

NEW ZEALAND
GEOGRAPHIC ISLAND ESCAPE
E X P E D I T I O N S
Small Ship Adventure Co.

Specialising in Small Ship Cruising Worldwide

1300 650 481 email: cruises@smallshipadventure.com
www.smallshipadventure.com

**VANUATU - SECRETS OF BALI HAI
6 NIGHT LUXURY ADVENTURE CRUISE**

Espiritu Santo and its nearby islands have Vanuatu's tallest mountains, the South Pacific's most delicious beef, the world's most beautiful beach and arguably some of Vanuatu's most primitive villages. We will show you these amazing islands of northern Vanuatu on this comprehensive 6 night luxury adventure cruise onboard the 'Island Passage'. You will visit villages that rarely see cruise ships or western civilisation and take home memorable experiences of your cruise and of the wonderful Ni-Vanuatu people. Our cruises are all inclusive with luxury accommodation, all onboard chef prepared meals, juices, water, espresso coffee, tea, shore excursions, snorkelling equipment, kayaks and small boat explorations, an onboard leader, fishing equipment and guides.

A full bar service is provided.

DAILY ITINERARY:

Day 1 (Sunday)

On arrival at Espiritu Santo Airport, you will be met and transferred by Heritage Tours to downtown Luganville where a ferry is waiting to take you to Aore Island Resort. You will be greeted with a welcome drink and beach towels will be provided for the day. We suggest you pack a day bag with your swimming costumes and anything else you may need for the day. The resort has an all day dining menu and bar which you are welcome to use. You will have until 4pm to relax and use the resort facilities before you are met by a crew member who will transfer you by tender to the 'Island Passage' which will be anchored, less than 100 metres away. If you are staying in Santo prior to the cruise departure, you will need to ensure that you are at the BP wharf by 4pm to meet your transfer. Boarding is from 4.30pm for a sailing at 5pm. As the ship heads around Million Dollar Point, named for the vast amount of American war machinery under the waves, the coast of Santo beckons. We anchor off Aese Island for a sundown dinner. Welcome to our Paradise.

Day 2 (Monday)

This morning there is the opportunity to snorkel over a fabulous coral reef that's only metres from the ship. It's an unforgettable experience – we will take you up current in the tender, so that you can drift over gardens of coral inhabited by a myriad of tropical fishes. On the same day you'll venture up the Riri River in a dugout canoe to discover the miraculous Blue Holes – deep, clear freshwater springs that bubble up into the river. You have never seen the colour blue quite like this. A refreshing swim is almost compulsory! The rest of your day can include as much activity as you wish, sightseeing from the tenders, exploring the shoreline, perhaps a trip with one of our fishing guides. Or simply relaxing in a steamer chair as you adjust to 'island time' and get pampered 'Island Passage' style. Tonight will be spent at anchor just off the pristine beaches of Mavea Island.

Day 3 (Tuesday)

Start the day slowly, after enjoying another one of chef's indulgent breakfasts there is still time for a swim or a walk before we up anchor and make our way north through more beautiful islands, arriving in Hog Harbour in the late afternoon. For those aboard keen to experience the thrill of fishing 'tropical style', this is the first opportunity. Our guides in the fishing tender will shadow the ship up the coast in search of the game fish that the area is known for. On the right day the results can be spectacular with tuna, wahoo and mahi mahi often caught. The views as we cruise north are unforgettable. If the conditions are right and a little bit of luck prevails some of our local friends will deliver a basket of local lobster. The evening sunset brings the day to a splendid close with the Captain's Dinner.

Day 4 (Wednesday)

Today we visit the world famous Champagne Beach - said to be the most beautiful beach in the world - which promises the bluest water, whitest sand and greenest jungle - it's just breathtaking. You can swim, sunbathe, snorkel, kayak and chat to the local pareu sellers. A totally relaxing day. Tonight we cross the straits to explore Maewo and Pentecost.

Day 5 (Thursday)

We're welcomed into the village of Asanvari, which is situated above a beautiful lagoon at the southern end of Maewo. This intriguing settlement has a charismatic leader known simply as 'Chief Nelson'. We'll say no more about the chief, in case it spoils the surprise! In Asanvari you'll get a look at the Ni-Vanuatu way of life. You'll also get to know their sense of humour because smiling and laughing are the major pastimes here. You can watch a custom dance, chat with the locals, learn how to cook lap-lap, walk to the village gardens, visit a beautiful waterfall or snorkel in the protected lagoon. Make sure you check out the Asanvari Yacht Club. When you arrive back on board, it's time for the Captain's Cocktail Party. We remain at anchor in this fabulous bay overnight.

Day 6 (Friday)

After breakfast, the ship gets underway to sail south to Waterfall Village on Pentecost Island. Our local host will introduce you to these wonderful people of South Pentecost. The villagers welcome you into their village as if you were part of it. From the Chief's heartfelt welcome to your traditional Vanuatu kava farewell you will be enthralled. All our guests agree that this is a very special place. Your last dinner aboard is served as we lie at anchor just off the village. Late in the evening we get underway with the trade winds on our quarter, passing between Bossika and Aore Islands as we head back towards Santo.

Note. During the short land-diving season (May and June) we make a special visit each Friday to the rare land-diving spectacle on each of our Secrets of Bali Hai cruises.

Day 7 (Saturday)

A Continental Breakfast is served before you disembark at 9.00 in the morning. You are free to use the facilities at Aore Island Resort before you are transferred to the airport for your onward flight. Transfers to the airport are provided.

PLEASE NOTE THE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER & SEA CONDITIONS.

Area and Information Map

These wonderful South Sea Islands offer guests so much to see and do. This tiny, but beautiful, corner of the world has been lost in time. The islands are home to exotic

cultures with a colourful history that has enriched the lives of the people. Jungles, waterfalls, volcanoes and a stunning ocean make this a South Seas Paradise. The activities outlined in our itinerary (except land diving) are included in the pricing. For the various options available we suggest you budget approximately 6,000 VT for the week (approximately A\$80 / NZ\$100) for optional tours offered by the local villages (payable in Vatu directly to the villagers). The villages will also offer local handicrafts for sale and the local cash Vatu is the only accepted currency and we suggest you take funds to purchase some unique and interesting Ni Vanuatu artefacts.

Weather

Vanuatu is located between 13 and 17 degrees south of the equator. There are two main seasons being the wet and the dry. We operate in the dry season, which runs from April to November, which is well outside the seasonal cyclone season. Daily temperature average is around 28C (82F) however this can drop to 24C (75F) in July and August.