

Authentic Adventures

If you are looking for a couple's escape to a Pacific destination that has retained its pristine, unspoiled natural state, waters that teem with sea life and the privacy of vast, uninhabited beaches, the Solomon Islands are for you. Here you will find a private escape, a diver's nirvana and a bird watchers' paradise. The Solomon Islands is warm all-year-round, with an average temperature of about 27 degrees.

A couple is seen from behind, sitting in a bright yellow motorboat on a clear blue tropical sea. The man is at the helm, and the woman is seated next to him. The boat has a black canopy and a Yamaha 15 HP outboard motor. In the background, there are lush green islands under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A large, stylized red circle with white text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

Tying the knot

There have been discussions around amending the current Solomon Islands Matrimony Law – to allow overseas couples to conduct religious marriages in the Solomon Islands and have their weddings legally recognised in their country of origin – but at time of printing, this law remains the same. Civil unions are permitted and recognised internationally, however they can only take place in Honiara.



A RICH HISTORY

For a place so untouched – the Solomon's has a rich history with one of the highest concentrations of World War II wrecks in the world. Some of war's fiercest battles took place in the Solomon's, where strong resistance from Australian and American forces pushed the Japanese back.

The battle sites have had minimal interference and visitors find rusting tanks and Jeeps as well as caves that were used as hiding places and observation points.

Couples who want an historic underwater adventure will find ample opportunities. The ships, submarines and aircraft that are submerged here serve as artificial reefs, attracting coral and fish and offering a fascinating underwater museum to explore. You don't have to go far from the capital to experience it – try the aptly named Iron Bottom Sound, just off Honiara, where some of the wrecks are also shallow enough to be snorkelled.



THE DIVING PARADISE

The Solomon Island's waters are home to an abundance of coral and tropical marine life and have been nominated as one of Oceania's seven natural wonders. Located within a wider area known as the Coral Triangle, the reef is made up of 500 species of hard and soft corals and the water is a spawning ground and migratory route for reef fish, dolphins, rays, sharks and marine turtles.

Maravo is the largest saltwater lagoon in the world and many of its islands are uninhabited; couples will find the peace and privacy of the often deserted beaches a total treat.



One of the most beautiful unspoiled locations on the planet comprising a vast group of 992 breathtaking tropical islands, the Solomon Islands is the perfect place in which to enjoy a truly memorable wedding ceremony, the perfect honeymoon or a romantic getaway for two. Feel the spirit of adventure, and enjoy your own special piece of paradise and discover a culture with a welcoming smile.

Solomon Islands
Visitors Bureau
Tel: + 677 22442
E: info@sivb.com.sb
www.facebook.com/VisitSolomonIslands
www.visitsolomons.com.sb



Munda and Roviana Lagoon are also popular. Inside the Roviana Lagoon, which is enclosed by a chain of barrier reefs and islands, adventurous couples can visit the Cave of the Kastom Shark, where a small, freshwater pool leads into two large connected chambers.

For those couples who love to dive, or who want to learn to dive, a handful of beautifully located resorts provide an idyllic doorway to undersea ventures like you will get nowhere else.



PLACES TO STAY

Tavanipupu Private Island Resort

For a premium island delight visit Tavanipupu Private Island Resort in Marau Sound, just a 25-minute plane ride from Honiara. Couples will find a tropical paradise with manicured lawns, lines of coconut palms (leftover from its days as a coconut plantation) and spacious bungalows in a coconut grove overlooking the beach.

The restaurant is renowned for its fresh seafood, and the resort offers fabulous snorkelling, fishing, diving and swimming opportunities. The resort is a popular spot for honeymooners and couple's escapes, and hosted one of the world's most famous duos - The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (William and Kate).

Evis Resort

On the lagoon side of Nggatirana Island is Evis Resort, one of the Solomon's newest properties. The tree-lined luxury beach resort in Nono Lagoon is made up of beachside bungalows with a bar and restaurant at its centre. The island has 15 hectares of conservation land, which couples can walk the "round the island trail", enjoying the birdlife and forests. There is kayaking and snorkelling gear available and day trips to Vangunu Island, which has easy access to premium diving and snorkelling sites, including Penguin Reef, Rapichana Point and Hele Bar.



UEPI ISLAND RESORT ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS

Vangunu is home to Gerbera's village Zaira, one of the most remote places on earth. Zaira offers great food and friendly smiles to visitors and you may also see turtle eggs hatching during your visit. After a day soaking up the sun and sea, return to Evis Resort's restaurant and enjoy a meal inspired by both French and lagoon fare.

Fatboys Resort

Fatboys Resort is located on Babanga Island, a tropical hideaway for couples wanting a relaxing beachside escape. The resort has five waterside bungalows with wide verandas, and couples will wake to seductive views of the islands and the sound of waves lapping the sand. The accommodation, made from traditional leaves and local hardwoods, fits beautifully into the landscape.

A stand-out feature of the resort is its restaurant and bar, located along the private jetty, 100 metres out over the reef. Enjoy a drink and a plate of fresh crayfish while you watch tropical fish swim beneath you. Delightful. 🌺



TAVANIPUPU ISLAND RESORT ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



SOLOMONS DIVING ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS