



7 DAY ITINERARY

A true taste of New Caledonia

With a full seven days you will have time to explore Noumea, island-hop to the stunning Isle of Pines or the authentic Loyalty Islands and still have time to get a taste of the vastly different landscapes of the main island of New Caledonia, Grande Terre.

DAY ONE

Fly to Noumea in just two hours from Brisbane, less than three hours from Sydney and under four hours from Melbourne. Aircalin is a full service airline with distinct French-Pacific flavor, ensuring your relaxation begins from the moment you board. Aircalin offers three services per week, departing every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from all the major cities.

Celebrate with a French meal

Wander along Anse Vata Bay or Baie Des Citrons (Lemons Bay) to find a restaurant for dinner. Some of our recommendations around this area include:

- The Roof for a stunning French meal over the water at the end of a long jetty
- Le Fare, a fine dining restaurant in Le Meridien hotel
- Le Rocher for a delicious French meal using fresh Pacific ingredients

Or try long-time local favourite, Au p'tit Café, where the menu changes regularly and the high standard of traditional French cuisine is consistent.

DAY TWO

Learn about the indigenous Kanak culture

Designed by Italian architect, Renzo Piano (who also designed the Pompidou Centre in Paris), The Tjibaou Cultural Centre is a contemporary building that sits in a peaceful woodland setting. Learn about the indigenous Kanak culture through interactive exhibitions, shows and concerts, or discover how Kanaks live through the replica displays within the gardens.

To get there, take the hop-on, hop-off Noumea Explorer bus, which also stops at the Aquarium, Museum and the Botanical Gardens.

Get active with watersports

Home to the world's largest lagoon, it is not surprising that New Caledonia is a haven for sailing and watersports activities, including kitesurfing, jet-skiing and surfing. Anse Vata Beach is a great place to learn windsurfing, the Isle Maitre, a ten-minute boat ride from Noumea harbour is a great spot for the more experienced windsurfers and is also popular with kite-surfers during May and October when winds are fantastic. For those that like to explore the seas, you can hire a catamaran or yacht, with or without a skipper, and explore the myriad of coral islands and islets that are often deserted.



DAY THREE

Take a trip to the Loyalty Islands

Only a 40 minute flights from Noumea with Air Caledonie, you can discover the Loyalty Islands for a day or for a short break. Lifou is the largest, most varied and most populated of the Loyalty Islands. The roads on Lifou are excellent so make the most of your visit, rent a car and explore by road, taking in the

sights while driving North to South.



On the North side of Lifou, discover the beautiful and authentic village of Hnathalo. Head to Jokin for the spectacular view from the cliffs, drive to Easo admiring the beautiful chapel on the top of the hill overlooking Jinek Bay, before heading to Mucaweng to visit its vanilla plantation.

DAY FOUR

Explore the South of the Island

In the morning, get ready to explore the South of Lifou, be sure to include the following stops on your self-drive tour:

- The workshop of local artist, Dick Emile, who hand-carves wood sculptures
- The Bay of Luengoni, with its white sand, blue seas and no crowds, it is considered the most beautiful beach in the south of Lifou
- While going through the village of Mou you can admire the bay of turtles

In the afternoon, fly back to Nouméa and spend the night in the city.

Evening in Noumea

On Fridays and Saturdays, take the boat to the Escapade island and have dinner there. The buffet and the ambiance on the islet are great for a weekend.

DAY FIVE

Explore the Isle of Pines

In the morning, fly to Isle of Pines or take a ferry ride from the Gare Maritime.

The stunning Isle of Pines is just a 20 minute domestic flight with Air Caledonie from Noumea's Magenta Domestic Airport, or a 3 hour ferry ride with Betico. Some of the leading hotels on the Isle of Pines include Le Meridien, Hotel Oure Tera Beach resort, Hotel Kou Bugny and Hotel Kodjeue.

Wake up in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Don't spend too long gazing into the distance, as there's plenty to see and do. Immerse yourself in the history of the Isle of Pines by taking a guided tour to various traditional sites on the island. You will visit the small town of Vao, with the pretty Mission.

Church at its centre. Also enjoy the best of the islands natural attractions - pristine bays and beaches, extensive caves and stunning natural swimming pools – don't forget your snorkel!



Queen Hortense's Cave

No visit to the Isle of Pines would be complete without a trip to the Queen Hortense's Cave. A short walk through a thriving rainforest will bring you to the wide entrance and stunning gardens of these caves. The site's caretaker will delight in sharing the tale of this natural wonder, named after a local

Queen, who according to legend hid in the caves for several months an intertribal conflict.

In the caves the air is cool, ceilings are high and the ground is even, so wander at your leisure and take in the stunning natural beauty including stalactites, plants and streams.

DAY SIX

Tour to Lifou secret grotto

Take a 10-minute transfer from the wharf along palm fringed roads to the forest for an informative guided walk through native flora. Explore all the different plant species, including some said to have the healing touch. The unearthly Secret Grotto reveals fascinating formations of stalagmites and stalactites, visible by torchlight. Your tour concludes with a demonstration of traditional hunting techniques, an explanation of traditional methods of hunting wild pigs and the art of hunting coconut crabs.

DAY SEVEN

Day tour to Blue River Provincial Park

Book a tour to explore the stunning Blue River Provincial Park, a protected natural reserve just a short 45-minute drive south of Noumea. Here you will find incredible colour contrasts of red soil, towering green Columnar pine trees and a turquoise blue lagoon. With 9,000 hectares of untouched wilderness it is a stunning area for trekkers to explore. There are facilities for picnics, well marketed walking trails and swimming sites in the stunning river. For birdwatchers, this is the best place to go in New Caledonia, with most of the country's birds living here, including the rare Cagou.

OR

Make your way to the La Foa region

Located one and a half hour drive from Noumea, La Foa village is surprisingly charming and dynamic. In the same area, you can drive to the Provincial Park of Great Ferns, a forest filled with tropical ferns that is home to several hiking and mountain cycling tracks. If you want to view the forest from above the ground, then a zipline activity is available in the park, open to adults and kids.

In the afternoon, take a boat trip along La Foa River. Meet your guide opposite the Cinema and head to the jetty for a cruise up the river (approximately two hrs.). The boat trip will take you through mangroves and past astonishing forests. Once you arrive at the mouth of the river you will have an amazing view of the lagoon and the Fort Teremba site, a former fort and prison which plays a big part in the history of the penal colonies in New Caledonia.

DAY EIGHT

Fly back home



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