

Day 102 Page 1
March 22, 2023
Lifou, New Caledonia

We were scheduled to dock in Vanuatu, but because of the bad weather we locked at Lifou Island, New Caledonia.



Tender returning from the dock

Having breakfast on the fantail On the cliff I could see The Chapel Notre-Dame de Lourdes



Lifou Island

Island in New Caledonia

4.5 ★★★★★ 51 Google reviews ⓘ

Lifou Island, historically spelt Lifu or Lefu in English, and known as Drehu in the local language, is the largest, most populous and most important island of the Loyalty Islands, in the archipelago of New Caledonia, an overseas territory of France in the Pacific Ocean.



St Francois-Zavier Church

Lifou is a tribal island, populated by the proud Kanak indigenous people who are highly religious. For this reason we were ask to please wear suitable clothes if you visit the markets and the church. Swimming costumes (Bikinis, Shorts, Swisuits) are permitted at the beah, but please avoid wearing thongs-bikinis and top-less sunbathing. Lifou rises no higher than 60 meters above sea level. The coralline limestone creates a fertile soil but also precludes the existence of surface streams, so fresh water can be found only in caves and wells. The inhabitants grow taro, yams and bananas and produce copra for export. The provincial capital of the Loyalty Island's We, is on Lifou's east coast; Chepenehe (Xe-penehe) on Sandal Bay on the west cost, is the chief town.

Day 102 Page 2
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Tonights Theatre Show/Concert: OZ BOYS
A blend of the world's best-known originals, covers and remakes of Motown with current chart hits and jukebox classic in one high energy spectacle.

THE VANILLA ISLAND



An orchid that's one in 25,000

An orchid? Yes – before it becomes a flavor or even a pod, vanilla starts out as a flower. And through there are almost 25,000 species of orchid in the world, only around a hundred of them are “vanillas”. And of this hundred or so species, only three are cultivated for their aromatic pods in the world: *Vanilla pompona*, *Vanilla tahitensis* (a hybrid variety) and *Vanilla planifolia*, which is found in New Caledonia. The first plantations in Lifou date back to 1993. Today, over 120 producers (almost 50% of all of the producers in New Caledonia) and planters provide 100% natural vanilla. Within just a few years, vanilla has become Lifou's “brown gold”!

From the House of Vanilla to the Vanilla Festival!

A “House of Vanilla” has also recently been built at the Hnathalo tribe's site, as well as a drying unit. Given that vanilla is a highly environmentally sensitive product, the house was built away from main roads to avoid the vanilla's absorbing any odors harmful to its development. Open to the public, the House of Vanilla allows visitors to discover all of the secrets of its production and history. You can also buy pods and other derived products. Given Lifou's ambition to see the island become a “vanilla forest,” in the words of the House of Vanilla's first manager, it is only natural that a Vanilla Festival has recently been set up. It is held in mid-October each year in the Mu tribe area in south-east Lifou, in the Lösssi district.

