

Pacific Islands

- The Pacific Ocean covers one third of the world's surface 165 25 000 sq km (64 500 000 sq miles). The thousands of islands in the Pacific have a total land area of 1 300 000 sq km of which 1 100 000 sq km is the large islands of New Guinea, New Zealand and Hawaii.
- People first reached New Guinea in the Pacific Islands from SE Asia via Indonesia over 50 000 years ago. As people arrived from the west and technology and skills developed, by 200 BC all but the furthest Pacific Islands were inhabited.
- The Pacific Islands were first colonised by the Spanish, Dutch, English, French and later Germany and America. The Spanish were the first to arrive in the 16th century.
- The French explorer Durmont d'Urville divided the Pacific into three major subdivisions – Melanesia ('Black Islands'), Micronesia (Small Islands) and Polynesia (Many Islands).
- Most Pacific Islands gained Independence after WWII, except from some islands in Micronesia where the US continued to have a military presence. Between 1975 and 1990 most Micronesian states (not including Guam) achieved some level of independence.
- There is a huge diversity of cultures across the Pacific and many elements of tradition are still practised or adapted to accommodate the modern world.

Business and Social Etiquette

- Traditionally business was carried out the 'Pacific Way'. Methods of reaching a consensus on important issues were used, with time being a secondary concern. However with the faster pace of modern life, business decisions are now made in the same way as the rest of the world, just a little more slowly.
- Management and workers more often than not have a family relationship.
- Pacific Islanders often have far more free time than many other cultures and have a very casual approach to work due to the climate and lifestyle.
- Local knowledge is very important when doing business.
- Most Islanders dress is casual, wearing sulus, t-shirts and sandals or bare-feet.
- Few people have business cards as generally everyone knows each other and is usually related in some way.
- Meetings are not very formal, and are usually held in the executive's office or at a club or hotel.
- Offices range from luxurious to non-existent. Some large business enterprises are based in makeshift accommodation.
- Facsimile and telephone are the preferred form of correspondence.

Papua New Guinea

Capital:	Port Moresby
Population:	5.6 million (approx).
Religion:	66% Christian (Roman Catholic and Luthran), however many people also maintain traditional beliefs which are generally based on ancestor and spirit worship.
Government:	Independent parliamentary democracy within the British Commonwealth.
Ethnic Groups:	Nearly the entire population belongs to the diverse Papuan or Melanesian ethnic groups, which are closely related. There is a small minority of whites (mostly Australian) and Asians (mostly Chinese).
Currency:	Kina (PGK). US\$1.05=1 Kina
Language:	Pidgin, English, Hirimotu, and 715 Indigenous languages.

English	Pidgin	Phonetics
Hello	Gude	Pidgin is very phonetic
Good Morning	Moning	
Goodnight	Gut Nait	
Goodbye	Gut Bai	
Yes	Yes	
No	Nogat	
Please	Plis	
Thank you	Tenkyu	
You're welcome	No waris	
I don't understand	Me no save	

New Caledonia

Capital:	Noumea
Population:	219, 246 (approx).
Religion:	60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, and 10% other: Muslim from Indonesia, Mormon from Tahiti, Buddhist, Baha'is, Seventh Day Adventist and Jehovah's Witness.
Government:	Since 1988 has had autonomous status within the French Republic. A 54 member Territorial Congress elects a government that holds executive power.
Ethnic Groups:	Melanesian 42.5%, European 37.1%, Wallisian 8.4%, Polynesian 3.8%, Indonesian 3.6%, Vietnamese 1.6%, other 3%.
Currency:	Comptoirs Francais du Pacifique franc (XPF). US\$1= 118 CFP
Language:	Kanak and French

English	French	Phonetics
Hello	Bonjour	Bon-ju
Good Morning	Bon matin	Bon-matan
Goodnight	Bon soir	Bon-swa
Goodbye	Au revoir	O-revwa
Yes	Oui	Wi
No	Non	No
Please	Per favore	Per-favaw
Thank you	Merci	Mer-cy
You're welcome	De rien	De-rien
I don't understand	Je ne comprende pas	Je-ne-comprend-pa

Tahiti (French Polynesia)

Capital:	Papeete
Population:	274, 578 (approx).
Religion:	Protestant 54%, Roman Catholic 30%, other 10%, no religion 6%
Government:	Territoire d'Outre Mer (TOM). Autonomous state within the French Republic.
Ethnic Groups:	Polynesian 78%, Chinese 12%, local French 6%, metropolitan French 4%
Language:	French 61.1% (official), Polynesian 31.4% (official), Asian languages 1.2%, other 0.3%, unspecified 6%
Currency:	Comptoirs Francais du Pacifique franc (XPF). US\$1= 118 CFP

Fiji

Capital:	Suva
Population:	905, 949 (approx).
Religion:	Christian 52% (Methodist 37%, Roman Catholic 9%), Hindu 38%, Muslim 8%, other 2%
Government:	Republic of Fiji – has a democratically elected government with a president and Great Council of Chiefs making decisions at a local level.
Ethnic Groups:	Fijian 51% (predominantly Melanesian with a Polynesian admixture), Indian 44%, European, other Pacific Islanders, overseas Chinese, and other 5%
Language:	English (official), Fijian and Hindustani
Currency:	Fijian dollar (FJD). US\$1= 0.51

Guam

Capital:	Hagåtña
Population:	171,019 (approx).
Religion:	Roman Catholic 85%, other 15%
Government:	An unincorporated territory of the U.S. with no national elections and one non-voting member in the US Congress. Has a 15 seat legislature.
Ethnic Groups:	Chamorro 37.1%, Filipino 26.3%, other Pacific islander 11.3%, white 6.9%, other Asian 6.3%, other ethnic origin or race 2.3%, mixed 9.8%
Language:	English 38.3%, Chamorro 22.2%, Philippine languages 22.2%, other Pacific island languages 6.8%, Asian languages 7%, other languages 3.5%
Currency:	USD

Solomon Islands

Capital:	Honaira (Guadalcanal)
Population:	552,438 (approx).
Religion:	Church of Melanesia 32.8%, Roman Catholic 19%, South Seas Evangelical 17%, Seventh-Day Adventist 11.2%, United Church 10.3%, Christian Fellowship Church 2.4%, other Christian 4.4%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.3%, none 0.2%
Government:	Independent parliamentary democracy within the British Commonwealth.
Ethnic Groups:	Melanesian 94.5%, Polynesian 3%, Micronesian 1.2%, other 1.1%, unspecified 0.2%
Language:	Solomon Islands Pijin, and over 90 indigenous languages. English is the official language but is spoken by only 1-2% of the population.
Currency:	Solomon Islands dollar (SBD). S\$1 = US\$0.20

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