



Erakor Island in the Port Vila bay

VANUATU AT A GLANCE



Home to over
300,000
PEOPLE

The people are referred to as ni-Vanuatu in English and are primarily of Melanesian descent.



CAPITAL Port Vila

Located on the island of Efate.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES



Agriculture



Tourism

Agriculture is an important industry in Vanuatu, providing income for 65% of the population. Exports include copra, kava, beef, cocoa and timber. Tourism is also an important industry, with Vanuatu recognised as one of the world's primary destinations for scuba diving.



GEOGRAPHY

Vanuatu is a Y-shaped archipelago consisting of about 83 relatively small islands.

Of these, 65 are inhabited.

The archipelago is of volcanic origin and most of the islands are steep, with rocky shorelines and fringing reefs.

For detailed country map please visit: maps.google.com



CULTURE

Because there are so many islands and languages spoken, there is also a great deal of cultural diversity.

Kava is traditionally drunk at night in a place called a nakamal. Nakamals are village club houses and in many areas are open only to men.

LANGUAGES

Bislama, English and French



Bislama, English and French are the official languages of Vanuatu, but there are more than 100 local languages.

RELIGION

Christianity



Christianity is the predominant religion in Vanuatu. The main denominations are Presbyterian, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, and Church of Christ. There are also several Indigenous beliefs that are still followed in Vanuatu.

DRESS



Informal wear is suitable for most occasions. Some establishments appreciate men wearing long trousers in the evenings. Bathing suits, shorts and skimpy clothes are considered disrespectful in villages.

CUSTOMS

Cheek kissing or 'les bises' is culturally appropriate and common, though handshakes are fine too



Direct eye contact is usually expected, but not always required. When speaking with a chief a bow is expected, especially if you are presenting him with a gift.

Swearing and blasphemy are not common and can be interpreted as offensive or aggressive behaviour.

PASTIMES

Football and traditional music



Traditional music is still thriving in rural areas and features a variety of percussion instruments. In urban areas, popular genres include zouk music and reggaeton, which are influenced by Latin American and Caribbean music as well as hip hop. As with many other Pacific countries, football is also very popular in Vanuatu.



PHRASES & GREETINGS

PHRASE — English	Vanuatu (Bislama)	PHRASE — English	Vanuatu (Bislama)
Hello	Halo	Goodbye	Baibai / Tata Lukim yu (see you later)
How are you?	Olsem wanem?	I'm sorry	Sori/ mi sori
Please	Plis	Do you speak English?	Yu save toktok English?
Thank you	Tangkyu		

For more common phrases and translations, refer to: <https://omniglot.com/language/phrases/bislama.htm>



Eton Beach on Efate Island, Vanuatu, near Port Vila