

NAWIMBA



Your Tourism Guide

Where to refresh

Find the cool spots and waterfalls in all different provinces

Calendar of events

Immerse yourself into the Vanuatu moments

Make a wish

Win a weekend for two



Vanuatu
TOURISM OFFICE
ANSWERING THE CALL

#SAPOTEM
LOKOL
TURISIM

TRAVEL & INFORMATION CENTER

Your next adventures starts here

TRAVEL & INFORMATION CENTER

Some of Vanuatu's most beautiful, engaging, authentic and hidden locations can be brought a little closer through the Vanuatu Travel & Information Centers. The Travel & Information centers act to provide a bridge between the exceptional experiences that local businesses around Vanuatu provide to the adventurous at heart.



PORT VILA

Opening hours
MON-FRI: 8.00am - 5.00pm

T: 22813
E: info@vanuatu.travel



SANTO

Opening hours
MON-FRI: 8.00am - 5.00pm

T: 36616 / 7737073
E: reservations@santo.travel



TANNA

Opening hours
MON-FRI: 8.00am - 5.00pm

T: 7788813 / 5294881
E: reservations@tanna.travel



ABOUT US

- Provide local travel advice and information
- Connect people with tourism experiences and products
- Provide reliable and secured booking services
- Assist in planning trips to remote locations
- Support Vanuatu tourism operators to promote their businesses



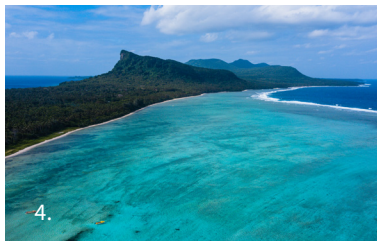
Editorial

There we are, we finally stepped into 2022! No crystal ball, no prognostication, whatever will be, will be as the song goes... but for sure, as always, we will make wishes and plans for the new year. Among these resolutions: how about visiting Vanuatu, exploring new places, attending great events here and there, enjoying many fun times while embracing our beautiful country.

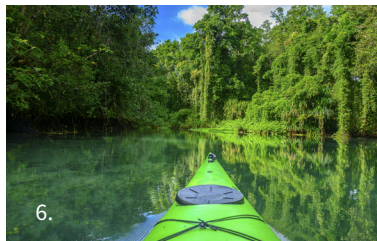
In this third issue of Nawimba, we will fly over all the provinces and see what they hold in store for you. We looked for places that you will fall in love with, whether it's to freshen up and relax or enjoy a unique experience and adventure. We even have something for Kava lovers.

Enjoy reading and preparing for your next adventure in Vanuatu in 2022! Happy New Year !

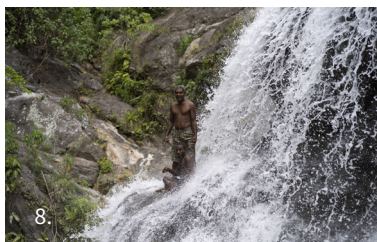
Table of Contents



4.



6.



8.



10.



13.



18.



20.



21.

3. Calendar of events
4. Messy Haos
5. Sports Tourism
6. Make a wish
7. Entry Form - Make a wish
8. Where to refresh in Torba ?
10. Where to refresh in Sanma ?
12. Where to refresh in Malampa ?
13. Manbush Trail
14. Where to refresh in Penama ?
15. Hanare Custom Village
16. Where to refresh in Erromango
18. John Frum Cargo Cult
20. Nicky's Ultimate Kava Travel Bucket List
21. Artist's Corner

Editor-In-Chief: Jaimeen Kenni **Editor:** Vanina Galloni-Weber (Next Ltd) **Graphic Designer:** Christopher Malili
Illustration Artist: Tania Calvo **Photographers:** Groovy Banana, The Islander, Niki Kuautonga, Jean Pierre Niptik,
Contributors: Paul Pio, Lea Faccarello, Sonya David, Jean Pierre Watt, Teresa Tsang, Joyline Natapei, Elise Bill, Marie-Paul Joe.

TORBA



PENAMA

SANMA



MALAMPA



SHEFA



TAFEA





FEBRUARY

2022

- 1st - Chinese New Year
- 14th - Valentine Day
- 15th - John Frum Day (Tanna Island)
- 21st - Lini Day



MARCH

- 5th - Chief's Day
- 18th-19th - Mi Tomorrow Vanuatu (Port Vila)
- 29th - Leimalau Surfing Competition (Pango Surfsite)
- 31st-1st April - Mi Tomorrow Vanuatu (Luganville)



To book, visit VTO's Port Vila Visitor Information Centre,
call 22 813 / 5146771 or email info@vanuatu.travel





Messy Haos

Messy Haos is a great place for kids and parents alike to take a break and relax after a hard and hot day at work.



Many activities are organized all year round, and enrolment only takes a few clicks on your laptop or through a phone call to their bookings team. On Wednesday evenings, it is Kava night! Ivan makes sure the Kava gets there nice and fresh, so everyone can enjoy a relaxing family time from sunset to 8pm. Just in time to get the kids fed and in bed, ready for school the next day. Needless to say, you can also have a pleasant snack, while enjoying a film on Friday night. If the weather allows, the movies

are set up outdoors. Otherwise, it's not a problem to set up undercover.

No bookings are necessary for dinner and movies, or to bring your child to play under your supervision. Just show up and relax while your children enjoy a fun and safe place, as much as you will!

You would like more information about Messy Haos program ? Movie nights ? Just follow Messy haos facebook page or call 24327



Tanna Volcano Run - 2021 Edition



Trail Pacific - 2021 Edition

Sports Tourism

Sport, as we know here in Vanuatu, is one of the main reasons why people travel to different locations and enjoy tourism experiences. It gathers different groups of people (tourists and locals) and involves them in different sporting events such as the Trail Pacific, the Round Island relay, The Vanuatu Volcano Run, the Maskelyne Canoe Race etc. We can only say so much on how sport promotes our country and its citizens, and also unites different cultures towards a common goal.

Even though the pandemic had struck the whole world, it hasn't stopped athletes from travelling off the borders to represent their country and participate in huge worldwide events such as the "Tokyo Olympic Games 2020" with our 3 Athletes, Yoshua Shing playing table tennis, Rillio Rii in rowing, and Hugo Combo for Judo in 2021.

We know that Vanuatu has a bright future ahead when it comes to sport. Taking our commitment to sport to the next level, not only exposes the talent of our Ni-Vanuatu athletes on the world stage, but also promotes our country as a tourism destination.



Maskelyne Canoe Race - 2021 Edition

Make a Wish !

There are so many unique and enchanting places to visit in Vanuatu ! Where would you like to go ? Fill up the form below and bring it to the nearest Tourism Information Centre and participate in an incredible draw. Your dreams might just come true !

SHEFA PROVINCE



1. MOSES *Pele Island*

My wish would be to go to Pele Island. Escape town for a while, enjoy the white sand and the stillness of the clear water



2. ROSELYNE *Ambae Island*

My dream is to go to Ambae. I would like to go to Lake Manaro, just to visit and look around. It would be even better if I could go with my family. I would be happy to take my grandchildren with me to share this experience with them.



3. JOIG *Tanna Island*

If I could make a wish I would choose to go to Tanna. The volcano, the white sands. I am from there so I would love to take my kids and show them how friendly the place is.



4. ANNA *Pele Island*

I have never been to Pele, but I would like to spend a day there with my friends. Not only to enjoy the beach but also to walk around the island.



5. MAWA *Ambrym Island*

I would like to visit Ambrym. I would like to go with my friends and get to see the twin volcanoes for the first time.



6. CORINNE Torba Province

I would go to Torba to visit the nice sandy beaches and isolated islands. I would like also to go and collect the beautiful orange golden cowrie. These are rare and so beautiful. I've heard that you can find them easily there.



7. DALONG Vanua Lava Island

For me a great destination would be Vanulava in the Banks. I have visited the Twin Waterfall when I was a kid but I've never had the chance to go back. I would really like to see it again.



8. CHARLES Tanna Island

I have heard so much about Tanna. Everyone says it is beautiful. I would love to spend a week and go around the island, visit the volcano, the Blue Cave and the hot spring.

Make a wish

If you had the chance to travel to one of the different islands of our archipelago... The Vanuatu Tourism Office will grant the wish based on the best answers.

1. Who would you choose to go with you?

2. Where would you go and why?

3. Where would you stay?

4. Why do you want to go there?

5. What would you expect to see?

6. What tour would you do?

Where to refresh in Torba?

TORBA PROVINCE

Torba is Vanuatu's best kept secret. Famous for its sandy white beaches, world-class fresh seafood, unique culture and dense rainforests, you can be sure that your visit to the northern islands will be an experience you will never forget.

Each island is unique and offers its own adventure. Choose to visit **Gaua, Vanualava, Motalava, Ra or Loh Island** – or island hop between them all to get the ultimate Melanesian island experience!

The islands are relatively small and most attractions are easy to walk to; explore white sand beaches and coral reefs around west Mota Lava and Ra or climb the massive rocks on Ra, or climb the Sleeping Mountain on Mota Lava and visit the Twin Waterfall on Vanualava's shores.

While there are no standard hotels in Torba, the island style bungalows, home-stays, tours and activities offer an affordable and exciting experience.



ENTRY FORM

Name : _____

First name : _____

Date of birth : _____

Tel : _____

Email : _____

Would you like to receive VTO's domestic tourism newsletter ?

YES ☐ NO ☐

See the other side of this page for instructions on how to get your completed form to VTO.

Signature: _____

While visiting the Torba Province you can stay a night at the **Rah Paradise Bungalows** and organize with your hosts to see the region's unique Sea Snake custom dance, or enjoy a tour to the nearby village, mingling with the locals and learning about their everyday lives — how they garden, fish, weave mats, and how they prepare their island dishes and kava.

While in Torba, a visit to the **Mount Garet Volcano** followed by a paddle across the amazing Lake Letas is a must. You can book a night's stay at **Chez Maureen** and also organize a hike to take a refreshing dip at the foot of the highest waterfall in the South Pacific — the **Siri Waterfall**.

Whether you are looking for a haven away from the rest of the world, a soft-adventure or an adventurous but rewarding hike, Torba Province will definitely meet your needs whatever they may be.



Dori Lagoon Bungalows

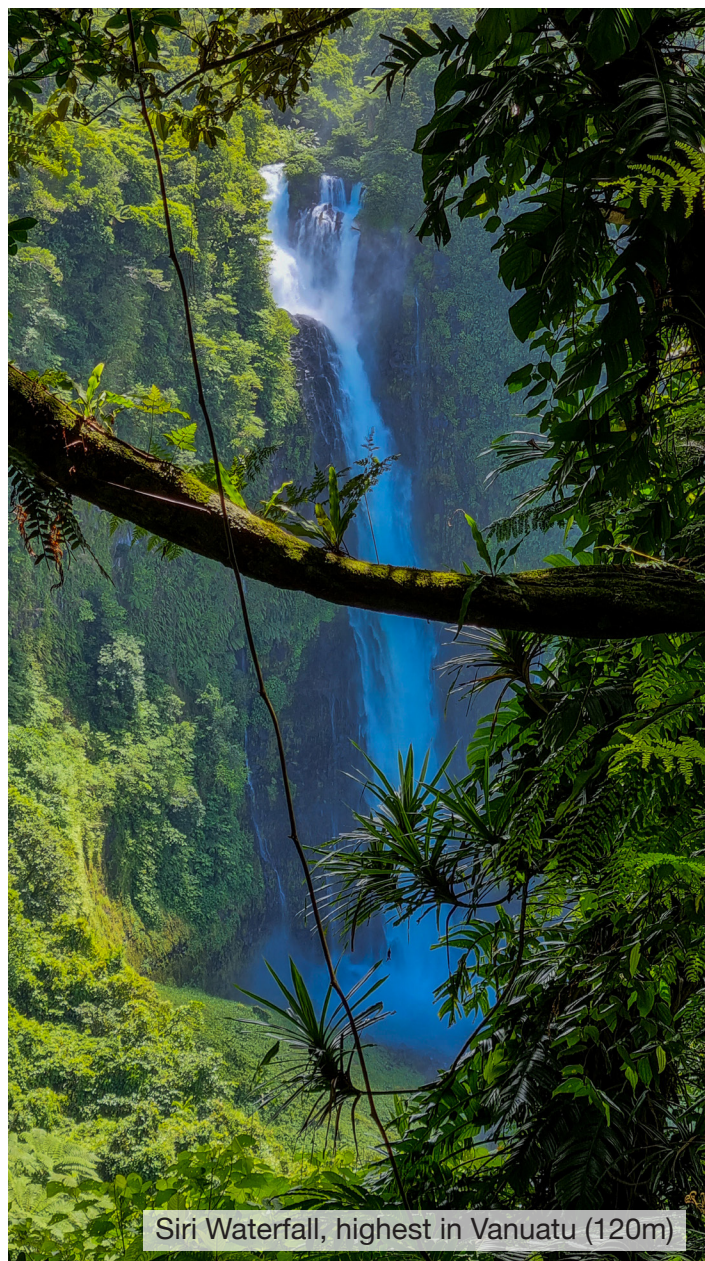
Where to stay

Rah Island: Dori Lagoon Bungalows, get in touch with Florence by email dorilagoonbungalow@gmail.com or call 534 8045. Price is 3,500VT per night including 3 meals.

Gaua: Chez Maureen Bungalows, get in touch by email frendaavry@gmail.com or call 7789620 / 5956780



Chez Maureen Bungalows



Siri Waterfall, highest in Vanuatu (120m)



Sleeping Mountain (Mota Lava)

Where to refresh in Sanma?

SANMA PROVINCE



Kids playing on Port Olry Beach

Espiritu Santo is the largest island of Vanuatu and famous for its pure white sandy beaches and blue holes. It is home to lush jungles, world-class diving, fresh seafood and more. Whether you're a foodie or an adventure seeker, an avid bird watcher or a scuba enthusiast, Santo has something for everyone.

The **Taffuntari Waterfall** is a must-visit spot in Santo and visitors will be amazed by this stunning landscape located in South Santo. On this tour you will be picked up and dropped off at this amazing site for a cool refreshing swim and refreshment by the waterfall. Afterwards you will be dropped off at your accommodation. To book, call 544 3483.

For a nice relaxing time on the beach, visit the **Champagne Beach**, located an hour north of

Luganville, and tucked away just before Port Olry on the East coast of Espiritu Santo. This stunning beach has been ranked as one of the most beautiful beaches on Earth and got its name from the way the water here bubbles just like Champagne! This is a great place to relax under shady trees, spend some quality time with family or

stretch your legs on the nearby bush trails. Kids will have a great time playing in the sand between refreshing swims. Entrance fee is Vt500 per person or Vt2,000 per vehicle. Transport to Champagne Beach from Luganville is Vt8,000 one way.



Chez Louis (Port-Olry)

Kayaking or canoeing is also a great way to see some of the more remote parts of the island as you head inland. You can explore a jungle enclosed kayak trip to the **Matevulu Blue Hole** and enjoy watching the fish dart around the boat as you glide along the water. The Matevulu Blue Hole is a natural swimming hole set amongst tropical jungle, vines, large trees and tropical flowers, making it a peaceful and beautiful spot for a holiday. You can start this tour from **Turtle Bay Lodge**. The price is Vt2,500 per person through the Turtle Bay Lodge. To book, call 37988.

For something different, why not visit a **Bat Cave** on **Aore Island**. **Freshwater Plantation** on Aore Island offers daily tours of the gardens, coffee, and chocolate plantation and of course the natural bat cave. To get there, you can book the tour through Freshwater Plantation and hop on the ferry after a nice breakfast or lunch by the water at the **Starfish Beach Bar**. You can combine your Bat Cave Tour with a swim or snorkel before heading back to Santo. To book, call 773 1641.

Malo Island is very rich culturally in its historical connections linked to the very first Ni-vanuatu settlers. It's the perfect combination of this history tied in with eco-adventures, snorkeling, river kayaking, bush trekking and diving. There is a stunning blue hole here and it is a hidden gem. It is a must visit spot located east of Malo where you will find the beautiful **Malokilikili lagoon**. This lagoon is dotted with small islands on a background of stunning turquoise waters.

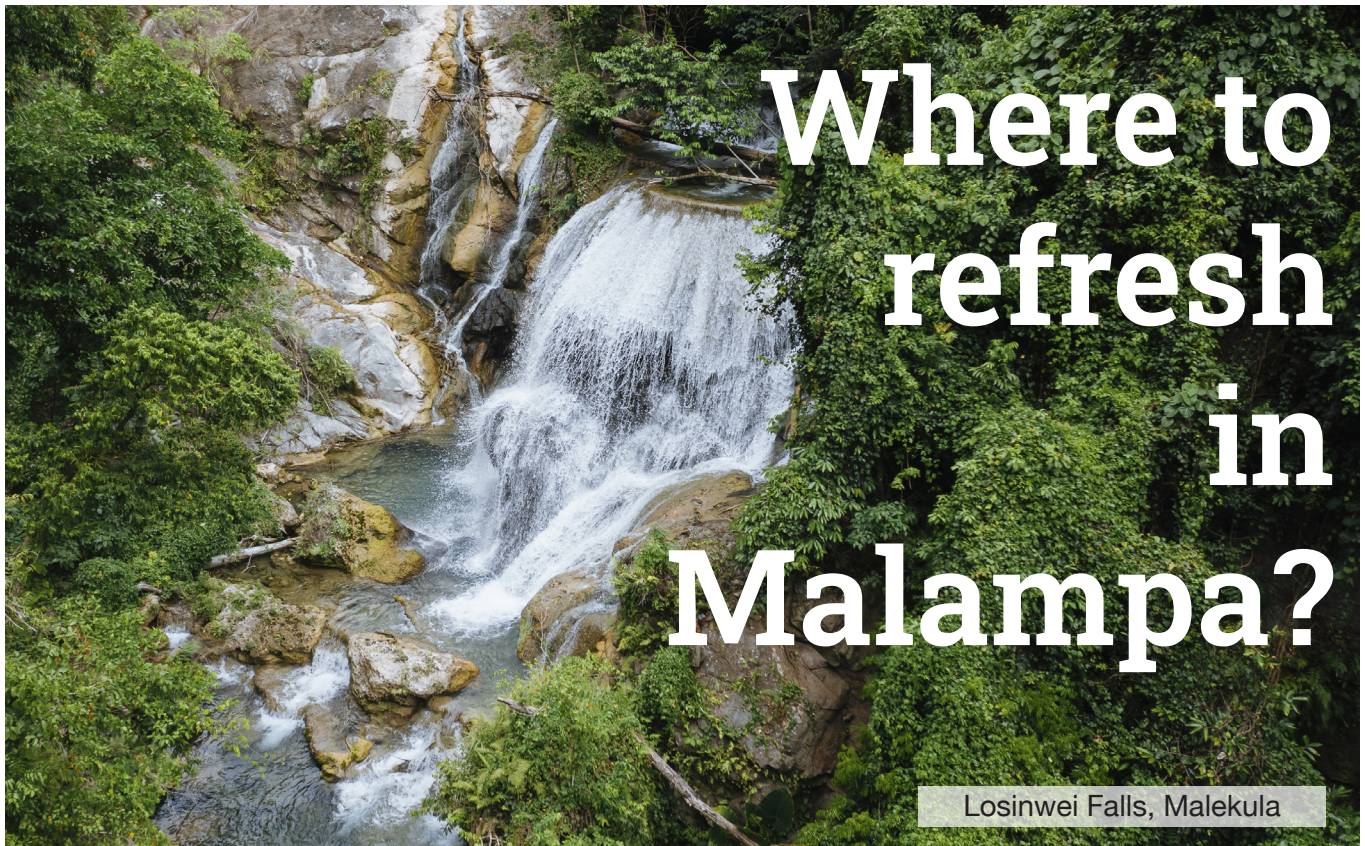


Matevulu Blue Hole

SANMA PROVINCE



Tufuntari Waterfall (Santo)



Where to refresh in Malampa?

Losinwei Falls, Malekula

Malampa Province is located in the heart of Vanuatu's Archipelago, and it's made up of Malekula, Ambrym and Paama island. So what can you do to refresh yourself in Malampa Province?

In **Malekula**, the makeup of this mountainous island allows it to be filled with rivers, waterfalls, outrigger canoe tours and more. A short trip to Malekula during some of the country's hottest months will definitely help you refresh and relax. We recommend a visit to the "big river" Pamkumo, or the Lonsinwei Cascades and Waterfall Walk as part of your itinerary while you are there. Neighbouring islands such as **Maskelyne Islands** and other small offshore islands along the east coast of Malekula have sandy beaches and coral reefs with good snorkelling and diving. Make sure you plan a night's stay in one of these exotic and remote islands while in Malekula. A visit to swim with the Dugongs at the nearby **Sakau island** can be organized through your hosts.

Ambrym island is the place to go to literally get off the beaten track. From expansive ash plains at the foot of its twin volcanoes, to mystery-shrouded traditions and powerful dances, to hidden waterfalls and hot springs, there's something to discover at every turn. In West Ambrym you can visit the **Puwoma Bay Hot spring** located just an hour's boat ride from Craig Cove. Here you can soak in the hot water minerals and allow your skin to naturally detox.



Lonwolwol Lakeside

Have you ever seen a hot waterfall? **The Enparite Waterfall** and hot springs is another worthy destination and is located between North and West Ambrym and can only be accessed by boat. The waterfall here is super hot, but visitors will be able to bathe near the mouth of the river.

Lonwolwol Lakeside is a must-visit if you are looking to refresh while on Ambrym and you can enjoy fishing trips, scenic walks along the lake and bird watching activities from here. You can get the full lakeside experience here with your family and friends if you choose to stay a weekend in their lakeside bungalows.

Paama island is known for its friendly people and abundance of Marine wealth. To relax and refresh, we recommend an afternoon swim at Liro Village. The pebbled beach provides an interesting playground for snorkelling, swimming, and kayaking.

Manbush Trail

CONTACT

Mr Robert Ravun
Manbush Trail
Ph: 7711620

Melissa Groundlin
Port Vila Information Officer
Vanuatu Tourism Office
Ph: 7107687 / 5146771 / 22515

WHAT TO BRING

Water & water bottle, Climbing shoes & socks (3 pairs) crackers & snacks, torches, sleeping bags, tents (for per person), Mosquito repellent, Lightweight smart casual clothes are recommended.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Sunblock
- Shades
- X2L Plastic Bottle Water (bring your water bottle for refill along the trek)
- Tent
- Maximum of 20kg per person package allowance
- Roughly 8hrs between each stops
- 1 night camping sleeping bags, tent (for per person), Mosquito repellent,

PLACES TO STAY

- Lakatoro Palm Lodge
- Malekula Holiday Vistas

The Manbush trail is an unforgettable four-day hike from the east to west across the wild rainforest of Malekula. The trek takes you to the stunning South West Bay and its pristine black and white sand beaches, passing through the **summit of Mt Laiinbele**, 850m above sea level with 360-degree views of the archipelago.

Along the way, you will encounter dense, untapped jungle; traverse incredible rivers, snack on island kaikai and climb to an incredible 850 meters above sea level. At the end of the trek, there's still time to cool off in the

clear waters of the **Matanoi River**. Accompanied by not-so-ancient tales of cannibalism, you'll follow your local guide into the dark bush and make yourself at home in a self-sufficient remote village where you will sleep in local houses and learn all about traditional kastom living.

The Manbush trail crosses rivers, passes through deep bush and climbs steep ground. It is a challenging expedition for experiences bushwalkers, taking you on a journey to a part of the world rarely seen by most people.



Hiking accross the river

Where to refresh in Penama?

South Pentecost Waterfall

Maewo is an island full of warm and hospitable people, and boasts dense rainforests that contain some of Vanuatu's most beautiful waterfalls. Go chasing waterfalls in Maewo island and discover these hidden secrets.

When deciding on your next holiday spot, make sure to put Maewo on the top of your list. When you first approach **Maewo**, you'll find that both coastlines are covered with black sand beaches and dense rainforest, giving the island a distinctive look. At its highest point, this island sits at 795m above sea level, and is thin and rugged, stretching 47km long and only 6 km wide. Rivers and waterfalls are abundant owing to Maewo's mountainous central chain, providing the perfect opportunity for visitors to go on a waterfall chasing journey. We've listed some of these tours and waterfalls below to give you a taste of what this island has to offer.

Maewo is also home to some of the best anchorages for yachts. A yacht club is located in **Asanvari village** in south Maewo, attracting many visitors who come not only to experience the area's famous waterfalls, but also the **Magas underwater cave**, the **bat cave tour**, the **Moon cave tour**, canoe fishing, snorkelling, and local bamboo band, just to name a few of the local (non-cascade) attractions.

A good place to start your chasing waterfall itinerary is **Lavoa Cascade**. The Lavoa Cascade located is a 10 minutes' walk from Asanvari village along the beach and coast. You can see the waterfall from the village. The price is Vt1,500 per person including entrance fee and waterfall tour which includes a stop at a lovely pool on top of the waterfall, a stop at a lookout overlooking Ansanvari Bay and village and back to the waterfall where you can also lounge by the bar area and take in the sunsets. To book, call 5434495.

Naone Waterfall

Be sure to schedule a visit to **Naone Waterfall** when you arrive in North Maewo. This waterfall is 20m high and located just a 15-20 minute walk from Naone village through stunning water taro fields. You can swim in the main pool at the foot of the waterfall or jump off the top of the waterfall. The price per person is Vt1,000. To book, call 5355246.



While you are off chasing waterfalls in the south of the island, a stop at the incredible **Moon Cave**, located just 15 minutes from Narovorovo, is a must-see (and while not a waterfall, it's still wet!) The price is Vt1,500 per person including the boat transfer. We highly recommend you pack a

GoPro or a waterproof camera, as the trip through the cave in the boat will leave you in awe.

Heading north, on the one-hour boat ride from Naone, North Maewo to Asanvari, South Maewo, ask your boat skipper to stop off at one of the more than 25 waterfalls that you

will spot along the way!

Visiting **South Pentecost**? Don't miss the Rell Cave tour! Explore an underground waterfall cascading from the ceiling for only Vt600/person. Airport transfers can also be arranged. To book, call 5646048.

PENAMA PROVINCE

Hanare Custom Village Tour

A community led tour filled with community pride, hospitality and genuine care, the Hanare custom village tour is not to be missed.

On arrival in the **Hanare custom village**, you will find yourself surrounded by the lovely ladies of this village as they warmly welcome you with gifts of flowers, baskets, and oils before you are led to the first stop where you are surrounded by warriors who perform a welcome song and dance.

Maewo's food culture here is mostly centred around water. Freshwater prawns and water taro is a staple in the local diet and during this tour, you will have the opportunity to witness how it is traditionally prepared by your community guides.

Light refreshments are then served before the next round of activities, where you are led to waterfalls and pools where prawn harvesting takes place. During the harvest, you'll be entertained with unpublished tales

and stories which are well-kept secrets of Maewo island.

After the prawn harvesting, kastom dancing takes place followed by the Warriors dance and the Peace dance. Later in the afternoon, you are then treated to the next round of food preparations in which guests are taught to cook the freshly harvested prawns that are placed into bamboo along with other local delicacies. The tour ends with kava tasting with the community.



How to get there

To get to Hanare Kastom Village, you will have to catch a flight from Espiritu Santo to Naone Airport before taking a truck transfer to Kaiowo for Vt5,000 per trip. From Kaiowo Village, a further 15 minutes drive will bring you to Hanare Kastom Village. Flights to Maewo via Santo take place once a week.

The price of this tour is Vt5,000 per person and to book, you can call Daniel Duni on 5355246 or email daniel11dunny@gmail.com.

Where to refresh in Erromango?

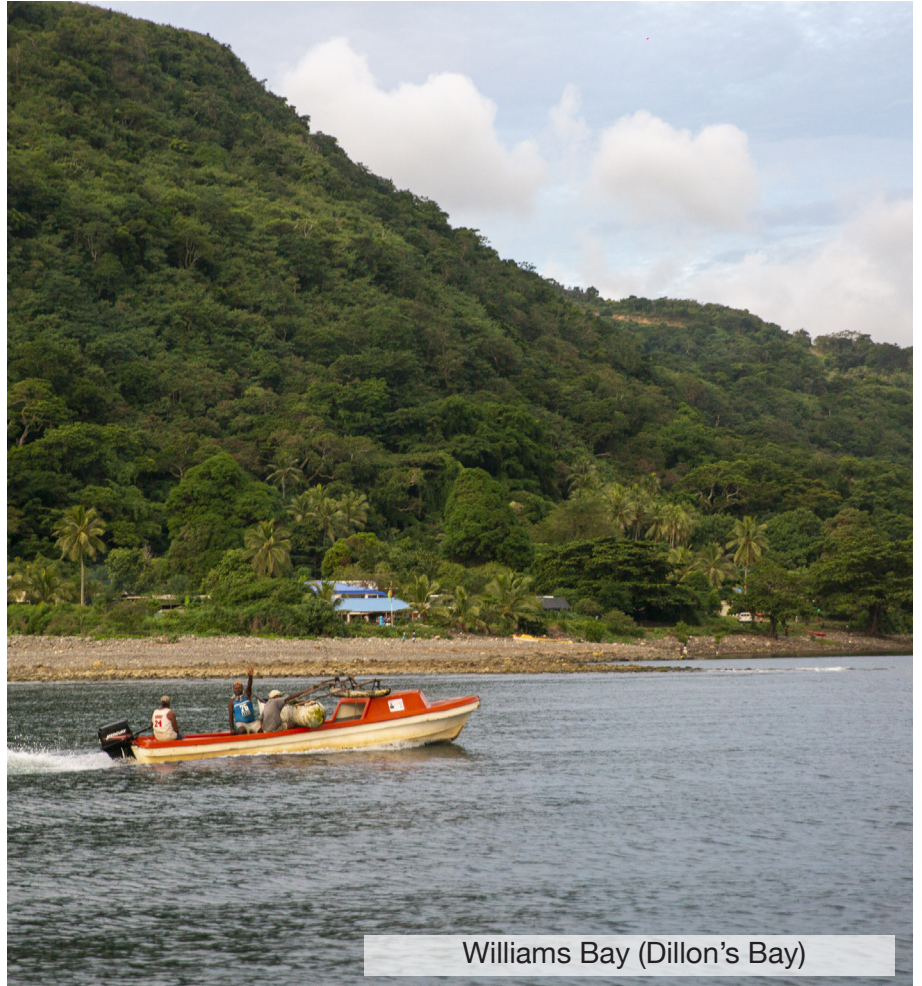
TAFEA PROVINCE

It's hard to imagine an island that has a size comparably a little larger than New York City, yet at 891 square kilometres, **Erromango** has less than 3,000 people living on the island.

Being Vanuatu's fourth-largest island, Erromango is made up of mountainous terrain so for the adventurous at heart, there are many bush walking and trekking activities to do while there. However, Erromango also allows for those looking for a time off to wander around, to come refresh and learn about its unique and colourful history. And of course there are plenty of rivers, and beaches to cool off in as well! So what can you do to refresh in Erromango?

The main arrival point of this island, Williams Bay (known until 2009 as Dillons Bay) is a peaceful place where visitors can enjoy a scenic walk along the **Williams River** and into its winding valley, where cool waters licked dark round stones. The makeup of the river bed allows for a good environment for tasty crayfish to breed in and for a sparsely populated island, you can be certain that you'll be able to get your hands on some for dinner!

Upongkor, one of Erromango's largest villages is located here and you can choose to stay in **Dillons Bay Yacht Club** or **Riverside Guest House**. In the morning, a walk down to the beach will provide you with scenic views of the bay and ample opportunity for whale watching. Turtles and



Williams Bay (Dillon's Bay)

dolphins can also be seen around Erromango when traveling by boat.

From Upongkor, you can organize with your host for a guided boat tour through the Suvu Skull Tour to the white and sandy Suvu Beach to explore ancient caves full of ancient hand stencil drawings and see other historical ruins that span over 2,000 years old.

From **Williams Bay**, you can walk across to Potnarvin, a large village in the north east.

Once you're there you can visit nearby Potnumla where you can

have a picnic and take a dip in a beautiful river that runs right into the ocean.

From **Portnarvin** you can walk or take a banana boat to Cooks Bay where the village of Ipota is located nearby. Here you can stay at the 3K Guesthouse, located only five minutes from the airport. While in Ipota, you can also visit the big waterfall or make it a whole day tour by adding in a cave visit. An outrigger canoe tour and tour to Ifo village, the site of early human settlement on the island, can also be organized through your host at 3K Guest House.



Williams Bay (Dillon's Bay)

Another interesting and challenging trek is a three to four hour walk from **Williams Bay** down to South River and across to Ipota through the Kauri Reserve. It's a bit of a journey, but once you're there, you'll be amazed by the magnificent Kauri trees that are over 1,000 years old.

With its vast and rich history and beautiful landscapes, Erromango invites you to come for a wander and discover its hidden treasures.



Kauri Reserve, Williams Bay, Erromango

John Frum Cargo Cult on Tanna

TAFEA PROVINCE



In a village far from any US army barracks, nestled between ash plains and tropical trees, dark skinned men in uniforms with red-tipped bamboos would march every year on February 15.



Late Chief Isaac watching his troops

In the late 1930's villagers on the island of Tanna first came into contact with their messiah. They believe this is American, who they call John Frum will one day return and shower them with gifts. Now, every year on February 15, barefoot soldiers clad in home made US Army britches and red tipped bamboo "rifles" slung over their shoulders would march in perfect unison in the **Village of Lamakara** as they hold a grand celebration in honour of this man. It's a sight to see indeed.

This day is known as John Frum day on **Tanna Island**, and these activities are the islander's holiest religious services. On this holiest of days, devotees would travel to the village of Lamakara from all over the island to honor this unknown man, John Frum.



Late Chief Isaac watching his troops

TAFEA PROVINCE

The late Chief Isaac Wan, who was a gentle man of deep conviction had led these uniformed men in the past. It is still to be decided who will take up this rank next.

To this day villagers are still waiting for "Radios, TVs, trucks, boats, watches, iceboxes, medicine, Coca-Cola and many other wonderful things."

You would like to attend the ceremony? Vanuatu Ecotours is proposing a 4 day special package. Contact them on info@vanuatuecotours.com or call 5403506. You can also follow @VanuatuEcotours on facebook.



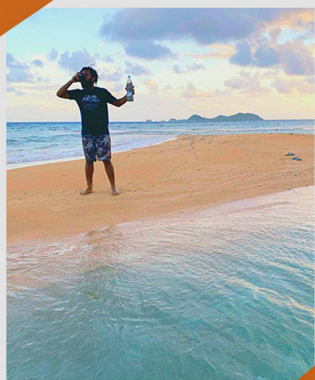
Nicky's Ultimate Kava Travel Bucket List

We've all had our bucket lists of places to travel to or things to do. In Vanuatu, it is customary for kava drinkers to lift up a shell or two on a day out with family and friends at many of the cool locations at our surrounding beaches or rivers. **Nikiatu Kautonga's**, a renowned and talented local photographer shares with us his ultimate kava bucket list and the unique kava experiences that he got while traveling around Vanuatu's islands through his work.

1. Floating Beach - Maskelyne Island

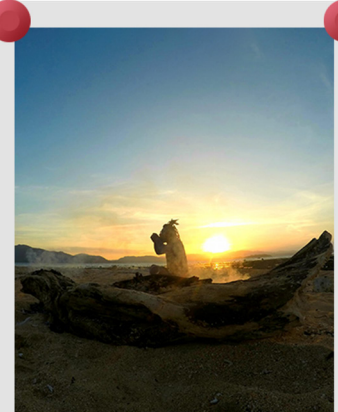
At the top of my Kava Bucket list of cool places that I've got to lift up a shell (or plastic) is the Floating Beach or sand island located off the coast of the small archipelago of Maskelyne.

It is an island of pure white sand that appears when the tide is low. It's called the Niel Fat Sunburn Floating Beach by the locals, and interestingly enough it does look like a piece of floating land from a distance. After picking up fresh kava from Sakau island we took the boat across to this island, and man, I tell you that was an amazing experience. Here I was picking up a fresh plastic of 1.5L kava juice from a small island off mainland **Malekula**. Then next, I was on a boat riding past all these beautiful small islands and before my eyes, a whole island of sand appeared and right then and there, my mind was made up that I had to take my first shell on that floating sand island. That experience felt like taking one of the best shells of kava ever, in a lonely paradise in the middle of nowhere.



2. Uri Island, Malekula

Uri island made it onto my bucket list and in the top two because of the almost indescribable feeling of serenity, relaxation, and peace I had sitting on the white sand, looking out at the sunset after my first shell. It's an island that is situated just in front of **Lakatoro** and a great holiday destination for families as well as single travelers and a haven for kava juice lovers. The kava itself was picked up from Uripiv island and taken across to drink on Uri island. **Malekula** has many beautiful islands with stunning beaches surrounding it.



3. Fanla Kastom Village, Ambrym

Drinking kava at a kastom village is a whole other experience as I've come to learn. After witnessing the incredible and earth-moving kastom shows, I sat down with the elders and men and had a shell. The Kava was called 'Morning Fresh', however, whether I felt fresh or not the next morning was debatable. After the first shell, I did what everyone would say in bislama -- 'me stap smile kranke'. Which means smiling uncontrollably and nodding my head in unison to every word that was being spoken by the 'kastom men'. But this isn't the reason why drinking kava at **Fanla Kastom Village** made it to my bucket list. The main reason was that when you drink kava in a traditional setting, the conversations steer away from the urban life that you are used to in a normal nakamal around Port Vila and you find yourself drifting off into the distant tales and stories of long before, you exchange and reaffirm your own knowledge with the traditional knowledge. Drinking Kava in this situation then became about learning and I felt connected with the people and the land even though my own island is all the way down south.



4. Maewo Island

Maewo Island made a very strong impression in my mind due to the unique experience I had of drinking Kava there. To start with, the Kava itself is prepared using coral to grind the kava into a stone bowl. To drink the kava I had to enter a low and long traditional building. This building is split up into different rooms and how far you advance into the building is dependent on your ranking. As a new visitor, I stopped in one of the first rooms and was shown a place to sit. I was told that the highest-ranking people sat in the last room at the end. Before I had entered, the person who made my kava had to wash my hands with water from a coconut shell as per strict customs. Once inside, the same person called me over and presented me with my first shell of kava. It was the strongest shell that I had ever drank in my life. Within seconds I went mute, however, the feeling was very nice. I sat still for a good 20 minutes 'listening to the kava'.



5. Small island in Torres Group

We got our Kava from the mainland and paddled across to one of the small islands of Torres. From there we watched the sunset and lit a nice bonfire on the beach. When the bonfire died down we took our torches and walked along the beach picking up the big red crabs off the beach and throwing them into the fire for our 'wasem maot'. Here we were, miles away from the urban life, sitting on a beautiful beach, drinking kava and eating sweet crabs. That is definitely one for the books.

Artist's Corner



My name is Tania Calvo and I'm happy to be producing the illustrations for this edition of Nawimba.

I'm 19 years old and I've always been passionate about art since my very young childhood days. I discovered painting in particular thanks to Nikolai Michoupoutchkine, a friend of my grandmother. I cherish his memory and the very pretty Russian dolls that he once painted just for me, which I also treasure greatly. My visual arts teachers also supported me as well as my grandmother who would always encourage me and provided the materials I needed. I used to spend hours in our family store painting in front of my grandmother's eyes. I usually read and listen to whatever I can to feed my passion for art. I especially love books and podcasts, especially Van Gogh, whom I admire a lot. I really recommend the secrets of painting by Patrick André. I can read this over and over. My inspiration is found in the colors and customs of Vanuatu as Aloï Pilioko did. Melanesia is at

the heart of my creations and I usually play around and infuse them with symbols and traditional references. Painting gives me incredible opportunities to make beautiful connections with the different islands of Vanuatu and dive into their cultures. I hope you enjoy this edition.



www.facebook.com/t.calvoart



taniacalvo262@gmail.com



MI TUMORO VANUATU

Travel Expo 2022

18-19 March, Port Vila

31 March - 01 April, Luganville



#SAPOTEM
LOKOL
TURISIM

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

Vanuatu
TOURISM OFFICE
ANSWERING THE CALL