

# NAWIMBA



Your Tourism Guide

**WELKAM**  
BACK TO  
**Vanuatu!**

## Sport Tourism

Discover new islands with sports

## Calendar of events

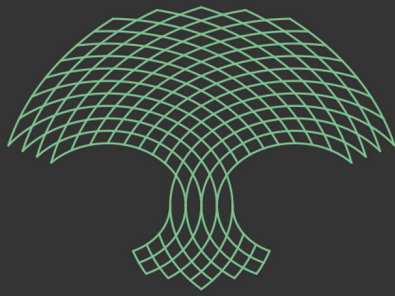
Immerse yourself into the Vanuatu moments

**Vanuatu**  
TOURISM OFFICE  
ANSWERING THE CALL

#SAPOTEM  
LOKOL  
TURISIM

[www.vanuatu.travel](http://www.vanuatu.travel)





THE  
**NABANGA**  
PLEDGE

United on Covid Safety

For centuries, the Nabanga has been a symbol of community, life and protection. It's the largest tree species in Vanuatu and is sacred in all of our 116 distinct cultures. That's why it lends its name to our nationwide pledge to work together to keep each other Covid-safe, protecting those who live, work or travel in our beautiful country.

**WE PROMISE TO  
KEEP YOU SAFE.  
YOU PROMISE  
TO KEEP US SAFE.  
LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER TO  
PROTECT EACH  
OTHER FROM  
COVID-19.**

ANSWER  
THE CALL OF  
**Vanuatu**

# A promise that connects us

Like the branches and roots of a Nabanga, the Nabanga Pledge connects international visitors, the Vanuatu tourism industry and Ni-Vanuatu chiefs and communities as we all work together to keep each other safe.

## TOURISM OPERATORS

Businesses and all those who work in the tourism industry sign the pledge to promise visitors that staff are vaccinated and Covid-safety guidelines are in place, while also promising local communities that they are safely supporting the recovery of Vanuatu's economy.



## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Visitors sign the pledge to promise Ni-Vanuatu people and tourism operators that they are vaccinated and insured and will follow all health protocols during their stay.

## COMMUNITY

Ni-Vanuatu chiefs and communities sign the pledge to promise tourism operators that they value the industry for the recovery of their country, while also promising visitors that they will be welcomed as guests and leave as friends.

## Signing the pledge

The Nabanga Pledge is not legally binding, it's a promise we make with each other to do everything we can to prioritise safety as we reopen our country to the world.



# Editorial

Finally! The long-awaited moment for the reopening of the borders has arrived. For more than two years, Vanuatu has distinguished itself by its ability to protect its citizens from a global scourge. Today, the country is once again ready to receive Vanuatu's friends: tourists, investors and Ni-Vanuatu workers returning from abroad.

The Vanuatu Tourism Office and Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Vanuatu, have taken on many challenges together and have shown creativity and great tenacity to maintain local tourism.

With the borders reopening to international travelers, the Vanuatu Tourism Office is now increasing its destination marketing efforts locally and abroad to promote its fabulous destinations.

To all, who want to live an extraordinary experience, rich in adventure, colors and unforgettable encounters:

Welkam Back to Vanuatu!

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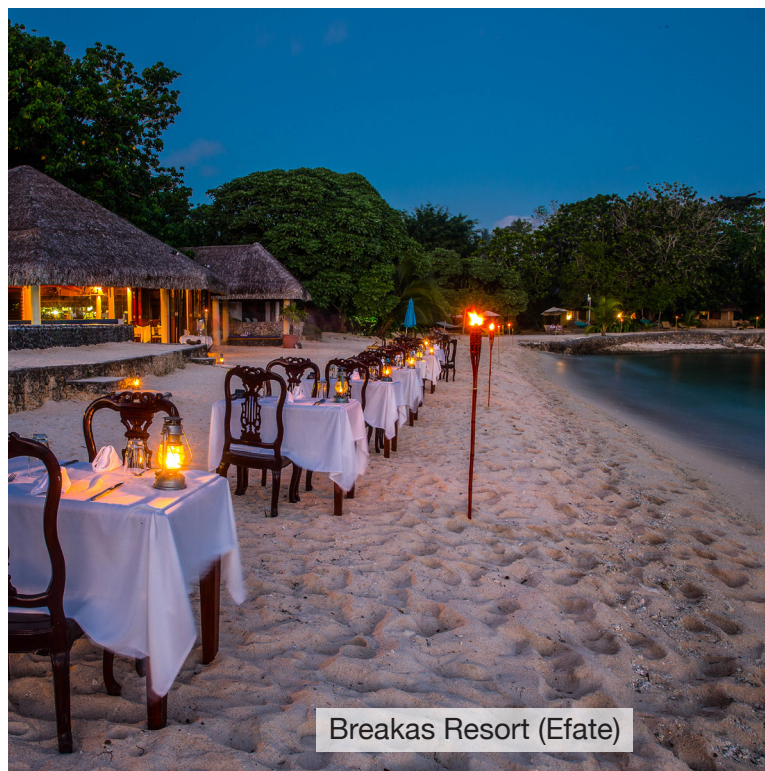




**V**anuatu reopens its doors! The Vanuatu tourism office, the Department of Tourism, the Ministry of Health, Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority (VIPA), Airport Vanuatu Limited, Air Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VRBC) and all the public services have worked hand in hand to finalize the reception of the first arrivals of passengers and visitors on July 1st.

Setting hotels, restaurants and resorts back into motion demands a huge effort and many operators are investing for a fresh start. It might take us some time to completely go back to the precovid situation, nevertheless everyone is doing their best to welcome you with a smile.

All sectors are an important gear for this recovery operation: transport, logistics, construction, and agri-food industries are also part of the vanuatu resilience. During the last month, everyone has rolled up their sleeves to be ready on time to offer a warm welcome to all visitors, investors, and friends of Vanuatu.



Breakas Resort (Efate)

**Welkam Bak to Vanuatu!**



# When sports supports tourism development

**Ask for the program! Maskelyne Canoe Race, ProRescue Survivor Games, Tanna Rally, Pacific Trail, Grand Manaro Trek and more to come.**

Originally from the Village of Pango, Maina Wari is pursuing a stellar career at the Vanuatu Tourism Office. Her skills in event management and press relations allow her to pilot tourism promotion in the area of sports. Vanuatu offers the perfect environment as an ideal South Pacific playground. The major sporting events, to the large range of activities and the colorful discovery tours attract thousands of tourists every year. Not to mention, the beautiful landscapes, the physical challenges and amazing experiences can be found everywhere. Sport is also unquestionably important source of income for the country. It also provides a platform and encourages more and more ni-Vanuatu athletes to take part in major international competitions such as the Pacific Mini Games, the Olympic Games, the Paralympics or the Commonwealth Games.



**SHEFA PROVINCE**

**Yumi Go Vanuatu!**



Rio Rii, Vanuatu rowing athlete during the Queen's Baton Relay (Efate 2022)



**TORBA**



**PENAMA**

**SANMA**

**MALAMPA**

**SHEFA**

**TAFEA**







## JULY

# 2022

- 24th - Children's Day
- 30th - Independence Day parade
- DTBC - Maskelyne Canoe Race and Art Festival (Malekula Island)
- DTBC - Santo Rodeo

## AUGUST

- 6th - Titan FX Survivor Games (Port Vila)
- 12th-13th - Titan FX Rally Tanna (Tanna)
- DTBC - Back to my roots (North Ambrym)
- DTBC - Lamap Unique Cultural Dance (South Malekula)



## SEPTEMBER

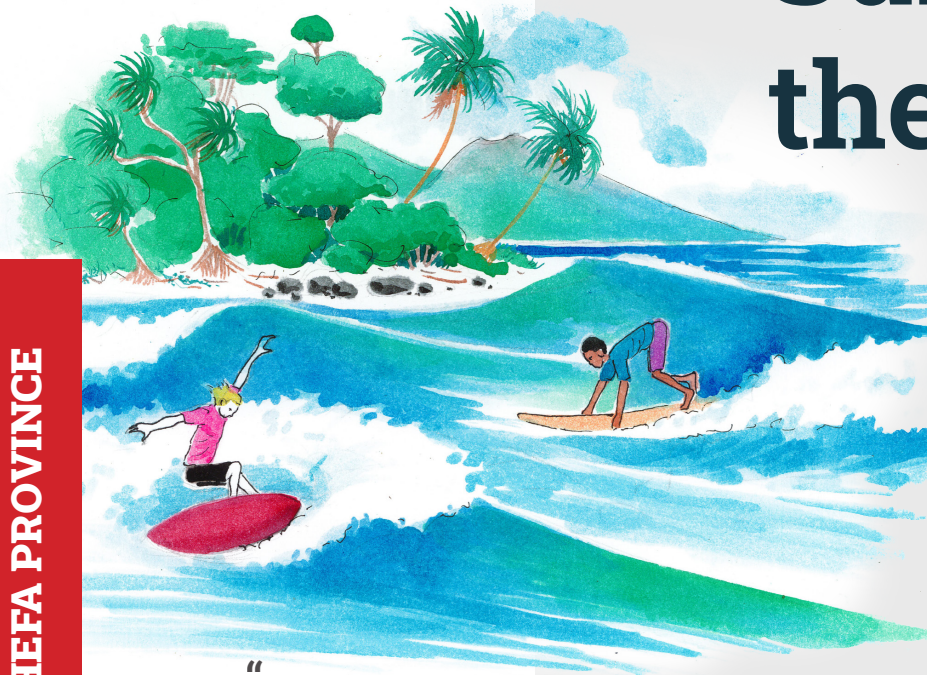
- 24th - Le Trail Pacific (Port Vila)

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





# Surfing in the islands



**V**anuatu offers some of the best and unfrequented surf spots in the world scattered all around the 83 islands. Pele Island well deserves to be pinpointed on every surfer's map! Only one hour away from Port Vila its long beautiful beaches and swells are waiting for you.

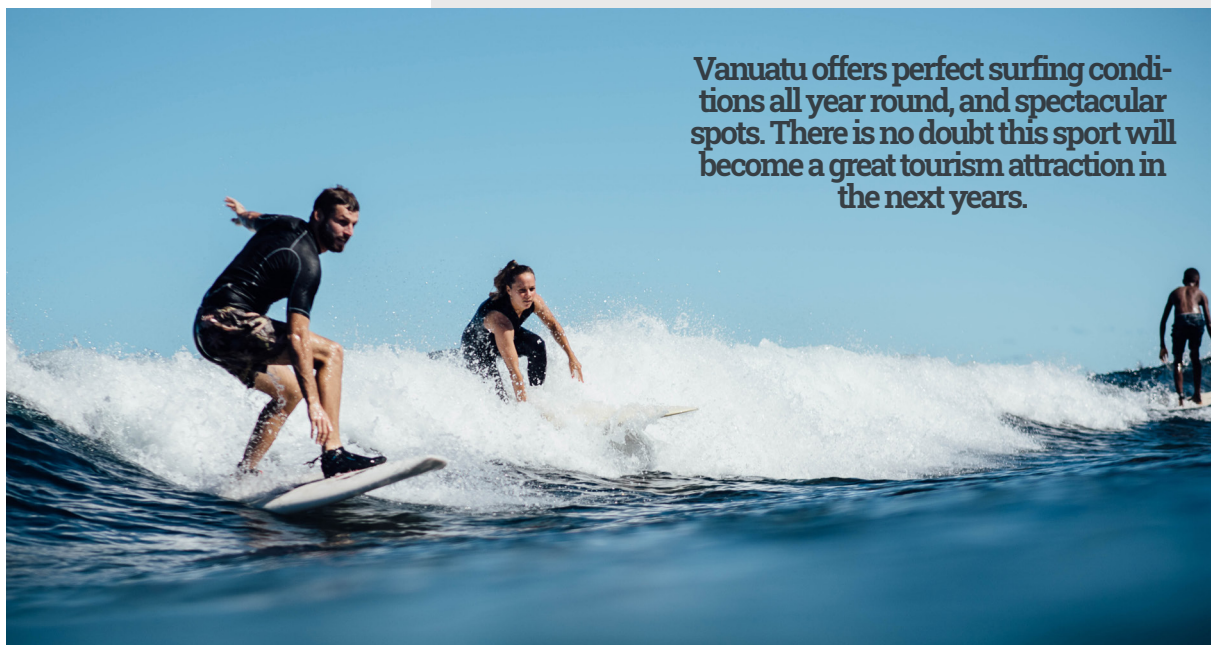
The place owe its reputation to the easy access to the waves even during low tides. When you're out on the water, expect to

be joined by the local villagers. Since 2006, the Pele Surf Association has initiated several programs to promote surfing on the island. The association is affiliated to the Vanuatu Surfing association which is very active in the archipelago. Kendrick, originally from Pele was among the first ones to join the program. He keeps great memories of these times. "I remember that we didn't have enough boards so we used our moms' washboards to practice bodyboarding. We then shared a unique surf brought to us by a priest. We enjoyed it so much that after only a few months, we were ready to participate in our first competition in Pango." Many tourists have come to Pele since and a group of generous Australian female surfers offered a few boards as a souvenir. Since then, the passion and the practice continued to grow. Kendrick hopes to be able to import more boards in the future now that the borders reopen. "Pele is a great spot, and the island is scaling up its accommodation for those who would like to stay overnight and experience those morning swells"

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**I remember that we didn't have enough boards so we used our moms' washboards to practice bodyboard.**

**Vanuatu offers perfect surfing conditions all year round, and spectacular spots. There is no doubt this sport will become a great tourism attraction in the next years.**





# Pacific Trail

There we go for the 5th Edition!



The Pacific trail is now an established and prominent event. Launched in 2017 by a group of running addicts, it has become an annual sports highlight. Every year, a growing number of participants register for this trail which brings together athletes and running enthusiasts alike.



To surprise the runners, the circuit is never the same and always kept a secret until the week of the event. This gives the participants a sense of exploration and mystery during the run. Ultimately it's a family friendly setting, but it also provides a moment of conviviality for companies of all fields to challenge each other in a light-hearted way.

Last year, the trail took place around the 83 Islands distillery. As always, the circuit had been prepared months in advance to allow the participants to discover incredible spots generally unknown to the public eye and not easy to access.

This year the trail once again promises to be epic. The future location of the race is kept a secret. As tradition, it will be made known only a few days before the event. However, a teaser has been released which tells us that it will most likely be held somewhere in the deep bushes of North Efate Island.

Best ni-Vanuatu runners, mostly from Tanna, will be challenged by thrill seekers and foreign athletes back in game now that the borders are reopened. This event is among the greatest events of the year and this year we expect, would bring more new faces to the Pacific Trail scene.

## Save the date!

On September 24th three different races will take place. The Family circuit which is always less than 10 km, the Social race between 12 and 15 kilometers and finally the Elite between 20 and 25 km.

Great pictures and videos are taken along the way to immortalize the moment. Registrations will open on September 1st and Pacific Trail offers a reduced rate for the early bird registrants.

**On your marks, get set, ready, go!!**



# Don't worry! Be happy!



Riri Blue Hole (Santo)

**How about a moment of relaxation? A moment for yourself, to recharge your batteries and regain a beautiful energy?**

**I**f you do, it is more than time to get a ticket for Santo and to head to Turtle Bay to drop off your luggage! Kat Finnerty organizes wonderful retreats.

On the program: cooking and nutrition classes, incredible hikes in the bay and walks on the majestic Jordan River. She will take you for a memorable swim from the Blue Hole to the sea. You will gently let yourself be carried by the current in a dream setting for a full hour. That's not all! You'll get to meet the friendly villagers and their amazing culture, experience their amazing culture and participate in inspiring Yoga sessions that will complete your travel diary!



Jordan River (Santo)



# Merry Go Round

Horse back riding in Espiritu Santo.

**T**hey go by the name of Velvets, Belle, Lady Grey or Bossy Boots and they will carry you on their backs for the most spectacular horse-riding tour you ever experienced! Megan-Jane, owner of the Santo Horseback Riding Adventures, is very well known in Santo for her love of horses.

She created a kind of sanctuary for them in the last 13 years. Despite the challenges – there is no vet on the island, and she has learnt how to rely on herself and her staff to take care of the ones she rescued.

The team takes pride in pampering the thirty-eight horses

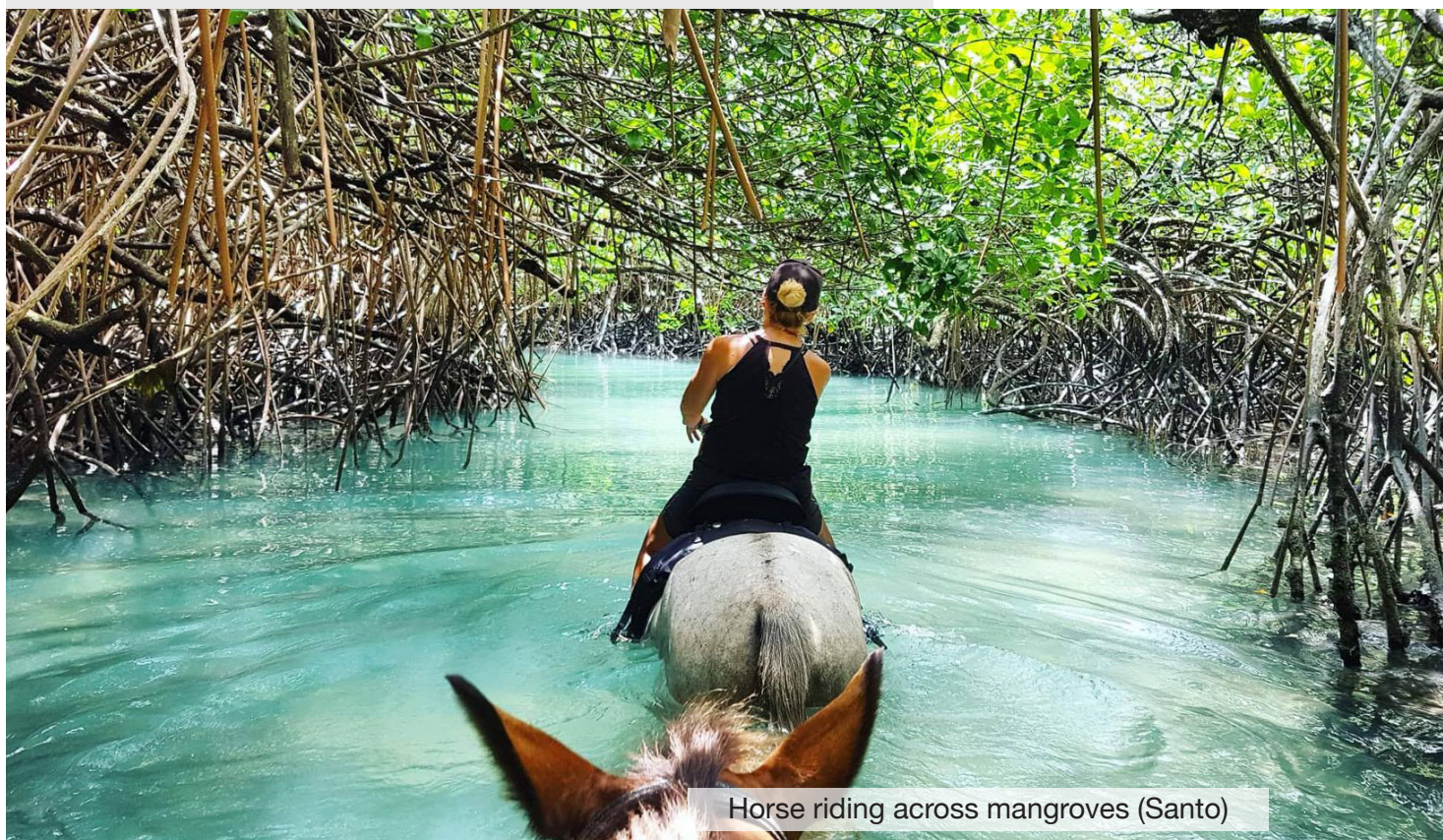
of the Ranch and organises great tours to discover the beauty of the island.

Animal wellness and safety are her motto. A great work was done after Tropical Cyclone Harold to renovate the place. She recently changed her equipment and has brand-new helmets especially for kids who enjoy the pony rides. The Adventures are perfect for families!

The tour guides will take you to beautiful and unique locations as the mangrove tunnel, which is a mind-blowing experience, the wide plantations, and the never-ending beaches of the South West of Santo.

Facebook page:  
[@SantoHorseAdventures](#)

SANMA PROVINCE



Horse riding across mangroves (Santo)



# Hot Wheels in Vanuatu



## Have a need for speed? Get Ready!

Since 1975, the ACPV (Automobile Club of Port Vila) has successfully organized great rally events in Efate island. The races have become a tradition and have gained an international reputation. Passionate race drivers from New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand gladly took part in the competition until the country had shut its borders.

Hard work always pays and Nelson Law, President of the association, is proud to say that the Club has now joined the International Rally Championship.

On that occasion the club changed its colors to pay tribute to the national flag. "It's a big step — a great recognition of the level and the quality of the races we organize. Vanuatu is now in the big leagues and ready to take it to the next level!"

This year, as the country opens up, the club's board has prepared an exciting event. An amazing race will take place in Tanna on August 12th and 13th with the support of Titan FX.

The team is preparing for the first ever Rally race on an active volcano. This will be a first in the world of car racing!

The special effect of racing in the ash plains with the majestic view of Yasur Volcano in the background is sure to be spectacular!

The volcano has become a worldwide attraction ever since the actor Will Smith visited the place back in 2019. His documentary produced by Disney and broadcasted on National Geographic



Continue next page





## TAFEEA PROVINCE

### PLACES TO STAY

#### Rockwater Resort

At Rockwater each room and suite is a totally different artistic creation from the next. All have panoramic ocean views; King Beds, fans, small fridges, tea/coffee making facilities, bathtubs, showers, and toiletries. - 5651300 | [rockwater.tanna@gmail.com](mailto:rockwater.tanna@gmail.com)

#### White Grass Ocean Resort

Bures are available for singles and couples as well as family bures accommodating up to five people. Within the resort there is direct access to reef edge snorkeling or inner reef pools, a swimming pool, restaurant, pitch 'n putt golf course, petanque field, guest library, Nabisa Day Spa and the PADI dive centre 'Volcano Island Divers'



TV channel was an immense success.

The spectacular images to come of this unique racetrack will definitely travel fast around the world.

This is great news for famous local pilots like Julien LENGLET who can hardly wait to take part in the next edition. The public will expect to see him in his Subaru.

Champions like Andrew Haukeswood, who is a former NZ Rally Championship winner is also keen to participate.

This is good news for the local tourism industry too. This event will contribute to generating income for local businesses, resorts and restaurants.



Devil's Point Rally (Efate 2021)



Yasur Volcano from distance (Tanna)



# Meet the Volcano Run winners

**S**imon Charley and Patis Nikiau are the runners from Tanna who won VTO's Vanuatu Volcano Run. The Run was no easy feat, as the course circled Mt Yasur from sea to summit, in the middle of a storm – and yet the pair managed to complete the 25km course in just 1 hour 51 minutes and 35 seconds.

Simon and Patis come from Lamakara, a village on the northern slopes of the volcano, and they were proud to represent their village against other clubs and provincial runners on their home territory.

As part of their prize as overall and men's category winners of the Vanuatu Volcano Run, Patis and Simon have travelled to attend the Le Trail Pacific which is taking place this Saturday 6 November on Efate,

Sports and tourism go hand in hand. Every year, thousands of people in Vanuatu each year travel to different parts of the country to participate, to watch or to help organise provincial and national sporting events. This called this 'sports tourism'.

Internationally, sports tourism is regarded as "one of the fastest growing sectors in the travel industry", according to UN's World Tourism Organization.

VTO's Vanuatu Volcano Run is an example of a sports tourism event, created to boost tourism visitation to south east Tanna. Over 200 runners, spectators, and officials from other islands attended the event, earning the area's small tourism businesses a combined total of Vt4 million in sales of accommodation, transport and food.

As domestic sports tourists, Simon and Patis are looking forward to running in Le Trail Pacific, another unique Vanuatu sports tourism event, organised by TitanFX.

But this time, they'll be away from their home island and will have the chance to sightsee around Efate and Port Vila as domestic tourists.

I like travelling as well, because every time I wake up somewhere new, I feel excited", says Patis Nikiau.

"I'm glad I get to combine both these interests when I travel to Port Vila to compete in the Le Trail Pacific event this Saturday", he says.



Simon and Patis at the Vanuatu Volcano Run (Tanna 2021)

**"I love running. In Tanna, when I was competing in the Vanuatu Volcano Run, I felt pride at the fact that other runners who came to Tanna, got to experience the beauty of Southeast Tanna."**

**Patis Nikiau.**



# The Grand Manaro magic!

PENAMA PROVINCE

**V**anuatu's tourism sector policy is focused on a sustainable type of development that promotes and harness community and responsible tourism. It also attempts to give recognition to cultural, environmental and people values. The Grand Manaro Trek is a good example of this policy. This new event, taking place in October, is a great opportunity to visit Ambae and the volcanic lake located at the heart of the island and to experience all that is traditional of the Ambaen culture. Before you pack, you need to know it will be a full day of hiking to Manaro but the effort is totally worth it. The place is unique.

The island has slowly moved back to normal with many inhabitants returning back to their homes after the 2005 eruption. On returning, new activities and opportunities were created for visitors to experience, both natural and cultural attractions and immersion to their traditions.

Ambae is also known for the Charles Godden Slow food and island basket festival programmed later in the year.

**Fun fact :** Ambae's pyramid shape is due to its volcanic origins. It is by far the largest of the Vanuatu volcanoes, its base being 3000 metres below the sea. It is famous for its legendary disappearing. When seen from the East Coast of Santo, the island is a clear blue mountain rising from the ocean, especially under the early morning light. As the sun climbs, except for rare clear days the island quickly disappears behind a glare of sea haze.

If you go to Ambae don't be surprised if you see villagers play petanque.

Petanque is a fun game and a sport that is very serious, mostly played in Provence region, in the South of France... and in Ambae. The goal is to score points by having balls (boules in French) closer to the target than the opponent after all boules have been thrown. This is achieved by throwing or rolling boules closer to the small target ball, officially called a jack (named a cochonnet in French) or by hitting the opponents' boules away from the target, while standing inside a circle with both feet on the ground. It is amazing to see the popularity of Petanque especially in West of the island.

## Tu tires ou tu j

**\*Do you toss or do you roll ?**



# All eyes on the ball

**V**olleyball and Beach Volleyball are popular sports in Ambae. The game was most likely imported by US American soldiers during the second world war. In Maewo last year, the community built from scratch a beautiful beach volleyball court. The entire community organised a fundraising and actively participated to its installation. A ceremony took place to celebrate this joyful moment. The Vanuatu Volleyball Federation was invited and gifted a new volleyball net to this community project. Debbie Masauvakalo, president of the Vanuatu Beach Volleyball Federation attended the event with great pride and admiration for the good work.

As school teacher Morris Mera is encouraging young ones to practice actively. Great athletes are expected to come from the Taruskarua Beach Volleyball Club in the future.



Taruskarua Team training (Maewo)

PENAMA PROVINCE



pointes\* ?



# Maskelyne Canoe Festival

MALAMPA PROVINCE

The communities of the Maskelynes Islands, every year, host a canoe race and cultural festival. A typical program includes a feast of kastom dance, canoe-making, kava tasting, shared local meals, and of course the famous outrigger canoe race, finishing with an 'Island Night' celebration. There is usually plenty of time for pristine snorkelling and relaxation as well.

It is usually hosted around the 24th July, on the Children's Day, which is just a week before the Independence Day Celebrations.



Mama getting ready to row (Malekula)





# Rom Dance

From Ranon beach, you will either walk for about 50 minutes (or catch a 20 minute truck transfer) through the stunning tropical forest high into the hills where people from fanla village will demonstrate for you the famous rom dances - traditionally performed only on very special occasions.

The Rom or 'Masked' dance is a sacred event associated with magic and it is believed to influence harvests. You will get an opportunity to watch a full schedule of hypnotic costumed dances as well as listen to beautiful and haunting bamboo flute music. You will also witness a small display of mysterious 'Black Magic' only performed by special sorcerers - 'the man blong blak majik'.

MALAMPA PROVINCE





# The Ultimate Vanuatu Adventure







Banks Islands (Torba Province)

**T**he Province of Torba is the new place to be ! Torres and Banks are destinations that rhyme with beauty and adventure. Relatively new on the international tourism scene, the Northern province is still recently Vanuatu's best kept secret. White sandy beaches, black beaches, breathtaking coasts and rainforests — of the province are a must-see!!

Each island is unique and offers its own adventure : Gaua, Vanualava, Motalava, Rah or Loh Island are the most famous.

Andrea Traverso knows every nook and cranny of this paradise on earth. He spends his time organising boat charters for families, group of friends or solo travellers eager to explore a sensational

scenery and go for some sportive game fishing. DropCast team provides a professional equipment and a super comfortable cruise accommodation to fully enjoy the journey.

Be ready for a show of Blue marlins, jigging and popping big Yellowfins, Wahoos and Mahi-Mahis! Once the fish is properly hooked on a line, it is quite tricky to pull in. It requires both strength and agility. The crew members will help you master all the tricks.

**Be sure to book what is today the ultimate Melanesian island experience!**

The Chef on board prepares feasts with your catch of the day! How about some tasty Dogtooth tuna?

The adventure will take you on the shores: winding walks to the waterfalls that seems to fall steeply into the sea. Pack your bags and be ready for unforgettable encounters with the villagers and to discover their amazing ancestral customs, typical of this part of Vanuatu.

DropCast packages are flexible and can be customized. You can enjoy a day trip as well as weeklong trips out of Port-Vila.



# Artist's Corner



**A**thletic silhouette and silver hair: Here comes John Joseph! The artist who is originally from Emae in the Shepard Islands, studied Arts at the INTV in Efate. Jacky Bourdin and Henri Taillade, two wellknown French art teachers, recognized his gift and encouraged him to grow his passion for painting. Thanks to his mentors, he started his career back in the 80s. His work and enthusiasm quickly led him to travel to New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand. He participated in numerous festivals in the South Pacific, including a very large artistic gathering in the Cook Islands. John has explored various styles and has excelled in the illustration of children's books. Winner of several contests, he describes himself as a ni-Vanuatu artist cherishing the beautiful simple life in Vanuatu.

His painting describes the scenes of everyday life with endearing and colorful characters. His work is both joyful and nostalgic of a bygone era. His most recent works are a plea for nature. His poetic creations challenge us to acting responsibly our environment and our earth.



[www.facebook.com/JosephJohnArt](https://www.facebook.com/JosephJohnArt)



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NAWIMBA





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📍 Port Vila, Efate

ANSWER  
THE CALL OF  
*Vanuatu*



# — YOU'RE INVITED — TO VOYAGE WITH US AROUND THE ISLANDS AND LEGENDS OF VANUATU.

Vanuatu is open again for travellers from 1 July 2022 and we're ready to welkam you back to the warm embrace of the crystal ocean. From nearby islands to sheltered reefs, we'll cross the mesmerising waters of a timeless ocean in traditional canoes, guided by centuries of knowledge.

It's time to Answer the Call of Vanuatu.

WELKAM  
BACK TO  
*Vanuatu!*

[vanuatu.travel](https://vanuatu.travel)