



Vanuatu Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Vanuatu. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Do not travel to Ambae island. Due to increased volcanic activity, the Government of Vanuatu evacuated the island on 26 July 2018, and declared a state of emergency to September 2018. See [Natural disasters](#).

Vanuatu experiences natural disasters, including cyclones, flooding, volcanic activity, earthquakes and tsunamis. Cyclone season is November to May but cyclones can happen at any time. See [Natural disasters](#).

Medical facilities are limited. Costs for treatment can be very high. If you become seriously ill or injured, you'll need to be evacuated.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Vanuatu at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian passport holders usually do not require a visa to enter Vanuatu as a tourist for a period of up to 30 days. Passports should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their accommodation arrangements, their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward or return destination.

A departure tax of VT3,000 per person is usually included in the cost of airline tickets. A provincial departure tax of VT200 is also applicable from several domestic airports.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Vanuatu mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Vanuatu without a visa.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Vanuatu. Vaccination against Hepatitis B should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers. Vaccination against Typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. Malaria and Dengue Fever occur in Vanuatu, as such insect avoidance measures and preventative medication may be necessary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including for Tetanus and Diphtheria (with a booster within the last 10 years), Whooping Cough, Polio (with a booster in adult life), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (two combination vaccinations through life), Chicken Pox and a recent Influenza vaccination.

Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Vanuatu should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Representatives of Vanuatu

High Commission of Vanuatu, Canberra

16 Thesiger Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6282 9931

Honorary Consulate of Vanuatu, Sydney

54 Eden Street
ARNCLIFFE NSW 2205

Tel: (02) 9597 4046
Fax: (02) 9597 2726

Immigration Department of Vanuatu

Port Vila
Vanuatu

Tel: (+678) 22 354
Fax: (+678) 25 492



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Time Differences between Vanuatu and Australia

Vanuatu is Greenwich Mean Time +11 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Vanuatu is called Vanuatu Time (VUT).

Vanuatu, 12 noon, Winter (Jun) = Perth 9am; Adelaide, Darwin 10:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 11am.

Vanuatu, 12 noon, Summer (Dec) = Perth 9am; Darwin 10:30am; Brisbane 11am; Adelaide 11:30am; Hob., Melb., Syd. 12 noon.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Vanuatu: +678

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:

Call the US on (00 1 954) 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:

Call the US on (00 1 303) 967 1090

MasterCard:

Call the US on (00 1 636) 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:

Call Australia on (00 61 2) 8223 9171

American Express Card Services:

Call Australia on (00 61 2) 9271 8664

National Tourism Office: 22 685

Emergency Services:

Ambulance - 25 100

Police - 22 222

Fire: - 22 333

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Vanuatu

Australian High Commission, Vanuatu

Winston Churchill Avenue

PORT VILA

Tel: (+678) 22 777

Fax: (+678) 23 948

Web: www.vanuatu.highcommission.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Vanuatu are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in Port Vila, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering the Vanuatu:

- Alcohol: 1.5 L of wine or other alcohol.
- Tobacco: 250 cigarettes.
- Perfume: 250ml eau de toilette or 100ml perfume.

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. For more information on Vanuatu customs please go to www.customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket: Australian

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia)

Source: Korjo Travel Products. To purchase electrical/modem adaptors, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au.



Australian Socket

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

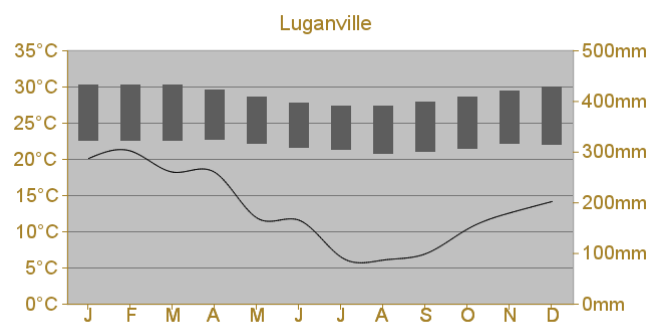
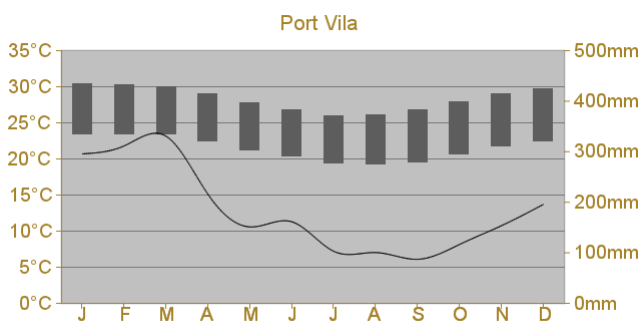
- Alcohol: 2.25 L.
- Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
- Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Public Holidays in Vanuatu 2018

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------|------------------|
| 01 Jan: | New Year | 24 Jul: | Children's Day |
| 21 Feb: | Father Lini Day | 30 Jul: | Independence Day |
| 05 Mar: | Custom Chief's Day | 15 Aug: | Assumption Day |
| 30 Mar: | Good Friday | 05 Oct: | Constitution Day |
| 02 Apr: | Easter Monday | 29 Nov: | Unity Day |
| 01 May: | Labour Day | 25 Dec: | Christmas Day |
| 10 May: | Ascension | 26 Dec: | Family Day |

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Vanuatu



Source: Vanuatu Meteorological Services. For forecasts please go to www.meteo.gov.vu.

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Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 81.74 Vanuatu Vatu
 100 Vanuatu Vatu (VUV) = 1.22 Australian Dollars

Buy Rate (average rate when buying VUV cash in Australia)
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 74.31 Vanuatu Vatu
 100 Vanuatu Vatu (VUV) will cost 1.35 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "Buy Rate" adds 10% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging these currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

| 50VT | = | \$0.67 AUD | This cheat sheet uses the "Buy Rate" of exchange listed above. | | |
|-------|---|-------------|--|---|----------------|
| 100VT | = | \$1.35 AUD | 1,000VT | = | \$13.46 AUD |
| 200VT | = | \$2.69 AUD | 2,000VT | = | \$26.92 AUD |
| 300VT | = | \$4.04 AUD | 3,000VT | = | \$40.37 AUD |
| 400VT | = | \$5.38 AUD | 4,000VT | = | \$53.83 AUD |
| 500VT | = | \$6.73 AUD | 5,000VT | = | \$67.29 AUD |
| 600VT | = | \$8.07 AUD | 6,000VT | = | \$80.75 AUD |
| 700VT | = | \$9.42 AUD | 7,000VT | = | \$94.21 AUD |
| 800VT | = | \$10.77 AUD | 8,000VT | = | \$107.66 AUD |
| 900VT | = | \$12.11 AUD | 9,000VT | = | \$121.12 AUD |
| | | | 100,000VT | = | \$1,345.80 AUD |

Banknotes of Vanuatu

The currency of Vanuatu is the Vatu, which is abbreviated using the symbol "VT" or the currency code "VUV". There is no subunit to the vatu. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images when travelling.





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About Vanuatu

Full Name: Ripablik blong Vanuatu (Republic of Vanuatu), formerly New Hebrides.

Independence: 30 July 1980 (from the British-French Condominium).

Size: 12,189 km² (18% size of Tasmania). Land area only. Over 80 islands.

Population: 256,155 persons.

Ethnicity: Ni-Vanuatu make up the vast majority of the population.

Language: Local languages 73%, Bislama Pidgin 23% (official - English based).

Religion: Protestant 56%, Catholic 13%, Indigenous beliefs 10%.

Significant Dates:

- 2000 BC - First people arrive and settle the islands.
- 1200's AD - Chief Roy Mata unites the tribes of Efate.
- 1606 - Spanish explorers visit and name Espiritu Santo.
- 1774 - Captain Cook names the islands the "New Hebrides".
- 1800's - "Blackbirding" forces many indigenous into indentured labour in Queensland and Fiji.
- 1865 - European settlers arrive.
- 1906 - Anglo-French Condominium government established.
- 1967 - Roy Mata's tomb discovered.
- 1980 - Independence attained, name changed to Vanuatu.

Province Populations:

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Shefa | pop - 78,723 |
| Sanma | pop - 45,855 |
| Malampa | pop - 36,727 |
| Tafea | pop - 32,540 |
| Penama | pop - 30,819 |
| Torba | pop - 9,359 |

