



Vanuatu Guide

We can't take you around by hand, but this might help... This brief guide will provide you with some basic information about Vanuatu that you might find useful when preparing to visit it for the first time.

Climate

The best time to visit Vanuatu is during the dry season, from May through to October. The temperature during this time is around 23°Celsius. Most popular is the Winter season, during June, July and August, when there is less humidity.

From November to April is the wet season with temperatures up to 32°C, when it's hot, humid and with periods of heavy rain. Use www.ausmaps.com/converter.php for precise temperature conversions, from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Business hours

Offices and shops open from 7.30 am to 11.30 am and from 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm. Siesta (lunchtime break) is from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, when businesses and shops close. Banks, supermarkets, restaurants and cafes remain open through Siesta.

Offices and shops are open Monday to Friday. Many shops open on Saturday morning, while general stores are open 7 days a week.

Post Office and Telecom

The Post Office opens Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 11.30 am and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm, observing Siesta. However, the Post Shop selling stamps, postcards, post boxes is open through Siesta.

The Telecom Sales Office, for faxes and international calls, is located in the Post Office. It is open same hours as The Post Office, observing Siesta.

Internet

The main Internet Café is in the town, not far from the Post Office building, on the same side of the street. It opens 7 days, from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm, without observing Siesta.

As of 2006 onwards, Worawia is now the official Community Postal Agency for Mele and Mele-Maat area, selling postage stamps and post cards. Mail collection is also available at the resort on a regular basis, provided by Vanuatu Post Ltd. Other products and services such as Telecom Vanuatu Ltd. phonecards and public phone booth are earmarked for implementation during 2006..

Medical

Visitors don't need vaccinations, but anti-malaria medication is recommended, in particular for visits to outer islands. There are no dangerous animals or insects. Urban water is safe to drink, although bottled water is readily available.

There are several private doctors. Both Port Vila (Efate island) and Louganville (Santo island) have hospital facilities.

Currency and VAT

Vanuatu local currency is the Vatu, usually abbreviated as Vt, although its international sign is VUV. Its value is subject to exchange rate, although it is a fairly stable currency. Australian dollar and other foreign currency, as well as credit cards are widely accepted in Port Vila, although the outer islands prefer Vatu.



CASCADES WATERFALL

There are 7 ATM's (Automatic Teller Machines) in Vanuatu - 6 in Port Vila and 1 in Louganville, on Santo island.

There are branches of the National Bank of Vanuatu, ANZ and Westpac in Port Vila, where currency can be exchanged 8.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. However, there are also other currency exchanges in some of the private businesses, usually at duty free shops.

VAT (Value Added Tax) of 12.5% is charged on goods and services, as there is no income tax in Vanuatu.

Tipping

In accordance with Vanuatu custom neither tipping nor bargaining are practiced in Vanuatu.



WORAWIA HOLIDAY HAVEN

www.resort-vanuatu.com

Electrical voltage

Vanuatu uses Australian/New Zealand type of 3-pin plugs, for 220-280 volts power/electricity supply. Plug converters can be bought in some local electrical supplies or hardware stores as well as some general stores.

Transport

Driving in Vanuatu is on the right hand side of the road. Cars and 4WD vehicles are available for hire from several hire companies, such as Avis, Budget, Discount Rentals, Hertz and Laho Rent A Car.

Taxis are metered, but for long rides negotiate a price. Some taxis can be hired for a full or half a day.

Public transport is available in mini buses, usually marked with a Red B on the number plate. For 200vt the buses will take you anywhere in central Port Vila.

Duty Free

Visitors' personal effects are duty free. Passengers over 15 years of age may bring into Vanuatu duty free: 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco or 50 cigars; 1.5 litres of alcohol or wine; 250ml eau de toilette; 100ml of perfume.

Duty free goods can be purchased on all Air Vanuatu flights, at the international airport or the Duty Free shops in Port Vila. Check with flight attendants about any changes to the above items limits.

Air Vanuatu

Air Vanuatu, in conjunction with Qantas, has flights to Auckland in New Zealand, Sydney and Brisbane in Australia, Noumea in New Caledonia, Nadi in Fiji and Honiara in the Solomon Islands.

The Sales Office in Rue de Paris, in Port Vila (next to National Bank of Vanuatu) is open Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 5.00 pm and on weekends from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm. Telephone: +678 23 848 or 23 878; fax +678 23 250 or 26 591.

Vanair, Vanuatu's domestic airline, flies to the outer islands. Telephone: +678 25 045 or 25 025; fax: +678 25 035.

Visas and entry requirements

All visitors must have a return/onward ticket and a passport with a four-month minimum validity beyond their arrival date.

For stays of up to 30 days, nationals of Commonwealth and EU countries, Fiji, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, South Korea, Switzerland and the USA do not require visas.

To extend the permits (up to 4 months maximum in any one year), contact the Immigration Department, PMB 092, Port Vila. Telephone: +678 22 354; fax: 25 492

Vanuatu Public Holidays and Festivals

Some of the more important and celebrated holidays and festivals in Vanuatu are:

January 1st	New Year's Day - nationwide	July 30th	Independence Day - nationwide
March 5th	Custom Chiefs' Day – nationwide	August 3rd–8th	Vanuatu Golf Open, held at Port Vila Golf and Country Club, next door to Worawia [link to Entertainment page]
March or April	Easter Day - nationwide	August 15th	Assumption Day
April & May	Land Diving (Nagol in native language) on Pentecost island [link to Entertainment page]	October 5th	Constitution Day
May 1st	Labour Day	October	Fest Napuan Music Festival – Port Vila
May 5th	Ascension Day	November 29th	Unity Day – nationwide
June	Fete de la Musique (in Port Vila and on Santo, Tanna and Malekula islands)	December 25th	Christmas Day - nationwide
July 25th	Children's Day	December 26th	Family Day - nationwide



PORT VILA