

# New Caledonia

**Continent:** Australia

**Languages Spoken:** French, Kanak languages, Tahitian, Wallisian, Fijian

**Population:** 271,407

**Currency:** CFP franc (XPF)

**Area:** 18,576

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Loyalty Islands', 'writeup': 'A group of islands known for their natural beauty, coral reefs, and traditional Kanak culture.'}
- {'name': 'Nouméa', 'writeup': 'The capital city, featuring a blend of French and Melanesian cultures with vibrant markets and colonial architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Blue River Provincial Park', 'writeup': 'A protected area with diverse flora and fauna, hiking trails, and scenic river views.'}
- {'name': 'Amedee Lighthouse', 'writeup': 'A historic lighthouse on Amedee Island, offering panoramic views and a glimpse into maritime history.'}
- {'name': 'Tjibaou Cultural Center', 'writeup': 'A cultural institution dedicated to Kanak heritage, showcasing traditional art, music, and architecture.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Emmanuel Macron (President of France)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Melanesian Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event celebrating Melanesian culture through dance, music, and traditional ceremonies.'}
- {'name': 'Nouméa Carnival', 'writeup': 'A vibrant festival featuring parades, costumes, and performances reflecting the diverse cultural heritage.'}
- {'name': 'Kaneka Music Festival', 'writeup': 'A music festival highlighting Kanak and Pacific Islander artists and contemporary sounds.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

New Caledonian cuisine blends French culinary techniques with local ingredients such as seafood, tropical fruits, and root vegetables. Popular dishes include bougna, a traditional Kanak meal cooked in banana leaves with meat, yams, and coconut milk.

## Brief History:

Discovered by Europeans in the 18th century, New Caledonia became a French colony in 1853. It has a significant indigenous Kanak population and has experienced political movements for independence. It remains a special collectivity of France with ongoing discussions about its political status.

## Important People:

- Jean-Marie Tjibaou - Kanak leader and advocate for independence
- Emmanuel Macron - President of France

- Dumont d'Urville - French explorer who charted New Caledonia

### **Current Conflicts:**

Tensions persist between pro-independence Kanak groups and those favoring remaining part of France, with ongoing political negotiations and referendums addressing the territory's future status.

### **Youtube Links:**

- Discover New Caledonia: A Pacific Paradise
- New Caledonia Travel Guide 2023
- Kanak Culture and Traditions in New Caledonia
- Top 10 Things to Do in New Caledonia
- History and Politics of New Caledonia Explained