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General

Vanuatu, formerly the British and French Condominium of the New Hebrides, consists of more than 70 islands and islets in the South Pacific, lying between 12°S and 21°S, and 166°E and 171°E.

The larger islands of the group are Espiritu Santo, Malekula, Epi, Pentecost, Aoba, Maewa, Paama, Ambrym, Ejate, Erromanga, Tanna, and Aneityum.

The island chain stretches about 500 miles from the Torres Islands in the N to Aneityum in the S.

The climate is tropical and moderated by SW trade winds.

The terrain is mostly mountains of volcanic origin with narrow coastal plains.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the vatu, consisting of 100 centimes.

Government

Vanuatu is a republic, with an executive and a legislative branch elected to specific terms of services.

The capital is Port-Vila.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; May 1, Labor Day; Ascension Day (39 days after Easter Sunday); early June, Queen's Birthday; July 14, Bastille Day; July 30, Independence Day; August 15, Feast of the Assumption; November 1, All Saint's Day; December 25, Christmas Day; and December 26, Boxing Day.

Industries

The main industries are food and fish freezing, wood processing, and meat canning.

The main commercial crops are copra, cocoa, coffee, some livestock, and fish production.

Yams, taro, manioc, and bananas are grown for local consumption.

There is no heavy industry but there is increasing activity in light industry. Industries include a sawmill, a soft drinks factory, meat canneries, a modern slaughterhouse, and a fish-freezing plant.

Major exports include copra, fish, manganese, and meat products.

The principal imports include food, petroleum, machinery, and consumer goods.

Languages

The official languages of Vanuatu are English and French. Bislama, the New Hebrides pidgin, is spoken.

Mined Areas

Minefields were laid in many parts of the world during World War II. Many of these minefields have been swept; others had routes swept through them. These routes are mostly marked by buoys and have been used safely by shipping for many years.

Due to the lapse of time, navigation through these minefields whether they have been swept or not is now considered no more dangerous from mines than from any other of the usual hazards, but in the unswept areas a real danger still exists with regard to anchoring, fishing, or any form of submarine or seabed activity. Furthermore, uncharted wrecks and shoals may lie in these areas.

1. Within Malo Island, the following area is open to navigation by surface vessels only. Vessels should not anchor nor submarines bottom therein:

- a. 15°36'28"S, 167°06'30"E.
- b. 15°36'28"S, 167°04'15"E.
- c. 15°37'45"S, 167°04'15"E.
- d. 15°37'45"S, 167°06'30"E.

2. Within Benier Bay, the following area is open to navigation by surface vessels only. Vessels should not anchor nor submarines bottom therein:

- a. 15°31'20"S, 167°15'30"E.
- b. 15°31'45"S, 167°12'45"E.
- c. 15°33'00"S, 167°12'45"E.
- d. 15°33'00"S, 167°15'30"E.

3. Within the Segond Channel, E Approach, or Scorff Passage, the following area is safe for navigation by surface vessels, but ships must not anchor nor submarines bottom therein. Area is bounded by lines joining the following points

with bearings and distances from N extremity of Tutuba Island (15°33'S., 167°17'E.):

- a. 281° 1.38 miles.
- b. 326° 2.41 miles.
- c. 347.5° 2.05 miles.
- d. 078.5° 1.52 miles.
- e. 124.5° 1.35 miles.
- f. 333° 0.22 mile.

4. Within Undine Passage, the following area is open to surface navigation. Anchoring and bottoming by submarines is prohibited:

- a. 15°22'31"S, 167°13'31"E.
- b. 15°22'06"S, 167°14'57"E.
- c. 15°24'48"S, 167°16'12"E.
- d. 15°25'48"S, 167°14'37"E.

5. Within Undine Bay, at about 17°30'S, 168°20'E, the area has been swept and is considered safe for surface navigation only. Ships must not anchor nor submarines bottom therein.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is LIMA (-11).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. does not have an embassy in Vanuatu.

The ambassador to Papua New Guinea is accredited to Vanuatu.