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# Walk New Caledonia Tour 11-day itinerary

Australia's closest South Pacific neighbour, New Caledonia, is a fragment of the ancient Gondwana land that separated from Australia roughly 66 million years ago. Surrounded by a UNESCO World Heritage protected lagoon, New Caledonia invites you to discover its beaches, mountains, landforms and micro-climates where endemic species thrive in one of the richest biodiverse environments in the world.

In 1774 Captain James Cook christened the country "New Caledonia" because the mountainous scenery of the Main Island reminded him of his native Scotland. Almost 80 years later, French Rear Admiral Febvrier Despointes annexed New Caledonia and today it remains as a French Territory with an interesting mix of Kanak and European culture and history. It is a haven for naturalists, photographers, and adventurers with a beautiful laid back island charm.

And when it comes to walking, New Caledonia's paths and trails are hard to beat. While most tourists only ever visit New Caledonia via cruise ship, Exploranges have teamed with a local French Guide to design a unique walking itinerary that covers the scenery and heritage of both the west coast and great south regions. So put on your walking shoes and get ready to explore a region of the world that is still partly unexplored.

#### Included:

- 11 nights accommodation, in hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transportation, daily tours and entrance fees
- Local French host and interpreter.
- Experienced Australian tour guide

#### Not Included:

- Airfares to and from New Caledonia
- Arrival and Departure transfers
- Personal expenditure such as drinks, laundry service and souvenirs
- Personal Travel Insurance

#### Please Note:

Our guide may need to change the itinerary depending on local daily conditions

# Exploranges New Caledonia 11-day Itinerary

Small Group Tour limited to 12 people.

Tour commences at 09:00 am in the lobby of The Ramada Hotel and Suites located to overlook Noumea's most popular beach, Anse Vata. Address: 7 rue Louis Bleriot, BP 8262, Noumea 98807, New Caledonia.

Your Exploranges Guides will be staying in this hotel on the night before the tour and can be contacted on mobile +61417873267 or +61417873277.

## Day One - Fort Téremba

Heading north from Noumea we stop off at the small town La Foa on our way to the historic Fort Téremba. Napoleon III established New Caledonia as a penal colony, and from the 1860s until the end of the transportations in 1897, about 22,000 criminals and political prisoners were sent there. The fort was built in 1871 and originally held convicts brought to the area to build roads. Strengthened after a revolt by local Kanaks in 1878 and then abandoned in 1898 the fort is now a museum that provides an excellent insight into the country's convict history.

Meals included (L)

Hotel - [Hotel de Poe](#)



## Day Two -Domaine de Deva

Deva is one of the oldest archaeological sites in New Caledonia. For 3000 years sea-faring settlers have inhabited the coastal fringe at the base of the mountains of Deva. Today the "Deva Domain" includes more than 25kms of walking tracks that offer breathtaking views of the UNESCO World Heritage lagoon and provide access to protected mangrove, dry woodland forest and grassland zones. In the evening we visit the local Kanak village for a traditional "Bougna" meal of taro, yam, sweet potato, banana, and chicken.

Walking - 11kms, Meals included (B,L,D)

Hotel - [Hotel de Poe](#)



## Day Three - Le Lagon de Nouvelle-Calédonie

UNESCO World Heritage. New Caledonia is surrounded by the world's largest lagoon and second largest great barrier reef. The marine biodiversity here is exceptional with over 9,000 identified rare and endemic marine species. The lagoon includes major nesting sites for turtles and breeding areas for dugongs, humpback whales and many seabirds. Over half of this magnificent turquoise lagoon is listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. We will spend the day exploring the lagoon, searching for turtles and enjoying sunset on the beach.

Walking - 7kms (optional), Meals included (B,L,D)

Hotel - [Hotel de Poe](#)



## Day Four - Parc des Grandes Fougères

Heading back towards Noumea we return to the district of Farino and the "Giant Ferns Park". This 4500 ha tropical forest not only hosts a vast array of ferns but is home to some of New Caledonia's most interesting endemic birds such as the Cagou, Notou and Green Pigeon. The park also offers a wide range of walking tracks to explore.

Walking - 10kms, Meals included (B,L)

Hotel - [Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea](#)



## Day Five - Noumea Heritage

Port-de-France, renamed Noumea in 1866, was a modest port, with construction beginning in 1854. The area served first as a penal colony and later as a centre for the exportation of the nickel and gold that was mined nearby. During World War II, Noumea served as the headquarters of the United States military in the South Pacific and today it thrives as the capital of New Caledonia. Today we explore the cities past by walking Noumea's Heritage Trail and visiting the Kanak and Colonial French Museums.

Walking -5kms, No Meals included

Hotel - [Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea](#)



## Day Six - Parc Provincial de la Dumbéa

In the mountains just north east of Noumea is the picturesque Dumbéa Valley. This is the perfect place to walk along the crystal clear Dumbéa River and to explore the Dumbéa Provincial Park. Opened in January 2013, together with the Upper Dumbéa nature reserve, this park forms part of a network of provincial parks designed to safeguard the natural heritage of southern New Caledonia.

Walking - 12kms, Meals included (L)

Hotel - [Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea](#)



## Day Seven - Noumea Free Day

Lunch in a local Café, relax on the beach or spend more time just exploring Noumea.

Walking options are available on request - No Meals included

Hotel - [Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea](#)



## Day Eight - La réserve naturelle du Cap N'Dua

Today we start out to explore New Caledonia's Great South or "Grand Sud" . Our first destination is the lighthouse in the Cape N'Dua Nature Reserve which offers breathtaking views of the lagoon and open sea. The lighthouse is also an observatory to follow and study humpback whales that come to reproduce in the region between July and October each year. After lunch we walk to Port Boisé along the trail built by convicts who worked in the coastal forests cutting wood for the early French colony.

Walking - 12kms, Meals included (L)

Hotel - [Kanua Tera Ec lodge](#)



## Day Nine - La Grand Randonnée

Long-distance hiking trails called Sentiers de Grande Randonnée (GR) criss-cross France in a network that covers 60,000 kilometres. In New Caledonia this iconic walking trail covers 120kms from Prony, through the Grand Sud, to Dumbea. Starting from the Plain of Lakes we will walk along the first section of the GR back to the old convict settlement of Prony.

Walking - 15kms, Meals included (B,L)

Hotel - [Kanua Tera Ec lodge](#)



## Day Ten - Chutes de la Madeleine

In the heart of the Grand Sud is the Madeleine Nature Reserve. Here water draining from the Plain of Lakes cascades over the Madeleine waterfall and unique species of primitive conifers grow along the bank of The Lakes River. The reserve covers 400 hectares, and shelters 168 plant species of which 95% are endemic to New Caledonia. In the morning we will walk the reserve's informative botanical path and in the afternoon we continue on the GR trail to get views of the lower river valley and lakes.

Walking - 12kms, Meals included (B,L)

Hotel - [Kanua Tera Ec lodge](#)



## Day Eleven - Le Parc Provincial De La Riviere Bleue

Today we head back towards Noumea via the Blue River Provincial Park. The Park covers the basins of the Blue and White Rivers which drain into the man made Yaté Lake. The highlights of this huge park include many walking trails, the drowned forest, a 1,000-year-old great Kaori tree and the largest single population of the endangered Cagou birds in New Caledonia.

Walking - 10kms, Meals included (B,L)

Our tour includes a final night in Noumea before departing flights the following day.

Hotel - [Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea](#)



### Please Note:

It is very difficult to independently tour in New Caledonia if you do not speak French. To get the most out of your holiday Exploranges have teamed with local French Guide Sebastien Davignon. Sebastien started his career in tourism in France before moving to live in New Caledonia almost 20 years ago. He now runs a successful tour company which specialises in supporting small group walking and cycling tours. Sebastien speaks fluent French and English and will act as our local host and interpreter while we visit the country areas outside of Noumea.