



# TULAGI

*Solomon Islands*

AND

# VILA

*New Hebrides*

SHORE EXCURSIONS

and GENERAL INFORMATION

ORIENT LINE R.M.S. "ORONSAY"

## SHORE EXCURSIONS AT TULAGI AND VILA

It is recommended that passengers should carefully study the following details of excursion arrangements at Tulagi and at Vila, because, in view of the limited facilities for transport, bookings have to be made some days prior to arrival at each port. The Purser will indicate the precise time of closure of excursion bookings.





## At TULAGI —

The "ORONSAY" will anchor in Tulagi Harbour about a mile from Tulagi and the same distance from Makambo Island. Communication from the ship to these two points, which are the principal landing places, will be by motor launch. The service will be frequent. The disposition of the outlying places of interest which may be visited is shown on the map herewith.

Excursions at Tulagi will be by auxiliary craft and launches. There are no motor cars and practically no roads.

**Tulagi Island.**—Tulagi is the headquarters of the administration. The island is about four or five miles in circumference. Messrs. W. R. Carpenter & Co's. establishment is on this island. In Tulagi there is a part, known locally as Chinatown, in which are thirty Chinese stores and three Chinese restaurants.

**Makambo.**—Makambo Island is the headquarters of Messrs. Burns Philp & Co. Here passengers may purchase native curios, etc.

**Gavutu.**—Gavutu Island lies further from the ship, as shown on the map herewith. This is the headquarters of Messrs. Lever Bros., and, no doubt, many passengers also will wish to visit their establishment.

At distances convenient for travel by launch lie several native villages. These are on the coast of the island of Florida.

**Mboli Pass Excursion.**—The principal excursion at Tulagi will be by auxiliary schooner, through the beautiful Mboli Pass to Siota, the Melanesian Mission Station. The fare for this excursion is 10/6 each. Four vessels, the "Trader," "Ulusage," "Mendana," and "William Voy" will make this excursion, carrying a maximum total of 150 passengers. They will leave the "Oronsay" at 9.30 a.m. Luncheon hampers will be provided for those who book for this excursion. Drinking-water will be available on the launches and at Siota. Passengers who wish to take light refreshments should arrange with the Purser to have them placed on the schooners. Lunch may thus be a picnic affair, at Siota.



Rev. Mother Margaret, of the Mission, is arranging for native school children to put on a play in English for the amusement of passengers.

The schooners are scheduled to leave Siota, on their return, at 3 p.m. The excursion will thus occupy the greater part of the day. Sightseeing will be of a high and unusual order.

**Launch Excursions in Tulagi Harbour.**—Ferry services to cater for those who wish to spend the day visiting Tulagi, Makambo, Gavutu and the outlying native villages will be maintained by launches at half hourly periods over the circuits as follows:—

- (a) "Oronsay" to Gavutu—Halavo—Hagalo—Makambo—Tulagi—"Oronsay."
- (b) "Oronsay" to Makambo—Faloa—Haleta—Tulagi—"Oronsay."

These half hourly departures will commence at 9.30 a.m., and the last circuit to be made will commence from the ship at 4 p.m. A fare of 2/- will provide each passenger with a ticket which may be used as much as desired throughout the day. Break of journey will be permitted at any point for any length of time, except of course, on the last launch, leaving the ship at 4 p.m. It is urged that passengers should remember the time of the last circuit.

These excursion ferry services are additional to the frequent launch service between "Oronsay" and Tulagi and Makambo which will be detailed in separate notices.

The native villages are shown on the map herewith.

**Walks on Tulagi.**—From close to the landing at Tulagi, a good road leads up the hill to an excellent walk along what is known locally as the "Ridge." The scenery is good and the walk can be done in a little over an hour. The track leads nearly to the end of the island and the return journey usually is made by the coast road, passing the Police Lines, Wireless Station and the Tulagi Club. The more energetic walkers will well be repaid by the trip right around Tulagi Island, along the sea shore. The track presents no great difficulties and the journey can be made in between two and three hours. A much shorter walk, which can be managed comfortably by the less active passengers, is from the landing wharf round the eastern point of Tulagi Island, via the Gaol and the Hospital, and back to the wharf through the cutting.

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**Golf and Tennis.**—By courtesy of the Tulagi Club, tourists will be welcome at the golf links and tennis courts. The latter are hard courts. It is necessary to mention that owing to the smallness of the community and consequently of the club, invitations must, of necessity, be confined to those who actually desire to play golf or tennis. Application should be made to the Purser, who will advise Messrs. Burns Philp of the names of those wishing to play, so that they may endeavour to introduce them to members and admit them as visitors.

**Currency.**—Australian money is current in the Solomons.



## At VILA —

The "Oronsay" will anchor in Vila Harbour about a mile from the landing. There will be a frequent launch service. The principal excursions at Vila are by motor.

**Motor Excursion to Iluk Lagoon and Pango Village.**—The most comprehensive excursion is that to Iluk Lagoon and Pango Native village. The cars pass through cocoanut plantations and tropical vegetation to the beautiful Iluk Lagoon, which they skirt until Pango village is reached. There will be three trips, as follows:—

<u>Leave Vila</u>	<u>Arrive Pango</u>	<u>Leave Pango</u>	<u>Arrive Vila</u>
9.15 a.m.	9.45 a.m.	10.45 a.m.	11.15 a.m.
10.45 a.m.	11.15 a.m.	12 noon	12.30 p.m.
2.0 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	3.15 p.m.	3.45 p.m.

The return fare is 5/- per passenger and the maximum number which can be booked for each trip is 50.

**Motor Excursion to Bellevue.**—Another (shorter) motor excursion is through Vila, passing Stade Rossi, to Bellevue. From this eminence excellent views over Iluk Lagoon are had. There will be three trips to this destination, as follows:—

<u>Leave Vila</u>	<u>Arrive Bellevue</u>	<u>Leave Bellevue</u>	<u>Arrive Vila</u>
9.15 a.m.	9.35 a.m.	10.10 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
11.30 a.m.	11.50 a.m.	12.20 p.m.	12.40 p.m.
2 p.m.	2.20 p.m.	3 p.m.	3.20 p.m.

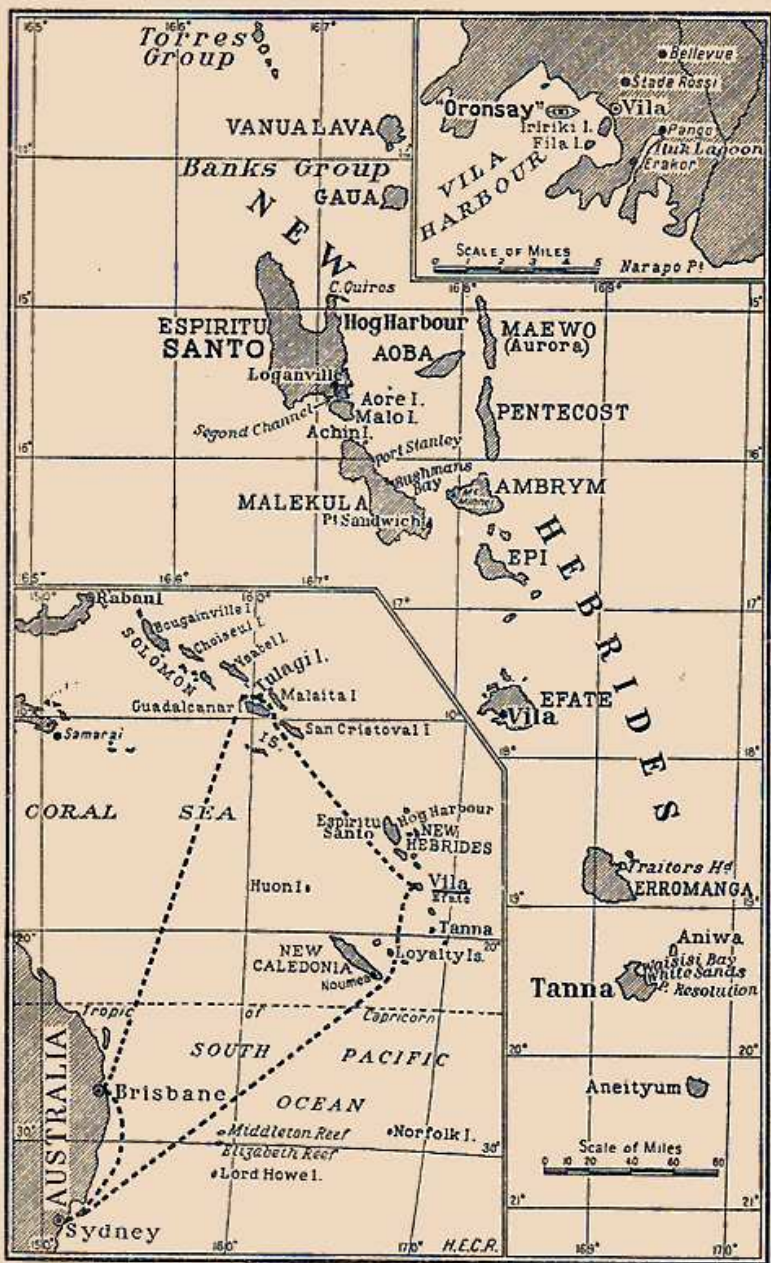


#### MILEAGES

Fremantle to Adelaide .....	1,345	Sydney to Brisbane .....	508
Adelaide to Melbourne .....	500	Brisbane to Tulagi .....	1,229
Melbourne to Sydney .....	576	Tulagi to Vila .....	772
Vila to Sydney .....	1,399		







## SHORE EXCURSIONS AT VILA — (*Continued*)

**Launch Excursion to Fila Island.**—An excursion which will provide variation because it is by water, is the launch trip to Fila Island and return. This is situated about a mile from the anchorage. On Fila Island there is a mission station and a native village. Three excursion trips will be made as follows:—

From 9.30 to 11 a.m. From 11.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., and from 2.15 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Fila Island excursions will leave from the ship's side and will return to the ship direct. The maximum number of passengers for each trip is 80. The fare is 2/- each return. Passengers will need to return by the launches which take them to Fila Island. Thus stop-over at Fila until the arrival of the next excursion is not permissible.

**Hotels.**—There are two European Hotels at Vila—Reid's and Betford's. Neither of these is highly recommended for meals.

**Luncheon and Teas.**—There is an excellent establishment, Stade Rossi, where luncheon and morning and afternoon teas may be had. Stade Rossi is situated about one mile from Vila, and the walk is attractive.

Only 80 people can be catered for at luncheon. It has been necessary to arrange for four sittings, each for 20 people, at noon, 12.30 p.m., 1 p.m., and 1.30 p.m. The charge is 5/- each, exclusive of wines, etc., and it is necessary to book with the Purser, indicating, also, which sitting is preferred.

**Currency.**—Australian money is current in the Hebrides.

**Walks.**—Apart from walking about Vila itself and to Stade Rossi (mentioned above) energetic passengers will find the walk to Iluk Lagoon, about 2½ miles each way, very attractive.

The track will be sign-posted, and natives will be stationed along the way for the guidance of walkers. This trip should be made only in the morning, as it would be inadvisable, on account of time, to commence it in the afternoon. If desired, luncheon hampers will be provided, through the Purser, for those who wish to picnic at Iluk. The track will be used by motor traffic on the runs to Iluk and Pango, and walkers should beware as the track is narrow and winding.



## *British Solomon Islands Protectorate*

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by the Colonial Office, London, through the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific at Suva, Fiji, who deposes the administration to a Resident Commissioner.

This important group comprises 10 very large islands and innumerable smaller ones with a total land area of 14,600 sq. miles. They comprise one of the biggest groups in the Pacific, although, probably, the least developed.

The Islands lie in a double row, 900 miles long, running from north-west to south-east, enclosing what is virtually a huge lake. To the north of the main Solomon Islands is a subsidiary group—the Lord Howe Atoll (not to be confused with Lord Howe Island, 450 miles east of Sydney). To the south is another subsidiary group—Santa Cruz. These, with the Duff and Reef groups are under the Solomon Islands administration. The main islands are well watered and are thickly populated. Tulagi is the chief town and port of entry.

**Population.**—The European population is approximately 500, of which about 25 are Frenchmen. The alien population is about 200, over half being Chinese.

**Natives.**—There are about 91,000 natives in the group. The natives of the Solomons and Santa Cruz are Melanesians, but on several of the outlying islands the natives are Polynesians.

The Solomon Islanders are famous for their canoes, which are made from planks of wood curved and held together by thwarts and cemented by a gum obtained from a species of nut. Invariably the stern is carried up to a considerable height, like the bow of a gondola. In the larger canoes, both the bow and the stern are of the same graceful shape. The canoes are narrow and have no outriggers. Particularly on the larger canoes, there is a great deal of inlay work.

**Missions.**—In 1845 the first Missionaries, of the French Mission of the Society of Mary, landed at San-Cristoval.

The principal missions now operating in the group are: Church of England, Melanesian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, South Sea Evangelical, and Seventh Day Adventists Missions.

**Language.**—There is no universal language in the Solomon Islands; over 40 dialects are spoken.

## BRITISH SOLOMON IS. PROTECTORATE—(Cont.)

**Products.**—The principal items of production are copra, trochus shell and timber. On a smaller scale, beche-de-mer, green snail shell and ivory nuts also are exported.

**History.**—The Solomon Islands group was one of the first important South Pacific groups known to Europeans. It is probable that the Spaniard, Don Alvaro de Mendana, was the earliest European discoverer. He is supposed to have found the islands on a voyage from Callao in 1567. His reports of their richness and attractiveness led to the Spanish colonisation which, in 1595, after the death of Mendana himself, on the main island, was abandoned. Spanish methods of dominating the natives, similar to those being adopted at that time towards the natives of the Americas, were, it seems, unsuccessful here. The Dutch are recorded as having seen outlying islands in 1616 and 1643. Captain Cartaret made discoveries in the group in 1767. Bouganville passed through in the following year.

It is interesting to note that, in 1788, Lieut. Shortland, in command of the "Alexander" and "Friendship," two vessels of Governor Phillip's fleet, sighted the South coast of San Cristoval on his way from Botany Bay to Canton. He named several headlands and called Bouganville Straits by his own name, not knowing that they previously had been named.

The French discoverer La Perouse is thought to have been lost at Vanikoro, in the Solomons, on his voyage from Botany Bay in 1788; although it was not until 40 years later that traces of the lost expedition were reported as found. From this time onwards the Solomons were visited by many Europeans.

**Enterprise.**—Mr. Benjamin Boyd, an enterprising capitalist of New South Wales, set out in 1851 to form an independent State in the Solomons, which he planned to govern. On landing in the island he was murdered.

As early as 1860 there were white inhabitants, and, shortly afterwards, recruiting was begun of natives to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. In 1903, recruiting for Queensland ceased, and most of the natives were repatriated. When, in 1893, the British Protectorate over the Solomons was proclaimed the number of white residents was 50.

In 1905, Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd. was established, and planting began on a large scale. The Company now has over

20,000 acres under cultivation. Shortly after 1905, Burns Philp & Co. and the Malaita Co. acquired interests in the Solomons.

**Climate.**—Generally, the climate is hot and humid. A south-east breeze is prevalent from April to November, but the balance of the year is unrelieved by breezes, except for occasional heavy north-west weather. Hurricanes are unknown in this part. The temperature at Tulagi may be said to vary between 75 and 86 degrees. Average rainfall since 1922, 164 inches.

**Animals, Birds, etc.**—Two large mammals occur in the Solomons, native pig and wild dog, both of which existed in the group before its discovery by Europeans. Whales are seen in the group and black fish and porpoises abound. The teeth of porpoises are heavily prized by the natives as currency.

Crocodiles and turtles frequent the coasts and swamps. Many varieties of birds exist, including kingfishers, cockatoos, ducks, and numerous species of the parrot and pigeon families. The bird-of-paradise of New Guinea does not extend to these regions. Eagles, ospreys, hawks and buzzards are common.

**Timber.**—The group is especially rich in palms, and a quantity of valuable timber, including kauri pine, exists.



## *New Hebrides Condominium —*

The New Hebrides Group consists of about 80 islands, disposed in "an incomplete double chain." Situated due north of New Caledonia and the Loyalties, the Group extends N.E. to S.E. for 550 miles. Apart from the Banks and Torres Groups, which are included in the New Hebrides, the area of the Group is 5,700 square miles. There are in the New Hebrides numerous volcanoes. Tanna, Lopevi, and Ambrym are best known.

**History.**—Santo, the largest of the Group, was discovered in 1606 by the Portuguese navigator, Quiros, who touched the large inlet in the north of the island. Quiros named the new land "Terra Australis del Espiritu Santo," believing it to be part of a great southern continent.

The Group was next heard of when the immortal Cook, during his first voyage in 1768, called at several points. In 1774, on his second voyage, he charted and named most of the larger



## THE NEW HEBRIDES CONDOMINIUM—(Cont.)

islands and, with his pronounced penchant for the phrase "New" gave the Group its present name.

About the same time, the French explorer, Bougainville, sailed between Santo and the second largest island, Malekula, disproving the theory of Quiros that Santo was the northern extremity of a continental mass. La Perouse is supposed to have visited the New Hebrides prior to his complete disaster at Vanikoro.

For many years, the New Hebrides Group was under the control of no European nation, and the conditions were very bad. Adventurers, traders, and "recruiters" made it their happy hunting grounds. However, in 1887, a joint Naval Commission was appointed by France and England to safeguard the lives and interests of their nationals. The first British Resident Commissioner was appointed in 1902, shortly after the appointment of a similar official by the French Government. Ultimately a Condominium was set up in 1906 and the system still endures.

**Natives.** The New Hebrides natives are Melanesians, with, in some parts, a small admixture of Polynesians. There are many tribes and dialects, but generally they exhibit the savage, war-like qualities of the Solomon Islanders. The total native population probably is not more than 60,000.

**Missions.**—Christianity and education have tamed the New Hebrides savages. Presbyterian missions are located in nearly every island of the Group. The Melanesian Mission of the Anglican Church, operating from its headquarters in the Solomons, carries on its activities on the northern islands. The Roman Catholic Church has missions almost all over the Group. Other missionary organisations also are represented.

**Products.**—Copra, cocoa and cotton are the principal products. Coffee and trochas are also produced.

**Efate Island.**—Efate Island, in the south, possesses the two finest harbours in the Group—Vila and Havannah. The former is the administrative and commercial centre of the New Hebrides and the Harbour is very beautiful. On Efate there are numerous white settlers, about 1700 natives and many Tonkinese labourers. Within Vila Harbour two islets lie—Fila, with a native population, and Iririki, which is shared by the British Residency and the Paton Memorial Hospital. The principal buildings of Vila lie embowered in the luxuriant vegetation of the steeply sloping terrain.

# ORIENT LINE

Addendum:

This booklet thanks to Jeff Blinco, Austrlaia.

The trip actually took place. The ORONSAY departed Melbourne via Sydney and Brisbane on 27 August 1934 and returned 13 September 1934. By the time she left Australia she had more than 500 passenegers on board.

The Sydney Morning Herald

Friday 10 August 1934

## **CRUISES BY ORIENT LINE.**

**20,000-TONNERS.**

**Aug. 30: SOLOMON ISLANDS (Tulagi) and NEW  
HEBRIDES (Vila): Oronsay. 14 days.  
Fares, from 17 and 20 Gns. (First Saloon Only.)**

**Two Island Groups will be included in this cruise—  
a new and entertaining departure. Tulagi, the  
diminutive—and primitive—capital of the Solomons  
is refreshingly free from the familiar amenities of  
our civilised life. Picturesque Vila, seat of the  
unique Condominium of France and Britain, is com-  
paratively sophisticated—affording a delightful con-  
trast to the unaltered Solomons.**