

EASO (LIFOU), NEW CALEDONIA

Lifou is the largest of the Loyalty Islands - a province of New Caledonia largely inhabited by the native Kanak community.

KEY INFO

Currency: Pacific Franc (1 USD = 110 XPF)	Languages: French, Native Tribal Languages
Population: 10,000 (Lifou) (271,000 NC)	Drive on the: Right
Emergency #: 15 (medical), 17 (police), 18 (fire)	Pharmacy: None
Drinking water: Tap water is not drinkable	Bug Spray: Recommended
Time Zone: GMT+11	Wi-Fi: None
ID Requirements: Photo ID	Post Office: Opt - Agency De Xepenehe (649X+849)

PORT LOCATION

Ships tender to Lifou Pier, which is next to the village of Easo. The beach is right there.

Getting Around: From the pier the beach and market are within immediate walking distance. Private tour operators offer drives outside of Easo for regional sightseeing

Port Facilities: Private tour sales, toilets, beach equipment rental, café

Port Address: Lifou Pier, 648G+C56, Easo, New Caledonia

RIGHT THERE AT THE PIER

Easo Beach: Primarily, a day in Easo means a day on the beach. The tender pier is right in the middle of almost 600m of white sand beach.

Local Market: At the pier, a local market sells food and crafts. Bargaining is not part of the culture here and may be perceived as offensive.

Snorkeling: Head to Jinek Bay for even better snorkeling conditions. Away from the other swimmers, the water is a lot clearer, so visibility is better. 4-minute drive/25-minute walk | 1.7km from pier

Walking Trails: Several walking paths give access to the surrounding region with churches, beaches, and great viewpoints to enjoy. Trails are generally uneven, so good walking shoes are advised. And, given the heat, take bottled water.

Churches: New Caledonian society is religious and there are a variety of churches to visit in Easo. These include Grotte d'Easo (64CH+CJG), Eglise Catholique ne Drehu (64CH+2C5) and Notre Dame de Lourde (645F+V7X)

A BIT FURTHER AFIELD

Vanilla Plantation: These world-famous pods were brought to Lifou from Madagascar by British Vicar, Samuel McFarlane in the 19th Century, but it wasn't until 100 years later that the industry really took off here. Plantations are found in Traput, Jozip, Mu, and Mucaweng. Mucaweng is the closest to Easo (7km)

Jokin Cliffs: Discover the geological history of the Loyalty Islands. These 60m cliffs at the northern point of Lifou are the burial site of several tribal leaders, and an excellent snorkeling spot. Just take care on the steep descent to the water. 20-minute drive | 12.5km from pier

The Hnathalo Chief's Tribal House: Visit the tribal house of the main district Chief of Wetr. Show respect to the Chief and tribal customs by following the tribal ritual of making an offering to the chief in return for permission to visit the house and take photos. 20-minute drive | 15km from pier

Take a boat to Tiga: Explore the nearby, and much smaller, island of Tiga. Less than 100 people call Tiga home. This island has one village and is totally dependent on the outside world for supplies.

GO DIVING IN EASO

Lagoon Safaris: For diving and snorkeling tours, located to the left of the pier. Morning dives depart at 7:30am. Afternoon dives depart at 2pm. Card payment accepted.

www.lagoon-safaris.nc

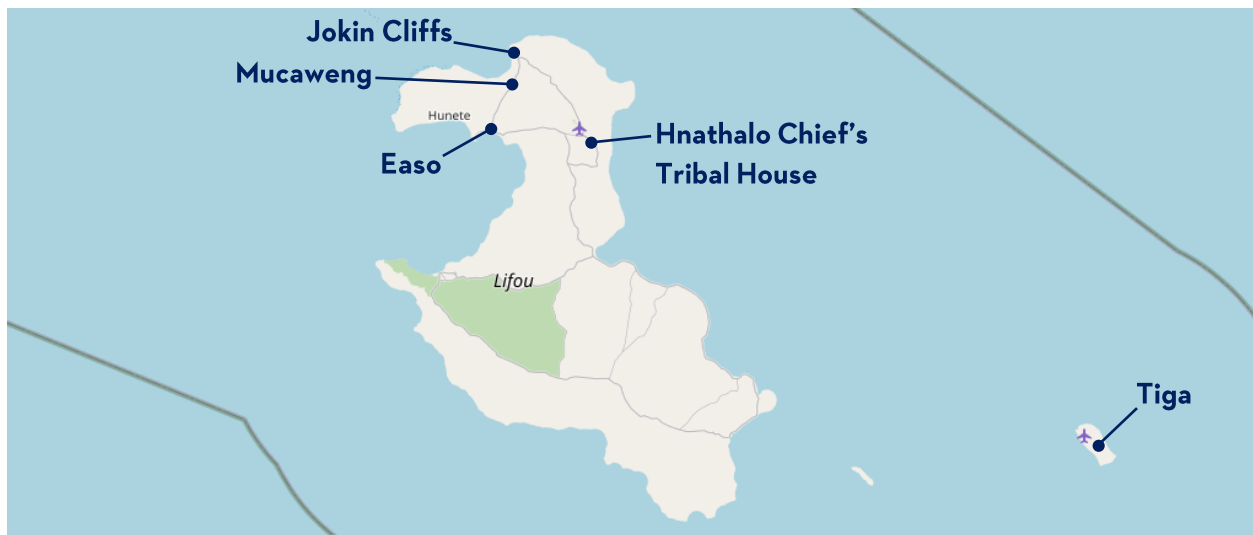
FUN FACT

Did you know that vanillas are a sub-species of orchids? There are about 25,000 orchid varieties in the world, and of them about 100 are vanillas.

WHAT TO WEAR?

Lifou is a very traditional island, and it can be easy to inadvertently cause offence by wearing the wrong thing. When visiting local villages, ensure your knees, shoulders and midriff are covered. When on the beach, it is considered inappropriate for ladies to sunbathe topless (even though it's 'France'), and modest swimwear is recommended.

ISLAND MAP



For more: www.noumeadiscovery.com, www.newcaledonia.travel