



16

Stay with a local | For the authentic experience, why not stay with Ni-Vanuatu people in local bungalows – and see the world through their eyes? From exploring the natural island environment of coral reefs, palm trees, waterfalls and beaches to immersing yourself in traditional kastom and culture, it's the experience of a lifetime.

17

Kayak through the rainforest | One of the best ways to experience the rainforest is to paddle along the waterways that snake through them. Choose between a traditional canoe or a modern kayak and glide along to the soundtrack of birdsong. It's a moment of tranquillity that will have you at peace.



18

Be ready for some tok tok (talk) | The Ni-Vanuatu people are a little shy at first, but always quick to flash a smile. Make the first move and the cheekiness and laughter will burst into life. The local children – or pikininis – are curious and fearless. Just watch them triple somersault into a blue hole without a second's thought. And once you get talking to the mamas, they'll be only too happy to share their life experiences. If you can learn even a few words of the local language, it's always appreciated.

19

Dive in | From fields of staghorn coral and towering pinnacles, to enormous brain corals and colourful fans, Vanuatu is home to some of the most diverse dive sites. In Vanuatu, diving takes place in small groups, in isolated and clean locations so you will feel like you have the ocean pretty much to yourself. Keep your eye out for dugongs, turtles and plenty of clown fish.



20

Experience kastom and culture | Kastom and culture forms Vanuatu's identity – and its traditions have influenced and guided the Ni-Vanuatu way of life for generations. A visit to a spectacular show is a must – but local kastom and culture can be experienced everywhere: from a chat in a local market to a trip to a kava bar; a visit to a local village or by simply watching the pikininis race around with no fear.

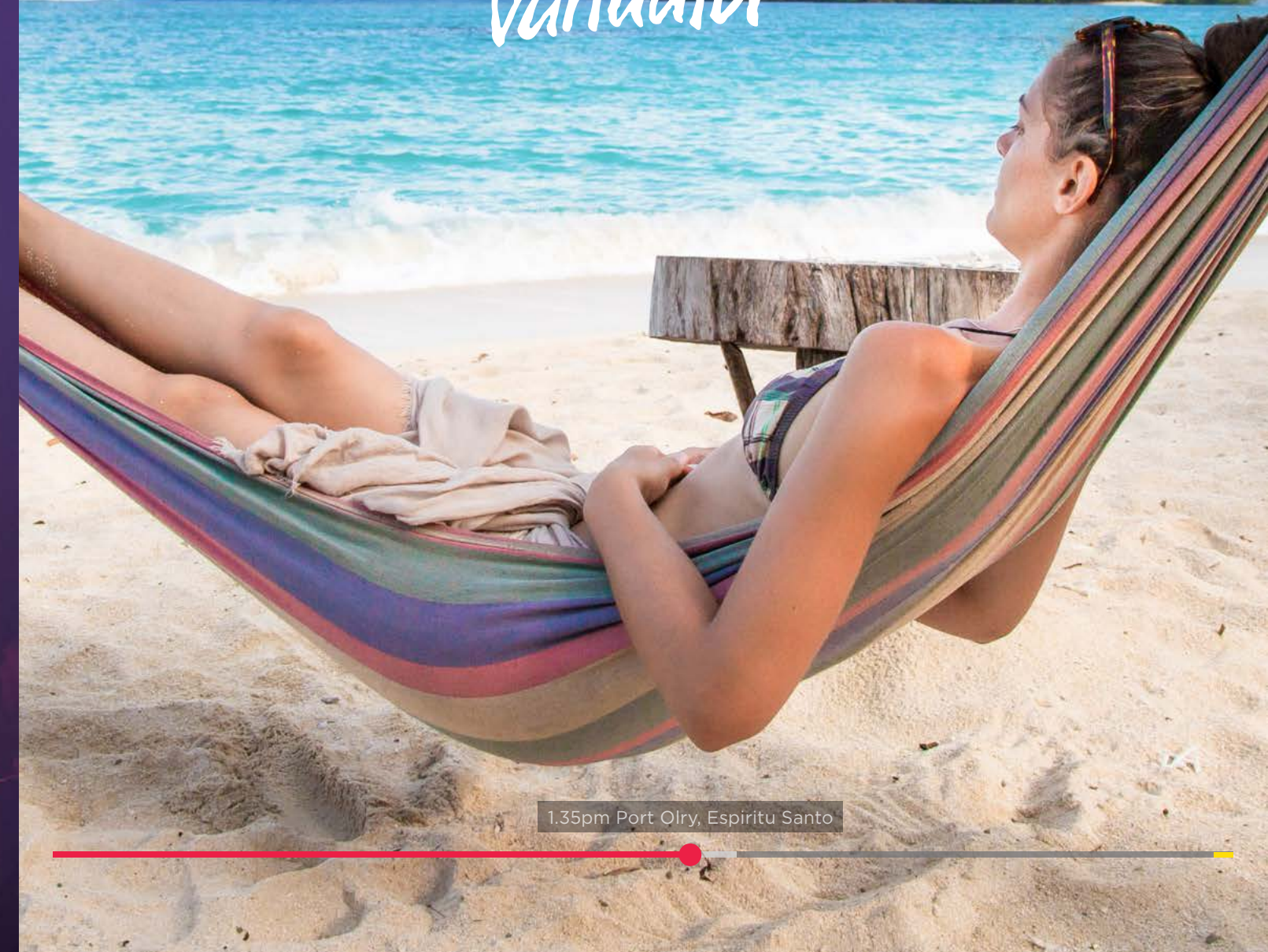


For more information, go to
vanuatu.travel or visit airvanuatu.com

THE MOMENT YOU
APPRECIATE THAT RELAXING
AND DOING NOTHING ARE
NOT THE SAME THING

— 20 FAVOURITE —
VANUATU MOMENTS

ANSWER
THE CALL OF
Vanuatu



1.35pm Port Olry, Espiritu Santo



1 **Swim at Champagne Beach, Espiritu Santo** | Nothing clears the mind like standing at the edge of a crystal clear, warm ocean. Welcome to Champagne Beach, one of the world's most beautiful beaches – a natural playground for kids and adults alike.

2 **Lunch at Port Olry** | From kayaking and snorkelling around the nearby islands and reefs, to enjoying a long leisurely lunch in a local beachside hut, Port Olry makes for a memorable day out.

3 **Swing into Blue Holes** | Under the shady canopy of ancient rainforest trees, these naturally occurring freshwater swimming holes are like nothing you've ever seen. Maintained by the local villagers, Vanuatu's many blue holes often have waterside shacks serving cold drinks and rope swings that would make even Tarzan jealous.

4 **Catch a ride on the local buses** | The minibuses that shuttle locals and tourists around our islands are part of Vanuatu's Pacific charm. The locals love to have a chat as they pile on and off with an array of local fruit and vegetables from the markets. Sometimes, the journey is the destination. So enjoy the ride.

5 **Stare into an active volcano, Tanna** | Mount Yasur is an active volcano on the island of Tanna where you can stand at the crater's edge and watch as the lava dances like fireworks across the sky. Access to the 400-metre wide rim of the crater is by foot but local guides run volcano tours and can drive you close enough to feel the heat.



6 **Scuba dive wartime treasures, Espiritu Santo** | Some of Vanuatu's best dive sites are the sunken treasures of the Second World War. The SS President Coolidge is the largest accessible wreck in the world – just moments from Million Dollar Point, where machinery was dumped into the ocean by the American military at the end of the war. The cars, tanks, and guns are so close to the surface, you can explore with just a snorkel.

7 **Land diving (Nangol), Pentecost Island** | Land diving, or Nangol, is the predecessor to modern bungee jumping, and every Saturday from April to June you can witness the men of Pentecost Island leaping from a wooden tower with just a vine around their ankles. This incredible Vanuatu ritual is a big part of the Pentecost culture and an unmissable sight.

8 **Listen to the water ladies, Santo and Gaua** | Originating on the Banks Islands of Vanuatu, the Water Music – performed only by Ni-Vanuatu ladies – is an entertaining and fascinating ritual to witness. The ladies stand waist-deep in the water and use their hands to create music with the ocean.

9 **Browse handicrafts at Mamas Market, Efate** | House Blong Handikraft market is the place to go for genuine handmade island goods. Take in the vibes at the busy market as the ladies laugh and chat away while working. All the money you spend here goes straight back to Vanuatu's villages and helps keep the island economy going.

10 **Circumnavigate Efate** | With tropical rainforest and picturesque coastline waiting around every corner, you'll need to set aside a full day to explore all the island's breathtaking attractions. Whether you want to lunch at a local village, snorkel at Havannah Eco Lodge or swim at Eton Beach, getting there is easy – as everything is connected by a sealed ring road.



11 **Mele Cascades, Efate** | These naturally formed pools are surrounded by dense jungle and a swim here is next-level refreshing. Make your way up to the very top of the cascades, spurred on by the roaring sound of the waterfall and the spray of the water on your face as you inch as close to the waterfall as you dare.

12 **Giant Banyan Tree, Tanna** | Nobody knows how old the Giant Banyan really is, as it was already ancient when Captain Cook landed on Tanna in 1774. But it's an amazing sight, 80 metres high and over 100 metres wide, surrounded by dangling roots that snake out into the surrounding jungle. Join a 4WD tour from Lenakel to the little village of Leitouapam – around 10 minutes away – where you'll meet the Tannese locals who own the Giant Banyan.

13 **Market visit** | Each island centre has its own central marketplace, where fresh fruit and vegetables are sold. Agriculture is the mainstay of many local families and they bring their produce into the markets each day. The mamas spend their time gossiping and laughing. You will feel part of the scene when you visit.

14 **Put on the snorkel** | Whatever island you find yourself on, getting into the water with your snorkel is a must. Some of the highlights include the islands off Efate – Elepa, Tranquillity, Pele and Hideaway Island. There are also glass bottom boats and cruises to help you get closer to the marine life.

15 **Take time out** | Relax on the beach, by the pool, at a blue hole, or by the ocean in a waterfront restaurant. When you're in Vanuatu, you can put yourself on Aelan time and enjoy not having to be anywhere other than right where you are. With so much to keep you busy, make sure to schedule some time to unwind.

