



M.Dosdane - NCTPS

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NEW CALEDONIA, PACIFIC HEART

Located 20,000 km from France, and in close proximity to Australia and New Zealand, New Caledonia is an archipelago in the South Pacific. This French collectivity of Kanak origin is made up of the Mainland, 450km long, the Loyalty Islands to the east (Ouvéa, Lifou, and Maré), Belep Island to the north and Isle of Pines to the south ... not forgetting the myriad of islets which provide this territory with an incalculable biodiversity.

Surrounded by the world's second largest coral barrier reef, six zones of New Caledonia's vast lagoon are listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO. The exceptional biodiversity, both respected and protected, creates a symphony of marine species and colours equalled only by the endemic species in the native forests of the Mainland. Twice the size of Corsica, the open cast nickel mines on the Mainland, the vast cattle rearing plains travelled the length and breadth by stockmen, the clans of the land and sea and the idyllic islets and white sand beaches capture the imagination of all visitors to the destination.

New Caledonia enjoys a temperate tropical climate which makes it easy to plan a holiday at any time of the year. From the austral winter, from June to August, with temperatures ranging from 20° to 23°, to the tropical summer, from December to March, with temperatures rarely exceeding 32°, life is good in New Caledonia.

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KANAK CULTURE “MY ART IS MY WORD”

"Kanak" signifies « man »; the culture regroups its people in a traditional society founded on an organisation determined by the clans, with clearly defined relationships in terms of hierarchy. Men and women comply with established roles; the wisdom of their ancestors is always pre-eminent.

New Caledonia counts 341 tribes which perpetuate the ancestral way of life, living mainly off agriculture and fishing. These rural populations welcome visitors to the tribe throughout the island, from the Loyalty Islands to Hienghène or Yaté.

Kanak Art belongs to a world where everything is symbolic. Visitors are welcomed to tribal huts adorned with engravings to the entrance and fine sculptures, a tangible reminder of the deceased ancestor. The monstrance jade axes, made in Ouvéa, are exchanged and serve as a symbol of power for the chiefs during tribal gatherings. The roof sculptures and the carved door frames of the main houses reinforce the social links and the place of every individual amidst the ancestors and spirits.

The « custom »

As is the case everywhere in Oceania, the exchange of symbolic gifts accompanies each encounter, social or family event. With each birth, marriage or death, members of the clan exchange signs of respect; the complex alliances between tribes create veritable and renewable roads of exchange, winding mostly from east to west.

The person who « performs the custom » lays his offering down in front of him (yam, cloth, money etc.) and gives a speech explaining the reason for this gesture; the person that « receives » or picks up the custom signifies that it is accepted. He gives a « return gesture » made up of an equivalent gift which symbolizes his thanks. During this exchange of custom, each person reconfirms his respect for the other and commits to abide by the laws of the clan. The given word is sacred.

Kanak money is part of the custom rituals. The assembling of shells or bat bones on a wire completed by a basket made from plaited vegetable fibres, is both an expression and symbol of social exchanges.

The taro and the yam The unchanging cycle of the culture of the yam, a fundamental staple, and the taro, takes on a sacred dimension and dictates the rhythm of life in the clans throughout the year.

This tuber is born, dies and is reborn following a perpetual cycle which symbolises the divine order. Constantly tended to and cultivated only by men, the yam represents a noble offering and an emblem of virility and honour. Each year, the appearance in the sky of the Pleiades constellation marks the moment of the harvest of the first tubers: these first fruits are reserved for the paternal lineage and elders



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of the clan. From February through to April, depending on the region, the remaining crop of tubers reach maturity and can be harvested.

At this time, each clan celebrates the **New Yam Festival**, a series of ritual ceremonies which feature custom exchanges, united gestures and words, songs and dances. These festivals occasionally welcome visitors to the region.

Tjibaou Cultural Centre

Located ten minutes from Noumea city, the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, designed by Renzo Piano, features an imposing and resolutely modern style edifice, both sober and svelte, inspired by traditional Kanak architecture. The Centre showcases the archeological and linguistic Kanak heritage and contributes to the continuing development of the culture today by providing support to various Kanak artistic initiatives (dance, songs, music...) and houses art exhibitions, a museum, an auditorium and a library.

Official website: <http://www.adck.nc/>

THE NEW CALEDONIAN PEOPLE

First people: the Kanak ancestors

Between 70,000 and 40,000 years ago, Homo sapiens departed south-east Asia in the direction of New Guinea, Australia and Tasmania, achieving the first navigation on the open sea in history and the first island population.

With effect from 1500 BC new populations speaking Austronesian languages and with origins from insular Asia landed on the islands in the Bismarck Archipelago, east of New Guinea. Migration continued towards the south of Melanesia as from 1200 BC. Towards 1100 BC these exceptional navigators reached New Caledonia, the most southern tip of the Melanesian arch.

They settled on the Mainland and Loyalty Islands. On the original sites, archeologists discovered Lapita pottery, as astonishing in the variety of its decorative drawings as in the diversity of its shapes and complexity of engraved motifs. These first migrants were the ancestors of New Caledonia's native population.

The pioneers

Explorers and scientists – including James Cook who discovered New Caledonia in 1774 – were the first Europeans to enter in contact with the Melanesian tribes settled on the island.



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Aside from the penitentiary colonisation in 1864, numerous settlers arrived individually and for a variety of reasons. Some civil servants decided to stay on following the end of their posting, joined by a large community from Alsace and Lorraine in France, following the end of the 1870 war. Together with the « first » settlers, numerous communities enrich the culture and economy of New Caledonia today: traditions from Vietnam, Indonesia, Wallis, Reunion, Japan and Polynesia (a large community of Tahitian extraction settled in New Caledonia) also contribute to the cultural melting pot of the island.

Bushmen and Stockmen

« The Bush » is the New Caledonian name for the rest of the Mainland excluding the region of Noumea. It is the land of « Bushmen », descendants of the first settlers of varied origins, out of which has arisen a traditional way of life, inspired by Australia, Melanesia and Europe.

With a similar lifestyle to the Bushmen, the stockmen, cattle breeders and French style cowboys, run cattle stations in the gum tree savannah which is only accessible on horseback. Stockmen live on ranches inspired by the Australian model of cattle stations: large areas of land surrounded by fences, a stockyard to treat the animals, a hanger for the equipment, a windmill to pump the water supply, cattle dogs ... their ability to train horses and bulls is showcased at the local rodeos.

The penal colony

The inauguration of the **Penal Colony Museum** at the beginning of 2015 was a reminder of the impact the convicts had on the history of New Caledonia.

From 1863 to 1931, 22,000 convicts were sent to New Caledonia of which 4,000 were political prisoners mostly from the region of Paris, as well as numerous repeat offenders of minor crimes, including many women, and also deportees of Kabyle origin following the Algerian revolution in 1871.

Significant figures like Louise Michel took up the cause for this new country. The descendants of those who settled in New Caledonia make up an important part of the local European population of today.

- **Walk through the tracks of the Penal Colony**

Situated in the Southern Province, this walkway includes 12 signposts explaining the life and destiny of the convicts.



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A MAGNIFICENT LAGOON, LISTED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

An exceptional underwater world

With a total surface area of 24,000 km², New Caledonia is home to the largest lagoon in the world with the distinctive feature of varied marine currents – cold and hot – which create a multi facet aquatic environment in the heart of the Pacific Ocean.

Since 2008, a total of 15,000 km² of the New Caledonian lagoon is listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO. The diversity of its reefs create an unequalled underwater showcase. Barrier reefs, open water reefs, coral islets and atolls, are examples of the different ecosystems that protect thousands of fish and endemic species like the New Caledonian nautilus.

Under constant supervision, this marine paradise is a haven for turtles during the laying season, a reproduction zone for marine birdlife, a safe passage for hump back whales during their mating season, and also home to an abundance of Napoleon fish, parrot fish, manta rays and dugongs ...

Since April 2014, New Caledonia boasts the largest protected marine area in France and one of the most significant in the world. [The new Coral Sea Natural Park](#) extends over more than 1,3 million km², the objective being to protect the marine environment whilst contributing to the sustainable development of nautical activities.

Snorkeling and underwater walkway, fun and accessible for all

Snorkelling provides a fun and educational approach to exploring the marine world at only a few metres from the beach. It is an activity which is accessible to all, including families, with no specific training required, perfect for all fitness levels and no age limit. The underwater paths are well travelled along the coral barrier reef or surrounding the many islets. Turtles, rays and fish are in abundance, floating over the fragile coral formations.

- **Duck Island underwater walkway-**
This underwater walkway, located just off the Noumea beaches, follows a pathway designated by the environmental initiation centre with a series of buoys signaling different species, for solo or group snorkelers.
- **Underwater excursion on Poindimié reef-** Aqualagoon organises an underwater experience in close proximity to the unbelievably beautiful reef: coral, fish, and sea cucumbers are plentiful ... morning excursions with a choice of two different sites.
- **Underwater excursion on Hiengha Islet**
The visit of the underwater walkway on Hiengha Islet, listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO, provides an interactive encounter with the aquatic flora and fauna in the region.



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Free diving

Sporting amateurs of the underwater world can explore the silent depths right up to the Dumbea pass, 30 minutes from Noumea, or as far as Tenia Islet, a stretch of land close to the reef which protects many species including the « tricot rayé », a striped sea snake.

Tank diving for deep water enthusiasts

With an average depth of 20 metres, the New Caledonia lagoon is home to more than 1,965 species of fish, 350 species of coral and 20,000 invertebrates, which makes it one of the most populated marine regions in the world in terms of its fauna, equalled only by not less than 545 marine plant species.

The mild climate in New Caledonia means that underwater diving can be organised all year round ensuring encounters with leopard rays, damselfish, clown fish, leopard sharks and sea cows ...

If required, New Caledonia has a Comex 1800 decompression chamber located in proximity to the hospital in Noumea, which is operational 24 hours per day throughout the year.

Special sites for enthusiasts of rare species

Amongst the most widely known are Lifou with its arches and coloured gorgonians, the reefs in the north of the Mainland listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO since July 2008 and the underwater caves at Gadji Bay close to Isle of Pines, one of numerous examples of wells, passes and countless caves. Two giants are in competition with the multicoloured turbulence: the **humpback whales** which reproduce in the New Caledonian waters between July and September, and the **shipwrecks** like La Dieppoise, last wooden patrol ship of the French navy.

Pleasure boating for cruising the ocean waves

Pleasure boating applies to all types of navigation and is an ideal means of island hopping to take full advantage of the numerous beaches and nautical activities. Yacht or motor boat hire, bareboat or skipper cruising and superb day excursions: crew and aspiring crew can meet up at « Maison du Lagon » on Port Moselle to organise their excursion.

- **Cabin cruising** - Primarily three day cruises to explore the southern lagoon on the south coast of the Mainland, these cruises can also extend to 5 or 8 days to sail as far as the Isle of Pines.
- **Half day or full day excursions** - On board a motor boat, these excursions are the perfect option for visiting the islands close to Noumea with plenty of time for relaxation and exploration : Amédée Lighthouse Island, Signal Island or Larégnère Island ...
- **Whale watching excursions** - During the season, the boat operators offer one day or two day excursions for close up observation of the antics of the humpback whales in the southern lagoon. The larger boats can even accompany these mammals on their voyage back to the Antarctic during a five day cruise in the direction of the Torche bank.



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- **A perfect spot for nautical sporting enthusiasts** - Whether your preference is for over or below the waves, or both, the best spots in the world can be found in the New Caledonia lagoon. Each to his own: Stand up paddle, windsurf, kitesurf, water skiing, jet-ski, fly board... The destination is world renowned for all types of nautical activities!

La Maison du Lagon (Lagoon Activities Centre)

This one address federates 25 operators divided into six different activity sectors : yacht charter (with crew), pleasure boating, diving and free diving, taxi boats, passenger transport operators and other sporting activities such as jet-ski, kitesurfing, deep sea fishing etc.

Official website: www.maisondulagon.nc

Port of Call Log Book for New Caledonia

This technical and practical guide book for pleasure boats and yachts is entirely dedicated to water sports in New Caledonia. Published in French and English, the guide is an essential tool for sailors who are planning to navigate the New Caledonia lagoon. The guide can also be downloaded on the website <http://fr.visitnouvellecaledonie.com/> and is distributed to the various yacht clubs in the Pacific.

AMAZING NATURE

Unique landscapes: the Great Southern Lakes listed with the Ramsar International Convention

The New Caledonian lagoon, listed as a World Heritage Site, is not the only natural treasure of international importance. The **Great Southern Lakes** have been included in the **Ramsar International Convention** (formally the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance), since the beginning of 2014, protecting 44,000 hectares of wet zones which are also the source of the largest reservoir of freshwater in the territory. This ecosystem abounds in endemic species including gum trees, mountain kauris and protected conifers. This is also the breeding ground for the fish species, Galaxias néocaledonicus, vestige of ancient fauna from Gondwana.

An invaluable natural wealth

New Caledonia is home to more than 3,300 species of flora of which 77% are endemic. Heir to vegetation dating from the dinosaur era, the country possesses numerous living fossils such as the *Amborella trichopoda*, considered by leading botanists to be the « mother » of all flowering plants. The columnar pines, cyathea – an **arborescent fern** – and the niaouli trees decorate the landscape. The natural heritage of the archipelago is also made up of 4,300 different animal species and 1,000 varieties of fish. The **cagou** (a flightless bird which barks) and the flying fox (fruit bat), two emblematic



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examples of the endemic species which populate New Caledonia, are protected by strict regulations as they are threatened by predators and hunters

Hiking Tracks for all fitness levels

A mountain chain spans the Mainland from north to south, offering two completely different facets to visitors of the region: the eastern slope caressed by the trade winds provides elevated and rugged heights, whereas the western slope offers a panorama of plains exploited for cattle rearing and farming, and the uncanny shape of the Heart of Voh, a natural expanse of mangroves in a giant symbol of love. The inland country reveals numerous valleys and rain forests.

These landscapes can be travelled by foot, on mountain bike or horseback by using the looped or crisscross walking tracks. At the present time, there are **21 PR (Petites Randonnées or shorter tracks)** and **2 GR (Grandes Randonnées or longer tracks)**.

- **The GR1 NC**

With stages of a difficult level, the unique 'Grande Randonnée' circuit, crossing through Kanak country, attracts hardened trampers from the world over. The longest standing part of the track is divided into seven stages, equipped with overnight huts and security shelters connecting Prony to the Dumbea barrier. Since the beginning of 2014, a new section has been opened in the northern part: five stages in both directions are operational, with over 70 kilometres of signposted tracks and possibility to stay over in a tribe each evening (hut + common area + sanitary block).

- **The Northern GR, 5 operational stages**

Inaugurated in October 2013, the first five stages of the GR® Nord allow trampers to explore the isolated and little known regions in the Northern Province. The track begins in the peaceful valley of Tchamba, and ends at the narrow alluvial plain of Tewadé (Tiouandé), south of Hienghène, going deep into areas of land which have remained unconquered for many years, surging into the labyrinth of primary forests, and following the line of lofty ridges amidst the sparse niaouli trees which dominate the surrounding valleys. The track crosses sometimes turbulent rivers like the Tiwaka, runs alongside zones with an impressive ornithological wealth like the Important Bird Areas (IBA) on the heights of Tchamba and crosses many welcoming tribal villages.

- **The Netcha loops for mountain bike enthusiasts**

Classed as an area with sustainable natural resource management, Netcha offers mountain bikers not less than 7 tracks with varying levels of difficulty, located on the banks of the Rivière des Lacs and in proximity to the Madeleine Waterfalls.



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- The Deva Domain at Bourail, a range of activities spread over 8,000 hectares of land**
 The regional planning of the Deva domain is focus on one area, naturally bordered by the lagoon, on which is organised a multitude of water activities, walking tracks, 160km of mountain bike tracks and 90km of horseback trails. Platform lookouts offer fabulous views over the surrounding nature. A reconstructed Kanak village and cultural centre for New Caledonia and the Pacific Region will add a cultural dimension to the domain.

ROMANTIC DESTINATION FOR ALL LOVERS

Honeymoons and official weddings

A combination of tropical climate, crystal-clear waters, fine sand beaches, sunshine in abundance and French cuisine, attracts numerous honeymooners, in particular to the luxury hotels on the Isle of Pines or Loyalty Islands. French or European couples choose the destination not only for the romantic sunsets but also for the opportunity to encounter a culture which is both foreign and familiar. New Caledonia's close 'neighbours' from Japan and Australia dream of tying the knot in these idyllic surroundings.

An amendment to the French law LODEOM now enables foreign nationals to get legally married in New Caledonia without have to comply with the previous condition of one month's residence. Specific documents need to be produced prior to the ceremony including a certificate delivered by the registrar of births, deaths and marriages in their country of origin, proof of celibacy or dissolution of a previous marriage and proof of residence. Future couples are required to register their application with the Town Hall at least one month prior to the display of the marriage banns. The marriage is legalized by sending a record of the file to the corresponding consulate office.

Official website for Noumea Town Hall: <http://www.ville-noumea.nc>

Isle of Pines

Located south of the New Caledonia archipelago, « Kunié », or Isle of Pines, is an ode to romance. Idyllic bays, white sand beaches and turquoise waters of the Pacific offer a picture perfect stage for an unforgettable romantic getaway. The island is conducive to passionate declarations and the promise of a life together.



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Onboard an outrigger canoe amidst an immense marine reserve, couples can drift over the smooth waters in the morning dew or walk along the beach in the evening accompanied by extraordinary and very romantic sunsets. Amongst the enduring memories of the island, the natural swimming pool at Oro sculpted in the coral and surrounded by splendid columnar pines, would be a top contender.

The Loyalty Islands

Landscapes of white sand beaches, immense coconut palms and magnificent cliffs, the islands provide a unique opportunity to become immersed in the traditional Melanesian culture. By joining a fishing expedition or walking through the villages, visitors can experience the daily life of the Kanak people whose lifestyle has remained largely unchanged.

The ancestral fishing techniques are still applied today: the casting net to catch the white fish or red mullet, seine nets for rockling or snapper and harpoons for the spine foot rabbit fish. Troll fishing in the deep sea will catch tuna and barracuda.

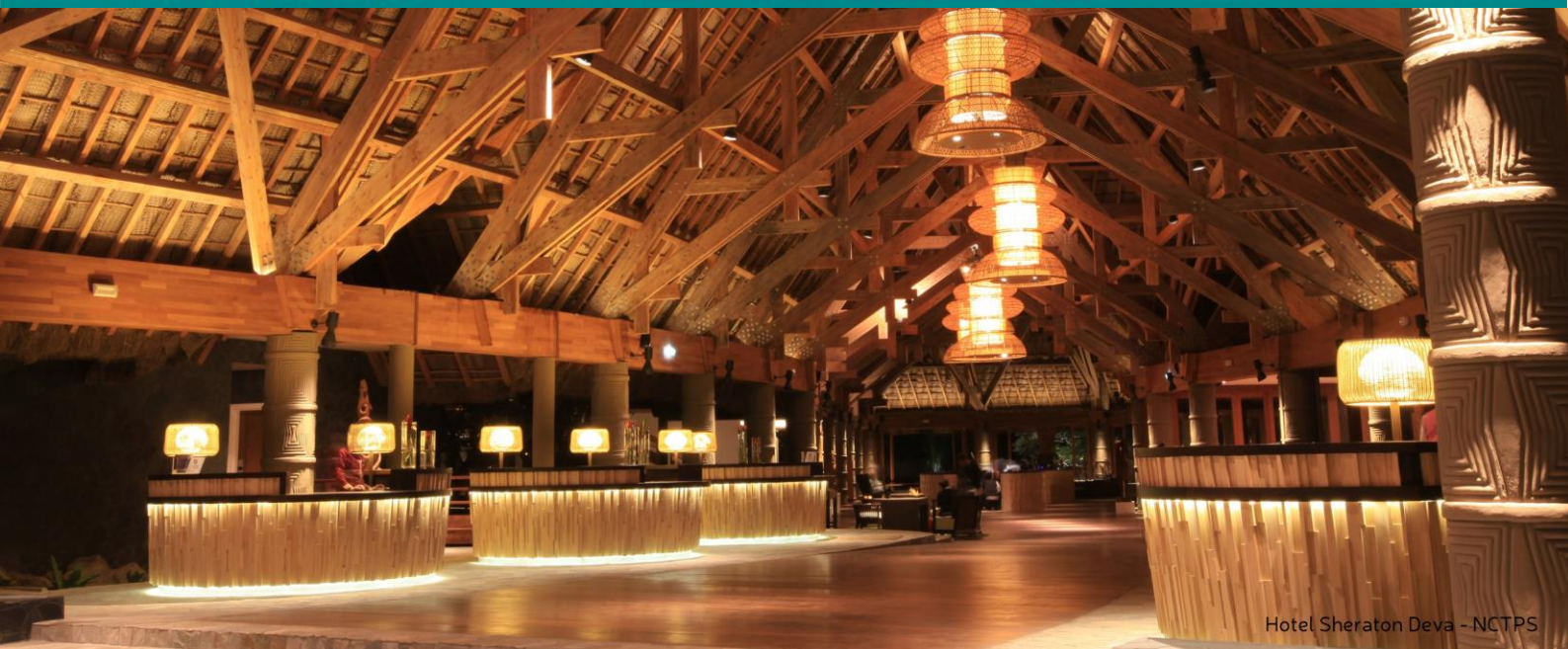
Each island has its admirers: Ouvéa for its sheer beauty and beaches, Lifou for its immense bays traced by column pines and Maré for its complete synthesis of island splendor. Three pearls in the unique casket of a blue azure lagoon ...

ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL TASTES

As ideal for honeymooners as it is for backpackers as it is for travellers looking to experience the island by car, New Caledonia offers a choice of accommodation options from tribal villages to farm lodgings to Ecolodges to the expected service provided by international hotel chains.

Tribal lodgings

This unique formula provides basic but authentic accommodation within a tribal village. The tribal members welcome visitors personally and introduce them to their way of life and customs in the form of daily tasks: weaving, fishing, cooking, working in the fields ... Visits to the natural beauty spots and magical moments listening to stories and legends are often the beginning of lifetime friendships. Accommodation is single or shared, and in a cabin, tent, bungalow or thatched hut, depending on the village. Sanitary blocks are often shared, hot water is not guaranteed... but temperatures are mild all year round.



Hotel Sheraton Deva - NCTPS

Some examples:

Au Bon Accueil

Charming accommodation in the Bas Coulina tribal village, along the banks of the river and at the far end of the Hienghène valley; the perfect departure point for a hiking or fishing expedition.

Seday

Four thatched huts and a campground with 10 tents on the island of Maré which attracts honeymooners or rock climbing enthusiasts. Their seafood meals are well renowned.

Chez Elise

Hut accommodation or camping nestled in the middle of the Oui-Poin tribal village in lush and verdant surrounds.

Latest news of some hotels

Le Méridien Hotel Noumea

Situated at the far end of Pointe Magnin with direct access to the beach, Le Meridien Noumea is only 10 minutes from the city centre and in close proximity to an 18 hole golf course at Tina. The hotel has undergone an extensive refurbishment included new design and décor of their classic/superior rooms and brand new resort suites, plus the addition of 22 'long stay/family' suites with kitchenette facilities. A new lobby bar - Latitude 22 has also be created as well as the refurbishment of all public areas including its two restaurants, lobby, function and banquet rooms and the addition of a brand new 900 square metre Deep Nature Spa which features indoor/outdoor spa pool.

Le Méridien Ile des Pins, on Isle of Pines

Perfect destination for couples and honeymooners, the unique luxury resort on the Isle of Pines enjoys a privileged location nestled amongst hundred year old columnar pines bordering the lagoon of Oro Bay. Luxury, tranquility and sensual pleasure are guaranteed. The hotel has also undergone a soft refurbishment, with the transformation of their deluxe rooms, bungalow-suites, restaurant, bar and public areas, plus the addition of a new cardio fitness centre. It offers a Deep Nature Spa and a horizon pool. The main attraction however is the proximity to the Oro natural swimming pool as well as the vast array of nautical activities on offer.

Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Resort & Spa

Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort boast an ideal beachfront location on the scenic west coast of New Caledonia. Owned by the Société Hotelière de Deva, the new-build Resort is one of five Sheraton properties which opened across the Pacific region in 2014.



Escapade Island Resort - GLP Hotels

Located in Bourail (North of Noumea), this 180-room Resort has 60 bungalows, an 18-hole golf course (PAR72) designed by Dye, a health club and Deep Nature Spa. Activities on offer includes water sports such as diving, snorkelling, sailing, windsurfing, jet skiing, water skiing, wakeboarding and kite surfing as well as tennis, squash, cricket, cycling and horse riding in the mountains.

Hilton Noumea La Promenade Residences (GLP Hotels)

With a newly renovated main entrance, lobby and gym currently receiving a face-lift, the Hilton Noumea La Promenade Residences is the first Hilton property to open in New Caledonia. The property now features 154 spacious and modern, self-catering apartments, with uninterrupted views over the UNESCO world Heritage lagoon, heated swimming pool, La Terrasse restaurant serving Pacific Rim cuisine and a glass walled chapel with panoramic views over Anse Vata Bay.

Escapade Island Resort (GLP Hotels)

A recent video of Escapade Island Resort filmed by a drone leaves no doubt that the island is a South Seas dream. Located just 20 minutes from Noumea by boat and surrounded by a 200 hectare marine reserve, Escapade Resort fulfils your dream of an island experience without the hassle of an extra airport/flight. What's more, guests staying at the hotel can catch the boat into Noumea during the day for sightseeing or lunch at no extra charge (five return transfers operating each day).

The resort has 25 overwater bungalows facing the sunset and 44 island bungalows. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, swim up bar, pool, water activities centre, Thai massage, boutique and chapel, if you decide to renew your vows when you are over there !

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I4b3HOQnSk>

Nouvata Parc Hotel – GLP Hotels

This hotel complex regroups three hotels ranging from 2* to 3* around a large swimming pool and tropical gardens. Nouvata Parc Hotel has an ideal location on Anse Vata Bay opposite the beach and in close proximity to numerous restaurants, boutiques, water activities and main tourist attraction

Château Royal Beach Resort & Spa

Located at the foot of the Ouen Toro hill, with direct access to the famous Anse Vata Beach, the hotel comprises 108 contemporary suites and guests can indulge in a journey of well-being and serenity in a 300 metre squared Aquatic pool featuring 12 massaging jets and view of the beach



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Ramada Hotel & Suites Noumea

Located only 5 minutes from Anse Vata beach, Ramada Hotel & Suites Noumea welcomes its clients in their fully furnished apartments, from studios to 3 bedrooms apartments. The hotel has the unique revolving restaurant of New Caledonia "l'Entrecôte au 360". The Ramada Hotel & Suites Noumea opened two new facilities, the *Rendez-Vous Sports Bar* and the brand new luxurious *Harnn Spa*.

Paradis d'Ouvea

On the island of Ouvéa - one of the Loyalty Islands- and situated on the breathtaking Mouli beach, Paradis d'Ouvéa has been completely renovated. The hotel has 14 Garden Bungalows, 13 Deluxe Lagoon Bungalows, 2 Royal Lagoon Bungalows and 3 Paradis Spa Bungalows (with private spa pool)

Beaupré Hotel in Ouvéa

In Hnyimaha tribal village, opposite splendid Fayaoué Beach, the hotel is an institution on Ouvéa. It has fourteen bungalows. Its restaurant offers local specialities and freshly caught fish for lunch and dinner (seafood platter, lobster and coconut crab). You can sign up for an island tour or an excursion to an islet.

Kiamou Oasis in Lifou

Nestled in a coconut tree grove at the foot of the Jozip cliffs in Lifou and opposite a white sand inlet, Kiamou Oasis has been entirely renovated and offers 27 rooms and apartments as well as a restaurant renowned for its seafood specialties.

Ka Waboana Lodge

Completely renovated to increase the number of rooms, Ka Waboana Lodge now offers a total of 18 rooms and bungalows. Situated in the centre of Hienghène village, this lodge is the ideal departure point for exploring the Kanak culture.

Hôtel Hibiscus

Situated in Koné in the heart of the Northern Province, Hotel Hibiscus offers calm and comfortable rooms overlooking the tropical gardens or pool. Hotel facilities include: spa-hammam, restaurant specialising in local cuisine, fishing expeditions and ULM flights over the famous Voh Heart.



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Grands Hôtels de Nouvelle-Calédonie (GHNC)

It is a hotel group in New Caledonia whose objective is to bring alive the authenticity of the New Caledonia culture by restoring a traditional atmosphere in their hotels, in terms of decoration, restauration and entertainment, and offering guests a combination of local charm and comfortable accommodation. The group has six hotels.

Hotel Beurivage, in Noumea, was entirely renovated in 2013. The hotel now offers 60 rooms including deluxe lagoon rooms, with superb ocean views. Guests can enjoy the many restaurants and nightlife on the Baie des Citrons all within walking distance.

The Koulnoué Village in Hienghène, had extensive renovation and refurbishment; and propose now 50 modern bungalows including 6 with private Spa pool with panoramic views over the lagoon and natural areas through large glass bays

The Malabou Beach Hotel in Poum, will soon be able to offer deluxe bungalows with a decor inspired by the New Caledonian culture. For guests looking for a more intimate and personalised service, the GHNC hotel group has announced the construction of 5 luxury bungalows each with private pool.

Hôtel Tieti, at Poindimié. This authentic hotel designed in the spirit of Oceanian architecture, elegantly combines natural and noble materials and offers guests 50 rooms and bungalows on the most beautiful beach on the east coast of the Mainland.

The other hotels of the group are The Koniambo hotel and The Néa Hotel, both in Koné.

Other types of accommodation

Farm stay - Farmers belonging to the network « Bienvenue à la ferme » (Welcome to the farm) offer guests the opportunity to live life in the bush in the heart of the « Caledonian Far West » with accommodation provided on cattle breeding stations, farms or with other members working the land.

Homestay - The homestay option offers a personalised and friendly welcome within a family structure. Breakfast is generally served by the host family. As an example, the Hna Hlapa Association provides a range of homestay accommodation, classified in terms of quality of service and accommodation.

Tourism Rental Homes - Perfect for long stays (on a weekly or monthly basis) these rental properties include villas, apartments, studios, chalets or fully equipped bungalows at reasonable prices.



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GASTRONOMY AND CULT PRODUCTS

Gastronomy in New Caledonia, rich in colours and flavours, is the fruit of the island's history, combining diverse culinary influences from the many cultures settled in the country. These varied influences are harmonized to give rise to a delicate and refined cuisine, like none other. Today in New Caledonia, chefs create and recreate new flavours and savours with both audacity and virtuosity, in the many restaurants, lodgings, tables d'hote and food caravans. Some local products not to be missed!

Lobster, a prized delicacy

This crustacean is not native to New Caledonia but has perfectly acclimatised to the freshwater environment. Lightly grilled and accompanied by a New Caledonia sunset – perfection!

Obisblue, a luxury prawn made in New Caledonia

This species is highly sought after by both connoisseurs and leading chefs throughout the world, due to its firm flesh which is both delicate and slightly sweet. Also called the « blue prawn » this crustacean, 20 cm in length, is cultivated in the New Caledonia lagoon by around ten local producers.

Mangrove Crab

Called the « guardian of the mangrove », the crab lives in the New Caledonian mangroves and is an integral part of the traditional Kanak custom. The legend dictates that the shell represents the face of a woman and must not be pierced. The crab is served stuffed or accompanied by aioli or a vinaigrette dressing.

Coconut Crab

Renowned for its ability to break coconuts with the aid of its claws, this arthropod which lives in the forests scattered throughout the islands (Loyalty Islands, Belep, Isle of Pines), is an important feature, not unlike the lobster, of family meals or custom ceremonies.

Bougna, traditional Kanak dish

The bougna is the traditional dish of the Melanesian people in New Caledonia. It is steamed under the ground, wrapped in banana leaves, in an oven made of burning hot stones. The dish has numerous variations according to the vegetables of the season. The receipt consists of fish or meat, coconut milk, Kanak cabbage and taro, yam or cassava. The bougna is the gourmet emblem of New Caledonia and is served in the traditional Kanak villages. Restaurants can prepare the dish for a special occasion or offer a « cooking pot » version in the form of a casserole dish.



CULTURAL AND SPORTING EVENTS

Festival Dates

[April/May 2016](#)

The New Caledonia Tourism Fair, 28 & 29 May

At the Tjibaou Cultural Centre. Over 50 exhibitors will gather in this stunning setting to present a wealth of accommodation, travel, sports and leisure options. (Open for trade on 27th May)

Avocado Festival, from 28 April to 1 May

This festival organised by the Néce tribe on Maré, honours the importance of the avocado in the agricultural production of New Caledonia. It is the ideal opportunity to stay in a tribal village and participate in the traditional songs and dances.

[June 2016](#)

Lagoon Festival, from 10 to 12 June

Each year, the fishermen of Ouvéa compete in a fishing competition. The festival is designed to celebrate the beauty of the lagoon but at the same time, draw attention to the protection of this fragile environment. Visitors are welcomed into the tribal villages and can taste the local fish species such as grey mullet, spangled emperor, mangrove crabs and lobster.

[July 2016](#)

New Caledonia Underwater Image Festival

The 7th Underwater Image Festival held at the Rex Cinema in Noumea, showcases local talent and draws attention to the beauty and fragility of the marine ecosystems.

[August 2016](#)

Whale Festival, Ode to the sea and to ancestral customs

The tribe of Ouara on Ouen Island has organised the Whale Festival in August to celebrate the presence of the humpback whales which migrate to the warm waters of New Caledonia between July and September. Residents offer a performance with authentic costumes and songs as well as an evening of traditional story telling, and during the day, whale watching, traditional fishing at low tide, exploration of the island with local guides, weaving workshop and preparation of a bougna.

Bourail Agricultural Fair, from 13 to 15 August

This annual fair is the ideal opportunity for visitors to discover the « wild west » of New Caledonia and the life of stockmen who compete in rodeo events. Stock car races, motocross and wood cutting competitions are also on the programme.



P.Chalas - NCTPS

*October 2016***Vanilla Festival, from 14 to 16 October**

Originally from Madagascar, the vanilla was imported to Kanak lands by an English missionary. The tribe of Mou on Lifou celebrates the harvest of the vanilla with traditional songs and dances and organises the visit of the vanilla plantation with tastings and food stalls.

The tribes on Lifou welcome visitors to their villages and are happy to open their homes and explain their customs.

Anûû rû Abôrô Festival, from 14 to 22 October

Ânûû-rû âboro means « the shadow of man » in the paicî language, or in other words, « cinema ». The eponymous association, created in 2007, organises an International Festival of the Peoples' Cinema each year. Since its creation, the festival has welcomed numerous international film directors from all around the world. The festival lasts for two weeks during which time the films competing in the festival are screened in the tribal villages of the Northern Province.

Official Site: <http://www.anuuruaboro.com/-Accueil>

Sporting Events*April 2016***Noumea BNC International Triathlon, 24 April**

The annual International Triathlon attracts some of the most recognizable athletes from New Caledonia and the international arena, as they battle it out on the scenic course around New Caledonia's capital, Nouméa.

Official site: <http://www.lctri.nc/>

*May 2016***The Amateur Golf World Cup, from 24 to 27 May**

10 countries (Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, USA, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and New Caledonia) will face off in a 54 hole competition to be crowned World Champions of Amateur Golf.

After a qualifying round in each participating country, the World Cup of Amateur Golf will take place on the prestigious Pete Dye **SHERATON NEW CALEDONIA DEVA RESORT GOLF & SPA**

Official site: <http://www.theamateurgolfworldcup.com> and www.leclub-golf.com



Photo Action Crcnc Turtle

July 2016

The Transcalédonienne Race, 2 & 3 July

The Transcalédonienne Race is a sporting race over different stages which zigzags from north to south. The rally which takes 2 days to complete (64km in distance crossing over the New Caledonia mountain chain) is an annual event on the first weekend of July each year. This sporting event attracts more than 850 competitors of all levels. The principal objective of the Transcalédonienne Race is to promote health via sport, protect the environment, explore the abundant nature and experience life in a tribal village, making this event a sporting, cultural and human adventure.

Official site: <http://transcal.ile.nc/>

August 2016

The New Caledonia International Marathon, 21 August

One of the biggest annual events on New Caledonia's sporting calendar, this event attracts elite and professional athletes from across the globe. There is a half marathon, a full marathon, and also a five kilometre fun-run that is open to all. This year, the International Marathon of New Caledonia will celebrate its 32nd anniversary.

Official site: <http://www.marathonnouvellecaledonie.com/>

October 2016

South Pacific PGA Open

The South Pacific Open Championship (SPOC) is one of the most important sporting events on the New Caledonia calendar. The tournament takes place on the Tina Golf Course in Noumea, on a PAR 72 course covering approximately 5900 metres.

The championship provides an opportunity for golfing amateurs to measure their skills against the best in the Australasian region. A total of 24 amateur places is authorised, which is exceptional compared to other tournaments!

October 2016

Air France Cycle Tour,

Across eleven stages and more than 1,000km of road, the Air France Tour gives participants the opportunity to explore New Caledonia by bike. With the prologue held on the island of Maré right through to the gala event on Anse Vata in Noumea, the Tour crosses through 16 regions. Cyclists can encounter the local populations, travel through the tribes, villages, beaches, forests and mining tracks offering completely different landscapes at each turn.

Official site: <http://www.letourairfrance.nc/>



Crédit Airlalin

TRAVEL TIPS FOR NEW CALEDONIA

Airlines - valid passport requested

AIRCALIN, the International Airline of New Caledonia

Created in 1983, Airlalin operates a modern fleet of A320-200 and A330-200. Airlalin flies from Noumea to 11 destinations in the Pacific: Japan (Tokyo, Osaka), Australia (Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne), New Zealand (Auckland), French Polynesia (Papeete), Fidji (Nadi), Vanuatu (Port Vila) und Wallis & Futuna.

Comfort on Board

As a modern Airline Airlalin offers more comfort to the guests in a Pacific ambiance :

- Lie-flat business class seats with built in massager and on-demand entertainment system offering an extensive range of multimedia programs. Meals are served on china tableware and blend the scents and flavours of New Caledonia with gourmet international cuisine.
- Our economy class offers individual seat back on-demand entertainment system, enhanced ergonomically designed seats offering a recline of over 15° , increased seat height and width and footrest for extra comfort.

Easy from Europe to New Caledonia

With one unique ticket for all the itinerary, Airlalin links Europe to New Caledonia on the shortest route via Tokyo or Osaka thanks to its partnership with Air France-KLM, Finnair, Lufthansa or Alitalia. A free stopover in Japan is also possible and allows combination of 2 exceptional destinations. Airlalin cooperates also with Gulf and Asian carriers. Therefore New Caledonia can be reached also via Australia and New Zealand.

Contact: Airlalin c/o Flight Directors

Phone: +44 (0) 1293 874985

Email: vjoyce@flightdirectors.com

www.aircalin.com



S.DUcandas - TPN

Practical Information

- **Time Zone :**
In summer: 9 h, when it is midday in Paris, it is 21h in New Caledonia
In winter: 10 h, when it is midday in Paris, it is 22h in New Caledonia
- **Currency :** French Pacific Franc also called franc CFP ; 1€ = 119,33 FCFP
- **Climate:** moderate sub-tropical climate all year round. From December to March : hot season (28/30°C) ; from April to November : cool season (20/23°C)

Travel Guides

Lonely Planet New Caledonia Guide
Petit Futé Country Guide New Caledonia
Escape New Caledonia Guide (Hachette)
New Caledonia Road Map 1:500 000 (IGN)
Travel Guide on line: <http://www.leglobetrotter.nc/>



M. Dosdane - NCTPS

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On the Web and social Medias

<http://visitnewcaledonia.com/>

Web TV - <http://www.newcaledonia-tv.com>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/nouvellecaledoni>



<http://www.facebook.com/newcaledoniatourism>



[@NewCaledoniaTourism](https://www.instagram.com/NewCaledoniaTourism)



[@NewCaledonia](https://twitter.com/NewCaledonia)

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