



AN INTIMATE PARADISE

貼近心靈的天堂

Lembah Strait may have the most macro critters and Cocos Island its large pelagics, but nowhere else on earth matches incredible diversity of the Solomon Islands.

蓝碧海峡或许有最壮观的海洋生物，而可可斯群岛有最迷人的大型远洋鱼，但是世界上再也没有比索罗门群岛拥有更多样的风貌了。

Text & Photo | Rod Klein



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As I walk through Mbiche Village in the Marovo Lagoon region of the Solomon Islands, I am accosted by a gaggle of kids. Some are shy and while clearly interested, hang back. Others, being more daring and seeing my camera, are dying for me to take their picture. I'm not the first "white tourist", so digital cameras, with their instant feedback, are not new to these kids. All they want is to get a look at themselves on my LCD display.

Many of the children have blond hair and chocolate-colored skin. This village is typical of the many others in this island chain and most people reside in these small, widely dispersed settlements along the coasts of the Solomon Islands. Sixty percent live in localities with fewer than 200 persons, and only a very small percentage reside in the capital of Honiara.

Located northeast of Australia the islands stretch for 1,200 miles. The 10 large volcanic islands and four smaller island groups that make up the Solomons are covered with lush, green mountains. Although the infrastructure is still primitive in most areas, those with a spirit of adventure and love of diving will find it wonderful and exciting.

Divers can experience huge walls and exciting drift dives; deep cuts and chasms providing dramatic streams of light that penetrate

the lush jungle canopy above; huge schools of jacks and barracuda; pods of dolphins; a kaleidoscope of colorful fish; soft corals, sea fans, and huge fields of hard corals contribute to some of the most pristine reefs in the world.

There are also big WWII wrecks, sizzling with huge schools of colorful fish and corals, and finally the ravishing natural beauty of high mountainous islands with picture postcard beaches fringed with cobalt blue lagoons. However, there's something else, something more profound. It's the quiet intimacy and return to an uncluttered time that makes this place beyond special. The image of our large liveaboard secured to a tree, just 10m/30 ft from shore, with local villages coming to visit us in canoes, is indicative of the overall ambience of this remarkable area.

Freedom To Dive

Although there are isolated local dive operations and small backpacker resorts on various islands, there is only one way to really experience all aspects of the Solomons and that's by a liveaboard. With two fine boats, the Bilikiki and the Spirit of Solomons, Bilikiki Cruises has been operating in these waters for over 20 years and have not only provided access to the diving but



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当我散步在索罗门群岛上马罗佛礁湖区的恩比趣度假村时，我遇见一群聒噪嬉戏的孩童。有些尽管满满的好奇心，却还是害羞、退缩；有些则大胆许多，看到我的相机，都争相要求著要我帮他们拍照。我并不是第一个「阿兜仔游客」，所以数位相机对这些孩子来说，不算是什么新鲜玩意儿，因此他们一窝蜂的涌向前，要从我的LCD显示屏上看看他们自己的身影。

许多孩子有著亚麻色的头发以及巧克力的皮肤。这个小村庄典型的如同列岛中的其他村庄，而大部份的居民居住在这些四散于索罗门群岛沿岸的小屋里。百分之六十的居民落脚在这个地区，不过人数还不到200人，而只有少比例的人住在首都霍尼阿拉。

座落于澳洲以北的索罗门群岛绵延1,200哩。由十座大型火山岛屿与四个小型群岛所组成，整个索罗门覆盖在一片苍翠繁茂的葱绿山脉下。尽管大部份区域的公共建设还是相当贫乏，不过对于勇于冒险与热爱潜水的人，一样能够发掘到它的美好与感动。

潜水客能够体验到高耸的礁墙，以及刺激的放流潜；阳光穿透莲覆于上的茂密丛林，直直的闪入纵深的峡谷与裂隙，反映出夺目耀眼的光亮；成群结队的鲹鱼和梭鱼、呼朋引伴的海豚、万花筒般的彩色鱼群、软珊瑚、海扇以及一大片硬珊瑚构成了这世界上最原始纯净的礁脉之一。

这里也有第二次世界大战时期的大型沉船，因不胜枚数的彩色鱼群与珊瑚群而显得生气勃勃，而最令人陶醉不已的莫过于大自然的美：高山耸立的群岛，加上有著靛蓝色礁湖，还有美得如风景明信片的海滨景致。然而，除此之外，还有更深邃迷人的。它是如此的令人熟悉又亲切，让人有种反朴归真的感觉，也使得它一直以来都是那么超脱特别。我们的大型宿船绑缚固定于一棵树上，距离海岸只有10米（30尺），如果要从当地的村子来拜访我们，则需要划艘独木舟，想像一下这样的情景，就可以感受到这个地方的整个氛围，是多么的令人印象深刻。

自由的潜

虽然位置孤绝偏远，不过当地的潜店与小型的背包客饭店林立于各岛上，而只有一个方法可以真的体验到全方位的索罗门，那就是搭乘宿船。拥有「比利奇奇」和「索罗门之心」两艘优质宿船的比利奇奇游艇公司经营水上生意已经超过二十年，不只提供潜水旅游服务，也带给当地居民们深远且正面的影响。

我参加的是「索罗门之心」的船宿，14天的行程，我们探访了罗素群岛、玛丽岛、马罗佛礁湖以及佛罗里达岛的许多潜点。途中我们停留在陆地上一家有著乡村风格的小规模旅馆，以便能够达成我们724公里（450哩）的旅程，其中还包括了参访两个奇趣古雅的村庄、一天进行四到五次的潜水以及前往超过36处不同的潜点。行程安排并不



have had a significant positive impact on the area and its residents.

I was hosted by the Spirit of Solomons and for 14 days we visited numerous locations in the Russell Islands, Mary Island, Marovo Lagoon, and the Florida Islands. Staying at one of the small, rustic land-based resorts would have made it impossible to cover our 724 km/450 mile itinerary where we visited two quaint villages, did 4-5 dives a day and dived more than 36 different divesites. There is no rigid itinerary of sites – If we liked a location we stayed there, if not, we moved on.

I'm normally a two dives-a-day kind of guy. People who dive with me are always amazed when they see me up for the first dive in the morning. But this was different and I didn't want to miss anything. Each dive was unique and spectacular in its own way. In Lembeh Strait I concentrate primarily on macro shots, in Wakatobi or the Caribbean wide-angle is my usual choice, but during my 14 days in the Solomons, I used almost every lens and housing port I own. We visited a total of 36 dive sites, some of which we dived numerous times and

while every divesite had its own uniqueness, there were some that really made a lasting impression in my mind.

We dived at Anuha on the very last diving day of my two-week stay. Typically, I would be spending my time packing and chilling before I fly, but this little divesite offered some great macro opportunities. Located in the Florida Islands, it is basically a rubble strewn sandy slope, similar in topography to sites that I have dived in Lembeh Strait. I found a lot of things here that I hadn't seen during the trip, such as a baby batfish in the sea grass, a harlequin snake eel buried in the sand, and a number of ghost pipefish. Being very shallow, I did two 120-minute dives to top off my incredible journey.

Thinking of Next Time

I sat on the top deck as we cruised back to Honiara from the Florida Islands. As we cruised through a passage between two islands, some local villagers paddled up to our boat in their canoes and in what has become a tradition, the crew threw bags of freshly made popcorn to the kids paddling hard to keep up with our boat

死板，如果我们喜欢某个潜点，我们就可以待在那儿，如果不喜欢，就往下一个前进。

通常我是那种一天只潜两次的人。当我的潜伴看到我打算一大早就开始进行第一趟潜水时，总是很吃惊。但是，这不一样啊！在这里，我可是不想错过任何事的。每个潜点都是独一无二的且壮丽的难以言喻。在蓝碧海峡，我主要是专注于微距拍摄上；在瓦卡多比或加勒比海，广角取景则是我通常的选择；但是在14天的索罗门旅途中，我几乎用尽了所有的镜头与相机潜水袋。我们勘访了36个潜点，某些潜点我们潜进了无数次，那里的每个地方都有自己的独到之处，有些场景真的令我印象深刻，久久无法忘怀。

在我停留的那两个星期中，最后前往的一个潜点就是阿努哈。一如往常地，在我离开前总会花点时间打包，同时陷入沮丧中，不过，这处不大的潜点，却提供了非常多的取景机会。阿努哈位处佛罗里达岛，原则上是一个倾斜的碎石沙地，和我之前潜过的蓝碧海峡地形相似。在这里我看到了好多景物是我上一趟旅程不曾见到的，像是一尾燕鱼宝宝在海草中捉迷藏、一尾竹节花蛇鳗神经兮兮的躲在沙地里、一票鬼龙鱼成群结队著。在浅水区，我进行了两趟120分钟的潜水，为这趟无与伦比的旅程画上完美的句点。

计划重游

我坐在从佛罗里达岛往回航向霍尼阿拉的甲板上。当我们行经两岛间的水路时，一些当地的村民划著他们的独木舟向著我们的宿船而来，而这好像也成了一种传统，船员们将一袋袋刚爆好的玉米花扔向船上的孩子们，为了跟上我们的船，他们更加奋力的划著，而我们的船也配合似的缓缓蠕动著。伴著迷人的阳光与吆喝著要求更多爆玉米花的童语，这样的画面作为我的第一索罗门群岛之旅的结尾，似乎再适合也不过了。

索罗门的五大潜点

1. 勒鲁峡沟：当晨光晶亮地洒落于罗素岛的勒鲁峡沟时，动人的情景就成了索罗门群岛最秒杀底片的画面。从密覆的丛林间宣泄而下灿烂日光，为一张张潜水相片打上最亮丽的光线。一道100米长的裂隙深深地刻划在礁岩上，裂口突出于丛林上方。通常在正午前下潜到裂缝底部30米处，就能感受到那一缕最绚丽的光芒。礁岩内布满了海扇、软珊瑚、海蛞蝓以及梅鲷，而礁岩外也是一样的精彩万分。

2. 玛丽岛：玛丽岛【嗯包罗酷】是一处偏远无人迹的丛林，也是旅客所能到达最偏僻孤绝的岛屿。一座火活山就屹立在罗素群岛的西方，四周环绕著深纵的礁岩，里头蕴含著丰富充沛的海洋生物，包括了梭鱼、蝠鲼和鲨鱼。它是其中一个会令你难忘的潜点。玛丽岛最著名的就是栖息了无数的梭鱼和鳐鱼。

3. 梭鱼坪：我在索罗门最喜欢的潜点就是一个和马来西亚诗巴丹岛的潜点同名的「梭鱼坪」，那儿有数以万计的梭鱼群和鳐鱼群。不同的是，索罗门「梭鱼坪」的这些鱼群更庞大。你还可以潜至更深的地方，去探访一下珊瑚碎砾区，那也是鬼龙鱼、叶鱼和虾虎鱼的辖区。

4. 镜塘：是一处位于鬃毛岛的礁壁，有一些大的浅水区可供潜水，岩壁后方还有个洞窟入口。沿著礁壁正面，是充斥著元气满满的硬软珊瑚，里头居住了花鲈、隆头鹦哥鱼、白点礁鲨和墨鱼。这处潜点还有最出名的咸水鳄，偶尔会栖住在礁脉连接礁湖间的浅水洞穴中。很可惜的，在我们潜游此处时，并没有遇上它。正如其名，镜塘就向一面在浅滩中会反射的镜子，数条水道澎湃汹涌于巨大的石脊沟槽间，从海岸奔向矗立的礁墙。挺立的鹿角珊瑚雅致完好，是最富裕的太平洋礁脉生物庇护所。

5. 卡斯通洞穴：从勒鲁峡沟穿过海湾，主岛帕乌乌上有许多的洞穴，一路沿著礁壁到底。卡斯通洞穴的入口通往一条20米（65尺）的狭长隧道，顺著隧道向下延伸至一处开阔宽大的窟穴。洞顶上有一个孔眼，可以穿透日光，当太阳高高在上时，就会形成一道闪耀的光束。当你的洞穴探险结束后，你就可以在附近尽情畅游并且享受刺激的峭壁潜。



which had slowed to a virtual crawl. With the beautiful sun and village kids laughing and yelling for more popcorn, it seemed like a fitting end to my first journey to the Solomon Islands.

SOLOMON'S TOP 5 SITES

- 1. Leru Cut:** Located at the Russell Islands, Leru Cut provides one of the Solomons' iconic photo-ops as morning sunlight pierces a chasm in the island. Dramatic streams of light penetrate the jungle canopy, providing for striking silhouetted diver shots. A deep 100m cut in the wall opens at the top revealing the jungle above. The bottom of the cut is at 30m and the dive is normally done just before midday for the optimal stream of light. The wall inside is covered with fans, soft corals, nudibranchs, and fusiliers, and the wall outside is just as good.
- 2. Mary Island:** A remote uninhabited jungle, Mborokua (Mary) Island is about as far off the beaten tourist track as you can get. This extinct volcano lies west of the Russell Islands and is surrounded by deep walls with prolific marine life including barracuda, manta rays and sharks. It is one of those dive destinations you'll never ever forget. Mary Island is famous for harboring massive schools of barracuda and jacks.
- 3. Barracuda Point:** My favorite site of the Solomons, and just like its namesake in Malaysia's Sipadan Island, there are huge schools of both barracuda and jacks. The difference is that these schools are much larger. One can also leave the depths to explore the coral rubble areas, for it is in this site that ghost pipefish, leaf fish and shrimp gobies rule.
- 4. Mirror Pond:** This is a wall at Mane Island that has some great shallow diving areas with a cave entrance at the rear. Along the front of the wall, there are vibrant hard and soft corals with colonies of anthias, humphead parrotfish, white tip reef shark, and cuttlefish. This site is also famous for its saltwater crocodile that occasionally resides in the shallow tunnel connecting the reef to an inner lagoon. Unfortunately we did not see it during our dives there. But true to its name, Mirror Pond offers mirror like reflection opportunities in the shallows and the tall spur-and-groove surge channels lead off-shore to a fairly vertical wall. Elegantly intact, stands of stag-horn coral provide refuge for a wealth of Pacific reef critters.
- 5. Custom Cave:** Across the bay from Leru, on the main island of Pavuvu, there are a number of caves along the wall that lead to dead ends. The entrance to the Custom Cave leads to a 20m/65 ft tunnel that narrows, and leads downward before opening out into a large round chamber. There is a hole in the roof where the sunlight filters through, creating a shaft of light when the sun is high. After you have explored the cave, you can enjoy an exciting wall dive with a big swim-through nearby.

Travel Facts
The Solomons Islands are located in Melanesia, a geographic and cultural designation for about 1,000 islands that extend from New Guinea to Fiji. A more beautiful, unspoiled paradise is hard to imagine. Imagine glimmering lagoons, lush jungles, forested peaks and small villages on stilts that dot the landscape. For more information visit the Solomon Islands official website: www.visitsolomons.com.sb

- ▶ Getting there**
Solomon Airlines (www.solomonairlines.com.au), the government-owned carrier, flies to Honiara twice a week from Brisbane (Australia), Nadi (Fiji), and Port Vila (Vanuatu). These flights are on a code share agreement with Air Pacific, Air Vanuatu, and Qantas. Air Niugini has flights from Port Moresby twice a week. Pacific Blue offers four classes of fares from Brisbane starting from AUS\$327 on Blue Saver to AUS\$867.09 on Premium Economy. The departure tax is SBD40 or approximately US\$5 on international flights only.
- ▶ When to go**
Hot and humid year-round, the most pleasant time to visit is from July to September, when rainfall, humidity, and temperatures are at its lowest. The heaviest rainfall occurs from December through March.
- ▶ Visas**
Visitors require a passport and proof of onward travel. Commonwealth citizens, Americans, and most Western European nationals are given a stamp allowing a 30-day stay. A transit visa is issued on arrival for visitors with a confirmed onward reservation within seven days.
- ▶ Electricity**
The voltage is 240V/50Hz in places which do receive electricity. The Australian 3-pin plug fits here.
- ▶ Health**
Malaria is a very real danger in the islands, and visitors are advised to take anti-malarial drugs during their visit, and even before and after. It would be a good idea to take vaccinations against Hepatitis B and tuberculosis too. If you are coming from an area infected with yellow fever, the authorities expect you to carry a vaccination certificate against the disease with you.
- ▶ Language**
Solomon Pidgin is the national language although there are over 87 languages spoken. English is the official language widely spoken and understood in tourist areas.
- ▶ Currency**
Solomon Island Dollar (SBD). US\$1 = 7.9 SBD. Cash payments in US, Australian and New Zealand currency are readily accepted.



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索罗门群岛概略导览

索罗门群岛位于美拉尼西亚，大约有1000座的岛屿分布于新几内亚到斐济（Fiji）之间，同时也延续了两地的风俗文化。是一处无法置信的绝美完好天堂。想像一下闪闪发亮的礁湖、茂密的丛林、多林的山峰以及大地上星罗棋 的高脚小屋...。欲得知更多索罗门群岛的旅游资讯，请连结官方网站：www.visitsolomons.com.sb

交通

索罗门航空【www.solomonairlines.com.au】为国营航空公司，每周两班的航机从澳洲的 利斯班、斐济的纳迪与万那杜的维拉港飞往霍尼阿拉。这些班机都与太平洋航空、万那杜航空以及澳洲的宽达斯航空签署协定公约。新几内亚航空则是提供一周两班的班机，从摩尔斯比港起飞。太平洋蓝天航空的班机则从 利斯班起飞，票价分为四个等级，从AUS\$327的平价舱到AUS\$867.09的豪华经济舱。离境税为SBD40，大约美金5元，只有国际班机才收取。

气候

一年到头都是炎热潮湿的天气，最适宜前去旅游的时间为七月到九月，遇到雨天、湿气重的日子，气温会是最低的时候。雨季从十二月到隔年三月。

签证

旅客均需持有签证以办理入境手续。英联邦公民、美国人以及大部份的西欧人都可以取得30天的签证。过境签证则可在抵达后办理，通常可停留七天。

电力

电力规格为240V/50Hz。澳洲的三脚插头在这里是适用的。

医卫

岛上的疟疾感染极为猖獗，旅客在旅游期间，甚至在出发前与离开后，都应该服用抗疟疾的药物。接种抗B型肝炎和肺结核的疫苗是明智之举。如果你是来自于黄热病的疫区，相关机构会要求你出示已接种疫苗的证明文件。

语言

虽然当地有超过87种以上的语言，不过索罗门皮钦语是他们的国语。英语则是普遍的官方语言，在旅游区广泛使用著。

货币

索罗门币。1美金=7.9索币。接受美金、澳币及纽西兰币。

