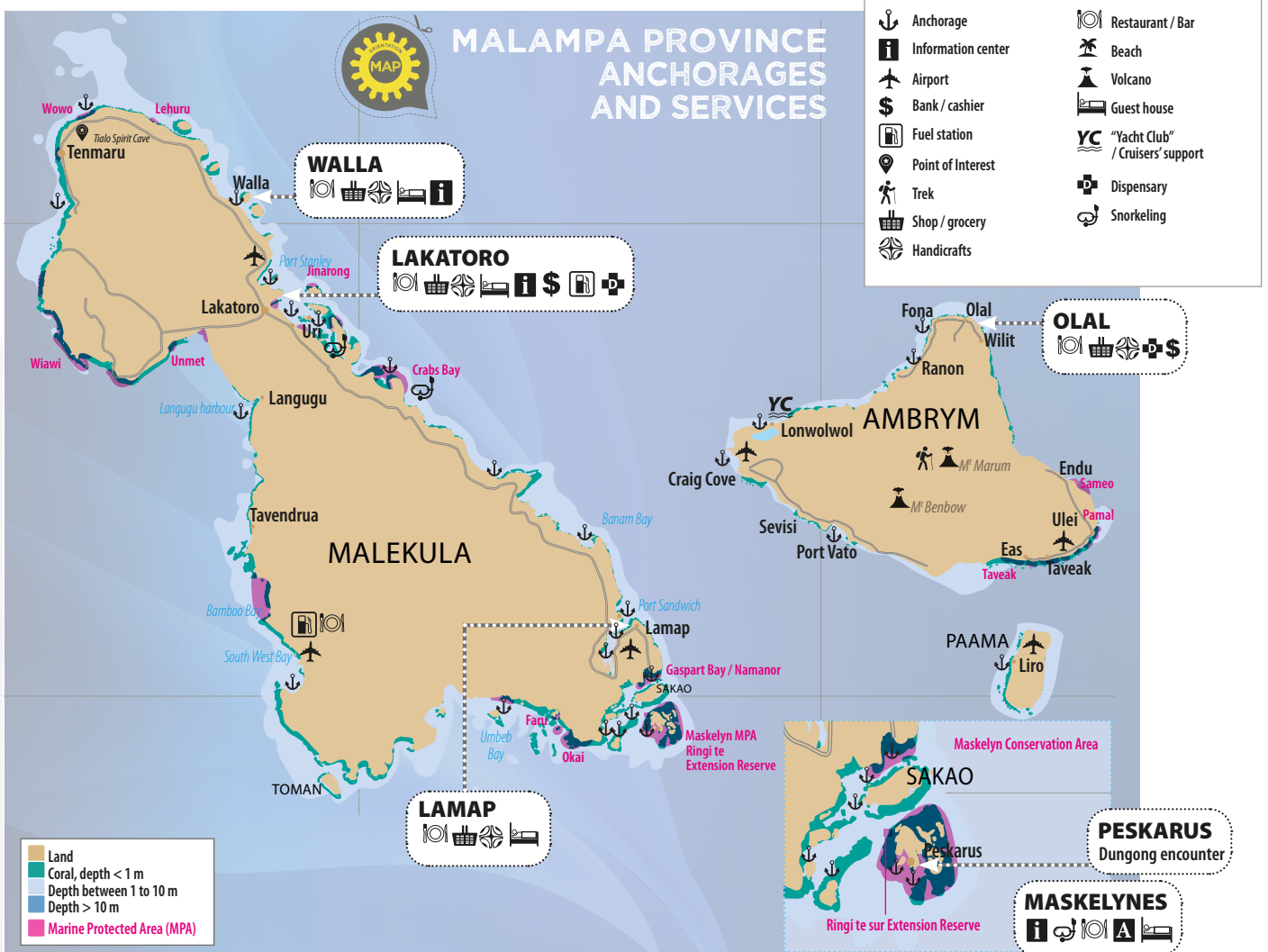
Conservation Marine Area, managed by the community. Anchoring is authorised with a charge of 2,500 VT / day. Anchor in 8m coral and mud. Good in calm weather but not recommended in strong winds.

Port Sandwich

The further into this bay you can get, the better protection from both swell and winds you will have. Walk along the coast to the village of Lamap. Festival in August.

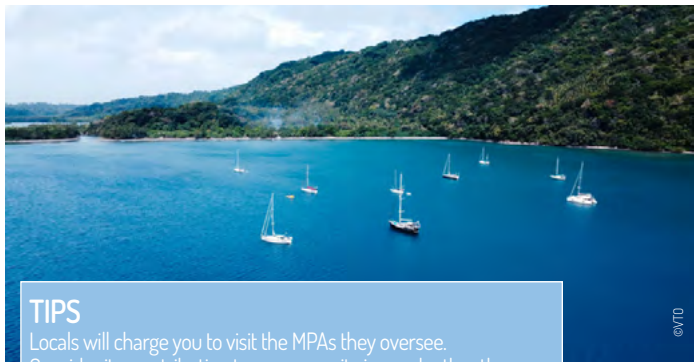
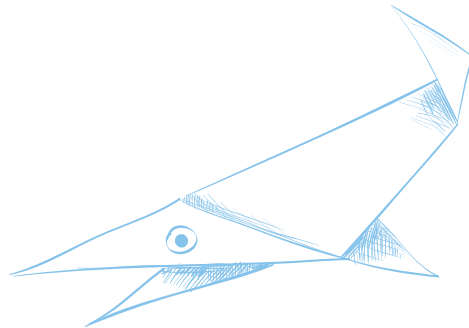
South West Bay

Good sheltered anchorage with access to the coast on the lee side of the island and the lake in Lambinwen. Several hikes and cultural tours. Don't miss the Nalawan festival in August.



ISLAND GROUP OF MALAMPA

DEEP IMMERSION



TIPS

Locals will charge you to visit the MPAs they oversee. Consider it a contribution to a community in need rather than a fee. Inhabitants are very friendly and will appreciate your support. If you make donations, Sunbrella or other waterproof cloth is useful, as well as construction materials, rope, school items... or offer your help or skills in construction, health, a school lecture, transfers to Lakatoro...

Maskelynes Islands

Playground of the dugongs

There are a couple of good anchorages in Gaspar bay on the lee side of Sakao island, and one at Maskelyne/Koivou Island with access to Peskarus village. Meet the chief of the village and request a certified tour guide from the **Maskelyne Tourism Association** to experience the magic of swimming with dugongs. And don't miss visiting the **Ringi Te Suh** giant clam reserve.

Event: Maskelyne canoe race at the end of July.

Immerse yourself in the culture of this village:

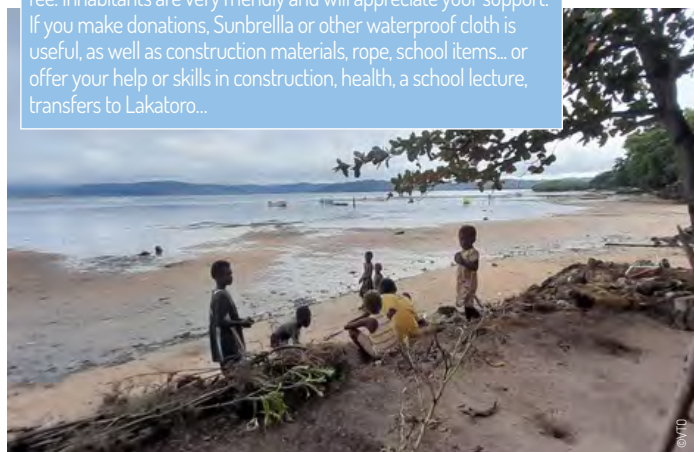
- customs dance
- weaving lessons
- sail with a local on a sailing canoe
- night fishing with a spear
- learn to make fire with the cotton tree
- drink kava
- taste their *laplap*
- enjoy their surf spots...

Maskelyne Tourism Association (MTA)

Kalo Nataniel: Ph. +678 53 43687
John Laket: Ph. +678 53 86194

Malog Bungalows and Snack

A good place to spend a restful night.
FB: Malog Bungalows



DUGONGS AND GIANT CLAMS IN PESKARUS

To experience the magic of swimming with dugongs, contact the only registered and fully-trained tour operator:

Malog Bungalows / Kalo Nataniel:
Ph. +678 53 43687 or +678 778 3542
malogbungalowsresort@gmail.com

For the Giant clam garden visit, call John Laket:
Ph. +678 53 86194



Ambrym Island

Known as the "black magic island," it boasts twin volcanoes: Mt Marum and Mt Benbow, plus volcanic ash plains and black sand beaches. Legendary woodcarving villages of Fanla & Olal.

There are a couple of good anchorages on the NW coast. At Lonwolwol village, a **Yacht Club** provides some services and a cultural tour. You can purchase fruit and vegetables from their organic garden.
FB: Lonwolwol Yacht Club

Craig Cove is located on the western side. Anchor in 12-16m. Open to swell in westerlies.

In mid July, enjoy the Fanla Festival with traditional dancing and music, sand drawing and magic.

Ambrym Volcano Overnight Trek

Anchor at Craig Cove or Ranon Bay and go ashore for a 2-day / 1-night trek to Mt. Marum. Hike from Port Vato through forest, ash plains, and riverbeds to the crater rim, where you can see lava glowing below. Overnight at West Camp under the stars, then return at sunrise across volcanic landscapes.

Edna Paolo – Island Experience Vanuatu

WhatsApp/Phone: +678 542 3690 or +678 779 8964
info@islandexperiencevanuatu.com

■ www.islandexperiencevanuatu.com



Paama Island

A smaller island with stunning views of the uninhabited volcanic island of Lopevi.

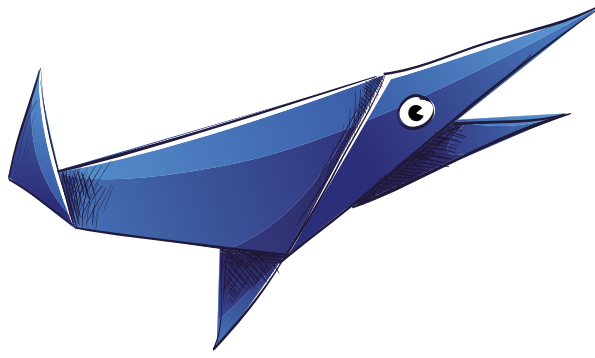
Paama Harbour

Located near the village of Liro, this anchorage provides good protection and easy access to the village.

Liro Bay

A picturesque bay with calm waters, ideal for anchoring and enjoying the local scenery.





WHERE? WHEN? HOW? SANMA:

Sanma province includes two main islands, Santo & Malo, and a group of smaller surrounding islands: Aore, Tutuba, Turtle, Bokissa, and Ratua.

Espiritu Santo is known as Santo. It is Vanuatu's largest island with 60,000 inhabitants. In 1942, this island played a pivotal role in the Allied effort, hosting up to 100,000 troops and a massive naval base. Beyond the history, Santo is pure tropical enchantment.

Espiritu Santo Island

Luganville

The main town, Luganville, is also an entry port. The road takes you from Luganville to the NE coast, but the western part can only be reached via local shuttle boats (banana boat). Luganville, mostly a long one-way-road town, offers good provisioning options (such as LCM supermarket), a market, butcher, ATM, and banks. There are some nice restaurants & hotels in town if you want to enjoy drinks and dinner out.

WASTE

Buy the red prepaid garbage bags at the supermarket, and then use the municipal dustbins.

Used oil and batteries: garages.

Plastic bottles and cans: containers at the international wharf.

EVENTS

April: Santo fishing competition

July: Santo rodeo

August: Nagriamel Cultural festival

ACTIVITIES

Vanuatu Tourism Information Center (VTIC) - Luganville.

Ph. +678 36616

reservations@santo.travel

WW2 Museum

Dive: The President Coolidge wrecks and Million Dollar Point (Marine reserve, do not dinghy there -use a licensed operator).

Millenium Cave: jungle hike, cave exploration, river tubing.

Mount Tabwemasana: hike to the summit of Vanuatu.

Fishing charters.

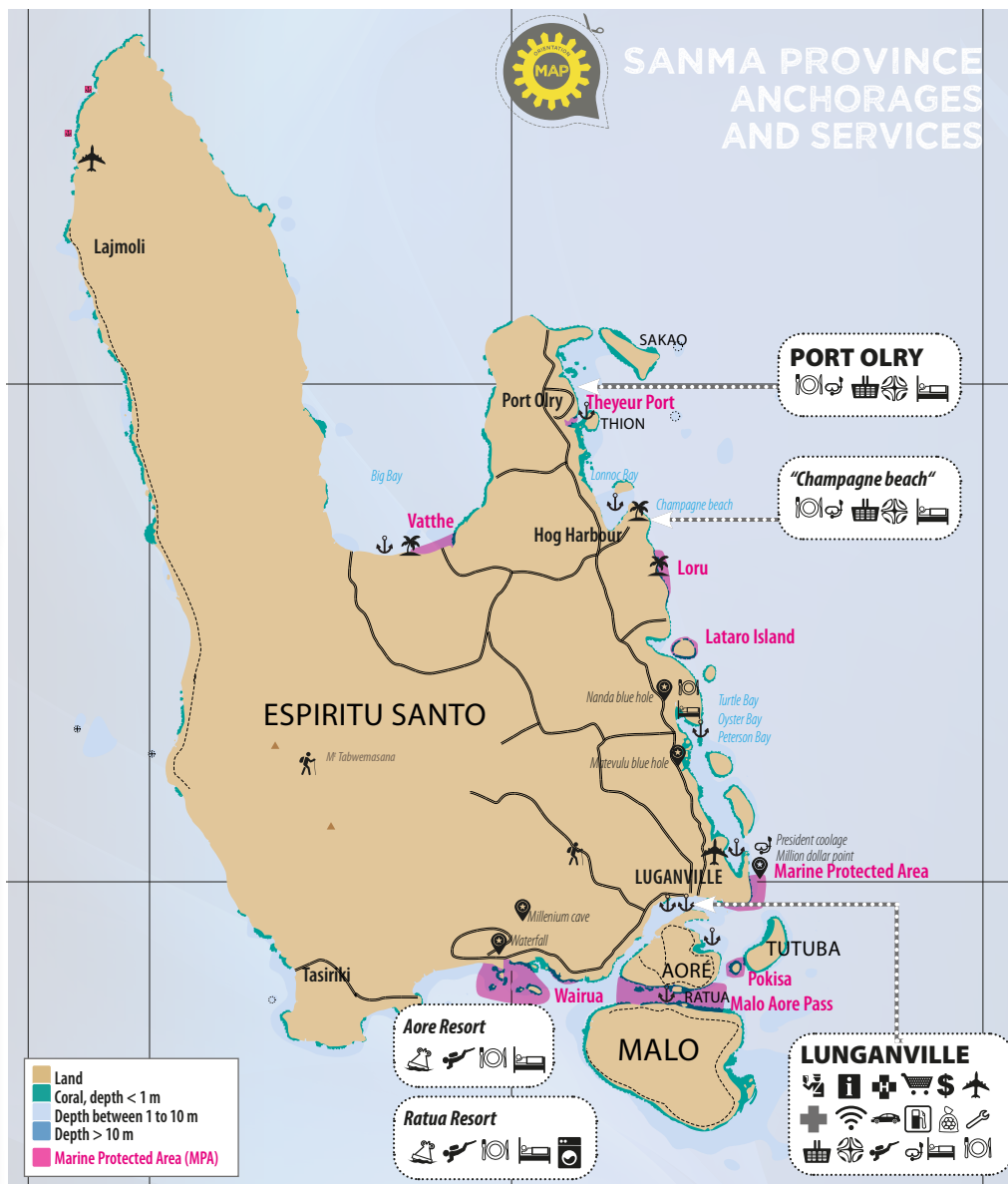
Golf club: 15 holes.

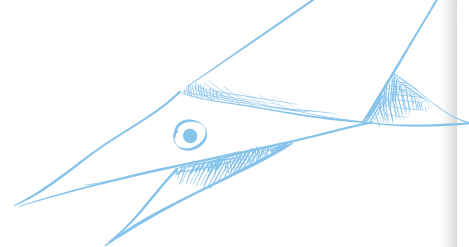
Dinghy up the river in Luganville.



MUST DO IN SANTO

Swim in the sapphire depths of Matevulu Blue Hole, snorkel vibrant reefs, dive the President Coolidge wreck or interact with the inhabitants of Port Olry.





ISLAND GROUP OF SANMA

GREEN & BLUE MOSAIC

USEFUL CONTACTS

Northern Provincial Hospital, Santo
(surgery, x-ray)
Ph. +678 36345 or 115

Private medical center
Medical Santo – Ph. +678 36 400
■ www.medicalsanto.com

YACHT SERVICES:

Weather & tide forecast

Maritime College Radio: VHF 16

Fuel stations

For more than 1,000L, ask SSP for truck delivery at main wharf.

Chandleries

Santo Hardware

leighten@santohardware.com;

Vila Marine agent in Santo

adminsanto@vasvanuatu.com

Ph. +678 36756

Gas refill

Origin Energy

Ph. +678 36985

Welding, general repairs

John Turner: Ph. +678 7755431

Fridge and A/C

Supercool Refrigeration

Ph. +678 37 690

Electricity

Call Tari: Ph. +678 77 46 594

Laundry

At beachfront hotel and in town.

Repairs and service

Total Marine Solutions

Ph. +678 73 46 918

Haul out facility

Nicon shipyard and slipway

Mostly used by ferries and fisheries, but could haul out sailing vessel in case of emergency.

Ph. +678 7721281 / ajesh@nicon.co.nz

Yamaha agent and parts

Asco Motor

Ph. +678 36 244

Aore Island

Just across the channel from Luganville, **Aore Island Resorts** offer good protection even in SE winds: No anchoring permitted, but 3 moorings up to 80T for rent. Restaurant, Dive operator, water, laundry, and shuttle boat to Luganville available.

■ www.aoreislandresorts.com

Aisari bay: Nice sheltered anchorage for all winds except E-NE. Anchor in sand 8m, good holding.

Ratua Island

Anchor in the NW bay of the island, near Ratua Island Resort. Natural harbour fairly sheltered from prevailing winds. Strong tidal current in the channel between Ratua & Malo. Drive slowly in dinghy as turtles are here.

Activities: Restaurant, snorkeling, bike, swim with horses.

■ www.ratua.com

ANCHORING SUGGESTIONS

Espiritu Santo

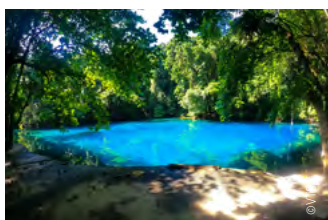
Luganville

- If Santo is your entry port, moor in front of the main wharf in the quarantine area and contact Customs and Ports authority on VHF 16. Follow their instructions.
- In front of the BP wharf, in 20m mud, but could be rolly. Dinghy dock available.
- In front of the **Beach Front Hotel**, in 5-8m sand & mud. Beach landing at the hotel. Very helpful to cruisers. Ph. + (678) 36 911

■ thebeachfrontresort.com

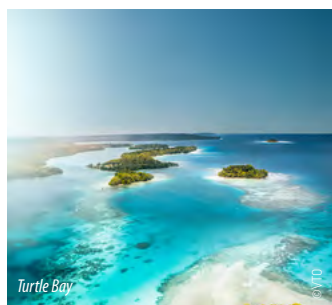
Oyster Island bay

Need good light and high tide to get in as the entrance is shallow. Anchor in 10-12 m. Great snorkeling area. Use or rent kayaks to go up the river (1.5 km) with incoming tide to access the magnificent fresh water pool of Matevulu Blue Hole while listening to the birds. Harvest and taste their small oysters after obtaining permission from the community.



Turtle Bay Lodge

Restaurant, bar, pool and dive operator. Kayaks, bikes and quads for rent. Fire dance show. Ph. +678 37988
stay@turtlebaylodge.vu



Be careful when fishing as there is ciguatera around Santo. Remember to respect the fragile coral reefs when anchoring, as the coral in protected lagoon waters is easily broken.



Hog Harbour (Lonnoc Bay)

Easy access either side of Ladhu Island. Anchor in 7-10m in sandy patch amongst the coral. Protected from trade winds, but slightly rolly. Walk to the village (small shops, fish & vegetable stands, schools), to famous Champagne Beach (entrance fee), or enjoy the Lonnoc Beach restaurant.

Port Olry

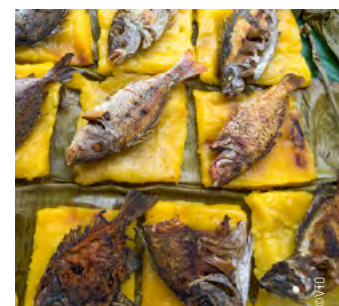
Approach around the north side of Thion Island in good light to see the bommies. Find a sandy patch to anchor. Calm, flat anchorage in 12m. Some great snorkeling. Beautiful typical fishing village (mostly French speaking). They are keen to take you fishing in their wooden canoes, guide you to the Louri viewpoint (15-min walk), prepare a weaving workshop for you, or take you horseback riding. Two lakes on **Dolphin Island**, but go with locals as there is some quicksand. In this 4,000-inhabitant village, there are schools, church, butcher, kava bar, & ATM.

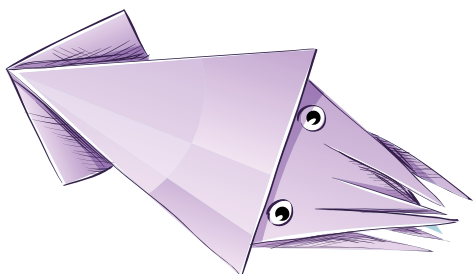
"Chez Louis" Restaurant (coconut crabs on the menu). CC accepted, wifi, laundry. Traditional massages as well as painting on *Lavalavas* (sarongs). Ph. +678 771 6908



TRADITIONAL DISH

Laplap is Vanuatu's savory and sweet national dish of grated yam or taro mixed with coconut milk, often layered with meat, chicken, or fish. Wrapped in banana leaves and baked underground on hot stones, it has a distinctive smoky flavor.





LEARN RESPECT EXPERIENCE

RESPECT FOR

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The people of Vanuatu ensure the upholding of their ancient culture and traditions so future generations can also live in peace and harmony.



SAND DRAWINGS IN VANUATU: LAYERS OF MEANING

Don't miss one of the nation's most unique and fascinating cultural treasures "the traditional sand drawings" of the Ni-Vanuatu people. These intricate designs, drawn by hand in soft volcanic sand, are a living tradition, a form of storytelling and spiritual expression. Recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage. Sand drawings are a powerful symbol of Vanuatu's deep cultural roots and artistic ingenuity. Each drawing holds

generations of wisdom, passed down through memory and motion. Watching a sand drawing come to life is both peaceful and profound. You're not just seeing art; you're witnessing a story unfold, line by line, grain by grain.

You can experience it at the National Museum of Vanuatu, Port Vila or in the Cultural villages and local festivals.



DRINK KAVA

One of the most authentic cultural experiences you can have is drinking kava at a local *nakamal*. Kava is a traditional drink made from the roots of the kava plant, known for its calming, slightly numbing effects. It's more than just a beverage, it's a ritual, a way of connecting, and a cornerstone of Ni-Vanuatu culture. You will spot kava bars, or *nakamals*, by the signs or colored lights marking their entrances. Inside, expect an easy-going, social atmosphere where locals gather

at the end of the day to relax, tell stories, and build bonds. Traditionally, *nakamals* were reserved for men who had undergone key cultural rites. But today, the experience is more welcoming to visitors. As a cruiser, being invited to share in a bowl of kava, especially in the outer island villages, is a true honor and a meaningful way to connect with the local community. Drink slowly, listen deeply, and immerse in Vanuatu's most unique and enduring traditions.



WATER MUSIC, A CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT

For yachties exploring the remote beauty of Banks islands, the Water Music of Gaua is an experience not to be missed. Performed by local women, this rare and fascinating tradition turns the ocean into a natural drum. Through rhythmic splashing, scooping, and clapping, the mamas and young girls create haunting melodies that

echo generations of strength, storytelling, and deep cultural pride. You can watch, listen, and even join in, making it an unforgettable, hands-on cultural memory. For cruisers seeking authenticity and connection, witnessing Water Music is a rare privilege, and a highlight of any voyage to Vanuatu.



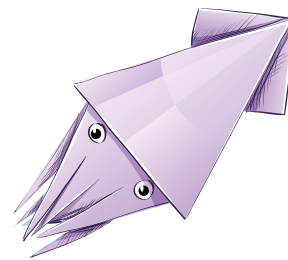
NAGOL (LAND DIVING): A MUST SEE CULTURAL ADVENTURE

If you're cruising through Vanuatu between April and June, make sure your voyage includes a stop at Pentecost Island to witness one of the South Pacific's most unforgettable spectacles, "Nagol", the original land diving ritual. Often described as the ancestor of bungee jumping, Nagol is a heart-pounding tradition where local men leap from handmade wooden towers, vines tied to their ankles, in a breathtaking display of courage, cultural pride, and connection to the land. More than just a thrill, these dives mark rites of passage and are believed to bless the yam harvest, a tradition

deeply woven into the identity of the Ni-Vanuatu people. Set against the lush backdrop of Pentecost's forests, this powerful ritual offers cruisers a rare opportunity to witness living tradition and experience a performance that few places in the world can offer. Tourists are welcome, and guided visits help support local communities. For yachties seeking something truly unique, Nagol is not just a show, it's a once-in-a-lifetime cultural encounter that will become a defining memory of your sailing adventure in Vanuatu.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

SAFEGUARDING OUR SEAS



MPAs are crucial for preserving the country's rich marine biodiversity and ensuring sustainable use of marine resources. By respecting the regulations and supporting local conservation efforts, cruisers can help preserve Vanuatu's marine treasures for future generations. Here are some key points to inform cruisers:

Diverse Marine Life: Vanuatu's MPAs are home to vibrant coral

reefs, colorful fish and starfish, turtles, seahorses, and other marine species. Cruisers can expect to see a variety of marine life while snorkeling or diving.

Cultural Significance: Some MPAs are managed under traditional governance systems, blending conservation with cultural heritage. Cruisers can learn about local customs and the importance of marine conservation from the communities.

Activities: Besides snorkeling and diving, cruisers can enjoy guided

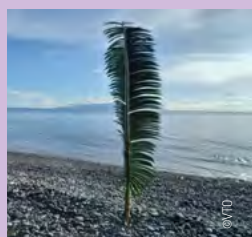
activities like swimming with dugongs (sea cows), exploring sea-grass meadows, visiting giant clam reserves and historical wrecks like the SS President Coolidge (in Santo).

MPAs are indicated on the charts in our stopover handbook, but some new areas might be created.

Furthermore, the chiefs of communities in outer villages and islands who have been protecting areas near their village are designated as being the 'custom' manager of the zone and have full authority for rules of access, use and



penalties. Please be sure to seek advice from them before engaging in any maritime activity (fishing, snorkeling, beachcombing...).



LOCAL TABU AREAS

If you see a palm leaf, a stick decorated with leaves, or a cane placed on a reef or beach, it marks a marine protected area where certain resources are safeguarded. Fishing is strictly prohibited during this period; however, snorkeling and beachcombing are permitted.



PROTOCOL WHEN SWIMMING WITH DUGONGS

By following these guidelines, you can enjoy a safe and respectful interaction with these gentle marine mammals while contributing to their conservation.

- Maintain a safe distance of 10 meters minimum to avoid disturbing them.
- Move slowly and calmly, avoid loud noises that could startle the dugongs.
- Do not chase or swim directly towards a dugong. Let them come to you if they choose to.
- Do not separate a mother dugong and her calf.
- Never touch or attempt to ride a dugong.
- Do not feed dugongs as it can alter their natural behavior and diet.
- Observe Signs of Distress: If a dugong shows signs of distress, such as swimming away repeatedly, move at least 50 meters away.

THE NAUTILUS:

VANUATU'S ANCIENT WEATHER MESSENGER

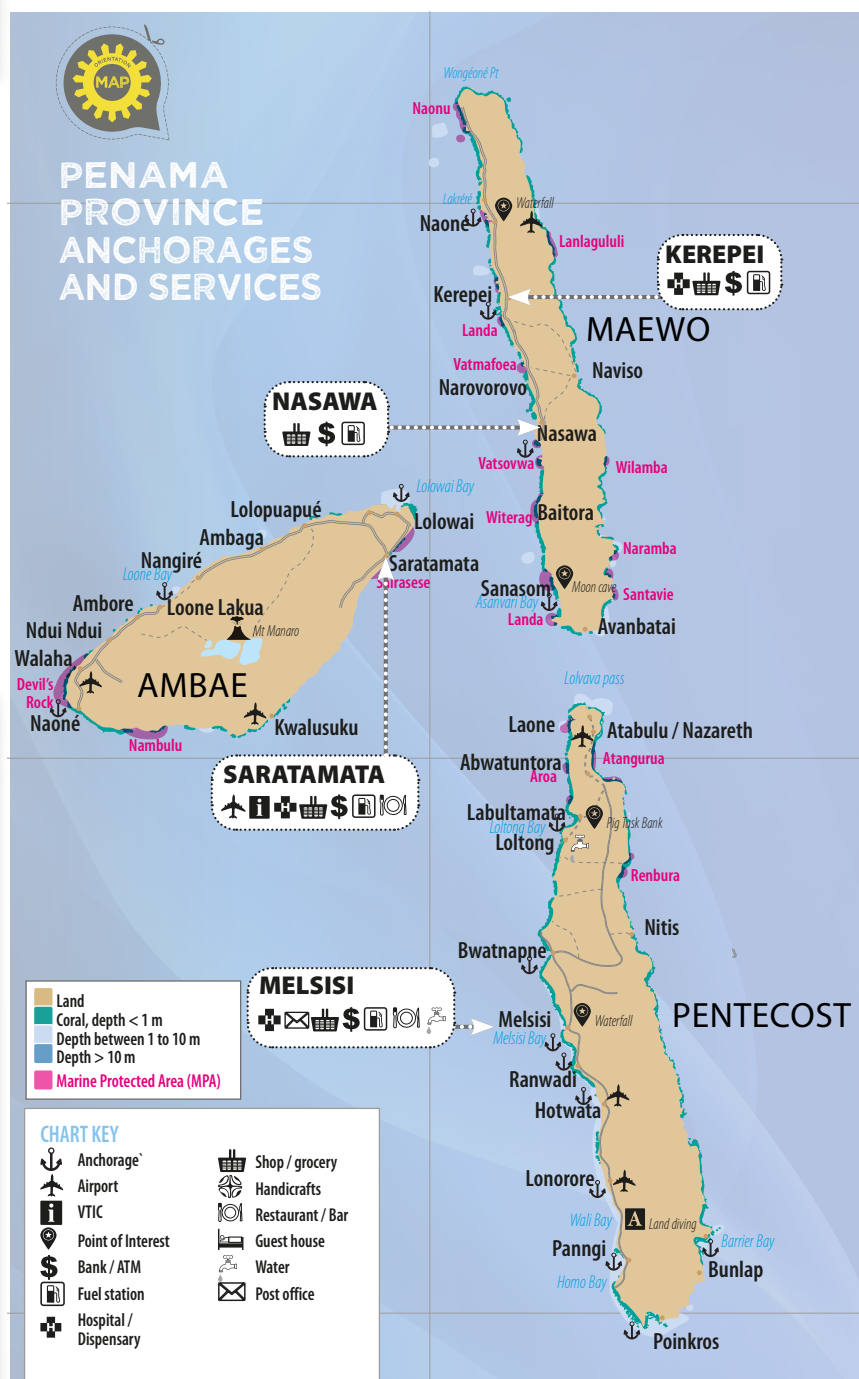
In Vanuatu, the nautilus holds a special place in traditional knowledge, not just as a beautiful marine creature and living fossil, but as a natural cyclone and weather indicator. Local legend and observation say that when a nautilus is seen floating near the surface of the sea, especially at night when it glows faintly under moonlight or starlight, it's a warning sign of bad weather or an approaching cyclone. The glowing presence of the nautilus on calm waters is believed to be nature's way of alerting communities to prepare. For generations, islanders have respected these signs and adjusted their activities accordingly, long before modern forecasts existed. For cruisers and yachties, it's a fascinating glimpse into how deeply the Ni-Vanuatu people are connected to the ocean and its rhythms. If you're lucky enough to spot a nautilus while anchored in Vanuatu waters, take note, it might be more than just a magical sight; it could be a whisper from the sea itself.





Mt Manaro lakes, Ambae

0070



WHERE? WHEN? HOW? PENAMA:

APPROACHING PENAMA

In heavy tradewind conditions, watch out for strong currents in the channel between the 3 islands. Most anchorages will be on the lee side of the islands. Pentecost, Maewo, and Ambae (capital Saratamata) barely touched by modern civilization, and tourists are rare, so it makes a really magic stopover where you will be welcomed in the Vanuatu true & simple life.

Ambae hosts the live volcano Mt Manaro which displaced many communities from the island when it erupted in 2017. The inhabitants have since returned.

Maewo, one of Vanuatu's most remote large islands, offers unique cultural festivals, the massive Naone waterfall and challenging hikes to secluded villages, plus lush rainforests and bird life. Maewo also has endless streams of running water.

Pentecost is a lush island. The name comes from Bougainville who sighted it the day of Pentecost in 1768. The island is famous for being the birthplace of bungee jumping — the Naghol ceremony also known as land-diving — an impressive ritual taking place from April to June when the yams are ripe and the vines are strong.



Ansavari bay

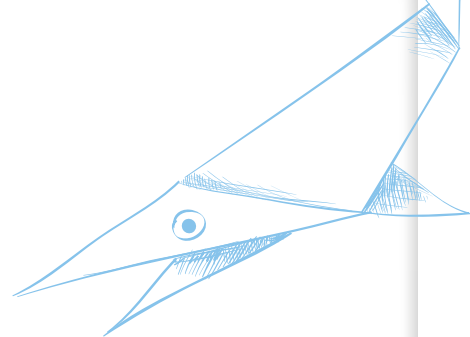
PENAMA PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICE

If you are stoping over in one of these 3 islands, contacting the Provincial Tourism Office is recommended in order to get updated information about the services you may find, but also to inquire whether you can provide support to the communities (such as carrying goods or materials, or offering a ride on your boat to the locals...)

The Penama Provincial Tourism Office is located in the provincial headquarters of Saratamata, East Ambae. Ph. +678 33401.

lmera@trade-vanuatu.gov.vu or wsmala@trade-vanuatu.gov.vu

FB: Penama Provincial Updates



ISLAND GROUP OF PENAMA

CULTURAL ESCAPE

SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

Pentecost Island

Enjoy village tours, hiking, snorkeling, canoeing, and visit Kastom Chief Viraleo's community to learn about the traditional Pig Tusk Bank.

Homo Bay: Pass "Captain Cook's Rock" and anchor in front of the village. Good holding in 6-10m of black sand. Land on the beach to access the village of Panngi (main village of South Pentecost).

Wali Bay (INM north of Homo Bay): A small steep-to bay. Anchor in 10m in black sand 30m off the beach. Good holding, slightly rolly. Wali is famous for its land-diving tower and ceremony (Naghol) between April and June.



In a North Pentecost village...

Melsisi Bay (also called Waterfall Bay): Anchor south of the river mouth in 10m sand. The Maduit waterfall can be seen from the anchorage, but ask a local to guide you as the trail is not easy to find. Enjoy a bubble bath in the bottom pool of the falls.

Loltong Bay: The entrance to this well-protected anchorage (except in W winds) is straightforward between the N and S reefs. 5m over a sandy bottom, but avoid coral patches.

Easy dinghy disembarkation, very welcoming locals. Limited fresh supplies. Matthew and Marie serve delicious meals for lunch or dinner. Ask about the Pig Tusk Bank history.

GOOD TO KNOW

Provision early: Fuel, water, cash, spares...
Stock up before heading to Penama.

Trade local: Fresh produce widely available; barter system common.

Activities: Contact Penama Provincial Tourism Office.

Healthcare: Clinic only on Ambae; urgent cases need evacuation.

Phone: Poor cell reception outside airstrip areas.

Cultural respect: Bring small gifts (fishing gear, clothes, school items) for village goodwill.



Waterfalls at Pentecost Island

Maewo Island

Because Maewo receives the highest rainfall in Vanuatu (2.5m / year), it is a lush island and home of stunning waterfalls — try to count them while sailing up the coast — and a central mountain (M^t Tagutgagaro, 795 m). This tiny island, bordered by black sand beaches, is famous for its ancient



The Vanuatu Traditional Pig Tusk Bank (Tangbunia Bank) located on the island of Pentecost is a one-of-a-kind institution that operates using Vanuatu's customary wealth instead of modern currency. It is a unique cultural tradition where curved pig tusks, especially the rare full-circle ones, are used as a form of traditional currency and wealth. These tusks come from specially-raised pigs and are highly valued in Vanuatu society, often used in ceremonies, given as gifts, and used to show status. They are not just ornaments, but symbols of respect, power, and heritage.



Melsisi Bay

Ambae (Aoba) Island

When seen from the east coast of Santo, the island is a clear blue pyramid rising from the ocean with M^t Vaibindoloua soaring to 1,400 meters. Ambae (population 10,400) is the steward of the active M^t Manaro Voui volcano which has 2 lakes occupying twin craters — one blue and one yellow. According to the local inhabitants, Ambae is purported to be the Son of Pentecost and

Maweo Island. Being the son, the people of Ambae have the best of the two islands in terms of modern development, education and medical infrastructure. Also, the provincial headquarters of Penama is located on east Ambae.

Activities: Hiking, camping near the volcano, fishing, rock climbing, hot spring massages, and cultural tours.

Lolowai Bay: Well protected anchorage inside an old caldera. Provides access to the main village of Saratamata. To enter Lolowai lagoon, you need to pass over a coral area — entry at high tide is recommended. Supply ships may come into the bay disturbing the tranquility.

Vanihe Bay: Just south of Lolowai, anchor in 7m black sand, good holding, slightly rolly at times.

Loone Bay: Anchor in 9m black sand, good holding. Some current. Locals can guide you to Manaro lakes.



Lolowai Bay

Asanvari Bay: Easy approach into the bay. Sheltered anchorage (10m) with good holding in sand and some coral. Offers excellent protection even in strong trade winds. Friendly village nearby, stunning waterfall just a short walk away, good hiking opportunities, plus nice snorkeling above the reef in the bay making it a highly recommended stop for cruisers. There used to be a yacht club here which might re-open soon.

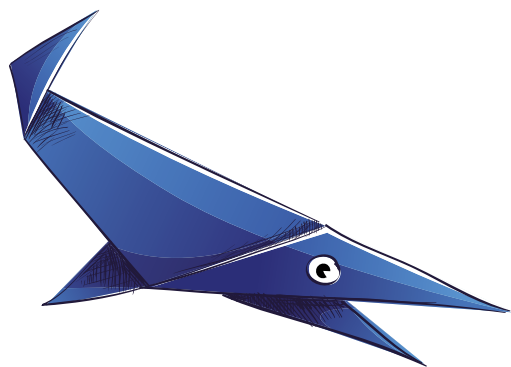
Sanasom: Anchor near the village of Sanasom to explore Moon Cave, accessible only by boat. Serving as an important site to the community, Moon Cave helps locals share their story of creation and the ways it is influenced by the path of the sun and moon traveling across the sky. Nearby is Malangaululi Cavern with "ancient rock etchings, or petroglyphs". Both



Moon Cave, Maewo

the cavern and the cave are within a conservation area and require a guide which can be provided by the Sanasom village chief.

Nasawa: Good anchorage in front of the village in 9m black sand. Nasawa Village is one of the largest communities on Maewo Island. From there you can walk to Kerepei. The road in Maewo only goes from Nasawa to the north and to the east coast village of Naviso.



WHERE?
WHEN?
HOW?

Torba includes two groups of islands: Torres and Banks.

Take a step back in time and connect with people who have no electricity or roads and depend on fishing and farming for their livelihood. So few places on the planet are still like this.

Being the least populated islands, the people of Torba live largely traditional lives, close to nature. With untouched beaches, forests, and reefs, Torba is rich in culture and biodiversity. Its isolation preserves both natural beauty and ancient ways, making it a vital part of Vanuatu's heritage, including unique water music dances and preserved breadfruit dishes. Plenty of lobster, crab and prawns, but services are limited, so bring cash, fuel, and essentials. Connectivity is poor, and transport is mostly on foot or by canoe.

PORT OF ENTRY

Clearance is easy in Sola, with all official buildings nearby.

Sola Immigration: New white building, Immigration Office Contact: Mr Gauthier
Ph. +678 36724
visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu

Sola Customs & Immigration Office:

The customs officer also does immigration clearances both inbound and outbound. He monitors VHF 16.
If requested, he can also do health formalities.
Ph +678 33760 / +678 33780
customsbordersanto@vanuatu.gov.vu
mjaysen@vanuatu.gov.vu

TORBA,

BANKS ISLANDS

Vanua Lava is the main island hosting Sola, the capital of Torba.

Dinghy Landing: Best spot is just right of the creek, near the ferry and cargo landing area. Clear of rocks, but can be tricky at low tide.

Sola Clinic: Clinic with resident doctor, basic medical care and treatment.

Flying Doctor: Naomi. Ph. +678 5512345

Bank: ATM & currency exchange available (bring your ID).

Provisioning: A few basic shops, a small market, and a lovely handicrafts shop.

Tourism Office: John Anmath:
janmath@trade-vanuatu.gov.vu
Ph. +678 7611236 / +678 5987123

Sola Yacht Club: Robert and Serah Dini warmly welcome cruisers and can assist with laundry, fuel orders (with prior notice), and trash disposal.
Ph. +678 5225222.

SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

Banks

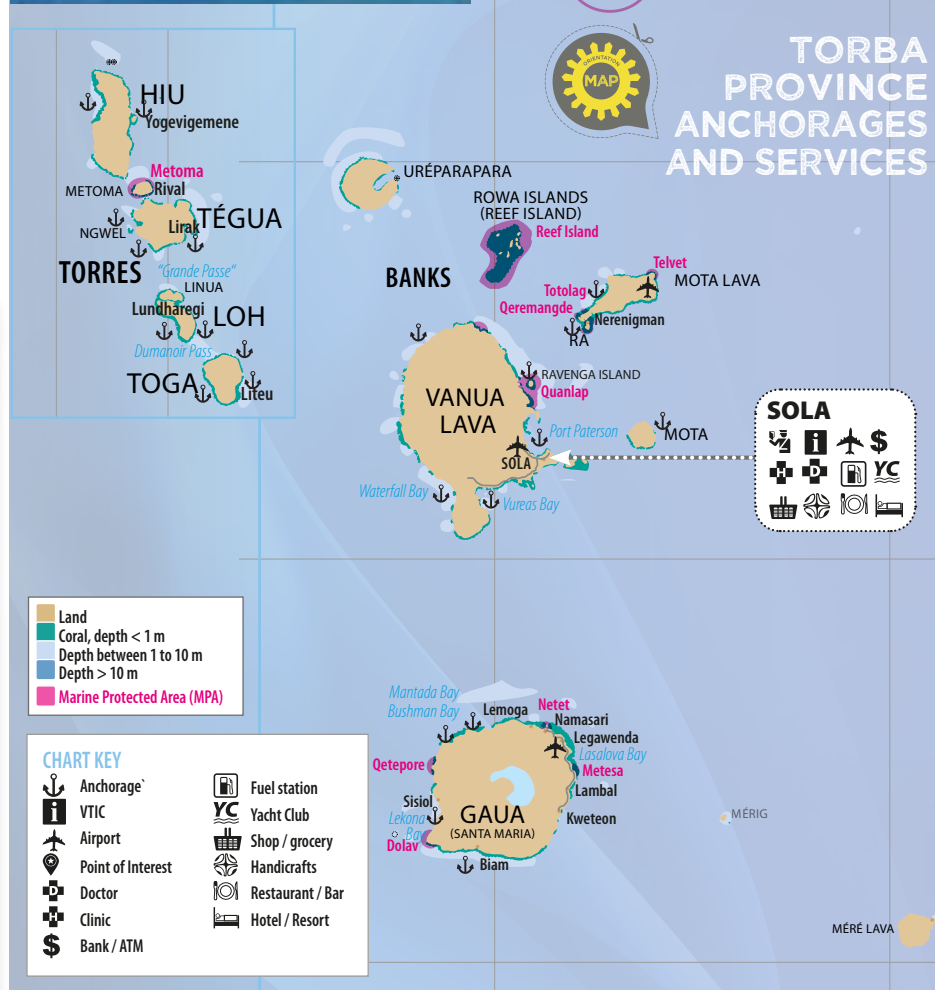
Vanua Lava Island

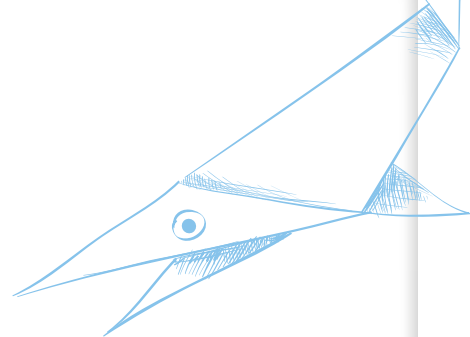
- **Port Patterson:** A natural harbour in front of Sola. Good holding in sandy bottom, but in a northern swell, better to go on the north side of the bay. From there, visit and support the Yemen Turtle Conservation Park (more on FB) or explore the crocodile river.
- **Ravenga Island:** On the NE coast of Vanua Lava, a tiny but beautiful island with stunning beaches, vibrant marine life, and great surf spots.
- **Waterfall Bay:** An anchorage with good holding on the west coast. Twin waterfalls, ancient rock drawings. Villagers will be keen to trade lobster or prawns for useful supplies. Cultural dance performances offered.
- **Vureas Bay:** Another natural harbour on the SW side of the island. Charming and welcoming villagers. Share dinner and kava with them and enjoy them proudly showing you the best of their traditions. Easy access to the nearby village of Vetumboso.

Rowa Islands

This group of uninhabited islands is said to be the most beautiful place in the South Pacific, with 15 coral keys or atolls and reefs. No wind protection, but sheltered from the swell.

Marine Protected Area.





ISLAND GROUP OF PENAMA

UNTOUCHED BEAUTY

Banks

Ra Island

The community continues to practice traditional fishing using handmade leaf nets, a method that is mainly showcased during the St. Andrew's Day festival (Nov 30th).

Ureparapara Island

Divers Bay: Anchor between the steep walls of this old crater. Good holding but exposed to trade winds. Inhabitants may come out in their canoe to show you the best place to anchor (small anchoring fee to support local children's education). Join in with village life through kava ceremonies, guided hikes, or shared meals. Divers Bay is under protection: it has an abundance of reef organisms and is also a fish nursery.



Gaua Island

Also known as Santa Maria, Gaua is famous for its water music dances, the lake on Mount Grate volcano, and the kindness of the locals.

Lekona Bay (SW of Gaua): Sand anchorage in 7-8m in front of the village. Traditional water dancing performances by the friendly villagers of Qetevot. Discover their collection of traditional fern tree carving.

Bushmans Bay: Good holding in 9m sand. Low swell, sheltered. Snorkel in clear water with coral & fish. Friendly village with Chief Willie and Charity; trade fruit, take garden walks. Water music shows available. No cell signal.

Matanda Bay: Calm, sheltered, good sand holding in 3m. Excellent snorkeling with healthy coral and large fish. Small, friendly village trades produce.

Lasolava Bay (Namasari Village): 9m sand, slight roll at high tide. Friendly guide, offers full-day walks to a waterfall, crater lake, and hot pools. His family shares garden produce and helps with supplies. Richies: Ph. +678 5117 058 or ask ashore.

Aver Bay: On the NE coast, good anchorage with access to the village and the airport.

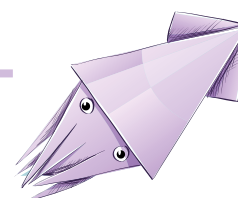
Torres Islands

The remote Torres Islands give you access to the Vanuatu deep-rooted traditions and warm hospitality. The population of just over 900 across five islands relies on subsistence living with limited income from copra, kava, lobster, and crab. One of the island's unique features is the handcrafting of traditional dugout canoes, a skill still proudly practiced by the local communities. The area has few crocodiles.

There are no banks, poor (or no) mobile coverage and basic aid posts. Essentials like fuel, batteries, and rice are costly due to rare supply ship visits. These communities have little means of earning cash. Thus, villagers are keen to trade (barter) fruit and seafood for useful items (fishing gear, batteries, clothing, tools, medical treatment...). One of the major concerns of all villagers in Vanuatu is difficulty in earning enough cash to cover school fees.

Cruisers can be an important source of support (with internet, supplies, boat transfers, and cash), so be conscientious that each VT spent in these islands will be very useful to the entire community.

Anchorage: Sheltered anchorages can be found on the lee side of Loh, Toga, Tegua and Hiu, offering safe haven for cruisers and a great way to interact with inhabitants.



MAKE A COMMITMENT TO

RESPONSIBLE CRUISING

Cruisers can play a major role in preserving these natural areas, respecting their ancestral culture and customs, and supporting the local community, especially in the remote outer islands.



Visit the Chief first

When anchoring, always make yourself known to the village, and ask whether you should pay a visit to the Chief to ask permission to anchor. Explain your intentions (fishing, hiking, snorkeling...) and ask for permission to stay or explore. You might also discuss with him the ways you could help his community. Perhaps via donations, but also by giving talks at the school, providing medicine to their pharmacy, or offering boat rides to inhabitants.

No alcohol trade

Trade only useful goods and gear like tools, clothing, medicine, or school supplies, but never offer alcohol. You may also consider sharing your know-how, skills, or offering your assistance in community projects.

Respect Marine Areas

All reefs and marine zones are managed by local communities. Do not anchor on coral, and if requested by inhabitants, move to an indicated anchorage. After obtaining permission to fish, catch only what you need to eat. In the MPA managed by the community, they may ask for a small fee to guide you on a snorkeling tour. This will help them continue to protect their water gardens. Don't discharge your sewage tanks in coastal waters; go at least 5NM out to sea. Never dispose of non-burnable garbage in the outer islands.

Dress modestly

Wear proper clothing in villages and churches if you are invited. Women should wear skirts or sarongs to be respectful of local customs.

Kava invitation

If the chief invites you to drink kava, it's an honor. Always accept respectfully.

Support the community

Every dollar you spend helps the village and inhabitants, so it is important to buy local and use local services. Especially in the remote and outer islands, the inhabitants have only a few ways to earn money, so your financial support of these communities will be very helpful.

Vanuatu Tourism officers

Don't hesitate to inform the VTIC of your arrival at the island you are visiting. Request updated information regarding activities/events and ask if there is something you may do or bring to the island to help the local community.

*More than just
a souvenir,
It's a piece of
Vanuatu*



*It's our symbol for
Authenticity*

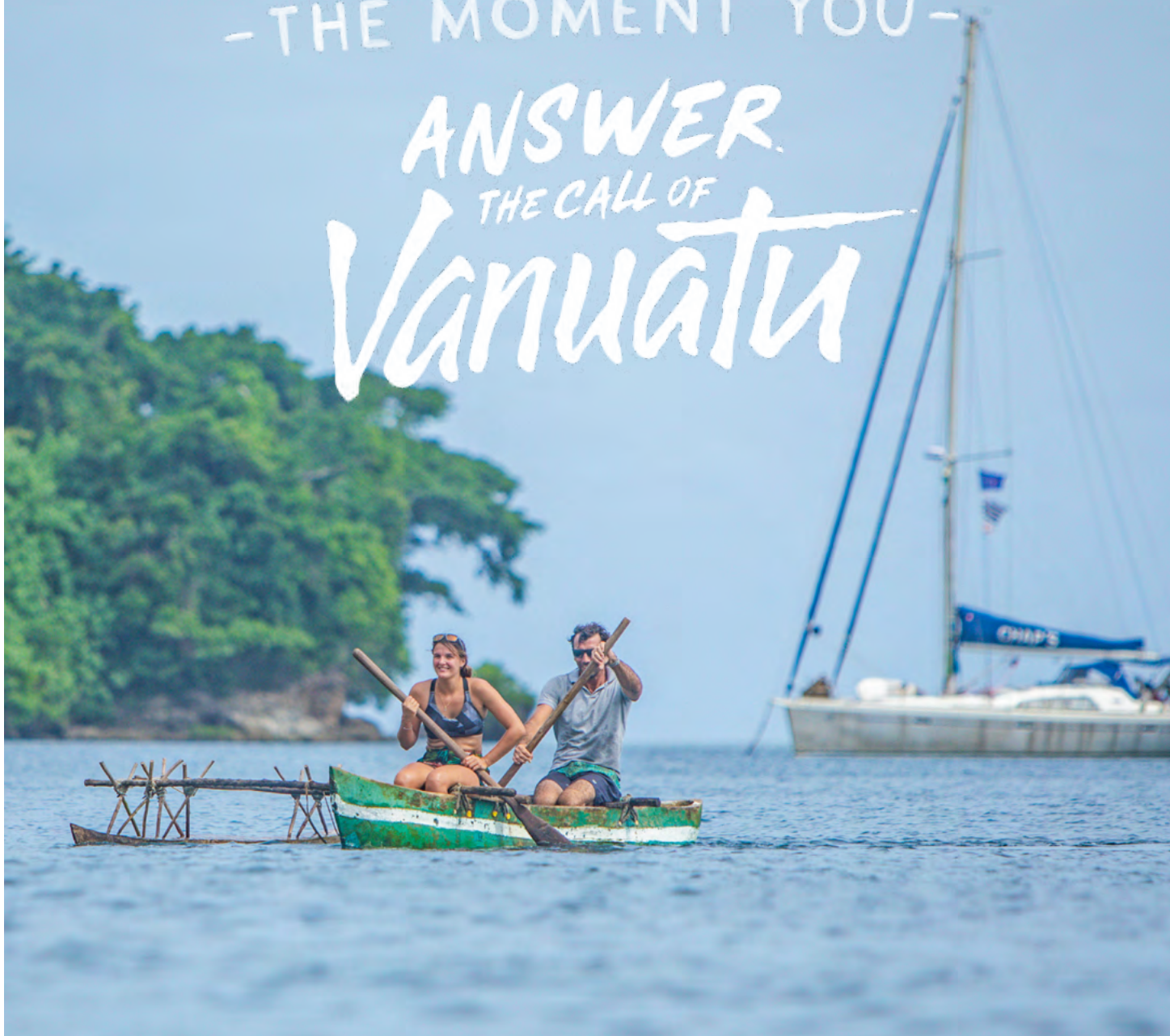
www.vanuatumade.com.vu





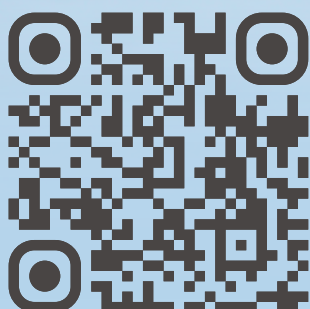
- THE MOMENT YOU -

ANSWER.
THE CALL OF
Vanuatu



09:45am Lamen Bay, Epi

||



Go explore at
vanuatu.travel

ANSWER.
THE CALL OF
Vanuatu