



Solomon 15:

- A scattered archipelago of some 900-odd richly forested mountainous islands and low lying coral atolls, the Solomon Islands has been attracting international tourism since 1568 when Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana first sailed into this tucked away corner of the South Pacific..
- Centered at longitude 160 degrees east and latitude 9 degrees south of the equator, Solomon Islands comprises 992 islands of which 147 are inhabited.
- Communal, clan and family ties remain strong in these islands with the existence of the wantok system.
- The main Islands of Solomons are volcanic in origin covered with fast owing rivers and streams. They are home to many endemic flora and fauna species which includes the common cardinal lorry.
- About 95% of the Population are Christians. The principal religions are church of Melanesia (Anglican) about 25%; Roman Catholic 19%; South Seas Evangelical 17% United Church (Methodist) 11% and Seventh Day Adventist 10%. Other religions have made an impact notably the Baha'i faith, Jehovah's Witness, Assemblies of God and Baptist.
- Nine provinces in total namely Guadalcanal, Isabel, Malaita, Central Islands, Makira Ulawa, Choiseul, Renbel, Temotu, and Western Province

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2023

Solomon Islands

A scattered archipelago of some 900-odd richly forested mountainous islands and low lying coral atolls, the Solomon Islands has been attracting international tourism since 1568 when Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana first sailed into this tucked away corner of the South Pacific...



- 9 Province of the Solomon Islands
- Choiseul Province
- Western Province
- Isabel Province
- Central Province
- Guadalcanal Province
- Malaita Province
- Makira-Ulawa Province
- Renbel Province
- Temotu Province

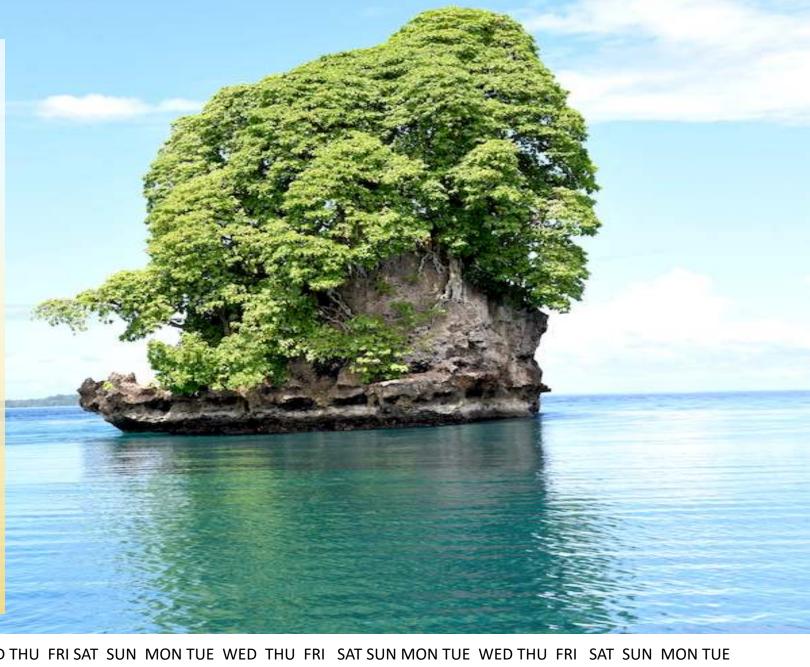
Solomon 15. Choiseul

Did you know?

- The traditional name of the Islands was Lauru.
- In 1568m Alvaro de Mendana saw the islands from Santa Isabel on the day of Saint Mark. He called it San Marcos'. 1768 the French Explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville saw the Islands and named it Choiseul, after the French minister of Foreign Affair and Statesman at that time Étienne François, duc de Choiseul.
- A family in Sirovanga, north choiseul still held on to the traditional art
 of pottery as handed down from their ancestors. The only surviving
 traditional art of poetry in the Solomon Islands.
- The commonly known to be endangered Dugong or Sea Cow can be found on Choiseul, in the lagoons of Choiseul bay and Taro Island and in the waters off beautiful small islands around Rob Roy on eastern Choiseul.
- Choiseul Province produces largest quantity of sea weed in the Solomon Islands. On east Choiseul Particularly on Wagina Sea weed farming become the biggest commercial rural activity since 2002, Sea weed contributes 3% to Solomon islands GDP.
- Kuvojo or Choiseul Pigeon is one of the unfortunate Solomon Islands birds that we can say could not withstood the test of times and was extinct as early as 1904. Kuvojo is the native name, Choiseul Pigeon, Solomons crested pigeon and Solomon Islands crowned pigeon are its other given names. "That pigeon was monotypic within the genus Microgoura and had no known subspecies" (Wikipedia)
- Provincial Capital Choiseul Bay (Taro Island)
- Airports (1) Choiseul Bay (2) Kagau
- Main Islands Lauru (Choiseul), Wagina & Rob Roy.
- Total Land area 3,837 km2 (1,481 sq mi)
- Population 36,719 (2020)

Event Dates

Choiseul Province 2nd Appointed day 25th February



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY **Q** Tourisiii In Focus 10 Valentines Day 13 International Mother Language Day 23 24 20 Choiseul Province 2nd Appointed Day 28

2023

SATURDAY

18

Solomon Is. Choiseul



Sanford's Fish-Eagle



Photograph: eBird

Solomon 15. Niche Offerings

Birdwatching

- The Solomon Islands offers around 102 endemic species and another 25 which it shares within the Melanesian countries. Few rare birds that are found nowhere in the world but only in the Solomons are the shy Black-Faced Pitta, Fearful Owl, Solomon Islands Frogmouth and the Moustached Kingfisher. Areas of interest for birdwatching include 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. In many birding locations of the Solomons you will find local guides well versed in the species found around their area. A selection of travel operators can also arrange bird watching excursions.

Surfing

- Surfing in the Solomons will give you a great and unforgettable experience. Local guides are available in most locations.
- The best season for waves is October to April when the North Pacific awakens. Some good spot to do surfing in Solomon Islands include Lau Lagoon in Northern Malaita, Papatura and Kia in Isabel Province, Gizo in western province and Star Harbour in Makira Province.

Diving

- Solomon Islands is popular for its world class diving. Grand Central Station, one of the Dive Sites on Njari Islands, Gizo, holds the 2ndhighest number of fish count in the world.
- different species of fish that can be identified in a single tank dive! Scuba diving can be experienced out of Honiara, in Gizo, Munda, Marovo, Russell Island, and Snorkeling can be experienced almost anywhere in the Solomon Islands.

Fishing

- You can go fishing in just about all of our 992 islands in the Solomons and fishing season is all year around.
- Popular fish species includes; Marlin, Sailfish, Mahi-Mahi, Giant Trevally, Wahoo, Spanish Mackarel, Coral Red Trout and Red Sea Bass.
- One of the rare fishing gems in the Solomons is the fresh water Spot Tail Bass, which involve a truly unique fresh water fishing.

Battlefields/WWII History

- Guadalcanal is well known for its pivotal role in World War II – The Guadalcanal Campaign, August 1942.
- The Battle of Guadalcanal involved so many local Solomon Islands Scouts men and Coast Watchers, they played a huge role in assisting the Americans and eventually turning the tide and ending the war.
- Solomon Islands was the turning point of WWII!
- Today there are tours on offer covering numerous historical sites of what once was an international battle ground.

MARCH

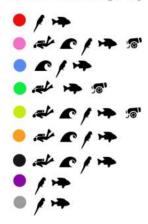
2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY V	vednesday 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY World Wildlif Day	SATURDAY 4
5	6	7	International Womens Day	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	International Day of Happiness	International Day of Forest	World Water Day	World Meteorologica Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Solomon Is. Niche Offerings



Niche Offerings by Province



Legend:



Solomon 15. Isabel

Did you know?

- The First European to discover the Solomon Islands, the Spanish Explorer, Alvaro de Mendana De neira first landed on Santa Isabel 8th February 1568. Mendana gave the name Santa Isabel to the Island.
- Santa Isabel is the Longest Island in the Solomon Islands Archipelago at around 199 km long from Kia in the far western tip to Vikenara point on the eastern tip.
- Surfing is the most popular tourism Activity attractions of Isabel province. Papatura Retreat at Papatura Ite Island is the premier surfing retreat. Other supporting surf camps are, Vavagio, Kagata and Isaisao
- Bird Watching ranked second in the popular Tourism Attraction of Isabel Province. The elusive flagship bird 'black faced pita' is star attraction. Black faced pita is endemic to Isabel, Choiseul & Bougainville. Mae Holo and Bubuli Bird Watchers take tours to the hill top village of Tirotonga to watch this endemic bird. Solomons frog mouth, fearful owl, imitator goshawk, Sanford sea eagle are amongst the bonus birds to watch whilst at Tirotonga highlands. highlands
- Leather back turtles and their eggs had been just food to the people of Isabel province until recently. Leatherback turtles, which are truly amazing creatures are the biggest sea turtle in the world measuring up to 2 meters long and can weigh up to a tons or 1000 kilograms. They are migratory animals, travelling to foraging grounds more than 10,000 miles away including as far as California USA and returning to breeding sites in Isabel Province every 2
- Population 35,257 (2020)
- Provincial Capital Buala
- Airports (1) Fera (2) Suavanao

Event Date

Isabel Province 2nd Appointed day – 6th June

SAT SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

SUNDAY MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

World Health Day

FRIDAY

15

2023

SATURDAY

13

Good Friday

Easter Sunday. **PCYC Fishing** Competition.

Rotary Fun Run.
Makira Marathon. Easter Monday.

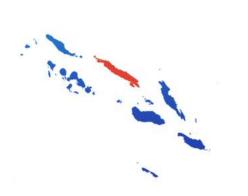
19

International Mother Earth Day

25 ANZAC Day.
World Malaria 26
Day.

28

International Dance Day Solomon Is. Isabel



Arnavon Community Marine park

Located between Choiseul and Isabel province, it is home to the largest rookery of the critical endangered Hawkbill Turtles of the South Pacific.

MAY 23

Did you know?

- Temotu Province is geographically closer to Vanuatu than the Solomons capital, Honiara.
- The most active volcano is the country is located in Temotu, on Tinakula Island, which is about 40km from Lata, Santa Cruz.
- Alvaro de Mendana, the Spanish Explorer, entered Solomon's waters through the Temotu archipelago. Temotu Province was the point of entry for the explorer that named the country Solomon Islands.
- Temotu is also famus for its traditional feather money which is made out of the downy feather, scarlet-couloured tropical forest bird.
 Feathers are plucked from its breast, head and back which is then glued to a local fiber, 5 centimeters wide and 10 meters long. The feather money, although no longer commonly used, they can still be found in parts of Santa Cruz and Reef Islands.
- Thee are 10 different languages spoken on Temotu within the Islands of Santa Cruz, Reef Islands, Vanikoro, Utupua including the Polynesian Outliers, Vaeakau – Tuamakoand Tikopia – Anuta.
- Nambo is a popular, traditional staple food made out of breadfruit. The nambo is prepared into a biscuit form and can be kept for more than two years. .As Temotu has always been prone to natural disasters, the Nambo helps sustain people and can also be taken on long fishing trips. Today the Nambo is popular throughout the Solomon Islands and is also a main source of income for some families.

Cultural & Provincial Events

- Temotu 2nd Appointed Day 8th June
- Tinakua Festival 9th June NM – Dates are subject to change. Please contact Tourism Solomons for further information.

Domestic Airports

- Lata, Santa Cruz
- Lomlom, Reef Islands



MAY

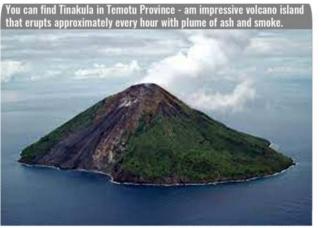
2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY 1	TUESDAY 2	WEDNESDAY World Pre Day	THURSDAY ss 4	FRIDAY 5	SATURDAY 6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Internat	amilies 16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 World No	o Tobacco		

Solomon 1s. Temotu



Tinakula Volcano



Photograph: Lance MacC, via volcanohotspot

Solomon 1s. Central Islands

Did you know?

- Tulagi in the Central Islands Province was the first location for the Solomon Islands Capital? From 1896 to 1942 Tulagi was the Capital of Solomon Islands. The Capital was moved to Honiara following World War II.
- The Central Islands Province was the first Solomon Islands Provinces to attain its own administration? The province was the first to appoint a Provincial Government on 29 June 1981.
- Central Islands Province has one of the largest pods of dolphins in the Solomon Islands. A large pod of around 300 – 400 of these beautiful marine mammals can be regularly sited just a short boat ride from Savo Island.
- Savo Island in the Central Island Islands Province is home to the geothermal feature of a Volcano. The thermal grounds are used for nesting by the endangered Megapode Bird, the warm sand providing perfect incubation temperatures for the eggs.
- One of the provinces most unusual tourism features is the wreck of the MS World Discoverer. The vessel hit a rock in the Sandfly Passage in the year 2000. She was run aground at Roderick Bay, where she remains today and is a wonderful snorkeling site, and locals have installed a zip line from the wreck.
- Double Island in the Central Islands Province was actually two separate islands? The Islands of Soghonaghola and Koukomutabu were linked by artificial connection of rock and sand. It is now the site of a tourist resort and Nature Park.

JUNE

2023

SUNDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Global Day of Isabel Province Wogasia **Parents** 2nd Appointed Festival Day Whit Monday. Inaugural Temotu Province 10 Tinakula Day 2nd Appointed World Environment Day. Day 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 Tulagi Challenge 27 28 25 26 Central Islands Province 2nd Appointed Day.

Solomon Is. Central Islands



Leru Cut



Photograph: Matt Smith

Solomon 15. Renbel

Did you know?

- The first European to sight the islands was Mathew Boyd of Camberwell, London, commander of merchant ship, Bellona in 1793
- Rennell and Bellona are both Polynesian-inhabited islands within the
 predominantly Melanesian Solomons. According to oral histories the two
 islands MuNgiki (Bellona) and MuNgava (Rennell) were populated by eight
 original clans who voyaged in one of the Polynesian back-migration, some 26
 generation ago. Their language is related to Samoan.
- Tattooing is a traditional practice, such as the taukuka of Bellona and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.
- Lake Tegano, the world heritage site is 27 kilometres long and 9 kilometres wide. With 200 islands on the western end of the lake and unique wildlife in the area, there are sunken remains of WWII.
- Rennell have 6 endemic bird species that can only be found in Rennell, name;
 Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Starling, Rennell Fantail, Rennell White-Eye, Bare-eye white eye and the elusive Rennell Whistler.
- Bellona is known to have some incredible caves and the famous one is the Aotaha Cave.
- Bellona is rich with fertile soil that grows variety of mix vegetables, although the island is rocky. They practice organic farming within the island.
- The flying fishing is still practiced in Bellona, a special traditional way of fishing done by the people of Bellona in the olden days. The event usually takes place at night time. It is called, Tauika in Bellona dialect.

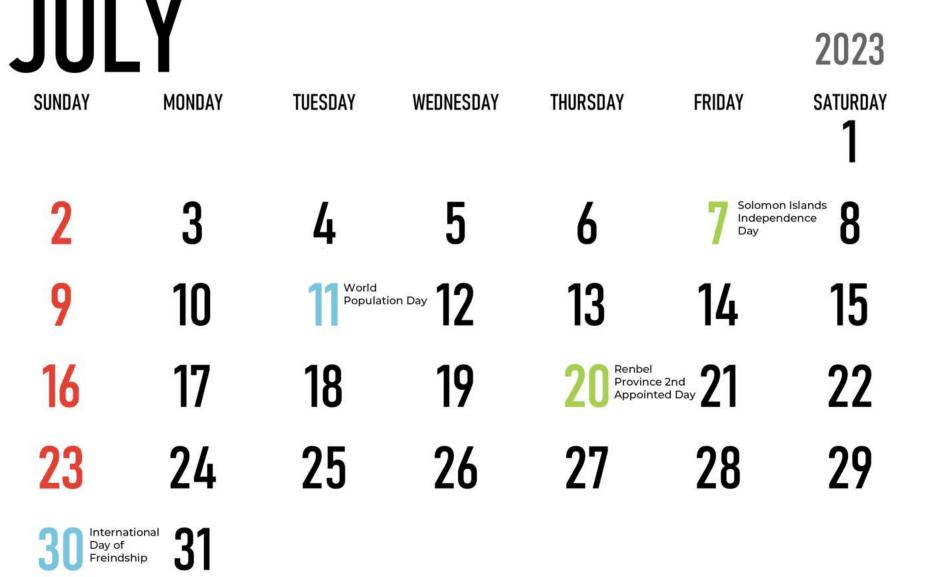
Cultural & Provincial Events

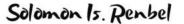
Renbel Second Appointed Day- 20th July Fly Fishing Festival- August Bellona Cultural Festival- July

Domestic Airport

Bellona, Bellona Island













AUG Tu W Th F Sa Su M Tu W Th

Did you know?

- Guadalcanal is the largest Island in the Solomon Islands and hosts the national capital Honiara.
- Known to be the battle ground of the WWII (Battle of Guadalcanal) between the Alliance (American Forces) and Japanese who fought between 7th August 1942 to 9th August 1943.
- Guadalcanal has the highest mountain in the Solomon's namely Mt.
 Popomanaseu with 2,319m and 7,661 ft.
- Guadalcanal was discovered by Spanish expedition of Alvaro de Mendana in 1568. He named the Island Guadalcanal.
- Guadalcanal is rich with wildlife and has the second highest count of bird species, with a famous flagship species which is the Guadalcanal Moustached Kingfisher..
- A traditional demonstration for Guadalcanal people during special events like reconciliation is called Chupu. The CHUPU ceremony is regarded as the most significant ceremony in Guadalcanal province.
- Guadalcanal still maintains the traditional in-heritage lifestyle in the Weather-coast. A movement known as Moro movement, described as "Sai lima horohoro tuali".

Cultural & Provincial Events

- Guadalcanal Second Appointed Day: 1st August
- Guadalcanal 81st Anniversary Battle of Guadalcanal: 7th August
- Commemoration of WWII, Bloody Ridge: 8th August





AUGUST

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY Guadalcar Province 2 Appointed	2nd	THURSDAY Makira-U Province Appointe	2nd	SATURDAY 5
6	Battle of G 81st Annive Operationa -tower Blue Anniversary	Watch Beach	9	10	11	12
13	Shell Mor Festival	ney 15 Malaita 2nd App Day	Province 16	17	18	Papatura Fishing
20	21	22	23	24	25	Competition 26 Fly Solomons Peace Marathon
27	28	29	30	31		Maiation

Solomon Is. Guadalcanal



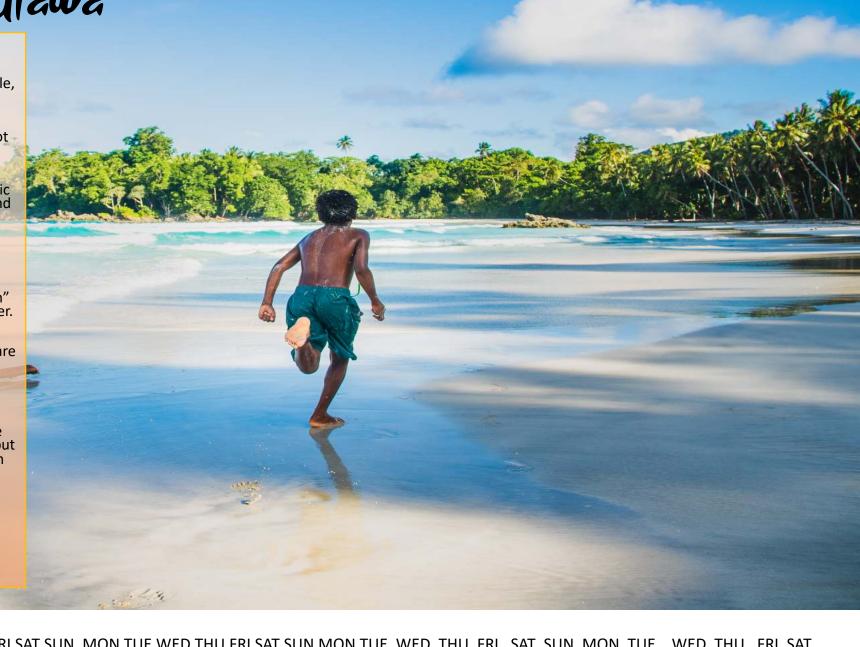
Battle of Guadalcanal



Solomon 15. Makira Ulawa

Did you know?

- Makira-Ulawa Province has over 180 different species of banana? The most in the Solomon Islands! Some are edible, some are medicinal and some are just to beautify your home.
- When Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, first set foot on Solomon Island soil on 18 February 1974, it was at Namuga in Star Harbour in the Makira-Ulawa Province?
- Makira-Ulawa Province has the highest species of endemic birds in Solomon Islands? Of the 70 different species found in the province, 13 of them are endemic. Most of them accessible via bush treks from the Provincial Capital of Kirakira.
- A reminder of the visits of Spanish Explorer Alvaro De Mendana is a Chicken? There is a chicken widespread in the province, playfully nicknamed "The Mendana Chicken" as it is believed the species was introduced by the explorer.
- Some fishermen of Ulawa, Santa Ana and Santa Catalina still practice kite fishing? This is a technique where lines are set via a kite, and no hook is used, instead a blob of spiderweb is used to ensnare fish when they bite.
- A pygmy race of mystical beings frequented the Makira Province? They were known as Kakamora, which were featured in the Disney Box Office hit Moana. In the movie they were depicted as comical coconut looking entities, but according to eye witnesses, they are actually humanoid in appearance.



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY **SATURDAY** THURSDAY FRIDAY 13 12 15 23 18 19 20 Day of Peace 25 30 24 26

2023

Solomon Is. Makira Ulawa



Wogasia





Did you know?

- 1. That the name Malaita was first recorded in the log book of Spanish Explorers in the 16th Century when they visited the Islands. It was first sighted by the Spanish Explorers from Isabel, where it was called Mala. One theory was that it" was added on, as the Bugotu word for up, east or there which then made up the name Malaita. The Island was later rediscovered in the 18th Century.
- 2. There are 15 different languages spoken in Malaita, including the Polynesian outiers of Sikaiana and Ontong Java. Of these 15 main languages, there are further dialects.
- 3. That people from Malaita (Langalanga Lagoon and Lau Lagoon) build Ilsands? They have built more than 60 Islands including funafou, foueda, sulufou, Saua, Ferabasua and Adagege
- 4. Malaita is the populous Province in Solomon Islands with a total population of 161,832 (2021). This is about 24 percent of the entire Solomon Islands province against the rest of the 9 Provinces.
- 5. The Malaitan Shell money is the traditional currency used in Malaita and throughout Solomon Islands. The Shell Money has a cash equivalent value to it and can be used as payment for bride price, funeral, fests and compensation for settling disputes. Shell Money Festival is an event that celebrates the unique culture of Malaita, showcasing the uniqueness of Shell Money.
- 6. The first Malaitans to learn how to read and write were Joseph Wate and Watehou who accompanied John Coleridge Patterson to St. George College, Auckland.
- 7. There are 14 Mountains in Malaita with Mount Kalourat or Kolovrat as the highest mountain in Malaita. It is elevated at 1,303 metres (4,275 ft) above the sea.
- 8. Malaita has been very well known across the Solomon Islands as the Province that holds rich starchy Taros and sweetest pineapples!
- 9. Malaita Province is also well known for its incredible, melodious traditional pan pipe music and panpipe bands, especially from the Areáre region.
- 10. Some of the Natural attractions around Auki in Malaita includes the Riba Cav, the Kwaibala Waterfall and Osi Lake. There are numerous opportunities for snorkeling, surfing, and fishing and get an insight to the Boat making people of langalanga lagoon.

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

OCTOBER

Stunned Mullet - Great Western Fishing Competition 2023

				SATURDAY 7
World Me Health Da	ental 1	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
	World hak Day World Me Health Day	3 World habitat	3 World habitat	3 Pay 4 5 Pay 6 10 World Mental 11 12 13 17 18 19 20

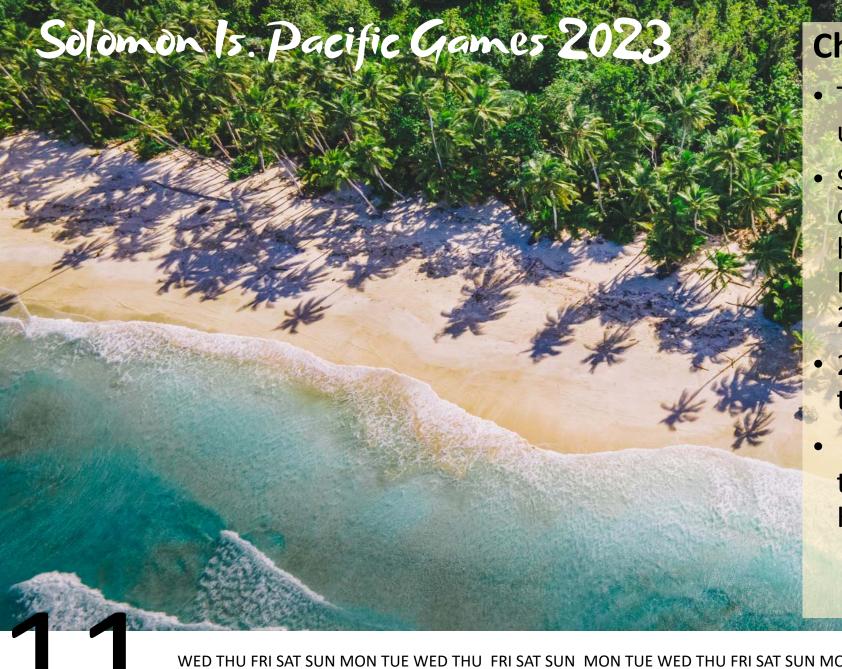
Solomon Is. Malaita



Solwata Surf Camp



Photograph: surftheearth



Challenge - Celebrate - Unite

- The 17th Pacific Games is now upon us.
- of the largest ever event to be hosted on our shores from November 19th December 2nd 2023.
- 24 Sports will be played during the Sol2023 Pacific Games.
- 24 Countries will participate in the 17th Pacific Games in Honiara.

NOVEMBER

2023

SUNDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Solomon Is. Must Do 10 World Philosophy Day 18 15 Gizo Grand Central Station - Diving 19 Sol2023 Pacific Onliversal Children's Day 21 World television 22 Sol2023 Pacific 23 Sol2023 Pacific 24 Sol2023 Pacific Games Pacific Games Kavachi - underwater volcano Anavon - Conservation site Marovo Lagoon - Marine Life Are'Are - Panpipe Music Sol2023 Pacific 27 Sol2023 Pacific 28 Sol2023 Pacific 29 Sol2023 Pacific Games Sol2023 Pacific Games Lau Lagoon - Surfing **Honiara Central Market WW2 Sites** Tagovave - Surfing Lake Tegano - World Heritage Site Savo Island - Dolphin Watching



Did you know?

- Western Province has the world's largest salt water lagoon called the Marovo Lagoon.
- Western Province's Shortland Islands is geographically closer to Bougainville than the province's capital Gizo.
- Western Province has the only under water volcano in the Solomon Islands and is located in the Marovo lagoon and is called Kavachi.
- Traditional money is known as Bakiha and is made from semi-fossil giant clam shells, found high in the hills and are dug from the ground before made into shell like shape. Bakiha is used as a traditional currency for dowry for a bride, land, pigs, canoes, or as compensation for insult or injury.
- There are 16 different languages spoken in the Western Province.
- The province's main islands comprise New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Kolombangara, Rendova, Ranongga, Vangunu and the Shortlands.

Cultural & Provincial Events

- Western Province Second Appointed Day 7th December
- JFK Commemoration 2nd August
- Stunned Mullet Fishing Comp October
- Lagoon Festival Dec

International Airport

Munda

Domestic Airports

Gizo/Munda/Seghe/Balalae

DECEMBER

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	Solomon Is. Western Province
CONDAT	MONDAT	TOLOBAT	WEDNEODAT	Monobal	Sol2023 F Games		200 M
3	4	World Soil Day	6	Western Pour 2nd Appoir Internation Aviation Do	nted Day. nal Civil	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Gizo Grand Central Station
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Being on the nothern tip of Gizo, it usually has great visibility and the biggestvariety of fish life - fom the smallest to the largest.
24	25 Christmas Day	National E of thanksç	Day giving 27	28	29	30	
31							Photograph: diventar

Photograph: divepla