

# guide to Port Vila

Some practical tips and advice for the business traveller

VIEW FROM PORT VILA ACROSS TO IRIRIKI ISLAND

## ACCOMMODATION

For the business traveller, the following are the most suitable options:

### In Port Vila's main commercial area

Chantilly's on the Bay:  
www.chantillysonthebay.com

The Sebel Vanuatu:  
www.mirvachotels.com.au

### A five-minute drive away

Le Lagon Resort:  
www.lelagonvanuatu.vu

Le Meridien Resort:  
www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien

## BUSINESS HOURS

Offices and shops open from 7.30am to 11.30am and 1.30pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Banks, supermarkets and restaurants are open throughout the day. Most shops close at lunchtime on Saturday.

## CLIMATE

Port Vila has a subtropical climate. The best weather is between May and October, when it is mainly sunny, and rarely too hot (it can actually get fairly cool at night in this period).

## CURRENCY

Vanuatu's currency is the Vatu (Vt). The current exchange rate is 82.3Vt to the Australian dollar (7 Jan 2008). There are ATMs in the arrival hall at the airport and in the CBD.

## ELECTRICITY

The current in Vanuatu is 220 to 240V, 50Hz AC, using Australian-style plugs.

## EMBASSIES

See page 10.

## FOOD AND DRINK

There are plenty of high-quality dining options in and around Port Vila, many with a French influence. Local specialities are wonderful organic beef and seafood. Vanuatu also produces excellent coffee and beer, but wine is imported, mainly from

Australia and New Zealand.

Tilly's at Chantilly's Hotel is as good as anywhere. The Waterfront Bar and Restaurant is very popular with expat residents and tourists alike. Perhaps the most upmarket dining experience is at Crystals, in the new Sebel Vanuatu. On the top floor of the Sebel, the Hemisphere Lounge offers great views of the bay in an elegant setting.

Au Pêché Mignon, the French-owned bakery/café in the main street, is a Port Vila institution offering superb pastries, homemade pizzas and coffee.

There are a couple of supermarkets in the main street and several duty free shops. A couple of pubs are located close together at the airport end of the main street: The Anchor Inn is linked to the local brewery, while The Office Pub also has good food and very friendly service. Both show sport on satellite TV.

## GETTING AROUND

Vehicles drive on the right hand side of the road. Taxis are plentiful around the centre of Port Vila (but, like most places, it can be a little bit tricky to find one on late Friday afternoons). They are also inexpensive, although often shabby.

For a fare from the airport to Port Vila central hotels you can reckon on 1000Vt–1500Vt; and around 500Vt from Le Meridien or Le Lagon to the city centre. You should always agree on the fare with the taxi driver at the beginning of the trip. Another option is to hire a car. Rental car company offices are located in Port Vila's international airport, and downtown in both Vila (Efate) and Luganville (Santo). The rental company can usually supply a driver too.

## GETTING THERE AND AWAY

Air Vanuatu flies direct from Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland, and includes a business-class service to Port Vila. Pacific Blue currently has two flights a week from

Brisbane. Aircalin, Air New Zealand and Air Pacific also service Port Vila.

The international airport, Bauerfield, is conveniently located 6km from Port Vila.

## HEALTH

No vaccinations are required. If you are leaving Port Vila then you should enquire about whether you need anti-malarial medication.

Be warned that the standard of healthcare in Vanuatu falls well below that of Australia and New Zealand. There is no private hospital in Port Vila, although there is a private clinic. You are strongly advised to have adequate health insurance (as medical evacuation can cost as much as AUD\$40,000).

## MEDIA

The main daily newspaper in Vanuatu is the Daily Post, available from hotels and street vendors. Radio Australia is broadcast 24 hours a day on 103FM.

## SAFETY

Port Vila is fairly safe by most standards, but the usual caution should be shown, especially after dark.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mobile phone coverage is good in the Port Vila area and international GSM mobiles can pick up the local network.

Internet access in Vanuatu has improved dramatically over the past two years. There are a few internet cafes on the main street (Lini Highway), the main street of Port Vila, and the hotels listed above have terminals that guests can use, as well as wireless access.

## VISAS

Citizens of Australia, New Zealand and the European Union are among those who do not need an entry visa to enter Vanuatu, but every visitor must have an onward ticket and their passport must be valid for at least four months from their date of arrival. Visitors will be issued with a visa upon arrival that is initially valid for 30 days, and can be extended. ■



# Creating opportunities between Australia and the Pacific

The Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission aims to contribute to the sustainable economic advancement of the Pacific Island Forum countries by supporting private sector development in the region.

PITIC (Australia) is one of four overseas agencies of the Suva-based Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Forum's other overseas offices are located in Japan, New Zealand, and the People's Republic of China. PITIC works closely with a network of government, peak industry bodies and non-government agencies to deliver a range of practical trade, export, tourism and investment support services to businesses in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission is funded by the Government of Australia through AusAID.



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# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PARADISE

The Vanuatu Islands are well known for their very peaceful and rich cultural environment. The Islands have some of the most beautiful landscapes and unique tourist attractions in the South Pacific.

Investment in these Islands is welcome and there are numerous opportunities, especially in tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES.

Vanuatu is a tax haven country. There are no income taxes on company income or employees income, no capital gains taxes, freedom to repatriate capital. With this and other incentives offered by the country to foreign investors, excellent international air and shipping links to Australia, New Zealand and the world, excellent telecommunications services, a growing tourist industry and strong recognition of the importance of foreign and local investment in the country by all political parties and the Government, this is an opportune time to invest in Vanuatu.

For local investors, we encourage expansion and diversification of commercial activities, locally and internationally.



For more information please contact  
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