

VISIT THE NORTH OF THE MAIN LAND – NEW CALEDONIA

ITINERARY

Saturday 22 november : Nouméa / Koné

275 kms

8h00 : Please meet your guide and the rest of the group in the lobby of your hotel.

Head north on the West Coast road that will take you past long stretches of Niaouli tree savannahs – very typical for the West Coast of New Caledonia's Grande Terre. Also typical of this coast are the cattle farms that you will see along the way with their 'stockmen' – New Caledonian's use this Australian term to describe their 'cowboys of the Pacific'.



Niaouli is a type of eucalyptus tree used frequently in local traditional remedies and whose essence can be found in perfumes, at chemists and even in confectionary!

Arriving at **La Foa** village, cross the "Passerelle Marguerite" (bridge) that was built over a century ago by followers of Gustave Eiffel). La Foa also has wonderful large Kanak sculptures in front of the public gardens at the heart of the town and is renowned for its annual Cinema Festival that attracts renowned French actors and directors.

At the end of the morning, you will cross **Bourail** village, and reach Nodela restaurant where you will enjoy a lunch made with local products (3 courses lunch, without drinks).

In the afternoon, you will continue your route to the north up to **Kone** city, administrative capital of the northern province.

This route will take you through the long dry zones of northern New Caledonia. The mountain ranges on your right are scarred by the nickel mining industry, which is the main income source for New Caledonia. This 'green gold' as it is known, was first discovered by the French geologist Jules Garnier in 1870.

Arrival at the **Koniambo hotel**.

Welcome drink, buffet dinner and night in a standard room.

Hôtel Koniambo :

Located as you leave Koné itself, not far from the famous « Heart of Voh » and opposite the imposing Koniambo massif. Comfortable, well-furnished and with an excellent restaurant, the hotel is the ideal place to discover rural activities and the vast landscapes of New Caledonia's "Cowboy Country".

The Koniambo hotel offers 40 rooms (including 16 junior suites and 2 rooms for the disabled) equipped with air-conditioned, telephone, complimentary Internet broadband, TV (14 stations), mini-fridge and welcome basket, safety-deposit box and iron and ironing board.



Sunday 23 november : Koné / Hienghène

120Km

Buffet breakfast served at the restaurant of your hotel.

8h30 : Please meet your guide and the rest of the group in the lobby of your hotel.
Please, collect your packed lunch from the reception prior departure (sandwich, chocolate bar, 1 drink and 1 fruit).

In the morning, drive towards the East Coast on the "Koné – Tiwaka" crossroads which is spectacular and luxuriant with plenty of places to stop and admire the view. As you travel towards Hienghène on the west coast, you will follow the 'New Caledonian cornice' between the sea and the mountains.

Picnic stop for lunch according to your guide timing.

Arriving in Hienghène from the South, you'll drive along the Lindéralique Rocks, impressive black limestone cliffs which are up to 60m high. You will also go to the Belvédère, the best point to see both the spectacular scenery and the rock formations in Hienghène Bay. From this vantage point you can admire not only the "Broody Hen" and the "Sphinx" in the centre of the bay and the islets and contrasting colours of the lagoon, but also Mount Panié, New Caledonia's highest peak (1,628m), if the weather is clear.



Arrival at the **Koulnoué village hotel**.

Welcome drink, buffet dinner and night in a bungalow.

Hôtel Koulnoué :

the Koulnoué Village hotel is 10kms from Hienghène, in a beautiful coconut plantation by the water. The 50 bungalows (maximum 4 guests) with bedroom and bathroom, each have a terrace with view over the lagoon. They are equipped with air conditioning and ceiling fan and feature tea and coffee-making facilities, a fridge, safety-deposit box and cable TV. Complimentary Wi-Fi internet access is available to guests at the bar.



Monday 24 november : Hienghène / Mont Panié / Poindimié

73Km

Buffet breakfast served at the restaurant of your hotel.

8h30 : Please meet your guide and the rest of the group in the lobby of your hotel.
Please, collect your packed lunch from the reception prior departure (sandwich, chocolate bar, 1 drink and 1 fruit).

You will cross the Ouaième River on a picturesque barge that takes a couple of minutes. This barge is a vestige of the past and is the last one still operating in New Caledonia.

Picnic stop for lunch according to your guide timing.

Drive along the coast road with its rivers, valleys and views over the lagoon.

Arrival at the **Hôtel Tiéti Poindimié**.



Welcome drink, set menu dinner (3 courses without drinks) and night in a standard room.

Hôtel Tiéti Poindimié :

TIÉTI POINDIMIE HOTEL lies on the outskirts of Poindimié village and overlooks the East Coast's largest and most beautiful beach.

Set in 2.7 hectares of parkland, abundantly dotted by coconut palms and ancient banyans, the bungalows are distinguished by the strikingly original design of their wood-tiled roofs, shaped like the exotic fruit of the Barringtonia tree.

In the heart of lush valleys, facing a UNESCO World Heritage listed lagoon, Poindimié'area is a must-see site for any visitor exploring New Caledonia.

The Hotel comprises 50 guest rooms and suites offering three accommodation options :

- 10 spacious beachfront bungalows overlooking the sea, for 2 personnes ;
- 20 rooms in double tropical bungalows with terrace, for up to 3 persons ;
- 20 standard rooms with terrace or balcony ;



Tuesday 25 november : Poindimié / Nouméa

309 Km

Buffet breakfast served at the restaurant of your hotel.

8h30 : Please meet your guide and the rest of the group in the lobby of your hotel.

Please, collect your packed lunch from the reception prior departure (sandwich, chocolate bar, 1 drink and 1 fruit).

Leave the East Coast in the morning and head south in the direction of Sarraméa via the Houailou-Bourail traverse road.

This very picturesque route goes along the waterfront, takes you through several villages and tribes and over the mouths of majestic rivers before climbing up and over the 'La Chaîne' - the mountainous relief that stretches from the north to the south of the Grande Terre – at the Col des Roussettes (Fruit Bat Peak). The road then descends into the grassy plains of the West Coast.

Picnic stop for lunch according to your guide timing.

On the way back to Bourail, visit the beach and the "Roche Percée", a spectacular cliff pierced by caves, together with the "Bonhomme" rock formation, an enormous hard quartz monolith carved by the waves. See the view over the Baie des Tortues (Turtle Bay), a pretty beach bordered by pine trees.



Arrival in Nouméa at the end of the afternoon.

End of service, please, enjoy this quick tour of the main land !

INCLUSION

This tour includes :

- Accomodation in the mentionned hotel from 22 to 25 november
- Itinerary as mentionned in the above description
- Bus rental with driver for 4 days
- Meals as indicated (full board without drink from breakfast on the 22nd November to lunch on the 25th november).
- Hotel and government taxes (THN & TSS). *These taxes are subject to modification, with or without prior notice. All modifications to the taxes will entail an immediate change to the rates indicated in the website. Without the responsibility of Arc en Ciel voyages being questioned.*

This tour does not include :

- Visits – That will be organised by the guide and SERA organisation
- Drinks
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance