

## CULTURE

The Social system of the Solomon Islands is complex and self-contained. Some groups are patrilineal, and some are matrilineal societies. Traditional leadership is both a chiefly inherited system or inherited leadership and acquired competitive leadership, sometimes called the "big man" system.

The Wantok (one-talk) system is an influential culture . It highlights the profound strength of communal, clan, and family ties among individuals bound by language and blood. In this rich social framework, members of the Wantok system wholeheartedly embrace their extended family roles, providing unwavering support and assistance to one another.

At the core of this cultural identity is "Kastom," a pidgin term that transcends simple custom to embody deep-rooted traditions and concepts of land ownership.

While devout

Christianity holds a significant place in the hearts of many, individuals especially those in the verdant hinterlands of the larger islands persist in honouring and practising their ancestral traditions, creating a beautiful fusion of faith and heritage that enriches their lives.

## Why Invest in Solomon Islands?

The Solomon Islands is a captivating investment opportunity, brimming with untapped potential waiting to be explored. With abundant natural resources and vibrant marine ecosystems, this destination stands out as a treasure trove for discerning investors. Furthermore, the islands have a youthful and dynamic population ready to drive innovation and growth across various sectors. Embrace the allure of the Solomon Islands, where fertile ground for investment and development awaits.

## KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The vital sectors that beckon investment opportunities include Tourism, Manufacturing, Fisheries, Agriculture, Mineral Extraction, Infrastructure, Construction, and a range of other Services. Each of these domains presents a promising landscape for growth and innovation, inviting stakeholders to explore their full potential.



## FLORA AND FAUNA

The central Islands of the Solomons are volcanic in origin and covered with fast-flowing rivers and streams. They are home to many endemic flora and fauna species, including the ordinary cardinal lorry. Current estimates put a total of 4500 plant species and 173 species of birds including the famous megapode bird that nests in the thermal sand of some islands in Central and Western provinces. In the World Heritage Listed Rennell Island alone, 10 plants, four bird species, and nine subspecies of birds have been identified as endemic.

Also endemic is the saltwater sea snake known as the krait.



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# SOLOMON ISLANDS

*Visitors Guide*



# ABOUT THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

## LOCATION

Centred at a longitude 160 degrees east and a latitude 9 degrees south of the equator, the Solomon Islands comprises 992 islands, of which 147 are inhabited.

The archipelago covers an area of 461,000 sq km (249,000 sq nautical miles), of which 28,446 sq km (10,938 sq miles) is landmass.

The six biggest islands are Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira. On the atlas, the Solomon Islands lie northeast of Australia and

## RELIGION

In the vibrant tapestry of the Solomon Islands, an impressive 95% of the population proudly identifies as Christians. Anglicans lead the way, making up 35% of believers, followed closely by Roman Catholics at 19%, South Seas Evangelicals at 17%, United Church (Methodist) at 11%, and Seventh-Day Adventists at 10%. Yet, the spiritual landscape here is rich and diverse—other faiths, such as the Baha'i Faith, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hindus, and Muslims coexist harmoniously. At the same time, some communities continue to embrace ancestor worship and animism. The Solomon Islanders embody their faith with passion and sincerity, and they often feel a sense of disappointment towards those who choose not to profess a belief. This heartfelt commitment to faith makes for a truly unique cultural identity in the islands.



# MAP OF SOLOMON ISLANDS



## PEOPLE

Nestled in the heart of the Melanesian archipelago, the Solomon Islands offer a fascinating glimpse into the rich tapestry of human history. This stunning group of islands—alongside their neighbours Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Fiji—was initially settled by intrepid hunters and gatherers who made their way from Southeast

Asia. The allure of the ocean would soon draw seafarers to these shores, expanding the cultural mosaic.

Archaeologists have uncovered an intriguing artefact—a distinctive type of pottery known as Lapita—which ties

the original settlers of Polynesia in the eastern Pacific back to Melanesia, specifically the Solomon Islands. This connection highlights the islands as a significant waypoint in the epic story of human migration across the Pacific.

Today, about 70 to 80 percent of the Solomon Islands' population embraces a subsistence life style, thriving in small villages and settlements that dot the landscape far from bustling urban centers. These communities embody a vibrant culture and way of life deeply rooted in tradition and their stunning natural surroundings.

## GOVERNMENT

The Solomon Islands proudly uphold the Westminster system of democracy, where the British Monarch serves as the head of state, represented locally by a Governor. At the helm of government is the Prime Minister, elected by parliament and supported by a dynamic team of cabinet ministers. With a picturesque setting overlooking Honiara city, the country's 50-seat parliament is strategically perched on a ridge, forging decisions that shape the nation. Representation in this vibrant democracy is drawn from single-member constituencies, ensuring that each voice is heard.



## CLIMATE

With its warm tropical climate, the Solomon Islands offers a delightful average temperature of about 29°C year-round. The drier months from May through October unveil a unique beauty, while the annual average rainfall of around 2520mm nourishes its vibrant landscapes.

