

The Solomon Islands

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Solomon Is.



Solomon Islands



Map of The Solomon Islands, not to scale

Provinces of the Solomon Islands.

Guadalcanal and Honiara.

After WWII Honiara became the capital city of the Solomon Islands, and is situated on the island of Guadalcanal. The area is rich in WWII history and wrecks, both under the sea and on the land. Tourism is very much historical with its WWII history and now eco-tourism appears to be leading the way. Honiara is the gateway to the Solomon Islands and a busy hub into the country.

Central Islands.

The Central Islands is made up of around 90 islands including Russell Islands, Nggela Islands, and Savo; the home of the unique Megapode Birds. All the islands have superb dive sites, hiking, bush walks, birding, and natural areas in which to explore, including the thermal hot springs. Tulagi, the capital city, used to be the capital of the Solomon Islands prior to WWII. The area has many historic sites and wrecks to explore.

Western Province (includes Gizo, Munda and Marovo Lagoon)

The Western Province is made up of 11 main islands: New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Kolombangara, Rendova, Ranongga, Vangunu and the Shortlands, with Gizo the capital. This area is a great area for both adventure on land with fantastic snorkelling and diving with visibility for both diver and snorkeller being fantastic. It is home to the famous Marovo Lagoon, one of the world's largest saltwater lagoons. Munda is another must see place while in the Western Province.

Choiseul

Choiseul is for the adventurer. This is a rugged and densely forested island. The main attractions are its untouched natural wonders including the nesting sands for the Hawksbill Turtles. Whales and Dugongs are often seen in these waters. Choiseul is home to rare pottery and the weaving crafts people, so you can immerse yourself in the local arts culture.

Isabel

Isabel is located to the northwest of Guadalcanal and is surrounded by forests, coconut plantations and mountain villages. Also known as Santa Isabel, the island is the longest land mass in the Solomon Islands. The province is also famous for its unique women's dance, the vanishing lake together with the panpipes. Try and get to see these wonderful performances.

Tourism is limited, but worth doing so with the 'rest houses' dotted around for a good night's sleep.

Makira

The Makira Province is one of the more isolated islands in the Solomons and is situated to the east of Guadalcanal. There are remote caves in its inaccessible inland that are said to be inhabited by Kakamora, a race of people that legend says stand less than a metre tall. The island is significant for the variety of birds so keep your eyes open for both the birds and the Kakamora.

Malaita

The people here maintain their strong traditions. The old culture of the people in the Langa Langa Lagoon is known for the making of shell money. Malaita is also the home of the 'Salt Water' people and the 'Bush People' inland. Again another fantastic birding area. Malaita is famous for its song and dance throughout the island.



Thanks and acknowledgements:

Front Cover, Girl under the Banana Leaf. Thank you to Tourism Solomons, David Kirkland, Chris McLennan, the Pack Ya Bags photo library, resorts, tour companies, and products and services used by Pack Ya Bags. All very much appreciated. Photos may not always represent the actual region, but the Solomon Islands in general.

We would like to thank and acknowledge all individuals and companies for their help, and the contributions to any articles within this publication.

Our Note: We have tried to be a little different with this brochure as we have included many interesting facts about The Solomon Islands hopefully to give you a picture of the country. Pack Ya Bags has many tours for all your interests, to places throughout the Solomons.

Please request prices from Pack Ya Bags Travel Wholesale or contact your travel agency. This brochure is also downloadable from Pack Ya Bags.

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What you need to know



Visa & Passport Information

Visa and entry conditions can change. Australian & New Zealand travellers should check relevant authorities and official Solomon Islands immigration advice before travel.

Weather

The Solomon Islands has a warm and tropical climate with the average day time temperature about 25-30 degrees Celsius. During the evenings it can be a pleasant 19 degrees. The wet season is from November to April and because of the low altitude of the islands the Solomons is less affected by tropical cyclones, but these still pose a threat during the wet season. The months between April and November are the best time to visit the Solomon Islands although this should not stop you going at anytime.

Banking

Credit cards are accepted at major hotels, resorts and larger shops in Honiara. Cash is essential outside Honiara and in the provinces. Solomon Islands currency is the SBD.

Tipping

Tipping is not customary, or expected in the Solomon Islands.

Useful Airport Codes

HIR:	Honiara International Airport (Guadalcanal)
MUA:	Munda Airport (Western Province)
GZO:	Gizo/Nusatupe Airport (Western Province)
EGM:	Sege Airport
BNY:	Bellona/Anua Airport
CHY:	Choiseul Bay Airport
FRE:	Fera/Maringe Airport
SCZ:	Santa Cruz/Graciosa Bay/Luova Airport
VEV:	Barakoma Airport
AKS:	Auki/Gwaunaru'u Airport (Malaita)
ATD:	Atoifi Airport
RBV:	Ramata Airport
NNB:	Santa Ana Airport
VAO:	Suavanao Airport
BAS:	Balalae Airport
KGE:	Kaghau Airport



Please read

Insurance

You will be travelling well off the beaten track. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Health

It is recommended that you visit your doctor two weeks prior to travelling to the region to allow any medication and vaccinations which may be required. Be prepared and take your own medication with you.

Getting There

Honiara International Airport (on Guadalcanal Island) is the main hub of the Solomon Islands and is located 7 miles east of Honiara. Bus and taxi services are available to and from the airport. Car hire is also available. Airlines flying into Honiara regularly include Solomon Airlines, Qantas, Air Niugini, and Fiji Airways. Roads to and from the airport and around urban areas are in good condition.

Getting Around

Getting around the Solomon Islands involves a mix of domestic flights, inter-island ferries, and motorized canoes.

Solomon Airlines flies to 20 local destinations, providing the fastest travel between major islands. For shorter, inter-island travel, motorised dinghies (often arranged via locals) are the most common form of transport.

Road networks are limited to major islands like Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Makira. Roads are not always in good condition and many are unsealed, with 4x4 vehicles often required.

In Honiara and other areas, public minivans and taxis are available, although they do not always have air conditioning.



How to say it

There are 63 distinct Languages in the Solomon Islands with many speaking both Pijin and English.

A few suggestions...Have a go!

English	Roviana	Pronounced
Good Morning	Munumunu leana	Mu-nu Mu-nu le-ah-nah
Good Night	Bongi leana	Boon-ghi le-ah-na Le-ah-
Thank you	Leana hola	nah hor-lah Ve-ah-see-
How are you?	Vea si goi?	ghoi? Le-ah-nah mor see
I am fine thank you	Leana mo si rau	raow Hi-vah beer see
Can I have a beer?	Hiva beer si rau	raow Are-raow oh-viah
I am hungry.	Arau ovia	Es-say por-zha-muh
What's your name?	Esei pozamu?	

Guadalcanal and Honiara





About:

Guadalcanal is the largest Island in the Solomon Islands. The capital city is Honiara, although separately administered from the province. Modern and ancient traditions live side by side. The island was the site of the 1942–1943 Guadalcanal Campaign, a turning point in the Pacific WWII War. Significant sites include the Vilu War Museum which is well worth a visit. There is lots to explore here before departing to other islands. The economy relies heavily on agriculture, forestry, and now tourism, including eco-retreats, hotels, resorts and the lovely landscapes throughout the island. Places such as waterfalls at Tenaru Falls, and the majestic, highest mountain in the Solomon Islands, Mount Popomanaseu.

The country's main food market sells fish and fresh produce bought in from outlying areas. All this and local gifts can be bought at the Central Market.

Getting there:

Honiara International Airport on the island of Guadalcanal is the main port of arrival. Flights from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji are now frequent, so the Solomon Islands is now well serviced.

Suggestions:

The Hotomai Cultural Village is well worth visiting to learn about the local people, their customs and arts, including basket weaving, and even getting into the dancing if you are game. Local tours can be organised through your local eco lodge, hotel or resort, or Pack Ya Bags can do it before you leave.

You are not far away from the battle scars lying around and is well worth going to see some of these places such as the museum and the wrecks littered throughout the island.



Central Islands

Central Islands





About:

The Central Islands is made up of around 90 islands and includes the thermal springs on Savo, which is also the home of the unique Megapode Birds. Nggela Islands and Russell Islands all have superb dive sites, hiking adventures and natural wonders to explore, including the thermal hot springs. Tulagi is the colonial capital with its historic sites and many WWII wrecks to explore. The whole area is volcanic and forested so good for birding and is totally unspoiled.

The area was major for the campaigns of World War II as can be seen with the wrecks around.

The Lavukal people live on these islands. Many of the people have blond hair which is a unique genetic trait and is now known to be indigenous. Russell Island has one of the biggest coconut groves in the South Pacific so if you like coconuts, this is the place to be.

Getting There:

60–90 minute boat ride from Honiara. Departing from the Point Cruz Yacht Club. Private transfers, day trips, or local 'banana boats'.

Suggestions:

Raiders Hotel is a good suggestion for comfortable rooms, adventure, diving and snorkelling, eco adventures, and wreck exploring. While exploring you can look at staying in one of the eco lodges. These are dotted throughout the Solomon Islands and usually only have a few people at any one time.

Packages are available through your travel agent and Pack Ya Bags.



Western Province

Western Province (includes Gizo, Munda and Marovo Lagoon)



About:

Lots of island groups in the Western Province including the New Georgia Islands, and Shortland Islands to the north, almost on the border with Bougainville.

Gizo Town is the capital of the Western Province and is a must to visit while in the Solomon Islands. Around the area are fantastic reefs stacked with marine life, sunken ships and wrecks from the second world war. Try going to Sagheraghi with it's beautiful white beach and offshore breakers for the intrepid surfer. You will need to bring your own board.

Like many areas in the Solomon Islands, bird life is found throughout the forests and mountains, such as the Cardinal Lories, Rainbow Lorikeets and others. The flora and fauna offers a kaleidoscope of colour throughout all the islands.



Western Province

Western Province 2

About:

Perfect underwater visibility makes the Western Region the top notch dive destination it really is, teeming with marine life and corals. Great location for the underwater photographer. Underwater wrecks such as the Toa Maru which is in 18 meters of water and pretty coral locations such as Grand Central Station, named because of the fish life and coral (not the people).

Fierce battles during World War II left behind wrecks that are must dive sites now like the Toa Maru in Kololuka Bay and the Grand Central Station near Gizo. Kennedy Island named after the late US President J. F. Kennedy is about 10 minutes by speedboat from Gizo. The Kavachi underwater volcano offers a rare display of nature at work, and the massive Marovo Lagoon is on the cards to become a World Heritage Site. This would be a great plus for the area.

Eco-lodges dot Marovo Lagoon and Vonavona lagoons, once home to the dreaded headhunters of the province. Skull Shrines can still be found in the region. These calm lagoons are great fishing spots also.

Vella Lavella is – like Savo Island in the Central Province – home to fantastic wading birds.





Choiseul

About:

Choiseul Province in the Solomon Islands is an adventurer's paradise known for untouched nature, marine biodiversity, and WWII history. Places to see and experience include diving on the wrecks, spotting the Hawksbill Turtles and Dugongs. try out the local weaving and unique pottery, trekking and birding. This is an authentic eco-tourism destination, so you will not experience mass tourism.

Some really good trails are available such as Mt. Maetambe Trail on Choiseul Island. This is around a 5 hours walk through hilly country, and includes an abandoned village. If you look carefully, you can see many types of frogs, and the Sea Eagles flying around the mountain. This is just one of the many trails on the various islands to explore.

The coral reefs here are largely untouched, with many hard and soft corals and massive variety of fish. Perfect for divers and snorkelers.





Isabel

Isabel



About:

Isabel is located to the northwest of Guadalcanal and is surrounded by forests, coconut plantations and mountain villages. Also known as Santa Isabel, the island is the longest land mass in the Solomon Islands. The province is famous for its unique women's dance, the 'Vanishing Lake' often accompanied with the panpipes. Try and get to see these wonderful performances.

At around 1177 metres Mount Sasari is the highest point in Santa Isabel.

The village of Kia in the north is very different as it is built mainly on stilts over the beautiful lagoon waters. All transport on Santa Isabel Island is either by canoe, outboard, or dugout canoe.

The waters of Santa Isabel literally teem with fish, turtles and the birds on the land, who breed on the sand beaches. The coconut plantations are filled with parrots and eagles, and frigate birds flying over top. This is a place to explore, relax, and wonder at the unspoiled beauty of the islands that remain basically unchanged, for the past hundreds of years.

Getting there:

The capital of the province is Buala on Santa Isabel Island, which has a scheduled airline service to Honiara with Solomon Airlines from Fera Airport, on Fera Island, just a 15-minute boat ride from Buala.

Suggestions:

Lots of adventure, including bush walks, visit to a village built on stilts in Kia, where you can see the breeding sites for the hawksbill turtles or maybe join in some lessons in the traditional dances.



Makira

Makira



About:

The Makira Province is one of the more isolated islands in the Solomon Islands, and is situated to the east of Guadalcanal. There are remote caves in its inaccessible inland that are said to be inhabited by the Kakamora, a race of people that legend says stand less than a metre tall. The island is significant for the variety of birds, so keep your eyes open for both the birds and the Kakamora.

Some cultural practices are unique to Makira and Ulawa such as, ancient fishing methods, crocodile wrestling and the shark hole underneath a church altar at Suholo village in Ulawa. Witnessing the island’s annual land crab harvest should be a highlight. It is also where the rare Pacific Ridley Turtle nests.

Infrastructure is limited but for the adventurers, it is a gold mine of very exciting things to do such as birdwatching, trekking and surfing.

Access is by boat so a nice start to your adventure.



Malaita

About

Malaita is the most populous island of the Solomon Islands. The largest city and provincial capital is Auki, on the northwest coast and is on the northern shore of the Langa Langa Lagoon. The Lagoon is a 21km long coastal waterway on Malaita Island, and is known for its artificial islands, traditional shell money production, and “saltwater people” culture. These islands were built in the shallows for safety and to stop being invaded.

Panpipes are played in the traditional Melanesian style among the people of Malaita. The panpipes are made of hollow bamboo tubes of different lengths, to create the various notes. They are tied together to make the instrument. The sounds are a real treat when you hear them. Panpipe groups can include a number of people, with each instrument having a different sound and pitch. The panpipes are often played to tell stories that take in the sounds of their ancestral heritage. The sound is great to hear and a must when in the Solomons.

The Malaita Highlands has been identified by BirdLife International as an important bird area, because of the threatened bird species. These include metallic pigeons, chestnut-bellied imperial pigeons, pale mountain pigeons, duchess lorikeets and the endemic red-vested myzomelas, Malaita fantails and Malaita white-eyes. Even if you are not into birding it is wonderful to see these birds in the wild.

The women here are very skilled at shaping, and polishing the shells, creating tiny discs known as ‘Theina’ (shell money). Primarily made in the Langa Langa Lagoon on this island. Shell money is still used in parts today.





Diving and Snorkeling in the Solomon Islands

About Diving and Snorkelling

The fantastic dive sites of the Solomon Islands are just the starting point for exploring the variety of flora and fauna in this amazing underwater world. The WWII history and wrecks together with many caverns and ledges, hard and soft corals and gigantic sea fans, make diving the Solomon Islands a must do destination.

In the Iron Bottom Sound, accessed from Honiara, there are around 200 ships, almost 700 aircraft and landing barges that were sunk during the war. If you enjoy wreck diving, the Solomon Islands is the country to go to. Wrecks are scattered throughout a number of areas in the country, so wherever you go, you will find a wreck to dive on.

Outside of Honiara, moving up to the Western Provinces which include Gizo, Munda and the Marovo Lagoon, you will be spoiled for choice. Gizo has a huge fish count and many WWII wrecks. Just 20 minutes ride away is the Japanese transport ship, the Toa Maru, some 140 metres in length. Gizo also offers great wall diving to depths of 60 metres. All areas are great for photographs.

Suggested areas of renowned diving:

Diving at Uepi

Uepi has first-class dive sites that are only minutes away from the wharf or just a short boat ride away. Diving and snorkelling in the Marovo Lagoon is unique with the marine-life ranging from lagoon coral gardens to vertical wall dives.

There is an overwhelming diversity of marine life and year-round diving, with everything from delicate coral gardens to thrilling pelagic point dives. Uepi is home to more than 20 world-class dive sites that top the bucket lists of the adventure diver worldwide.

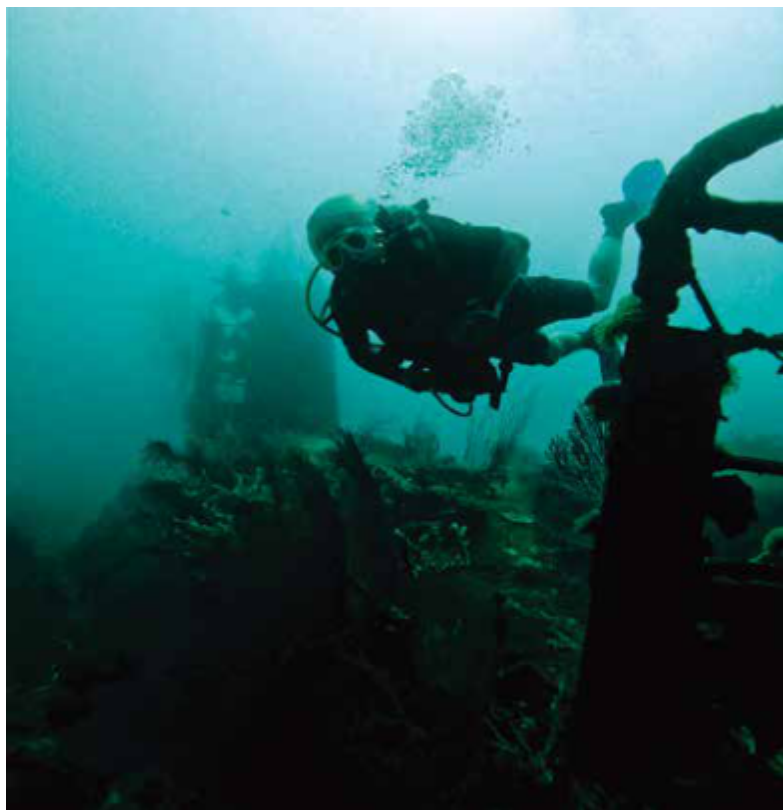
Dive Gizo

Gizo has some of the best and most exciting diving in the world. From WWII wrecks to reefs that have some of the highest fish counts in the world, you will surely find something new and exciting under the surface. Each dive is led by a local trained and experienced guide, and in small groups of 4-6 people. No crowded boats, no tight time schedules!

Dive Munda

Dive Munda is based in the village of Munda, on the Southern Coast of New Georgia Island in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. It is an area renowned for its peaceful beauty and friendly people as well as its amazing reefs and incredible biodiversity.

The diving in Munda is superb and some of the best in the world, with spectacular walls, drop offs and reef sharks routinely patrolling with eagle rays, barracuda and other pelagics.



Bilikiki Liveboard Cruises

Both MV Bilikiki and MV Spirit of Solomons operate from Honiara, on Guadalcanal Island, to dive sites in the Florida Islands, the Russell Islands, Mborokua (Mary) Island and Marovo Lagoon. Lots of departure options throughout the year.

Both ships are large and stable and offer huge sundecks, plenty of covered areas and air-conditioned accommodations.

Bilikiki has 10 deluxe cabins with a full double bed and a single above, and all cabins have private showers and toilets. Her large size and a hull that was built for South Pacific Seas, are main reasons why guests from around the world still say that "the Bilikiki" is one of the most spacious and comfortable vessels that they have travelled on.

Spirit of Solomons

has 7 private facility cabins with full double bed and single above, and 6 additional cabins which have 2 single bunks sharing 3 showers and 2 toilets. These smaller cabins are often booked on a single occupancy basis. Plenty of covered deck space.



Suggestions:

7 nights all inclusive Uepi

A barrier island in the Solomon Islands Marovo Lagoon, Uepi boasts unrivalled underwater diversity and is a hotspot for underwater photographers from around the world. With numerous excellent dive sites close to the resort it's the perfect combination of top tier dive quality and superb accommodation.

8 Night

12 dive packages incl tanks and weights.

8 nights accommodation.

All meals.

8 to 10 days on Liveboards

Set departures throughout the year.

Please get in touch with Pack Ya Bags for a full itinerary and departures throughout the year.

All inclusive with accommodation, all meals and 4 or 5 dives daily.

Trekking and Birding

Yours to explore

Many people are aware of the diving and the WWII drawcards that the Solomon Islands has to offer but there are a number of other activities and things to experience in this unique and little visited region.

Not only activities such as surfing, snorkelling, walking, bird watching, or culture, but the Solomon Islands is a good place to relax and unwind in an unhurried atmosphere. For those that just want to escape a busy lifestyle, there are many places that offer that escape.

The Islands are also great places for families who want to enjoy being together as a unit, team building and educational groups and even honeymooners, where they can have that truly private time to themselves.

Climb Kolombangara, a perfect cone-shaped volcano, 1770m high. Located in the Western Province, this two day trek will take you from gentle coastal plains, up steep escarpments to the awe-inspiring crater rim. Camp overnight deep in the rainforest and see spectacular waterfalls and plants you have never seen before.

Among the many waterfall walks are the popular and magnificent Mataniko Falls. They cascade over boulders and into pools before thundering down into a hidden cave. Take a guide, explore the incredible WWII history and float all the way back to the village.

One suggestion is Imbu Rano Eco Lodge.

Imbu Rano Eco Lodge is ideal for Retreat Programs, Wildlife Research trips, Mountain Hiking, Bush Trekking, and for those who want to spend time in nature. Kolombangara Islands (20 minutes drive from Ringgi Station) so you can go Hiking, Birding, and try to see the exotic frogs, and other animals.

Another suggestion is Titiru Eco Lodge, situated between Egholo and Ughele Villages on Rendova Island. Go through underground caves, local villages and learn more about local flora and fauna in these islands.





About Birding:

BIRDWATCHING

The Solomon Islands offers around 102 endemic species. In some areas, treks into the interior mountains will be necessary and this will involve hiking along challenging trails. These areas include the mountains of Guadalcanal, the higher altitudes on Kolombangara and parts of Makira, Malaita and Isabel.

There are also a number of birding areas which are more accessible such as the Honiara environs, Gizo and Rennell.

MALAITA

The remote and mountainous regions of Malaita are home to an endemic honeyeater, fantail and white-eye. Access to these areas involves trekking through the central mountains of the island and you will need to allow a few days involving camping and village stays.

MAKIRA (SAN CHRISTOBAL)

The central mountain chain holds Shade Warbler, San Christobal Melidectes, Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon, White-collared Monarch, Ochre-headed Flycatcher, Sooty Myzomela, Dusky Fantail, San Christobal Leaf Warbler and San Christobal Thrush. The coastal lowlands have San Christobal Starling and Mottled Flowerpecker.

GUADALCANAL

Good hill forest birding around the capital with White-billed Crow, Chestnut-bellied Monarch, Duchess Lorikeet, Cardinal Lory, Yellow-bibbed Lory, Ultramarine Kingfisher, Black headed Myzomela and White-winged Fantail. The high interior mountains have Hooded Whistler, San Christobal Thrush, Guadalcanal Honeyeater, Guadalcanal Thicketbird, Brown Fantail and if you are extremely lucky, the almost unknown Moustached Kingfisher.

GIZO

Gizo is the jumping off point for the key birding areas of Kolombangara, Ranonga and Vella Lavella.

Accommodation in the Solomon Islands

Gizo and Surrounding Area

A number of accommodation options are available throughout this area including hotels in Gizo and a number of excellent resorts close by. A village stay is an option as you will learn from the villagers such things as cooking, traditional fishing and the customs of how the locals live. There are guest houses and eco lodges of all types and budgets scattered throughout the region. This area is an excellent base for your adventure in the Western District of the Solomon Islands.

Munda and Marovo Lagoon

Munda

While Munda has good lodges, an inn and resorts, there are also a number of guest houses and home stays to choose from.

Marovo Lagoon

One of the most famous lagoons in the world being the longest saltwater lagoon in the world. The inner lagoon has many islands and accommodation is scattered around. Uepi Resort is one of the really well known resorts visited by people from all over the world. Throughout the Lagoon, guest houses and village life can be experienced. This truly is an adventurer's paradise.



The name Fatboys is derived from the Charles Dickens book "The Pickwick Papers".

Fatboys Resort, bar & restaurant is situated on the jetty overlooking the crystal clear waters of Mbabanga Island, an 8 minute boat ride from Gizo. The resort offers a completely unique hideaway and is a fantastic, tropical beachside, reef experience. All accommodation is situated on the water's edge with a short walk to the restaurant.



Sanbis Resort is around 7 minutes from the Gizo airstrip by boat. It offers excellent accommodation with each bungalow having its own private beach, luxury ensuite bathroom with hot water and a terrace with a stunning view across the lagoon. The resort boasts the best stocked bar in the West. Fantastic meals are prepared by the international chef and served by the very friendly staff. An adults only resort with no children under 12 years.



Gizo Hotel is located on Gizo's waterfront next to the local markets, and has 51 rooms and offers good accommodation. The 'Leaf Haus' restaurant and bar offers a wide variety of fresh, local cuisine. Local entertainment is a regular feature. The hotel offers the "Best in the West" for those seeking all the adventure and excitement the Western Province has to offer. This is a good base from which to explore the region.



Uepi Island Resort is situated on a small tropical island. Accommodation comprises six bungalows, two units and two guest rooms. Uepi enjoys an international reputation for world class scuba diving & snorkelling, romantic honeymoons, exciting cultural and nature tours.



Munda Agnes Lodge is in the heart of Munda. It is family owned. The lodge was started by Agnes Kera who, for nearly 30 years, had been the cook and custodian of the original British Solomons Government Resthouse.



Oravae Cottage near Gizo on Private Island
Very basic but if you want to be private this is one such place. Family owned. This could be a really good place to team build or for an educational visit to learn about the sea and the flora and fauna. The whole island is yours.

Other resort accommodation options include (these are only a few suggestions):

Heritage Park Hotel is a blend of luxury coupled with its cultural heritage, and has been recreated with state-of-art architecture in Honiara.

King Solomon Hotel in the heart of Honiara

Outback Holiday Resort nestled along the serene coastline in Honiara

Leleana Eco Resort Kolombangara is an unparalleled tropical getaway. Top quality in the Western Province.

Ghaseali Island Resort is located in Buala, the capital of Isabel province.

Imagination Island is located just 10 minutes by boat from the town of Gizo and 5 minutes from the airport.

Coral Sea Resort is conveniently located on the water's edge of Town Ground, near the Honiara CBD. Only a 20-minute transfer from Honiara International Airport.

Zipolo Habu is located on Lola Island in Vona Vona Lagoon in the Western Province. Known for sportsfishing in the lagoon or beyond the reef. Accessed by boat from Munda.

Papatura Solomon Islands is Santa Isabel's first world standard tourism project great for fishing, snorkeling, surfing and rainforest walks.

Evis Resort is set amongst the beautiful trees on the lagoon side of Nggatirana Island. Snorkeling and birding, kayaking and village visits.

There are eco-lodges, motels and other accommodations throughout the Solomon Islands, so if you want to get into the cultural aspect of the country this is a good option for you. Contact your travel agent or Pack Ya Bags to organise your trip to the Solomon Islands.

Surfing



Surfing:

Although the Solomon Islands is great for world class diving, during the months of November to April, when the Pacific swells come in from the north, the reefs and north-western facing islands come alive with some great waves. Remote and uncrowded. Santa Isabel Province is an area for both beginners and advanced surfers.

While the two best-known regions are currently Gizo in the Western Province and Santa Isabel Province, Surfing can be had 20 minutes by road from Gizo and locations can be found around Skull Island near Zipolo, Vona Vona Lagoon, and Munda. Surfing in Malaita is best around the Lau Lagoon area of Northern Malaita, There are lots of secret spots with areas totally uncrowded so a bit of homework is required.

A good choice of accommodation from village homestays to eco-lodges, hotels and resorts. Hotel Gizo is a popular hangout for surfers and more comfortable resorts such as Fatboys and Sanbis are close by.

A great small place is the idyllic Oravei Cottages, a 20-minute boat ride from Gizo If you really want to escape civilisation, this is a good start. Surfing packages can be organised.

Festivals and shows



Must see shows and events

The Shell Money Festival:

A cultural celebration of the traditional uses of Shell Money, the traditional currency used throughout this area. This Shell Money is still used today basically for settling disputes, bride price ceremony or can be offered as a gift. Usually in August and is a recurring event. Two days of cultural displays, demonstrations and entertainment performed by the people of Langa Langa Lagoon.

Roviana Lagoon Festival (December):

A cultural festival of the people of Roviana Lagoon. People from all over Roviana Lagoon gather in Munda for this event of festivity and celebration. The villagers parade in a show together with floats both on water and land. Lots of cultural and water-based activities including competitions. The signature activity is the Alec Wickham Swim, which falls on the last day.

Wogasia Festival:

Wogasia is a remnant of ancient culture originated and practiced by the people of East Makira. This is a traditional spear fighting and yam harvesting festival. Many local people take part in the wogasia festivities as well as visitors. Listen to local chants and inspiring tales of their ancestors.

The Stunned Mullet Fishing competition:

This is the Great Western Fishing Tournament annually held at the Zipolo Habu Resort in the magnificent Vona Vona lagoon. A great weekend of fishing, fun and festivities. Get yourself ready for this exciting fishing competition.

Honiara Festival:

This shows the culture with traditional performances, art displays and the food throughout the Solomon Islands.





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Your Travel Agent's Contact