

A tall, white, cylindrical lighthouse with a glass-enclosed lantern room at the top. It stands on a sandy path surrounded by lush tropical vegetation, including palm trees and dense green bushes. A person with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored dress, is walking away from the camera towards the lighthouse. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Hidden Treasures.

New Caledonia is a world waiting to be discovered.

By Matt Taylor

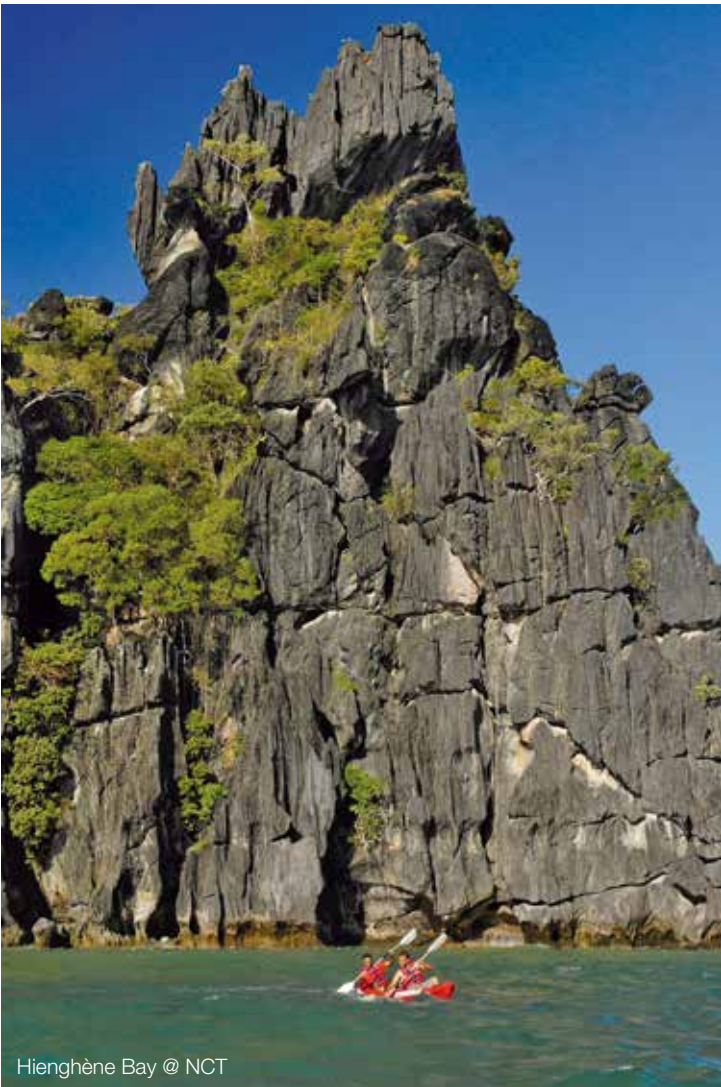
As Kiwi travellers, uncovering hidden gems is part of our DNA. We're often on the lookout for that perfect destination that thrills us, soothes us, and makes our hearts beat a little faster. So, it might come as a surprise to discover that one such treasure trove has been flying under our radar for a very long time: New Caledonia.



Horse riding at Kuendu Beach © Marine Reveilhac / NCT



Deva Domain



Hienghène Bay @ NCT

This Pacific island nation is just a short hop from our shores (around 2.5 hours) and it comes with a landscape that offers untapped potential for adventure, whether you're going solo, with a partner or as a family. From kayaking around the colossal limestone rock formations of Hienghène Bay to hiking and biking the scenic trails of the Deva Domain in the Bourail region, to day trips to historic lighthouse islands - New Caledonia offers adventure at every turn.

However, New Caledonia's appeal extends far beyond just adventure. It is an exceptional destination for a relaxing beach holiday, where you can lounge with a book under a palm tree and leisurely stroll along pristine white-sand beaches. The crystal-clear blue waters are perfect for swimming and snorkelling.

If pampering is more your style, numerous spas offer rejuvenating treatments steeped in the finest French traditions. You can unwind with a massage or a facial, and let the gentle sounds of the Pacific Ocean lull you into a state of pure tranquillity.

Visitors can also embrace local Melanesian culture by visiting traditional villages, joining in local festivities or learning about their rich heritage at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre. And your cultural exploration wouldn't be complete without savouring the unique Pacific-French fusion cuisine. From freshly caught seafood to deliciously prepared local fruits and vegetables, and French classics such as cheeses and pastries, New Caledonia is a destination that engages all the senses, promising an unforgettable holiday experience.

Day-trip at Amédée Lighthouse

Most visitors to New Caledonia tend to base themselves in Nouméa, the capital of New Caledonia. And the day trip out to Amédée Lighthouse is a great place to kick off adventures. Getting to Amédée Island is easy - just take a boat tour from Nouméa. The ride takes about 45 minutes, and you'll be rewarded with amazing views on the way.

Dominated by a towering 19th-century metal lighthouse, Amédée mixes history and natural beauty in a stunning setting. The lighthouse, an architectural marvel, doubles as your ticket to an astounding 360° panorama of the surrounding lagoon and the vibrant coral reef.

The small islet is also a natural marine reserve teeming with vibrant tropical fish and playful turtles – perfect for snorkelling in the warm, crystal-clear waters and sharing waves with these wonderful marine residents. When you're done exploring, you can lie back on the beach and let the soft sand cradle you – simply close your eyes and soak up the serenity!

Dumbéa Gorges and Mount Koghi: Uncharted Terrains

A short hop north from Nouméa takes you to the Dumbéa Gorges. Here, the river has cut deep into the earth over centuries, leaving behind a snake-like network of canyons perfect for intrepid hikers. Its crystal-clear waters are also perfect for a cooling dip, while its untouched surroundings call for exploration by canoe.

But there's more to this area than water sports. Just east of the Dumbéa Gorges rises Mount Koghi, a 1,061-metre peak that offers hiking trails for all levels of expertise. The mountain is teeming with native birds, offering enthusiasts a unique opportunity to a wide variety of species, while the trails offer panoramic views of Nouméa and the vast Dumbéa Plain.

For thrillseekers, Koghi Parc Adventures provides an exhilarating 'tree-to-tree' trail, a heart-pumping journey involving ladders, Tarzan swings, and rope bridges. Navigate zig-zag bridges and traverse floating logs in the heart of Mount Koghi's vibrant tropical forest, all while testing your balance and nerve across forty challenging platforms!

Deva Domain: Hiking, biking and More.

Picture yourself surrounded by a landscape that changes between dense forests and lush plains, all framed by a coast of stunning turquoise waters. This is the Deva Domain in the Bourail region (west coast, 2 hours drive north of Nouméa), a paradise for those who love to hike and bike.

Start your journey with the Grande Boucle trail, a manageable 9 kilometre walk that starts just across the road from Sheraton Deva Spa and Golf Resort. It begins with a 30-minute hike up the hill directly behind the resort. Your reward - a breathtaking 360° panorama of the lagoon, sprawling golf course, resort, and the expansive domain.

For mountain bikers, Deva Domain offers trails that cater to every skill level. The 3.5-kilometre Plantation Loop is perfect for beginners, weaving through former plantations and offering tranquil views. Experienced bikers can tackle the Vallée des Kaoris trail, an adrenaline-fuelled 12-kilometre path winding through the valley and rainforest. If you're up for a challenge, try the Boulari Hill Track, a steep 7-kilometre route that offers stunning views of the Boulari Bay.

Paddle Through East Coast Folklore

Cross to the east coast location of Hienghène Bay and you'll hit another highlight. Here, the star of this show is La Poule de Hienghène, a monolithic black limestone rock formation that juts out of the bay's waters. It looks like a quite a lot like a hen – hence the nickname "La Poule" or "The Hen".

To local tribes, this rock is the ancestral guardian of the region, a symbol that speaks to their rich heritage and deep connection to the land. The best way to experience La Poule and its surrounding rocks up close? Hop on a kayak. You'll navigate the calm waters of the bay, with each stroke taking you closer to these spectacular stones and the ancient legends that sit with them.



Peng Beach, Lifou © Sebastien Lebegue / NCT

Splendid Isolation: New Caledonia’s Outer Islands

Not all the action on New Caledonia takes place on the main island of Grande Terre. Mark our words - New Caledonia has some of the world's most exquisite islands. These secluded pieces of paradise are just a stone's throw away from the mainland. Be prepared for an idyllic escape featuring pristine, powdery sands and the most tranquil pace of life.

The Isle of Pines (Ile des Pins)

Located 80 kilometres southeast of Nouméa, the Isle of Pines is a haven away from the city buzz. If you’re longing for a break from the humdrum of life, this is the place for you. While day trips to the island are possible, locals suggest a three-day stay for maximum relaxation.

Days here can be spent lounging on immaculate white-sand beaches like Kuto Bay or Kanumera Bay, but there are also plenty of opportunities to be active. Scuba dive in crystal-clear waters or sail an outrigger through a tranquil lagoon. You can also explore the island’s lush forest on horseback or hire a scooter to roam around the island at your leisure. For a truly remote experience, take a tour to Nokanhui Atoll, a small sandy atoll that includes a picnic on Brush Island.

Getting to the Isle of Pines is easy too. There are daily flights from Magenta Domestic Airport (Nouméa), and the Betico catamaran sails every Wednesday, Sunday, and every second Saturday.



Kayaking, Kanumera Bay © Marine Reveilhac / NCT



Kanumera Bay © NCT

The Loyalty Islands: Untouched and Serene

While the Isle de Pins offers a secluded getaway, the next level of isolation awaits in the small yet breathtakingly beautiful Loyalty Islands - Lifou, Ouvea, and Maré. These three South Pacific jewels retain their untouched beauty, offering accommodation in small resorts or local homestays that let travellers experience authentic local life, along with the exciting new addition of InterContinental Lifou Wadra Bay Resort opening in late 2023.

Lifou: A Scenic Escape

As the largest and most populated of the Loyalty Islands – Lifou is home to a grand total of 10,000 people. It is a blend of secluded beaches, rugged coastal cliffs, and a rich Melanesian culture. Here you can explore hidden limestone caves, bask on the stunning Peng Beach, or spot humpback whales between July and September.

Visiting the towering Jokin Cliffs is a must-do. Situated in Lifou’s north, they loom over the ocean at heights reaching up to 60 metres. From the cliff’s edge, you can marvel at the stunning expanse of the coastline as well as the burial chambers of the tribe’s past leaders situated at their base. Visitors can also snorkel at the foot of the cliffs in near crystal-clear water.

Mentioning the name 'Luengoni' to Lifou locals will immediately conjure images of one of the most breathtaking white sand beaches you could ever imagine. But Luengoni is not just a beach - it's also home to an intriguing underwater cave and sinkholes, known locally as 'the jewels'. Explore Luengoni beach barefoot, taking in the serene view while feeling the warmth of the soft, white sand beneath your feet. And don’t forget your snorkelling gear.

From late 2023, visitors will also be able to enjoy the comfort and luxury of the new InterContinental Lifou Wadra Bay Resort. With stylish villa and bungalow options spread across six hectares of lush green gardens, this will be the first major hotel to call Lifou home.

Ouvea: Island Paradise

Embedded in glistening Pacific waters, Ouvea is a UNESCO World Heritage site that showcases nature at its grandest. Its landscapes are a stunning fusion of untouched white-sand beaches and an unaffected haven that allows visitors to sink into life’s uncomplicated pleasures. Once you traverse this extraordinary part of the archipelago, it becomes apparent why Japanese writer Katsura Morimura called Ouvea 'the island nearest to paradise'.

Fayaoué Beach is one of many highlights. Every year this flawless 25 kilometre strip of pure white sand attracts international visitors. Enclosed by clear, radiant waters, the beach extends from Mouli in the south to St Joseph in the north, providing a spectacular vista across the lagoon. With such a vast, untouched coastline to discover, you could easily believe you’re the sole inhabitant of the island.

Given the island's size, cycling is a wonderful way to explore Ouvea. You can rent a bike and ride along the pristine white beaches, stop at local markets, or explore the small villages. To fully understand and appreciate the beauty of Ouvea, consider taking a cultural tour. You can visit local tribes, learn about their customs and way of life, and even sample traditional food. Ouvea also has a number of hiking trails that lead through lush forests and provide beautiful views of the island. Hiking can be a wonderful way to explore the island's natural beauty.

Maré: For the Adventurous Soul

With its untamed landscapes, Maré blends the dramatic spectacle of rugged cliffs and lush forests with the tranquillity of sandy coves and striking rocky outcrops. The island’s extraordinary scenery offers visitors an unparalleled chance to delve into the uniqueness of Maré.

To the south of Tadine, you'll find Maré’s Aquarium Naturel, a phenomenal attraction on the island. This natural aquarium, with its pristine waters embraced by lush greenery, is a genuine wonder of nature. Be ready to spot the vibrant marine life, including a variety of fish and turtles. However, keep in mind that swimming and snorkelling are off-limits.

Maré’s Warrior’s Leap is a must-see. This site mixes stunning landscapes with a fascinating local myth. The ravine, rising nearly 30 metres above the sea, is believed to have been the escape route for a besieged warrior – an act that is not for the fainthearted.

As for the beaches of Maré, each has a distinct charm. Whether it's the pristine white sands of Wabao and Kurine or the rugged coastline of Pede or Shabadran, there's something for every explorer. Pede Beach, recognised by world-travelling tourists as one of the most beautiful beaches, is an attraction you wouldn't want to miss.

While the island's coastline enjoys most of the acclaim, the heart of the island holds its own wonders. From the intriguing Pethoen and Medu caves to the legendary fortifications of Hnaenedre, the Bone Abyss and the mythic Wapoulanode mound, Maré is peppered with intriguing sites that demand more than just a single visit to fully appreciate.



Warrior's Leap, Maré © EVM PROD ILE / NCT



Eni Beach, Maré © Sebastien Lebegue / NCT



Plage Beach, Ouvea © anaellechretienoff & @stevenlqr / NCT



Le Petit Train

Made for Family Fun

New Caledonia is the perfect destination for a family holiday. It's a paradise where families can chart their own journey around a vast array of activities and spectacular sites. From snorkelling in the world's largest enclosed lagoon, to interacting with native fauna, to soaking up the unique mix of French and Melanesian culture, there's no end to the joy and discovery that awaits.

Another key to a successful family holiday is finding a place that feels like a home away from home. And New Caledonia delivers. The destination offers a myriad of family-friendly accommodation options. From apartment-style living to multi-bedroom accommodations, families of all sizes can find a space that fits their needs. And these comfortable lodgings make it easy for families to relax after a day of exploration!

On top of that, these accommodations perfectly cater to multigenerational travel, providing ample space for grandparents, parents, and children to stay together under one roof. This lets families share and create precious memories together while enjoying the breathtaking beauty and rich culture of New Caledonia.

Nouméa is a great place to start any family adventure, with the vibrant city offering something for every member of the family. No visit to Nouméa would be complete without a ride on "Le Petit Train." This delightful, open-air train offers a fun and easy way for families to explore the city's attractions.

The ride takes you through the city's buzzing centre, past beaches, and around the bays, with a rolling commentary providing fun facts along the way. It's an entertaining journey that's sure to captivate both kids and adults. With several stops

at key landmarks like Anse Vata Bay, Lemon Bay, and the Ouen Toro lookout, there are plenty of opportunities for insta-friendly family snaps.

New Caledonia boasts the world's largest enclosed lagoon, making it a paradise for marine enthusiasts. And the Aquarium des Lagons in Nouméa provides a fascinating glimpse into this underwater world. With colourful displays of coral, fish, and even nocturnal sea creatures, this place offers an educational experience mixed with entertainment. The touch tank is particularly popular with younger visitors, letting them feel starfish and sea cucumbers!

Parc Zoologique et Forestier, a botanical and zoological park, is a delightful escape from the city's hustle and bustle. Here, families can enjoy a leisurely picnic amidst a rich variety of flora, watch endemic birds like the kagu, and even spot deer and monkeys. The park's playground is sure to be a hit with the young ones too. Make sure you drop into a supermarket or patisserie before go, and stock up on some yummy French treats!

As a family holiday destination, New Caledonia provides a range of experiences unmatched by most other South Pacific islands. The vibrant seaside city of Nouméa serves as the perfect starting point, but beyond that lies a world full of adventure and fun that is just waiting to be explored.

Grande Terre Roadtripping

With so much to see and do around the rest of Grande Terre, it would be a shame to limit your holiday to Nouméa. One of the best ways to explore this vast island is by car. Indeed, this self-drive option gives visitors to New Caledonia the ultimate in flexibility and fun.

The island of Grande Terre (Nouméa is in its southern region) is vast. In fact the size of Grand Terre is a real surprise to travellers used to islands like Tonga, Samoa or Rarotonga. At roughly 450km long and 50km wide, Grande Terre is the third largest island in the Pacific - so no, you won't be scooting around it in an hour or so. The size provides a wonderful diversity unmatched to anywhere else in the Pacific.

Starting from Nouméa, you can journey north to Poe Beach near Bourail where the crystalline waters are perfect for a dip. Not far away, Roche Percee Beach provides more spectacular sights with its stunning wind and wave-carved rock structures.

A short drive away is the provincial capital, Kone. Plan a trip to the renowned Heart of Voh, a mangrove formation naturally shaped like a heart. An excursion to nearby Mount Karepec offers hikes for all levels of fitness, culminating in a breathtaking views of the surrounding lagoon.

As you journey east to Hienghene, the majestic lindéralique rocks will emerge on the horizon. These towering limestone formations are a sight to behold, especially the 'Brooding Hen' at the entrance to Hienghene Bay. Visit Belvédère lookout for a picnic with a view – the sweeping vistas, including Mount Panié on a clear day, provide a stunning backdrop.

Traveling further north, a multitude of activities await. This region, known for its exceptional fly-fishing opportunities, also offers panoramic reef flights and boat tours to nearby islets. Don't miss the chance to visit the old mining village of Tiebaghi for a glimpse into the region's industrial past.



© Oneye Production / NCT

In Poum, you can snap photos of the stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife, creating lasting memories of your journey. A Grande Terre road trip promises a blend of relaxation, excitement and discovering a world that is very different from the city buzz of Nouméa. Travelling by road allows you to explore fascinating landscapes, soak up the local culture, and enjoy a wide array of activities, ensuring an unforgettable New Caledonian adventure!

Discovering Wellness

The French have a time-honoured tradition of luxurious spas, and New Caledonia doesn't disappoint when it comes to delivering on this outstanding wellness heritage. You'll have a choice of spa centres that provide the perfect mix of relaxation, revitalisation, and indulgence.

Aqua Royal Spa at Chateau Royal Beach Resort and Spa

One of Nouméa's iconic wellness hubs is the Aqua Royal Spa at Chateau Royal Beach Resort and Spa. Famous for its expansive 300 m² indoor pool with multi-therapeutic benefits, it's an ideal place for unwinding.

The pool temperature, kept between 32 to 34°C for optimal comfort, invites you to enjoy its 12 hydro zones that include geysers, massage and swan neck jets, corridors for swimming or walking against the current, and hot baths! You can even enjoy aqua cycling or an aqua gym in this tranquil setting. With submerged deck chairs offering a panoramic view of Anse Vata beach, this spa is a truly unique wellness experience.

Deep Nature Spa at Le Méridien, Nouméa

Another gem in Nouméa is the Deep Nature Spa at Le Méridien. This haven of relaxation showcases an extensive selection of treatments. And it features world-renowned Algaetherm products. As you step into this sanctuary, the serene environment will sweep you into a peaceful state of mind!

The spa features an expansive beachfront relaxation area equipped with a fitness room, a hammam, a sauna, and an indoor whirlpool. An additional whirlpool awaits on the terrace, offering stunning views as you unwind. The spa also has two treatment rooms, each with a relaxing bath on the terrace.

Try a signature Lomilomi massage, a Hawaiian-inspired technique that uses deep, continuous strokes. Otherwise, the Deep Nature Spa offers a multitude of other wellness treatments, including massages, scrubs, facials, and wraps.



Deep Nature Spa at Sheraton Deva Spa and Golf Resort

Around two hours drive north of Nouméa you'll come to the wide, open spaces of Deva Domain, home of the Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa & Golf Resort. The resort is perfect for those seeking a blend of activity and relaxation. The later comes courtesy of their Deep Nature Spa and Wellness Centre.

This haven of tranquility is nestled amongst the trees and offers an extensive menu of treatments, including facials, scrubs, water massages, and nail services, i.e. you can pamper your heart away in this serene setting.

They offer two distinctive detox options: a hammam (steam room) adorned with star-like twinkling lights on the ceiling and a unique sauna with panoramic windows allowing you to gaze out at the surrounding trees. This blissful retreat makes the Sheraton Deva a must-visit for anyone wanting pure relaxation.

Kanak Culture: A Rich Tapestry

While the French influence in New Caledonia adds a unique flavour to the destination, pre-European New Caledonia has a history rich in indigenous tradition and culture. The Kanak people are the original Melanesian inhabitants and make up about 40 percent of the population, although most live outside the capital. Exploring Kanak heritage and its rich tapestry is a must for any visitor.

A visit to the New Caledonia Museum is a great way to start this cultural journey. Established in the 1970s, the museum is a rich repository of Kanak and Oceanian artefacts, with some pieces tracing back to the 19th century. The museum is renowned for its outstanding Kanak art collection, arguably the world's best. Alongside this, it exhibits a notable collection from across Oceania, opening a window for visitors into the cultural diversity of the South Pacific region, from Western Papua to Eastern Polynesia. A tour of the museum is a fascinating journey across time and cultural boundaries, and it underlines the historical and cultural history of these regions.

Another remarkable testament to the culture and artistic heritage of the Kanak people is the Tjibaou Cultural Centre. Located about eight kilometres northeast of Nouméa, the centre is both an architectural and a cultural landmark. Its design mirrors indigenous Kanak structures, providing a visual blend of tradition and modernity. The centre consists of ten pavilions, based on original indigenous design.

The Tjibaou Cultural Centre is a hub for cultural conservation and promotion. It captures the essence of the Kanak community, from showcasing their art to preserving their languages. It boasts a vibrant art centre, numerous exhibition spaces, a comprehensive multi-media library, and a landscaped park. The centre captures the past while promoting the indigenous creativity that's happening today. As you experience the centre, you'll admire the works of art but also gain a deeper understanding of the values and traditions that shape the Kanak society.



Tjibaou Cultural Centre © @anaellechretienoff & @stevenlqr / NCT

The fusion of French culinary passion and local Melanesian produce has given birth to a unique and tantalising gastronomy. A variety of high-quality imported items such as cheeses and wines can easily be found in supermarkets, specialty shops, and even traditional street markets like the ones next to the marina at Port Moselle.

Whether it's a roadside snack bar (known locally as "roulottes"), a humble café, a crêperie, a brasserie, a bistro, or a fine-dining restaurant led by a French chef, you can always find a delightful French dish to indulge in. With such a culinary treasure trove, deciding where to start can be daunting. But the best approach is to come hungry and let your senses guide you on this culinary journey!

Local favourites like barbecued prawns, grilled mahi-mahi, and tuna tartare are common highlights, accompanied by the island's own interpretation of ceviche, marinated in luscious coconut milk.

For an elegant dining experience, Le Méridien's L'Hippocampe restaurant offers attentive service, exquisitely presented food, and a low-lit, intimate atmosphere. This culinary journey is further enhanced by a superb selection of French wines.

Au P'tit Café, a popular local hangout, offers a dynamic menu every week, featuring four new main dishes and desserts made from seasonal produce. A constant favourite, is their legendary cheesecake. Chez Toto, another local institution in the neighbouring Latin Quarter, offers traditional French cuisine in a setting that evokes a charming Parisian café.

La Maison Ballande in Orphanage Bay is your go-to spot for French deli delights, offering cheeses, olives, terrines, and cold meats — perfect for a gourmet picnic basket. Add a bottle of wine from their extensive collection, and you're all set for a leisurely day at the beach.

No culinary journey in Nouméa is complete without a visit to the municipal market near the port. This bustling market offers a wide range of fresh produce, local arts, and souvenirs, alongside a café serving coffee and croissants, allowing you to soak in the local vibe. Nearby, the pâtisseries Les Petit Choux and Chocolats Morand offer some of Nouméa's finest hand-crafted sweet treats.



Nouméa's nightlife is lively and diverse, primarily centred around Lemon Bay. The scenic walk from Anse Vata, dotted with boutiques and locals playing pétanque, is a delightful prelude to the evening. La Barca and Les 3 Brasseurs, trendy waterfront bars, offer live music and stunning sundowners. L'Endroit, a beachfront bar and tapas restaurant, keeps the party going with DJs spinning tunes until the early morning hours. Back in Anse Vata, La Bodega del Mar is a local hotspot when the sun goes down.

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Sheraton Deva Resort and Spa's golf course © Chantelle Louise / NCT

Golf: Get on-course

When you think about New Caledonia, striking landscapes and a unique blend of cultures often spring to mind. But this South Pacific haven holds an often-overlooked treasure: top-tier golf courses that will satisfy the sport's enthusiasts.

At the heart of this is Sheraton Deva Resort and Spa's golf course, around two hours drive north of Nouméa. Here, world-renowned course architects the Dye Group have crafted an exceptional 18-hole, par 72 championship course. Gracefully rolling across the resort's picturesque landscape, the course is rightfully considered one of the South Pacific's premier golfing experiences. Golfers will find immaculate fairways, true greens, and strategic fairway bunkers, along with a protective network of green-side bunkers. Greenkeepers' meticulous care ensures the course's pristine condition, offering an unmatched golfing experience.

The 18-hole Dumbéa Garden Golf course is another gem, rich in history as New Caledonia's oldest golf course. As you navigate the course, the winding Dumbéa River guides your journey. The course boasts narrow, undulating greens and holes stretching through ironwoods, niaoulis, kaoris, and other native trees. The view from the 11th hole - taking in the green below and Mount Dzumac in the background - is a sight to behold. The course is just a 25 minute drive from Nouméa.

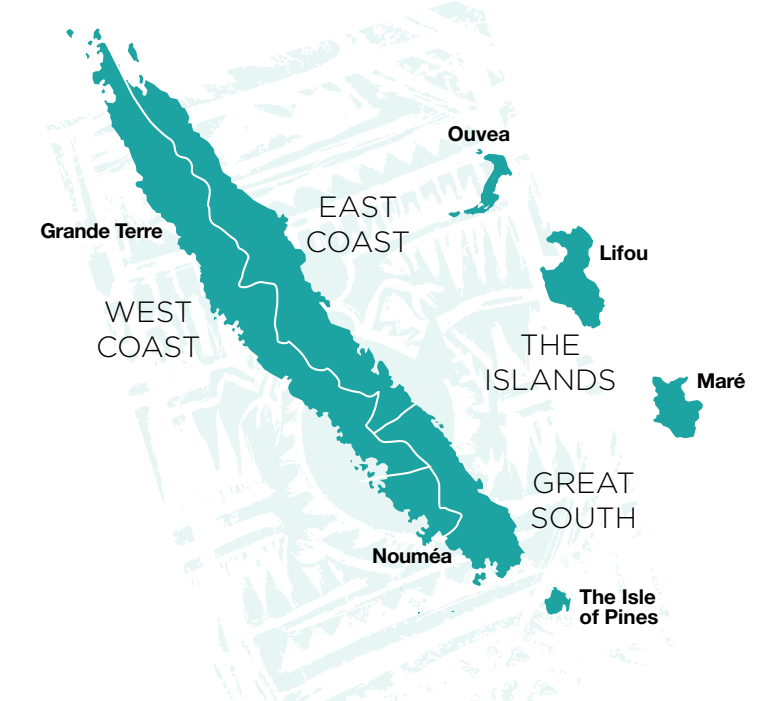
On the cusp of bushlands around 55 minutes drive north of Nouméa, Ouenghi Golf Course offers a laid-back 18-hole experience. Situated between majestic mountains and a tranquil river, the 6,151-metre course has a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The panoramic view of the sea from the 15th hole adds to the charm.

Back in Nouméa you'll find the Tina Golf Course, an international-grade golfing experience. This 5,600-metre par 72 course unfolds across 80 hectares of scenic parkland. As you play, you're treated to sweeping views of mountains, the sea, and the world's largest lagoon. The course's design incorporates trade winds, providing pleasant playing conditions all year round, and offering a unique challenge every day.

Whether you're a low-handicap golfer or a casual player, golfing in New Caledonia is a hugely enjoyable. New Caledonia's location below the hottest area of the tropics means the local climate is absolutely perfect for golf - in the coldest part of winter you'll be strolling with shorts in 20-22°C. In the hottest months, temperatures peak around 28°C which is also pleasant. In short, pack your clubs and set course for a unique South Pacific golf adventure.

Join the New Caledonia Tourism online training programme.

Boost your sales and access exclusive benefits.
Visit: <https://trade.newcaledonia.travel/training/>



Event Calendar

JULY 2023

Bastille Day (14 July) - Nouméa
Military parades, fireworks, street dances, torchlight retreats and more.

AUGUST 2023

XDEVA (5 Aug) – BOURAIL
New Caledonia's biggest cross triathlon and MTB weekend

Bourail Fair (12 - 14 Aug) - BOURAIL
The most iconic agricultural exhibition in New Caledonia

Trail Camp 2 (12 – 15 Aug) – GREAT SOUTH
5 stage trail run with 3 days camping in Yate (Great South)

New Caledonia International Marathon (27 Aug) - Nouméa
Held since 1983 it offers a choice of four courses. Ready, set, go!

SEPTEMBER 2023

Santal and Honey Festival (1 - 3 Sept) - LIFOU
The Easo tribe in Lifou, welcomes visitors to soak up Kanak culture.

Shell Pacific Megarando (2 - 3 Sept) - BOURAIL
One of the biggest mountain bike events in New Caledonia.

Nouméa Carnival (9 Sept) - Nouméa
Impressive floats, multicoloured costumes, music, fireworks and more!

Francofolies (15 - 17 Sept) – Nouméa
The famous French music festival at Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Nouméa.

Loyalty Islands Festival (15 - 17 Sept) – Maré
A fair that takes place on one of the three Loyalty Islands – this year - Maré.

Koumac & North Fair (23 – 24 Sept) - KOUMAC
One of New Caledonia's most famous agricultural fairs

New Caledonia Triathlon (24 Sept) - Nouméa
The Nouméa International Triathlon is held every year along the bays of the capital.

OCTOBER 2023

New Caledonia Cycle Tour (7 Oct) – NEW CALEDONIA
A cycling race held in October, takes place over ten stages.

Isle of Pines Trail (14 Oct) – ISLE OF PINES
A unique trail course with spectacular island and ocean scenery.

Vanilla Festival (22 Oct) – LIFOU
New Caledonia's vanilla has its own festival, celebrated over two days.

Trail Camp 3 (28 Oct – 1 Nov) - POINDOMIE
Seasoned runners take on the most demanding trails in New Caledonia.

Fast Facts

Geography

New Caledonia is made up of a main island Grand Terre, the smaller Isle of Pines and Loyalty Islands (Lifou, Mare and Ouvéa) and the tiny Belep Islands. Thanks to its geological history and isolation, New Caledonia is home to an impressive variety of species that can't be found anywhere else on Earth. Its forests, waters, and skies teem with unique biodiversity, making it an absolute paradise for nature lovers and a critical area for global conservation.

Airports

International: Tontouta International Airport (30 minutes drive from Nouméa)
Domestic: Magenta Airport - Noumea

Local Currency

French Pacific Franc (CFP). At the time of writing NZ\$100 was buying approximately 6800CFP

New Caledonia Itineraries

Check out these themed itinerary ideas:

CULTURAL EXPLORERS
www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/cultural-explorers-road-trip

EXCITEMENT SEEKERS
www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/excitement-seekers-road-trip

FUN AND SUN SEEKERS
www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/fun-sun-seekers-road-trip

RELAXERS AND ESCAPERS
www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/relaxers-escapers-road-trip



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ACCOMMODATION

Two nights: Le Meridien Nouméa Resort and Spa
Two nights: Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort

TRANSPORT

Arc en Ciel - Shared Shuttle Transfer from
Tontouta International Airport to Nouméa

Arc en Ciel Car rental from Nouméa to Bourail
(Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort),
vehicle return to Tontouta International Airport

TO ENTER:

Name four activities that can be experienced in New Caledonia.

Email your answers to info@islandtime.co.nz

Subject line: Take me to New Caledonia

Terms and Conditions:

Accommodation: Non-transferable, non-renewable and redemption is subject to availability, black-out dates apply. Cannot be exchanged for cash value, cash or applied to another account. Any services unused will be forfeited. Presentation of this voucher is required at check-in. Car rental: prize winner is responsible for the cost of petrol.

Sheraton Deva New Caledonia Spa and Golf Resort

Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort offers a serene retreat nestled on the coast of Deva Domain, two hours north of Nouméa. It features a first-class spa, championship golf course, premium accommodation and sumptuous dining options.

Le Meridien Resort and Spa Nouméa: Located on a prime beachfront location at Anse Vata Beach, Le Meridien Resort and Spa Nouméa is a seaside haven that mixes contemporary elegance with tropical charm. It features rejuvenating spa experiences, ocean views and exceptional dining options.

Aircalin: New Caledonia's national airline, Aircalin connects travellers to the beauty of New Caledonia. International destinations include New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Fiji, Tahiti and France.

Arc en Ciel: Arc en Ciel is New Caledonia's premier tourism transfer company offering reliable transportation services, including airport transfers and tailored solutions.



SHERATON
New Caledonia Deva
Spa & Golf Resort

Le **MERIDIEN**
NOUMEA RESORT & SPA

 **Aircalin**
New Caledonia


Arc en ciel
SERVICE

InterContinental to lift Lifou to a new level.

Opening in late 2023, InterContinental Lifou Wadra Bay Resort will be the first major hotel on New Caledonia's stunning Lifou Island. Spread across six hectares of lush green gardens, this unique luxury resort commands a picturesque beachfront location at Wadra Bay, where guests can unwind in splendid seclusion.

Accommodations include one-bedroom Beach Villas, Forest Bungalows, Lagoon Bungalows, and Resort Rooms to suit every need. Each room features a calming palette, with dark and light wood accents and Melanesian textiles, creating authentic and peaceful spaces.

The resort's dining experiences showcase the fusion of Melanesian food culture with French influences. Ömöm, the main restaurant, will offer a delightful array of international cuisine with a French touch. Sewen restaurant, located on the lagoon island, will serve delectable barbecued seafood and traditional Melanesian dishes.

Plenty of activities await, from indulging in sheltered ocean swimming to exploring the vibrant marine life of the seawater lagoon through diving adventures. The resort's secluded location is just an hour's drive from the island's airport. Lifou Island itself can be reached by a 2.5-hour flight from Nouméa, making it an ideal destination for those seeking a unique and unforgettable South Pacific experience!



New Sales Manager for Chateau Royal

Chateau Royal Beach Resort and Spa has long been a favourite for visitors to Nouméa. This 7-floor complex offers 110 suites and is situated right on one of Nouméa's most beautiful stretches of sand. It's just a few minutes' drive from the city centre.

The resort has recently welcomed a new addition with the appointment of Valentin Schmitt as the International Sales Manager. Valentin brings extensive hospitality experience from Australia, New Zealand, and his previous roles with Accor Hotels and Alliance Française Auckland.

Valentin is thrilled to promote this exceptional resort and reconnect with his French heritage. He eagerly looks forward to meeting agents, wholesalers, and potential business partners across the APAC region.



Swimming at Lemon Bay

A supervised swimming area has been set-up at Lemon Bay in Nouméa, so visitors can enjoy the warm waters, while the city beaches in Nouméa are temporarily closed for the installation of shark nets. Otherwise, it's business as usual at all other beaches on Grande Terre, Isle of Pines, and the Loyalty Islands. These locations continue to welcome visitors for swimming, snorkelling and the full range of nautical activities that New Caledonia has to offer!

Check New Caledonia Tourism's website for the most up to date information: www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/swimming-ban-in-Nouméa

New chef for Le Méridien Nouméa Resort & Spa


One of New Caledonia's premier properties, Le Méridien Nouméa Resort and Spa captures the lively feel of the island's capital, in a prime beachfront location only ten minutes from the city centre. The resort offers fantastic food in its restaurants and two bars, serving a mix of international and local dishes, all presented with a French flair.

The addition of new Executive Chef, Baptiste Copeaux, will further enhance the resort's reputation for first-class cuisine. Baptiste has worked in high-end hotels in Paris and the United States. Most recently, he was Assistant Executive Chef at the InterContinental in Marseille. Baptiste is already making his mark at Le Méridien Nouméa Resort & Spa, setting new menus at all the restaurants and bars. Guests will no doubt be in for a treat!



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