

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia



Trip Highlights

- Seeing amazing diversity of flora and fauna
- Incredible birdlife at Mount Koghi
- Seeing the endemic kagu in the wild
- Following botanical paths to the pretty Madeleine Waterfall
- Walking through the spectacular array of ferns at the Great Fern Park
- Stunning views from the Dogny Plateau
- Learning about the Kanak culture
- Experiencing the dry forest at Guaro Deva
- Staying in well appointed accommodation throughout
- Enjoying some delicious meals in some of Noumea's best restaurants
- Optional Extension to the stunning Isle of Pines
- Trip escorted by Dr Peter Weston



Trip Duration	13 days	Trip Code: FFN
Activities	Adventure Touring, Day Walks	
Summary	12 nights hotels	

Welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our Foundation & Friends New Caledonia trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. Whether you like your adventures to include trekking, touring, cycling, mountaineering, kayaking or cruising World Expeditions can make it happen for you. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!!

Why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to a remote destination, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail and seamless operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable trip. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics. Our guides and vehicles are the best available and to ensure the smooth operation of all trips, our partners in New Caledonia continually work with us to improve our itineraries to ensure we are taking the 'paths less travelled'. Our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience.

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



trip dates

2017 04 Nov - 16 Nov

trip cost

Joining Sydney: \$8990

All prices are per person

options & supplements

Single Supplement: \$2470

World Expeditions does not require single travellers to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Your international flights from Sydney are included in the tour package price. Please note flights are subject to change until final ticketing has taken place.

The Trip

Join Dr Peter Weston to sample the spectacular flora and fascinating culture of an extraordinary tropical near neighbour, New Caledonia. Although only 1000 km off the Queensland coast, New Caledonia has been isolated from all other landmasses for at least 45 million years, and possibly as long as 80 million years. This long period of isolation and the complex geology of the island have forged the evolution of a highly diverse flora and fauna, characterised by high levels of endemism and amazing botanical novelty, including the closest living relative of the rest of the flowering plants, *Amborella trichopoda*, and the only entirely parasitic conifer, the ghost-like *Parasitaxus ustus*. The combination of indigenous Kanak and colonial French cultures makes New Caledonia a highly desirable destination for all tourists. We hope you can join us.

About your Leader

Peter Weston

Your tour will be accompanied by Dr Peter Weston, formerly Senior Principal Research Scientist and now an Honorary Research Associate with the National Herbarium of NSW. Peter's special interests are the families Proteaceae and Orchidaceae, both of which are diverse in New Caledonia, and the Amborellaceae, a family with only one species, an evolutionary celebrity, *Amborella trichopoda*. His botanical expertise and enthusiasm will only serve to enhance this unique adventure. This will be Peter's fourth trip to New Caledonia but his first there with the Foundation & Friends.

At a Glance

DAY 1	SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER - DEPART SYDNEY/ARRIVE NOUMEA
DAY 2	SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER - DAY TRIP TO MOUNT KOGHI
DAY 3	MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER - NOUMÉA TO PROTECTED BLUE RIVER NATIONAL PARK
DAY 4	TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER - VISIT MADELEINE WATERFALL AND PLAIN OF LAKES
DAY 5	WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER - TO THE NORTH AND SARRAMEA
DAY 6	THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER - THE GREAT FERN PARK
DAY 7	FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER - WALK TO THE DOGNY PLATEAU
DAY 8	SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER - TO POINDIMIÉ VIA BOURAIL AND HOUAILOU
DAY 9	SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER - VISIT KANAK VILLAGE
DAY 10	MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER - WALK IN LES ROCHES DE LA OUAÏÈM
DAY 11	TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER - HIENGHÈNE TO BOURAIL VIA KONÉ
DAY 12	WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER - VISIT GUARO DEVA AREA.
DAY 13	THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER - TRIP CONCLUDES. FLY NOUMEA TO SYDNEY OR JOIN OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO THE ISLE OF PINES.

What's included

- Return economy flights with Air Calin from Sydney/Noumea, including taxes
- 12 breakfasts (mix of continental or american, depending on hotel)
- 8 picnic lunches with fresh and local products
- 1 lunch at the Mont Koghis restaurant
- 1 BBQ lunch on a local farm
- 1 traditional lunch in a Kanak village
- 10 dinners
- 12 nights accommodation (twin share)
- English speaking guide
- Afternoon city tour of Noumea (2 hours/Day 1)
- Farm visit in Bourail

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



- Kanak village visit in Poindimie
- All entrances fees as outlined in the program
- Private air-conditioned mini-bus (22 seater) with driver from Day 1-13
- Trip escorted by Dr Peter Weston, Foundation & Friends

What's not Included

- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- 1 x lunch and 2 x dinners
- Any optional tours, entrance fees, and permits during free time
- Drinks of any kind
- Expenditure of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, alcohol etc
- Tips and gratuities

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1 Saturday 4 November - Depart Sydney/Arrive Noumea

This morning you will depart Sydney on Air Calin at around 0845 and arrive into Noumea at around 1140. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel to rest and freshen up. In the afternoon you will enjoy a 2 hour city tour to orient yourselves with this diverse city. Noumea is the capital of the French Territory of New Caledonia and is situated on the island of Grand Terre. The port city has a multi ethnic population and a colourful European architecture which reflects its colonial history. Tonight you will enjoy dinner at L'Astrolabe Restuarant with views overlooking the bay.

Overnight Hotel Le Lagon, Noumea

Meals: D

DAY 2 Sunday 5 November - Day trip to Mount Koghi

Today we head just north of Noumea to Mount Koghi. Mont Koghi (1061m) is birdwatcher's and botanist's paradise, with walking trails and a spectacular view of Nouméa and panoramic views across the primal forest of New Caledonia and picturesque World Heritage lagoon. We will undertake a walk in the rainforest, and may split into 2 groups depending on interests and ability of group members.

We will enjoy lunch at Auberge du Mont Koghi.

In the afternoon we return to Noumea where the evening is at leisure.

Overnight Hotel Le Lagon, Noumea

Meals: B,L

DAY 3 Monday 6 November - Nouméa to Protected Blue River National Park

Today we head north east to Parc Provincial de la Riviere Bleue (Protected Blue River Park). Protected Blue River Park is a reserve for many bird species, including the kagu - a crested, long-legged, and bluish-grey bird endemic to the dense mountain forests of New Caledonia. The landscape is a mixture of the far south's maquis (heathland) vegetation and dense rainforest, and

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



Fast Facts

Countries Visited:

New Caledonia

Visas:

Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert local leader and Foundation & Friends Escort

Brochure Reference:

Australia, New Zealand, Pacific

Responsible Travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence. World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook. This detailed guide to responsible and sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website www.worldexpeditions.com

Trip grading

Although there is no commitment to extended physical activity on this journey we nonetheless want to keep the 'accent on the active'. We therefore advise that any physical training you complete before undertaking the trip will be to good effect and enhance your travel experience. There are a variety of walks included in the program so the fitter you are the more you will be able to take part in each day's adventures.

includes gigantic kaori trees, Grevillea, Aillastrum (the New Caledonian eucalypt) and many other indigenous plants and animals. We will enjoy a picnic lunch and in the late afternoon head to Yaté for dinner and overnight.

Overnight Hotel Kanua.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Tuesday 7 November - Visit Madeleine Waterfall and Plain of Lakes

This morning we head to the Plain of Lakes (Plaine des Lacs) and visit the pretty Madeleine Waterfalls (Chutes de la Madeleine). Covering a distance of some two kilometres, the botanical path leads you on an exploration of the diverse New Caledonian maquis shrubland, which is richly represented in this reserve and which here includes three endemic genera of conifers. We'll have a picnic in the Park, as well as a refreshing swim for those who are keen. Time permitting, on our return to Noumea we will visit Mount Dore (Mont Dore), with its freshwater springs and forests. We return to Noumea for overnight.

Overnight Le Lagon, Noumea.

Meals: B,L

DAY 5 Wednesday 8 November - To the North and Sarramea

Today we head north to Sarramea, stopping at Ouano (La Foa) for a walk on the mangrove trails with a picnic lunch. Sarramea is situated at the base of the Grand Terre's central mountain range, 120 km north of Nouméa.

Dinner and overnight in Sarramea.

Overnight Hotel Evasion.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Thursday 9 November - The Great Fern Park

We have a full day today to visit the Great Fern Park (Parc des Grandes Fougères). The arborescent tree ferns appeared around 350 million years ago and are a spectacular feature of the park. There are many other species of plants and wildlife in the Park and much of it is endemic. We'll explore the rainforest trails and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Dinner at overnight at Hotel Evasion, Sarramea.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Friday 10 November - Walk to the Dogny Plateau

Today we will undertake a walk up towards the Dogny Plateau (Plateau de Dogny). Although the walk up to the plateau is long and steep, it is not a loop so you can choose to stop and head back down to the hotel whenever you have had enough climbing. However, those who make it to the top will be rewarded with breathtaking views of the coastal plain and plateau. En-route you will encounter *Amborella trichopoda*, *Joinvillea* species, *Kermadecia*, *Montrouzieria*, *Angiopteris*, *Austrotaxus*, *Hibbertia*, and many more plant species. For those who wish to do a gentler walk, options will be made available.

Dinner and overnight Hotel Evasion, Sarramea.

Meals: B,L,D

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



Adventure Travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

Important Note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 8 Saturday 11 November - To Poindimié via Bourail and Houailou

Today we travel to Poindimié via Bourail and Houailou which is known for its lychee farms. We will enjoy a BBQ lunch at a local farm and go on a guided tour of the property. We arrive into Poindimié in the afternoon. The diving spots off the coast at Poindimié are said to be the most beautiful and the richest in Grande Terre.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Tieti, Poindimié

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 Sunday 12 November - Visit Kanak Village

Today we will visit a Kanak Village and enjoy a traditional lunch. The kanak people are the indigenous people of New Caledonia and are its largest ethnic group. They have inhabited the archipelago for about 6,000 years, living in autonomous tribal communities in the narrow valleys between the mountains. In the afternoon, we will drive to Hienghène, one of the most biodiverse spots in New Caledonia with its coral forests, black-stone cliffs in the middle of the lagoon, impressive waterfalls and lush vegetation.

Dinner and overnight in Hienghène at Hotel Koulnoue.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 10 Monday 13 November - Walk in Les Roches de la Ouaièm

Today we walk on the track towards Les roches de la Ouaième. Starting a few km NW of Hienghène, this walk is not a loop, so people can go as far as they feel comfortable, then turn around and return. It is botanically rich and the end point gives panoramic views (weather permitting) of Mt Panie, the highest mountain in New Caledonia.

Dinner and overnight in Hienghène at Hotel Koulnoue.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 11 Tuesday 14 November - Hienghène to Bourail via Koné

Today we travel to Bourail via Koné. En-route we will enjoy a rainforest walk in Sentier botanique du Pont with a picnic lunch at the Tango Pass (Col de Tango). Tango Pass offers a unique panorama, from the lagoon and the Koné and Pouembout plain, to the peaks of the central mountain chain.

Dinner and overnight in Bourail at Poe Beach Hotel

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 12 Wednesday 15 November - Visit Guaro Deva area.

Today we will explore the botanic trail in the dry forest at Guaro Deva area before returning to Noumea in the afternoon.

You will have time to freshen up before joining to celebrate our final night of the tour at Le Petite Cafe, one of Noumea's best restaurants.

Overnight Le Lagon, Noumea.

Meals: B,L,D

DAY 13 Thursday 16 November - Trip concludes. Fly Noumea to Sydney or join Optional Extension to the Isle of Pines.

Trip concludes, Noumea. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Fly Nouméa to Sydney or Nouméa to Isle of Pines (Optional Extension).

Your flight to Sydney will depart at around 0815 and arrive into Sydney at around 1130.

Meals: B

This Itinerary Is Subject To Change With Any Change In Community Regulations As Well As Governmental Changes And Natural Circumstances Beyond Our Control.

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



Country Information

New Caledonia is a French territory comprising dozens of islands in the South Pacific. The capital, Nouméa, is on the largest island of the territory (Grand Terre) and is mountainous and has a pleasant, maritime tropical climate. New Caledonia includes the Grand Terre as well as the Loyalty Islands; the Bélep Islands; and the Île des Pins.

The Grande Terre is by far the largest of the group and contains about nine-tenths of the population. It is surrounded by a coral reef that extends from Huon Island in the north to the Île des Pins in the south. Except for the central part of the west coast, which is bordered only by a fringing reef, it is a true barrier reef enclosing a large lagoon. New Caledonia's lagoons, with their diverse reefs and associated ecosystems, were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008. Physical isolation, contrasting soils, and a wide range of elevations, have produced a rich indigenous flora.

Except for several types of bat, which were present before the arrival of Europeans, mammals are absent from the native fauna. There are no frogs and no venomous land reptiles, although scorpions and centipedes can be found. The kagu, a flightless bird, is the most unusual of some 100 endemic bird species and is now rare. There is a wide range of marine life present in the lagoon.

New Caledonia has a population of around 265,000 and is made up of about 45% Melanesian (Kanak) and 35% European (most of them French) with Polynesians in the outlying islands. The European population is mainly found in New Caledonia. French is the official language however several Melanesian and Polynesian dialects are also spoken. Approximately 60% of the population is Roman Catholic and 30% is Protestant.

Local agricultural products meet only part of New Caledonia's needs for meat, vegetables, and fruit although yams are a staple crop. Cattle raising is important to the economy. New Caledonia's economy depends heavily on services, the mining of nickel, and subsidies from France.

Climate

The climate of New Caledonia is tropical with year-round precipitation. Rainstorms are especially common on the east coast, where at higher elevations more than 120 inches (3000 mm) of rain may fall annually. On the west coast the precipitation is regularly less than 40 inches (1000 mm). The driest months are September through November however rainfall can be experienced at any time of the year, so please be prepared with a lightweight wet weather jacket or poncho. Average monthly temperature throughout the year is around 24°C. The temperature hovers between 20-22°C during the cooler months (July/August) and 27-28°C during the hotter months (December/January/February). The temperatures in November sit somewhere in the middle. Due to New Caledonia's geographical location in the southern hemisphere, the country enjoys constant cooling south-easterly and easterly breezes. These trade winds keep the climate in New Caledonia pleasantly balmy. Water temperatures are pleasant all year round, varying between 22 and 28.5°C.

A Typical Day

As this is a hotel based journey we will be having breakfasts in the hotel restaurants. Starting time for each day varies depending on the program for the day. It is hot in Noumea at this time of year so we may start early some days to enjoy our activities in the cooler part of the day. When in the Parks and Reserves you will generally have a couple of hike options available to the group - a more strenuous option and a gentler option for those not wishing to undertake a bigger walk. We then walk anywhere between 1 - 5 hours, depending on the trail, the park and the destination. We can vary the duration of the hike to accommodate the group's fitness levels and the weather conditions. A few self guided walking options may be available in some areas on well marked trails or boardwalks. As the scenery is outstanding, we will take our time

Flora and Culture of New Caledonia

Sample the spectacular flora, fauna and culture of our tropical neighbour, New Caledonia



to enjoy it. Many picnic lunches are included on the trip, particularly when we are in the National Parks. Your tour leader knows the locations best and apart from hiking the indicated trail, will also decide what to do in addition to the walks each day - depending on the group's wishes, weather conditions and location.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

Accommodation on the Trip

Accommodation on this Foundation & Friends New Caledonia trip has been chosen to best suit each destination we visit. Often in some areas we visit, there is only one hotel available. In Noumea we stay at the Hotel Le Lagon, one of the best hotels in New Caledonia. All accommodation is clean and comfortable with twin share facilities and has been selected because of its location to the sites and places of interest throughout the itinerary.

What you Carry

In your daypack you will need to carry a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze, etc.

Equipment Required

A comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information supplied on booking.

Social Networking

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorldExpeditions>

How to Book

Please fill out the booking form and return with a \$650 deposit (\$500 World Expeditions deposit + \$150 international flight deposit) to Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens to reserve your place on the tour. An additional \$500 deposit will be required to reserve your place on Iles du Pins Extension. Please note that all reservations are subject to availability at the time of booking. The deposit is payable by cash, credit card or cheque (made payable to World Expeditions) and is non-refundable. Please direct your completed booking form and send to the following address:

Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens
Cottage 6
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney NSW 2000
Ph: 9231 8182
Fax: 9241 3064