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 550,000. 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
The 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 28c.

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/plus.

HEALTH
Most centres 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, Mendana Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Call (677) 22442 email info@sivb.com.sb
www.visitsolomons.com.sb

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www.visitsolomons.com.sb

USEFUL WEBLINKS
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau: www.visitsolomons.com.sb
Solomon Airlines: www.flysolomons.com
Solomon Islands Immigration (entry requirements): www.commerce.gov.sb

SURFING OPERATORS

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GIZO AND THE WEST
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MAKIRA - STAR HARBOUR
STAR BEACH LODGE
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SO EXHILARATING
Surfing images by Tony Harrington www.harroart.com
Other images ©kirklandphotos.com

Solo Facts
Surfing in the Solomon Islands is an emerging activity. Be one of the first to surf new breaks in one of the world’s last surfing frontiers.

The best season for waves is November to April when the North Pacific awakens. Long period ground swells regularly hit exposed north facing coasts including Malaita, Yasabel and Makira. The same swells which hit the North Shore of Hawaii reach the Solomons some days later - at reduced size and for longer periods. Swell is usually 3 to 6 feet but can be bigger. Less reliable southerly swells reach south coasts of Western and Gualcanal provinces during the same season from depressions in the Coral Sea and also occasionally in the winter time with long period swells from the Tasman.

So come surf the Solomon islands. So Solomons. So different!

**THE FLORIDAS**

There are a number of surfing locations in the Florida Islands of the Central Province, about an hour by boat across from Honiara. You can choose to stay at one of the guest houses around the islands and make arrangements locally, or if booking from overseas contact Surf The Earth (details back cover). The best surf conditions are generally from November to March.

**ISABEL - PAPATURA AND KIA**

Papatura Retreat on Santa Isabel is a surfers’ playground with a wide variety of waves in the area which vary from advanced to beginner breaks. Most are within a 20 minute boat ride.

The swell is fairly consistent and comes consistently between November to April from the north. It typically ranges from 3-6 foot and the breaks are very influenced by swell, tide and wind. All the waves break on coral reefs, at high tide there is plenty of water on the reef, less so as it drops. Most waves fresh in deep channels but you need to be careful on the reef when there are two swells from different directions as you can easily get caught inside. Caution is in order when surfing on reef breaks in remote areas like this. Remember this area has only ever been surfed by a handful of surfers, explore and you will find new un-surfed waves.

Kia is a remote surfing location on off the northern tip of Santa Isabel island. Here you will find Kagata Village Stay, which offers a unique surfing holiday experience. You will experience the real and typical culture of village living, interacting with local families who live in this remote area and at the same time surf the most crowd free and untouched waves of the islands.

**GIZO AND THE WEST**

There are a number of surfing locations around Gizo, namely at Namu, Titiana or Paelongge. All are within a 20 minute boat ride from Gizo. Titiana and Paelongge are also accessible by road from Gizo and provide consistent predominantly groundswell reef breaks. Surfing locations can also be found around Skull Island, near Zipoto Habu Resort, Vona Vona Lagoon, Munda. The best season for waves is November to April when lows, depressions and cyclones generate swell. Gizo and southern facing spots also have a fairly consistent swell in winter when lows move north from the Antarctic past New Zealand and up the East coast of Australia.

**NORTHERN MALAITA**

Surfing in Malaita is best around the Lau Lagoon area of Northern Malaita. Here you will find Solwata Surf Camp set amongst unique and ancient man made islands and stilted villages, fringed by a massive reef system on one side and spectacular mountains on the other. You will stay amongst a living cultural and environmental treasure. It’s also an incredible surfing playground with more than a dozen world class reef set ups.

The Surf Camp is a traditional style building on stilts above aqua blue water. There are spectacular views of the nearby breaks, lagoon and rain forest clad mountains.

Operated by Surf Solomons in partnership with local families and communities in the area, the camp caters for an exclusive 6 guests only. There is an onsite Australian surf and cultural guide, an experienced cook fusing local ingredients to western tastes and doing the best traditional cooking possible, a local support crew from the village helps to look after your needs and ensure you feel like part of the family.

**Makira - Star Harbour**

Remote Star Harbour is situated on the eastern tip of San Cristobal Island, Makira Province and served by swells coming from the south. Star Beach Lodge, located in the village of Namu, provides accommodation and is an ideal location where you can enjoy living amongst the locals, experience the culture and the local seafood. There are several sites where surfing is possible in the area. October - January are the best times and also during low depression which develops good swells.

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**CONTACT**

Surf Solomons - Gizo and Southern Malaita

Surf Solomons - Northern Malaita

Surf Solomons - The Floridas

Surf Solomons - Western and Guadalcanal provinces

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