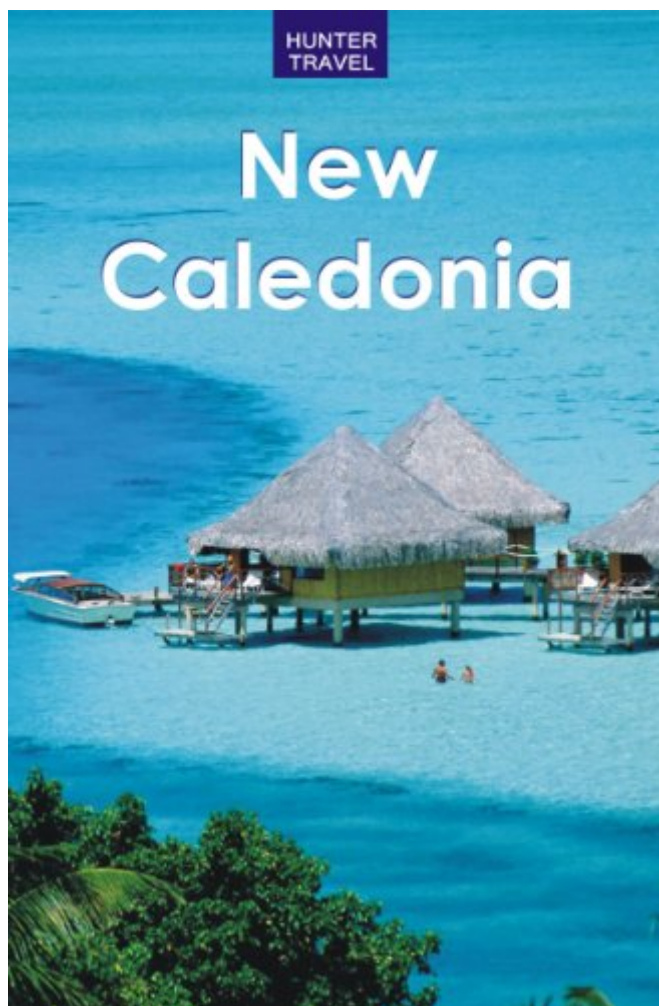


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New Caledonia (Travel Adventures)



Synopsis

This amazing guide tells you everything you need to know about these spectacular South Pacific islands - the hotels, restaurants, the culture, what to see and do, how to get around. New Caledonia consists of a large island, Grande Terre, and a group of small islands called dependencies - the Loyalty Group, Ouen, the Isle of Pines, Huon Islands, and the Chesterfields. Grande Terre is as big in land mass as the whole state of Hawaii. Its capital NoumÃ©a, with 70,000 people, looks big too. There are imposing buildings, freeways, traffic lights, escalators and, in the center of town there is a large bowered park called the Place des Cocotiers. NoumÃ©a has sidewalk cafes, little corner bistros, boulangeries, patisseries and, if it weren't for the black faces and the climate, you could be in a French provincial town. The white inhabitants have a Gallic look, the slight difference around nose and mouth that perhaps comes from a nasal approach to words. Some look as if they had just left the farm, some are conservatively well dressed, and many of the young people are clad in the latest mod-chic. Then there are others. You see them and hear them in the bars and bistros. They are usually bearded and have a military appearance. They are clearly soldiers, perhaps of the Foreign Legion. New Caledonia needs them now and perhaps will in the future. Arrival in New Caledonia is attended by the feeling that you've arrived somewhere very colonial, very French, where everything works, except during the awkward hours from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM when everything is closed. You'll soon become aware that the standard of living is much higher in New Caledonia than on other Pacific islands. For the present, New Caledonia is a great place for a vacation. In NoumÃ©a you'll find the big hotels, the boutiques, the casinos, the beaches, and the restaurants. Half of the population lives there. That leaves a lot of empty space on the rest of the big island and the tiny islands around it. New Caledonia and its dependencies are an island group in the southwest Pacific that forms part of Melanesia. The big island called Grande Terre has a land area of 12,000 square miles, and is the third-largest island in the South Pacific after New Guinea and New Zealand. Along the entire length of New Caledonia runs a chain of mountains. Mt. Passie in the north and Mt. Humbol in the south are nearly 5,000 feet high and this chain divides the island into climatic areas. In the west on the leeward side, like the Australian outback, there are wide stretches of dry savannah land dotted with eucalyptus trees. This is good cattle country but, because of invasive mangrove swamps along this coast, there are few good beaches. On the east coast where it rains over 100 inches a year, there are coconut plantations, rivers with waterfalls, and 150-foot-tall Norfolk pines. This is where most of the rural Melanesians live. Around both sides of the island, there is a protective barrier reef, the second-largest barrier reef in the world. Along the entire length of New Caledonia runs a chain of mountains.

Book Information

File Size: 3457 KB

Print Length: 72 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Hunter Publishing (November 3, 2011)

Publication Date: November 3, 2011

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00637TNZ2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,117,386 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #8

in Kindle Store > Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > New Caledonia #371 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Australia & South Pacific #912 in Kindle Store > Books > Travel >

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Customer Reviews

Not a hugely inspiring read nor did I come away with a clear sense of the place

From my enquiries elsewhere this book was written around 25 years ago. Could be more use as a history book than a travel book.

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Rentals & Get The Most Out of Your Stay Notes of Travel in Fiji and New Caledonia, with some remarks on South Sea Islanders and their languages ... With ... illustrations, etc. 2008 Country Profile and Guide to New Caledonia- National Travel Guidebook and Handbook - French Polynesia, Melanesia, Grand Terre, World War II (Two CD-ROM Set) The New Caledonia Travel Journal New Caledonia (Times Travel Library) Part 5 - Pour me another rum - IÃ¢â¬âm going to sail the South Pacific and visit New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. (Ã¢â¬âPour me another rum ... around the World!Ã¢â¬â Ã¢â¬âThe 5 year VoyageÃ¢â¬â) South Pacific A to Z;; Australia, New Zealand, the tropic Isles of Fiji, New Caledonia, the Samoas, Tahiti, Tonga, and Hawaii All the best in the South Pacific: Tahiti, Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Australia ; with illustrations and maps Plan Ahead Central Europe Travel Guide: Prague Travel Guide, Austria Travel Guide, Vienna Travel Guide, Salzburg Travel Guide, Budapest Travel Guide (Plan Ahead Travel Guide) Travel: Amazingly Shocking Insider Travel Industry Tactics To FREE And Low Cost Travel Uncovered (Travel Books, Travel Reference) (travel writing, cruise, ... safari guide, how to travel the world) Reef and Shore Fishes of the South Pacific: New Caledonia to Tahiti and the Pitcairn Islands Lonely Planet Vanuatu (Lonely Planet Vanuatu & New Caledonia) Lonely Planet Vanuatu & New Caledonia (Country Guide)

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