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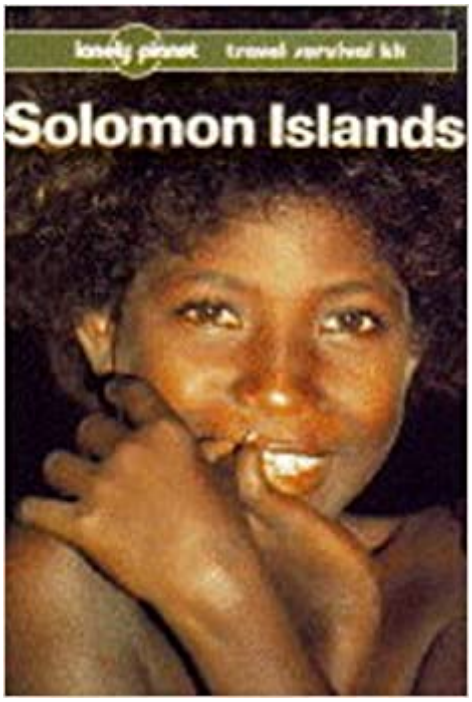
Lonely Planet Solomon Islands (Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit)



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Synopsis

Lonely Planet’s "Travel Survival Kits" cover one country, or a small group of countries, in depth, with travel and accommodation options to suit a range of budgets. These guides are designed to be easy to use, providing practical travel information in a lively, entertaining style. Features of this series include: cultural and historical background; detailed maps of cities, towns and rural areas; information on getting there and getting around; practical information on every aspect of travel; health and safety advice; information on local cuisine; advice on customs and etiquette; key words, phrases and basic grammar of local languages; and names of places, restaurants and hotels in foreign script where applicable. Now in its second edition, this "Travel Survival Kit" contains information on all of the Solomon Islands, from isolated white sand beaches and impenetrable rainforests, to remote islands and atolls, perfect for exploring. The guide includes details on island hopping, canoe trips, walking and birdwatching.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent book, but of course, some of the information is a bit dated.

Even though the book is now several years old, time moves slowly on these islands so most of what appears here is still relevant.

This is the last edition of Lonely Planet’s Solomon Islands guide.It has not been updated since the

mid-90es, and has in theory been replaced by the publisher's 2005 "Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands" guide, which in reality only devotes fewer than 30 pages to the Solomon Islands, completely ignoring half the country's provinces, concentraiting on Honiara and a few popular tourist spots instead.This edition (or the nearly identical 2nd edition), in contrast, covers the entire archipelago in amazing detail, all the way from the Treasury Islands in the West to the remote Polynesian outliers of Tikopia and Anuta in the East.Each major province and island is described in good detail, and is shown on a good map.Needless to say, some things have changed - however in the Solomons they have probably changed much less than in most of the rest of the World!I travelled in the country in 2005, and found myself using this book almost all the time, with the then brand new PNG & Solomons guide quickly buried to the depths of my backpack.If you want to actually travel around this least visited corner of Melanesia, rather than just have a short holiday on a resort island in Western province, and especially if exploring remote islands and hiking remote mountains and shorelines is your thing, this book is definitely the one to take.It is also highly recommended for those with a general interest in the country, as travel practicalities apart, the background info on the culture, geography and fauna of the Solomons is still better than I have found in any other single book.

Somewhat disappointing for a LP guide, lots of text but not as much "meat". After travelling in the Solomons and talking with others one gets the impression that the author did quite limited travelling throughout the islands and largely relied on other's reports. The hike to Mataniko Falls is way more strenuous and dangerous than hinted. (It is still an awesome sight, especially if you're a caver) Likewise a hike along the Weather Coast is more challenging than one would gather from the text, there are places where villagers go by boat because of the vertical exposure. Makira Island is only marginal habitat for salt-water crocodiles according to a Conservation International report and not as abundant as stated in the guide. Given the dearth of information about the Solomons it is still worth buying, but prudence is recommended.

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