



SOLOMON AIRLINES COMPLIMENTARY IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE

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ISSUE 89

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THE PERFECT
WEEKEND TRIP
FROM HONIARA

**Marau
Sound**

Father and son go
surfing and fishing in
the Western Province

Birds, bungalows
and hiking a volcano
crater: Leleana Resort

A new CEO
and a new era at
Solomon Airlines

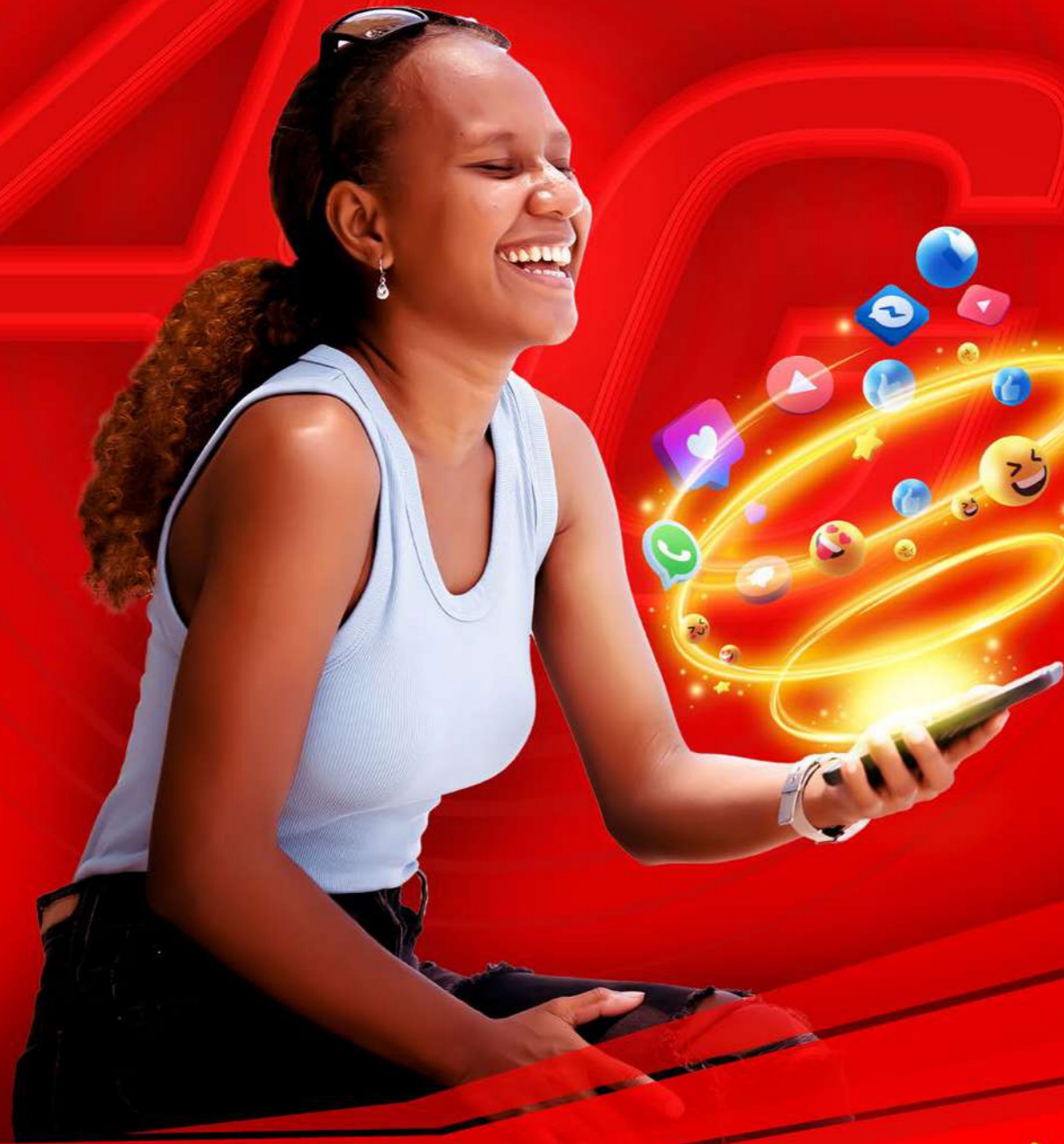


Solomon Airlines

THE LATEST IN TRAVEL, INFORMATION AND NEWS FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Islands Fastest Growing 4G Network

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SOLOMON ISLANDS **PREMIUM** LAGER BEER





Halo Oloketa frens

I write to you for the first time as CEO of Solomon Airlines, having been appointed and beginning my term in this position as of 14th March 2024.

One of my first duties was to travel to Queensland to represent our national carrier at the 2024 Regional Airlines Association of Australia Convention.

As you may be aware, Solomon Airlines is an advocate of regional co-operation between our Pacific airlines.

Together with our Pacific wantok, Air Vanuatu, we have successfully expanded operations between Brisbane, Port Vila and Auckland. We are now exploring further aviation opportunities and partnerships for regional economic development.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay respect on record to Mr. Napoleon Padabela who immediately prior to my appointment was Solomon Airlines Acting CEO for a period of 8 months.

Mr. Padabela is a highly respected member of our senior management team and airline and is also the longest serving employee of Solomon Airlines. He now resumes the position as Manager of Ground Operations.

In the previous 18 months, I have had the honour of working with Mr. Padabela, the Board of Directors, the Senior Management and CAASI.

Some of the projects that we completed were:

- The renewal of the Solomon Airlines Air Operator Certificate
- The successful completion of the IOSA audit, and
- The Project Management and Induction of our second Airbus A320 H4-SAL.

Solomon Airlines has a strong and cohesive team, and now with crucial compliance projects completed, we are attentively focused on driving forward the airline's new strategic plan.

Our Solomon Airlines Ltd Strategic Plan 2024-2028 was developed by the Board of Directors, Executive Managers and staff, setting a bright and clear path for the future.

Our Vision is one which requires the pursuit of excellence in everything we do as we work to achieve Solomon Airlines' vision and ongoing transformation as the 'Pacific's best emerging airline'.

An overarching responsibility as CEO is to steer our progress as we deliver excellence to our passengers and charter customers, via every aspect of our business.

Safety continues to be our number one priority, supported by operational excellence, on-time performance, IT excellence, fiscal prudence with excellent service delivered consistently to our customers.

Taking care of our customers is of course the result of many behind-the-scenes moving parts in any airline, and at the frontline, the care and consideration delivered by our inflight crew is the moment of truth for every customer.

Our cabin crew personify the airline and our Hapi Isles and represent the standards we subscribe to as a company. Their role is significant from ensuring safety and comfort on our domestic and international flights, to often being the first ambassador for Solomon Islands to passengers visiting our beautiful shores for the first time.

Our Vision is one which requires the pursuit of excellence in everything we do as we work to achieve Solomon Airlines' ongoing transformation as the 'Pacific's best emerging airline'.

Commensurate with our expanding operations, we recently welcomed an intake of 15 new cabin crew to our ranks – four experienced members returning and 11 new recruits graduating for the first time.

All fifteen passed training requirements with exceptional results, including their initial training for our domestic De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft type and international Airbus A320.

We are tremendously proud of them, as we are of all of our crew.

At the time of writing, line training for our new recruits is occurring on our domestic and international aircraft, so you may be welcomed or served on board by one of our newest members.

On behalf of the entire team at Solomon Airlines, I would like to sincerely thank you for choosing to fly with us.

Your choice to book and to fly with Solomon Airlines, goes far beyond a simple airline ticket or a competitive fare. It is a purchase which directly helps support our developing nation, and for that we thank you sincerely.

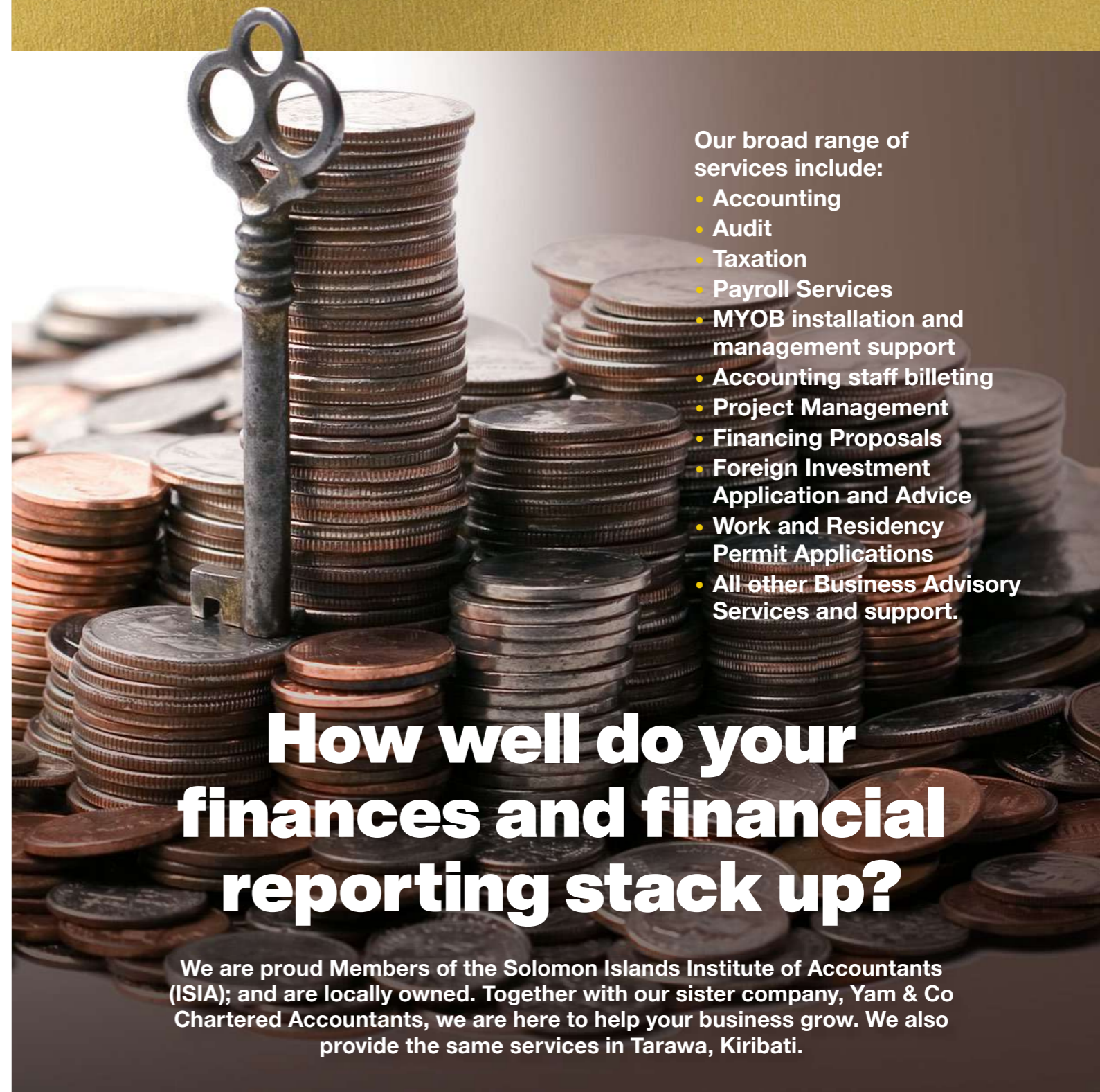
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Sean Te'o
CEO of Solomon Airlines

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flysolomons

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Out and About

TOK STORI: DIALOGUE ON LABOUR MOBILITY TAKES PLACE

The Solomon Islands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade's Labour Mobility Unit recently concluded a two-day 'Tok Stori' event, with dialogue at informing national stakeholders about the PALM scheme and Labour Mobility priorities for 2024.

The event was supported by the Australian Government, and focused on sharing information on Labour Mobility, including economic data, worker experiences, reintegration, and best practices. It also provided an update on the upcoming consultation for the Solomon Islands Labour Mobility Policy review.

The workshop was attended by partners from DFAT Canberra, the Pacific Labour Facility team, the Solomon Islands Support Service, PALM returning workers' primary services provider stakeholders, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, and other national stakeholders, development agencies, and relevant organizations with Labour Mobility interests.

Since the inception of the PALM scheme, 6,721 Solomon Islanders have participated, working across various industries in Australia. These workers have sent approximately SB\$247 million in remittances back home since 2023. ▴



Out and About



SOLOMON ISLANDS WOMEN SOAR UP THE FIFA RANKINGS

The Solomon Islands have made significant strides in the FIFA Women's World Rankings after their impressive performance at the Women's Olympic Football Tournament—Oceania Qualifier in Samoa last month.

Batram Suri's team shocked the Pacific by topping their group, which included OFC powerhouses Fiji and Papua New Guinea, before defeating hosts Samoa in the semi-finals.

Although they fell short against a strong New Zealand side in the final, the team demonstrated significant progress in the development of women's football in the country.

In the latest FIFA Women's Rankings, the Solomon Islands have climbed 21 places to 81st, placing them fourth in Oceania behind New Zealand (28th), Papua New Guinea (56th), and Fiji (72nd).

This impressive rise makes the Solomon Islands the biggest mover among the 193 countries in the FIFA world rankings.

In the latest FIFA Women's Rankings, the Solomon Islands have climbed 21 places to 81st, placing them fourth in Oceania

Meanwhile, in the FIFA Men's World Rankings for OFC teams, there is little change, with New Zealand moving up one spot to 103rd and the Solomon Islands rising one place to 131st.

Spain remain the number one ranked women's side in the world, followed by England who moved up two spots to second, with France in third. The Australian team stay in 12th spot. ▴



HONIARA CENTRAL MARKET TO RECEIVE UPGRADE

A transformation of Honiara Central Market is well under-way, with the end product expected to provide better conditions for vendors at the city's fresh produce hub.

The works will result in undercover protection and market benches for 100 vendors.

The Australian High Commission's Markets Redevelopment Program is supporting the development or improvement of markets across six provinces including Malaita, Guadalcanal, Central, Isabel, Makira-Ulawa, Western Province.

The Honiara extension is a SB\$10 million project in partnership with Honiara City Council, and has been welcomed by vendors and customers alike.

Construction of the extension is expected to be completed in June, but the market, which is a great place to pick up fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, remains well and truly open for business. The market has been around since the 1950s, and is one of Honiara's iconic locations. ▶

FISHERIES AIM FOR GREATER INCLUSIVITY

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), recently held its inaugural Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Forum at the FFA Conference Centre in Honiara.

Bringing together over 60 leaders and representatives from FFA and SPC Members, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners, the forum spanned three days from April 9 to 11.

The event served as a platform for meaningful discussions on gender disparities and the promotion of inclusivity in the region. Participants engaged in dialogues addressing historic challenges, such as the recognition and enhancement of women's roles and socio-economic contributions to fisheries, which have historically hindered the acknowledgment and measurement of these contributions.

Mona Ainu'u, Minister for Fisheries, emphasized the importance of women's involvement, stating, "Women are hard workers. We are all hard workers. It's in our genes. We need to continue to encourage more participation, not to compete with men, but to co-create for greater results. When we work together, we grow stronger and smarter." ▶




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WORDS BY KIRK OWERS
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Father and son get epic waves all to themselves at Papatutura Resort, which has been thrilling water lovers from all over the world for over 15 years.

Peter Blanche, retired builder and tropical island owner, likes a shandy around five when the sun has lost its sting and his resort guests return from fishing and surfing adventures. His wife Margie joins him for a sundowner when she's not organizing staff or fussing over the guests like everyone's favorite grandma. It's now been 16 years since the couple were running a travel agency on Australia's Gold Coast when they were asked—begged says Margie—to start up a surf resort in Santa Isabel. At the time, the region's annual visitor numbers were limited to four very keen bird watchers.

Pull up a chair next to Peter at Papatutura's bar and you'll hear some great yarns. Phone use in the bar area is discouraged and the ancient art of storytelling is a welcome screen replacement. Peter and Margie enjoy

retelling the classic yarn of how they found and fell in love with the island they call home. Now in their 80s the couple have no plans to return to Australia and will become Solomon Island citizens later this year. It's a family affair at Papatutura: daughter Kym manages the resort, helped by her brother Nick, and the grandkids often visit.

"There's around ten waves nearby that we can access by boat and we never have more than 14 surfers at a time so we can pretty much guarantee uncrowded surf," Nick explains when I arrive with my 18-year-old son. Quality uncrowded surf is a coveted commodity in the modern era and the Solomon Islands is blessed with plenty of it. The surf season lasts from November until April, with much of the swell travelling across the vast Pacific from distant Hawaii. The waves are usually in the three—five foot range but can get bigger and more challenging on rare occasions. Generally, the waves are smaller and easier to manage than more famous spots in Indonesia and Hawaii.

"... we never have more than 14 surfers at a time so we can pretty much guarantee uncrowded surf"

No-one's pulling in on you here.





We arrive in time for a pre-dinner drink or a late surf and choose option two. Jimmy, our skipper and the best surfer in Santa Isabel, speeds us out over the lagoon and around the corner to a playful lefthander called Kummas. The swell is only head high but is mirror-glassy, perfectly shaped, and completely empty. A dark storm thunders on the horizon and the light is bruised purple while my son and I exchange wave after wave. Only eight hours ago we were at Brisbane Airport. "We have to come back here again," Marley announces after just two hours and a dozen good waves at Papatura.

The next morning we meet a few of our fellow guests. There's a big group of middle-aged surfers and fishermen from Sydney, some of whom are on their seventh return visit. They call Papatura the South Pacific Mentawai's—name-checking what many consider to be the best wave zone on the planet. Apparently, they've only had to share waves with strangers a couple of times before. Usually, they find a break for the morning and it's theirs until they've had enough. There aren't many places still like that anywhere in the world.

My son doesn't surf too much at home because it's often too crowded to be enjoyable, but at Papatura he surfs every day. There's no peer pressure or old grumpy blokes to avoid and the waves are user-friendly. When the swell backs off we find an open ocean reef pass that still has overhead waves. Each day we surf it by ourselves, blissing out on our good fortune. The water is so clear you can study the reef between

Left: Spearfishing for lunch; Below: Owers latches onto one.



Clockwise from above: The locals, younger and senior, can really surf; Peter and Margie Blanche; taking it easy is a pretty good option too.



waves and spot circling game fish. The only decision each day is whether to surf, fish, snorkel, or scuba. I spend a lot of hammock time between boat trips, reading war books, and daydreaming about leasing a tropical island. Any stress I've brought from home has melted away by day two.

One day Jimmy takes us up the coast for an island barbeque. As we approach a massive storm front darkens and descends. Somehow Jimmy manages to build a shelter and start and maintain a fire using wet palm scraps in the rain. While he's busy helping the cooks we surf a mellow right-hander across the channel called Donuts on longboards borrowed from the resort. When we return to the island there's freshly barbequed reef fish, salads, and cold beers laid out and ready to go. Crack, fizz- ah, yes— island life is good.

On another day we visit Jimmy's village on Santa Isabel and give some of Nick's old surfboards to two lucky locals, Carlos and Lawrence. We help them wax up the boards and take them out to the local reef break, in front of the village. If they're excited or nervous the boys manage to hide it until they hit the water. Paddling away from the boat I catch them grinning and sharing a joke. After much splashing about Lawrence, the older of the two, catches a whitewash and gets to his feet while we hoot our approval. A surfer is born.

Four days go past fast and our timing isn't great. We arrive the day after a good swell has all but fizzled and leave two

days before the next significant swell arrives. And yet we surf fun waves every day. Nick is all apologies. "Usually if you stay for a week you'll get one good swell in that time and lots of smaller days." But my son loves fishing and spearing more than surfing so he's happy to hunt Spanish mackerel. There's the opportunity to scuba dive but my ear's playing up so I stick to the snorkeling when I'm not surfing my brains out.

If the big test of any destination is: would I go back? Papatutura passes in flying colours. The only thing I'd change would be my departure date: I'd stay longer. ▶



GETTING THERE

The best way to Papatutura is to fly directly to Honiara or Munda Airport, before getting to Suavanao, Santa Isabel's northern-most airstrip. Papatutura is located 8 mins boat ride from Suavanao.

www.papatutura.com // info@papatutura.com

Above: Getting into the boat and heading out to a wave sure beats getting into the car for work like a usual morning; Papatutura offers a range of sportfishing and spearfishing options.

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Sounds pretty good

A weekend escape to Marau Sound, featuring dolphins.

WORDS REGINA LEPPING
PHOTOS DANZO KAKADI

In the heart of Honiara's bustling streets, where the daily grind of work and rush hour traffic define a weekday routine, the yearning for a brief respite grows strong.

As I scroll Facebook, my eyes land on an opportunity with Aelan Cruise Travel & Service—a weekend trip to Coral Sound Homestay, Marau Sound. The lure of a weekend getaway—a much-needed break from the monotony of city life—is too strong.

“Beneath the crystal-clear water, we snorkel and find bright coral and fish of every colour... It is serene snorkelling.”

Boarding one of Aelan Cruise's boats on a cloudy Saturday morning, I join a group of adventurers seeking solace from the chaos of urban life. With a sense of anticipation in the air, we set out from Honiara's shores at 7am, leaving behind the hustle and bustle in pursuit of serenity.

We navigate along the coast heading east of Guadalcanal, the familiar sights of Honiara slowly fading into the distance, replaced by sweeping views of the island's rugged coastline. Guided by the steady hand of our captain, our vessel glided effortlessly through the azure waters, offering a welcome escape from the stifling heat of the city. After two and a half hours of cruising, the first signs of our destination appear on the horizon—complete with a pod of playful dolphins that greeted us!

Marau Sound: the stuff of Monday 3pm daydreams.



As the sun dips below the horizon, we return to Coral Sound Homestay for a delicious dinner of fish in coconut milk, and watch the full moon rise.

“As we enter the waters of Marau Sound, a sense of calm washes over me.”

When we depart on Sunday afternoon we shake hands with the locals and board our boats. As we set sail, a final farewell from the dolphins takes place, mirroring the greeting we got in on the way in.

I'm in the company of friends who weren't so long ago strangers, and I am struck by the way we all found solace in the simplicity of island living—a reminder to slow down and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us.

Aelan Cruise and Travel Services' range of trips are about more than getting from point A to point B; they are a gateway to adventure, to escape, to reconnect with nature and with each other. It's about creating moments of joy. And though the city's hustle and bustle awaited our return, I feel renewed and ready to face the challenges of the week ahead. ▴



“I am struck by the way we all found solace in the simplicity of island living—a reminder to slow down and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us.”

As we enter the waters of Marau Sound, a sense of calm washes over me. The cool breeze and verdant islands provide a refreshing contrast to the dusty town we had left behind. It's a clear day and one can see the blue silhouette of Malaita Province in the north and the mountains of Makira Province in the east.

Arriving at Coral Sound Homestay, we're greeted warmly by village elders of Wahere Island, who guide us to our bungalows. Sharing accommodations with a newfound friend Cathlyn, we both relish the opportunity to unwind before returning to the demands of the work week.

Our time is spent exploring Tavanipupu Island, where ancient remnants of former glory are visible but outshone by the breathtaking beauty of the island itself. A significant and profitable trading station was set up in this area in the late 19th century, when Tavanipupu was known as Crawford Island. Tavanipupu is the same island the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Kate and William chose for their honeymoon.

Beneath the crystal-clear water, we snorkel and find bright coral and fish of every colour. It is serene snorkelling. We grab a SUP and paddle around the gentle waters of the Sound.

Clockwise from opposite: the perfect water colour doesn't exist; paradise is only a few hours boat ride from the capital, Coral Lagoon—home for a weekend; it's who you meet in your travels.



Aelan Cruise and Travel Services are based in Honiara. They typically handle bookings and trips to the Central Islands provinces and plans to expand its trips there later this year.

Head to **Aelan Cruise & Travel Services** on Facebook for more information on upcoming trips, or contact aelancruise@gmail.com or call +677 7728875.



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Kids' tickets are now priced at 75 per cent of adult fares on all regular international flights and, if you are travelling through the Solomons on a regular published international return fare, you can add a stopover in Honiara for no extra charge.

With the Flexible Economy fare category now including 40kgs of checked baggage—a generous amount that is usually restricted to Business Class passengers—the kids also have lots of room to pack their favourite books and toys.

Solomon Airlines Manager Ground Operations Napoleon Padabela says the upgrades are part of the airlines ongoing efforts to be a leader in the region.

"As the national carrier, we work hard to ensure our fares are competitive with benefits that only Solomon Airlines can provide," Mr Padabela says.

"Economy passengers have already been appreciating the extra legroom available on the airline's aircraft."

Economy passengers have already been appreciating the extra legroom available on the airline's aircraft, which have more space between seats than most carriers.

The airline is also known for the warm and authentic hospitality of its crew, with international travellers treated to an all-inclusive inflight service with generous hot meals and non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages.

"We never forget that when travellers choose to buy a fare with Solomon Airlines, that contribution goes directly back into our country and communities, and such loyalty to our airline and our national development is very important and appreciated," Mr Padabela says.



WHERE CAN YOU FLY?

Solomons Airlines currently flies internationally out of Honiara & Munda to Brisbane, Nadi, Port Vila and Auckland, alongside 20 domestic destinations.

- Up to five weekly flights between Brisbane and Honiara, with direct connections in each direction to Gizo, Munda, Seghe and Suavanao.
- A direct non-stop flight on Saturdays from Brisbane to Munda, with same-day domestic flight connections to Gizo and Seghe.
- A weekly return flight from Honiara to Nadi, with an additional codeshare option with Fiji Airways.
- A weekly return flight from Honiara to Port Vila, with streamlined connections to and from Auckland with codeshare partner Air Vanuatu.
- Flights four times a week between Honiara and Port Moresby, operated by Solomon Airlines codeshare partner Air Niugini. ▶

READY TO BOOK?

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Leleana *Life*

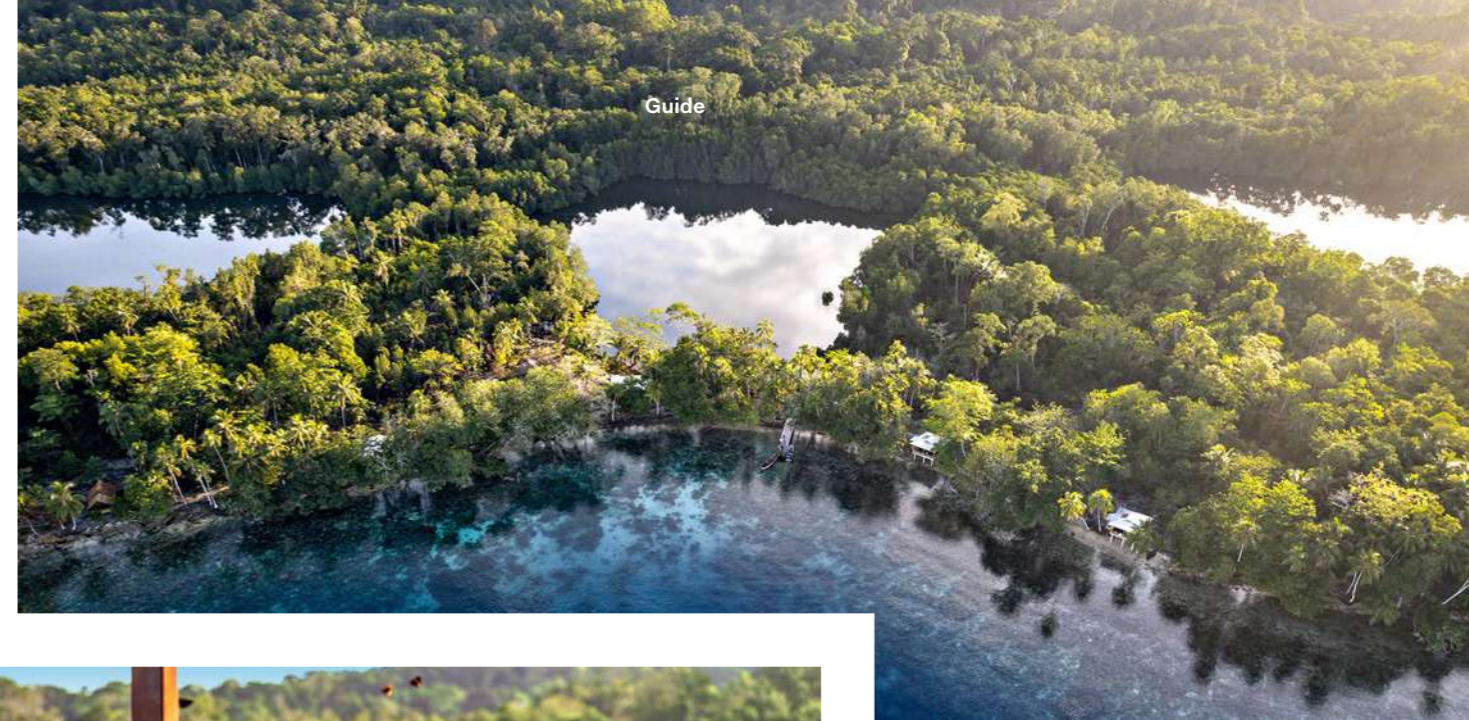
WORDS TIM McGLONE

Kolombangara Island is 687.8 square kilometres of stunning, raw wilderness, home to an extinct volcano, dense jungle and an extraordinary array of wildlife.

Nestled on the southern end of the island, with views of neighbouring islands, mountains and the water, is Leleana Resort.

Opened in 2023, Leleana is made up by a few boutique bungalows, that both sit overwater and nestle amongst jungle. It feels as if they blend into the island itself, an island teeming with life—just not of the human variety.

Mt Veve, the extinct volcano climbs 1,800m above sea level to be one of the highest mountains in the Solomons outside of the Guadalcanal region.



Clockwise from opposite: Leleana from above; situated on the south-western end of Kolombangara, water is either side and a volcanic crater is not far away; banana delivery is by boat.

From Leleana, guests can trek to the volcano crater, snorkel, walk along rivers and amongst rainforest, and especially, birdwatch. In fact, Kolombangara draws twitcher enthusiasts from around the world.

Almost a third of the island has been earmarked for protection from logging, and is therefore home to dense jungle and a plethora of local endemic birds, like the Kolombangara White Eye—an incredible looking lime-green coloured bird with a white perimeter around their eye, which looks as if it could have been painted on decoratively.

Most hikes take a few days to complete. There are camps along the way, some with basic huts. All hikes need to be accompanied with a guide.

Back at Leleana, the hand-crafted bungalows are not only aesthetically pleasing thanks to the craftsmanship of locally trained builders, they're also completely solar-powered, and despite the remote location, is wheelchair friendly.

Despite the somewhat remote location, the resort is also wheelchair friendly.

Unplug and unwind. ▶

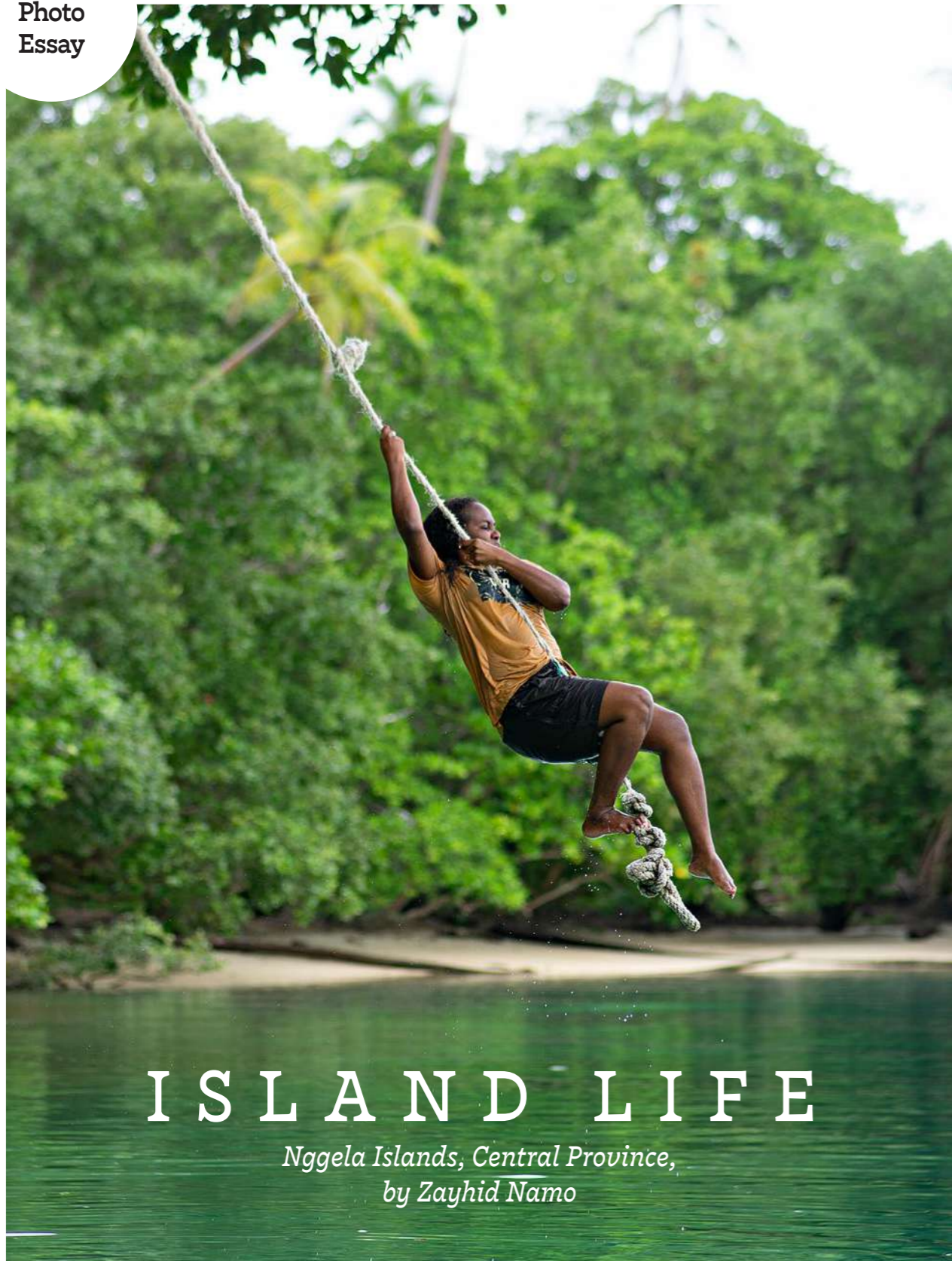


Fly to Munda with Solomon Airlines, including a direct flight from Brisbane www.flysolomons.com

Situated on the south-western side of Kolombangara Island, there are two ways to reach Leleana Resort; 1) An hour long boat ride directly from Munda or 2) A 15 minute flight to Gizo and then a 30 minute boat ride.

www.leleana.com

Photo
Essay



ISLAND LIFE

*Nggela Islands, Central Province,
by Zayhid Namo*

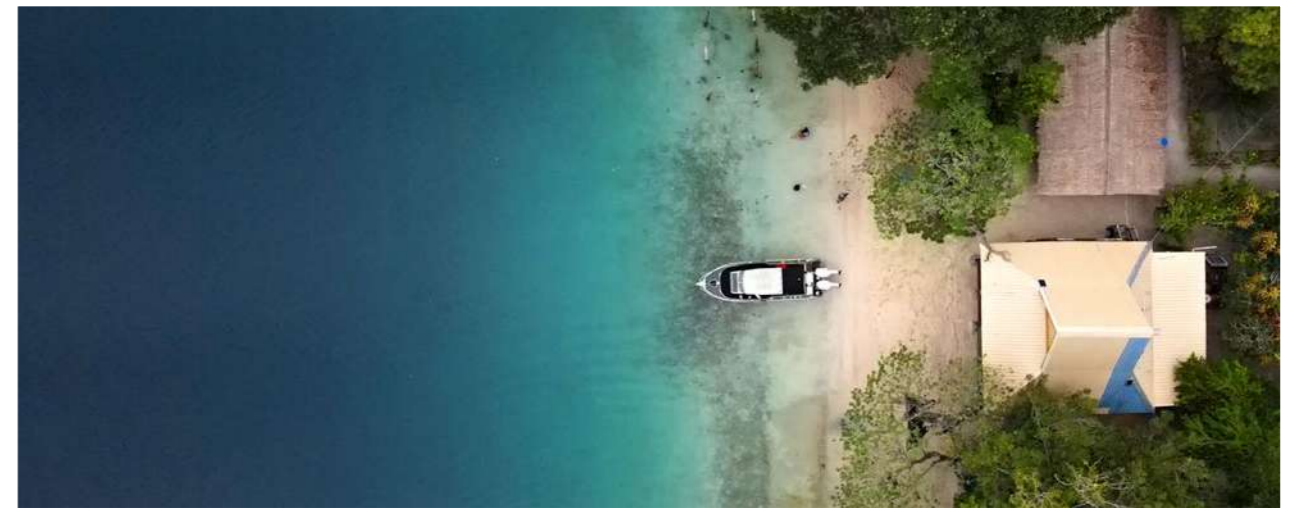
The Nggela Islands are a small island group in the Central Province, made up by four large islands and almost 50 smaller ones. Buenavista Island, also known as Vatilau, is one of these. It's home to Nugu Resort.



At Nugu you can swim turquoise waters, snorkel gorgeous reefs with abundant marine-life, learn to carve or weave, and catch a breath-taking cultural performance. Or, you know, you can just chill.



Life moves slower here... unless you're taking a jump off the ocean diving board.



Day cruises are available from Honiara to the Nggela Islands—it's about an hour and 45 minutes ride from the capital.



THE EPIC PACIFIC

7

experiences from our Pacific brothers & codeshare partners

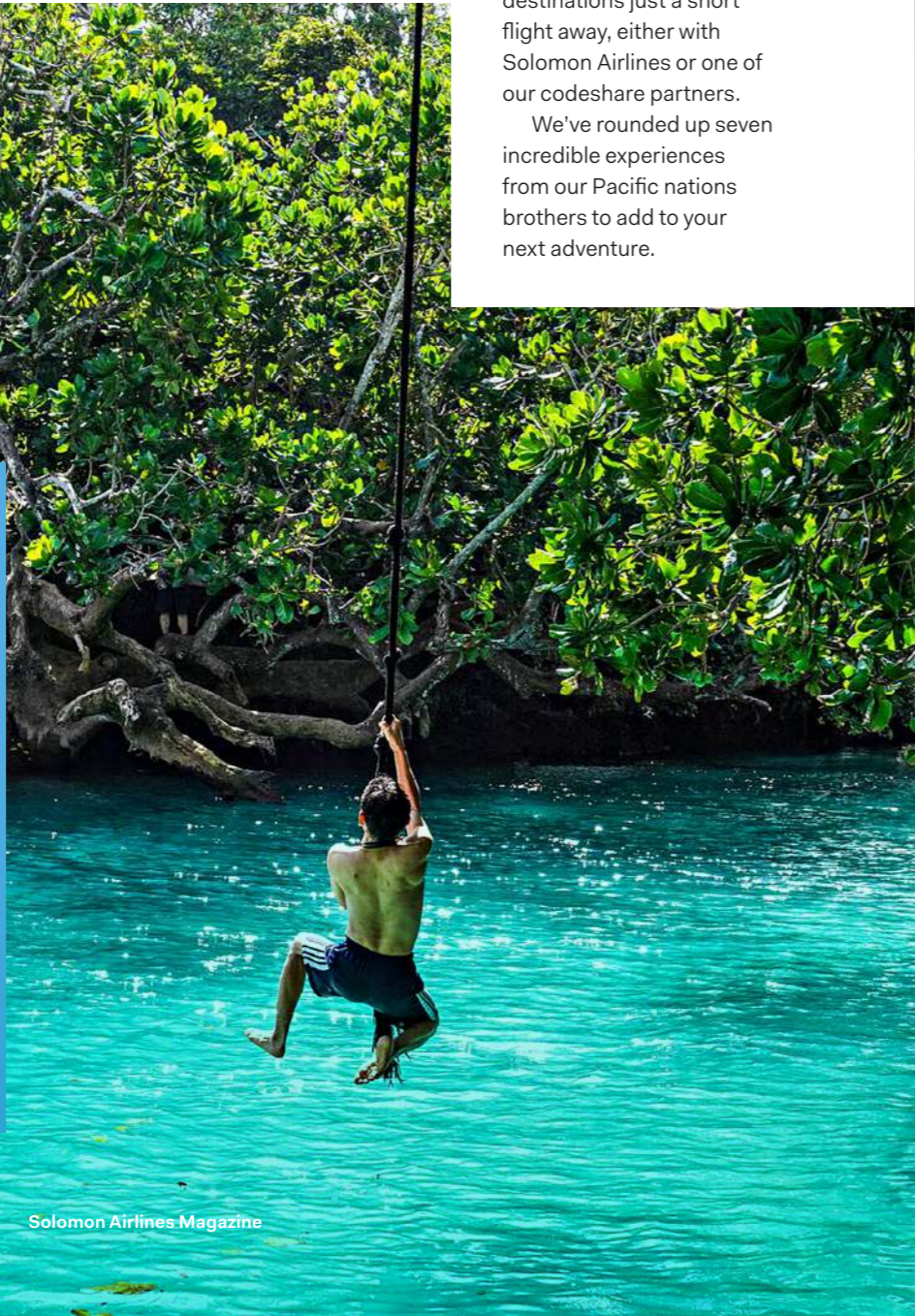
Dive into a Blue Lagoon

EFATE, VANUATU

The sort of place dreams are made of. Efate's Blue Lagoon is a stunning natural pool, a captivating blend of crystal-clear waters, vibrant coral reefs, and lush surroundings.

You've probably seen the turquoise blue waters of Efate's Blue Lagoon on a Tik-Tok, or on Instagram: it is the picturesque swimming spot that is just as nice in real life as it is on a screen.

There are countless day trips to the Blue Lagoon—it is located about a 30-minute drive from Port Vila.



We're probably a little biased, but we don't understand why you'd ever want to leave the almost 1,000 islands that make up the Solomon Islands.

Still, Solomon Airlines enjoys a fantastic relationship with its Pacific neighbours, and there are some incredible destinations just a short flight away, either with Solomon Airlines or one of our codeshare partners.

We've rounded up seven incredible experiences from our Pacific nations brothers to add to your next adventure.

Guide



Zip through the air

PORT VILA, VANUATU

There's no better way to see the dense rainforest of Vanuatu's main island of Efate than on a Jungle Zipline tour. After a helicopter ride up to the island's highest peak, you can spend more than three hours traversing between ridiculously high platforms through the jungle.

At the same location is Vanuatu Sky Bridge—a 120 metre long suspension bridge which is the longest in the Southern Hemisphere, offering 360 degree views across Mele Bay and the stunning azure reef below.

vanuatujiunglezipline.com



Wander through Hobbiton

MATAMATA, NEW ZEALAND

Hobbiton is the absolute must-do for any fans of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, with J.J.R Tolkien's imagination coming to life in the form of The Shire. It's located about 45 minutes' drive from Hamilton, and there's a range of tours available depending on your level of fandom.

Walk the charming paths and green hills of The Shire, grab a pint at The Green Dragon Inn, get a photo in front of a hobbit hole and dance under the Party Tree like it's your Eleventy-First birthday. You can also go behind the scenes tales from the filming, and feast like a hobbit on the Evening Banquet, or second breakfast tour.

hobbitontours.com

Take on the Kokoda Trail

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea offers a challenging and unforgettable trekking experience through rugged terrain and dense rainforest. Steeped in World War II history, it's a pilgrimage for many seeking to honour the soldiers who fought there. The trail spans 96 kilometres, showcasing stunning landscapes and providing insights into local cultures. Trekkers often encounter welcoming villagers along the way.

kokodatrail.com.au





Dive with bull sharks

YASAWA ISLANDS, FIJI

Bull sharks are up to 3.5 metres long, and traditionally, have been considered aggressive. However, as Barefoot Kuata have worked out, they are also incredibly important for the marine eco system. The cageless 'Awakening Shark Dive' experience, while completely safe, isn't for the faint hearted! The action takes place about ten metres below the surface of the water, so no diving certificate is required.

Barefoot Kuata also offer a wide variety of underwater experiences for beginners through to experienced divers. You can complete your PADI scuba diving certification here, and it is an excellent place to do so, given the warm waters and experienced guides. barefootkuatafiji.com

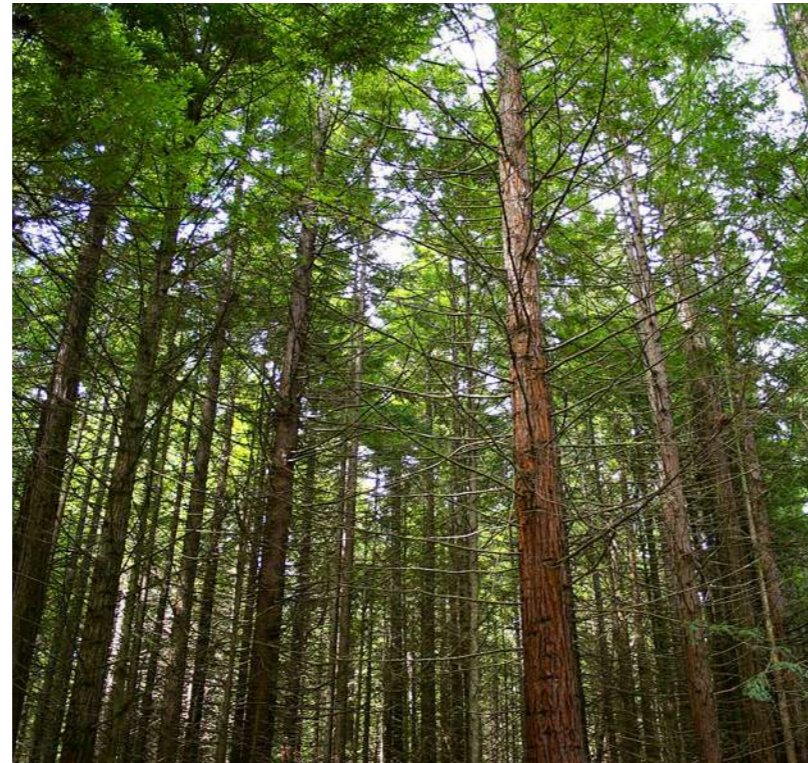
Whakarewarewa Forest

ROTORURA, NEW ZEALAND

Mountain bikers, walkers, hikers and tree-people alike all come together for the almighty 'Redwoods'—a 55,000 hectare forest on New Zealand's North Island.

Towering Californian Redwoods and lush native forest surround you in Whakarewarewa Forest, where there is a heap of fresh air and adventure to sink your teeth into. Perhaps the peak is the Nightlights Walk—an illuminated 700 metre forest walk through the treetops, which light up the night sky.

treewalk.co.nz/the-walk/redwoods-nightlights



Stay at Oneta Resort

ONO ISLAND, FIJI

There are only five traditional bures (sleeping two) and two villas (groups) at Oneta, on Ono Island, located well south of the mainland. It's incredibly quiet and secluded, although there's an old-school communal feel which gives the place an indelible quality you won't find at mega-resorts.

The snorkelling and diving here is epic—manta rays swim elegantly right out the front in the bay from April to October, plus the 114 kilometres long Great Astrolabe Reef is one of the world's most pristine diving environments.

onetaresort.com

For more on the Solomon Islands routes, codeshare partners, or for international flight schedules, head to flysolomons.com



The Purest Tuna You'll Ever Taste



Caught and processed in the Solomon Islands



A Quick Guide to Honiara

Conveniently positioned centrally within the South Pacific and embedded deeply in World War Two history and Melanesian culture, Honiara is not only the capital of the Solomon Islands, but a great base for travellers visiting the South Pacific.

As well as this, there are a number of excellent food and drink options throughout the city, and modern facilities available for every kind of traveller.



HIT THE ROAD IN STYLE



Discover the ELITE experience

ELITE have a large fleet of vehicles to suit your transportation needs.

All of ELITE's vehicles are maintained to the highest standard.

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Airport transfers or vehicle delivery available on request.



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 Phone / WhatsApp +677 7736229
 Facebook or email admin@elite.com.sb

MARINA HOTEL

Lembu Bay, Noro, Western Province, Solomon Islands
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 https://www.marinahotelnoro.com



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- Short- or long-term storage
- Import/export Door-to-door
- Customs clearance + time-sensitive cargo

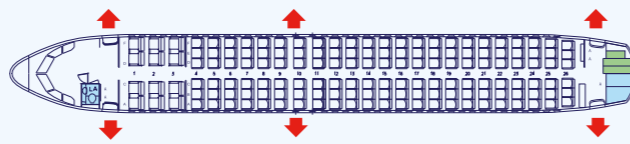
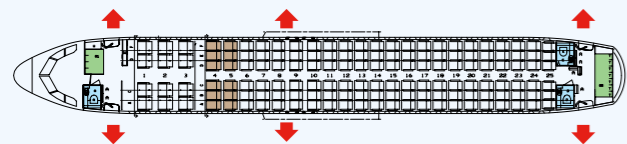
Solomon Airlines Fleet



A320

Registration **H4-SIB**
 Length **37.57 m**
 Wing Span **34.10 m**
 Range **3,000 nm**
 Cruising Speed **830 km/h**
 Seating capacity **144**
 Configuration: **Business: 12, Economy: 132**
 Current Routes: **Brisbane, Nadi, Port Vila**

Registration **H4-SAL**
 Length **37.57 m**
 Wing Span **35.80 m**
 Range **3,350 nm with sharklets**
 Cruising Speed **830 km/h**
 Seating capacity **150**
 Configuration: **Business: 12, Economy: 138**
 Current Routes: **Brisbane, Nadi, Port Vila**



▲ Emergency Exits ▲ Toilets ▲ Galleys ▲ Belama Club



Dash 8-102

Length **22.25 m**
 Wing Span **25.91 m**
 Range **2040 km**
 Cruising Speed **490 km/h**
 Seating capacity **36**
 Crew **3 crew including 1 cabin crew**
 Aircraft in Fleet **1**
 Current Routes: **Honiara, Munda, Gizo; Kirakira, Santa Cruz**



Twin Otter

Length **15.77 m**
 Wing Span **19.81 m**
 Range **1350 km**
 Cruising Speed **338 km/h**
 Seating capacity **16**
 Crew **2**
 Aircraft in Fleet **2**
 Current Routes: **All airports in the Solomon Islands**

Inflight Info

Business Class

Enjoy the comfort of our friendly skies onboard our A320-200 aircraft, with a full meal service and range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available, personalised service and extra seat comfort, including 42-inch seat pitch and 27-inch of seat width, offering 30% more space than economy.

Business class passenger benefits include:

- 40 kg checked baggage allowance
- 10 kg cabin baggage allowance
- 7 kg sports equipment allowance
- Priority check-in and boarding
- Access to partner lounges including Fiji Airways Tabua Lounge and the Qantas Club Lounge in Brisbane

Economy Class

Our cabins are specifically configured for both space and comfort. Our inflight service offers a meal with a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included complimentary for international sectors, and on domestic sectors a snack and water is provided.

Economy Class passenger benefits include:

- 30 kg checked baggage (or 40 kg if booking flexible economy) and 7 kg cabin baggage allowance on international services
- 7 kg sports equipment allowance
- 16 kg checked baggage and 5kgs cabin baggage allowance on domestic services

Solomon Airlines Contact Information

Head Office

Henderson Airport
 P. O. Box 23, Honiara,
 Solomon Islands
Ph: (677) 20031

Travel Center

Solomon Airlines Building,
 Mendana Avenue, Point Cruz,
 Honiara, Solomon Islands
Ph: (677) 44999
Email: sales@flysolomons.com.sb

Australia

Ph: 1300 894 311 or (61) 7 3860 5883
Email: reservations@flysolomons.com

Fiji

Nadi Airport, Office 27, First Floor
Ph: (679) 6722831
Fax: (679) 6722140
Email: solomon@connect.com.fj



International Connections

- Solomon Airlines Routes —●—
- Codeshare Routes - - - -
- Interline Partners —●—



General Sales Agents

AUSTRALIA
Ph: 1300 072 087
Email: flysolomons@airlinemarketing.com.au
Address: Airline Marketing Australia, Level 17, Australia Square, 264 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

CANADA
Ph: (1) 800 985 4997
Email: canada@apg-ga.com
Address: 1100-1200 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5, Canada

FIJI
Ph: (679) 6722767
Email: solomonairlines@airlinerepservices.com
Address: 27 Queens Road, Martintar, Nadi, Fiji Islands

FRANCE
Ph: (33) 1 53 77 13 27
Email: solomonairlines.fr@apg-ga.com
Address: 66 Champs-Élysées, 75008 Paris, France

GERMANY
Ph: (49) 6031 737 630
Email: germany@apg-ga.com
Address: Leonhardstrasse 22, 61169 Friedberg, Germany

HONG KONG
Ph: (852) 2826 9228
Email: hongkong@apg-ga.com
Address: APG 10/F Tung Ming Building, 40 Des Voeux Road, Central Hong Kong

JAPAN
Ph: (81) 50 33882939
Email: japan@apg-ga.com
Address: 8F ATT New Tower, 2-11-7, Akasaka, Minato-ku, 107-0052, Tokyo, Japan

MALAYSIA
Ph: (603) 2141 2701
Email: malaysia@apg-ga.com
Address: Suite 1001, Level 10, Wisma Lim Foo Yong, 86, Jalan Raja Chulan, 50200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

NEW ZEALAND
Ph: (64) 9 969 7602
Email: flysolomons@airlinemarketing.co.nz
Address: Airline Marketing NZ, Level 10 BDO Tower, 120 Albert Street, Auckland 1141, New Zealand

PHILIPPINES
Ph: (632) 8896 90 75
Email: philippines@apg-ga.com
Address: 2nd Floor, Lydia Building, 39 Polaris Street, Bel Air, 1209 Makati City, Philippines

SINGAPORE
Ph: (65) 6339 5500
Email: singapore@apg-ga.com
Address: APG Singapore Pte Ltd, 114 Middle Road #05-01, Singapore 188971

TAIWAN, CHINA
Ph: (886) 2 2368 7828
Email: taiwan@apg-ga.com
Address: 11F, No.111, Sec 2 Nanjing E. Road, Taipei, Taiwan 104

VANUATU
Ph: (678) 23838
Email: vanuatu@flysolomons.com
Address: Air Vanuatu House, Ground Floor, Rue de Paris, Port Vila, Vanuatu

UNITED KINGDOM
Ph: (44) 0844 482 1670
Email: uk@apg-ga.com
Address: 3 World Business Centre, Newall Road, London Heathrow Airport, Hounslow, TW6 2TA, United Kingdom

USA
Ph: (1) 888 468 5736
Email: solomonairlines@airlinepros.com
Address: AirlinePros, Suite 358-360, 420 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10170, USA

Domestic Connections

- Solomon Airlines Routes —●—



Contacts

Solomon Islands Office

Head office: (677) 20031
Reservations: (177) local or (677) 23506

Outer Ports:

Santa Cruz: Sales & Reservations
Ph: (677) 53159

Gizo: Sales & Reservations
Ph: (677) 60173

Munda: Sales & Reservations
Ph: (677) 62152

Kirakira: Sales & Reservations
Ph: (677) 50070

International Offices

AUSTRALIA — Reservations

Ph: 1300 894 311 or (61) 7 3860 5883
Email: reservations@flysolomons.com

AUSTRALIA — Operations

Address: Level 1, International Terminal, Brisbane Airport, QLD 4008, Australia

FIJI — Nadi

Ph: (679) 6722831
Address: P.O. Box 10229, Nadi International Airport, Fiji

Cargo

AUSTRALIA

Ph: (61) 7 3119 2571
Email: bneexports@airway.com.au
Address: Airway, 8 Hibiscus Street, Brisbane Airport, QLD 4008, Australia

NEW ZEALAND

Ph: (64) 9 275 8767 or (61) 7 3860 5883
Email: sales@gsacargo.co.nz
Address: GSA Cargo Services NZ Ltd Level 1 AFCAB offices, George Bolt Memorial Drive Auckland Airport 2154, New Zealand

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ph: (677) 36592
Email: cargo@flysolomons.com.sb
Address: Henderson International Airport, Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands


 Destination Guide

Things to remember before your trip to the Solomons

Climate

Tropically warm and humid with coastal day temperatures averaging 28C (82.4F). April to November tends to be drier and November to April wetter.

What to wear

Light and casual... take it easy!

Health

Malaria can be a problem. Take anti-malarial medication a week before arrival, once a week during your stay, and for four weeks after departure. Consult your chemist or doctor about an appropriate brand of tablet. Maloprin is usually recommended.

Immigration

Commonwealth, United States and most European visitors do not need holiday visas but need return or onward tickets. People intending to work must have work permit.

Honiara

Our capital is eight kilometres (4.97 miles) from Honiara International Airport.

Airport Tax

SB\$305 payable by passengers 12 years and over) boarding international flights, and these are generally added onto the cost of your air tickets.

Currency

The Solomon Islands dollar (SB). \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 Solomon Islands notes, while coins are \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

Business Hours

Government and business general hours are Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm, with a one-hour lunch break normally beginning at noon.

Shops and some offices open Saturday 8am to 12 noon.

Electricity

220-240 volts in Honiara and some outer island centres.

Banks

ANZ Banking Group open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Pan Oceanic Bank Limited opens 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and the Hyundai Mall main branch opens 10am to 1pm on Saturday. Bred Bank opens 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Bank of South Pacific opens 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Transport

Taxis and buses are readily available in Honiara. Rental cars are available from Economy car rental and Elite Vehicle Rental Ltd.

Honiara Airport Taxi Association (HATA) also provides airport transfers, tours, car hire and general transport service in Honiara.

Telecommunications

Local, international calls and internet services are available through Solomon Telekom Company Limited (Our Telekom) and Bmobile networks. 4G network is available in Honiara, Auki, Munda, Noro and Gizo whilst all other provincial hubs are equipped with their 3G networks. SATSOL is also another internet service provider (ISP) in Honiara, other regional and provincial areas in Solomon Islands.

International Air

Solomon Airlines operate out of Honiara and Munda International Airports, while other carriers include Fiji Airways and Air Niugini.

Domestic Air

Solomon Airlines operate services throughout the country.

News Media

The country has a vibrant media landscape, offering choices in both English and Pidgin. Radio services are offered by state radio, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, private operators and religious bodies.

Our Telekom relays BBC and other satellite TV networks while Island Sun and Solomon Star are the two daily news papers.

Tipping

Not expected and not encouraged.

SOLOMON AIRLINES ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Solomon Airlines has a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with Mr Sean Te'o taking on the role effective from 14th of March.

Mr Te'o's career has included aviation leadership roles in airline operations, regulatory and commercial environments. He was Managing Director and a Board Member of Asia Atlantic Airlines, Thailand/ Japan and Chief Operating Officer for Business Air, Thailand.

Previously he has worked in the PNG aviation sector, was Director of Civil Aviation Authority for the Kingdom of Tonga, and Deputy Manager of Flight Operations for Real Tonga. Mr Te'o is also a Lead Aviation Auditor and an airline pilot for large and small aircraft including Boeing 767, Saab340, DC-3, Embraer-110, Y12-E, BN2.

Napoleon Padabela, previously Solomon Airlines CEO (Acting) welcomed Mr Te'o to the new role and described the changeover as a smooth handover to an experienced colleague. "Sean Te'o has been a welcome member of our team since October 2022 helping us complete major projects crucial to the airline, including the renewal of Solomon Airlines Air Operator Certificate, completion of the IOSA audit and project management and induction of our second international aircraft Airbus A320 H4-SAL," Mr Padabela said.

"With his now considerable experience across our operation, understanding of our forward strategy and strong networking and stakeholder

engagement, it will be a smooth transition as he takes up his new responsibilities," he added.

Solomon Airlines Chairman Mr Frank Wickham welcomed Mr Te'o, noting his considerable aviation expertise.

"We are delighted to confirm Sean Te'o as our next CEO and are fortunate to have secured a very suitable and well established candidate with a broad aviation career spanning Asia, Pacific, Europe and the USA," Mr Wickham said.

"During his past 1.5 years working alongside our EXCO team, we have witnessed first hand, his energetic approach to execution of major projects from the successful delivery of domestic and widebody international aircraft types, to completion of crucial safety and compliance projects, to finding solutions to operational challenges specific to our part of the world," he said.

Mr Wickham also pointed out there are significant challenges ahead for the national carrier and that the Board is confident Mr Te'o will lead the Management team and staff to progress the company's plans and strategies.

Mr Wickham also thanked Mr Napoleon Padabela for stepping in to act as CEO for the past eight months.

Mr Padabela, Solomon Airlines longest serving employee, now returns to his former position as Manager Ground Operations.

"We are indebted to Napoleon for his steady hand, commitment and significant contribution as our transitional CEO and thank him sincerely for his ongoing dedication to Solomon Airlines," Mr Wickham said.

Outside of aviation, Mr Te'o, his wife and family enjoy operating small and medium size family enterprises, and participation in community and church programs. ▴



"We are delighted to confirm Sean Te'o as our next CEO and are fortunate to have secured a very suitable and well established candidate with a broad aviation career spanning Asia, Pacific, Europe and the USA"



CELEBRATION

CABIN CREW GRADUATE WITH FLYING COLOURS

Solomon Airlines has welcomed 15 new cabin crew to the airline's ranks on Wednesday 27th March, with 11 new recruits and four experienced cabin crew returning after their employment paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group passed major requirements with exceptional results including Solomon Airlines cabin crew initial training for the domestic De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft type and initial training for the international Airbus A320.

They will now be working for Solomon Airlines in various departments to gain general experience while awaiting their line training for domestic De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft and Airbus A320 journeys.

"We are tremendously proud of this group's achievement and pleased to be increasing our cabin crew workforce once again," said Florence Padabela, Solomon Airlines Manager of Cabin Crew.

"This high calibre recruitment is intake is well timed, as we continue to expand our operations, including our partnership services with Air Vanuatu," she said.

The graduating crew have successfully completed initial training which took place locally during January and February. Solomon Airlines Manager of Human Resources Monica Utukana publicly congratulated the new cabin crew members at the graduation.

"We warmly congratulate each and every one of our new cabin crew members for their outstanding efforts in passing their training and welcome them to the Solomon Airlines family," she said

"This is the start of a wonderful career for everyone and as our frontline representatives, we look forward to their contribution, caring for our customers, in terms of safety, and especially to providing high quality customer service to our travelling public," she said. ▴

MILESTONE

CAPTAIN LYNDA SOARS AGAIN

A little over a year ago in January 2023, Captain Lynda Tito was presented with her Dash 8 Captain's epaulettes, celebrated with a water cannon salute at Honiara International Airport to mark the occasion.

In the same year, the successful pilot and mother of two received a cancer diagnosis requiring long term treatment in Brisbane.

In April though, the much-loved pilot returned to work.

It became a heartfelt double celebration following her recovery, attaining recertification and completing line check testing to ensure she was good to fly again.

Captain Tito said she had missed flying tremendously and was happy to be resuming her flying duties.

"I thought at one point that my wings would be clipped forever, so I am tremendously happy to re-joining our crew and wonderful Solomon Airlines family again," she said.

"I am so proud to be back joining the team that supported

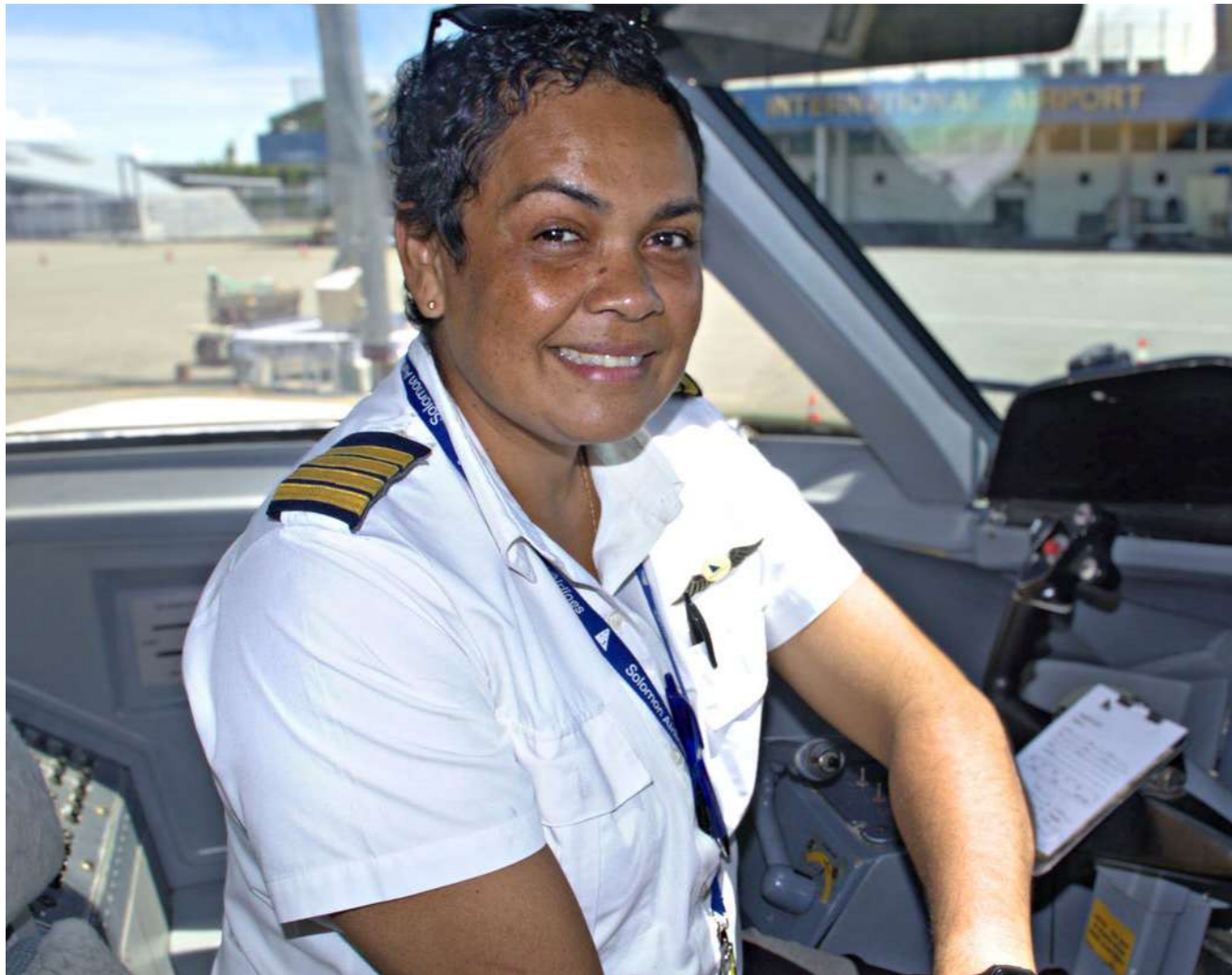
my journey during my battle, and now as a cancer survivor, I am looking forward to giving back through my service to the company and serving our beloved Solomon Islands.

"I am deeply grateful to Solomon Airlines and to all of my colleagues for their commitment to standing by me financially and through their prayers.

"I hope that the story of my fight will shine hope and positivity for others, as an example of what can be achieved with moral support and through great teamwork, and that it may speak healing to anyone who is battling a similar fight," she said.

"I am overjoyed to be certified to fly again and looking forward to welcoming our passengers on board and soaring over the Hapi Isles with them once more."

Since achieving her air transport pilot licence (ATPL) in 2009, Captain Tito first flew as a full-time captain of the 19-seat De Havilland Twin Otter turbo-prop aircraft, and has been with Solomon Airlines for the last 14 years. ▲



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www.spo.com.sb

southpacificoil



Honiara's Entertainment Hub



Welkam to Pacific Crown Hotel

Pacific Crown Hotel offers a convenient location just 5km from the International Airport & 3km to Point Cruise (Honiara's CBD).

Our suites include private balconies, lounge areas, mini-bar, WiFi, satellite television and air-conditioning.

Sip on cocktails and dine in our famous Garden Bar & Restaurant of Malaysian Chinese cuisine!

Let us show you the warmth of Solomon Island hospitality!

Support our talented local live bands from Wednesday to Saturday at canoe bar. Happy hour 4-8pm daily.

Try our motu (Solomon dish) on our cultural nights every Thursday and watch our beautiful tamure dancers share a mix of local and international dance stories.



PACIFIC CROWN HOTEL

 (677) 45000

 RESERVATION@THEPCH.COM



WWW.THEPCH.COM



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