

## Vanuatu Tribal Islands Adventure

### Rah Round Island Canoe Race

September 20 2008

### 3 Islands 11 Day Tropical Island Escape

(Port Vila, Mota Lava, Rah)

Please note: The tour days are selected based on available flight days to the outer islands.

#### **PORT VILA**

##### **Pre-Tour**

Enjoy your first days in Vanuatu at your leisure. Wander the open air markets seeing the local foods and sights while absorbing the friendly Melanesian culture. Swim over a reef teeming with tropical fish on Hideaway Island, visit the beautiful Mele Cascade waterfalls, or try your first local kava drink. You can choose to experience a wide range of activities in Port Vila.

Vanuatu Custom Travel can arrange your hotel transfers and accommodation. We have a detailed list of activities available to do in Port Vila to assist with your planning. We also provide a suggested list of what to bring on your tour to the outer islands.

##### **Day 1 (Friday 12/9) Arrive in Port Vila**

Welcome to Vanuatu. Your hotel transfer will be waiting to show you around town and escort you to your accommodation.

##### **Day 2 (Saturday 13/9) Port Vila**

Enjoy the sights and activities of Port Vila.

##### **Day 3 (Sunday 14/9) Port Vila**

Extend your Port Vila experiences or simply relax into island time.

#### **PORT VILA/SANTO/MOTA LAVA/RAH**

##### **Day 4 (Monday 15/9) Port Vila to Rah**

This morning you will have a 1 hour flight to Santo where you will be met at the airport and introduced to Santo's main town of Luganville to have a look around the markets, shops, etc. before returning to the airport 2 hours later for your flight from Santo to Mota Lava. Our local host will meet you at the Mota Lava airport for your 4WD transfer to the lagoon for your village welcome followed by a 10 minute outrigger canoe ride to the stunning Rah Island. The bungalows have excellent local food and swimming close by. All meals, activities, smiling islanders, coral reefs and stunning sunsets are included on Rah Island.

##### **Day 5 (Tuesday 16/9) Rah Island**

Wake up in one of the most beautiful places in Vanuatu and there is a very good chance you will think you are still dreaming. At your leisure your guide will take you on a tour of Rah Island and show you the cave under the Rock of Rah. See custom shell money, set your own coconut crab traps, hear custom stories & visit local gardens. This whole island paradise is yours to enjoy: the beach, reef, lagoon, forest, and village.

##### **EXTRA ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST (COST NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE)**

Game fishing	from outrigger canoe	\$12.50 AUD pp
Game Reef fishing	from outboard boat	\$125.00 AUD pp

##### **Day 6 (Wednesday 17/9) Rah Island**

Another day in the country voted the happiest on earth by the Happy Planet Index. Today your guide will take you to see a bat cave where you will hear about the strange custom of how locals used to connect their life to a bat's life. See the bat nursery. Learn intricate sand drawings and their meanings, taste foods unique to this region.

##### **Day 7 (Thursday 18/9) Rah and Mota Lava islands**

Today your host will take you to Telvit at the northern end of Mota Lava for a tour of their coconut crab conservation area and show you unique local fishing techniques using mud and spider's webs (yes - it's uniquely amazing). You can taste local foods & learn custom ways. After lunch hike up Sleeping Mountain for a stunning view of Rah Island and Vanua Lava (with volcano) plus hear local stories & see a 'devils' custom dance under a large banyan tree. We have arranged for your tour incredible access to remote tribal culture such as there are very few of left in the world today.

##### **Day 8 (Friday 19/9) Rah Island**

Final preparations for the canoe race and cultural festival tomorrow. Keep soaking up the atmosphere of tropical island life. Snorkel, swim, fish, canoe, bush walk, dive for crayfish or meet more of the friendly islanders. Live you dream of a South Pacific island paradise escape.



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**Day 9 (Saturday 20/9) \*Rah Round Island Canoe Race Event and Festival\***

You will hear the custom dancers approaching and see local ceremonies to honour the day's events. Today is your chance to watch or join in the fun of an authentic local outrigger canoe race around Rah Island. The race takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Teams compete for prizes. The atmosphere is fun and tribal as the people of Rah and Mota Lava celebrate this festival.

**Day 10 (Sunday 21/9) Rah and Mota Lava islands**

After the excitement of the canoe race and festival today is a good day to keep celebrating or relax and hang out with your local friends. There is unlimited snorkelling on reef, canoeing, fishing and bush walking. Join in local community activities such as the Melanesian church service and hear gospel singing that will send shivers down your spine.

The finale tonight to your tropical tribal island escape is a Melanesian feast with local entertainment. You can choose from dinner on the beach or a fun party with the whole village community in their local *Nakamal* (meeting house). This is a fantastic, truly unforgettable community experience to complete an incredible week of discovery and fun.

**RAH/MOTA LAVA/SANTO/PORT VILA**

**Day 11 (Monday 22/9) Rah to Port Vila**

Your host will escort you to outrigger canoes waiting on the lagoon to meet your 4WD transfer to the airport. Just after lunch you will fly from Mota Lava to Santo then on to Port Vila unless you wish to stay and play. Welcome back to 'civilisation'.

**POST TOUR**

We can easily arrange for you to experience other islands in Vanuatu such as Santo, including diving on the *President Coolidge* wreck or simply return to Port Vila for an international flight. If you want to visit Tanna Island and see the world's most accessible active volcano it is just a short one hour flight from Port Vila. Tanna overnight packages are available.

**INFORMATION**

Example Tour Price:

11 Days: \$2,717 per person subject to availability of airfares and accommodation used in this quote at time of publishing. To CONVERT from Australian dollars to another currency visit [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/)

Includes: Return air travel from Brisbane to Port Vila and all domestic flights, accommodation (room only in Port Vila PLUS all meals, festival events and activities on Rah Island), return airport transfers, taxes and fuel surcharges.

Please Note: This kind of tour is custom made and only possible through in depth local knowledge and healthy relationships with remote island communities. There are definitely many unique "wow factors" on this tour which you will experience and will want to tell everyone about. There are not many places left like this in the world. We are proud to offer rare access with professional standards and the close collaboration and support of local communities.

**RESERVATIONS**

To reserve this itinerary or make any changes please contact Lyn Gampe at Your Choice Travel on email [l.gampe@bigpond.com](mailto:l.gampe@bigpond.com) or call on Skype name "milfordboo" or telephone +617 5463 4554. Lyn handles all the bookings for Vanuatu Custom Travel and is happy to help you finalise arrangements for your Vanuatu adventure.

Tankyu tumas & lukim yu. (Thankyou very much & see you soon)

*Simon Humphries*

*Vanuatu Custom Travel*

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