

# Solomon Islands





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## Best Historical Sites

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- » Skull Island (p219)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Tavanipupu Private Island Resort (p217)
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## Why Go?

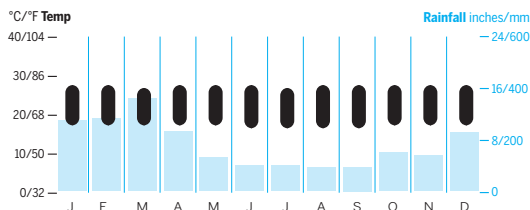
For those seeking an authentic Melanesian experience or an off-the-beaten-track destination, the Solomons are hard to beat. From WWII relics scattered in the jungle to leaf-hut villages where traditional culture is alive, there's so much on offer. Then there's the visual appeal, with scenery reminiscent of a Discovery Channel documentary: volcanic islands that jut up dramatically from the cobalt blue ocean, croc-infested mangroves, huge lagoons, tropical islets and emerald forests.

Don't expect white-sand beaches, ritzy resorts and wild nightlife – the Solomons are not a beach-holiday destination. With only a smattering of traditional guesthouses and comfortable hideaways, it's tailor-made for ecotourists. For outdoorsy types, lots of action-packed experiences can easily be organised: climb an extinct volcano, surf uncrowded waves, snorkel pristine reefs or kayak across a lagoon. Beneath the ocean's surface, unbeatable diving adventures await.

The best part is, there'll be no crowds to mar the experience.

## When to Go

### Honiara



**Dec–Mar** Intervals of calm weather broken by storms makes for good reef breaks and diving.

**Jun–Sep** Mild weather (but rough seas); good for hiking, less ideal for diving. Great festivity time.

**Apr–May & Oct–Nov** The shoulder seasons are relatively dry and aren't a bad time to visit.