New Caledonia is one of the closest South Pacific islands to Australia’s east coast and the shores of New Zealand. It is famed for its blue lagoon UNESCO World Heritage-listed lagoon, white sand beaches and temperate tropical weather combining to create an exquisite destination for escaping holiday. However, for adventurous travelers, there’s even more to discover.

Home to over 500 km of marked trails labelled by the French Federation of Hiking (FFRIP), New Caledonia is a hiker’s playground for hikers. It has two long-distance hiking trails on offer, which are easy walking and hiking trails, with options for those of all experience levels. This is in addition to many other organised hiking trails in the Loyalty islands.

Hiking is one of the best ways to explore New Caledonia’s unique natural beauty, and a great option for tourists looking for a more active holiday. According to bodies like the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Global Ecological System, New Caledonia is one of the most biodiverse spots on the planet, with many endemic plants and animals. It is a place where waterfalls can carry you to earth down dense forests and the foot of waterfalls and the historical village of Prony. In addition to its technical stages that will delight seasoned hikers, this two-way trail showcases the incredibly biodiverse of the Great South. Hikers will even experience a taste of New Caledonia’s past, walking on old mining trails and through unique prehistoric vegetation!

The archipelago enjoys a very mild climate with an average annual temperature of 23°C. The temperature varies from 19-31 degrees Celsius, with mid-April to mid-November usually the most ideal period for hiking. The best news? New Caledonia enjoys a tropical and sunny climate.

Do not take:

• Local weather: meteo.nc
• Loyalty Islands: iles-loyaute.com

• Notify relevant local authorities and bodies
• Bring the necessary hiking equipment
• Marie-Claude Monefara (La Foa)
• Lucie Randonnée (Great South)

Qualified guides

• Qualified agency
• Touristinfo New Caledonia Website: www.touristinfo.nc Tel.: +687 34 42 20 Email: info@touristinfo.nc

Local weather information, visit www.newcaledonia.travel

The following is a guide to hiking in New Caledonia. For more information, visit www.newcaledonia.travel

1. TO TAKE A BREATHER
New Caledonia is a vast place that is still not very busy with the archetype enjoying a very rich blend with an average annual temperature of 23°C. Perfect for escaping winter!

2. FOR ITS INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY
The country is renowned for its extraordinary plant and animal life, many of which are endemic species. Hiking is a sustainable and respectful way of exploring this side of New Caledonia.

3. FOR ITS 500 KM OF TRAILS
When many think of a South Pacific island, they don’t think of many of which are endemic species. Hiking is a sustainable and respectful way of exploring this side of New Caledonia.

4. BECAUSE IT’S BEAUTIFUL ALL YEAR ROUND
The archipelago enjoys a very mild climate with an average annual temperature of 23°C. Perfect for escaping winter!

5. IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE
Immerse yourself in the rich Kanak culture by visiting a local village or enjoying a traditional meal for an authentic and unforgettable experience.

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TO NEW CALEDONIA

HIKING IN NEW CALEDONIA

South Hiking Trail N1C

PRONY STAGES IN DUMBÉA

TIPS

• Admire the breathtaking contrasting landscapes of red desert, large lakes and rivers.
• Enjoy the unique flora and fauna of the Great South, such as the Capua bird, scrubland, the Kaori tree, the Amborella Trichopoda (which is the ancestor of all flowering plants) and more.
• Pack your swimsuit! There are many lakes and rivers along the way that are great for a dip to cool off.
• Be sure to pack enough food and water for your hike, as there are limited shops along the trail to restock supplies.
• The trail can be walked in one go, or in stages if you have less time.
• Camping sites are set up along the trail. Do note that these have a maximum capacity of eight people, and cannot be booked.

From Prony to the Nescalitropsis refuge

14 km / 4 h / +540 m

From the Nescalitropsis refuge to the Nettche site

10.8 km / 3 h / 20 m / -450 m

From the Nettche site to the Guerouaue refuge

19.5 km / 5 h / +605 m

From the Guerouaue refuge to the Muletiers refuge

14.4 km / 3 h / 30 m / +780 m

From the Muletiers refuge to the Guerouaue refuge

19.8 km / 6 h / 30 m / +590 m

From the Guerouaue refuge to the Traitanaist refuge

23.7 km / 6 h / 680 m

From the Traitanaist refuge to the Guerouaue refuge

15.3 km / 5 h / -850 m

From the Guerouaue refuge to Dumbéa

19.5 km / 6 h / +605 m

TAKING A BREATHER

South hiking trail nc1

The GR11 GR North passes through the green wilderness of New Caledonia’s east coast, and through many traditional Kanak villages. It offers superb views of the east coast’s mountainous ranges. Forests and Russell trees. It is a two-way trail, with both ends points finishing in Kanak villages. To take full advantage of the trail, it is recommended to walk with a guide who can introduce you to the Kanak tribes and explain the intricacies of their culture and customs.

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500 KM OF TRAILS IN THE HEART OF AN UNRIVALLED NATURE

TOURING GR NEW CALEDONIA

HIKING TRAIL N1C

PASSING THROUGH THE MUNITIONS SITE, MONT-DORE AND DUMBÉA, THE GR11 GR SOUTH CROSSES SEVERAL NEW CALEDONIA’S MOST MUST-SEE SITES, NAMELY THE BLUE RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK AND ITS SHADOWED FOREST; THE DUMBÉA NATURAL PARK; THE LA RIZIERE WATERFALLS AND THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF PRONY. IN ADDITION TO ITS TECHNICAL STAGES THAT WILL DELIGHT SEASONED HIKERS, THIS TWO-WAY TRAIL SHOWCASES THE INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY OF THE GREAT SOUTH. HIKERS WILL EVEN EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF NEW CALEDONIA’S PAST, WALKING ON OLD MINING TRAILS AND THROUGH UNIQUE PREHISTORIC VEGETATION!

The GR11 GR South passes through the green wilderness of New Caledonia’s east coast, and through many traditional Kanak villages. It offers superb views of the east coast’s mountainous ranges. Forests and Russell trees. It is a two-way trail, with both ends points finishing in Kanak villages. To take full advantage of the trail, it is recommended to walk with a guide who can introduce you to the Kanak tribes and explain the intricacies of their culture and customs.

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