WHERE ARE THE SOLOMONS?
An archipelago of 992 islands, we are located in the South Pacific, north-east of Australia between Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Vanuatu.

OUR PEOPLE AND CULTURE
Solomon Islanders are a blend of mainly Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian people with a population of around 650,000. Our cultural values stem back thousands of years and are very much linked to our land and surrounding seas. Most of the population still live a subsistence lifestyle where family and village community are the centre of social life.

GOVERNMENT
The Solomon Islands follows the Westminster democratic system and is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The head of state is the Governor General, representing the British Monarch. The Government is headed by an elected Prime Minister and cabinet. There is a 50-seat parliament with elected members. Honiara on Guadalcanal Island is the capital city and main port of entry and commercial centre.

LANGUAGE
There are 89 distinct languages spoken in the Solomon Islands. The lingua franca is Solomon Islands Pigin, although English is the official language and widely spoken and understood.

GETTING THERE
The national carrier Solomon Airlines, fly to Honiara 4 times a week from Brisbane to Honiara; 4 times from Nadi, Fiji and weekly from Port Vila, Vanuatu and Port Moresby, PNG. Virgin Australia have twice weekly flights from Brisbane; Air Pacific fly in weekly from Nadi and Port Vila and Air Niugini have 3 weekly flights from Port Moresby.

GETTING AROUND
Solomon Airlines to 22 domestic ports from Honiara. Regular shipping services to many parts from Honiara.

CLIMATE
Tropical. Drier and cooler – April to October. Warmer and more humid – November to March. Average day time temperature around 28°C.

DRESS CODE
Tropical casual. Conservative beach wear around beach areas.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Australian, NZ and most EU passport holders can enter for up to 30 days visa on arrival. Passport must be valid for 6 months. More information can be found on our website www.visitsolomons.com.sb

ELECTRICITY
Same as Australia. 240v AC and same power sockets/plug.

HEALTH
Most centers have hospital or health clinics. The Solomon does experience Malaria and precautions are recommended.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: SOLOMON ISLANDS VISITORS BUREAU
PO Box 321, Mindana Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands
call (677) 22442  email info@sivb.com.sb
www.visitsolomons.com.sb

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Electricity: +677 (Solomon Islands) 22442
Health: +677 (Solomon Islands) 22442

www.visitsolomons.com.sb
www.flysolomons.com
www.commerce.gov.sb

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Useful Weblinks

HONIARA & GUADALCANAL
DESTINATION SOLOMONS
TRAVEL & TOURS
P.O Box 1350, Honiara, Solomon Islands.
PHONE: (677) 23444
FAX: (677) 23445
MOBILE: (677) 749 4273
EMAIL: destsolo@solomon.com.sb

TRAVEL SOLOMONS LTD
P.O Box 280, Honiara, Solomon Islands
PHONE: (677) 24081
FAX: (677) 39101
MOBILE: (677) 748 9974
EMAIL: travelso@solomon.com.sb
www.travelso.com.sb

WANTOK INBOUND TOURS & TRAVEL SERVICES
P.O Box 1231, Honiara, Solomon Islands
MOBILE: (677) 747 3290 or (677) 744 9908
EMAIL: wantok.francis@gmail.com

GIZO
DIVE GIZO & ADVENTURE SPORTS
P.O Box 2, Gizo, Solomon Islands
PHONE: (677) 60253
EMAIL: divegizo@solomon.com.sb
www.divegizo.com

MUNDA
GO WEST TOURS
BASED AT AGNES LODGE
P.O Box 161, Munda, Solomon Islands
PHONE: (677) 62133 or 62190
EMAIL: munda@agnes@solomon.com.sb
www.agnes@solomon.com.sb

SOLOMON ISLANDS BATTLEFIELDS SPECIALIST
MAT MCLACHLAN
BATTLEFIELD TOURS
303/27 Belgrave Street, Manly,
NSW, 2095, Australia
PHONE: +61 2 9001 5150 (within Australia) 1300 880 340
EMAIL: info@battlefields.com.au
www.battlefields.com.au

TULAGI & THE FLORIDAS
GUADALCANAL | GIZO | MUNDA

So Enriching

SO SOLOMONS, SO DIFFERENT!
visitsolomons.com.sb
Battlefields from World War II form an important part in the history of the Solomon Islands.

Guadalcanal. Iron Bottom Sound and Tulagi are synonymous with war historians and veterans. 2012 commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Pacific War and many activities are planned around key sites, especially on the main island of Guadalcanal. The recent mini-series “The Pacific” and 1998 Hollywood blockbuster, “Thin Red Line” have featured the Solomon Islands. Some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place in and around Honiara. Here in 1942, World War 2’s bloodiest and longest campaign saw the loss of nearly 38,000 lives and the turning point of the war in the Pacific. There are many battle sites and relics of the war to be found not only around Honiara, but throughout the Solomon Islands. So come see the battlefields of the Solomon Islands. So Solomons. So Different!

HONIARA & GUADALCANAL

Some places to see in and around Honiara include:

BETIKAMA SCHOOL RELICS
Betikama 7th day Adventist school, which is on the west bank of the Lunga River. (opposite Henderson airport) was a US camp area during the battle of Guadalcanal and the 1st marines were on the nearby hills. Relics on display include a P400, Bren carrier and US and Japanese artillery.

BONEGI RIVER
Along the coast west of Kokumbona. Wreck of transport Kiru Ga Wa Manu lies at rest on the beach. There is a $5/20.00 entry fee. Across the road, a trail leads to an old US firing range that has the hull of a Sherman Jumbo tank. A few hundred yards past the tank you will find a US military dump. Equipment was simply dumped down a hillside, including jeep parts, Jemi cans, fuel drums, hundreds of empty whisky and coca cola bottles, etc.

HENDERSON AIRFIELD
Japanese Zero propeller on the wall in the lounge. A Japanese 75mm AA gun is seen outside the terminal. Plaque to Lofton Henderson. Memorial garden with plaques and trees dedicated to various units and individuals. A few hundred yards west of the terminal is the 1943 control tower and a memorial to the Bloody Ridge Battle.

THIN RED LINE
Cross the Matanikau Bridge and drive two miles south down the east bank to Tuvalu. Here, you can wade across the river and hike up the ridge towards the area known as the Galloping Horse. Foxholes and fighting positions both Japanese and American are evident. It is as if they have just been abandoned. The book and movie “Thin Red Line” is based on action on these ridges.

AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL
Majestically located on what’s known as Skyline Ridge just behind town. From here you can view many of the battlefields such as Sea Horse, Galloping Horse, Kola Ridge, The Matanikau River and and enjoy expansive views across Iron Bottom Sound.

VILU WAR MUSEUM
Open air display of relics. Wildcat, P4000 remains, corsair, P38, assorted wings, Japanese artillery and lots of smaller items can be found further up the coast towards Cape Esperance.

BLOODY RIDGE
Close to Henderson Field is Bloody Ridge the scene of probably the most famous battle in the Guadalcanal Campaign. Fighting positions and foxholes can be seen with barbed wire still in place from that battle.

ALLIGATOR CREEK
At the eastern end of the runway is Alligator creek. It was mistakenly thought to be the Tenaru River. As a result the battle that took place here is known as the Battle of Tenaru. This battle was vividly depicted in the recent The Pacific mini series. This was the first engagement by the Japanese in a failed attempt to win back the airfield.

HENDON AIRFIELD
Japanese Zero propeller on the wall in the lounge. A Japanese 75mm AA gun is seen outside the terminal.

Guadalcanal is Iron Bottom Sound, aptly named for the passage of water between The Florida Islands and the Western Province and the island of Vanikoro in Temotu was home to the only female coastwatcher of the Pacific War, Ruby Boye. In 1942 there were also battles around Santa Cruz in Temotu Province and the island of Faisi was the first island in the Solomons where the Japanese landed in 1942. Allied forces reclaimed the area in 1944. Fighting was also particularly heavy around the Japanese air base at Munda and at Mbaeroko Bay until taken by the Allied Forces in 1944. An incident of historic interest took place near the Provincial capital Gizo. On the night of 2nd August, 1943, an American motor-torpedo boat PT109 commanded by John F Kennedy, operating from an American patrol boat on Roviana island, was rammed and cut in half by a Japanese warship. The eleven survivors of the 13-man crew spent the next ten days marooned on Olasana Island better known as Plum Pudding Island near Gizo. John F Kennedy was of course, later to become President of the United States of America from 1960 – 1963.

OTHER AREAS

The far Western Shorland Islands were scenes of some activity during World War 2, there are a number of Japanese wrecks that can be found around Ballalai. The island of Faisi was the first island in the Solomons where the Japanese landed in 1942. Allied forces reclaimed the area in 1944. In 1942 there were also battles around Santa Cruz in Temotu Province and the island of Vankor in Temotu was home to the only female coastwatcher of the Pacific War, Ruby Boye.

The island of New Georgia was also the scene of heavy fighting and Seghe became the base for a small group of guerrilla fighters led by Coastwatcher Donald Kennedy only 18 km south of the Japanese stronghold at Vunu Harbour. Fighting was also particularly heavy around the Japanese air base at Munda and at Mbaeroko Bay until taken by the Allied Forces in 1944.