With its tourist appeal and geographic location, New Caledonia is continually growing as a key South Pacific port of call for cruise ships.

A booming destination
With its ideal location between Australia and New Zealand, it's not at all surprising that the number of cruise passengers in New Caledonia has increased by over 400% in the last ten years. There were over 421,636 passengers on board the 207 cruise ships that berthed i.e. 9.25% more than in 2013. In total, there were 427 stopovers, split between Noumea, Ile des Pins, Lifou and Maré and over 528 have already been scheduled for 2016.

A reliable and professional port of call
With such success, New Caledonia is continuing to increase its capacity to welcome cruise passengers and its port security, notably with a plan for wharf extension. As a French territory, it is duty bound to maintain its high level of infrastructure and expertise to comply with the most demanding standards in terms of safety, transport, care and attention. The whole country is rallying together, including institutions, private stakeholders and public communities, to increase the professionalism of a tourism sector that is essential to the local economy and to give overseas cruise passengers the best possible welcome.

A unique experience for cruise passengers
The archipelago has so many highlights that each port of call is unforgettable. Bordered by the world's largest lagoon and magnificent beaches, this land of contrasts and extraordinary endemic biodiversity offers a vast array of scenery, cultures and unique activities in a temperate tropical climate of between 20°C and 30°C. While Noumea offers urban modernity with a touch of French sophistication, the Loyalty Islands give the cruise passenger a total immersion in traditional Kanak way of life and the Isle of Pines stands out by the splendour of its natural scenery. It's a great opportunity to discover new horizons, have fun, experience exotic flavours, cultural trips and leisure activities of all kinds.

To find out more, come and see us on stand 1125 at the Cruise Shipping Miami event on 16th March 2015.
On leaving the cruise ship at the marine terminal, which is less than 200m from the city centre, passengers can find everything they need (tourist office, foreign exchange booth, tour operators and post office) to head off and explore New Caledonia's capital: Noumea. This French city by the sea, founded in 1854, mixes the relaxed Pacific lifestyle with urban vitality. Whilst its numerous beaches and islets (Anse-Vata, Baie des Citrons, Îlot Canard and Phare Amédée) invite you to relax and take part in a host of watersports, its city centre and bays are home to all the pleasures of modern life, with a plethora of shops, cafes, bars and fine restaurants. And then there's the city to explore, offering a combination of tradition and modernity, with a significant colonial heritage (the Town Museum and Coconut Square), several contemporary buildings devoted to Kanak culture (the Tjibaou Cultural Centre and Museum of New Caledonia) and various leisure attractions (the Lagoon Aquarium, Michel Corbasson Forest Park and Zoo, and Port Moselle Municipal Market).

What to see
Visit the Tjibaou Cultural Centre for a stunning combination of contemporary architecture and traditional Kanak art.

What to do
Take a trip out to the Phare Amédée lighthouse: a spectacular monument on a beautiful island just off Noumea.

What to eat
Savour a gastronomic feast, combining French excellence and Pacific exoticism.
The Isle of Pines, idyllic beaches

From the moment they first arrive in Kuto bay, every cruise passenger is stunned by the natural beauty of the place. The Isle of Pines, known as Kunié in the Kanak language, is an untouched jewel, a true paradise on earth. Its lush interior of columnar pines and coconut palms gives way to long, fine white sand beaches which merge into the crystal-clear turquoise waters. This is the picture postcard setting where visitors receive a warm welcome from the local people, with traditional songs and dances and a host of activities, goods and produce available for purchase (local crafts and ultra-fresh seafood). This is the starting point for cruise passengers to explore the whole island and the mysteries it holds: scuba diving & snorkelling to explore the extensive underwater fauna, cultural trips (the remains of the penal colony, a tribal village welcome, Saint Maurice bay and the Queen Hortense grotto), an island tour by boat to explore its bays and so much more.

**What to see**
Watch the sunset, reflecting in the turquoise waters of Kanuméra bay.

**What to do**
Board a traditional pirogue and sail across Baie d’Upi for a look at the scenery that is so reminiscent of a miniature Ha Long Bay.

**What to eat**
Enjoy an incomparably fresh seafood feast.

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**ISLE OF PINES FACT FILE**

- **Population:** 1,958 inhab.
- **Area:** 152 km²
- **Berthings in 2014:** 108 cruise ships
- **No. of visitors in 2014:** 219,316 cruise passengers
- **Max LOA:** unlimited
Lifou, in the heart of the Kanak world

Lifou, known as Drehu in the Kanak language, offers far more than just magnificent scenery as the whole population come together to give their best to their visitors. And yet this large coral island's natural setting alone would have more than enough to satisfy the most demanding of tourists, with the turquoise waters of its glorious bays, impressive cliffs, lush tropical forests and immense caves. Despite that, local associations, businesses and institutions work together as a group to provide them with the best possible welcome and to share with them their rich culture. It's far from folklore; direct contact with the tribal inhabitants allows cruise passengers to enter the Kanak soul and the vitality of the custom that lies at the heart of their way of life, their arts and knowledge. Don't miss this opportunity to see the famous Wetr group with their traditional songs and dances, find out exactly how the locally-grown vanilla is cultivated, dive on one of the world's richest reefs, teeming with life, or enjoy their culinary delights and craft work.

What to see
Marvel at the undersea world in Jinek bay, truly a natural aquarium in shallow water.

What to do
Make the most of a tribal welcome to immerse yourself in the Kanak custom and traditions.

What to eat
Eat a Bougna: the definitive traditional Kanak dish, made of poultry, fish, yams and other local vegetables cooked in coconut milk.
Maré, know as Nengone in the Kanak language, is the new, up-and-coming port of call in New Caledonia. This incredible coral atoll, emerging up out of the water through the telluric activity of the Pacific Ocean, and surrounded by huge cliffs (up to 130 m high) is in fact attracting more and more cruise passengers. Its spectacular wild beauty is combined with the hospitality of its inhabitants, for whom the warm reception of passengers is a vital economic gift. Its massive stone walls (the Saut du Guerrier falls, the Forteresse de La Roche fortress), its breathtaking waterholes (the Trou de Bone sink hole, Pethoen grotto and natural aquarium of Tadine) and its deserted beaches (Wabao, Patho and Eni beach) all contribute to give cruise passengers the feeling they’ve entered the garden of Eden, cut off from the world, with any worries left far behind. Unique!

What to see
Carefully approach the Trou de Bone waterhole: a large sink hole, carved out by rainwater, 30m in diameter and 40m deep.

What to do
Head off to see Yejele beach, for a tribal village welcome followed by a swim and a massage on the beach.

What to eat
Savour the delicately lemon-scented taste of a lagoon fish, freshly grilled right there on the beach.