

Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

The capital of the Solomon Islands sits on the shore of Ironbottom Sound, where dozens of WWII warships and aircraft rest on the ocean floor. Raw, authentic, and unforgettable — Honiara is history you can swim through.

Docked (new Millennium Terminal, 2024)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Solomon Islands Dollar (SBD) — cash preferred

English & Solomon Pijin

Major WWII history site

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Point Cruz — new Millennium Cruise Passenger Terminal opened Dec 2024; very large ships may still tender

Best For: WWII history, shipwreck snorkeling, local markets, Melanesian culture

Getting around: **Taxi** SBD 50–150 (~USD 6–18) per trip

Walk to center: 5–10 min flat walk to Mendana Ave; 15–20 min to Central Market

Don't Miss: Ironbottom Sound overlook, Honiara Central Market, Vilu Military Museum

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Vilu Military Museum & WWII Relics** — About 45 minutes west of town, this open-air museum displays Japanese and American fighter planes, artillery, and vehicles rusting in a jungle garden.
 - Skyline Ridge US Guadalcanal Memorial** — High above town, this memorial honors Allied soldiers killed during the Guadalcanal Campaign and looks out over Ironbottom Sound — the graveyard of...
- Bonegi Beach Shipwreck Snorkeling** — The Kinugawa Maru, a massive Japanese transport ship, lies grounded right on Bonegi Beach 30 minutes west of town.
 - Bloody Ridge (Edson's Ridge) Battlefield** — Scene of one of Guadalcanal's fiercest battles, now a National Peace Park.
 - Honiara Central Market & Town Walk** — The Central Market on Mendana Avenue is a sensory overload of tropical fruit, fresh fish, betel nut, shell money, and hand-woven crafts.

BEST WALKS

- Mendana Avenue Town Loop** 1.5 km · 30–40 min · flat — Walk from Point Cruz terminal along Mendana Avenue past the National Museum, BSP bank, and shops to the Central Market, then loop back along the waterfront.
- National Parliament Building** 1 km each way · easy · 20 min — Head uphill from Mendana Avenue to the distinctive conical-roofed Parliament Building.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		84°	75°	26d
Jun		83°	75°	18d
Aug		83°	74°	19d
Sep		84°	75°	20d
Oct		84°	75°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:23AM–6:16PM · Jun 6:33AM–6:07PM · Aug 6:31AM–6:18PM · Sep 6:14AM–6:16PM · Oct 5:57AM–6:14PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring cash in SBD or AUD. BSP and ANZ ATMs on Mendana Ave work but run out on cruise days. USD is less universally accepted. Many small vendors and taxi drivers prefer local cash.
- Sunday = shuttered city. If your ship calls on a Sunday, nearly everything — the market, shops, most restaurants — will be closed. Book a ship excursion or pre-arrange a private driver before you arrive.
- Dress modestly in town. The Solomon Islands is a conservative Christian country. Cover shoulders and knees when walking around Honiara — swimwear only at beaches and resorts.
- Always negotiate taxi fares upfront. There are no meters. A private driver for the day costs roughly SBD \$100–150/hr and is the best way to reach the Vilu Museum and Bonegi Beach.
- The red stains are betel nut. Locals chew betel nut (a mild stimulant) and spit red juice everywhere — on footpaths, walls, and steps. It's harmless but watch your step and clothing.
- It's hot and humid, always.

Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 National Museum of Solomon Islands | Compact museum covering Melanesian cultural artifacts, traditional shell money, and WWII history. | 2 Guadalcanal American Memorial | Hilltop monument on Skyline Ridge honoring US forces killed in the 1942-43 Guadalcanal Campaign, with harbor views. |
| 3 Bloody Ridge Battlefield | Site of the decisive September 1942 battle of the Guadalcanal Campaign, still marked by trench lines. | 4 Central Market Honiara | Honiara's main produce and handicraft market on the waterfront, a good look at everyday island life. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |