



Vanuatu

Photo: Janelle Lugge/Shutterstock.com



Karin Wassmer/Shutterstock.com

There are few destinations that offer as much diversity, both scenically and culturally, as the archipelago of 83 islands that form Vanuatu, named the Planet's Happiest Country. You will be struck by its tropical playgrounds featuring deserted beaches, lush dense forests, pristine waterfalls, rumbling volcanoes, and traditional villages. Vanuatu is the only place on earth where you can officially post your mail from an underwater post office and from the ash plain on the summit of a volcano.



Sergey Uryadnikov/Shutterstock.com

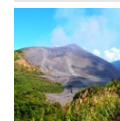


Larissa Denning/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ
*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Tanna Island

On Tanna you can visit Mt Yasur, one of the world's most accessible active v...



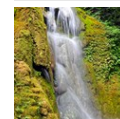
Espiritu Santo

Espiritu Santo, the largest island in the country and only an hour away by p...



Pentecost

On Pentecost you can witness the astounding Nagol ritual, where the islander...



Evergreen Mele Cascades

This waterfall is a wonder of nature. Pack your lunchbox, take a hike in the...



Millenium Cave

Located on the South coast of Vanuatu, Lunganville presents its visitors wit...



THE COUNTRY



livcool/Shutterstock.com

The capital Port Vila, located on Efate Island, is a central and lively hub. With interesting historical influences, Port Vila is a melting pot of Ni Vanuatu, French, English and Chinese shops and restaurants. The markets are the life of the town, with locals and tourists alike shopping for a vast array of local produce. From Port Vila it is easy to travel around the outer islands, each of them with something totally different to offer.

DO & SEE



Elena Nasledova/Shutterstock.com

Vanuatu's incredible geographical and cultural diversities bestow on travelers a multitude of sightseeing options. The outer islands offer the opportunity to really immerse in the Vanuatu experience. Each one has its own unique culture and attractions — travelers will certainly enrich their knowledge about the world after the trip. All of the islands are surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean. Discover the nation of Vanuatu –

and be mindful of its bewitching spell which will lure you back again and again.

Tanna Island



On Tanna you can visit Mt Yasur, one of the world's most accessible active volcanoes. This is truly an awesome "once in a lifetime" experience

and should not be missed. Tanna is also rich in giant banyan trees, waterfalls, black sand beaches, horse riding, and fascinating tribal villages.

Photo: Robert Szymanski/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tanna, Vanuatu

Espiritu Santo



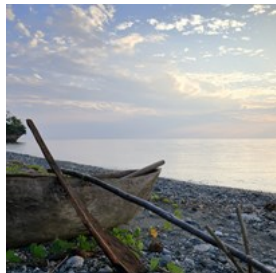
Espiritu Santo, the largest island in the country and only an hour away by plane from Port Vila, is an unspoiled and popular place for

snorkeling, diving, and even just for its relaxing deserted beaches. There are also many World War II sites such as Million Dollar Point, where the Americans dumped all their hardware into the ocean after the war, crashed B17 bombers, the destroyer USS "Tucker" and Santo's most famous attraction – the 22 000 ton SS "President Coolidge" that sank and now is the world's largest accessible wreck diving experience, attracting divers from all over the world.

Photo: Espiritu Santo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Espiritu Santo

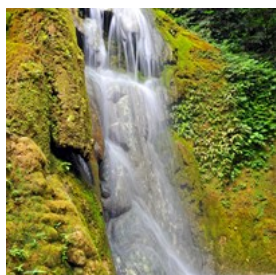
Pentecost



On Pentecost you can witness the astounding Nagol ritual, where the islanders build a huge tower to perform land diving. This ritual has been practiced for centuries and celebrates the Yam harvest. It is said to be the forerunner of today's bungee jumping.

Photo: livcool/Shutterstock.com
Address: Pentecost, Vanuatu

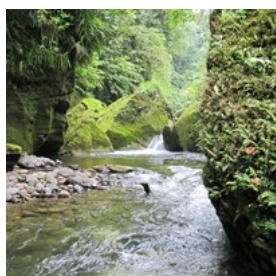
Evergreen Mele Cascades



This waterfall is a wonder of nature. Pack your lunchbox, take a hike in the area and take a day to relax and dive into the refreshingly cold stream.

Photo: Karin Wassmer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ring Road, Mele Maat, Vanuatu
Opening hours: Sun-Sat 8:30am-5pm
Phone: +678 23050

Millenium Cave



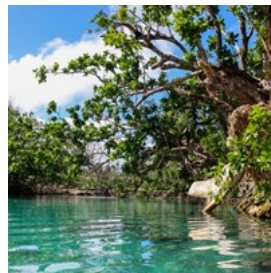
Located on the South coast of Vanuatu, Lunganville presents its visitors with numerous magic places. Adventurers will find the Millenium Cave particularly appealing. You can explore the waterfalls world hidden between rocks with a guided tour and meet curious creatures and plants on your way. Note that it can get a little rough so wear good shoes and be aware that some physical fitness is required.

Photo: Andrew Lynch / flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: Millennium Cave, Lunganville, Espiritu Santo 862,

Vanuatu

Phone: +678 547 0957
Internet: www.millenniumcavetour.weebly.com
Email: millenniumcavetrek@gmail.com
More Info: Full day tours take 7-8 hours

Blue Lagoon



Find the perfect get-away and swim in the azure waters of the Blue Lagoon. You can relax in the lagoon, surrounded a natural environment you won't find anywhere else. It is a fun experience for the whole family, and undoubtedly a great place to provide you with some gorgeous holiday photos.

Photo: Ed Goodacre / Shutterstock.com
Address: Efate Ring Road, Vanuatu

The Summit Gardens



Get a new perspective and climb the summit of Vanuatu. Not only will you get a great panoramic view, but will also find many entertainment facilities, such as a spa and the unique Essential Oils Distillery. Visit the beautiful tropical gardens and don't forget to bring one of the many locally made beauty products.

Photo: lkonya / Shutterstock.com
Address: Devil's Point Rd, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Phone: +678 566 0713
Internet: www.thesummitvanuatu.com/
Email: shop@thesummitvanuatu.com

Malekula Island

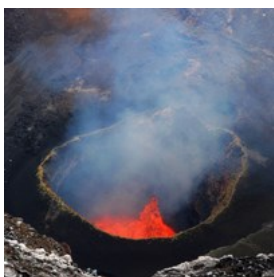


Malekula is the second largest island on Vanuatu and is known for its strong tribal presence. The island is the most diverse, culturally and linguistically, with over thirty distinct languages spoken. The villagers are very friendly and will be more than happy to share their proud cultural heritage with visitors.

Photo: Marci Paravia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Malekula, Vanuatu

Ambrym Island



Ambrym, with its twin volcanoes, is considered the SPIRITUAL centre of Vanuatu. Ambrym offers many opportunities for trekking between villages to see the fiery volcanoes up close.

Photo: Geophile71 (image cropped)

Address: Ambrym, Vanuatu

Mystery Island



This small island is the ideal place for a quiet and relaxing day on the beach. Take your family, explore the surroundings and enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Pacific.

Photo: Sam Unterman/Shutterstock.com

Address: Aneityum Island, Vanuatu

Efate



Despite being the most populous island in Vanuatu, there is still plenty of natural attractions. Take time to visit some of the smaller offshore islands, where you can take part in snorkeling, diving, turtle feeding, or fishing. The National Museum of Vanuatu and the markets in Port Vila will immerse you in the city's history and culture.

Photo: Karin Wassmer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Efate, Vanuatu

Back To My Roots Festival



During the annual Back to My Roots Festival, you can enjoy a whole week of activities. There are music performances, a pig killing ceremony, and, the highlight of the event, the mysterious Rom dance. It is held in August in the North part of the Ambrym island in August, known for its picturesque wood carvings.

Photo: Jantira Namwong / Shutterstock.com

Address: Tanna, North Ambrym, Vanuatu

DINING



vsl/Shutterstock.com

Port Vila has become famous for being a diners' paradise. The fresh seafood and local produce are superbly prepared into tantalizing dishes. Try the local Poulet fish or a fresh lobster for seafood, or get to know cuisines that are influenced by the country's French, Spanish and British colonial past. The variety is simply astounding. Try a succulent Santo beef steak, local Teoma prawns or be adventurous and sample roussette (flying fox), nautou (ground pigeon) and escargots (snails).

The national dish is called Laplap, made from grounded yam or taro roots, often mixed with pieces of pork, chicken, fish or flying fox, wrapped in banana leaves that are then soaked in a coconut and water mixture before being cooked in an underground oven. For vegetarians, there is the traditional nalot, made from breadfruit.

At the outer islands, restaurants outside resorts are very few. Most of the menus will have limited choices and are confined to local produce and island foods. Rice is included in many meals. Sample fresh vegetables, fruit and cuisine at the local markets.

L'Houstalet



L'Houstalet is Port Vila's most famous French restaurant on the island, blending local flavours with French influences. With a menu that remains

untouched for over 30 years, as well as a cozy atmosphere, here you will have your well-deserved meal after a day exploring the Efate.

Photo: Alessio Orru / Shutterstock.com

Address: Captain Cook Avenue, Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Fri-Wed 5pm-9pm, Thu 11:30am-1:30pm

Phone: +678 22 303

Wild Ginger



Wild Ginger at the Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa is an Asian fusion restaurant and teppanyaki bar. This place is perfect to

experience excellent, fresh fish such as sashimi and sushi.

Photo: Leigh Loftus / Shutterstock.com

Address: Elluk Road, Erakor Lagoon, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 6am-10pm

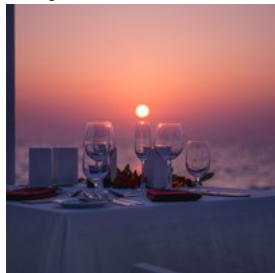
Phone: +678 22 313

Internet: www.warwickhotels.com/le-lagon-resort/services-and-amenities/dining/

Email: wildginger.lalagon@warwickhotels.com

More Info: Located at Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Off Kumul Highway

Tilly's Restaurant & Bar



At Tilly's Restaurant & Bar, you can get all sorts of dishes, from the outstanding Vanuatu cuisine to tapas, and New Zealand lamb as well. The chefs prepare the food with the very best, fresh seasonal produce to create a mouth-watering dish.

Photo: Cheewin Blue / Shutterstock.com

Address: Lini Highway, Fatumary Bay, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 6:30am-10pm

Phone: +678 27079

Internet: www.chantillysonthebay.com

More Info: Chantilly's on the Bay Resort

Chill Restaurant & Bar



Located near the markets, with a great view over the harbor, Chill Restaurant & Bar is the perfect spot for lunch. Here you can enjoy

delicious seafood for a good value, with a terrific lunch special that includes a soft drink, beer or glass of wine. On the menu, you will also find western comfort dishes, such as pasta and pizza.

Photo: alisafarov / Shutterstock.com

Address: Lini Highway, Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11am-9pm

Phone: +678 22578

More Info: Upstairs of Au Bon Marche Supermarket next to the Mamas Market

Tamanu on the Beach



Tamanu on the Beach will present you with an iconic South Pacific dining experience. In this open-air restaurant right by the Pacific Ocean, you can enjoy a gourmet dining cuisine menu with local organic meat and the freshest of seafood. Tamanu's signature dish, Lobster Mornay, is more than recommended.

Photo: Kheng Guan Toh / Shutterstock.com

Address: Efate, Vanuatu

Phone: +678 27279

Internet: www.tamanuonthebeach.com

More Info: Located at resort Tamanu on the Beach

Seaview Cafe



Sea View is one of the best for fast food and value meals. Here you can enjoy a nice lunch or dinner — or even a quick bite — by the pristine

Pacific waters.

Photo: Pixelbliss / Shutterstock.com

Address: Kumul Hwy, Town Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Phone: +678 27206

Island Time



Island Time proves that great flavours do not necessarily come at a great cost. With a wide choice of burgers and chicken dishes, you will certainly find something that suits your taste.

Photo: Kotin / Shutterstock.com

Address: Lini Highway, Port Vila, Efate 678, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 6:30am-9pm

Phone: +678 22538

CAFES



Kite_rin/Shutterstock.com

Café dining in Port Vila, Efate island, is abundant and varied, but limited in the remaining islands. On the other islands snacks are usually provided only at your accommodation and at established times - for this reason, or if you are travelling with younger children, it is best to check beforehand.

Au Peche Mignon



Experience the remains of the French influence at Au Peche Mignon through its French pastries that you can eat in or take away. Do not miss their

Wednesday morning crêpes and coffee, which will make you feel like you were at a roadside café in France.

Photo: icosha / Shutterstock.com

Address: Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6am-5pm, Sat-Sun 6am-12pm

Phone: +678 27271

Nambawan Café



You can watch the boats pass by at the Nambawan Café while enjoying a delicious Tanna coffee and a toasted Panini. This place is open for

breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Photo: Christopher Yasuma / Shutterstock.com

Address: Seafront, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 6am-8pm

Phone: +678 77 14826

Internet: www.nambawan.com

Jill's Café



Jill's Café is an American style coffee shop offering both indoor and outdoor dining. They have been serving customers for 15 years with fresh food for

breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dessert, all for a good price.

Photo: GCapture / Shutterstock.com

Address: Port Vila, Vanuatu

Phone: +678 25125

More Info: Across from Post Office

K2 Cafe



K2 Cafe is a one-of-a-kind cafe in Vanuatu. Its focus relies on sustainability, being mainly built from recycled materials. Their varied menu aims to

satisfy everyone's needs, from children to adults, catering both warm and cold beverages, bite-sized snacks and complete meals.

Photo: Nitr / Shutterstock.com

Address: Mele, Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Mon-Tue 6:30am-5pm, Wed-Fri

6:30am-9pm, Sat 6:30am-3:00pm

Phone: +678 35503

Internet: www.k2kitchenvanuatu.com

Email: kandy@k2kitchenvanuatu.com

Cafe Vila



Just a short walk from the town, Cafe Vila is the place to go for a refreshing cocktail. If you are in the mood for dining, there is also an

extensive and rich menu to chose from. The attentive staff will make sure that your order is carefully prepared.

Photo: Andrey Starostin / Shutterstock.com

Address: Pango Road, Port Vila, Efate 0000, Vanuatu

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 7am-9pm

Phone: +678 28128

Email: info@cafevila.vu

More Info: Located at Nasama Resort

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Julie Lyn (image cropped)

A night out in Vanuatu always begins with a “shell”. A shell is a drink of Kava made from the root of a plant similar to the pepper tree and has been used for centuries throughout the Pacific. Vanuatu Kava is renowned for being the strongest in the world, boasting 32 active components. Note though, if you are thinking of indulging: Kava is not an alcoholic drink. It is an intoxicant, the only legal narcotic in world. It is

not addictive, nor does it have damaging side effects. However, it does not taste at all nice, so skull it and then follow it with a sweet chaser. For it to have any effect the locals advice drinking two to three shells over a few minutes on an empty stomach.

Melanesian Nights



Melanesian Nights are held regularly at most major resorts and hotels. These nights include kastom dancing, kava drinking, local string bands, and traditional food. You can ask your hotel for more details.

Photo: Thomas Williams (image cropped)

ElektroRock



ElektroRock is claimed to be the best nightclub in Port Vila and is popular among locals and tourist alike. Here you can dance all night long and listen to the music played by the DJ.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Iini highway, Port Vila

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 4pm-3:30am, Fri-Sat 4pm-4am

Phone: +678 25151

Email: elektrorock@mail.com

Waterfront Bar and Grill



Do not expect any wild nightlife in Port Vila, but if you would like to have a few drinks and a bit of a boogie you can head to the Waterfront Bar and Grill Restaurant. The Waterfront Bar and Grill is

the focus of cruising yacht activities in Port Vila, and one of Port Vila's most popular places to dine, dance and enjoy live entertainment.

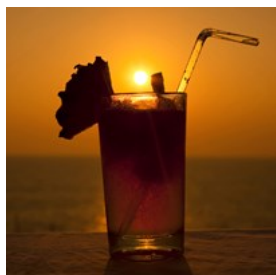
Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kumul Highway, Port Vila

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 10am-10pm

Phone: +678 23490

Banyan Beach Bar



Port Vila's only white sand bar, Banyan Beach Bar is centrally located. The great music, cocktails and snacks are everything that you need for a relaxing night outside after a day at the beach.

Photo: David Evison / Shutterstock.com

Address: Lini Highway, Fatumaru Bay, Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu Save

Nakamals



Port Vila, as well as Luganville on Santo, has loads of kava bars, locally known as Nakamals. Ask your hotel for the best one to visit. Some of the most popular ones include Ronnie's Nakamal in Nambatu, the Red Light Nakamal, near the hospital and Crows Nest Nakamal.

Photo: Robert Szymanski / Shutterstock.com

Address: Port Vila, Vanuatu

SHOPPING



DFAT photo library (image cropped)

Throughout Vanuatu, there are excellent traditional arts and crafts, predominantly made of fine weaving. Mostly produced by women, baskets and mats made from pandanus leaves and wild hibiscus stalks make for great tourist souvenirs. Wood carvings, shells and bead necklaces, headdresses, ankle rattles, and masks are also among the many local products that are unique to Vanuatu.

Wood Carvings



Outside the main island, Northern Ambrym is especially renowned for the creativity and skilfulness of its carvers. Along with miniature canoes, animals, bows, and bowls, most carvings are related to ancestral figures.

Photo: John Sones/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ambrym, Vanuatu

Markets



If you are after a bargain in Port Vila, check out Chinatown in Rue Carnot, Hebrida Market Place alongside the Lini Highway, and the

wonderful outdoor markets for fresh food and souvenirs. There are also some excellent duty-free stores offering a wide range of goods.

Photo: Alex Fonda / Shutterstock.com

Address: Vanuatu

Port Vila



Port Vila is the central point when it comes to shopping in Vanuatu. It also has the only duty-free port in the country. You will find shop after shop in this busy hub selling everything, handcrafted pieces to international products. Make sure you pick up a free city map from the Information Centre on the main street before you set out to your journey.

Photo: DFAT photo library (image cropped)

Address: Port Vila, Vanuatu

Luganville Town



Luganville has some general stores throughout the main road, including the women's market, a cheerful market where handmade crafts are sold.

Wood carvings made by local wood are also among the main products.

If you want groceries, then head over to LCM in the center of town, where you can get western commodity goods.

Photo: Bruce Tuten (image cropped)

Address: Luganville Town, Vanuatu

Stop Press



Need some travel literature or magazines for the beach? Then Stop Press is the ideal place for you. They offer a great variety of English

newspapers and books as well as travel guides and gifts.

Photo: Aigars Reinholds/Shutterstock.com

Address: Au Bon Marche, Vanuatu

Phone: +678 22232

Email: stoppress@vanuatu.com.vu

TOURIST INFORMATION



Henryk Sadura/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Immigration will initially allow passengers to stay for 30 days on a tourist visa, visitors are required to go to Vanuatu

Immigration and extend

the visa before the expiry date and pay a nominated fee. The maximum stay is up to 4 months from the date of arrival, each month a new extension visa must be applied for.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



Thanks to the tropical climate, the weather is generally good throughout the year. However, April to October is when the

weather is the most comfortable. The wet season is from November to March, with short periods of rain and warmer and more humid conditions, none of them affecting tours or activities. Year-round water temperatures swing between 22°C to 28°C, making swimming always enjoyable.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Bauerfield International Airport



Bauerfield International Airport is Vanuatu's international airport and you can find it 6 kilometres north of Port Vila. Port Vila can be

accessed by pre booked bus transfer or by taxi.

There is also the Peko International Airport on Santo and the White Grass International Airport on Tanna. You can reach the other islands by boat.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Bauerfield International Airport, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Internet: www.airports.vu

Transport



Mini buses in Vanuatu do not run according to specific routes or timetables, instead, they simply take you where you wish to go. Buses are

a cheap way of getting around and you can simply flag down one heading in the general direction you wish to go and they will, in a roundabout way, deliver you to that location.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Rental Cars



Car hire is available in Port Vila and Luganville, scooters only in Vila. To drive in Vanuatu you must be 23 years old or more and have held a

valid driver's license for one year. For a scooter, you have to be at least 17 old.

World Car Rentals:

P.O. Box 6066, Port Vila, Vanuatu

+678 26515

www.vanuaturentalcars.com

worldcars@vanuatu.com.vu

Photo: Beny1/Shutterstock.com

More Info: Nambatu Area

Taxi



On Efate, taxis are plentiful and relatively inexpensive. Once out of the capital, a taxi is usually a 4WD truck.

Charges can vary on a variety of factors including road conditions and distance, so it is best to come to an agreement on the fare before setting out.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Address: Vanuatu

Phone: +678 554 4206

Post



When in Port Vila you should visit the underwater post office or the volcano post. The underwater post office is a popular attraction with more than 200,000 visitors a year. Post Office is located in Rue Cornwall, Port Vila.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Internet: www.vanuatupost.vu

Pharmacy



25722

Photo: Gemma Garner

You can easily find a pharmacy in Port Vila. Ask your hotel for the nearest one. Healthwise Pharmacy: Lini Highway, Port Vila, Vanuatu +688

Telephone



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Country code: +678

Electricity



Photo: Stirling Tschan

230V / 50Hz. Australian appliances can all be used without an adaptor.

Population

247,459 (2016)

Currency

Vanuatu Vatu (Vt)

Opening hours

Shops are usually open from Mondays to Fridays and close for siesta between 11:30am and 1:30pm. Shops are open at their own discretion on Sundays.

Newspapers

Daily Post

Independent

Emergency numbers

Police: 111

Hospital: 112

Fire: 113

Marine: 114

Promedical: 115

Tourist information

Vanuatu Tourism Office

Rue Emile Mercet Street, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Open Mon–Fri 8 am–5 pm. Sat 8 am–1 pm

+678 22813