



**Toktok Welkam to
Vanuatu**

**The Archipelago,
its people,
its culture,
and
its government**

Arrival Information

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14th Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific

19 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

WARWICK LE LAGON RESORT, PORT VILA

VANUATU



**VANUATU NATIONAL
CODEX COMMITTEE**

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Toktok Welkam to Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a Pacific island adventure far beyond any notions of cruise-ship ports and flashy resorts. Deserted beaches, ancient culture, remote and rugged islands and world-class diving are just a small part of the magnetism of this scattered 80-plus island archipelago. The islands are fondly known as the timeless islands, a place where time seems to halt, giving you enough moments to immerse yourself into what you want to do and to enjoy it to the fullest. Also called the isles of smiles – a quality which comes out naturally with everyone you meet and greet. You will be left captivated and will want to return again, be it for business or pleasure.

The category 5 tropical cyclone Pam which ravaged the islands on 12, 13 and 14 March 2015 left a trail of destruction never witnessed in the country's living memory. Help from the international community, the resilience and determination of its people is helping Vanuatu get back on its feet. Today, a little over a year on life is almost back to normal, thanks to the resilience, determination, and collective effort by every Vanuatu citizen – it is a collective feat which has left many nations around the world to admire in the people of this tiny nation. The nation is now ready to welcome its neighbors from the Codex family.

Welkam long yufala everiwan ol deligat blong Kodineting Komiti blong Not Amerika mo Saot Wes Pasifik.
Welcome to the delegates of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific.

The Archipelago

The Vanuatu archipelago is situated in the southwest Pacific Ocean approximately 2,300 km off the east coast of Australia, between New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. It is comprised of some 80 islands and islets extending over 800 km north to south. The total land mass area measures 12,190 km², with an exclusive marine economic zone of 680,000 km². The largest two islands are Espiritu Santo (4,248 km²) and Malekula (2,053 km²). The administrative capital and commercial centre is Port Vila, located on Efate. The majority of the islands of Vanuatu are mountainous due to their volcanic origin, and there are eight active volcanoes. Based on geographical locality, the country is divided into six provinces, which are administered by local governments.

The people

According to the Vanuatu Statistics Office Vanuatu has a population of approximately 217,746 people, speaking 113 distinct languages and an even greater number of local dialects. For cultural diversity, Vanuatu is one of the most unique places in the world, thanks in part to 3,000 years of immigration as people from many Pacific countries flocked to this beautiful place. The majority of these immigrants came from Melanesia but the country has also been settled by the larger built, lighter skinned Polynesian people. Throughout the history of this country, these different groups have interacted in various ways, such as marrying between tribes or smaller groups being assimilated into the culture of larger and stronger groups. Sometimes this interaction was peaceful. At other times, it was violent. In either case, this interaction has created the amazing cultural diversity and history that draws so many visitors to Vanuatu today.

The archipelago has been voted the happiest place on the planet twice, by the "happy planet index" which is published by the New Economics Foundation (NEF).

Culture

Vanuatu is a land with a rich history, lush topography and many cultural secrets. Diverse culture, colorful dances and tribal rituals such as the famous bungy jump or 'nangol' are just a few traditions that are still practiced today. The bungy jump was invented in Vanuatu which other countries have now copied, modified and turned into a commercial activity.

The belief in black magic is intertwined with culture, creating a land shrouded in the strong belief that the spirits ancestors are alive and well and still invoke strong influence on everyday life. Village life dominates the population where most people live in groups of often no more than 50 people. But despite these small groupings, the people do sometimes come together for spectacular events. The 'Nekowiar' is a three day festival on the island of Tanna where extravagant gifts are given and up to 2,000 people dress in over-the-top make-up and costumes and dance to their hearts' desire.



Government

Vanuatu gained its political independence in 1980. The politics of Vanuatu take place within the framework of a constitutional democracy. The constitution provides for a representative parliamentary system. The head of the Republic is an elected President. The Prime Minister is the head of government.

Though Vanuatu is a full democracy, its political culture is different from that in most Western democracies, with strong elements of clientelism, and political debate that focuses strongly on the distribution of resources among communities rather than ideology. Governments typically comprise coalitions of numerous small parties.

Climate

Vanuatu is renowned for its beautiful subtropical climate with what seems like endless sunshine, clear blue skies and mild temperatures. Vanuatu's weather is enjoyable almost year round with only a few months of the whole year characterised by a cooler, drier climate. Summer in Vanuatu falls between November and March with average

temperatures reaching 28°C. The summer months are hot and humid but are generally well cooled by the sea breezes. Cooler conditions occur during April to September and even then, temperatures still average 23°C. Swimming can be enjoyed year round as the water temperature only varies slightly from 22°C to 28°C.

The warmer weather and more humid months during December to April are when Vanuatu experiences the majority of its wet season with decent rain every month. Rainfall averages anywhere from 2-4 m annually on the northern islands.

Time Zone

Vanuatu time is GMT+11.00. Daylight savings is not in effect in Vanuatu.

Electricity

Voltage: 220-240 Volts. The Primary Socket Type: Australian AS-3112. The 3-pin plug is similar to that used in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon. It has a grounding-pin and two current-carrying pins forming an upside down V-shape. The flat pins measure 6.5 by 1.6 mm (0.256 x 0.063 in) and are set at 30° to the vertical at a normal pitch of 13.7 mm (0.539 in). the wall sockets always have switches on them for extra safety.

Getting to Vanuatu

The gateway to Vanuatu is through Port Vila, on Efate and Luganville on Santo. From March to October this year the national carrier Air Vanuatu operates flights to and from the destinations shown in the table below. You can visit the airline website on <http://www.airvanuatu.com> to obtain more information.

Day of the Week	Destination
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	Sydney, Australia
Mon, Tue, Fri, Sun	Brisbane, Australia
Wed, Thu, Sat	Auckland, New Zealand
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	Noumea, New Caledonia
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	Nadi, Fiji Islands
Sat, Sun	Honiara, Solomon Islands



Fiji Airways, Air Niu Guinea and Air Calin also operate flights into Port Vila.

Getting around in Port Vila

A mini-van bus service operates in all areas of Port Vila. There is only one standard fare of VT150 (AU\$2.00) for a single trip to any destination in Port Vila. There is also a standard taxi fare from Port Vila international to the major hotels

Visas

Delegates from all CCNASWP countries can obtain a visa on arrival. Travelers are required to have a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date of travel and they must complete an immigration form truthfully upon arrival in Port Vila.

Customs and Biosecurity

Travelers must complete the Immigration, Customs and Biosecurity forms honestly and declare all goods of plant or animal origin to the authorities upon arrival. Failure to declare restricted or regulated items will result in hefty on-the-spot fines. Travelers are advised to visit the following sites to obtain more information:

Biosecurity Vanuatu: <https://www.facebook.com/bvdepartment>

Customs and Inland Revenue: <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu/index.php/en/>

Currency and Foreign Exchange

The national currency is the **VATU** and is used throughout the islands. Current exchange rates with major regional currencies are:

VATU	FOREIGN CURRENCY	EXCHANGE RATE
100	Australian Dollar	1.258
100	American Dollar	0.956
100	New Zealand Dollar	1.370
100	Fiji Dollar	1.973
100	Papua New Guinea Kina	3.011
100	Pacific Francs	99.675

Travelers can change most major currencies in money exchange boutiques in Port Vila and Luganville. All transactions in Vanuatu attract a 12.5 % Value Added Tax (VAT) charged on most goods.

Credit Cards

Most major credit cards are accepted at the main hotels, restaurants, duty free shops and at some supermarkets.

Health Centres and Emergency Information

The main hospital in Port Vila is the Vila Central Hospital (VCH). There are other private medical centres and an emergency ambulance service in Port Vila.

Official contact details:

VCH: (678) 22100

Port Vila Medical Centre: (678) 22 826

ProMedical (Paramedic Service): (678) 25 566

Police


Police Official contact details: (678) 22 222

Meeting Venue

The 14th Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific will be held at the Warwick Le Lagon Resort in Port Vila from 19 to 23 September 2016. There is Wi Fi in the conference facility.

Delegates will be issued with an access password upon registration. The hotel is a 30 minutes' drive to the airport and approximately 10 minutes to Port Vila central business district (CBD).

Accommodation

Hotel Name	Information
Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa	<p>With tropical breezes and emerald waters, the welcoming comforts of Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa make paradise a reality in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Located along the edge of Erakor Lagoon, lush gardens, cascading water features and meandering pathways illuminate the award-winning resort in a true tropical setting.</p>  <p><i>Courtesy: Le Lagon Resort & Spa</i></p> <p>Room Rates:</p> <p>Garden View Room: VT19,526 Lagoon View Room: VT22,900 Garden Bungalow: VT25,432 Lagoon Bungalow: VT50,825 Shefa Pool Villa: VT50,745 Efate Pool Villa: VT46,526 Pacific Pool Villa: VT54,963</p> <p>Website: http://warwickhotels.com/le-lagon-resort/</p>
Mangoes Resort and Restaurant	<p>Swap city life for South Pacific serenity in child-free accommodation, with 29 boutique bungalows – some with their own private plunge pools. Enjoy vistas spanning the nearby lagoon or a garden view, surrounded by swaying palms and exotic flowers.</p>



Courtesy: Mangoes Resort & Restaurant

Room Rates:

Garden View Bungalow: AUD140

Lagoon View Bungalow: AUD180

Lagoon View Pool Bungalow: AUD220

Garden view Pool Apartment: AUD230

Website: <https://www.mangoesresort.com/>

Grand Hotel and Casino

An oasis in the heart of Port Vila. Just a step away from the local amenities, shops and best dining spots in Port Vila. it is the only central city, waterfront, 4 star hotel in Vanuatu.





Courtesy: Grand Hotel and Casino

Room Rates:

Harbour View Room Only: AUD 250

Deluxe Harbour View Room Only: AUD 270

	<p>Harbour View Room B/B: AUD 289 Deluxe Harbour View Room B/B: AUD 309 Panorama Suite Room Only: AUD 319 Panorama Suite B/B: AUD 358</p> <p>Website: http://www.grandvanuatu.com/</p>
Crystal Palace Hotel	<p>Crystal Palace Hotel sits on the waterfront, an easy stroll into Port Vila with its tropical atmosphere and holiday activities. Chinese Restaurant on site.</p> <p>Room Rates:</p> <p>Single standard: VT12,000 Standard Harbour View: VT14,000 Superior Harbour View: VT16,000 Family Harbour View: VT18,000</p> <p>Website: www.crystalpalacevanuatu.com</p>
Business Class Hotel	<p>Located in the heart of Port Vila, Business Class Hotel offers a variety of accommodation types to suit all lengths of stay including rooms, studios and apartments. Free WiFi is provided.</p> <p>Serviced daily, all air-conditioned rooms at Vanuatu Business Class Hotel include city views, a refrigerator and a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. Free toiletries are provided.</p>  <p><i>Courtesy: Business Class Hotel</i></p> <p>Room Rates:</p> <p>Twin Single or double bed: VT9,500 Studio, Queen Bed: VT11,000 Apartment, King or Queen Bed: 12,500</p> <p>Address: Lini Highway, P O Box 3338, Port Vila, Vanuatu</p>

	<p>Tel: (678) 23841 Email: businesshotel@vanuatu.com.vu</p>
City Motel	<p>Centrally located in the heart of Port Vila town city motel offers 13 stylish and modern rooms with private equipped bathroom and toilet. Our central location provided super convenience for travellers, since we are surrounded and in walking distance of a vast variety of shopping, fast food, fine restaurants, banking facilities, duty free, tour operators and many more.</p>  <p><i>Courtesy: City Motel</i></p> <p>Room Rates:</p> <p>Air Condition, Self-Contain: VT7,120 Weekly rate: VT40,840 Fan Room, Self-Contain: VT6,120 Weekly Rate: VT35,840 (incl: Free Wi Fi)</p> <p>Tel: (678) 22228 Email: citymotel@vanuatu.com.vu</p>
Central Inn	<p>Central Inn is a 3 stars Guest accommodation in Port-Vila. It features 15 rooms whose rates of stay varies from a minimum of 30.8 USD to a maximum of 47.6 USD for night. It is located along the Lini Highway. Book a room today in Guest accommodation Central Inn in Port-Vila and even receive a great discount.</p>



Courtesy: Central Inn

Room Rates:

Single standard (shared toilet and shower): VT3,600

Single standard (own toilet/bathroom): VT5,000

Family room (own toilet/bathroom): VT6,500

Tel: (678) 29988 or (678) 7301467 or (678) 5588988

Email: centralinn@vanuatu.com.vu

City Lodge

Located in the center of the action, right in the center of Port Vila town, and only a short stroll from all amenities, from restaurants and fast food to supermarkets and fresh food markets to Banks. Complimentary Wireless internet.



Courtesy: City Lodge

Room Rates:

Fan Cooled (Single): VT3,900

Fan Cooled (Double/Twin): VT4,800

Air Con (Single): VT4,800

Air Con (Double/Twin): VT5,900

	Address: P O Box 3230, Port Vila, Vanuatu Tel: (678) 26826
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	Email: citylodge@vanuatu.cm.vu
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Attractions

Yasur Volcano



Courtesy: Breahtakingzin.com



Courtesy: Breahtakingzin.com

Yasur on the island of Tanna is the most accessible volcano in the world. Travellers are guided to the crater where they can observe the spectacular eruptions right from beneath their feet. Air Vanuatu operates a daily flight to the island and the Entani Company operates group bookings and guided tours to the volcano.

The Mele Cascades

This popular and photogenic swimming spot is 10km from Port Vila. A series of clear aquamarine pools terrace up the hillside, culminating in an impressive 35m waterfall flowing into a natural plunge pool. A slippery path with guide ropes directs you to the top. There are toilets, change rooms and a cafe-bar with free wi-fi at the entrance. Go out on a local mini-bus (250VT), or take a guided tour with Evergreen.

Ekasup Cultural village

Futuna islanders talk about and demonstrate their traditional lifestyle at their *kastom* village. If you're not heading out to other islands, this is an excellent cultural experience close to Port Vila. Book through Nafonu Tatoka Tours. Friday night is 'Feast Night' (adult/child 3100/1550VT), with shells of kava, entertainment and buffet food. Book a day in advance.

Vanuatu Cultural Centre

This museum, library and cultural centre houses a well-displayed selection of traditional artefacts, including the *tamtam* (slit drums), massive outrigger canoes, ceremonial headdresses and examples of Lapita and Wusi pottery. There are photographic displays, and you can watch videos about traditional ceremonies and legends. Tours include a traditional instrument demonstration and sand drawing.

Hideaway Island

Just 100m or so offshore from Mele Beach, Hideaway Island isn't all that hidden but it's one of Vila's favourite spots for snorkelling, diving or just enjoying lunch at the island's resort (non-guests can access the marine park until 4pm). The free ferry puts out from in front of the Beach Bar regularly and once on the island you can snorkel in the marine sanctuary, join a dive tour and send a waterproof postcard from the world's only underwater post office.



Courtesy: Hideaway Island Resort

Fishing

The waters around Vanuatu are home to impressive saltwater fish, including yellowfin tuna, swordfish, and striped marlin. The type of fish you can catch depends largely on the time of year, but there is something to be caught on the end of your hook all year long. Fish that can be caught in nearly any month include skipjack tuna and dogtooth tuna. Port Vila is especially known for being an ideal fishing spot in the region.



Shopping

Vanuatu is a beautiful island in the South Pacific that attracts visitors from around the world with its crystal clear beaches and tropical climate. Through the development of elite holiday resorts and boutique shops, the island is experiencing tremendous economic growth. Port Vila is home to many entertainment venues, including casinos and world-class restaurants. The real appeal of Vanuatu, however, is the exciting shopping opportunities. The duty-free shops at Port Vila offer a huge variety of items: European and East-Asian imports, clothing and local island arts and crafts.

