

NAWIMBA

Your Tourism Guide

Vanuatu Volcano Run

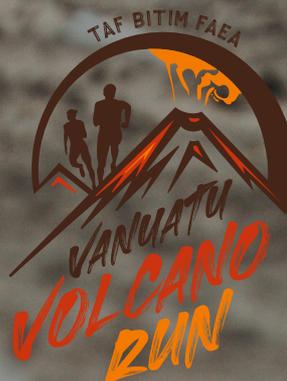
Event Calendar

Start planning your trip now

Treasure Hunt

Answer our quiz for your chance to win a weekend for two including flights and accommodation

Discover Efate's best camping sites



#SAPOTEM
LOKOL
TURISIM

NAWIMBA TRAVEL MAP

FIND ALL USEFUL INFO YOU NEED
FOR EACH EVENT



How to get there ?
Where to stay ?



SCAN HERE

Editorial

Nawimba, the beautiful bird that accompanies you on your discovery of Vanuatu's wonders is back. Many of you have travelled, taking advantage of the numerous domestic tourism events that have reached a large audience in Vila and on the islands. The coming quarter is not to be outdone! There's a new calendar of cultural and sporting events that will encourage you to enjoy the beautiful Spring days ahead and prepare for your next holiday.

With ecotourism on the rise, the Tourism and Hospitality students of the National University of Vanuatu want to share with you their enthusiasm for this topic and their heartfelt plea to protect Vanuatu's natural heritage. In harmony, and to celebrate colours, flavours, scents of our archipelago, Nawimba invites you on an authentic and responsible tourism journey.

Jahs is our illustrator for this edition. His unique style gives pride of place to the flora and fauna of Vanuatu. And don't forget to participate in the scavenger hunt to win the most exciting vacation in an island dream destination. Enjoy!

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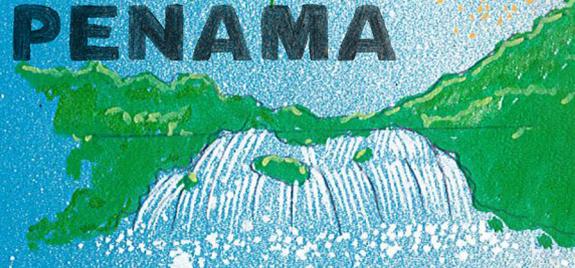
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TORBA



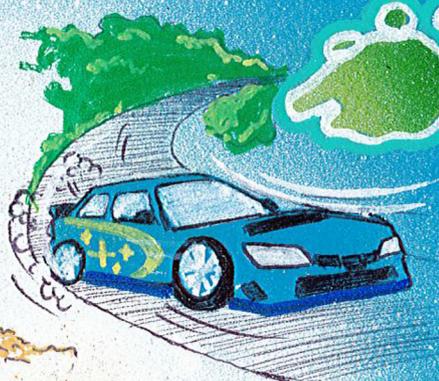
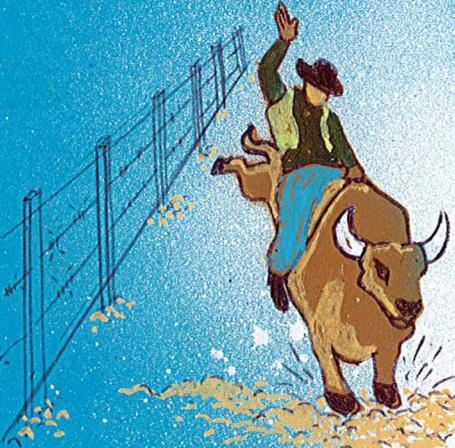
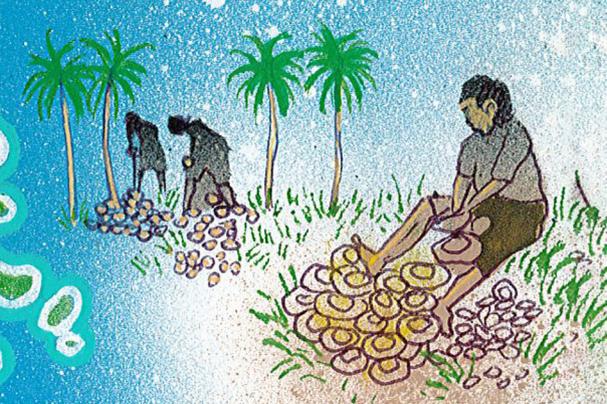
SANMA

PENAMA



MALAMPA

SHEFA



Stylized signature or logo

TAFEA





Ecotourism

Ecotourism can be defined as an education to encourage understanding and appreciation of the environment.

Vanuatu tourism businesses already step lightly on the Earth, and we have lots more potential for developing ecotourism, thanks to our natural environment and our large variety of cultures.

Ecotourism is a priority for Vanuatu, and the Department of Tourism has written a Sustainable Tourism Strategy Plan (2021-2025). "Protect and celebrate Vanuatu's unique

environment, culture, Kastom and people through sustainable and responsible Tourism" is the motto of the plan.

We, the students of the Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality believe ecotourism is essential! It supports and sustains the economy of the country. It also prevents leakage of tourism earnings and helps us to be more resilient and independent.

The current pandemic is an opportunity to look differently at the world of ecotourism in Vanuatu.



Dori Lagoon Bungalows, Rah Island. A tranquil place to stay, overlooking the lagoon at Mota Lava and its Sleeping Mountain.

For more information about the strategy plan.

<https://tourism.gov.vu>

By the Tourism and Hospitality students of the National University of Vanuatu



Dancers Men walking toward the dancing ceremony in traditional attire.

Neimangi-Lewen, Festival, Malekula

As on most islands of Vanuatu, in some parts of Malekula, young men who reach a certain age must go through a rite of passage in order to be recognized as a man by their community.

The Neimangi-Lewen kastom is a rite of passage undertaken by seven clans on Malekula Island. Some of the clans taking part this year are the Botket clan, Neval, Tasbol, Nesiryen and Nepang. Originally, the Neimangi-Lewen lasted for one year, and during this time, the young men would go through 'kastom training' to master various skills in order to graduate as men in their society. These days, most young men are required to attend school in order to get an education. Because of this, the one year of hiding is

no longer possible and instead, young boys are taught the kastom during school breaks. Once they are considered to be ready for the next step, they are sent into hiding for three months.

During the three month long hiding period, the young men are first taught all the songs of the old kastom ways and stories. These songs have specific purposes and meanings for different occasions such as weddings and other kastom ceremonies that are part of life on Vanuatu's second largest island. They are then taught bush knowledge: which trees are good for fire-making, when is the right time to plant different crops by watching the moon, how to study flower blooming patterns to predict the



harvest ahead as well as seasons and also learn sand drawing as well as memorizing the songs that go along with them. Another important set of skills that are taught is bushcraft – how to survive in the bush alone by hunting and scavenging. Each young man must learn the art of bow and arrow making and master the weapon.

Most importantly each boy becomes fluent in their local tongue along with all these other skills before the end of the training where communities and villages come together to celebrate in the Neimangi-Lewen kastom ceremony. Visitors are often invited to attend and take part in the cultural festivities. During the ceremony, feast making and custom dances take place throughout and visitors can even take part in the Nevinmatuo which is the bow

and arrow competition.

The Neimangi-Lewen kastom ceremony celebrations will be held this year in December near the village of Melken in south-east Malekula. From here, festival goers can also plan to hike the famous Manbush Trail. For more information or bookings, call 7711620 or email r.ravun@gmail.com.



Dancers getting ready The elders accompany the young men to the ceremony.





Water taro, source of dietary fibre

Colocasia esculenta, that its name! Taro is a very common plant in Vanuatu, as well as in South Asia, Micronesia and Hawaii. Botanical specialists believe the precious root was brought to the country by the Lapita people, the very first humans to settle on the shores of the archipelago.

The plant plays a central part in the everyday kakai and is appreciated for its nutty taste and great health benefits. Cooked, -always! It offers lots a fibre and vitamins. The province of Penama is the most renowned place for growing taro. The plant can grow in the soil but develops much faster and better in water. Pentecost and Maewo taro has the best reputation. Taro is planted

with great skill in the numerous beautiful rivers and water courses running down from the mountains. These plantations shape astonishing landscapes that are worth discovering in and of themselves. The crop yield is very generous compared to soil-planted taro, as the root when grown in water can't be attacked by the Papouana, a small insect that often damages the common soil taro plantations.

Make sure when visiting Pentecost or Maewo to take a tour to the taro plantations – a pleasure for the eyes and a local taste sensation.





PENAMA PROVINCE

Different ways to cook taro

There are several ways to cook taro, and the technique varies from island to island. One of the best ways is to bake the taro on hot laplap stones. Buttered with pure skimmed coconut milk cream on top, is how many people prefer to eat it.

Before they were metal pots in our islands, one of the easiest ways to cook the water taro was to steam it inside bamboo. Once taro is peeled, it is inserted in the bamboo 'compartments' and then directly on the open fire until ready.



◀ **Hanare Kastom Village Tour, Maewo**
One of the highlights of this tour is seeing (and tasting) water taro cooked in the traditional way, steamed together with river prawns, inside bamboo.

EVENT CALENDAR

OCT 2021

2ND
Vanuatu Volcano
Run
Mt Yasur, Tanna



8TH
Vodafone Boxing
Championship
Lamenu Stadium,
Tanna



To book, visit VTO's Port Vila Visitor Information Centre,
call 22 813 / 5146771 or email info@vanuatu.travel



EVENT CALENDAR

NOV
2021

6TH

Pacific Trail

Efate



9TH

Port Vila Rodeo

Port Vila

13TH

VTT / BMX Race

Devil's Point



13-14TH

ACPV Rally

Devil's Point

30TH

St Andrew's
Festival

Rah Island

To book, visit VTO's Port Vila Visitor Information Centre,
call 22 813 / 5146771 or email info@vanuatu.travel



EVENT CALENDAR

DEC
2021

1ST WEEK

Xmas in the Park

Port Vila

4TH

Namatan Short
Film Festival

Port Vila

11TH

Namatan Short
Film Festival

Luganville



To book, visit VTO's Port Vila Visitor Information Centre,
call 22 813 / 5146771 or email info@vanuatu.travel



Introducing the Treasure Hunt Quiz

In each issue of Nawimba, you have the chance to take part in a quiz where you can win fabulous gifts offered by our partners. To participate, you must answer correctly all the questions below about Vanuatu culture. It's an exciting way of challenging yourself and your friends! If you can decode all the riddles, you have to submit your entry form to the Vanuatu Tourism Office or send a photo of your answers and your bulletin participation to domesticpromo@vanuatu.travel. Try your luck!

For more information, visit the VTO Facebook page: (fb.com/VanuatuTourismOffice) or call us on 22813.



Brought to you by the Vanuatu Tourism Office – supporting domestic tourism. #SapotemLokolTurisim

VTO Treasure Hunt – Quiz Questions

Answer all the questions correctly for your chance to win a magnificent weekend for two on Tanna Island (air ticket and accommodation included).

1. Its tusk is very valuable _____
2. What is the name for eel in Bislama? _____
3. Which province has the most active volcanoes? _____
4. Vanuatu's most popular traditional drink? _____
5. Delicious sweet yellow fruit wearing a green crown? _____
6. Flower offering vibrant colors, and is also the name of a famous motel in Port Vila? _____
7. What is Torba's most famous traditional dish? _____
8. What is the famous laplap from Malekula called? _____
9. Edible sweet part growing inside a dry coconut _____
10. What local bird gave its name to your tourism guide? _____

Once you have added in all your answers, cut out this page, scan it or take a photo of it, and make sure to also include a copy of the Entry Form on the other side of this page filled out with your contact details. Bring your completed Questions and Entry Form to any of the Vanuatu Tourism Office's Travel Centres in Port Vila, Luganville or Lenakel in person, or email a copy to info@vanuatu.travel.

Where to camp around Efate

There's never been a more pressing need for getting away from it all as we go into the second year of border restrictions. Fortunately, we live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth, and we have ample opportunities to get out and refresh our minds and reconnect. We've put together a list of camping sites to help you get outdoors and experience some of what our country has to offer.

Le Life Resort

Located exactly halfway around Efate Island, Le Life Resort also offers activities such as team building, outdoor recreational activities, kayaking, massage, lawn games, and Epule river kayaking. For bookings, call 5527046 or email info@leliferesort.com.

Go Eton (just before Eton bridge)

The property can take up to 100 people at a time and includes a

large camping ground, a spacious kitchen and dining area, toilets and showers, kayaks for hire, and freezers to store food. vBookings can be made through 7742464 or by emailing ahapi@vanuatu.com.vu. The cost of a day trip for a small group of 1-20 people is Vt15,000. For groups over 40, the cost is Vt20,000 a day. To stay the night the cost is Vt1,000, per person.

Havannah Beach & Boat Club

Located in the stunning Havannah Harbor, Havannah Beach & Boat Club can take up to over 100 people. On-site is a spacious camp ground that has shower and toilet facilities, beach fares, gas and BBQ grill, electricity, power points, bench top sinks, a convenient store just up the road.

Havannah Beach & Boat Club can be contacted on 7799077 or by emailing them at info@havannahbeachandboatclub.com.

The price is Vt1,000 per person.

Bucephale Beach Camp

Bucephale Beach is located at the stunning Whitesands area of the south of Efate. The property can take up to 50-100 people at one time. The location offers a large camping space with on-site toilet facilities, water tanks for rinsing off after a swim, and groups can bring their football and volleyball for games on the beach. Contact Bucephale Beach & Camp on 7378274/7743899. The price for Adults is Vt,1000 and children at Vt500.

For more info and detailed list of camping site, visit <https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/stay/by-type/camping>



SHEFA PROVINCE

ENTRY FORM

Name : _____

First name : _____

Date of birth : _____

Tel : _____

Email : _____

Would you like to receive VTO's domestic tourism newsletter ?

YES NO

See the other side of this page for instructions on how to get your completed form to VTO.

Signature: _____

Fest'Napuan 2021: Fest'Napuan i Singaot! Harem Mi Vanuatu

Fest'Napuan is Vanuatu's largest free music festival. It was first organized by the Vanuatu Cultural Center to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the National Museum building in 1995.

The name 'Fest'Napuan' itself is a combination of two words, the word 'festival' from English and French, and the word 'napuan' from one of the languages of the island of Tanna, which means music and dance – and that is exactly what audiences can expect when attending this year's Fest'Napuan.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fest'Napuan music festival

supported and promoted Vanuatu's music industry and local musicians, as well as international musicians from all around the world. It also promotes contemporary music and allows young and aspiring musicians a chance to perform on stage, and is recognized as one of the Pacific's most important regional cultural events.

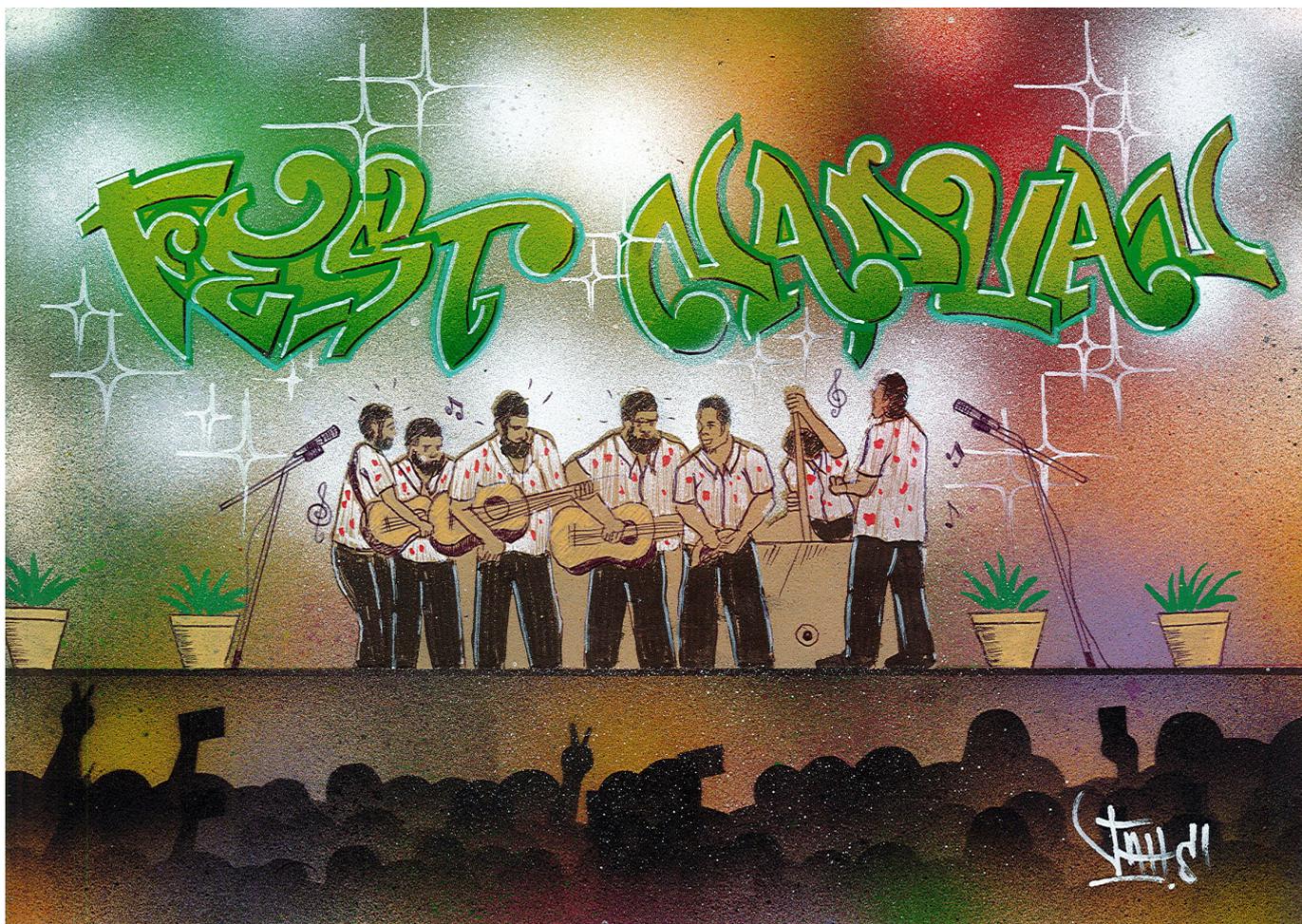
This year's event is going to be one of the most exciting yet, featuring artists from around Vanuatu's provinces who will travel to Port Vila to perform from the 20-23 October at Saralana Park. Fest'Napuan 2021 will be the second year since the Covid-19 pandemic began, so will feature 100% local artists.

Each night will be themed according to each of Vanuatu's provinces, and festival goers will be asked to come in attire to match each night of the festival, for example, island dresses and shirts for SHEFA night.

Important themes are featured each year during the Fest'Napuan which highlights issues such as respect and consent, climate change, resilience and more. The theme of this year's festival is "Fest'Napuan i Singaot! Harem Mi Vanuatu", in response to 'Answer the Call of Vanuatu', the Vanuatu Tourism Office's destination marketing brand, reflecting this year's overall theme, supporting local tourism.

#SapotemLokolTurisim

SHEFA PROVINCE



Vanuatu Volcano Run 2021: Mt Yasur

TAFEA PROVINCE

The Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO) is proud to present our first-ever Vanuatu Volcano Run. The inaugural event will take place Saturday, October 2 on Mt Yasur, Tanna, and the event's slogan is 'Taf Bitim Faea'.

The inaugural edition will have runners testing themselves from sea to the summit in east Tanna Island. This amazing sporting event is the result of the work VTO has been doing since the pandemic began to help tourism businesses affected by the absence of international visitors.

VTO has helped tourism businesses around the country to maintain their marketing skills through this difficult time in order to prepare for the eventual return of international tourists. At the same time, VTO's #SapotemLokolTurisim

campaign has also helped to foster hope by encouraging domestic tourists to find holiday adventures within Vanuatu.

Last year, during a visit to Tanna, the VTO team witnessed how Tanna's normally flourishing tourism businesses were hurting. In east Tanna, tourism business owners are now relying on subsistence farming to survive. In response, the VTO team set out to create a new sporting event that combines Mt Yasur Volcano, sports, tourism, and culture in a way that helps tourism businesses maintain their skills and interest ready for the time when Vanuatu can safely welcome international visitors back again. Importantly, the Vanuatu Volcano Run is also an opportunity for tourism businesses to earn some income.

A total of 140 runners will take

part in this year's run. Vanuatu's best runners will travel to the event from every province, and will join 48 male and female runners from Tanna. Runners who take part will also be going up against some of Vanuatu's finest athletes including those who have represented the nation in domestic and international competitions.

This exciting event is the first ever of its kind in Vanuatu and not only allows competitors to test their determination – it also gives them the opportunity to experience the stunning scenery and tourism attractions of this part of Tanna.

The Vanuatu Volcano Run will be held every year on a different one of the country's volcanoes. VTO expects that the Vanuatu Volcano Run will become an important event on the national sporting calendar that will attract runners from every province.

When Vanuatu is eventually able to safely reopen its borders, VTO wants the Vanuatu Volcano Run to be a part of the international calendar of elite running events and that it will attract teams of athletes from all over the world. By creating a world-class competition, the Vanuatu Volcano Run will put Vanuatu on the competitive running map, building awareness of Vanuatu as an adventure tourism destination, and attracting high-spending visitors to come to Vanuatu and its outer islands.

Don't miss the inaugural Vanuatu Volcano Run live on TBV on Saturday October 2 from 1pm, and on VBTC's Facebook page.

For more information, visit <https://www.vanuatu.travel/volcanorun>



Stay on Tanna

Tanna has a wide range of accommodation options, from luxury resorts, island bungalows through to village homestays.



TAFEEA PROVINCE

Where to stay in South East Tanna

If you were not able to make it down to Tanna for the Vanuatu Volcano Run, we still urge you to plan a time away in this amazing part of Tanna to make sure you experience all that Southeast Tanna has to offer.

Port Resolution

Tanna Island Dream Bungalows is owned and managed by Nesam and Nancy Iata who speak both English and French. Located on top of a hill within a small village close to Port Resolution where you can see the beautiful bay where Captain James Cook first landed in 1767. There are panoramic views of Mt Melen, Yasur Volcano, Aniwa and Futuna Islands and the well-known yacht harbour of Port Resolution itself. Price to stay a night is Vt2,500 a night including breakfast. To book, call 7788813.

Sea Breeze Bungalow is situated in the lovely Port Resolution and is built by architecture students

from Australia's University of South Australia. Many of the building materials are sourced from the surrounding natural environment and even includes a 'Volcano Bar'. There is also a kitchen that provides daily meals to all guests staying at Sea Breeze. Price to stay a night is Vt2,500 a night including breakfast. To book, call 7788813.

Manuapen

Shark Bay Bungalow is located in Manuapen, with incredible views overlooking the bay and a mere 7.8 km or an 18-minute drive to the Mount Yasur Volcano. These bungalows feature beautiful crafted bungalows with double beds and single beds at a price of Vt2,500 per person including breakfast. To book, call 7788813.

Quaramnau

Mount Yasur Volcanic Hideaway has bungalows that rest on top of huge banyan trees and provide guests with impressive views towards the Volcanic glow of Mt Yasur at night. Spectacular displays of nature's unbridled

power can be seen from these unique bungalows. The treehouses can accommodate up to six people in 3 bedrooms (2x double rooms and a room with two single beds). There is a shared elevated dining room and shared bathroom facilities consisting of a shower, hand basin and flush toilet. The price to stay a night is Vt2,500 per person including breakfast. To book, call 7788813.

Tanna Volcano View has camping facilities available as well as tours to the Volcano. Breakfast is included in room rates. Local tours available and nature walks to ash plains, waterfall, and Port Resolution. Relax and enjoy village life. Price to stay a night is Vt2,500 a night including breakfast. To book, call 7788813.

For more information, visit <https://www.tanna.travel>

Hiking Vanuatu's Highest Peak: Mt Tabwemasana

SANIMA PROVINCE



Mount Tabwemasana is Vanuatu's highest peak at 1,877 metres tall, and is located on the isolated west coast of Espiritu Santo. In local language, 'Tabwemasana' means mountain of two peaks, and local folklore says that the two 'male' and 'female' peaks come together in an embrace at night.

How to get there

In order to climb Mt Tabwemasana, you must first drive from Luganville to Tasiriki, a journey of roughly two and a half hours. Arriving at Tasiriki, a further three to four-hour boat ride will take you to Kerepua village, where you can stay the night at the Tabwemasana Eco Lodge before commencing your climb the next day. The lodge itself is a newly built accommodation owned by the Kerepua community and

has 5 bedrooms and shared modern shower and a flush toilet. The architecture of the lodge is representative of Mt Tabwemasana—and you'll find that one of the amazing features of this lodge is that the wall is built entirely of the smooth rocks native to Kerepua beach set into mesh wiring. This feature allows for cool ventilation during warmer nights. The comfortable and clean sleeping arrangements allow for a good night's rest before the hike begins.

The Hike!

The hike from Kerepua to your first campsite will take you about 5 hours. The first two–three hours are spent walking through creeks and boulders, passing waterfalls on the way, to reach a steep climb which takes you another two hours to the first campsite. Your guides will clear the underbrush and set



The peak of perfection

The view from Tabwemasana's summit.

up camp here, and you'll be able to see the remnants of water taro beds and old stone terraces where the people of Kerepua used to farm before they moved down from the mountains in 1978. Not far from your campsite there's a freshwater stream brimming with prawns.

The second day of the hike will first take you two and a half hours before your guides stop and set up the second camp. From here, hikers will be able to see the Mt Tabwemasana's 'male' and 'female' peaks.

in your planning. This tour can be organized through Wrecks to

The third and final day of the hike will take you three hours to travel just 3km! The final hour of the hike to the summit involves what seems like almost vertical climbing. Before ascending, your guides will ask you not to keep quiet so as not to draw the clouds towards the mountain and ensure a fantastic view once at the top.

The total cost to hike Mount Tabwemasana is roughly Vt43,000pp, not including return flights to Luganville from Port Vila. It is recommended that you allocate a day of travel there and another day for travel back to Luganville.

▶
The 'male' and 'female' peaks
 Put on your hiking boots and aim for the top.



SANMA PROVINCE

World Migratory Bird Day, 9th October: Meet the Nambilak

Obviously it's very, very cheeky to call someone a Nambilak. Scatterbrain, silly, ... you name it, this bird is two legged euphemism! But this beautiful bird doesn't really deserve such a reputation. Maybe its awkward gait is the cause of it. The Buff-banded rail, as it is known in English, often runs with its head down low, which can look quite funny.

It is also quite widespread as a species – you can find them also in Philippines, half of Indonesia, Australia and South Pacific Islands.

But it should not be confused with the Vanuatu Megapode, which is endemic. Both can fly, but prefer to walkabaot nomo!



Saint Andrew's Festival: A cultural fusion of Christianity and Culture

TORBA PROVINCE

Every year, the communities of Motalava and Rah Islands in Torba Province come together to celebrate the traditional leaf fishing and St Andrew's Day Festival. This unforgettable cultural fusion of Christianity and traditional northern Vanuatu culture will be celebrated from the 28th–30th November and is a blend of traditional kastom practices and contemporary community celebration.

We recommend that you get there a day earlier to help in the preparations of the opening. During this time you can help to create a giant fishing net using only leaves and local materials! The next day you can expect to join in on the hype and excitement

as the mamas, pikininis, visitors and the entire community join together in the traditional coconut leaf fishing.

During day two guests can get involved in the cooking and feasting festivities and sample many traditional delicacies. On day three, you are invited to be a part of the church service, followed by a community shared lunch. The chiefs then give speeches to open the way for the amazing displays of kastom dances such as the renowned sea snake dance, plus and village skits and performances. This festival is definitely not one to miss.

For more information, contact Santo Travel Centre on 7104029 or email reservations@santo.travel. #SapotemLokolTurisim

▼
Comedy stars Kenny & Gio during last year's St-Andrew's Festival on Rah Island.





TORBA PROVINCE

An Eel's journey

Anquilla, this its name! Our word for eels sounds much better: *namarae*, in Bislama. They're known for their delicious taste, but there far more than that. The two species of eels found on Gaua are *Anguilla marmorata* (common name, Giant Mottled Eel) and *Anguilla megastoma* (Polynesian Long-finned Eel).

Numerous in lake Letas, they are quite extraordinary, and have been the subject of multiple studies, including scientific partnerships with researchers from Austria, Norway and Estonia. Some were even tagged and traced via satellite because of their incredible migration to

spawning spots deep in the ocean. The results of this research are astonishing: from rivers to ocean, these eels migrate up to 900 kilometres. Swimming high and low, smoothly avoiding predators, they have incredible stamina and navigational abilities. Gaua Island is also an interesting spot for scientists to collect data on tropical Pacific freshwater eel.

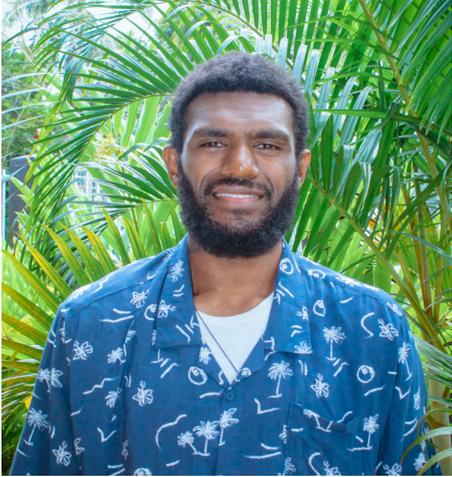
If you visit Gaua, make sure you ask about the *namarae*, and take a closer look next time you see them on the reef or in the sea. Any maybe think twice about eating this natural wonder of Vanuatu, so that we can protect our *namarae* for future generations.



Namarae i swimswim

Eels' open season on Lake Letas (Gaua Island). Men and women are allowed to fish only in the lake's conservation area.

Artist's Corner



In this issue, we present a new Ni-Vanuatu artist: Daniel Robea. 'Jahs' is his artist name, is originally from Buninga in the Shepherd islands on his father's side, and Mataso on his mother's side. He was raised in Port Vila, and naturally moves between island and urban influences, which makes his work really unique.

Daniel discovered his passion while observing his father and uncle. Learning illustration, he patiently acquired all kinds of knowledge and skills, which he now shares as an art teacher at Wan Smolbag. As a child, he recollects how important it was to receive encouragement, especially in primary school as he developed his own drawing and colouring style.

Now he is on the other side of the desk, he loves to share his experience with kids by giving them the basics so they can find their own path. He remembers the voice of his father, who passed away in 2016, telling him "Whatever you do, do your best!", and this gave him the courage to start to focus on his career.

Painting on walls is what he likes the best, as well as canvas or clothes. He likes to mix acrylic and spray, a technique that he has mastered, learning graffiti from Raphael, an artist from New Caledonia who he met during a South Pacific artists program. He describes his very own style as 'Aelan Abstract'. You can follow him on social media and get to know more about his talents as an illustrator and graphic designer. "I love creating, but I also feel it is fulfilling working with others to give life to their ideas. That is why I launched Island Graffiti"



www.facebook.com/Islandgraff



island.graff@gmail.com

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