

# GUIDE TO PORT VILA

## VISAS

Citizens of Australia, New Zealand and the EU are among those who do not need an entry visa to enter Vanuatu, but every visitor must have an onward ticket and their passport must be valid for at least four months from their date of arrival.

Visas issued upon arrival are initially valid for 30 days but can be extended.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air Vanuatu flies direct from Australia to Vanuatu 10 times a week (Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane) as well as Auckland (four times a week), Noumea, Honiara and Nadi.

The other international airlines servicing Vanuatu are Pacific Blue (Sydney and Brisbane) and Aircalin (Noumea).

The international airport, Bauerfield, is conveniently located just 6km from Port Vila.

## CURRENCY

Vanuatu's currency is the vatu (Vt). The current exchange rate is 81.76Vt to the Australian dollar and 106.49Vt to the US dollar (13 May 2009). There are ATMs in the arrival hall at the airport, as well as in town.

## GETTING AROUND

Vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road!

Taxis are plentiful around the centre of Port Vila (though like most places Friday late afternoon it can be a little bit tricky to find one). They are also inexpensive, though often shabby.

From the airport to Port Vila hotels you can reckon on about 1500Vt; and around 500Vt-700Vt from Le Meridien or Le Lagon to the city centre. You should always agree the fare with the taxi driver at the beginning of the trip.

Another option is to hire a car. Rental car company offices are located in Port Vila's international airport, and downtown in both Vila (Efate) and Luganville (Santo). Parking in the centre of Port Vila is refreshingly easy.

## HEALTH

No vaccinations are required. If you are travelling outside Port Vila then you should enquire about whether you need anti-malarial medication.

As you might expect the standard of healthcare in Vanuatu falls well below that of Australia/New Zealand. There is no private hospital in Port Vila, though there is a private clinic. You are strongly advised to have adequate health insurance (as the cost of a medical evacuation starts at A\$40,000).

## SAFETY

Port Vila is fairly safe by most standards, but the usual caution should be shown, especially after dark.

## ELECTRICITY

The current in Vanuatu is 220V to 240V, 50Hz AC, using Australian-style plugs.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Opening hours of offices and shops are 7.30am to 11.30am and 1.30pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Banks, supermarkets and restaurants are open throughout the day. Note that most the shops close at lunchtime on Saturday.

## CLIMATE

Port Vila has a subtropical climate. The best weather is between May and October, when it is mainly sunny, and never too hot (it can actually get fairly cool at night in this period).

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET

Mobile phone coverage now encompasses most of the country and international GSM mobiles can pick up the local network.

Internet access in Vanuatu has improved dramatically over the past few years. There are a few internet cafes on the main street (Lini Highway), the main street of Port Vila, and the hotels listed below have terminals guests can use and/or wireless access.

## FOOD & DRINK

There are plenty of high-quality dining options in and around Port Vila, with many having a French influence. Local specialities are wonderful organic beef, as well as seafood. Vanuatu also produces excellent coffee and beer, but wine is imported, mainly from Australia and New Zealand.

Tilly's at Chantillys Hotel is as good as anywhere, while L'Houstalet has been serving authentic French cuisine (and some curious local specialities) for over 30 years.

The Sebel Hotel is a popular meeting place for expats, thanks to its impeccable location and first-class restaurant, cafe and panoramic bar.

Au Peche Mignon, the French-owned bakery/café in the main street, is a Port Vila institution offering superb pastries, homemade pizzas and coffee.

The main street also plays host to a couple of pubs (The Office and The Anchor Inn), two supermarkets and several duty free shops.

## ACCOMMODATION

For the business traveller, the following are the most suitable options:

*In the main commercial area*

Chantilly's on the Bay: [www.chantillysonthebay.com](http://www.chantillysonthebay.com)

The Sebel Vanuatu: [www.mirvachotels.com.au](http://www.mirvachotels.com.au)

*A few minutes drive away*

Le Lagon Resort: [www.lelagonvanuatu.vu](http://www.lelagonvanuatu.vu)

# Facilitating Trade and Investment ...in the Pacific

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# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PARADISE

The Vanuatu Islands are well known for their very peaceful and rich cultural environment. The Islands have some of the most beautiful landscapes and unique tourist attractions in the South Pacific.

Investment in these Islands is welcome and there are numerous opportunities, especially in tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES.

Vanuatu is a tax haven country. There are no income taxes on company income or employees income, no capital gains taxes, freedom to repatriate capital. With this and other incentives offered by the country to foreign investors, excellent international air and shipping links to Australia, New Zealand and the world, excellent telecommunications services, a growing tourist industry and strong recognition of the importance of foreign and local investment in the country by all political parties and the Government, this is an opportune time to invest in Vanuatu.

For local investors, we encourage expansion and diversification of commercial activities, locally and internationally.



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