

I-JOURNEY

Lava Glow at the Rim, Reef Sharks in the Blue Hole — A 6-Day Vanuatu Itinerary

DURATION 6 Days	BEST TIME TO GO April – October dry season with 75–85°F days and lower humidity; avoid cyclone season (Nov–Apr)	FROM \$980 USD / person for 2 people — lodging, domestic flights & tours below; international flights not included
----------------------------------	---	--

Vanuatu is 83 islands strung across the South Pacific between Fiji and Australia, and six days is enough to string together its three signature experiences: Port Vila's reef and waterfalls on Efate, the WWII wreck diving of Espiritu Santo, and a sunset walk to the glowing rim of Mount Yasur on Tanna — one of the few volcanoes on earth you can stand at the edge of while it erupts. This itinerary island-hops by domestic air between all three.

Day 1

Arrival in Port Vila

Land in the capital, settle into a lagoon-front resort, then browse the market and have a first taste of Vanuatu's French-Melanesian food scene.

Arrival — Bauerfield International Airport (VLI)

~10 min to central Port Vila

Vanuatu's main international gateway sits right on the edge of Port Vila — taxis and resort shuttles queue outside arrivals, and most hotels are a short ride away.

Check-In — Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu by IHG

Check-in 2pm · rooms from \$185/night

A lagoon-front resort at Tassiriki Park on Erakor Lagoon, a few minutes from downtown Port Vila, with a swim-up pool bar and direct water access.

Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu by IHG · <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnresorts/hotels/us/en/port-vila/vlich/hoteldetail>

Port Vila Market

~1 hr · free to browse

Rows of ni-Vanuatu women vendors sell produce, woven baskets and island dresses at this waterfront market in the center of town — it runs around the clock from Monday morning to Saturday night.

Dinner — L'Houstalet

Dinner · \$25–45 per person

A long-running French-Pacific restaurant on the Port Vila waterfront known for coconut crab and flying fox — a signature Vanuatu splurge dinner on arrival night.

L'Houstalet · <https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/lhoustalet>

Day 2

Hideaway Island, Mele Cascades & Kava

Snorkel a marine sanctuary with an underwater post office, cool off under a waterfall, then try Vanuatu's traditional evening kava at a local nakamal.

Hideaway Island Marine Sanctuary

~2.5 hrs · marine park fee around \$8

A protected reef just offshore from a small island resort, home to the world's only underwater post office — snorkelers can mail a waterproof postcard from a submerged post box a few meters down.

Hideaway Island Resort & Marine Sanctuary · <https://www.hideaway.com.vu>

Domestic Flight — Port Vila (VLI) to Espiritu Santo (SON)

~45 min flight · Air Vanuatu

Air Vanuatu runs several flights a day on this route — book the early flight to leave the afternoon free for diving.

Air Vanuatu · <https://www.airvanuatu.com>

Check-In — Deco Stop Lodge

Check-in 2pm · rooms from \$140/night

A dive-focused waterfront lodge in Luganville built around its own dive shop, with harbor-view rooms a short walk from the SS President Coolidge dive sites.

Deco Stop Lodge · <https://www.decostoplodge.com>

SS President Coolidge Wreck Dive

~3 hrs (2-tank dive) · around \$150 per diver

A 200-meter WWII troopship that sank just off Luganville in 1942, now the largest shipwreck accessible to recreational divers anywhere in the world — Allan Power Dive Tours has been running trips to it since the 1960s.

Allan Power Dive Tours · <https://www.allanpowerdivetours.com>

Dinner — Chez Louis Restaurant

Dinner · \$15–30 per person

A long-standing Luganville restaurant serving French-Pacific seafood and grilled dishes, a short walk from the waterfront dive lodges.

Chez Louis Restaurant · <https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/chez-louis-restaurant>

Day 4

Champagne Beach & the Blue Hole

Spend a full day on Santo's north coast: a postcard beach, then a rope swing into a cobalt-blue freshwater spring.

Champagne Beach

~2 hrs · small village access fee, around \$2

A sweep of white sand and clear shallow water along Santo's northeast coast, consistently ranked among the South Pacific's best beaches and rarely crowded even in season.

Blue Hole Swimming

~1 hr · entry around \$5

Freshwater springs feed several cobalt-blue swimming holes inland from the coast road, most with a rope swing rigged from an overhanging tree — Matevulu and Nanda are the two most commonly visited.

Guided Tour — Best of Santo Day Tour

Full day · around \$95 per person

A guided day tour covering Champagne Beach, a Blue Hole stop and a village lunch, with hotel pickup included — the easiest way to see Santo's north coast in a single day without a rental car.

Vanuatu Travel — Best of Santo Day Tour ·
<https://vanuatutavel.rezdy.com/627806/best-of-santo-day-tour-beach-snorkelling-blue-hole>

Day 5

On to Tanna — Sunset at Mount Yasur

Island-hop south to Tanna and spend the evening at the rim of one of the most accessible active volcanoes on Earth.

Flight to Tanna (TAH) via Port Vila

~1.5 hrs total travel · Air Vanuatu

Most Santo–Tanna routings connect back through Port Vila's Bauerfield Airport — build in a short layover rather than booking a tight connection.

Air Vanuatu · <https://www.airvanuatu.com>

Check-In — White Grass Ocean Resort & Spa

Check-in 2pm · villas from \$220/night

A beachfront eco-resort of thatched-roof villas near Tanna's airstrip, the most comfortable base on the island and a short drive from the Mount Yasur trailhead.

White Grass Ocean Resort & Spa · <https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/white-grass-ocean-resort>

Mount Yasur Volcano Sunset Tour

~4 hrs · around \$280 per person

A 4x4 ride up Tanna's ash plain to a trail that climbs to the crater rim of Mount Yasur, one of the few volcanoes in the world where visitors can stand at the edge and watch it erupt — explosions of glowing lava are most dramatic right at dusk.

Unity Airlines — Volcano Twilight Tour · <https://www.unity-airlines.com/volcano-twilight-tour.html>

Day 6

Yakel Kastom Village & Departure

Visit a traditional custom village on the slopes below Mount Yasur before flying back to Port Vila for the international connection home.

Yakel Kastom Village Cultural Visit

~2 hrs · around \$25 per person

One of Tanna's best-known kastom villages, where residents have chosen to live by traditional ni-Vanuatu custom rather than Western ways — visits include a guided walk through the village and a traditional dance performance.

Flight to Port Vila & International Departure — Bauerfield Airport (VLI)

~1.5 hrs total travel · arrive 2 hrs before an international flight

The return flight from Tanna connects through Port Vila, where Bauerfield handles onward international departures — build in extra time between the domestic landing and the international check-in counters.