



# Shefa Tourism

June 2016



**EPI ISLAND**  
Shefa Province

## EPI ISLAND – ACCOMMODATION MAP



- Paradise Sunset Bungalows . . . **564 9107**
- Coral Guesthouse . . . **564 9107**
- Pulkum Guesthouse . . . **572 0953** or **733 2282**
- Epi Island Guest House . . . **772 8225**



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# PARADISE SUNSET BUNGALOWS



This is a substantial building made of modern materials which houses up to 11 guests in different configurations. There are single rooms, twin rooms and adjoining rooms with double and single beds for families and groups. They share two basic ablution blocks consisting of a flush toilet and shower.

Meals are served in the restaurant and Tasso's wife is an excellent cook.

The bungalows are situated across the

road from a black sand beach, ideal for swimming. Tasso has two kayaks that guests can use free of charge.

Cost per person per night is 3,000 vatu, which includes breakfast and dinner. Lunch is available by arrangement for an additional 500 vatu per person.

Contact: **Tasso**

Phone: (+678) **564 9107**



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# CORAL GUESTHOUSE



This charming new guesthouse is built entirely of local materials. It's set in a clearing in the bush, just moments from the beach.

Coral guesthouse consists of one very spacious bungalow with a covered veranda. There's 1 double and 2 single beds, sleeping up to 4 guests. It is self-catering with the dining area and kitchen housed in a separate building that includes table and chairs, a gas stove

and cooking utensils. If you would prefer not to cook for yourself, you can arrange to have meals with Tasso at the nearby Paradise Sunset Bungalows.

For bookings contact Tasso at Paradise Sunset Bungalows, making it clear that you want to stay at Coral Guesthouse. Cost per person is 2,000 vatu a night (meals not included.)

Contact: **John Alick** via **Tasso**

Phone: (+678) **564 9107**



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# PULKUM GUESTHOUSE



Pulkum Guesthouse is situated on the edge of a village on Lamén Island, very close to the beach. It's built from local materials and sleeps up to 5 people in two rooms, one with a double bed and one with a double and a single bed. Shared ablutions are separate and consist of a toilet and shower. There's a covered area nearby with a small kitchen attached where guests can prepare and eat their meals. You will

need to bring your own provisions.

Lamen Island is almost completely surrounded by a white sand beach. It's possible to walk around it in about an hour. There's safe swimming and good snorkeling.

Cost per person per night is 1,500 vatu, which doesn't include meals.

Contact: **Reuben and Masala**

Phone: (+678) **572 0953** or **733 2282**



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# EPI ISLAND GUEST HOUSE



Epi Island Guest House offers a unique opportunity to experience a truly alternative lifestyle. They have built a proud reputation for warm hospitality, homely comfort, and top quality homemade meals, fresh from their organic gardens.

Located in the south west corner of the island - just a stone's throw away from Valesdir Airport - it's perfect for guests who feel the need to escape their busy

lives and spend a few days of relaxing, without having to give up the comforts of home. The private white sand beach, available only to guests, is possibly one of the most secluded and peaceful spots in Vanuatu. Staying in the guest house (including three gourmet meals) costs 15,000 vatu per person per day. 'Glamping' in the funky beach huts (self catering) starts at 2,500 vatu a couple a night.

Contact: **Alix Crapper**

Phone: (+678) **772 8225**



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# EPI ISLAND TRAVEL INFO

## Contacting the Bungalows

Cell phone reception is patchy on Epi. In addition people rely on solar and generators for power, so their phones may not be charged. If they don't answer, keep trying the number. Send a text. If you still can't get through, contact the Shefa Tourism Office on 5526028

## Getting There

### *By Air:*

Flying is relatively inexpensive and Belair Airways and Air Vanuatu currently have regular scheduled flights to both Lamén Bay and Valesdir airfields. These have grass runways and Valesdir in particular is susceptible to weather conditions (especially set-in rain). Air Taxi and Unity Airlines also do chartered flights.

Belair Airways: (678) **29983**

Air Vanuatu: (678) **23848**

Air Taxi: (678) **554 4206**

Unity Airlines: (678) **24475**

### *By Boat:*

Several boats sail to Epi, including the Big Sista, the Brooklyn and Tina 2. This is not luxury travel and it's a good idea to check out the boats first to be sure that this will suit you.

Big Sista (office situated behind the market house in Port Vila): (678) **562 5225**

## Getting Around

Boats from Lamén Bay to Lamén Island are easily arranged and cost around 1000 vatu a charter or 200 vatu a person for the return trip. The journey takes around half an hour. Agree on the price with the boat driver before you sail.

There's a scenic, famously rugged road between Lamén Bay and Valesdir. The truck journey is 10,000 vatu one way, but be sure to confirm this price *with the driver himself* before travelling. Note that there is currently no accommodation available at Burumba Village, which is approximately halfway between the two air fields.

An even more scenic and equally rugged road, very steep in places, goes from Lamén Bay around to Nikaura and Nuvi on the eastern side of Epi. It offers stunning views of Lopevi Island and it's possible to swim and snorkel at beaches along the way. The return trip by truck costs about 6,000 vatu (again, confirm pricing before setting out). It's a 5-6 hour reasonably energetic walk there and back.



# EPI ISLAND TRAVEL INFO

## Electricity

Solar power and occasionally generators are used on Epi. It's a good idea to fully charge your phone and camera before you travel.

## Telecommunications

Although there is some phone coverage with both the TVL and Digicel networks, reception can be extremely unreliable.

## Respecting Local Culture

- The people on Epi welcome tourists and are forgiving of inadvertent cultural transgressions. Even so, for women to wander through a village wearing bikinis or skimpy clothing is really inappropriate.
- You'll be welcome to walk about the island, but seek information from your bungalow owner first.
- As a rule NiVanuatu love having their photos taken, especially the children, nonetheless, please ask permission.

## Things to consider bringing when staying at an island bungalow

- Enough money in cash. There won't be any banks or ATMs.
- A torch or solar light.
- Snacks. There are a few stores in Lamén Bay but stocks limited.
- Bottled water for drinking.
- Your choice of sundowner if you're not keen on trying kava.
- Insect repellent.
- Sunscreen and hat.
- An umbrella (for rain and sun).
- For women, a sarong to wear over shorts in the villages.
- A book.
- Anti malaria tablets (check with your doctor).
- Basic first aid kit - i.e. plasters, Panadol, disinfectant.
- Toiletries - soap, toothpaste, toilet paper.

