Need high res

DAY 4: The moment steam rises from the earth - Port Resolution | On the far side of Tanna lies Port Resolution, where you'll find Tanna's whitest beaches, its bluest water, and most of the island's best bungalows. It's also the gateway to the ash plains of Mt Yasur.

Yachts and cruise boats drop anchor off the coast here, and travellers spend their days lounging in the natural Iwea hot springs or snorkelling the marine sanctuary and coral reefs around Yewao Point. It's a popular spot with surfers, too: if you walk along the coastal track towards Yankaren Para, you'll find some of the best surfing in Vanuatu, with deep swells and smooth, rolling breakers.

TRANSPORT & ACCOMMODATION IN TANNA

How to get there

• It's a 45-minute flight from Port Vila to Tanna. There are a number of scheduled services with Air Vanuatu each day. Charter services are also available with Unity Airlines or Air Taxi – a great alternative if you have a small group.

Public transport

- There is no official public transport on Tanna. Local guides and trucks are the tried and trusted way to get around. These can be arranged through the Tanna Travel Centre or your accommodation provider. You can choose from a range of set itineraries or create your own with the driver.
- Be aware that the roads on Tanna can be pretty rough. Getting around can take much longer than if you were travelling on sealed roads.

ccommodation

There are three resorts on the island – White Grass Ocean Resort & Spa, Tanna Evergreen Resort and Rockwater Resort. You can also choose from a range of local island bungalows and treehouses.

These are perched in trees, hanging from cliffs, overlooking volcanoes, or located in remote and beautiful locations.

Visiting yachts

The main anchorage points are in Port Resolution Bay, south-east Tanna, and in Lenakel at the main harbour, west Tanna. When seas are rough, there is also a site in Lowanatom black beach, north-west Tanna.

The authorised ports of entry for touring yachts are Port Vila, Luganville, Lenakel (Tanna) and Sola (Vanua Lava). For more information on clearance matters, landing fees and quarantine, visit the Vanuatu Customs & Inland Revenue Department website.

For more information and bookings, visit vanutau.travel or tanna.travel

For flight information, visit airvanuatu.com

THE MOMENT A GRASS NECKLACE WAS WORTH MORE THAN DIAMONDS



2.45pm Imaio Cultural Village, Tanna

SEE THE WORLD FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes, you have to step outside your comfort zone to appreciate it's where you'd rather be. Because life can be a far richer experience when you live it from a different perspective.

The Ni-Vanuatu way of life helps you see the world through fresh eyes. Built on generations of storytelling, mysticism and a deep connection with nature, it's less focused on material things and more on living in the moment.

Yet while our lives are worlds apart, a simple act of humanity can bring them closer together. After the colour and movement of a tribal dance, a young girl from the village comes bearing a gift. It may be nothing more than a simple grass necklace, but this moment of connection is priceless.

In 1774, the red glow from Mt Yasur drew Captain Cook to Tanna. It's a mysterious place, home to the world's most accessible active volcano, the strange cargo cults of John Frum and Prince Phillip, herds of wild horses, and dozens of blue waterfalls.

Wild. Raw. Beautiful. Unforgettable. This is the Tanna experience.

DAY 1: The moment the crowd erupted – Mount Yasur | It's the anticipation of the moment that adds to its significance. The journey to Mt Yasur feels like

adds to its significance. The journey to Mt Yasur feels like a pilgrimage – a four-wheel drive adventure through the jungle onto the ash plain... where you get that first sense of being in another place entirely. Walking through a barren landscape, where smoke vents through the earth and the volcano rumbles ominously, is just a precursor to what follows once you reach the summit.

Dare to look over the rim into the belly of the beast and you'll see lava smashing into the rocks like a sea in a storm. And then it happens. An assault on the senses. The incredible, deafening boom that makes the earth shake under your feet, followed by the smell of sulphur as ash rains down from the heavens. You think you should run, but you don't, of course. You wouldn't want to miss the greatest fireworks show ever.

Visiting the Mount Yasur volcano is a highlight of any trip to Tanna. Some visitors even plan to stay numerous

nights to ensure they don't miss a thing. How long you need depends on how you choose to get to the rim of the volcano. The walk to the lower rim of the volcano is about 100 steps; take your time and it is easy. But for the best view into the crater, make your way around the rim and climb to the higher level viewing stage. It's well worth the adventure.

There are many ways you can get to enjoy Mt Yasur at various times of the day, including:

- Sunrise and sunset tours by 4WD
- Hiking across the ash plain followed by a climb up the side of the volcano
- Horse trekking
- 4WD buggies
- A flyover in a light aircraft

Insider's tip | For an experience like no other, try some ash boarding before heading up to the rim of the volcano.

2 DAY 2: The moment you know Mother Nature

is just showing off | If you think you've done Tanna once you've experienced the volcano, think again. It's an island filled with natural treasures, including the incredible Blue Cave, majestic rainforest waterfalls and the Giant Banyan Tree. At over 100 metres wide and 80 metres high, it is said to be the largest in the world.

DAY 3: The moment you learn a few new dance moves |It's hard to find living, breathing kastom villages these days, but they still exist on Tanna. For visitors, this is a chance to experience Melanesian life the way it's always been - and to see Vanuatu's culture and traditions as they were long before white settlement, mass tourism and the arrival of modern technology.

In villages like these, there are no schools or shops; no TV or internet. Just a strong community spirit and an unbroken culture dating back thousands of years. Travellers are always welcome in Tanna's kastom villages, but it's always best to visit with a local guide. When the sun goes down, Tanna feels closer to the heavens than anywhere. With virtually no light pollution, the night skies put on a light show rivalled only by Mt Yasur itself.

Optional: Diving on Tanna | Experience crystal clear water, colourful hard coral reefs and an amazing topology of swim-throughs and blue holes. The diving on Tanna also offers sheer vertical walls that are home to reef sharks, turtles, schools of yellowfin tuna and barracuda, as well as the wreck of a small cargo boat.

Kastom villages are scattered across the island and you should aim to visit several, as each has its own character and way of life. Tanna's kastom and culture experiences include:

- Nikinamap Toka Dance
- Black Magic Tours
- Yakel Custom Village (setting of the movie Tanna)
- Imaio Cultural Village
- Ikunala Custom Village

Optional: Lenakel markets | A trip to the fruit and vegetable market in Lenakel is also a welcome insight into local life. From fresh herbs and pastries to bunches of coconuts and kava root, you'll find the very best organic produce served with a big mama's smile.