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SOLOMON AIRLINES COMPLIMENTARY IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 90

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## Women Make Waves

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Solomon Airlines

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## Solidarity with Air Vanuatu

In the wake of our cousin airline Air Vanuatu's voluntary liquidation, our Solomon Airlines family, led by Permanent Secretary Collin Beck and joined by Attorney General John Muria, Chairman Frank Wickham, Deputy Director Bob Pollard, CFO Malina Ilala, Reservation Control Manager Mavis Tom, and myself, promptly took flight to Vanuatu. Representing our Honourable Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele, we extended a hand of support and solidarity. Though we share in the sorrow of Air Vanuatu's current state, we hold onto hope for its future revival.

With the gracious acceptance of the Vanuatu government, Solomon Airlines has proudly taken on the Brisbane-Santo-Port Vila and Honiara-Port Vila-Auckland routes. The swift and skilled efforts of our team in setting up operations in Port Vila and Santo have been nothing short of remarkable. Their dedication through sleepless nights and relentless work has culminated in

a triumphant success, celebrated by the vibrant traditions of Vanuatu—from the salusalu adorned passengers to the water cannon salute, a spectacle of unity and excellence.

## Gratitude and Service

The heartfelt thanks we've received from the people of Santo and Vanuatu are humbly accepted. It is our honor and privilege to serve our neighbouring airline in its time of need and to soon take on the mantle of some of their domestic routes.

*As Solomon Airlines approaches its 62nd anniversary, we are reminded of our journey and the vision that propels us forward—becoming the 'Pacific's Best Emerging Airline.'*

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As we reflect on the ceremonial water cannon salute that marked the inaugural flight to Espiritu Santo Island on the 4th of July, 2024, we also rejoice in our nomination for "Oceania's Leading Regional Airline 2024" in the World Travel Aviation Awards. This distinction is a tribute to the relentless spirit and hard work of our 265 team members, past and present, whose collective efforts have brought us to this moment of recognition.

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CEO of Solomon Airlines

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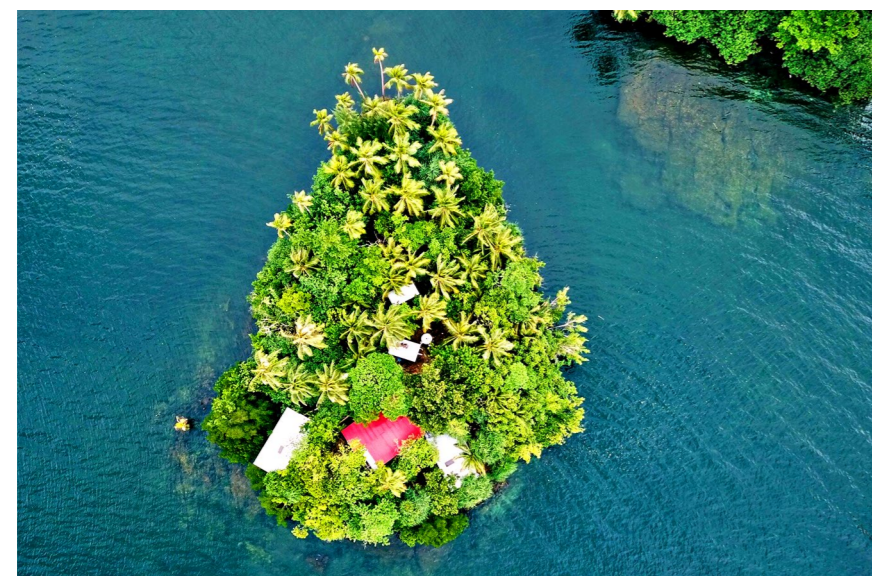
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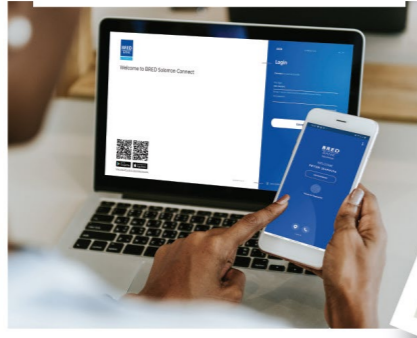
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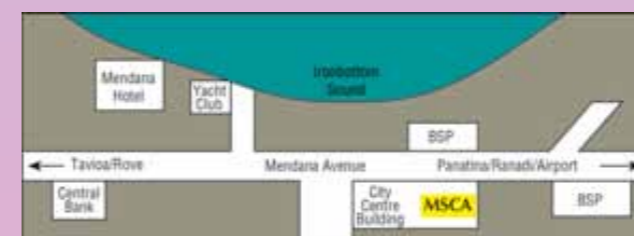
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## Out and About

### KERRIE FARADATOLO CROWNED SOLOMON ISLANDS MISS TOURISM

Hailing from Malaita Province, the 25-year-old Faradatolo is working as senior legislative drafting counsel for the Attorney General's Chambers Office in Honiara after obtaining a Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific.

Her new role as the face of tourism for the Solomon Islands will see her travel across the country emphasising the importance of tourism, as well as the benefits the industry brings to communities across the Sols.

She aims to do this by delving into the country's diverse cultures and natural beauty in the hopes she can then showcase it to the world and help foster tourism in the Islands.

Official duties kicked off with a visit to Hotomai Cultural Village in Central Guadalcanal, while Faradatolo also participated in the recent Independence Day festivities aboard the Tourism Islands float during the parade.

The new Miss Tourism was backed by co-sponsors Solomon Airlines, Travel Solomons, The Heritage Park Hotel, Qua Roviana Motel and Authentic Mala Tours during her bid for the title with their support continuing as she works towards her objectives.

The Solomon Islands is set to play host to the Miss South Pacific Beauty Pageant in 2025. ▶



Photo by Jay Gagame Photography

## Out and About

### SEGHE WORKS COMPLETED; AIRPORT HANDED BACK TO THE SOLOMONS

Co-funded by the New Zealand, Australian and Solomon Islands governments under the Solomon Islands Provincial Airfields project, renovations to Seghe Airport commenced in October last year and were completed in early-July.

The airport has now been returned to the Solomon Islands and will ensure the country's provinces, especially the Western Province, are more connected, allowing for greater economic and tourism opportunities.

New Solomon Islands Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele officially opened the upgraded airfield alongside Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, Australian High Commissioner Rod Hilton and members of the community, after work focused on improving the safety and reliability of the airfield as part of a larger government priority to develop the Islands infrastructure and create jobs.

During the ceremony, Manele graciously thanked all contributing partners for their hard work and dedication to the project and their support for the Solomons, after admitting the renovation timeframe was tight.

Peters stated that the renovations will "expand economic opportunities and improve access to essential services and

more equitable development across the provinces." He also said the upgrade will "enable flights to operate under all weather conditions."

The upgrades included chip-sealing the runway and installing a solar ground lighting system allowing the airport to facilitate night flights.

Although not present at the opening ceremony, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong acknowledged the works were part of a "broader program of high-quality airfield upgrade, designed to help unlock Solomon Islands' full economic potential."

*... the upgrade will "enable flights to operate under all weather conditions."*

The two foreign governments released a joint statement proceeding the renovation proclaiming their continued commitment to Solomon Islands aviation and the country's economic development.

The airport was initially built over 11 days in 1943 for use as a fighter strip during the Rendova and Munda Point Landings but will now aid in the growth of the tourism industry.

Lata and Suavanao airports are also scheduled for an upgrade after the recent successful renovations of the airports at Munda, Gizo, Taro and now Seghe. ▶



Photo by Downer Group



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN HONIARA

The country's 46th birthday as a sovereign state was marked in style in July, with big celebrations taking place in the capital.

This year's celebration was given a theme, "Charting our United and Transformative Future Together," and included a Thanksgiving Service at Saint Barnabas Cathedral on Sunday, 7th July, and the Independence Anniversary Program at the National Stadium on Monday, July 8th.

Solomon Islands' new Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele spoke to the crowd gathered at Saint Barnabas about the social and economic issues the Islands have faced before reiterating how proud he is of the resilience of this nation's people.

On the Monday, a parade featuring two floats entered the recently-built National Stadium; one from the western end of Honiara and the other from the east. Cultural groups, government ministries, members of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries, state-owned enterprises and schools all participated in the parade with vehicles covered in decorations showcasing the nation's flag and colours.

This year's celebrations included speeches, honours, an award ceremony, entertainment and the swearing-in of the new Governor General Elect, Reverend David Tiva Kapu. The Prime Minister was in attendance alongside the recently crowned Miss Tourism Kerrie Faradatolo and Chief Justice, Sir Albert Rocky Palmer. ▶

Out and About



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# Women making waves

The new program aiming to promote equality in the lineup, and on land.

PHOTOS 7174 FILMS

**T**he Women Make Waves program has officially launched in the Western Province, aiming to empower women and promote gender equality through one very popular activity in the area: surfing.

Central to the overall mission is the Western Solomon Surf Association (WSSA), who work with local schools, communities, and program partners to deliver gender and women's health education, support for survivors of gender-based violence and initiatives to improve gender practices and representation of women in the lineup.

With strong swell, a number of consistent reef breaks and an array of stunning beaches, the Solomon Islands have long been seen as a potential surf paradise. Local participation is on the rise, and there are a number of surf camps and operators who can show tourists the best waves — both on and off-shore.

The surf season in the Solomon Islands runs from mid-October to April, with the biggest swells coming in January and February.

Women Make Waves delivers a number of different programs — from teaching high-school students how to surf and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and gender norms, to using surf as a form of therapy for those who have encountered gender based violence in the past. The Make Waves events aim to provoke thought through film, while a leadership element of the program has been designed to empower young women as leaders in their community.

*“We are proud to support Women Make Waves through the Team Up program. This initiative not only promotes surfing but also drives meaningful change.”*

Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands



**Left:** The Women Make Waves program is making waves in the Western Province. **Above:** The program aims to empower young women, and advance gender equality, through surf, film and more.



*With strong swell, a number of consistent reef breaks and an array of stunning beaches, the Solomon Islands have long been seen as a potential surf paradise.*



The program is committed to creating safe spaces for women and girls, promoting positive relationships between genders, and showcasing women's capabilities to help them take their rightful place in society.

The programs are delivered in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, primarily in Gizo Town, Titiana Village, and Paelonge Village.

"We are proud to support Women Make Waves through the Team Up program,"

**Left:** A young girl wearing her traditional village custom dress. **Above:** WSSA Womens Rep and Child Protection Officer, Nagartia Baea with local surfers.

said Mr Rod Hilton, Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands.

It shows our commitment to empowering women and advancing gender equality in the Pacific. This initiative not only promotes surfing but also drives meaningful change,"

The program recognises that no single organisation can address the program focus areas alone. By collaborating with a range of partners, Women Make Waves aims to effect socio-ecological change through programs like Surf for Equality and EmpowerHER School's Programs, Make Waves Film and Conversation Events, Surf Therapy Programs, and the WSSA capacity building, the Empowerment and Leadership Program.

Women Make Waves is supported by Team Up, the Australian Government's sport for development program in the Asia-Pacific. With more than 70 partners across

seven Pacific Island countries, Team Up's programs are specifically designed to provide all people, regardless of gender or ability, the opportunity to realise their full potential through sport.

Partners of the program include SurfAid, Australian Volunteers Program, Family Support Centre, and Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association. ▶



To find out how Women Make Waves is advancing gender equality and advance women's empowerment, hit up [womenmakewaves.org](http://womenmakewaves.org)

# Western Waves

*Fly Solomons' Top 5 Surf Breaks in the Western Province.*

## 1 Paelonge

Situated close to the town of Gizo, the capital of the Western Province, Paelonge is a fast and hollow right, best during large swells when sections link up. Easily accessible by either a boat or short paddle from the beach, Paelonge is a sharp, shallow reef. Reef cuts are common, or as the locals call them, 'Paelonge tattoos'.

## 2 Shortland Islands

A relatively undiscovered archipelago with waves, in the far west. Challenge accepted!

## 4 Skull Island

The longest right-hander in all of the Solomon Islands. A 20-minute ride from Lola Island (a remote islet in the middle of Vono Vono Lagoon in the Western Province) or a two-hour boat ride from Gizo, Skull Island is a consistent wave that breaks over a deep coral reef. Safe, easy to ride and best at 3-6 foot, this spot is ideal in medium to large swells.

## 3 Titiana

A goofy footer's dream. Only a short drive from Gizo, Titiana's is a long and shallow left with consistent surf that can be reached with a short paddle from the village beach on Gizo Island. As an exposed and shallow reef break, Titiana's should be approached with caution by the inexperienced surfer.

## 5 Desperates

A shallow and hollow right-hander, breaking on a point at the end of a stunning lagoon. Located near Munda on New Georgia Island, the area is subject to tropical depressions, cyclones and low pressure systems in the Coral Sea. While often fickle, Desperates lights up on bigger days. It's also a great picnic and snorkelling spot when the swell is small.



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A  
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# Dividing Munda

IN

Exploring beneath the surface is now easier than ever before.

WORDS KATE GAZZARD

PHOTOS DEBORAH DICKSON-SMITH + SUPPLIED

**F**rom colourful reef systems teeming with tropical fish to downed WWII aircraft and shipwrecks, Munda has long been one of the best diving destinations in the Solomon Islands.

Now is a better time than ever to explore this incredible underwater destination, with an upgraded airport and two new businesses supporting diving and water sports opening in recent months.

Thanks to its location between converging lagoons, Roviana and Vonavona, Munda is spoilt for spectacular dive sites. With signature spots including Shark Point and Haipe Reef, and marine life such as reef sharks, eagle rays, pygmy seahorses and turtles floating around, there's no shortage of fascinating things to discover beneath the water's surface.

The adrenaline-fuelled activity's fast-growing popularity, along with recent renovations to Munda International Airport, means Munda is better placed than ever to welcome travellers. The SBD\$60 million refurbishment included upgrades to the airport's runway, taxiway and apron, as well as the construction of a new terminal building, making direct air routes between Brisbane and Munda possible.

Identifying the opportunity to provide top-quality products and services to travellers seeking unforgettable underwater experiences, Trevor Smith opened the Magical Munda Dive Centre, located at Agnes Lodge Munda, in June.

**Opposite:** There's plenty to discover beneath the water's surface when you're diving in Munda.



*“We hope to grow the sport in the Solomons, open[ing] up another sector of the tourism market.”*



“We hope to grow the sport in the Solomons, open[ing] up another sector of the tourism market.”

What makes Munda such an attractive destination for diving, is also what makes it a fantastic spot for spearfishing. Its reef ecosystems are in pristine condition and full of soft corals, gigantic sea fans and several fish species suitable for hunting — flame fish, job fish, yellowfin tuna and mahi-mahi to name a few.

While he loves spearfishing, Duke believes Munda “really is a magical place for diving with probably some of the most diverse dive sites, all within a heartbeat of each other.” He may not have spent that much time diving in Munda in recent years, but he still counts Mushroom Island as one of his favourites.

“It lets my imagination run wild,” he says.

It’s hard to argue with him when the site is known for its incredible wall diving, boasting magnificent colours and marine life such as barrel sponges, gorgonian fern corals, butterflyfish and angelfish.

Solomon Pro Fishing & Dive Shop isn’t offering scuba diving tours at this stage. Instead, it’ll showcase the region’s beauty through other activities such as hiking, fishing and snorkelling while it settles into the flow of business in Munda. ▽



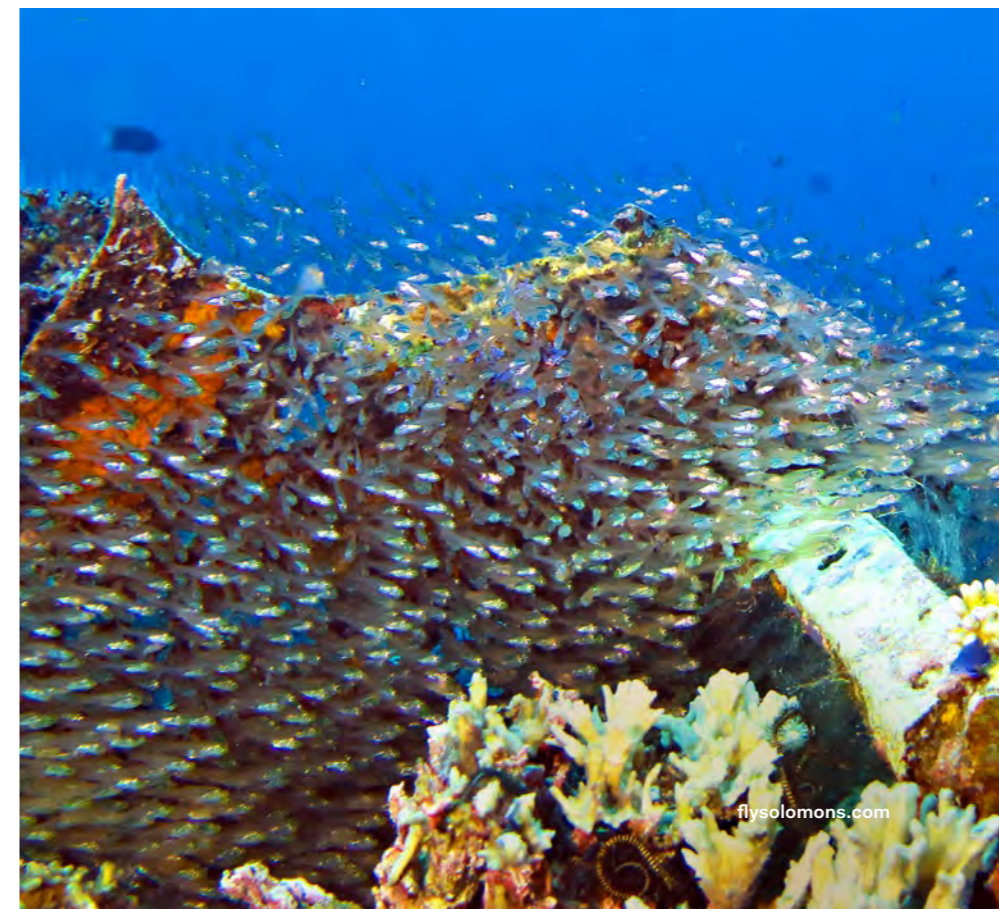
With the proper diving infrastructure now in place, water lovers can marvel at the region’s abundance of anemones and clownfish (among other marine species), found at several of the 36 dive sites the PADI-certified store visits on its tours.

The store also offers activities such as fishing tours, snorkelling tours and island visits for those who’d prefer to keep their feet on dry land.

However, it’s not just about the tours for Smith. It’s about “educating the local community on the sustainability of scuba diving tourism and the benefits it brings to the wider community [in terms of] a skilled workforce,” he says. His passion for eco-tourism means Smith is looking to steer the store towards doing more to look after the reef, instead of simply showing it off.

Daniel Duke, owner of the recently opened Solomon Pro Fishing & Dive Shop, also thinks his business can help the residents of Munda with spearfishing the activity he wants to make more accessible to both local Solomon Islanders and travellers to the region.

“Spearfishing in general is a pretty niche sport. It’s also an expensive sport to buy all the gear you need.



**Clockwise from opposite:** Multi-coloured coral is a common sight when diving in Munda; Exploring Munda’s intricate reef systems; A school of tropical fish, and shopping for diving essentials at Solomon Pro Munda.



Fly to Munda with Solomon Airlines [flysolomons.com](https://flysolomons.com)

For more info on diving in Munda, check out Magical Munda Dive Centre: [mundadivecentre.com](https://mundadivecentre.com)

To rent gear, for tours and for more information on water sports, get in touch with **Solomon Pro Munda** on Facebook.



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# Echoes of Unity

**Wa'uraha A're A're Panpipers Shine at Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture.**

WORDS & PHOTOS REGINA LEPPING

**The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture was held from June 6-16, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and witnessed a delegation of 85 Solomon Islanders. The festival is hosted by a different Pacific Island nation every four years — except when it took a break during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

This year, Hawai'i hosted more than 2,500 delegates representing almost 30 Pacific nations.

The Solomon Islands delegation showcased a vibrant array of talents; dancers, bands, carvers, film and literature representatives, culinary specialists, art and crafts demonstrators, symposium participants and officials.

There was also the renowned panpipers, whose presence created a wave of excitement and admiration.

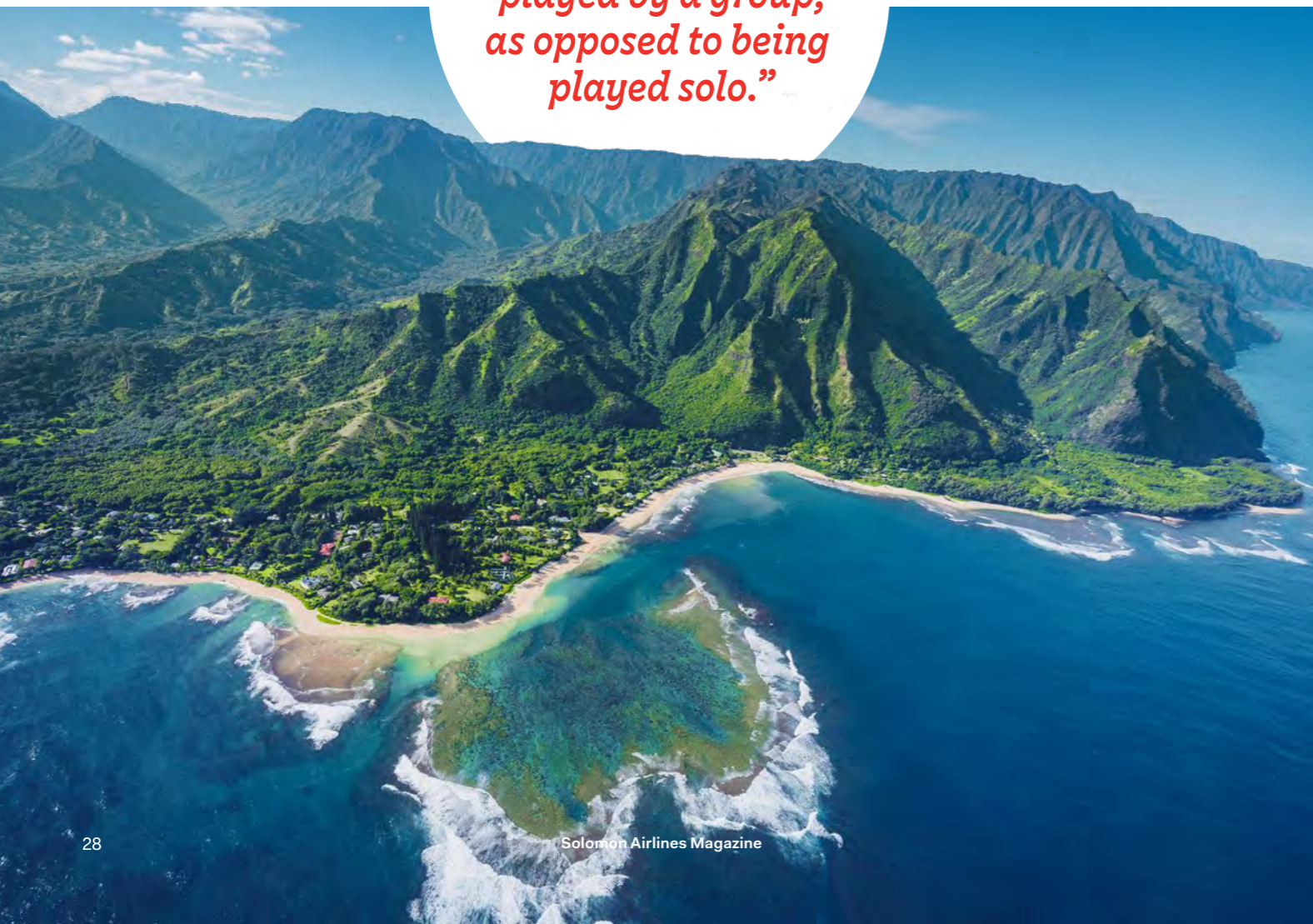
The famous Wa'uraha A're A're Panpipers are known for their traditional bamboo instruments and synchronized movements, and captivated audiences with their unique sounds and dynamic performances. Visitors to the Solomons will recognise the Panpipers from their airtime on Solomon Airlines flights.

Clad in traditional kabilatos, the panpipers brought the essence of the Solomon Islands to the festival stage, and drew enthusiastic crowds eager for mesmerizing performances.

Above: The Wa'uraha A're A're Panpipers' performances have become iconic across the Pacific.



*“Our music is designed in a way that is meant to be played by a group, as opposed to being played solo.”*



As a Solomon Islands journalist reporting from festival's vibrant atmosphere, there was a recurring question I would receive throughout my time there: "Are the panpipers from the Solomon Islands here?"

Formed in 2012, the Wa'uraha Panpipers have proudly represented Solomon Islands on numerous prestigious platforms. Their journey began with a stellar performance at the Festival of Pacific Arts hosted in Honiara. Since then, they have showcased their talents in New Caledonia in 2014, the Panpipe Festival organized by the Ministry of Tourism Culture division in 2017, the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival in Honiara in 2018, and again at the same festival in Vanuatu in 2023.

John Kanai Ta'amora, the band manager and fellow performer, fondly reminisces about their milestones. A significant highlight was a performance at the airport tarmac in 2018, welcoming King Charles (then Prince of Wales) to Honiara. This memorable performance added another feather to their cap, symbolizing their cultural significance and the pride they bring to the Solomon Islands.

The name "Wa'uraha" represents a fusion of tribal identities from West A're A're in Malaita Province, symbolizing unity, cooperation, reciprocity, and inclusiveness. "Wa'uraha" embodies "Tarakoniha," reflecting the spirit of togetherness inherent in their music.

Ta'amora couldn't stress this unity enough.

"Though we are from separate tribes, we are still one people. The panpipe music in our culture itself is a symbol of togetherness.

"Our music is designed in a way that is meant to be played by a group, as opposed to being played solo."

The group consists of ten men from West A're A're, whose performances exude synchronicity and collective harmony. Their music originates from four types of panpipes: one contemporary and three cultural. The cultural panpipes — Au Rerepi, Taka'irori, and Auni Mato — form the core of their repertoire, which they continuously expand with other traditional A're A're melodies.

Ta'amora passionately shares his vision for the group's future, aspiring for the Wa'uraha Panpipers to become a self-sustaining organization and a hub for A're A're cultural music and traditions.

"My hope for the future of the group is to see us becoming a hub for A're A're cultural music and culture.

"We 're aiming for overseas tours, recording albums, and collaborations with other like-minded artists."

This year's festival was considered a huge success in celebrating the artistic diversity of this region.

The first festival — when it was known as the South Pacific Festival — was held in 1972, in Suva, Fiji. Now known as FestPAC and held every four years, hosts rotate across Oceania.

The theme of this year's festival was "Ho'oulu Lāhui: Regenerating Oceania".

Clockwise from left: Hawaii'i played host to the festival; the Panpipers in action.





# ALL-STARS HIT THE SOLOMONS



Global TV show gives incredible platform to the Hapi Isles.



**N**o less than 12 philanthropic 'All-Stars' flew to the Solomon Islands in May to experience the best this incredible country has to offer, in the name of charity.

*Adventure All Stars* is a TV show telecast in an incredible 195 countries around the world. The latest season of the groundbreaking show featured an episode in the Solomon Islands, giving tourism in this country a sensational platform to the rest of the world.

A total of 63 episodes of *Adventure All Stars* have now been produced, approaching \$10 million in funds raised for charities, making the show the biggest contributor to philanthropy of any TV show in Australia and one of the biggest providers to charity of any TV series in the world.

*Fly Solomons* caught up with Michelle Worthington, a contestant on the show, to find out about her incredible adventure.

Q & A



*Fly Solomons: It sounds like you had an incredible adventure through this beautiful country. Where exactly did you go?*

**Michelle Worthington:** Our first stop was Roderick Bay, a hidden gem known for its pristine waters and the famous shipwreck of the *MS World Discoverer*, which now serves as a fascinating diving site. From there, we ventured to Maravaghi Island, where the unspoiled beaches and lush greenery offered a glimpse into the untouched beauty of the Solomon Islands.

Our visit to Savo Island was a thrilling adventure, highlighted by our stay at Savo Sunset Lodge. We explored the island's volcanic landscape, observing the unique geothermal activity and marveling at the natural hot springs.

**Clockwise from opposite:** Michelle at the Vilu War Museum, about 12 km north of Honiara; as equally adept at holding a camera as embracing culture.

***“The trek to Tenaru Waterfall was an exhilarating experience ... a perfect spot for a refreshing dip.”***



The hospitality at Savo Sunset Lodge was exceptional, making our stay even more memorable.

At Parangiju Mountain Lodge, we were treated to panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. The lodge's rustic charm and warm hospitality made it a delightful retreat. The trek to Tenaru Waterfall was an exhilarating experience, rewarding us with the sight of a majestic waterfall cascading into a serene pool—a perfect spot for a refreshing dip.

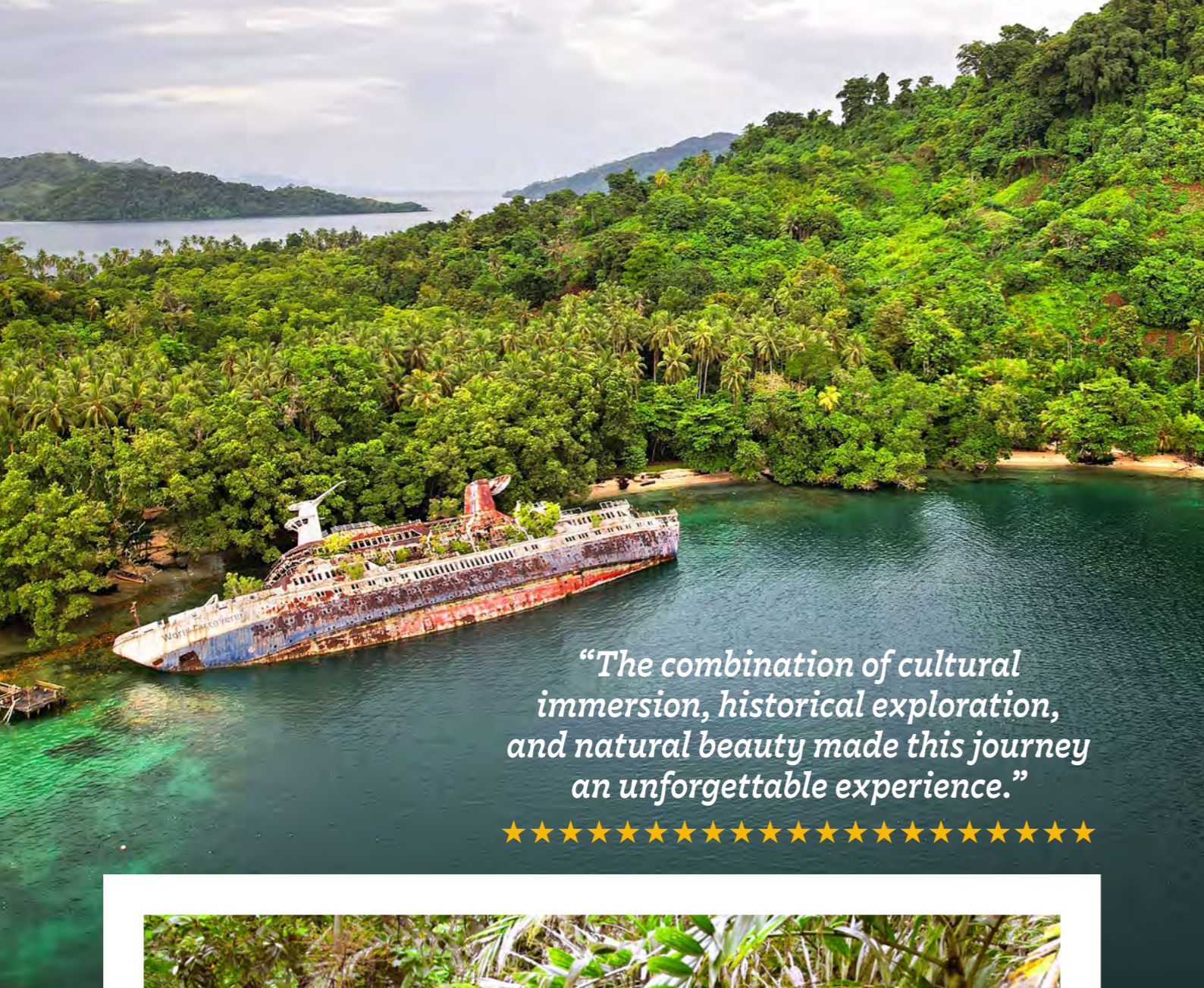
**F.S: Where did you stay?**

**M.W:** Our base throughout this incredible journey was the Heritage Park Hotel, a sanctuary of comfort and

elegance amidst the vibrant capital city of Honiara. The hotel offered a perfect blend of modern amenities and local charm, with its beautifully landscaped gardens and stunning ocean views providing a serene backdrop for our adventures.

**F.S: Did you experience any culture while you were here?**

**M.W:** Haroro Village and Hotomai Cultural Village were highlights of our trip, providing a deep dive into the rich cultural tapestry of the Solomon Islands. In Haroro, we were warmly welcomed by the villagers, who shared their traditional dances, music, and crafts. At Hotomai Cultural Village,



*“The combination of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and natural beauty made this journey an unforgettable experience.”*



we learned about the islanders' history and customs, gaining a profound appreciation for their way of life.

**F.S:** Tell us about your favourite beach?

**M.W:** Piaru Beach was a slice of paradise, with its soft, white sands and crystal-clear waters. It was the perfect place to unwind and soak up the sun, enjoying the tranquil beauty that surrounded us.

**F.S:** Was there a place which surprised you?

**M.W:** The Vilu War Museum offered a poignant glimpse into the history of the Solomon Islands during World War II. The museum's collection of relics and artifacts provided a sobering reminder of the islands' strategic importance and the sacrifices made during the war.

**F.S:** How did you manage to combine filming with all of these incredible experiences? It must have been exhausting?

**M.W:** Combining filming with the incredible experiences in the Solomon Islands was a challenge, but also a deeply rewarding one. The key was meticulous planning and a great team. We made sure to schedule filming to showcase the culture in a way that was authentic and all of our reactions were genuine. This left us with the rest of the time to explore, interact with locals, and immerse ourselves in the unique culture and stunning landscapes.

The adrenaline and excitement of discovering such a beautiful and diverse place kept our spirits high. We balanced intense filming sessions with moments of relaxation and reflection, which helped maintain our energy levels. Plus, the camaraderie among the crew and the warm hospitality of the islanders provided a constant source of motivation and inspiration. Each day brought new adventures and stories to tell, making every bit of effort worthwhile.

-----  
**Clockwise from left:** Vilu War Museum; the abandoned MS *World Discoverer* at Roderick Bay; life in the islands.



**F.S:** Overall, what will you remember from your time in the Solomon Islands?

**M.W:** My time in the Solomon Islands with *Adventure All Stars* was nothing short of magical. The combination of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and natural beauty made this journey an unforgettable experience. Thanks to the exceptional planning and support from Visit Solomon Islands, Destination Solomons, Travel Solomons, Charity TV Global, and the Ministry of Culture Tourism Solomons, I left the Solomon Islands with a heart full of memories and a profound appreciation for this Pacific paradise.

The Solomon Islands are truly a hidden treasure, offering a unique blend of adventure, culture, and tranquility. I am grateful for this

remarkable opportunity to explore and experience the beauty and hospitality of these enchanting islands. ▴

You can follow Michelle Worthington on Instagram @michelle.author



*Adventure All Stars* was conducted in partnership with Tourism Solomons, the Ministry of Culture & Tourism and Solomon Airlines.

You can catch the latest *Adventure All Stars* on **Apple TV** and **justwatch.com** online, and on **7Plus** if you are based in Australia.



# Exploring East Rennell

An unspoilt paradise, even by Solomon Islands standards.

WORDS TIM McGLONE

**I**t doesn't take long to understand that Rennell Island is a little different to most other islands you've been to. In fact, you need only take a look at a map.

The southernmost island of the Solomon Islands is the world's largest raised coral atoll, a landmass dominated by Lake Tegano, which visibly runs super close to the perimeter of the island in its entirety, on the east of the island. Stretching across a vast 155 km<sup>2</sup>, this vast body of water is not only remarkable for its relative size but also for the rich biodiversity it supports. Lush rainforests on land also assist an extraordinary variety of life, including birds — aviary enthusiasts the world over travel here to get a glimpse of several rare, endemic species including the Rennell White Eye.

Rennell Island is a part of the Rennell and Bellona province, notable for being two predominantly Polynesian-inhabited islands within a predominantly Melanesian country.

As a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, this remote paradise offers intrepid travellers a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in unspoiled landscapes — even by the Solomon Islands' high standards — both above and beneath the surface of the water. ▲

**Above:** Ever Green lodge (supplied); cliffside on Rennell Island. **Opposite:** Motumahi Lodge (supplied) is on its own island on Lake Tegano.



Explore

*Motumahi Lodge is a minimalist accommodation on its own island with just two villas, offering incredible views of the lake, plus kayaking, snorkelling and diving.*





1. LAKE TEGANO:

**Pristine Wilderness Retreat**

At the heart of East Rennell lies Lake Tegano, the largest lake in the insular Pacific and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1998. Surrounded by lush rainforests and mangrove swamps, Lake Tegano is a haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. Stay at the Motumahi Lodge, a minimalist accommodation on its own island with just two villas, offering incredible offers views of the lake, plus kayaking, snorkelling and diving.

MOTUMAHI LODGE  
 motumahiinfor@gmail.com  
 0422 222 533

2. MEET THE LOCALS:

**Homestay**

Take the opportunity to visit local villages and interact with the warm and welcoming Rennellese people. Learn about their traditional customs, craftsmanship, and sustainable way of life. Participate in cultural activities such as traditional dance performances and handicraft workshops, supporting the community's livelihoods.

EAST RENNELL HOMESTAY, NIPUANI VILLAGE  
 whstours@yahoo.com

3. EXPLORE THE RAINFOREST:

**Guided hikes**

Lace up your hiking boots and embark on a trek through East Rennell's lush rainforest trails. Guided hikes offer insights into the island's unique flora and fauna, including ancient Kauri trees and medicinal plants used by the local communities. These treks are as informative as much as they are beautiful.

CHECK OUT SOLOMON AIRLINES WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:  
[flysolomons.com/destination-guide/trek](http://flysolomons.com/destination-guide/trek)

4. UNDERWATER ADVENTURE:

**Coral Reef Exploration**

Dive into crystal-clear waters off East Rennell's coast to discover vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life. Snorkelling and diving tours are available, allowing you to encounter colourful fish, sea turtles, and even dolphins in their natural habitat. These activities are managed with strict eco-tourism guidelines to preserve the delicate marine ecosystem. There is also a submerged World War II wrecks, including a bomber which is well worth checking out.

CHECK OUT FLY SOLOMONS FOR MORE INFO:  
[flysolomons.com/destination-guide/provinces/rennell-and-bellona-province/rennell-island](http://flysolomons.com/destination-guide/provinces/rennell-and-bellona-province/rennell-island)



5. WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS:

**Birds that can't be found anywhere else in the world**

East Rennell is home to numerous endemic bird species, including the Rennell Shrikebill, the Rennell White Eye and the Rennell Fantail. Embark on guided bird-watching tours through the island's ancient rainforests to spot these rare avian treasures. The tours are led by knowledgeable local guides who emphasize conservation and sustainable tourism practices. Ever Green Lodge is the perfect place to base yourself to get a glimpse.

EVER GREEN LODGE  
 seth.tautai22@gmail.com  
 +677 72 87333



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Vehicle Rental Limited

Ranadi, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
Contact us:  
Phone / WhatsApp +677 7736229  
Facebook or email admin@elite.com.sb

Guide

# 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.



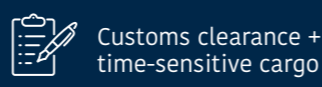
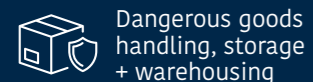
## The logical choice when it comes to logistics



**Oceania Pacific Freight & Logistics** offers a dedicated and personal approach to freight forwarding. This enables us to offer an excellent service at a competitive price.

Our conveniently located Brisbane warehouse makes us uniquely accessible to our Pacific neighbours and broader global markets.

Contact us today on +61 7 3130 4508 or info@opfl.com.au



## MARINA HOTEL

Lembu Bay, Noro, Western Province, Solomon Islands  
+677 7250125 / 8584455 / 7939758  
marinahotelnoro@gmail.com  
<https://www.marinahotelnoro.com>



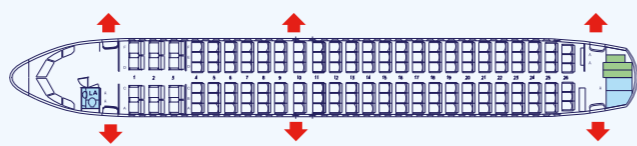
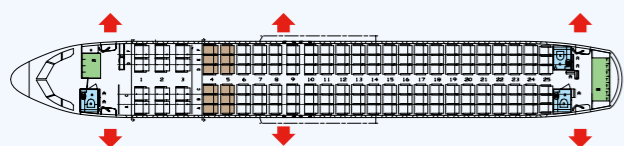
# Solomon Airlines Fleet



## 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, Santo**

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, Port Vila, Auckland**



▲ Emergency Exits    ▲ Toilets    ▲ Galleys    ▲ Belama Club



## Dash 8-102

Length: **22.25 m**  
 Wing Span: **25.91 m**  
 Range: **2,040 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, Lomlom**



## Twin Otter

Length: **15.77 m**  
 Wing Span: **19.81 m**  
 Range: **1,350 km**  
 Cruising Speed: **338 km/h**  
 Seating capacity: **16**  
 Crew: **2**  
 Aircraft in Fleet: **3**  
 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



Our point of difference

# International Connections

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



## General Sales Agents

**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-Elysées, 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) 22836  
Email: estella@vanuatutravelservices.com.vu  
Address: South Pacific Travel, Novo House,  
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: Ground Floor,  
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

**EUROPE**  
Ph: (31) 0 206481220  
Email: sandervanderploeg@speed.nl  
Address: Speed B.V, Schiphol Airport,  
The Netherlands

**NEW ZEALAND**  
Ph: (64) 9 3523409  
Email: akl.gsa@airway.co.nz  
Address: Airway, Level 6, 2 Commerce Street,  
Auckland CBD 1010, 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.

## Tippling

Not expected and not encouraged.





ANNOUNCEMENT

# NEW ROUTE FOR SOLOMON AIRLINES TO SANTO

Solomon Airlines' flight from Brisbane to Vanuatu's Espiritu Santo landed to applause and a water canon salute on July 5, marking the recommencement of a weekly international service for the airline.

industry here in Vanuatu, especially our industry partners in Santo," said Vanuatu Tourism Office CEO, Adela Issachar Aru.

"The direct weekly service to Santo from Brisbane is a welcome development in re-establishing our

On departure from Brisbane, passengers were presented with a souvenir certificate to mark the occasion and in Santo were warmly welcomed with fresh Salusalu (floral lei) and a musical welcome by a local string band and fresh coconuts, which were handed to every passenger.

The route follows the commencement of two return flights weekly between Honiara, Port Vila and Auckland.

"The news of greater connectivity to Vanuatu, thanks to Solomon Airlines, will be widely celebrated by the tourism

***"Santo is as laid back as you can get and a great place to escape for your winter break."***

aviation connectivity. We have always had a strong partnership with Solomon Airlines and are thrilled to continue working with them.

## NEW VANUATU FLIGHT ROUTE

### DEPARTING BRISBANE:

- MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY: Brisbane > Honiara > Port Vila
- THURSDAY: Brisbane > Espiritu Santo

### DEPARTING VANUATU:

- TUESDAY AND THURSDAY: Port Vila > Honiara > Brisbane
- THURSDAY: Espiritu Santo > Port Vila > Brisbane

"Espiritu Santo is a magical location for holidaymakers to lose themselves amongst the blue holes, world famous beaches, dive sites, kastom and culture of the island. Santo is as laid back as you can get and a great place to escape for your winter break."

"We hope this news encourages travellers to book their next holiday with us, and experience our warm welkam, lush landscapes and crystal blue waters for themselves." ▴

AWARDS

## SOLOMON AIRLINES SHORTLISTED FOR AIRLINE ACCOLADE

Solomon Airlines has been shortlisted in the 2024 World Travel Awards as a nominee in the category 'Oceania's Leading Regional Airline'.



The World Travel Awards acknowledge and celebrate industry excellence across all sectors of the aviation, travel and hospitality industries. Votes are submitted by travel and tourism industry members and the general public and all votes are audited by the organisers to ensure validity.

The airline welcomes recognition of the hard work by our team, and progress made under the airline's Solomon Airlines Strategic Plan, to be 'the Pacific's best emerging airline'.

Solomon Airlines' five-year Strategic Plan entitled 'Navigating Excellence', outlines seven key goals to ensure the exceptional delivery of safe, sustainable and friendly airline service across Solomon Airlines international and domestic networks. ▴

## IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS, SOLOMON AIRLINES HAS:

- Taken delivery of a second Airbus A320 international aircraft
- Maximised global profile and commercial opportunities via the 17th South Pacific Games
- Transferred into the new Honiara International Airport Terminal
- Reopened its new Belama Lounge and relaunched the Belama Club Loyalty program
- Elevated flight attendant uniforms with smart new components
- Recommended Brisbane-Munda flights, opening a second international gateway to Solomon Islands
- Increased scheduled services between Honiara-Port Vila-Auckland
- Introduced Brisbane-Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu services
- Expanded its domestic pilot ranks with four new First Officers and four new Captains qualifying for the Twin Otter aircraft type.

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MILESTONES

# SOLOMON AIRLINES CELEBRATES NEW GRADUATES

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 addition, a number of existing flight crew have received promotions having completed advanced training.

The airline hosted a 'Presentation of Wings' ceremony at the company's Honiara head office on June 9, presenting wings and epaulettes to four new First Officers and four new Captains qualifying for the Twin Otter aircraft type.

Solomon Airlines also congratulated Domestic Chief Pilot Captain Alex Takola on becoming a First Officer on the airline's largest domestic aircraft the de Havilland Dash 8, and flight crew members — Captain Patricia Avosa and Captain Aphia Toitona who become Training Captains after successfully completing Category D Flight Instructor training.

Solomon Airlines domestic operations today span total of 22 destinations across nine provinces of Solomon Islands.

The airline is tremendously proud of the achievements of its flight crew members, who excelled during training and examinations, and are set to add significant capability to the airline's domestic pilot workforce.

The national carrier is committed to supporting the growth and prosperity of the country, its people and economy. Under the airline's current strategic plan, one clear goal is to nurture and promote the professional development of employees, as is occurring now through training and advancement.

The achievement of these local pilots is a great example to young people throughout Solomon Islands, and an inspiration to locals who wish to pursue a career as a pilot with our national carrier. ▶



## 2024 NEW GRADUATES

### New Twin Otter First Officers

- First Officer Augustine Siumary
- First Officer Anthony Bugotu
- First Officer Peniasi Ene
- First Officer Gorepitu Alependava

### New Twin Otter Captains

- Captain Bernard Tebaia
- Captain Salome Agiomea
- Captain Philip Tegavota
- Captain Arikiraoui Ruaia



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# 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.



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