

*SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT*

*MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & AVIATION*

**Pacific Radiocommunication Workshop 2018 (PRW-18)” to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 4 – 6 September 2018​.**

**Information for Participants**

Practical Information for Participants

# INTRODUCTION

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The Government of Solomon Islands and the Ministry of Communication and Aviation, the Telecommunications’ Commission of Solomon Islands with stakeholders are organizing the Pacific Radio-communication workshop on Spectrum management from 4th to 6th September 2018 in Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands. This document provides some practical information on frequently asked questions about the events, including logistical details.

# Venue

The events will take place at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara, Guadalcanal Province.

The contact details of the venue are as follows:

Venue: Heritage Park Hotel,

Address: Mendana Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands,

Email: info@heritageparkhotel.com.sb

Phone: +677 24007

Fax: +677 21010

# TRANSPORTATION

# From Henderson International Airport to the hotel

TBA

1. **Hotels**

The following hotels are available within Honiara town.

1. Iron Bottom sound Hotel
2. Coral Sea Resort Hotel
3. Heritage Park Hotel
4. Mendana Kitano Hotel
5. King Solomon Hotel
6. Honiara Hotel
7. Pacific Casino Hotel

Heritage Park hotel can be located in the attached map below. Hotels 1,2,4 and 5 are working distance to the Heritage Park Hotel ( approximately 5 -6 minutes)



Venue

Heritage park hotel

# Passport and Visa

Citizens of other countries should possess a valid passport to enter Solomon Islands. The passport should be valid for **at least 6 months** after arrival date in Solomon Islands.

Citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and stay in Solomon Islands. The visa must be requested and obtained from the Solomon Islands Embassy/consulate in your country, or if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure.

In order to get the invitation letter for the VISA, please forward the registration confirmation email and send the copy of your passport to Mr. Alwyn Danitofea (Alwyn Danitofea ADanitofea@mca.gov.sb)

 with a copy to **Mr. Wilson Leguvaka** (Wilson Leguvaka wilson.leguvaka@tcsi.org.sb

 before **15th of August 2018 the latest (to finalise with ITU)**

**For further information regarding obtaining visa you can access it through the website:- (http://commerce.gov.sb/departments-units/immigration/contacts/41-immigration-visa-application.html)**

# About Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands archipelago is made up of nearly 1,000 tropical islands scattered across the southwestern Pacific, just to the east of Papua New Guinea. The remote location has kept the islands an unspoilt gem of a travel destination, with a slowly developing tourist industry.

The main islands to visit are Guadalcanal, Malaita, Choiseul, New Georgia, San Cristobal and Santa Isabel. The capital of Honiara, on Guadalcanal, is also well worth some time, with a museum, botanical gardens and its very own Chinatown. Villages and scenic drives are within easy reach of the capital, as are the popular World War II battlefield tours and carving villages on the islands of Rennell and Bellona.

Many Pacific islands are well geared to tourism today, but Solomon Islands bucks the trend, with a few shambolic guesthouses to stay in and a thoroughly laid-back approach to life. No palatial resorts here. The locals pride themselves in preserving the natural beauty of the islands.

Wander the jungle-strewn landscapes and take pleasure in stumbling across leaf-hut villages. Indeed, the traditional culture of the islanders endures to this day. Some 70 languages are spoken among the half a million largely Melanesian inhabitants, the majority of whom are Christian, though they also cling to their ancient customs. Many still wear traditional indigenous clothing, while the pan flute can be heard everywhere.

On the natural side, there are volcanic islands to explore, vast lagoons, spell-binging rainforests and countless tropical islands. Be sure to tour the mangrove forests, but beware of crocodiles. More active visitors can go surfing and kayaking, while the well-kept coral reefs offer ample opportunity for snorkelling. Guided tours into the yawning chasm of an extinct volcano is another unmissable, as are dives down to shipwrecks from World War II.

The Solomon Islands may not be that well known compared to other regional destinations, but this makes them all the more enticing for the adventurous traveller.

**Key facts**

Area: 28,896 sq km (11,157 sq miles).

Population: 594,934 (UN estimate 2016).

Population density: 21.5 per sq km.

Capital: Honiara.

Government: Constitutional monarchy.

Head of state: HM Queen Elizabeth II since 1952, represented locally by Governor-General Sir Frank Kabui since 2009.

Head of government: Prime Minister Rick Hou since 2017.

**People**

Most of the people live in small rural villages. They engage mainly in subsistence gardening, pig raising, and fishing but are also involved in the cash economy.

**Solomon Islands: Urban-rural**

The vast majority of the population is ethnically [Melanesian](https://www.britannica.com/place/Melanesia). [Polynesians](https://www.britannica.com/place/Polynesia), who form a small minority, live mainly on outlying atolls, principally [Ontong Java Atoll](https://www.britannica.com/place/Ontong-Java-Atoll), Bellona, [Rennell Island](https://www.britannica.com/place/Rennell-Island), the Reef Islands, the Stewart Islands (Sikaiana), Tikopia, and Anuta. There are also small numbers of Chinese and Europeans and of Gilbertese from [Micronesia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Micronesia-republic-Pacific-Ocean) who were resettled on Ghizo and Vaghena islands between 1955 and 1971 by British administrators seeking to [alleviate](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/alleviate) overpopulation in the [Gilbert Islands](https://www.britannica.com/place/Gilbert-Islands) (now [Kiribati](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kiribati)).

**Solomon Islands: Ethnic composition**

Almost all Solomon Islanders are Christian; most are Protestant (mainly Church of Melanesia [Anglican]), with smaller numbers of Roman Catholics and members of other denominations. A small minority practices traditional beliefs. More than 60 languages and [dialects](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dialects) are spoken. [English](https://www.britannica.com/topic/English-language) is the official [language](https://www.britannica.com/topic/language), but Pijin, an English-based [Melanesian pidgin](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Melanesian-pidgins), is the language that is most widely used and understood.

**Economy**

Civil unrest in the late 1990s and early 21st century, including a coup in 2000, led to the near collapse of the country’s economy. Damage to [infrastructure](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/infrastructure) on Guadalcanal resulted, disrupting transportation, commerce, and agriculture, and many enterprises were forced out of business. The 2007 earthquakes and tsunami caused further economic setbacks.

In the early 21st century the service sector employed the majority of the active workforce and contributed almost half of the country’s [gross domestic product](https://www.britannica.com/topic/gross-domestic-product). [Tourism](https://www.britannica.com/topic/tourism) has been developed but is not a major source of income. Solomon Islands’ main resources, [fish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/fish) and timber, have been exploited excessively, which has resulted in their depletion. Its other export products are derived from [plantation](https://www.britannica.com/topic/plantation-agriculture) crops: palm oil, [copra](https://www.britannica.com/topic/copra), and [cacao](https://www.britannica.com/plant/cacao) (the source of cocoa). [China](https://www.britannica.com/place/China) and [Australia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Australia) are the major recipients. The chief imports are machinery, fuels, manufactured goods, and food, and Australia, [Singapore](https://www.britannica.com/place/Singapore), and China are the main suppliers.

The islands have significant reserves of [bauxite](https://www.britannica.com/science/bauxite) (on [Rennell Island](https://www.britannica.com/place/Rennell-Island)) and phosphates (on Bellona), and some gold has been extracted on Guadalcanal. [Manufacturing](https://www.britannica.com/technology/manufacturing) primarily involves the processing of coconut and other vegetable oils and of [cocoa](https://www.britannica.com/topic/cocoa-food). Traditional handicrafts, including woodwork, shell inlay, mats, baskets, and shell [jewelry](https://www.britannica.com/art/jewelry), are made both for the tourist market and for export. The Solomon Islands dollar is the official [currency](https://www.britannica.com/topic/currency); [indigenous](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/indigenous) [currencies](https://www.britannica.com/topic/currency) such as shell money (from Malaita) and red-feather money (from Santa Cruz) are also made for use in customary transactions.

The principal airport is Honiara International Airport, although there are several airfields throughout the islands that may also serve as international points of entry. The [government](https://www.britannica.com/topic/government)-owned Solomon Airlines provides domestic and regional air service. Ports handling overseas cargoes include [Honiara](https://www.britannica.com/place/Honiara), [Tulagi](https://www.britannica.com/place/Tulagi) (the former capital), and Gizo Harbour. Aola Bay, Viru Harbour, and Graciosa Bay are used mainly for log exports. Interisland shipping is operated both privately and by the government.

**Government and society**

Solomon Islands is a [constitutional monarchy](https://www.britannica.com/topic/constitutional-monarchy), with the British monarch, represented by a governor-general, serving as the formal head of state. Still, the country, a member of the [Commonwealth](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Commonwealth-association-of-states), is independent, and the governor-general is appointed on the advice of the unicameral National Parliament. The governor-general, who serves a term of up to five years, must be a citizen of Solomon Islands. Members of the [Parliament](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Parliament) are elected by universal adult suffrage and serve for four years (unless Parliament is dissolved sooner). Executive power is exercised by a [prime minister](https://www.britannica.com/topic/prime-minister) (elected by and from Parliament) and a cabinet appointed by the governor-general from among the members of Parliament on the recommendation of the prime minister. Although political parties exist in name, their organization and [discipline](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline) tend to be loose. The prime minister rarely commands a clear majority in Parliament, and so governments are usually formed of a coalition of parties or factions. Local government councils control matters regarding [transportation](https://www.britannica.com/technology/transportation-technology), economic development, health, and education.

Education is not compulsory. Schools are run both by the national and provincial governments and by various churches. Many secondary schools provide practical training in fields such as [agriculture](https://www.britannica.com/topic/agriculture) and development studies. There are several teacher-training schools and a technical institute, as well as a campus of the [University of the South](https://www.britannica.com/topic/University-of-the-South) Pacific in Honiara. Some students attend universities overseas, especially in [Fiji](https://www.britannica.com/place/Fiji-republic-Pacific-Ocean) and [Papua New Guinea](https://www.britannica.com/place/Papua-New-Guinea). There is a hospital at Honiara

**Cultural life**

Much of traditional [culture](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/culture) endures. Crafts are promoted by the Solomon Islands National Museum, established in 1969 in Honiara, and dances and music are regularly performed. Panpipes and percussive “bamboo bands” (assemblages of drums made of bamboo) are popular. An indigenous literary movement developed in the late 20th century; the writing is in [English](https://www.britannica.com/art/English-literature) and mostly published in Solomon Islands. For a more detailed discussion of the culture of Solomon Islands, *see* [Melanesian culture](https://www.britannica.com/place/Melanesia).

# About Honiara

**Honiara** is the capital city of the [**Solomon Islands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_Islands), situated on the northwestern coast of [Guadalcanal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guadalcanal). As of 2017[[update]](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Honiara&action=edit) it had a population of 84,520 people. The city is served by [Honiara International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honiara_International_Airport) and the seaport of [Point Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Cruz), and lies along the Kukum Highway.

Honiara contains the majority of the major government buildings and institutions of Solomon Islands. The [National Parliament of Solomon Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Parliament_of_Solomon_Islands), [Honiara Solomon Islands College of Higher Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honiara_Solomon_Islands_College_of_Higher_Education), [International School in Honiara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_School_in_Honiara) and [University of the South Pacific Solomon Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_the_South_Pacific_Solomon_Islands) are located in Honiara as is the national museum and Honiara Market. Politically Honiara is divided into three [parliamentary constituencies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituencies_in_Solomon_Islands), electing three of the 50 members of the [National Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Parliament_of_Solomon_Islands). These constituencies, East Honiara, Central Honiara and West Honiara, are three of only six constituencies in the country to have an electorate of over 10,000 people.

Honiara is predominantly Christian and is served by the headquarters of the [Church of the Province of Melanesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Province_of_Melanesia) ([Anglican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican)), the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Honiara), the [South Seas Evangelical Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Seas_Evangelical_Church), the [United Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Church_in_Papua_New_Guinea_and_the_Solomon_Islands), the [Seventh-day Adventist Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church) and other Christian churches.

The Public Library is on Belan Avenue, between Chinatown and the market place, while the National Library is just behind the Public Library.

# Transportation

**Public Transportation in Honiara consists of buses and taxi’s.**

**Taxi services can be contacted through their Taxi service bases via the following Phone numbers:-**

* **Kings Taxi service - 27888**
* **Inner City Taxi- 27772**
* **Crowns taxi service- 20777**
* **Professional Taxi service- 28777**
* **24/7 taxi service- 24700/7424700**
* **ACE taxi service- 22233**
* **UQ Taxi service- 22555**
* **Travel link- 38000**

# Health Care

The National Referral Hospital of Honiara (NRH), also known as the Central Referral Hospital, is the main hospital and the largest in Solomon Islands. It is located opposite the Honiara Hotel. As of July 2012 the hospital, which suffers from overcrowding, had 300 to 400 beds with 50 doctors.[ In 2008, its accident and emergency department served 55,234 patients and its general surgery department operated on 1,971 patients.

Pharmacy and good medical facilities are largely available in Honiara. Emergency medical services: 911

# Useful Emergency Numbers

# Police and Fire: 999

### National Referal hospital: 911

### Marine search and rescue: 977

### Meteorology: 933

# Language

Pidgin is the official language in Solomon Islands, but English is widely understood in major hotels, restaurants, banks and businesses. The training will be held in English.

# Currency and Banking

The current banks available in Solomon Islands are the ANZ Bank (Australia New Zealand Bank), BSP Bank (Bank of the south pacific), The Bread Bank (Bank of French).

The official currency accepted is Solomon Dollar (SBD). Major foreign currencies can be exchanged to Solomon dollar at banks and other money exchange outlets. Official banking hours can vary slightly, but in general are from 9:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. Banks are generally closed on weekends and holidays. The current exchange rate is approximately (SBD$ 7.00) to 1 US Dollar as of January 2018. Cash can be easily withdrawn 24/7 from the few ATMs spread in the city.

# Credit Cards

Major credit cards (American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, VISA and UnionPay card) are accepted by most hotels, restaurants, car rental agencies, department stores, but no small local shops.

**Climate**

Temperature in September in Honiara: 28ºc

The suitable for wearing windbreaker, shirt, jacket.

# Local Time

The local time is UTC/GMT +8 hours.

# Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Solomon Islands.

# Taxes

Taxes can be picked at Honiara international airports or contact via their taxi service base numbers as follows indicated in the transportation section.

# Electrical Appliances

The standard power supply in Honiara is 240 volts, the frequency is 50Hz. The type of power outlet/connector used in Honiara is a three-hole outlet triangle.

 

 Three hole outlet triangle

# Calling Code

The national code of Solomon Islands is +677 and Honiara is 00677 .

# Buying a local SIM

Solomon Islands has two operators, Solomon Telekom and BMobile. You can buy a local sim card from the two service providers sales office or outlets.

# Driving

### Cars in Solomon Islands have their steering wheel on the right and are driven on the left of the road.

### For additional information, please contact the following local coordinators:

### Mr. Wilson Leguvaka (Wilson Leguvaka :wilson.leguvaka@tcsi.org.sb)

### Mr. Alwyn Danitofea (Alwyn Danitofea :ADanitofea@mca.gov.sb )

Welcome to the happy Isles