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Vanuatu Celebrates 25 years of Independence!

This year, 2005, is Vanuatu's 25th year of Independence - its "Silver Jubilee"!

Many class the annual July Independence celebrations as starting as early as the 10th of July and various events around the country taking place each week. Through until the main event at Independence Park in Port Vila (the nation's capital), on the 30th of July, each year.

This year there was a special event that happened prior to the 10th of July, when 10 couples got married on the 8th of July, in the nation's largest village, "Mele", outside of Port Vila on Efate Island.

Other events that are happening during July 2005 are France's National

Day celebration on the 14th of July and Vanuatu's Charity Horse Race on Saturday the 16th of July, at the "Abattoir Area" near to the Port Vila Golf and Country Club. On the 24th of July is the annual "Children's Day" celebrations. There will be also Down-town march, Concerts, and Special Events held at some schools, and of course the children receiving gifts from their parents and Godparents, along with orphans getting special gifts from community members.

These various events and general jubilations culminate in the main event of the month, the actual Independence Day Celebrations held at major towns and villages throughout the country. Naturally the biggest excitement and series of

events for the day are to be seen at "Independence Park" in Port Vila's central area. Various events commence on the 22nd and go through to the 31st July, with the 30th being the main day of celebrations at Independence Park.

Coinciding with Vanuatu's Jubilee year, 2005 is also the National Year for Tourism. And those keen on golfing can participate in the Vanuatu Golf Open held this year in the first week of August. [See Worawia Winter Specials, below, to be our guest, right next door to Port Vila Golf and Country Club! Or click on this link <http://www.resort-vanuatu.com/specials2005.htm>



Silver Jubilee Round Island Relay - July 2005

One main event that will happen on the 30th July in Efate, is Vanuatu's "Round Island Relay" run. The Round Island Relay was first staged as one of the sports events organized to celebrate Vanuatu's Independence in July 1980. Three teams of 10 runners raced around the island of Efate, a feat that many locals at the time thought impossible, symbolically linking the villages en route. There are 10 sections of the race with the shortest leg 11.7kms and the longest 16kms. The race goes through traditional villages and past mountain rainforests, along the many rugged gravel roads. Ten member relay teams compete for the grand prize of 100,000 Vatu. Local teams already have many kilometers of training behind them and the competition between the top teams is going to be fierce. Overseas interest is also growing with five teams already confirmed from New Caledonia and interest from Teams in Australia and



New Zealand. Many teams though enter for the challenge and sense of achievement in merely finishing this gruelling team event. This being such a special year, there's bound to be some extra special effort in the race from local teams and some extra special entertainment in the Villages along the way. Visit the Vanuatu Tourism website www.vanuatutourism.com for details, map and course profile. For further information contact info@vanuaturelay.com. Teams may register for the race at a cost of 29,425 Vatu (or AUD \$355.00). (Source: VTO)

Qantas and Tourism Australia in New Partnership

Tourism Australia and Qantas have announced a new three year global destination marketing partnership worth more than \$60 million. The partnership, which begins from 1 July 2005, will see Tourism Australia and Qantas work together in 12 of Australia's key source markets, including UK, USA, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Japan, India and New Zealand. For more information click on the following link: <http://www.tourism.australia.com/NewsCentre.asp?lang=EN&sub=0315&a=1629>

(Source: SPTO and Tourism Australia Newsletter 23/06/2005)

Virgin signs deal with sister carrier Down Under

"It's an exciting step forward as it streamlines the process of booking Virgin all the way, making it easier for travel agents to book our passengers on both airlines."

Virgin Atlantic has signed a code share deal with its Australian sister airline Virgin Blue. The agreement will enable customers to book a flight from the UK all the way through to Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Cairns, Gold Coast and Coolangatta using Virgin Blue's internal network. Virgin Atlantic currently operates a daily service to Sydney. The carrier said it would provide a seamless experience for travellers with "smooth and hassle-free" connections between the international and domestic airlines. Virgin Blue chief executive Brett Godfrey said: "It's an exciting step forward as it streamlines the process of booking Virgin all the way, making it easier for travel agents to book our passengers on both airlines." The codeshare agreement starts on July 17. (Source: SPTO and TravelMole News 16/06/2005)

Worawia Winter Specials!

How appropriate that we're offering our first ever Winter Specials this year - the Silver Jubilee year of Vanuatu's Independence! If you don't want to miss out on some of the biggest Vanuatu celebrations ever, or perhaps even want to take a part in the Round Island Relay Run, stay at Worawia - one of the very few Ni-Vanuatu resorts. We have exceptionally special prices, starting from 7,750 Vatu per night for a double (AUD 95), or only 20,900 Vatu for 3 nights, double (AUD 255). You'll get even better deal if you stay longer - see our Specials at <http://www.resort-vanuatu.com/specials2005.htm>

WORAWIA
WINTER 2005
SPECIALS

AUD - Australian dollar prices

	Per day	3 days	7 days
Double/twin share	95	255	570
Single adult	67	180	402
2 adults + 1 child	105	285	630
2 adults + 2 children	125	330	750
2 adults + 3 children	145	390	870
2 adults + 4 children	165	435	990

VUV - Vanuatu vatu prices

	Per day	3 days	7 days
Double/twin share	7,750	20,900	46,500
Single adult	5,500	14,750	33,000
2 adults + 1 child	8,600	23,350	51,600
2 adults + 2 children	10,250	27,050	61,500
2 adults + 3 children	11,850	31,950	71,100
2 adults + 4 children	13,550	35,650	81,300

NZD - New Zealand dollar prices

	Per day	3 days	7 days
Double/twin share	105	275	630
Single adult	75	195	450
2 adults + 1 child	115	310	690
2 adults + 2 children	135	355	810
2 adults + 3 children	155	420	930
2 adults + 4 children	175	470	1,050

All above prices include free airport transfer, from and to Bauerfield International Airport in Port Vila. The above 7 day rates are based on our on-going 'stay 7 days, pay 6' special. Children rates are up until the age of 16 years; 17 years and over are classed as adults. All above prices include local 12.5% VAT (value added tax). Use our [currency calculator](#) for prices in other currencies. Additional discounts are available for larger families or group bookings. Please email worawia@hotmail.com for no-obligation quotes.

European holidays

Planning something different? Visit beautiful Croatia's coastline and islands, where the rich and famous spend their summer! Check out: www.aiptravel.com



Worawia Holiday Haven

Dr. Fr. Lini (old Kumul) Highway
Mele, Port Vila VANUATU
Tel: +678 25 498
Fax: +678 25 499
www.resort-vanuatu.com

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