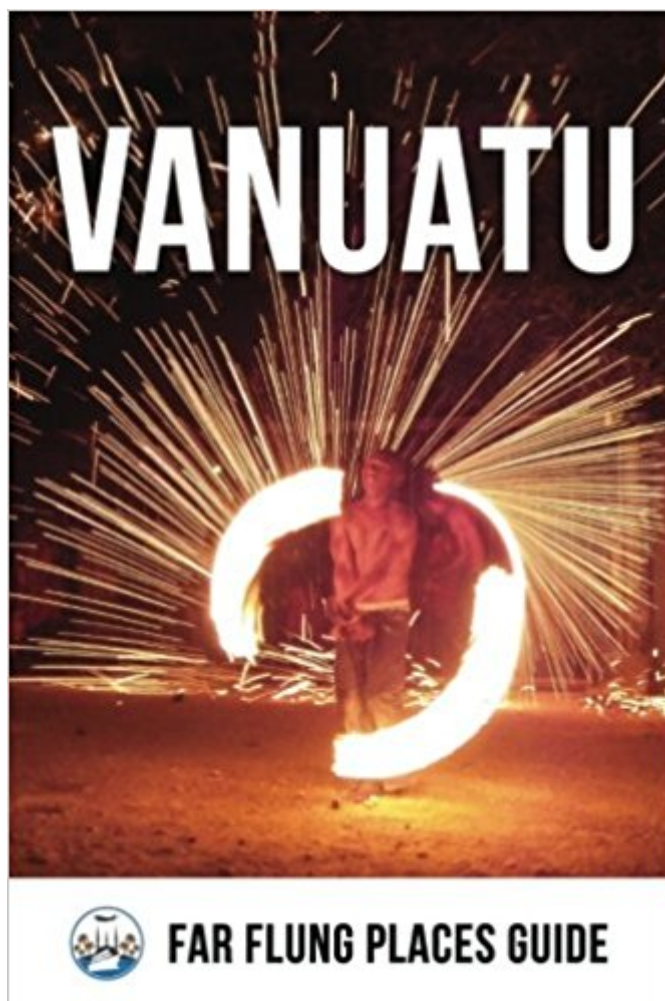


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Vanuatu: Far Flung Places Travel Guide



Synopsis

The only current detailed guide to the islands of Vanuatu, with invaluable information not just on the main islands, but also the more rarely visited outer islands. Including maps and detailed listings. Learn how to travel around, find the best places to visit, stay and eat for a memorable holiday in these islands of fire and beauty. Includes a guide for Cruise Ship passengers to make the most of their short stay. Accompanied by a selection of stories about places, events and people in Vanuatu which will transport the armchair traveller to this incredible Pacific nation, while giving more background and details for the intrepid visitor. In the Pacific Ocean lies the islands of Vanuatu, one of the world's best kept secrets. Find out why it has won "Happiest Nation on Earth" not once, but twice. - See an active volcano erupting while standing on the edge of the crater. - Relax in resorts, eat great food, watch fire dancing, and drink the local kava. - Swim on white sandy beaches with waters that fizz like champagne. - Dive and snorkel the world's most accessible shipwreck, larger than the Titanic. - See the water musicians of Gaua. - Discover the history and culture, including carvings, art and World War II relics. Far Flung Places Guide Books provide up-to-date listings on travel, accommodation, attractions and food. Accompanied by a selection of stories, which give more background and details of the destination, including: * Experience the John Frum Celebration Day * Surfing down a Volcano * Living by solar power and bartering in remote village * The incredible water music on Gaua * Detailed guides to climbing volcanoes in Tanna, Gaua, Ambrym and Ambae and much more... "All the places you are likely to visit are there, and the updated inside information is invaluable, for an unbeatable price". Caravanistan (The Silk Road Travel Guide) Book Review

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Customer Reviews

Vanuatu by Far Flung Places is a book by Simon Proudman is an excellent, comprehensive travel guide to this beautiful group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Mr Proudman has really done his research, and it shows - the amount of detail in each chapter is astounding, and will help anyone who wants to explore the nation. He has obviously travelled extensively throughout the country, providing information not only on the main attractions but also out of the way places which stays true to the author's promise of "Far Flung Places". One thing that I noticed and really appreciated about this guide is that the information doesn't filter out as the destination gets more remote - the author has really strived to be as complete and comprehensive as possible. This guide is great even for armchair travellers, as it has lots of coverage of cultural aspects of travelling in Vanuatu, and really gives a valuable insight to this nation whose culture is rarely explored or properly understood by outsiders. The last section of the book is a collection of stories from Simon's travels around the archipelago, including surfing on the tops of active volcanoes, dancing to American pop tunes in small villages and an interview with local artisans. Overall, the balance of essential practical information and interesting "stories from the road" makes this book an excellent guide for both the traveller and the armchair traveller. Highly recommended.

I lived and worked in Vanuatu for five years. While based in Port Vila, I travelled extensively from the Torres in the north down to Aneityum in the south, all in all visiting 32 different islands in the archipelago. From this perspective, I find Simon Proudman's Far Flung Guide to Vanuatu incredibly useful. Particularly the information on the outer islands and locally-owned tourist ventures - this is gold! Believe me, it can be so hard to come by. I've landed on remote islands in Vanuatu with nowhere to stay and no idea of where to go, simply because there was no tourism information available. This meant I had to rely on locals at the airport to direct me to a bungalow and trust to the gods that everything would work out. Fortunately NiVanuatu are incredibly hospitable and I've always had wonderful experiences. Even so, I'd have been much more confident if I'd been travelling with this Far Flung Places guide in my hand! If you're planning a trip to Vanuatu, this is essential reading. If you haven't been to Vanuatu or have never heard of Vanuatu, this will make you

want to go.

A worthy, and even better, follow-up to his guide to Turkmenistan. The opening section tells the prospective traveller all they need to know, dealing with the main, but also the less-visited islands, with detailed accommodation listings, maps and thorough and lively descriptions of the many attractions. There are handy day-trip itineraries, as well as suggestions for longer visits. But it is not only the comprehensive and detailed travel information which distinguishes this book from other guides. The intrepid Proudman regales us with jaw-dropping tales of how he climbs various volcanoes - surfing down one of them, samples the local brew, is initiated into the mysteries of the Cargo cults and eats plenty of lobster - well, someone has to do it. He has lived and worked in Vanuatu and it shows: throughout he reveals his deep affection and respect for the people and their culture, discussing topics which range from why Maggi noodles are a delicacy on some islands to why Prince Philip is a god. He also witnesses one of dodgiest football matches ever. Proudman is an excellent writer, with a dry wit and a keen eye for the quirky and the different. There are some great photographs too.

Absolutely exhaustive guide to this fascinating place, great detail, anecdotes, and highly researched practical info too make this the perfect book to have on hand. This is how all guidebooks should be really with relevant and pertinent info and factoids included alongside hotel and restaurant information. Also Simon Proudman's book doesn't treat the reader like an idiot nor pander to any of the different types of traveller out there over any other, showing balance and an appreciation that there are many different ways to experience the same place. This sits well alongside the same author's terrific guide to Turkmenistan. Beyond highly recommended; this is essential!

I'm currently living in Vanuatu, so was very interested to see how Simon portrayed the country. I was really impressed with his depth of knowledge, understanding of the cultural aspects, and coverage of the diversity of the islands. This is an enjoyable, easy read, with comprehensive, current information for anyone looking to visit Vanuatu. A very useful handbook, which I thoroughly recommend.

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