

# Solomon Islands

**Continent:** Australia

**Languages Spoken:** English, Solomon Islands Pijin, Various indigenous languages

**Population:** 700,000

**Currency:** Solomon Islands dollar (SBD)

**Area:** 28,400

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Marovo Lagoon', 'writeup': 'One of the largest saltwater lagoons in the world, known for its rich marine biodiversity and traditional island villages.'}
- {'name': 'Tetepare Island', 'writeup': 'The largest uninhabited tropical island in the Southern Hemisphere, important for conservation and biodiversity.'}
- {'name': 'Kastom Gaden Association', 'writeup': 'A cultural center promoting traditional agriculture and sustainable living practices.'}
- {'name': 'Honiara Central Market', 'writeup': 'A vibrant market in the capital city offering local crafts, fresh produce, and traditional foods.'}

## Head of State / Government:

King Charles III (represented by Governor-General David Vunagi)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': '"Chiefs' Festival"', 'writeup': 'An annual event celebrating traditional leadership, customs, and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Te Rito Cultural Festival', 'writeup': 'A festival showcasing indigenous music, dance, and arts from across the islands.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Solomon Islands cuisine is based on root crops like taro and sweet potato, seafood, tropical fruits, and coconut. Traditional dishes often include fish, shellfish, and locally grown vegetables, prepared with coconut milk and spices.

## Brief History:

The Solomon Islands were first settled by Melanesian peoples thousands of years ago. European contact began in the 16th century, with British colonization established in the late 19th century. The islands were a significant battleground during World War II. Independence was gained from the United Kingdom in 1978.

## Important People:

- Sir Peter Kenilorea - First Prime Minister of Solomon Islands
- Manasseh Sogavare - Current Prime Minister
- David Vunagi - Governor-General

## Current Conflicts:

The Solomon Islands face challenges related to ethnic tensions, political instability, and economic development, but there are no active armed conflicts.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discovering the Solomon Islands: Nature and Culture
- Solomon Islands Travel Guide 2023
- History of the Solomon Islands - World War II Battles
- Traditional Life and Customs in the Solomon Islands
- Solomon Islands Marine Biodiversity and Conservation