

Solomon Is. Birdwatching

EXPLORE NATURE'S EXQUISITE BIRDS IN SOLOMONS

BIRDWATCHING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands boasts over 300 distinct species of bird. The undisturbed natural environment found here has made this a fantastic location for observing a vast array of bird species in their native habitats.

The list of birds to be found in Solomon Islands is very long, but typically the rare and unusual endemics are the primary targets for birders. Some of these species include: the iconic Black-faced Pitta, Fearful Owl, recently described Solos Frogmouth, Roviana Rail, Shade Warbler and the Yellow-legged Pigeon, just to name a few.

The best time of year to for bird watching in the Solomon Islands is the end of the dry season, around August and September is proving to be the most popular time to visit. However, with the sheer number of species here, there isn't one best time to catch mating, nesting or hatching, so birdwatchers will be impressed year-round in this stunning destination.



Black-faced Pitta

Solomon Is. Birdwatching

PERFECT FOR NATURE LOVERS AND ADVENTURERS

Intrepid birders who are filled with the enthusiasm to explore Solomon's unique birding destinations are up for an adventure, and are advised to be prepared. Some of the treks into the interior mountains involve hiking along challenging trails; this requires a good level of fitness.

Wishing to get a glimpse of as many endemic species as possible means you may need to venture off the beaten tracks, and traveling in boats or small planes.



Island Imperial Pigeon



Nicobar Pigeon

A visit to Santa Isabel offers the chance to see the iconic Black-faced Pitta, Fearful Owl and the Solomon Frogmouth, while Guadalcanal has Woodford's Rail, as well as an eponymous Boobook, Moustached and Dwarf Kingfishers, Drongo, Thrush, Honeyeater and Hooded Whistler. Other major islands such as Makira, Malaita, Kolombangara, New Georgia and Santa Cruz have a similar heady array of rails, warblers, flycatchers, fantails, myzomelas, monarchs, starlings, white-eyes and flowerpeckers which can only be seen on

THE BEST PLACES TO GO BIRDWATCHING

The easiest parts of Solomon Islands to access are the central islands and provinces, including Guadalcanal and Western Province. These areas are home to dozens of species and over 62 endemic species, making it the richest endemic bird area in the world.

Around the capital you can find 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 Woodford's Rail, an eponymous Boobook, Hooded whistler, San Christobal Thrush, Guadalcanal Honeyeater, Guadalcanal Thicketbird, Brown Fantail and if you are extremely lucky, the almost unknown Moustached Kingfisher.

Rennell is home to 43 species of breeding bird. Among these are six endemics, all of which can be seen in close proximity to the airfield by walking along the logging tracks. Mount Austen has such delights as Ultramarine Kingfisher, Duchess Lorikeet and White-billed Crow among its highlights.

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Solomon Is. Diving

HOST TO THE WORLD'S BEST DIVING

Who would have known that only a 3-hour flight northeast of Brisbane, Australia is one of the world's best dive Destinations? With an abundance of dives offerings such as Open Water Dives, Wreck Dives, Wall Dives, Drift Dives, Deep Dives and stunning Night Dives – the Solomon Islands has something to suit divers of every qualification level.

A mecca for Scuba Divers, Solomon Islands offers some of the best dives on the planet, and what is on offer accounts for only a small percentage of possible dive sites in the archipelago.

The Solomon Islands is a fantastic place to learn to Scuba Dive, there are PADI and SSI accredited dive instructors that can conduct introductory open water courses and more advanced Instructor courses that students can undertake before arrival and head straight into their dive sessions as soon as they get here.

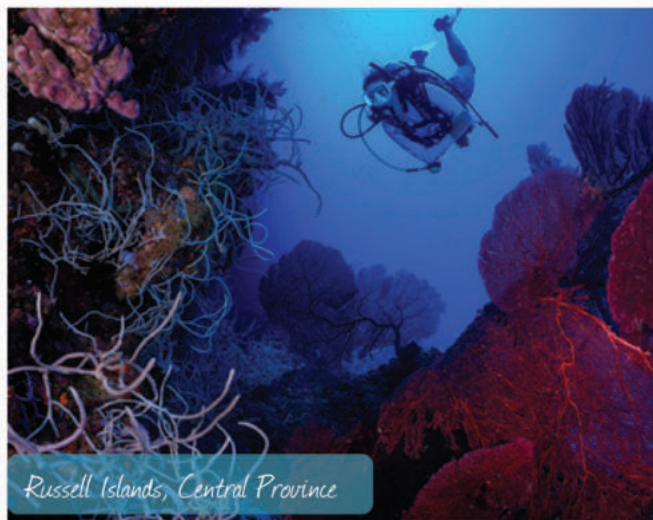


Photo: Gerald Rambert

Solomon Is. Diving

ONE OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST FISH DENSITIES

Part of the Coral Triangle, the Solomons is home to one of the highest fish densities. At a site called "Grand Central Station," there has been over 270 different species of fish sighted on just a single tank reef drift, this includes Barracuda, Sharks, Turtles and beautiful Manta Rays that drift the currents with you.



Photo: Gerald Rambert

DIVING WITH DEEPER CONNECTIONS

Divers who have taken the plunge in the Solomon Islands often return, and have established relationships with local communities, and have started to discover some of the many the unique living cultures in Solomon Islands, including the people's traditional ties and the sacredness of the ocean, and the traditional relevance of species such as Sharks, Tuna, Garfish and Flying Fish. Many local cultural dances are based on fish swimming patterns.

GETTING YOU TO HIDDEN GEMS

With nearly 1000 islands, some dive sites are not a simple step away from your hotel. The Solomons has not one, but two award winning liveaboard operators, Bilikiki Cruises and Solomons Master that have the ability to navigate between the maze of islands and get you to the further afield sites, the trip itself also making for a memorable experience.



Roderick Bay, Central Province

Photo: Gerald Rambert

Dive Operators

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Solomon Is. Fishing



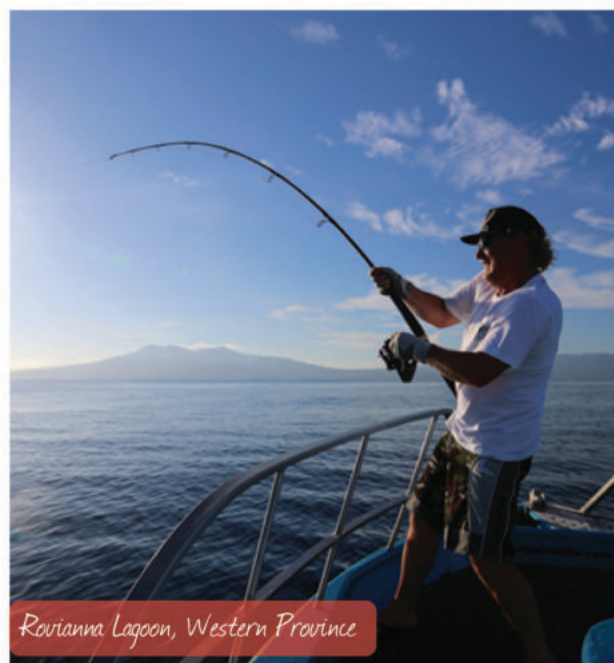
THE LAST FRONTIER IN ADVENTURE SPORT FISHING

If you have a passion for next level adventure fishing in remote and unspoilt locations, then the Solomon Islands is a must do fishing destination for you.

A hidden gem in the Pacific, many parts of the Solomon Islands still remain undiscovered by mainstream tourism, preserving the natural charm, culture and magnificent sport fishing opportunities.

Situated in the Coral Sea between Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu in an area boasting the highest marine biodiversity on the planet, the waters surrounding the Solomon Islands are literally teeming with fish.

With favourable weather conditions throughout the majority of the year and over 900 coral reef fringed islands and atolls in the archipelago to choose from, the fishing options are endless.



Solomon Is. Fishing

WORLD CLASS SPORT FISHING

Cast poppers and stick baits along the crystal-clear shallow reef flats for trevally, mackerel, coral trout, red bass and many other species.

Troll for big Spanish mackerel, wahoo, yellowfin and dogtooth tuna around the reef edges. Drop soft plastics or bait to tangle with big coral trout, green job fish, saddle tail snapper, big reef jacks and red emperors.

Cast to prolific schools of surface feeding tuna in the blue water and around the many FADs and seamounts where you can also troll for billfish, yellowfin tuna and mahi mahi. The Solomon Islands is the last frontier in adventure sport fishing.



MORE THAN JUST FISHING

There's more to the Solomon Islands than just catching fish. While you're here you'll enjoy our unique culture, warm climate, stunning landscapes and our happy friendly people.

Coming to the Solomon Islands is about pristine waters, the friends you make, the relaxed lifestyle and escape from the hustle and bustle city life.

Visit the Solomon Islands for a unique adventure experience.

JUNGLE RIVER FISHING

River fishing includes catching species such as Spottail Bass, Mangrove Jack, Perch, Archerfish, Trevally, Sleepy Cod, and more. For a memorable adventure experience book through any of the popular fishing Resorts or Fishing operators.

LURE CASTING FOR GIANT TREVALLY

The endless pristine coral reefs and lagoons provide world class surface fishing for monster giant trevally on poppers and stick baits.

Other species commonly encountered are big dogtooth tuna, bluefin trevally, red bass, coral trout, Maori wrasse, and many more. The surface action is something to behold with fish smashing surface lures so regularly and aggressively that every cast is made with intense anticipation.

Fishing Operators

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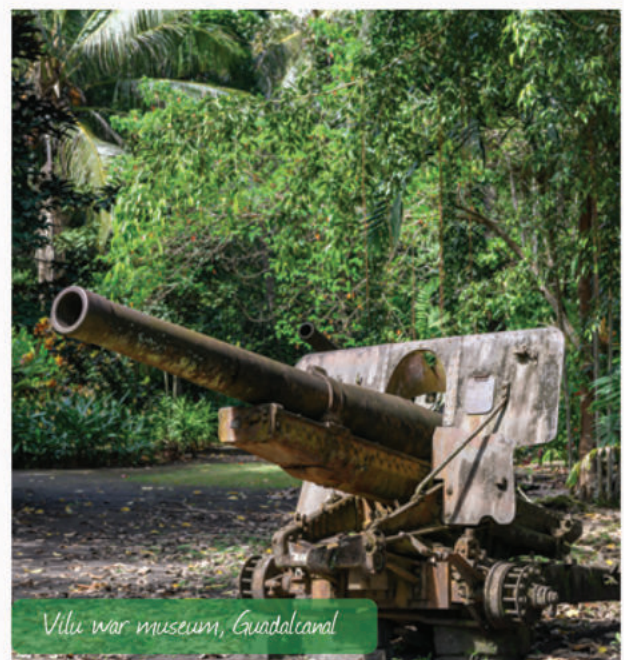
Solomon Is. Freedom



HIDDEN HISTORY IN PARADISE

The Solomon Islands hold so much history both above and below water. Once a fierce battlefield, today the islands are a playground for Divers and World War II History Buffs. Here you will find countless remains from underwater wrecks, partially submerged wrecks, guns, amphibian tanks and military bunks. either left as it was or part of a museum collection, each piece with a unique story to tell.

Solomon Islands was the turning point of WWII as the Guadalcanal Campaign put a stop to Japan's invasion onto the rest of the Pacific. Thousands of soldiers fought for freedom on this foreign land, in honour of their country so they sacrificed their lives. It was on this land where the fierce battles happened and also came to a stop and freedom to the world was gained. This will always be a significant part of the Solomon Islands history.



Vilu war museum, Guadalcanal

Solomon Is. Freedom

RELIVE HISTORY

American forces first landed on the Solomon Islands of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida on the morning of August 7, 1942. After fierce fighting and many battles, the US Marines cleared Tulagi and Florida by August 9. Relive this history with local guides who offer memorable and moving tours to the WW II Museum and other significant sites including the American memorial at Skyline Ridge and the Japanese Solomons Peace memorial.

Of visit some of the many of the battle sites that remain virtually untouched. You can still find artefacts strewn about from rusting jeeps, tanks and amphibious vehicles lying buried in the jungle to foxholes and caves that were used as Japanese observation points and hiding places.



Mbonege beach, Guadalcanal

If diving or snorkeling is more your things, explore the many WWII relics that remain submerged in the surrounding glistening waters. See oil tankers, seaplanes and submarines - a few can be snorkeled, just a short distance from shore while others are only accessible by experienced divers.



Mbonege beach, Guadalcanal



Tandai museum, Guadalcanal

REMEMBERING AND LIVING THE LEGACY

The capital city Honiara, on Guadalcanal, has both the US and Japanese War Memorials. As visiting Veterans holds Solomon Islands close to their hearts, there are annual Anniversaries and Commemorations held in the Capital and Provinces. This is when flags of both US and Japan fly high in remembrance of all the brave souls that once fought on this land. Today, modern guided Tours are incorporated with commemorations and Anniversaries.

Further afield in across the provinces, you can snorkel a Japanese plane outside of Gizo and while there, visit Kennedy Island where the once former President of USA, John F Kennedy swam to when his PT109 boat was bombed by Japanese forces and he was rescued by a local scout. You can even visit bunkers and caves dug up by soldiers their hide out or visit the Naval Base at Lumbaria on Rendova.

There are so much Historical products to offer in the Solomon Islands, every step rooted to where a soldier once fought with courage.

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Solomon Is. Surfing

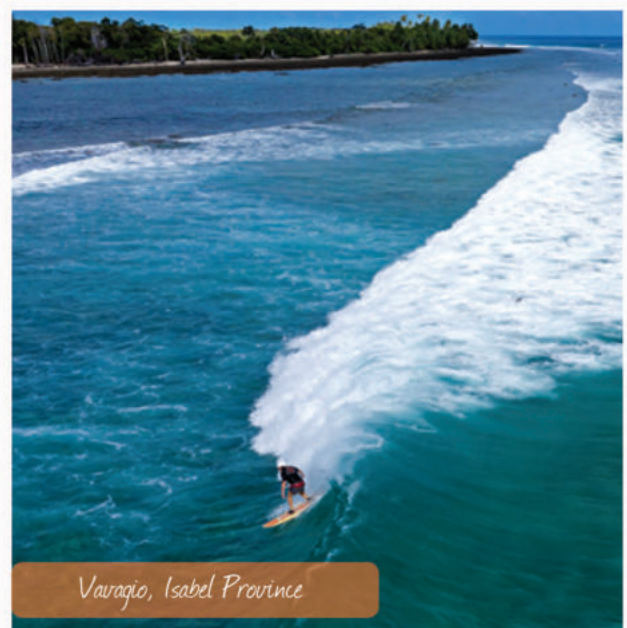


SURFING GOLD IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands a surfer's dream with a wide variety of waves in the area which vary from advanced to beginner breaks. The Solomons Islands are blessed with having both a north and south swell and the destination's extensive reefs and north-western facing islands come alive with some of the most perfect waves to be found anywhere on the planet.

The Solomon Islands has seen surfers for over 25 years however annual numbers are still low this means no crowds and even the chance to find new waves with naming rights. There are not many places left in the world who offer this.

A surf trip in the Solomon Islands offers much more than your typical surf trip with culture steeped in time, 100s of languages, nearly 1000 islands. Here you'll experience crystal clear water, amazing untouched reefs and beaches, world class fishing, ancient tropical rainforest and empty reef breaks barrelling around isolated atolls.



Vavagio, Isabel Province

Solomon Is. Surfing

WHEN TO SURF

The best surfing is between October and April with peak season between November and March. The regular storm systems that come through at this time of year consistently generate swells between 3 feet and 6 feet but may often be bigger.



The Guadalcanal Province is the main entry point to the Solomon Islands so if you're looking for an easy weekend surf from Honiara, a number of operators can organise surfing tours not far away and there are some fantastic waves on offer.

WHERE TO SURF

There are a few different options depending on your time and budget. If you're happy with life's simple pleasures and want to really experience the Solomons, village stays that operate as surf camps are a great option. You'll provide some income to the village and make new friends. Guest accommodation is typically in a comfortable well-built thatched home and your perfect wave is just minutes away by boat.

The two best-known regions are currently Gizo in the Western Province and Santa Isabel Province, and to a lesser extent, the Florida Islands and North Malaita – there are still literally dozens of secret spots throughout this archipelago of 992 islands, the locations of which are closely guarded by a handful of hard travelling board riders.

Whether you're visiting the Isabel Province or the Western Province, both are easily accessible by flight and unique wilderness expeditions abound. You will stay in a local village, meeting the locals, contribute to the local economy and surf island style. A stand out is Santa Isabel and Papatara Island Retreat, one of the best surfing set-ups to be found anywhere in the South Pacific.

Within the Malaita Province there are more than a dozen world class reef sets ups near the spectacular Lau Lagoon where the 'Solwata' or Salt Water People live. There are surf breaks to cater to novices as well as advanced surfers.

With uncrowded surf, crystal clear waters, colourful living reefs, excellent fishing, incredible scenery, tropical rainforest and tribal societies, the Solomon Islands is one of the last surfing frontiers.

Surfing Operators

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