

# SOLOMON ISLANDS **AT A GLANCE**

Sea turtle, Arnavon Island, Solomon Islands



Home to over  
**700,000**  
PEOPLE

Over the past 50 years, the Solomon Islands population has grown from around 166,000 to more than 687,000.

The population is predominantly Melanesian and also includes people of Polynesian, Micronesian and Chinese descent.



## MAJOR INDUSTRIES



Timber  
exports



Seafood



Cocoa and  
palm oil



Tourism

## GEOGRAPHY

Solomon Islands (commonly called 'the Hapi Isles') is situated approximately 2,000 kms northeast of Australia. It has a **land mass of 28,400 km<sup>2</sup>**, extending over more than **900 islands**. It is made up of **9 provinces**: Guadalcanal, Rennell and



## CAPITAL Honiara

Honiara is located on **Guadalcanal**, the country's largest island.

For detailed country map please visit: [maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com)





English  
and  
Pidgin

## LANGUAGES

English is the official language, however Pidgin is commonly used. Pidgin is a mix of English and local words with Melanesian grammar. There are also more than 87 local dialects. While English is sufficient for everyday interactions, a little knowledge of Pidgin can be very helpful.



## DRESS

Solomon Islanders tend to dress modestly especially in rural areas. As such it is best to wear modest clothing. Women should wear skirts below the knee or loose-fitting trousers and shirts. While swimming, women and young girls will wear t-shirts and shorts or sarongs. Business attire is relatively casual.

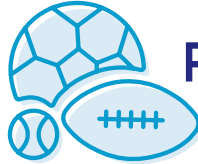


## CULTURE

Solomon Islands is very culturally diverse and 'kastoms' are often employed to restore relations between people and maintain order. Wantok, which refers to people of the same language or family group, is a communal support system that exists within family and clan associations.

**Solomon Islanders approach time in a very relaxed and flexible manner.**

As a result, business negotiations are not rushed and time is not always the principal consideration.



## PASTIMES

**Football**

Footsal and beach soccer

Sport is an important pastime for many Solomon Islanders. Football is the national sport with various competitions and leagues running all year round. Associated sports like futsal and beach soccer are also popular.

## RELIGION

**Christianity**

Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, South Seas Evangelical



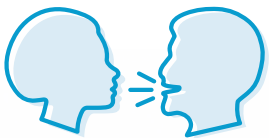
Solomon Islands is 95% Christian. Religion is an important part of daily life and the church is a respected and influential institution. Most people belong to either the Catholic, Anglican, Methodist or South Seas Evangelical churches but there are many other smaller denominations.

## WORKPLACE CULTURE



The Solomon Islands workplace can be very hierarchical. Respect for a person in a senior position is often shown by addressing them by their position and title rather than by their name. Solomon Islanders tend to communicate in a subdued and indirect manner and will not always say exactly what they mean for fear of offending others.

Swearing and blasphemy are not common and can be interpreted as offensive or aggressive behaviour.



## PHRASES & GREETINGS

PHRASE — English	Solomon Islands (Pijin)	PHRASE — English	Solomon Islands (Pijin)
Hello	Halo	Goodbye	Lukim iu, or Gutbae
How are you?	lu oraet? /Hao na yu?	I'm sorry	Mi sore
Please	Plis	Do you speak English?	Yu sa ve spik inglis?
Thank you	Tagio tumas		

For more common phrases and translations, refer to: <https://omniglot.com/writing/pijin.htm>



Palm and tropical beach on Solomon island