

The New Caledonia Weekly

SWEET SORCERY AT ANSE VATA

The Tourist Office is planning a really enchanting start to your evening on 7 December with a Passion Wednesday event where magic and candies will reign supreme.

Adults and kids alike will adore the creative workshops, where you can learn about making Christmas decorations, face-painting and much more. The bewitching program also includes dance, street theatre and puppet shows... And when it comes to delectable treats, there is something to tempt every palate: candy floss, sweets, fresh fruit salads, green coconuts, sugar cane juice, Pacific specialities, Tahitian cakes, homemade jams, pastries and cookies, smoothies, coconut candies and other yummy delicacies from Madagascar...

Anse Vata beachfront, Weds. 7, from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tel 05 75 80 (toll-free phone)



HOUAÏLOU FAIR: LYCHEE HEAVEN

The village of Houaïlou, famed for its abundant harvest of superb lychees, is hosting its traditional Lychee Fair on Saturday 3 December. Luscious and unmissable!

lychee their symbol. Since 1997, when the harvesting season comes around in December, they have held a fair in honour of their favourite fruit.

A fruitful business

Over 200 lychee producers based in Houaïlou belong to the APLH, New Caledonia's largest fruit growers association. In the village, a lychee tree is planted every time a baby is born. The trees thrive everywhere in the village, in the valleys and on the coast; they are well acclimatised to the soil and bear lychees with a high sugar content, making them incomparably sweet and juicy. Not a trace of fertiliser or pesticide is used so the fruit is 100% organic. New Caledonians come from all over the country to buy their lychees in Houaïlou.

Fair time

During the morning and afternoon the Houaïlou producers will be letting the public into their secrets at a workshop on air-layering, pruning, care and crushing

Houaïlou lychees are widely renowned for their size and delicious taste and the Lychee Fair is the ideal opportunity to visit this unspoilt and charming village, located 3 hours' drive north of Nouméa, and to explore the glorious surrounding countryside.

A remarkable story

In 1868, an explorer arrived in New Caledonia with three lychee seeds from Reunion Island. Only two of the seeds germinated and two frail but determined lychee trees grew tall in the warm, humid climate of Houaïlou. Then, one day, a flower bloomed and produced a round red fruit. A seed fell from the fruit and another lychee tree was born... As the years passed, more and more trees grew in the gardens of Houaïlou and the local inhabitants made the



onwards. The fair also features stalls selling refreshments, arts and crafts, plants and, of course, lychees. Get ready for a fun day!

Further information:
NC Tourist Office
Tel 05 75 80 (free call)

Welcome to



CHRISTMAS FUN IN THE LATIN QUARTER

Join the shopkeepers and retailers of Nouméa's Latin Quarter on Saturday

10 December for a day of festivities starring Santa Claus as guest of honour. The day's program includes loads of great prizes, gifts in the district's shops and stores, all specially bedecked with fairy lights and decorations, and a bumper market from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lots of gourmet treats to sample. Visitors young and old can also enjoy rides in a horse-drawn carriage with Santa Claus on hand to show you around this historic city district... And from 6 p.m. onwards, the lively entertainment will reach a zenith with street performances by traditional dancers, jugglers and fire-eaters. Christmas is in the air...

2nd Christmas Market, Saturday 10 December 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Latin Quarter, Nouméa



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THE AQUARIUM COMBOS

AQUARIUM COMBO ADULT
= 1 QUICK COMBO XL OR XXL
+ 1 AQUARIUM PASS

COMBO PRICE + 800F

AQUARIUM COMBO KIDS
= 1 MAGIC BOX
+ 1 AQUARIUM PASS

1 095F

QUICK ANSE VATA
NEXT TO NOUMEA AQUARIUM

OPEN EVERY DAY
8am until late

Art & Culture

NO FIXED ABODE

You only have to walk around Nouméa to be struck by the diversity of urban dwellings and also by the problems some face in finding somewhere to live. An artists' collective has made this the theme for a new exhibition.

"Habitats nomades/habitats précaires" (nomadic/makeshift dwellings) is a joint exhibition by fifteen sculptors, painters, visual artists and architects on show at various venues in the city. The exhibition focuses on the makeshift and impermanent dwellings that change the face of the city...



fragile homes that may be perceived as an eyesore or blend into the urban landscape or reflect Oceanian aspirations. The exhibition will run until 15 December and takes many different forms, including sculptures, installations, drawings and photographs. The exhibition sometimes aims to shock or make a controversial point but it is consistently thought-provoking and fascinating and reflects a genuine

sense of commitment. Visitors can wander freely through the various display areas in the six exhibition venues: Museum of New Caledonia, Korean Cultural Centre, Art Centre, New Caledonia Literature Centre (Maison du Livre) and art galleries Lec Lec Tic and Onze et Demi.

(Addresses in our *What's Up* section)

Wining & Dining



LUNCHING AT LEISURE

"Le Chill Out", located right in the city centre, is the very latest in laid back lunch venues. You'll adore the varied and tempting menu and the ultra cool decor.

Visiting Nouméa on foot or doing a bit of downtown shopping? This new restaurant is the perfect place to lunch. The design and decor are bang on trend, the dining-room is airy with a wide opening onto

the street and at the rear of the building, you'll find an enchanting patio where you can enjoy a peaceful lunch on a wooden deck surrounded by greenery and tinkling fountains. "Le Chill Out" offers a lunch experience with a real difference... a haven where you can take your time, chill out and relax as you savour a freshly made salad or a tasty grill. This is the place to experience the skilled simplicity of French cuisine as you restore your energy

levels after visiting the cathedral or doing the local shops. The menu is all about savoir-faire: using fresh local ingredients to enhance a wide range of mixed salads and strictly fat-free grilled specialities.

Le Chill Out: open lunchtime from Monday to Saturday and evenings from Wednesday to Friday. 37 rue de Verdun, downtown Nouméa. Tel 28 42 21

Out & About

BODY AND SOUL



The final offering of this year's cultural season at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre is a dance show entitled "Les âmes frères" (Soul brothers) created and staged by Compagnie Julien Lestel.

"Les âmes frères" is an intense dance duo lasting an hour, performed with fluid and powerful grace by Julien Lestel and Gilles Porte. The two dancers both studied dance at the Paris National Opera Ballet School then pursued similar careers performing with the ballet companies of the Paris Opera, the

Zürich Opera and the Marseilles Opera. Because they have always worked together, their movements combine, blend and flow in flawless harmony. Perfectly synchronised, their bodies form a single entity, entwining and disentwining, folding and unfolding in an endless perfection of movement. Expanding the

boundaries of dance, they draw us into their world of utter complicity and tell the story of an indestructible friendship where each seeks only to exalt the other.

Les âmes frères, Thursday 8, Friday 9 & Saturday 10 December at 8 p.m. Tickets: full rate F2,500 – reduced rate F2,000 Tjibaou Cultural Centre, rue des Accords de Matignon, Tina. Tel 41 45 45

Focus On



BOURAIL WITH A DIFFERENCE

It's Téléthon* time again so why not take part in a fun family rally in the Bourail area? It's a great way to explore this lovely region.

The rally is organised by the Lions Club and the AFM (French Association against Muscular Dystrophies) and will be held on 4 December. The event will last all morning and will end in style with a bumper picnic. The aim is to get from place to place by solving clues and puzzles. It's definitely not a race; the whole idea is to spend a thoroughly

enjoyable morning roaming the countryside while raising money for a really good cause, so bring family or friends and join in the fun. You do the rally by car and the cost is F2,500 per car. All profits will be donated to the Téléthon to help fight and cure muscular dystrophies.

**The "Téléthon" is the French version of Red Nose Day and is held annually to raise funds for medical research.*

Registrations: Tel 44 54 47 or 79 58 89 or by email: moka55@lagoon.nc

The Nature spot



CLOSED SEASON FOR CRAB-FISHING

To help in the work of protecting the environment and preserving New Caledonia's unique biodiversity, the South Province is regulating the capture of crab species essential to maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

From 1st December to 31 January, it is prohibited to capture, transport,

sell, purchase or keep mangrove crabs (*Scylla serrata*) in captivity or to consume the flesh or any part of these crabs. The same rule applies to soft-shelled crabs and crabs measuring less than 14 centimetres at the widest part of their back.

Caring for our environment

Here are a few important

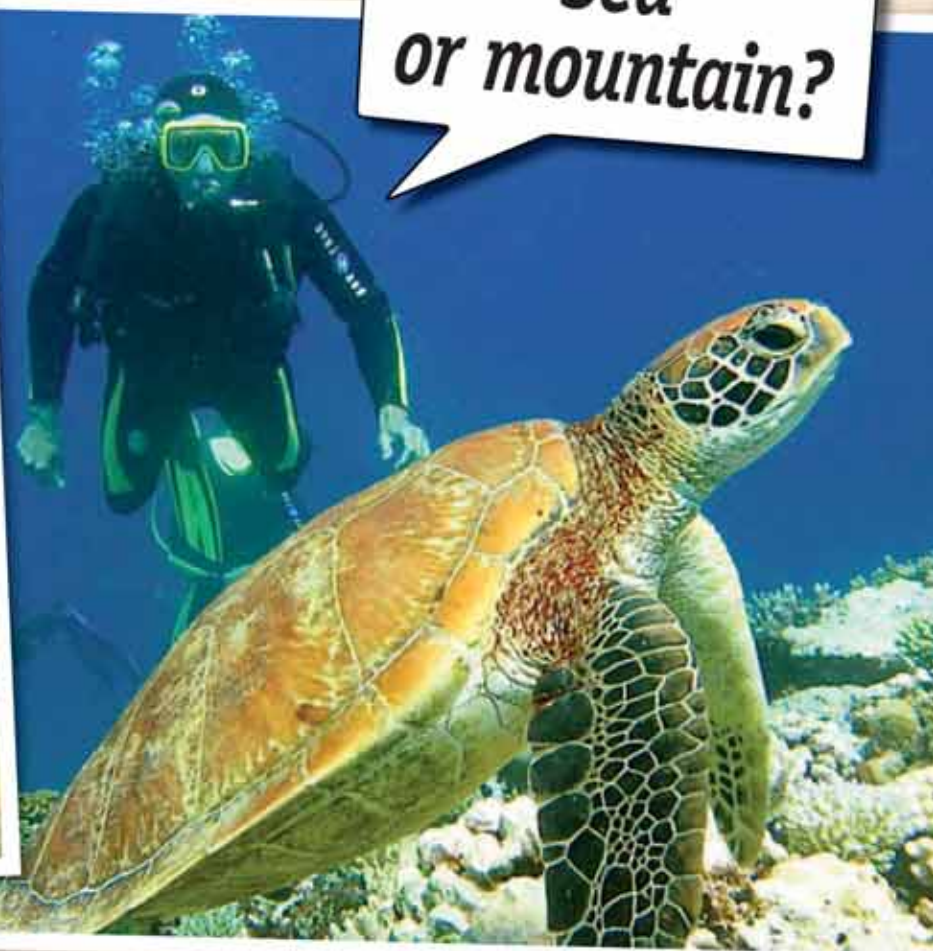
dates to keep in mind for the 2012 summer season:

- The fishing and capture of marine animals in the Dumbéa Seasonal Nature Reserve is prohibited until 1st March 2012.
- The fishing and capture of marine animals in the Grand Port Seasonal Nature Reserve (Prony Bay) is prohibited until 31 December 2012.
- The fishing of rock and

mangrove oysters is prohibited until 1st April 2012.

- The sale, purchase or keeping of rabbit-fish (*Siganidae*) in captivity is prohibited up to and including 31 January 2012.

South Province Environment Department: Tel 24 32 55



Sea or mountain?

PHOTOS CONTEST

Send us your best holiday pictures: either funny, lovely or offbeat...

AND WIN 5 TRIPS TO THE NORTH!

Get ready to explore an unusually diverse and authentic destination. From the great plains of the West Coast covered in niaouli trees to the East Coast waterfalls shrouded in greenery, from impenetrable forests in the central mountain chain to pristine seabeds, from sprawling cattle stations to tribal villages tucked away in the valleys, the North has many things to share with you. A rich and eventful history, exceptional biodiversity, an immense playing field for adventure lovers, a lagoon listed by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage, a rainbow-coloured population with a sturdy character, which enjoys sharing its love of country

POYA

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Association Pitôcia**
Hiking
GSM: 95 42 72
- **Gîte de Porin-Néa**
Hiking and river fishing.
Nétéa tribal village - Tel.: 42 39 51

POUEMBOU

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Paddock de la Boutana**
Deer and trophy hunting.
Tel.: 47 16 17
www.paddockboutana.com

KONÉ

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Koné Rando**
Horse trekking, crossing the mountain chain and camping
Tel.: 47 23 68 / 79 36 80
- **Koné Information Point**
Tel.: 47 31 11 - Fax: 47 20 86

WATER SPORTS

- **Terre-Mer**
Sea trips, fishing, deep sea fishing, single snorkelling.
Tel.: 47 22 61 - GSM: 87 57 69 / 77 70 61

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Medouest**
Multimedia Library, Internet and media point
Tel.: 47 20 65

VOH

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Voh Heritage and History Association**
Hikes to the lookout, the chance to see the Heart of Voh. Mr Jacques Loquet.
Tel.: 42 38 78 - GSM: 86 35 57
- **Etienne or Isaac Pauoueta**
Hiking.
Tel.: 47 27 68 - Payphone: 88 13 50
- **Ranch du Carré 9**
Horse trekking.
GSM: 75 02 63

WATER SPORTS

- **Voh Fishing**
Marine excursions, game fishing, 4WD trips and the chance to go up to the lookout to see the Heart of Voh in the mangrove swamp.
Tel./Fax: 47 27 95 - GSM: 78 52 10

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Syndicat d'initiative de Voh** (Voh Tourist Office)
Gladys - GSM: 86 27 60
Tel.: 47 27 68 - Fax: 42 48 47
- **Eco-musée de Voh**
Tel.: 47 37 36

KAALA-GOMEN

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Le Refuge du Cerf**
Hikes, visits to mining and historic sites, exploring and crossing the mountain chain by 4WD.
Tel.: 42 72 02 - GSM: 76 26 73
www.lerefugeducerf.nc

KOUMAC

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **La Crinière riding club**
Horse trekking - Tel.: 47 90 20
www.lacriniere.nc
- **Koumac Information Point**
Guided visits, visits to old Tiébaghi village. Tel./Fax: 42 78 42

WATER SPORTS

- **Rêve Bleu Calédonie**
Diving centre. Pandop marina. David Lecornu.
Tel.: 42 45 64 - GSM: 97 83 12
www.revebleucaledonie.com
- **Réverie Croisière**
Discovery sail cruises on the Northern lagoon - Tél.: 96 02 81
www.reverie-croisiere.tourisme-nord.nc

► **Trans Express Nord**

Trip by boat to Belep.
Tel.: 42 57 74 - Fax: 47 57 18

► **Le Skipper**

Taxi boat. GSM: 80 69 45

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Pandop marina**
Internet & media facilities.
Tel./Fax: 47 34 34
- **Médiathèque Louis Bastien(multimedia library)**
Beside the *Maison d'Insertion des Jeunes* (Youth Integration Centre), opposite the post office.
Tel./Fax: 47 12 22
- **Koumac Information Point**
Tel./Fax: 42 78 42

POUM

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES AND WATER SPORTS

- **Malabou Beach Resort**
Leisure activities (tennis, children playground, swimming pool, sea trips, etc) for clients of the hotel only.
Tel.: 47 60 60 - Fax: 47 60 70
www.grands-hotels.nc

► **Relais de Poingam**

Botanic walk, Boat-Pass
Tel.: 47 92 12 - Fax: 47 92 33

► **Gîte de Golone**

Hiking, mountain biking, kayaking.
Tel.: 47 20 00 - Fax: 47 20 05

WATER SPORTS

- **Le «Themamake» (Hotel Malabou)**
Taxi boat, sea trip.
Tel.: 47 60 60 - Fax: 47 60 70
GSM: 87 18 67

► **Plein Nord**

Cruises and catamaran excursions.
GSM: 76 26 46

OUÉGOA

WATER SPORTS

- **Chez Bouli**
Descending the Diahov River to the mouth. On weekends only.
GSM: 79 42 98

POUÉBO

WATER SPORTS

- **Relais de Ouane Batch**
Canoe rentals. Colnett tribal village
Tel./Fax: 42 47 92

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Association Djowero**
Craft, sculpture, weaving, basketwork.
Yambé tribal village - Tel.: 47 52 13
- **Pouébo Information Point**
Tel.: 42 70 42

HIENGHÈNE

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES AND WATER SPORTS

- **Koulou Village**
Leisure activities, sea trips, hikes, etc... for clients of the hotel only.
Tel.: 42 81 66 - Fax: 42 81 75
www.grands-hotels.nc

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Association Dayu Biik**
Hiking, climbing Mont Panié.
Tel./Fax: 42 87 77
- **Hienghène Tourism Office**
Organises and books stays and activities in various tribal villages. Information and reservations three days in advance.
Tel.: 42 43 57 - Fax: 42 43 56

WATER SPORTS

- **Nord Aventure**
Kayak.
Mr Christophe Altadill - GSM: 76 61 44
Mr Patrick Ventura GSM: 78 51 83
Tel./Fax: 42 84 28

► **Babou Côte Océan**

Scuba diving centre. Training at all levels, snorkelling, boat trips.
Tel./Fax: 42 83 59
www.babou-plongee.com

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Goa Ma Bwarhat Cultural Centre**
Museum and permanent exhibition.
Tel.: 42 80 74 - Fax: 42 64 10

TOUHO

- **Touho Information Point**
Guided hikes, outrigger trips, and sculpting wood.
Tel.: 42 88 07 / 42 70 26
Fax: 42 87 51

POINDIMIÉ

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES AND WATER SPORTS

- **Tieti Tera Beach Resort**
Leisure activities for clients of the hotel only
Tel.: 42 64 00 - Fax: 42 64 01
www.tera.nc

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Jehudit Pwija**
Guided hikes. Napoémien tribal village
Tel.: 47 28 28 - GSM: 81 82 98

WATER SPORTS

- **Tiédi diving**
Scuba diving centre. Snorkelling, sea trips and diving equipment available.
Tel./Fax: 42 42 05
www.tiedi-diving.com

► **Loupiot Sea Diving**

Diving
Tel.: 42 78 81 - GSM: 91 09 74
www.loupiot-sea-diving.com

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Médiathèque Nord**
internet & media facilities.
in the village centre near the post office
Tel.: 42 67 00 - Fax: 42 67 08

POMÉRIHOMEN

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Hélène Nymbayes**
Tchamba tribal village
Tel.: 47 26 16

► **Clément Eurisouké**

Sculpture.
Moneo tribal village
Tel.: 42 35 42 - GSM: 89 23 36

CANALA

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Association Méréko**
Kuinet tribal village (Hiking)
Tel.: 42 84 42
- **Mia tribal village** (Hiking)
Tel.: 42 31 09 / 42 60 61
- **Marcel Oujanou** (Hiking)
Haut-Gélina tribal village
(Syndicat d'initiative - Tourist Bureau)
Tel.: 42 60 61
GSM: 94 27 56
- **Terraventure**
Canyoning, canoeing on Negropo river.
Miguel Ate - Tel.: 42 31 42

► **Kona Christian**

Hiking
Tel.: 96 38 95 / 86 35 66

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Médiathèque de Canala**
(multimedia library)
Canala village - Tel.: 42 43 48

► **Syndicat d'initiative de Canala**

(Canala Tourist Office)
Canala village - Tel.: 42 60 61



Nouméa

ADDRESS BOOK

- Aquarium**
61 promenade Roger Laroque, Anse Vata. Tues. to Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tel 26 27 31
- Art Café**
30 rue Paul Duquesnes, Quartier Latin. Tel 27 80 03
- Art Centre**
6 boulevard extérieur, Downtown. Tel 25 06 50
- Bernheim Library**
41 avenue du Maréchal Foch, Downtown. Tues. Thurs. & Fri. 1 to 5.30 p.m. Wed. 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tel 24 20 90
- Botanical and Wildlife Park**
Route T. de Laubarède, Portes de Fer. Tues. to Sun. 10.15 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. Tel 27 89 51
- Galerie Lec Lec Tic**
La Promenade Complex, Anse Vata. Tel 82 56 01
- Galerie Onze & Demi**
11 ter rue du Général Mangin Downtown. Tel 28 91 15
- Korean Cultural Centre**
4 rue du Dr Lescour, Quartier Latin. Tel 28 40 03

- Le Méridien Nouméa******
Pointe Magnin. Tel 26 50 00
- Maison Célières & Maison du Livre**
21 Route du Port-Despointes, Faubourg-Blanchot. Tues. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tel 28 65 10
- Museum of New Caledonia**
45 av. Foch, Quartier Latin 9 to 11.30 a.m. & 12.15 to 4.30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. www.museenouvellecaledonie.nc Tel 27 23 42 or 27 06 47
- Nouméa City Museum**
Place des Cocotiers, corner of avenue Foch and rue Jean Jaurès. Mon. to Sat. 9 a.m. to midday & 1 to 5 p.m. Tel 27 60 62

- Tjibaou Cultural Centre**
Rue des Accords de Matignon, Tina. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays Tel 41 45 45

ALL YEAR ROUND

Guided tours
Guided tours of the Tjibaou Cultural Centre with English commentary. Tuesday to Sunday 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. English audio guides also available for hire. Tjibaou Cultural Centre*

Exhibition
"Nos milieux naturels" (Our natural environments). Explore New Caledonia's dry forest, mangrove and mining scrubland ecosystems. Botanical and Wildlife Park*

Heritage
Guided tours of historic penitentiary buildings at Nouville. Weds. & Sat. at 2 p.m. Tel 26 48 13

Books & papers in English
The Bernheim library* offers visitors a selection of English-language papers, reviews and works of literature.

FRI. 2 DECEMBER
Festive outdoor event
Christmas comes to Place des Cocotiers. 2 p.m.: grand opening of the Christmas wish-list box (with a direct line to Santa!), 6 to 6.45 p.m.: live music at the old bandstand, 7 p.m. official switch-on of the



Christmas lights at Place des Cocotiers, 7.15 p.m.: open-air screening of a surprise film.

Electro evening
Le BOHÈME
Underground Party 6: a livewire evening for all fans of great electro sounds, from 8 p.m. Le Bohème, 35 promenade Roger Laroque, Baie des Citrons. Tel 28 66 00

FRI. 2 TO SUN. 4 DECEMBER
Move It



Nouméa Kite Surf Pro 2011. Final event in the PKRA World

Tour 2011 at Pointe Magnin, Le Méridien hotel beach.

FRI. 2 TO TUES. 6 DECEMBER

Exhibition
Sculptor Fred Fichet presents his new works, sculptures of sensuous grace and sensitivity, exalting the beauty of the female body and the human soul. Galerie le Chevalet d'Art, 81 route A. Daly, Ouémo. www.lechevaletdart.nc www.fredfichet.com Tel 24 92 42



FRI. 2 TO FRI.9 DECEMBER

Walkabout show
Explore the myth of human creation, accompanied by the drums and songs of the We Ce Ca dance company, in the unique plant world of the Kanak Path. Tues. & Thurs. 2.30 to 4 p.m. Advance booking required. Tjibaou Cultural Centre*

FRI. 2 TO THUR. 15 DECEMBER

Exhibition
Paul et Roland Mascart - Dans la lumière. An exhibition of paintings and documents which give fresh insight into life in New Caledonia in the 1930s. Tjibaou Cultural Centre* (Till 12 February 2012)

Exhibition
Exhibition showcasing the art of Indonesian batik. Kain batik, le tissu d'une vie. Museum of New Caledonia* (Till 27 February 2012)

Exhibition
Exhibition of photographs and documents presenting the album kept by Sergeant Pinçon, a French soldier who spent time living in tribal villages in the Main Island and the Islands at the end of the 19th century. Tjibaou Cultural Centre* (Till 1 Apr. 2012)

Exhibition
The Kanak and Oceanian Contemporary Art Fund presents an exhibition inspired by the theme of an ever-changing world. Bérétara Room, Tjibaou Cultural Centre* (Till April 2012)

Exhibition
Contemporary sculptor and painter Francis Lôter carries you off in his "Cargo des Arts" as he continues his Journey through Melanesia. Exhibition at Galerie Arte Bello, 30 rue Auguste Brun, Quartier Latin. Tel 25 31 00

SAT. 3 DECEMBER

Live music
For the 3rd year running, Nouméa Events presents your very own Motown Party. Thrill to classics from the golden age of soul. Live soul, funk & disco beats, dance floor & DJ, from 7 p.m. Restaurant le 1881, Nouville. Tel 24 00 42

Live music
An evening of great entertainment with local music duo Elodie and David... rock, Latin and French and international pop hits, from 7 p.m. in the bar. Le Méridien Nouméa*

Buffet & live music
"Passionnément Strass" cabaret show and seafood buffet at Le Sextant restaurant: music and entertainment full of glitter and sparkle evoking the frothy dazzle of Parisian nightlife from the 50s to the 70s, from 7 p.m. Le Méridien Nouméa*

SAT. 3 TO THUR. 15 DECEMBER

Market
Christmas Market on Place des Cocotiers: three whole weeks to browse the stalls and choose your gifts! Original designs, ornaments and craft items, bouncy castles and slides for the kids and a feast of sweet treats to sample... (Till 23 December)

SUN. 4 DECEMBER

Live music
Bring your friends and swing the night away to fab jazz numbers with local band Blow. From 9.30 p.m. Les 3 Brasseurs, 33 promenade Roger Laroque, Baie des Citrons. Tel 24 15 16

MON 5. TO THUR 15 DECEMBER

Festive fun
Santa's cheeky elves are waiting under the Christmas tree on Place des Cocotiers to welcome kids come to slip their Christmas wish-list into Santa's post-box. They'll be handing out candies to good little children... (Till 23 December)

TUES. 6 DECEMBER

Exhibition
Show of paintings by Maéva Bochin focussing on landscapes glimpsed here, there and everywhere... on turning a corner, by the roadside, in a field... Maison Célières & Maison du Livre* (Till 23 February 2012)

TUES. 8 TO TUES. 15 DECEMBER

Exhibition
"Que la lumière soit" (Let there be light). Natural light, biblical light, artificial light... the fifteen New Caledonian artists selected for the show bring us their vision of the world through sculptures, paintings, mosaics,

videos and photographs. Art Centre* (Till 23 February 2012)

FRI. 9 & SAT. 10 DECEMBER

Dance evening
Top local DJ Guy Raguin presents an evening of mega hits from the 1980s, from 9 p.m. Le Méridien Nouméa*

SAT. 10 DECEMBER

Buffet & live music
Local band Verdine brings you a gypsy music evening show... violins, trumpet, guitar and bass guitar, from 7 p.m. Le Méridien Nouméa*

Live music
Gypsy jazz duo Fuego Gitano in a fiery song and guitar session inspired by Camargue flamenco, from 7 p.m. in the bar. Le Méridien Nouméa*

Buffet and live music
Idyllic Tahitian evening at L'Escapade hotel on îlot Maître, just a few minutes by taxi boat from Nouméa. Buffet and dance show by the Upa Rau Nui ensemble. Romance and exoticism guaranteed. Bookings: Tel 26 05 12

MON. 12 TO TUES 15 DECEMBER

Exhibition



Following up her "Terres du Sud" exhibition, internationally reputed New Caledonian artist Caroline Degroiselle invites us to view her new collection "Deci Delà, le regard du peintre", a series of small "personal favourites" paintings capturing subjects and themes which caught the artist's eye and spoke to her heart. New Caledonian scenes, of course, but also scenes from abroad and velvety explosions of flowers glowing with her vivid palette of rich and sensuous colours. Galerie Artebello, 30 rue Auguste Brun Quartier Latin. Tel 25 31 00 (Till 24 December)

CAROLINE DEGROISELLE
Exhibition in "small sizes" from 13th to 24th december 2011
Here and There, through the eyes of the painter
ARTE BELLO
30, rue A. Brun - Quartier Latin - phone: 25 31 00
banking hours: 9am-6pm, saturday: 9am-12am

THUR. 15 DECEMBER

Live music
Jazz trio featuring Francis Gaillot (piano), Stéphane Nicoletto (sax) and Carole Gomes (vocals). From 7 p.m. in the bar. Le Méridien Nouméa*



ADDRESS BOOK

- Aventure Pulsion**
Outdoor sports, adventure & leisure activities
Advance booking required
Tel 26 27 48
- Auberge Historique de Moindou**
Village de Moindou. Tel 35 43 28
- Bourail Tourist Office**
Rue Simone Dremont, opposite Bourail Townhall. Tel 46 46 12
- Destination Grand Sud**
Shopping centre, La Coulée Mont-Dore. Tel 46 06 25
- Fort Téremba**
Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tel 44 32 71 or 79 29 90
- Madeleine Waterfall**
Netcha camping and leisure area. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tel 46 98 00
- La Foa Tourisme**
La Foa Townhall. www.lafoatourisme.assoc.nc Tel 41 69 11
- Mont-Dore Cultural Centre**
Tel 41 01 73
- Bourail Museum**
Rue Simone Dremont Open Mon. to Sat. 9 a.m. to midday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tel 46 69 12
- Parc de la Rivière Bleue nature reserve**
Open Tues. to Sun. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tel 43 61 24
- Terraventure**
Outdoor sports, adventure & leisure activities
Advance booking required
Tel 77 88 19
terraventure@mls.nc

*See above "address book"

TO GET ALL YOUR TOURIST INFORMATION SURF ON OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!
www.office-tourisme.nc
On line end of November 2011
The New Caledonia Tourist Office
14 rue Jean Jaurès
Place des Cocotiers Centre-Ville
117 prom Roger Laroque Anse-Vata
BP 2828 - 98 846 Nouméa cedex
Phone : + 687 28 75 80
Email : centre.ville@office-tourisme.nc

**ALL YEAR ROUND
Museum**



Explore the fascinating history of the Bourail region: the life and traditions of the Keku and the Orowé tribes, the establishment of the convict prison farm, the development of Bourail village and how people lived at the time, the New Zealand military base during WW2. Bourail Museum*

SAT. 3 DECEMBER

Move it
Two hour horseback trail along the Tontouta river including river bathing with the horses. Terraventure*

**SAT. 3 & SUN 4
DECEMBER**

Move it
Foot trail at Tontouta following the path up Mont Humboldt, New Caledonia's 2nd highest mountain. Return transport included. Terraventure*

SUN. 4 DECEMBER



Bush-style barbecue at Nessadiou distillery. Program includes instruction and demonstration of country dancing

and wood-fired distillation of niaouli leaves. Lunch tables will be set out under the fruit trees around the distillery and the courtyard. Fixed menu costing F3,500 (starter, barbecue, dessert, coffee. 1 bottle of wine/4 people). Advance booking required. Brouss Niaouli: broussniaouli@yahoo.fr Tel 41 92 31 or 79 99 69

Move It

3 hour kayaking trail at La Tontouta river estuary. BBQ included. Terraventure*

Move It

Two hour horseback trail along the Tontouta river including river bathing with the horses. Terraventure*

**FRI. 9 & SAT. 10
DECEMBER**

Move It
Kayaking in the light of the full moon through the drowned forest in Yaté lake, not far from Parc de la Rivière Bleue nature reserve. Aventure Pulsion*

SAT. 10 DECEMBER

Market
Every three months, the grandmas and mums of the Bouirou Tribe (Bwiru) invite you to the Bouirou community hall for a market of home-grown fruit and vegetables, plants, bouquets of cut flowers and plants for the vegetable garden. This time freshwater prawns from the creeks are the stars of the market! Come and make friends with Edna, Sophie, Lucienne and all the other ladies! To get there, follow the Pouéo road up to the community hall. Information: Bourail Tourist Office - Tel 46 46 12

Day in the country

Guided tour of Thio mine including lunch with the Saint Paul Tribe. Breakfast at 8.30 a.m. in the townhall, guided tour of the Plateau mine, guided tour of the exhibition at the Mine Museum and lunch at the tribal village. Information and bookings: Tel 44 80 33

**North
Province**



ADDRESS BOOK

Hienghène Cultural Centre
Tel 42 80 74

Koné Cultural Centre
Tel 47 72 16

Le Koniambo***
Route provinciale 1, Koné. Tel 47 39 40

Malabou Beach**
Néhoué Bay, Pouvoua-Adoua. Tel 47 60 60

**ALL YEAR ROUND
Culture**

Guided tour of old Tieboghi village near Koumac. Tues. Thurs. & Sat. from 8 a.m. Tel 42 78 42

FRI. 2 DECEMBER

Theme Evening
Eat your fill paella evening at Le Skipper restaurant at the Pandop Marina in Koumac. Bookings: Tel 42 59 44

**FRI. 2 TO THURS. 14
DECEMBER**

Festive fun
Koumac Townhall: grand opening of the post-box for Christmas wish-lists to Santa... get writing, kids! (Till 24 December)

Exhibition

"Les ethnies liées au café" (Ethnic communities & coffee) From Africa to the Americas via Asia and Australia, the exhibition takes you on a journey bound for Oceania and New Caledonia, where the story of coffee growing is closely bound up with the history of local communities, colonisation and community displacement. Coffee Ecomuseum, Voh. Tel 47 37 36 (Till 14 January)

SAT. 3 DECEMBER

Buffet and live music
Enjoy a lagoon buffet and an evening of international pop hits compered by DP Thomson Navit. Malabou Hotel in Pouvoua-Adoua. Tel 47 60 60

Buffet and live music



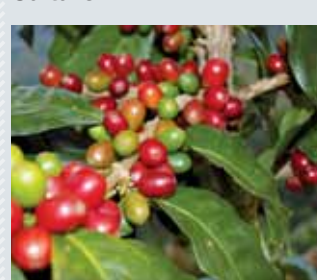
Seafood buffet and musical entertainment at the Koniambo Hotel in Koné. DJ Chico will be whipping up a storm on the turntables! Advance booking required. Tel 47 39 40

**SAT. 3 & SUN. 4
DECEMBER**



Move It
Adventure weekend at Canala. Saturday: nature trail on foot over the hilltops of Canala. Sunday: canyoning and "aquarando" - walking, swimming, climbing and rappelling in the Xwa Pöo river at Nakety. Terraventure*

SUN. 4 DECEMBER



Culture
A day of cultural fun at the Voh Ecomuseum. Program includes choral singing, planting

coffee trees, games, lunch and outdoor dance until 5 p.m. Information: Voh Ecomuseum. Tel 43 37 36

SAT. 8 DECEMBER

Festive fun
Pedestrian street featuring special Christmas attractions in Koumac. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Information: Tel 42 78 42

FRI. 9 DECEMBER

Live Music
Exclusive musical evening at the Koniambo Hotel in Koné, featuring Michel Bénégig on Hammond organ and his wife Shem on vocals. Advance booking required. Tel 47 39 40

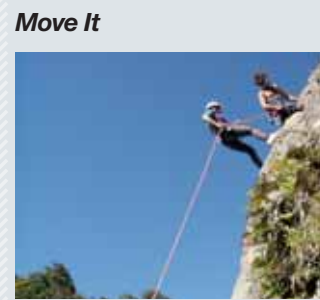
SAT. 10 DECEMBER

Move It
Join in a 19 km nature and adventure trail on foot in the Touho region. The trail starts at 7 a.m. from Pombei and will finish up in Tiaoué. Information: Tel 42 70 26

Music

Musical evening featuring Pouko Selefen at the Koniambo Hotel in Koné. Advance booking required. Tel 47 39 40

**SAT. 10, SUN 11
& MON. 12 DECEMBER**



Move It
Outdoor fun weekend at Canala. Sports and nature activities (canyoning, kayaking, foot and horseback trails). Terraventure*

**SAT. 10 TO THUR 25
DECEMBER**

Music
Zig Zag Festival: great jazz festival at Koné. Don't miss it! Information: Tel 43 70 86

**Loyalty
Islands**



ADDRESS BOOK

**LIFOU
Tourist Information Office**
"Ne Drehu" Municipal Events and Information Centre. Two offices at your service: next to Lifou Townhall and at Wanaham aerodrome. Tel 45 00 32 or 45 02 80

**MARÉ
Nengone Tourist Information Office**
Located in Maré Townhall faré at Tadine. Tel 45 03 49

**OUVÉA
Iaai Tourist Information Office**
Located at Fayoué. Tel 45 10 84 or 94 97 14

**LIFOU
Arts & Crafts**
Exhibition and sale of hand-crafted items at the Women's Space, Wé townhall courtyard Mon. to Thurs. 7.30 to 11.30 a.m. & 1 to 3.30 p.m. Tel 45 00 32

**MARÉ
Arts & Crafts**
Workshops and sale of hand-crafted items Maré Women's Space, Yeiwéné Yeiwéné Cultural Centre, La Roche. Mon. to Fri. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tel 45 44 79

**OUVÉA
Ouvéa Soap Factory**
Free tours of the Ouvéa coconut-based soap factory Wadrilla Tribe. Tues. & Thurs. 8 to 11.30 a.m. Advance booking required. Tel 45 10 60

*The editor clearly cannot accept any responsibility for any subsequent changes of program

COUNTRY/FARMERS MARKETS



All market stallholders are local producers and fishermen/women selling their own produce. Items on offer include fruit, vegetables, plants, flower arrangements, home-cooked dishes and handmade jewellery. Early birds get the best choice of items on display, so aim to get there before 9.30 a.m.

Nouméa

EVERY DAY
Papaya, soursop, passionfruit, green coconuts, vegetables, fish, flowers, clothing Baie de la Moselle, Downtown, from 5 a.m. Closed 3rd Monday in the month.

EVERY SAT.
Fresh meat, fruit & vegetables. Ducos indoor market, Saturday, from 6 a.m.

EVERY SAT.
Scents and savours market: 25 stallholders and tempting displays of

freshwater prawns, vanilla beans, venison charcuterie, cheeses, Melanesian coffees, Vietnamese teas and spices, flowers and Moroccan specialities. La Maison Ballande, from 7.30 a.m.

**South
Province**

**BOURAIL
EVERY FRI. & SAT.**
Twenty or so stalls selling seasonal fruit and vegetables, honey, syrups, jams, cakes, cooked dishes, cut flowers & plants. Main square, from 7.30 a.m. Tel 44 13 36

**ISLE OF PINES
WEDS. & SAT.**
Root vegetables, fruit and vegetables, freshly caught fish. Vao, from 6 a.m. Tel 46 10 27

**LA FOA
EVERY SAT.**
Twenty or so stalls selling plants, fresh fruit and vegetables, fish and shellfish. Place Georges Guermet, from 7.30 a.m. Tel 44 31 13 or 41 69 11

**MONT-DORE
EVERY SAT.**
Twenty or so stalls selling home-grown produce, fruit and vegetables, jams, arts and crafts... La Coulée Shopping Centre, from 7 a.m. Tel 46 06 25

EVERY SUN.
Flea market with fifty or so stalls. Pont des Français Market, Drive-In carpark, from 6 a.m. Tel 46 06 25

**MOINDOU
SUN. 4 DECEMBER**
Lively market with a rustic atmosphere in the pretty little village of Moindou, famous for its magnificent grove of giant Royal Palms. Farm produce, freshly caught fish and shellfish and plants. Tel 41 69 11

**FARINO
SUN. 11 DECEMBER**
15 local stallholders selling plants and fresh produce. Townhall square, from 8.30 a.m. Tel 44 31 04

**North
Province**

**CANALA
EVERY FRI.**
Around fifteen stalls selling fresh fruit and vegetables, fish and flowers. Town Centre, from 7 a.m. Tel 42 31 09 or 42 60 61

**HIENGHÈNE
TUES. & FRI.**
Twenty or so stallholders from neighbouring tribes offering shoppers home-grown fruit and vegetables and fresh meat and fish. Town centre, from 6.30 a.m. Tel 42 43 57

**KONÉ
EVERY SAT.**
15 stalls selling seasonal fruit and vegetables, plants, flowers, fish and cakes. Town centre, from 7 a.m. Tel 47 30 86

**KOUMAC
EVERY SAT.**
15 stalls selling seasonal fruit and vegetables, flowers, crabs, local pickles, jams and arts and crafts items. Beside the townhall

(North entrance), from 7 a.m. Tel 42 78 42

**POINDIMIÉ
EVERY SAT.**
Town centre (except 2nd Sunday of each month: held at La Tchamba), from 7 a.m. Tel 47 89 00 or 42 60 10

**Loyalty
Islands**

**LIFOU
FRI. & WEDS.**
Cut flower bouquets, fresh vegetables and tropical fruit. In Wé, from 6 a.m. Tel 45 50 00

**MARÉ
FRI. & TUES.**
In Tadine, opposite the Town Hall Shelter, from 7 a.m. Tel 45 49 08

**OUVÉA
EVERY WEDS.**
Hnyimèhè market by the sea (between Banoutr and Wadrilla), from 7 a.m. Tel 45 71 11

*See above "address book"

Cultural Passport



ANCESTRAL GUARDIANS

The entrance to the Great Hut which lies at the heart of every Kanak chiefdom is flanked by intricately carved doorposts known as the “guardians of the house”.

The French term for these symbolic doorposts is “chambranles”. They have no load-carrying purpose but are decorative features with a strong symbolic power similar to that of the roof finial atop the pointed thatched roof. Traditional Kanak architecture is in itself symbolic of social structure; the doorposts stand either side of the entrance to the Great Hut which is the Clan

Chief’s seat of power and the doorway is so low (1.5 m) that visitors must bend down as they enter, showing their respect for those present in the hut.

Ancient skills

Kanak doorposts are traditionally sculpted by skilled craftsmen from the massive, tightly grained wood of the endemic tree Montrouziera cauliflora, known locally as “houp”. Custom dictates that only wood from dead trees should be used (such as trees blown down in a storm or cyclone). Thus the doorposts symbolise the spirits of bygone ancients guarding the threshold for their living descendents.

Fresh air



A STROLL THROUGH PARADISE

You’ll love this delightful trail taking you through some of the loveliest scenery in the world, from Upi Bay to Oro Bay on the Isle of Pines.

The ten kilometre long trail is easy to tackle (hardly any rises or dips) and takes you through a landscape of stunning natural beauty. The route first follows the coastline of Upi Bay, a vast stretch of azure dotted with striking rocky outcrops, and then turns inland to wind through the area of dense rainforest separating Upi Bay from Oro Bay. You’ll find a fascinating wealth of plant species flourishing in this ideal natural habitat. Finally, you emerge from

the forest into a grove of coconut palms leading you to the saltwater river which flows into the natural swimming pool. A final effort and the glittering waters of the natural pool open up before you, inviting you to plunge in for a refreshing dip. Pure bliss! The trail takes 3 to 4 hours to complete but if you want to take it easy and give the wonderful scenery the attention it deserves, count on taking a little longer to do the walk. The trail is not marked or signposted, so a local guide is recommended. Ask for information at your Isle of Pines guesthouse or hotel.

Tourism Office
Tel 05 75 08

Caledonian taste



HONEY SWEET MELONS

It’s melon season again and time to revel in a feast of gorgeous sun-soaked juicy sweetness... The stalls at Nouméa’s municipal market are overflowing with choice melons. Our melons are a variety of the world-famous “Cavaillon” melons grown in the Charentes Maritimes region near the Atlantic coast in the south of France.

Recipe: melon and mint soup

Ingredients:

- 1 melon
- 1 orange
- 10 cl of white port
- 2 tbspcastor sugar
- 10 cl liquid crème fraîche
- 4 sprigs of mint

Preparation:

Refrigeration: 6 hours. Dice melon flesh and liquidise in blender with orange juice, port and sugar. Add liquid crème fraîche to blender and whisk mixture until smooth and creamy. Pour the preparation into a terrine dish, drown 2 sprigs of mint in the soup mixture and refrigerate for at least 6 hours. Decorate with mint leaves.

Experience



MONSTERS OF THE DEEP

It’s not unusual to catch a glimpse of manta rays from New Caledonia’s beaches or in the depths of our magnificent lagoons.

Manta rays may be an impressive size but they are amongst the most graceful creatures to be found in the ocean depths. In spite of its common nickname of “devilfish” and close relation to the shark, the gigantic manta ray (*Manta birostris*) is completely harmless. Manta rays inhabit deep water and

generally measure at least 6 metres across, weighing well over 1,000 kg. They have flat bodies, winglike pectoral fins and gills on their underside. Mantas have dark brown, cobalt blue or black backs and a white underbelly; their vestigial teeth are set in an enormous wide mouth flanked by broad flexible lobes used to channel in water and food. Manta rays are largely plankton-feeding, but also feed on fish larvae and small organisms. Mantas gather in large numbers to mate

and females are courted by several males. The female lays eggs but the eggs hatch and the babies develop inside the mother; manta “pups” are born rolled up and become active as soon as they “unroll”.

With their unrivalled grace and poise, these gentle giants are a magnet for marine photographers and divers have often found them to be sociable, inquisitive and fun loving.

BREAKING NEWS



STANDING OVATION

Notable encounter between world-famous sax player James Carter and local singer Vanuella Watt! They joined forces for a fabulous jam session! Carter had this to say: “I enjoyed every minute! I love the sensuality, freshness and spirit you bring to your music!” Unforgettable musical moments...

GOOD ON YOU!



PARIS EXHIBITION

Caledoun. Arabes et Berbères de Nouvelle-Calédonie, hier et aujourd’hui. The Arab World Institute in Paris hosted a three-day exhibition dedicated to New Caledonia’s Arab and Berber community.

MARITIME TERMINAL MARKET



A colourful arts and crafts market is held right on the spot inside the Maritime Terminal every time a cruise ship docks. Wander round the stalls spread out on both levels of the building and choose your own special souvenirs of New Caledonia. Postcards, sarongs, local costumes, T-shirts, fashion jewellery, traditional sculptures... Your only problem will be making up your mind! So set off on a tour of the displays and meet the friendly stallholders who are all delighted to show off their wares and chat to visitors.

Just so you know: all items sold at the Maritime Terminal have been approved by the Plant Health Authorities for import into Australia.

STOP THE FIRES!



The dry season is upon us and has brought the usual crop of bush fires. Since the end of September, several thousand hectares of countryside have gone up in smoke, sometimes endangering homes and lives, and the situation has worsened since the beginning of November.

Faced with the increasing number of wildfires, the local authorities recently prohibited open or outdoor burning of any kind throughout the whole of New Caledonia. Serious penalties apply to anyone in breach of the prohibition. Nature belongs to us all and we all have a duty to protect it!

If you detect a fire, dial 18 to call the fire brigade.



USEFUL TIPS

SHOPS & STORES: OPENING HOURS

Shops are generally open from 9.30 a.m. to midday and 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Only food stores stay open non-stop from 7.30 a.m. to around 7 p.m.

NATURE & CULTURE PASS



Get a 40 % reduction on entry fees to 5 major tourist attractions (the Maritime History Museum is closed for renovation work until further notice. Residents can wait until the museum re-opens to visit and non-residents can revisit the Botanical and Wildlife Park or the Nouméa Municipal Museum) "Le Pass" costs just F1,700 and includes entry to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, the Museum of New Caledonia, the Nouméa Municipal Museum, the Nouméa Aquarium and the Botanical and Wildlife Park. On sale at all of the above (except the Museum of New Caledonia) and at tourism outlets displaying a "Le Pass" sign.

GETTING AROUND

TAKE A BUS

Karui buses (red buses): the Blue Line goes to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre from the Place des Cocotiers in the centre of town. The Green Line follows the beach roads. Fares: adults, F210 one way. Tel 26 54 54 or www.gietcn.nc



Place des Cocotiers, fare from city centre to beaches, F1,200. Tel 28 35 12

TAXI BOATS (LEAVING FROM ANSE VATA)



Every day 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Île aux Canards return fare F1,200, Îlot Maître return fare F2,800. Last departure 4 p.m. Tel 26 90 00

TAKE A TAXI

Taxis, Central rank



PHONE CALLS



COUNTRY CODE

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Australia | +61 |
| Canada | +001 |
| France | +33 |
| French Polynesia | +689 |
| Germany | +49 |
| Italy | +39 |
| Japan | +81 |
| Korea | +82 |
| New Zealand | +64 |
| Spain | +34 |
| United Kingdom | +44 |
| United States | +1 |
| Vanuatu | +678 |
| New Caledonia | +687 |

Cool calling!

The IZI card makes phoning quick and easy and can be used to make local and international calls from a public call box, a landline or a mobile. It's a non-rechargeable prepaid phone card with a pin code. Two face values are available: F1,000 and F3,000. On sale at various designated sales points and all OPT telecom branches.

Cut the cost!
You can call abroad for less by dialling 19 instead of the usual international 00 code!

MONEY



Very few of Nouméa's shops stores and tourism leisure activities accept foreign currency. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are available throughout the territory. Have your pin code handy. Banks are generally open 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Change

(exchange rates on 2 December 2011)
1 USD = 89,54 XPF
1 AUD = 89,84 XPF
1 NZD = 68,27 XPF
Some banks provide ATMs: BNP, 111 promenade Roger Laroque, Anse Vata, Nouméa. BCI, 55 promenade Roger Laroque, Baie des Citrons and 20 rue Anatole France, Downtown.



COST OF LIVING

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| French baguette | F80 |
| Carton of takeaway food | F800 |
| A beer in a bar | F500 |
| 1.5l bottle of fizzy drink | F200 |
| Coffee | F300 |
| Cyber café | F700/hour |
| 1.5l bottle of mineral water | F100 |
| Hamburger & fries | F1,000 |
| Newspaper | F150 |
| Fried mini spring roll | F120 |
| Pack of chewing gum | F100 |
| Road toll | F150 |
| Ham sandwich | F300 |
| Cinema ticket | F1,150 |
| Bus ticket | F210 |
| Stamp for overseas mail | F150 |

Little lexicon



Hello. Bonjour.
Goodbye. Au revoir.
Thank you. Merci.
Please. S'il vous plait.
Yes. Oui.
No. Non.
What's your name?
Comment vous appelez-vous ?
I would like a drink.
Je voudrais boire.
I would like to eat.
Je voudrais manger.
Where is...? Où est... ?
Where can I take a taxi?
Où est ce que je peux prendre un taxi ?
Where can I take a bus?
Où est ce que je peux prendre un bus ?
I would like to go to...
Je voudrais aller à...
Could you show me the way to downtown?
Pourriez-vous me montrer le chemin du centre ville ?
What is it?
Qu'est-ce que c'est ?
How much does this cost?
Combien ça coûte ?
I would like to buy a...
Je voudrais acheter...
I don't feel well.
Je ne me sens pas bien.
I need a doctor.
J'ai besoin d'un docteur.
Please help me!
Aidez-moi s'il vous plait !

I don't understand.
Je ne comprends pas.
Please take me to this adress.
S'il vous plait emmenez-moi à cette adresse.
Sorry to bother you.
Désolé de vous déranger.
Are there rooms available?
Avez-vous des chambres disponibles ?
I'd like to make a reservation.
Je voudrais faire une réservation.
Where is the bathroom?
Où sont les toilettes ?
Do you accept credit cards?
Acceptez-vous les cartes de crédit ?
Please bring the bill.
L'addition, s'il vous plait.
What time is it?
Quelle heure est-il ?
Left. A gauche.
Right. A droite.
Straight on. Tout droit.
Today. Aujourd'hui.
Tomorrow. Demain.
Yesterday. Hier.

Nouméa Weather

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| FRIDAY 2 Partly Sunny 31° | TUESDAY 6 Partly Sunny 30° |
| SATURDAY 3 Partly Sunny 32° | WEDNESDAY 7 Partly Sunny 32° |
| SUNDAY 4 Partly Sunny 32° | THURSDAY 8 Partly Sunny 31° |
| MONDAY 5 Partly Sunny 31° | TENDENCIES 9 TO 15 DECEMBER Partly Sunny 32° |

EDITOR: Agence On en Parle Tel (687) 23 23 80 weekly@onenparle.nc

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Tourism office. PHOTOS: NCTPS, DIL, Tourisme Province Nord, NCTPS, DIL, Tourisme Province Nord, Fred Fichet, Anne Deniau - ADCK, On en Parle !

TRANSLATIONS: Elaine Sutton. PRINTED BY Le Gratuit Despite the attention given to the accuracy of the information printed in The New Caledonia Weekly, we cannot be held responsible for last minute changes in program or prices.

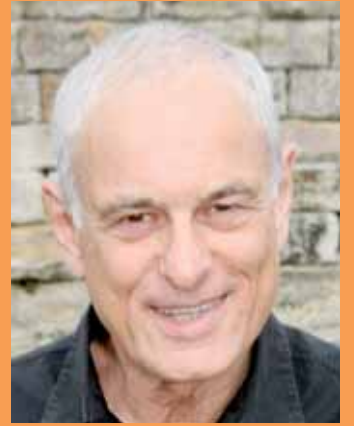


We protect our Island.



Inside story

A BIG PERSONAL DEBT TO A SMALL ISLAND PARADISE!



In the summer of '63, as a "green" 14-year-old who had never before left his native Sydney, I was lucky enough to go, unaccompanied, to spend 4 weeks in New Caledonia. The trip was arranged by my enterprising French teacher, with the astonishing consent of my trusting parents, bless their souls.

The result? Three weeks of fun at Anse-Vata and Baie des Citrons with new-found friends, and a week of adolescent bliss on a farm not far from Yaté. Unbounded hospitality in the homes of generous host families. Friendships, many of which were to endure for almost half a century - and counting! And a sudden awareness that the dry contents of my grammar books could be the pathway to a rich, musical language and to the culture whose voice it was in every sense of that word.

Many visits to NC were to follow over the years, but those initial few weeks of "sink or swim" in my stumbling French were to prove a critical springboard to a higher level of proficiency in the language. They literally shaped many aspects of my later life, leading me to university studies in French, a 17-year stint in the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, the opportunity to study at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in France and, for the past 15 years, successful practice as a full-time French translator/interpreter (with regular assignments from NC sources).

A big personal debt to a small island paradise!

Bob Desiatni, from Sydney

Useful numbers

NC country code: +687

| | |
|---|--|
| NC TOURIST OFFICE: 05 75 80 (toll-free phone) 28 75 80 | AIRCALIN: 26 55 00 QANTAS: 28 65 46 AIR NEW ZEALAND: 28 66 77 |
| AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE - GENERAL: 27 24 14 | POLICE: 17 FIRE BRIGADE: 18 |
| NEW ZEALAND CONSULATE - GENERAL: 27 25 43 | EMERGENCIES/SOS MEDICAL SERVICE: 15 DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: 1012 |
| AGENCE KENUA: P&O representatives: 28 45 45/26 00 55 | SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY: 26 20 00 NEW CALEDONIA OLYMPIC & SPORTS COMMITTEE: 28 10 57 |

HOSPITALS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Nouméa: Gaston Bourret/Magenta | 25 66 66 |
| La Foa Dispensary | 44 32 14 |
| Koné Dispensary | 47 22 04 |
| Koumac: Paula Thavoavianon | 42 65 00 |
| Poindimié: Raymond Doui Nebayes | 42 71 44 |
| Lifou Dispensary | 45 12 12 |

DUTY/ON CALL MEDICAL SERVICES - NOUMÉA

Pharmacies:
Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December
Pharmacie PK7, 302 rue J. Iekawé, PK7:
Tel 41 91 19
Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 December
Pharmacie Val Plaisance, 28 rue G. Laroque,
Val Plaisance: Tel 26 16 91
Doctors:
Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December
Dr Van-Thu N'Guyen, 9 rue de Bozouls,
Rivière Salée: Tel 41 58 55
Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 December
Dr Darjana Soéarti, 25 rue Kervistin, Trianon:
Tel 26 38 40

POINTS I TOURISM INFO

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Nouméa | 05 75 80 - 28 75 80 |
| Koumac | 42 78 42 |
| La Foa | 41 69 11 |
| Mont-Dore | 46 06 25 |
| Tontouta | 35 24 95 |

DOWNTOWN



TOURISM OFFICE

Downtown: 14 rue Jean Jaurès or at Anse Vata - Tel 28 75 80 / 05 75 80 (toll-free phone). Anse Vata: 117 promenade Roger Laroque, Tel 27 73 59 / 28 93 60



PLACE DES COCOTIERS

Place des Cocotiers, a 400 m long rectangular square right in the very heart of Nouméa, is a spacious haven of peace and lush greenery.



NOUMÉA CITY MARKET

Don't miss a visit to the lively city market at Baie de Moselle. Open every day 5 a.m. to midday. Tel 27 35 51



- KEYS**
- Information centre
 - Currency exchange
 - View point
 - Beach
 - Swimming
 - Bus terminal
 - Taxi rank
 - Taxi boat
 - Internet Café
 - Supermarket
 - Duty Free
 - Maison du Lagon
 - Automatic currency exchange machine
 - ATM Machine
 - Shopping Mall



ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

The park features the rare endemic Cagou, the emblem of New Caledonia. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.15 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. Tel 27 89 51



SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

A Gothic cathedral in the tropics. Rue Monseigneur-Douarre du Temple, Downtown.



MUSEUM OF NEW CALEDONIA

Open every day except Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tel 27 23 42

BEACHES



MAISON DU LAGON

Mon. to Fri. 8.30 to midday & 1.30 to 5 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 9. to 11.30 a.m. Closed Tuesdays www.maisondulagon.nc



LAGOON AQUARIUM

Discover the splendor of the coral reefs and its inhabitants. Guided tours and audio guides are available. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tel 26 27 31



ANSE VATA AND BAIE DES CITRONS BEACHES

Nouméa's most magnificent beaches. Take a peep under the surface and discover brightly coloured fish and richly varied corals.



- ACCOMMODATION**
- 1 Hôtel Mocambo**
 - 2 Résidence Marina Beach
 - 3 Hôtel Beauvillage**
 - 4 Résidence Casa del Sole**
 - 5 Le Surf***
 - 6 Hôtel Le Lagon**
 - 7 Hôtel Best Western Premier La Promenade****
 - 8 Nouvata Parc Complex***
 - 9 Ramada Plaza Nouméa****
 - 10 Hôtel Anse Vata
 - 11 Royal Tera***
 - 12 Le Méridien Nouméa****
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