



nouvelle
calédonie
Pacific heart

NEW CALEDONIA



www.newcaledonia.travel

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT NEW CALEDONIA

DISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Paris / Nouméa: 23h
Sydney / Nouméa: 3h
Auckland / Nouméa: 3h
Tokyo / Nouméa: 8h

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Nouméa / Isle of Pines: 30 min
Nouméa / Maré: 40 min
Nouméa / Lifou: 40 min
Nouméa / Ouvéa: 40 min
Lifou / Ouvéa: 25 min

BOAT TRIP

Nouméa / Isle of Pines: 2h
Nouméa / Lifou: 3h
Nouméa / Maré: 4h

	Bourail	Farino	Hienghène	Konè	Koumac	La Foa	Nouméa	Poindimié	Poum	Sarraméa	Thio	Tontouta	Voh	Yaté
Bourail	57	219	111	211	52	163	146	267	62	135	117	143	243	
Farino	276	168	120	268	5	116	203	324	7	88	70	200	196	
Hienghène	120	100	271	163	263	382	73	180	281	354	336	152	462	
Konè	100	100	163	263	374	111	85	156	173	246	228	32	354	
Koumac	374	374	111	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
La Foa	309	309	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	
Nouméa	241	241	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	
Poindimié	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	
Poum	241	241	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	
Sarraméa	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	
Thio	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	
Tontouta	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	
Voh	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	
Yaté	241	241	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	

MAP

The total surface of New Caledonia is 18,575km² with the main island of Grande Terre 16,361km².



REGIONS



Nouméa, A COSMOPOLITAN PENINSULA!

Facing the lagoon, Nouméa has built its Pacific identity through a mix of cultures and styles. This cultural diversity is reflected on your plate, but also in the architecture and all the attractions it offers. True artistic heart of the country, theaters and cinemas are concentrated in Nouméa.



West Coast, COWBOY COUNTRY!

The West Coast of the mainland (Grande Terre) shows off a great variety of scenery from its northern tip down to the area surrounding Nouméa. Characterised by both large spaces favouring cattle farming and a lagoon of stunning beauty, the West Coast is also host to a rich cultural heritage.



Great South, LAND OF ADVENTURE!

The Great South region has an abundance of cultural and heritage sites, such as the ancient village of Prony, Ouen Island and the Yaté Dam. It is a destination dedicated to green tourism and offers a variety of nature based activities and landscapes for visitors to enjoy.



East Coast, WILD NATURE!

Exposed to strong winds and therefore more humid, the East Coast offers scenery with sumptuous flora. With a population of largely Melanesian origin, the East Coast has also retained a particularly charming flavour of authenticity.



The Islands IDYLIC LAGOON!

From Ouvéa to the Isle of Pines, passing via Lifou, Tiga and Maré, the five islands bordering the mainland are yet more gems to discover. From the blue hole of Hanawa in Ouvéa to the Warrior's Leap on Maré, the Jokin Cliffs in Lifou or again Oro Bay on the Isle of Pines, you'll be amazed!

WEATHER

SEASONAL VARIATIONS (Rain and temperature °C)

Cyclone season
Tempered season
Fresh season

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
23/30°	24/30°	23/29°	22/27°	20/26°	19/24°	17/23°	17/23°	18/25°	19/26°	21/28°	22/29°

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT NEW CALEDONIA

POPULATION

268,767 INHABITANTS: 44% of Melanesians (Kanak), 34% of Europeans (Caldoches) and significant Wallisian communities, Tahitian, Indonesian and Vietnamese. More than one third of the population (99,000 inhabitants) lives in the capital Noumea.

KANAK TRADITION

Although much of the population lives a "Western way of life", the Kanak traditions are still very present throughout the entire territory, particularly within tribes. It's a typical set of lifestyles and social codes that are called "customs". The practiced "customary gesture" is an essential mark of respect that formalizes the meeting and bond between the two parties.

WHEN TO MAKE THE CUSTOMARY GESTURE?

This gesture is the heart of every major traditional ceremony, but we also make the "customary gesture" daily as a sign of respect and hospitality to a host. This is done at the first encounter with the tribe and/or to gain access to a private place which is not normally open to tourists.

HOW TO MAKE THE CUSTOMARY GESTURE?

Once you arrive at your host destination or the chieftaincy (usually next to the school or the church), you should greet the tribal Chief with a small gift and a few words. Let them take the initiative and listen to them attentively. Thank them through simple and sincere words and by placing the small token at their feet. The gift can include food, clothes, a souvenir from your country or a banknote.

HEALTH & SECURITY

NEW CALEDONIA IS A SAFE DESTINATION with modern infrastructure and an efficient health system. Standard precautions apply (especially in case of sea trip), it is nevertheless asked to scrupulously respect the safety instructions, particularly in the case of bad weather (cyclone). No vaccinations are required and tap water is drinkable everywhere. However, beware of mosquitoes (dengue) and sunburn by consistently applying repellent and sunscreen.

VISA & CUSTOMS

To enter New Caledonia, a valid passport is always mandatory. Citizens of the Union European, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and Argentina can stay there up-to three months without a visa, and one month for the Japanese, Americans and Canadians. Customs does prohibit or limit a number of products being bought into the country. Items such as tobacco, perfume, alcohol are limited and items such as cheeses, meats, preserves and weapons are forbidden. Any plant products (plant and seed) require a phytosanitary certificate. Fines and legal implications apply.

TRANSPORTATION

Many options exist to browse the territories outside of Noumea: car rental, public transport (Rai - Phone 058161), ferry (Sudile Betico - Phone 260100) and air (Air Calédonie - Phone 287888). If you choose to drive, please be aware that we drive on the right side of the road and the speed is generally limited to 50km/h in the city and 110km/h on main roads (QR1). Otherwise, for more serenity, many professional companies offer guided tours on land and at sea (House of the lagoon - Phone 272727).

LANGUAGES

FRENCH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE but it coexists with over forty languages or Melanesian dialects.

CHANGE

The local currency is the Pacific Franc (XPF or CFP). Credit cards are generally accepted and there are ATMs in almost all villages.

EXCHANGE RATES*

1 € = 119,33 XPF
1 AUD = 79,99 XPF
1 JPY = 1,04 XPF
1 NZD = 76,26 XPF
* Dated 30/06/16

ELECTRICITY



220 VOLTS / 50 HZ
Electric plugs following the French model (Type F). For foreigners, it is recommendable to bring an adapter.

JET LAG*

TIME ZONE GMT +11

Paris : -10hrs/winter and
-9hrs/summer

Tokyo : -2hrs

Sydney : -1hrs/winter

Auckland : +1hrs/winter and
+2hrs/summer

*From New Caledonia

SHOPS OPENING

Indicatively, most businesses are closed on Sundays, and many are also close on Saturday afternoon. Supermarkets are open from 8am to 8pm on weekdays, but are closed on Sunday afternoon. Many restaurants a stop service at around 9.30pm

EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

International Tennis ATP Challenger - Nouméa

MARCH

New Caledonia Poker Tour - Nouméa

APRIL

Festival Burlesque - Nouméa
Triathlon International de Nouvelle-Calédonie - Nouméa
Trail des Cagous - Yaté

MAY

Festival Latino - Nouméa
Tourism fair - Nouméa
Night of Museums - Southern Province

JUNE

French Wine & Cheese Festival - Nouméa/Bourail
Music Festival - New Caledonia
Xdeva Challenge (trail) - Bourail

END OF JUNE - MID-SEPT.

Whales watching - Mont-Dore

JULY

Festival du cinéma de La Foa (french cinema) - LaFoa/Nouméa
Transcalédonienne (trail) - Southern Province
Festivities July 14 (national day) - New Caledonia

AUGUST

Clarke Cup (horse) - Nouméa
Bourail agricultural fair - Bourail
International Marathon New Caledonia - Nouméa
Live en Août (concert) - Nouméa

SEPTEMBER

Carnival of Noumea - Nouméa
Festival of Underwater Pictures - Nouméa
Frequently Pacific - Nouméa
South Pacific Golf Championship (PGA open) - Nouméa/Bourail

OCTOBER

Gigawatt (trail) - Yaté
BlackWoodStock (Rock and Art festival) - Moindou
Ānōūrō āboro (documentary) - Poindimié
Tour Cycliste Air France (cycling tour) - NC

NOVEMBER

Atrwaves Nouméa Dream cup (PWA Windsurfing Competition) - Nouméa

PHONE CALLS

New Caledonia - 00687
France - 0033
Australia - 0061
Australia - 0081
New Zealand - 0064

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police - 17
Fireman - 18
Sea rescue - 16
Samu - 15
Telephone information - 1012

CONSULATES NUMBERS

Delegation U.E. - (687) 27 70 02
Australia - (687) 27 24 14
New Zealand - (687) 27 25 43
Japan - (687) 27 83 03
Indonésie - (687) 23 28 80

TOURISM CONTACTS

Noumea tourist office -
(687) 28 75 80 / Green number: 057580
Tontouta International Airport -
(687) 35 11 18
Magenta Domestic Airport -
(687) 23 28 80

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

BONJOUR!

New Caledonia's impressive, diverse culture and geography means that there is plenty to do!

Outback plains on the West Coast. Tropical mountains on the East Coast. Dazzling beaches in the Loyalty Islands. Deserts in the Great South with a buzzing city life in Noumea. Roll several different holidays into one!

As Australia's closest French Pacific neighbour, New Caledonia is an ideal destination for those looking for an overseas holiday with a difference, without the distance.

Take advantage of the stunning UNESCO Heritage listed lagoon with a range of water sports, feast on a world of culinary delights, explore artistic fairs and cultural festivals, and hike through outstanding natural landscapes. If all that sounds too much, soak up the tropical sun by the pool at your luxury resort or play a round of golf!

As one of the largest destinations in the South Pacific, New Caledonia offers a huge variety of venues, accommodation, facilities, services, sights and activities. Plus the contrast between the cosmopolitan city of Nouméa and the rugged North and the raw beauty of the Loyalty Islands, offer an unbelievable diversity of scenery and experiences to be discovered.

Please let us walk you through the New Caledonia learning chapter with information split into the following sections:

1. General Information
2. Attraction & Activities (Historical site)
3. Culture & Events
4. Fast Facts (how to get there, currency, health etc.)
5. Nature & Geography
6. Shopping & Food
7. Special Features

Visitor Information

New Caledonia Tourism

Tel: (+61) 02 8077 3542

E-mail: info-syd@nctps.com

Website: www.newcaledonia.travel

2. ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

TOP 15 REASONS TO VISIT NEW CALEDONIA

#1 It's culturally rich

New Cal is a melting pot of people – French, Kanaks, Caledonians and more – so offers a unique cultural experience. Immerse yourself in a French language music festival like Francofolies. Visit the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Noumea for a look back at the history of the Kanaks. Or head to the West Coast for a glimpse of New Cal cowboy life. Yeehaw!

#2 It has a variety of regions

Outback plains on the West Coast. Tropical mountains on the East Coast. Eye-wateringly beautiful beaches in the Loyalty Islands. Buzzing city life in capital Noumea. Deserts in the Great South. You can have several different holidays in one!

#3 Island Hopping

The Loyalty Islands and the spectacular Isle of Pines are a beach lover's paradise. Unpopulated, their fine white sands are only matched by their crystal clear transparent waters

#4 French Immersion

New Caledonia offers a unique French immersion experience so close to home! Starting with the language and extending to delicious, sophisticated French food, wines & champagnes and the many boutiques in Noumea.

#5 There's an adventure on offer for all

Looking for a hit of adrenaline? Why not skydive over our UNESCO World Heritage Listed lagoon? More of a leisurely traveller with a penchant for wine and cheese? Try a tour of Noumea's Port Moselle market followed by lunch at a French restaurant. Or do you love the great outdoors? Hike parts (or all!) of the Great South's GRNC 1 100KM track. There's really something to interest everyone.

#6 Beachside Activities

New Caledonia's pristine beaches have an abundance of recreational activities –swimming, sunbathing and snorkelling in crystal clear waters or water sport activities like diving and wind surfing.

#7 Resort Relaxation

New Caledonia is all about resort-style relaxation, with a range of accommodation options, from hotels and self-contained apartments to hostels and homestays.

#8 You can see some of the world's best-preserved reefs and marine life

New Caledonia is located within the world's largest and most beautiful lagoon. Six parts of New Cal's lagoon are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, meaning they're well protected and home to some of the most incredible snorkelling in the world. Get up close and personal with beautiful coral, fish, turtles and more. Let us know if you 'find Nemo' 😊

#9 Urban Experiences

From the bustling atmosphere of the Port Moselle markets to sophisticated French boutiques, classic colonial architecture to the unique Kanak culture, Noumea abounds with things to do and beautiful places to visit.

#9 It has great food and wine

New Cal's mix of cultures means you can enjoy French cuisine one day, fresh caught fish and other local produce the next, and a traditional Kanak bougna the day after that. You'd better arrive hungry... The best food & beverage experience in the South Pacific with over 200 restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs in Nouméa alone mixing French and Pacific flavours.

#10 Its beaches are tranquil and aren't overcrowded

Ever dreamt of having your own private beach? Just come to New Cal where stumbling upon a deserted patch of pristine white sand happens on the regular. Especially in the postcard-perfect Isle of Pines and Loyalty Islands – just turn up, sit back and embrace the feeling of solitude.

#11 Exciting nightlife

New Caledonia offers exceptional nightlife with a good selection of bars and clubs all within walking distance from the Nouméa accommodation strip.

#12 It can be experienced at any budget

Book a serviced apartment and enjoy delicious home-cooked meals made from the fresh produce at Port Moselle markets. Or treat yourself to a luxe resort like Le Meridien Noumea and enjoy gourmet meals, spa treatments and more. Whether on a beer or champagne budget, New Cal guarantees a great time for all.

#13 It's a modern destination

What you gain in island paradise, you don't lose in modernity. New Cal has well-paved roads (road trip anyone?) and modern international and domestic airports for getting around. It's also safe for solo travellers, and, if travelling on an Aussie passport, you don't need a visa. Yes please!

#14 It's easily accessible for families

You'll find plenty of family friendly hotels – places like Chateau Royal Beach Resort offer two-bedroom suites, which are perfect for families. It has activities for all ages – even the little ones can enjoy a swim in the crystal-blue waters. It's got food to suit all tastes – Amorino in Noumea serves ice creams shaped like a rose. Need we say more?

#15 It's less than three hours from Sydney!

Talk about saving the best for last... this picture-perfect vacation destination is right at your doorstep – hello, gorgeous South Pacific neighbour! New Caledonia is only a short flight from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane meaning you can enjoy breakfast in Australia and dinner in a tropical paradise!

3. FAST FACTS

Climate

New Caledonia enjoys a sub-tropical climate year-round, with maximum temperatures averaging between 25°C and 30°C in the warm season from September to March, and between 20°C and 23°C in the cooler months from April to August. Trade winds and occasional cool evenings may require warmer clothes. Rainfall generally passes quickly, although can come in heavy downpours. Sea temperatures in the lagoon range from 21°C to 28°C.

Currency

The local currency is the French Pacific Franc (XPF), pegged at a fixed exchange rate to the Euro. ATM machines are common throughout Noumea and larger towns. Credit cards and some debit cards are widely accepted. Currency exchange bureaux are located at airports and shopping districts, and an American Express office is located on Bis Avenue.

Visas + passports

Visas are not required for Australian, New Zealand, European Union or United States passport holders for stays of up to three months. A passport with at least six months validity and an onward or return air ticket are required upon entry.

Language

French is the official language. There are about 30 Kanak dialects; however these are spoken only in villages and remoter areas. English-speaking staff is common in hotels, resorts, main restaurants and as tour guides, although it is recommended that visitors learn French greetings and basic phrases.

Health

No vaccinations are necessary to visit New Caledonia and it is free of all other tropical diseases including malaria. Visitors should, however, take precautions against mosquitoes. Noumea offers western-standard medical facilities and emergency air transfers to Australia for the most serious of cases. Tap water is safe to drink and bottled water is readily available.

Clothing

Casual dress is common by day and in resorts and hotels, although in upmarket hotels guests dress more formally for dining. Light summer clothes are appropriate. Warmer clothes should be taken during cooler months and in case of cool evenings or trade winds.

Access

The international airline of New Caledonia, Aircalin, operates twelve flights per week non-stop from Australia to Noumea, New Caledonia. Flights take two hours from Brisbane, under three hours from Sydney and Auckland and 3 ½ hours from Melbourne.

Flights between Auckland and Nouméa operate daily during the summer school holidays. The international airport La Tontouta is a 45 minute drive from Noumea city centre.



As the evening settles in, venture to [Anse](#)

THE ISLANDS - LOYALTY ISLANDS



For a real adventure, head to the sparsely populated [Loyalty Islands](#), located 100kms east of the mainland. This is a truly authentic province, where the population is almost entirely Kanak and the authority of chiefdoms is still highly respected, the rituals observed and traditions conserved.

Encounter secluded beaches, hidden caves, amazing views, abundant bushland and local Kanak inhabitants that will make you feel welcome the

second you arrive.

The three main raised coral islands are Mare, Lifou and Ouvea.

- [Lifou](#) is the largest, with a town and administrative centre, is a raised atoll with soaring cliffs and fine sand beaches marking the contours of the island.
- [Mare](#) is an island of real contrasts, with high cliffs, basalt rocks, dark forests, small coves with caves and powdery white sand beaches lining the clear waters of the lagoon.
- [Ouvea](#) is the smallest of the main three yet can be considered the closest island to paradise. The lagoon, protected by a barrier reef and a chain of islets consists of breathtaking sand beaches along a turquoise sea.

THE ISLANDS - ISLE OF PINES



A twenty-minute flight south of Noumea, the [Isle of Pines](#) concentrates pristine nature with deserted beaches, beautiful natural pools and is listed as a World Heritage Listed Site by UNESCO.

THE WEST COAST



where the expanse of mangroves forms a naturally occurring symbol of love.

The [West Coast](#) of the mainland is a region of wide open spaces, mountains and savannah, sprinkled with paperbark. It's also rugged cattle country where the beef produced is of the finest quality.

This is an adventure playground with fishing, diving, mountain biking, rock climbing, horse riding, trekking and even hunting for deer.

The world famous [Heart of Voh](#) is a natural marvel,

THE EAST COAST



The [East Coast](#) is separated from the west by the central mountain range, forming a natural boundary. It's markedly different from the western coast with its lush vegetation, turquoise lagoons, wide rivers, spectacular waterfalls and coconut groves. The largely Melanesian population means it has also retained an authentic flavour.

The seabed in this region is one of the richest and stunning, alive with pygmy seahorses, manta-rays, stunning orang-u-tan spiders and a rainbow of coral.

THE GREAT SOUTH



The [Great South](#) is renowned for nature, but it's the red soil that dominates. Green tourism and sporting activities are key to this region, with hikers particularly keen to trek the hundreds of trails.

[Blue River Provincial Park](#), a short forty-five minute drive south of Noumea, is the largest park in New Caledonia, and a definite highlight. Its red soil, 9,000 hectares of untouched wilderness, endemic plant life,

rivers, swimming sites, waterfalls and fresh water lakes make this spot a truly special location to visit. There is also the rare opportunity to see the national bird, the Cagou, in the wild.

For the eco-minded, a visit to the recently designated [RAMSAR](#) site, Les Lacs du Grand Sud néo-calédonien, the country's largest freshwater reserve, is a must. The area is rich in wetlands, rivers, lakes and flora and fauna and is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts providing the perfect spot for camping, hiking and kayaking.

6. GASTRONOMY

Cuisine and culture

Noumea is the haute cuisine hub of the Pacific with over 150 restaurants catering to all tastes and budgets. Savour delectable French cooking, beautiful wines and champagnes and many patisseries selling mouth-watering macarons, éclairs and chocolates. Or, experience unique flavours served up by New Caledonia's innovative chefs who blend Melanesian and French cuisines in a seamless fusion of flavours.

Seafood features on many restaurant menus with freshly-caught prawns of every denomination, lobsters, oysters, marlin, mackerel, crab and mussels for delectable bowls of moules marinières.

Of course there is also the chance to indulge in a wide selection of French wines - many of which you won't find available in Australia.

Local delicacies include *Bougna*, which is a traditional Melanesian dish combining chicken, lobster or fish with yams, bananas, sweet potatoes and coconut milk wrapped in banana leaves. The food is then steamed in an earth oven heated by hot stones. Bougna is served with a variety of other dishes, including seafood, coconut milk and tropical fruit.



Other delicacies include small mangrove oysters, New Caledonian prawns and, a pastry filled with seafood and cream sauce. On the Isle of Pines visitors can try the endemic Ile des Pins escargot (snails).

For a dining experience that's a little different, try 'table d'hotes'. Here, guests are welcomed into the homes of locals who serve meals of venison, wild pig, coconut crab and fish.

For more info visit: <http://www.newcaledonia.travel/au/top-10-foodie-experiences>

7. SPECIAL FEATURES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

New Caledonia: The 10 types of travellers the South Pacific Island is suited to

New Caledonia is much more than a tropical playground. The country's charming mix of French and Melanesian cultures sees warm hospitality sit alongside European elegance, gourmet food beneath palm trees, sandy beaches, French cowboys, tribal stays and activities galore. Indeed, New Caledonia has it all and there is something for all types of travellers. So whether an adventure junkie, a food lover or a party-goer, here you'll find ideas on just how New Caledonia can appeal to a variety of clients.

1. The [Exhausted parents](#)

New Caledonia offers the chance to totally disconnect and just "get away from it all". With a warm island welcome, and its beautiful beaches and reefs, New Caledonia is a true South Pacific hotspot to rest and recharge. Book exhausted parents for a lovely stay on the Isle of Pines and they will come back revitalised and ready to do it all again!

2. The Food [lovers](#)

Whether it's fine dining, eating with the locals or enjoying wine or cheese tastings, there is something for everyone in New Caledonia. Expect to see baguettes and gooey French cheeses sold alongside coconuts and yams at the local market – the blend of tropical and Gallic influences makes the island such a delicious and mouth-watering destination for foodies.

3. The [Culture vultures](#)

Much like the variety of cuisine on the island, New Caledonia's mixed heritage creates a unique and interesting architectural landscape. Traditional native buildings sit next to avant-garde structures and neighbourhoods featuring both European and Chinese colonial buildings. Some highlights include the cottages in the Vallée des Colons and the mansions of Faubourg Blanchot, as well as the amazing Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Nouméa.

4. The [Water- sport fanatics](#)

Located in the world's largest lagoon and possessing the second-largest barrier reef and one of the biggest marine reserves, New Caledonia is a diver's paradise. The crystalline lagoon also lends itself to windsurfing, kitesurfing, snorkelling, canoeing and scuba-diving, or simply a relaxing dip if preferred.

5. The [Authenticity seekers](#)

For a truly authentic New Caledonian experience, there are options for travellers to immerse themselves in the island's Kanak, or traditional Melanesian, culture. Guests can experience the traditional Kanak way of life through a tribal homestay, or can try traditional cuisine, such as the Kanak Bougna casserole.

6. The Francophiles

Pétanque in public squares, people speaking French and driving on the right hand side of the road, tiny French bistros and supermarché (supermarket) shelves lined with wine, champagne, cheese and charcuterie... For Francophiles without the time to visit Paris, New Caledonia is a perfect close-to-home option.

7. The [Daredavils](#)

With endless water-sport and outdoor activities available, New Caledonia is appealing to active travellers. The warm water of the lagoon, its underwater treasures and the trade winds that rock the coast throughout all four seasons, offer the ideal setup for kite-surfers, windsurfers and surfers, while the options for trekking, mountain biking, zip-lining and golfing are perfect for exploring the island.

8. The [Love birds](#)

Featuring magnificent sunsets, luxurious hotels and French cuisine, New Caledonia is the perfect destination for a romantic escape. New Caledonia is the kind of destination that tugs at the heart strings and brings couples closer together. It's a tropical paradise after all, with crystal clear waters, white sandy beaches and a slower pace of life that truly makes lovers appreciate everything they have in life – including their special someone.

9. The [Nature lovers](#)

Outside of the capital, New Caledonia's landscape is a haven for naturalists, photographers, and adventurers. Whether it's hiking through the lush forests of the mountain range, visiting pristine cascades, following ancient trails, walking on secluded white sandy beaches, sailing on the translucent waters of the lagoon or trekking in the southernmost territories, New Caledonia's stunning environment will always surprise visitors.

10. The [Party Goers](#)

New Caledonia is home to an exceptional and vibrant nightlife. Visitors can find trendy bars, gastronomic restaurants and nightclubs all within walking distance of the Nouméa accommodation strip. For something extra special, visitors can explore New Caledonia's amazing private island parties too!

TOP ATTRACTIONS

Nouméa

#1 [Anse Vata & Baie des Citrons](#) are Noumea's two most popular beaches are perfect spots for lunchtime picnics, swimming and snorkeling. While Anse Vate is the paradise for watersports lovers, Baie des Citrons is the 'in' spot with live music and popular nightclubs.

#2 [Tjibaou Cultural Centre](#) is a space dedicated to the country's indigenous population, the Kanak people, spread over 8 acres. A tribute to a pro-independence Kanak leader assassinated in 1989, the centre features an art centre, a museum, performance places and a library.

#3 [Place des Cocotiers](#) is an attractive garden square at the heart of the city of Noumea is the perfect spot to watch the world go by. Shaded by magnificent flame trees, you can enjoy popular pétanque or play on a giant chessboard. Also experience local arts, crafts, music, dances, food and drinks at the night market on Thursday night.

The Great South

#4 [Blue River Provincial Park](#) is a spacious protected area reserve for numerous bird species including the cagou. Covering over 9,000 hectares that can be explored on foot or by bike, discover fauna and flora of remarkable diversity and richness.

The East and West Coast

#5 [Heart of Voh](#) is an incredibly pretty love-heart, formed naturally over time by mangroves. You can either hike through the track up to a viewing point or fly over the top of Mount Katépei, enjoying spectacular views of the Heart of Voh, lagoon, reef and surrounding mountain range.

#6 [Hienghène Bay](#) region features stunning mountains, forests, rivers, waterfalls, lagoons and extraordinary rock formation. This is an amazing region for trekkers.

The Islands

#7 [Amédée Island & Lighthouse](#) (day trip from Nouméa) is surrounded by crystal clear waters, colourful coral and abundant tropical fish. Relax on white sand beach under swaying palm trees or stroll around the island.

#8 [Duck Island](#) (day trip from Nouméa) is a five minute water taxi trip from Anse Vata beach where you're able to walk on an underwater path along the ocean floor to get an amazing look of the marine world. Pedal boats, canoes or snorkelling equipment are also available to take the most of this island paradise.

#9 [Ile des Pins](#) (20 minutes flight south of Nouméa) known as "The Jewel of the Pacific", the Isle of Pines is one of the most spectacular islands in the Pacific. Fringed with white sands, turquoise lagoons and its signature Araucaria soaring pine trees, it is an evocative and exotic landscape of ancient botanic and raw beauty.