

# Places to visit

## Iririki Island Resorts & Spa – Vanuatu

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distinct styles of accommodation – the traditional child free Iririki Island Resort and the couples and family oriented Snorkelers Cove precinct. On the island a fleet of electric shuttle buggies transport guests around the island and assist guests to their room after they have checked in.

As a guest on the island there is really no need to venture further to other beaches or restaurants, Iririki Island has it all. There's diving, snorkelling, golf, swimming, jet skiing, or simply lying by the pool, thus offering exceptional holiday relaxation. You could take time out to explore Port Vila for duty-free and general shopping. It is very easy to say that the Iririki Island Resort is a wonderfully romantic, serene and peaceful destination for couples of all ages, to relax, unwind and enjoy.

The original Iririki Resort is the perfect retreat for parents seeking a 'child free' break away with their partner and the new Snorkelers Cove resort offers spacious & modern room facilities, the large outdoor balconies all feature a private spa tub, which cater for both couples and families with children of all ages. There are two tennis courts, a children's games room, a convenience store, and a Sunset Bar and Bistro with family-oriented menus offering something for all ages – in a poolside indoor/outdoor ambience shaded by coconut palms, lush ferns and other tropical greenery. And every Sunday there's a poolside BBQ at Snorkelers Cove.

As visitors to Port Vila by ship for more than 20 years you could not help but notice this island resort which faces the main township and harbour. This time our cruise finished in Port Vila and it gave us the opportunity to stay over night and explore this magnificent complex. This stunning complex, opened in March 1986, is superb. The name Iririki translates to 'Small Island' in the local language. When you arrive you are refreshed with a 'Welcoming Cocktail' and the friendly faces that Vanuatu is renowned for.

The Resort is situated on an idyllic private 69 acre island in Port Vila Harbour that was formerly home to the British High

Commissioner of the New Hebrides. In 1953 the event centre on top of the hill was built as a meeting room for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II, who stayed on the Island at that time. A courtesy ferry operates 24 hours a day taking only three minutes each way. The International Airport is only 6.5 kilometres away, or 15 minutes by car. From where the visiting ships tie up, it is only a short taxi ride – the island management welcomes day visitors.

In September/October 2006 new features and facilities were opened to ensure the resort holds its position as the premier accommodation provider in Vanuatu. The resort now offers 131 guest rooms with two



The Resort also offers a superb location for business people visiting Vanuatu who want a location close to Port Vila's

Business Centre and a quiet, stress free atmosphere once the business day is done. Internet connections are available in all rooms and on the island corporate packages are available which include full office facilities, meeting room, secretarial services, personal email accounts and more. Wedding packages are also very popular.

The accommodation at Itriki Resort comprises 70 tastefully decorated individual "Fares" (bungalows) that are elevated to capture the cool sea breeze. There are three different categories: Waterfront, Harbour view and Garden view. The Sharklarkers Cove Resort comprises brand new Deluxe Rooms and Penthouses. These are tri level offering magnificent views from the hillside to the ocean or across to the large pool. Rooms are suitable for families.

And of course there is the dining and winning. Itriki Resort's premier Michener's Restaurant offers sweeping harbour and town views from its elevated hillside position, and is renowned for its seafood, local Santo beef, and use of freshest market produce... with after-dinner

coffee and liqueurs able to be taken indoors or at a poolside table in the evening breezes. The restaurant is named after American author James A. Michener who wrote the classic Tales of the South Pacific after serving in Vanuatu during the Pacific War. He was so delighted to learn that Itriki Resort wanted to name their premier restaurant Michener's after him, that he wrote "I am delighted at such a great honour" - his letter is framed and on display today in Michener's.

Itriki Resort's Bali Hai Café and Bar features more-casual day-long dining poolside with live entertainment nightly, while the Watermark Restaurant at the island's beachfront Water sports Centre offers another family-oriented dining option for guests from both resorts. Here menus are Asian-influenced with taste platters and grill plates from lunch through to dinner right beside the water looking across into town.

Land is now being developed on the Island and is for sale, along with investment opportunities in purchasing your own accommodation facilities.

For that weekend away or longer vacation, we can recommend the Itriki Island Resorts & Spa, Port Vila.

**For information contact your travel agent or phone (03) 9696 0300.**

