

# TOURISM SECTOR STUDY

## SOLOMONS



### 1. ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF TOURISM

#### 1.1 Key Economic Indicators

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Population ('000) <sup>a</sup>	409				450
Population Growth (%) <sup>a</sup>					
GDP (US\$bn) <sup>b</sup>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
GDP Growth (%) <sup>b</sup>	(0.5)	(14.2)	(9.0)	(2.0)	1.9
GDP/Capita (US\$) <sup>b</sup>	800	725	673	700	719
Tourism Contribution to GDP (%) <sup>c</sup>				3.0	
Balance of Visible Trade (US\$m) <sup>d</sup>	193	(117)	(183)	69	32
Inflation Rate (%) <sup>b</sup>	8.0	7.3	6.8	9.8	12.1
Exchange Rate <sup>d</sup> (SI\$ to US\$1)	4.93	5.09	5.30	6.78	7.51

a – Census 1999; SPC 2003. Annual growth rate has declined from over 3.5% in 1970s/1980s to around 2.3%.  
 b – Market Information & Analysis Section, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and various international sources; 2003 subject to revision.  
 c – SPTO Regional Tourism Strategy for the South and Central Pacific.  
 d - Central Bank of Solomon Islands Annual Report 2003.

## **1.2 Balance of Payments**

Following the recovery of exports in 2002/3 in response to more settled conditions in the country, the Solomon Islands trade balance moved back in surplus. Major exports are copra, fish, cocoa and other agricultural products. Exceptionally high donor inflows boosted the current transfers surplus to a historical record of SI\$400mn. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts economic growth of 4-5% for 2004-2005, on the premise that the improved law-and-order situation will be maintained, further progress in public financial management will be made, investor confidence will gradually return and exports will be driven up by the logging, fisheries and cocoa sectors (out speeding the rise in imports). Inflation will moderate to 6-7%.

## **1.3 Employment**

Participation in the formal labour force is low. In 1999, less than 7% of the total population (26,842) constituted the country's labour force, with three-quarters of these engaged in agriculture. The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) states that tourism accounts for 1.3% of the country's employment, down from probably double that level because of the disruption of the tourism sector from the civil disturbances of the past five years. In its November 2001 survey of tourism accommodation establishments, the Solomon Islands Visitor Bureau (SIVB) found that the leading 41 operations accounting for 1,107 rooms had aggregate staffing of 469. The Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel had 91 employees to service its 93 rooms, followed by the King Solomon Hotel with 59 employees for 55 rooms.

## **1.4 Operating Costs**

The minimum wage rate is US\$0.20 per hour (SI\$1.50) for all workers except those in the fishing and agricultural sectors, who receive US\$0.17 (SI\$1.25). The legal minimum wage is insufficient to support an urban family living entirely on the cash economy. Wage levels in the tourism accommodation sector range between US\$0.67 (SI\$5.00) an hour for semi-skilled staff to US\$2.67 (SI\$20.00) for supervisors. Fuel prices are below the South Pacific regional average at US\$0.45 for motor gasoline and US\$0.42 for diesel (end 2003 prices), reflecting the high costs of importation.

## **1.5 Local Skills Base**

The illiteracy rate had been reduced to 23% at the time of the 1999 census but the educational system has been placed under severe stress in recent years because of the civil unrest, allied to the facts that the population is largely rural, the schools infrastructure and facilities are deficient, teachers are inadequately trained and teaching materials are insufficient and inappropriate.

A network of 20 rural training centres, the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education and a few private establishments provides technical and vocational education and training. The churches run the rural training network and most of the country's other vocational training facilities. Tertiary education is available: *locally* at the SICHE and the University of the South Pacific (USP) Centre in Honiara; and *regionally* at tertiary institutions in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

No specialist training or education in tourism is available in the country (other than through the USP Centre). One of the needs identified in re-establishing the tourism sector in the country is a specialist Hospitality Training Centre.

## **1.6 Infrastructure and Services**

### **Air and Sea Access**

The Solomon Islands have two paved airports – Henderson International Airport on Guadalcanal at 2,062 metres, and Munda at 1,400 metres – and 31 airports with unpaved runways. International air services are operated only to Henderson International Airport with Boeing 737, though the Government announced a plan in 2001 to upgrade Munda to receive international services.

Solomon Islands Airlines is in a recovery phase and has no aircraft of its own instead having code shares and alliances with three regional carriers - Air Vanuatu, Air Nauru and Air Niugini. International air services are provided by these carriers, connecting the country once a week with Fiji through Vanuatu and twice a week to both Australia (Brisbane) and Papua New Guinea. Additional weekly flights from/to Fiji and Australia came on stream in July 2004. Solomon Islands Airlines also buys seats on an Air Vanuatu service to Auckland connecting in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

There is an extensive network of domestic air routes but Solomon Airlines' difficulties have resulted in a reduction in the frequency and reliability of services, with demand exceeding supply. Tourists who travel to the country find it difficult to move outside the Guadalcanal by air.

The Solomon Islands has six main ports and harbours. Sea travel is the mainstay of islander trade and transport, but regular timetables are rare. The main port, Honiara, has a deep-water berth, 120m long with a maximum depth of 9.2m alongside, capable of taking vessels up to 200m in length. In addition, there is an 85m wharf with a depth alongside of 3.4m and a barge ramp.

### **Telecommunications and Information Technology**

Telekom, a company jointly owned by Cable and Wireless Limited and the Solomon Islands Government, operates the international and domestic communications facilities from a ground station in Honiara via the Intelsat Pacific Ocean communication satellite. Telecommunications are threatened by the non-payment of bills and by the lack of technical and maintenance staff many of whom have emigrated.

### **Utilities**

Electricity is 230/415 volts at 50Hz. Electricity is generated – 32mn kWh in 2001 - by the Solomon Islands Electricity Authority from imported fuel, supplies of which are sporadic due to the inability of the Government to pay and attacks on ships. The availability of electricity is confined to Honiara and five other urban centres. Supply in Honiara is presently limited, according to a daily roster of supply and cuts. Mains water is not potable, requiring to be boiled before consumption.

### **Roads**

There are over 1,300km of roads throughout the islands, one-third being main roads and the remainder privately maintained roads for plantation use. Road maintenance is limited and the general condition of the roads is very poor.

## 2. TOURISM STATUS AND TRENDS

### 2.1 The Tourism Offer

The Solomon Islands constitute a double chain of islands stretching over a distance of 1,600kms in a northwest-southeast axis, from Papua New Guinea to Vanuatu and the northeast of Australia. There are 962 islands, islets, atolls and cays divided into nine Provinces: the main islands are Guadalcanal, Malaita, Choiseul, New Georgia, Makira and Isabel. The main tourist product segments presently offered by the Solomon Islands are:

- dive tourism, including liveaboard boats
- adventure tourism related to one or both of nature and culture (e.g. ecolodge development)
- kayaking
- game fishing
- village stay tourism
- World War II heritage tourism

The remoteness of – and difficulty of access to – much of the country, allied to the (largely) unspoilt environment gives the country a strong comparative advantage for **nature-based tourism**; while the rural populations of the different islands each with their own social systems and cultures offer considerable interest for **culture-based tourism** e.g. the *wantok* system of extended family and *kastom* traditional beliefs and land ownership. The nature and culture streams merge giving the Solomon Islands the opportunity to develop as a premier **ecotourism** and **adventure tourism** destination.

One example is Lake Tengano at East Rennell, Renbel (Rennel and Belona) Province, which is a listed world heritage site. There are opportunities for bird-watchers, botanists, photographers and other people who like to visit isolated areas or view World War II relics. The outstanding natural beauty of the lake and the island, snorkelling, bush walks, cultural activities and trips by canoe are an example of the area's attractions.

The Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau (SIVB) 2004 marketing and promotional plan slogan – “discover somewhere completely different” - sums up the appeal of the country.

#### Accommodation

In 2000, tourist accommodation in the Solomon Islands comprised 76 establishments offering 765 rooms i.e. just over 10 rooms per operation. The great bulk of accommodation was in the capital city, Honiara, (47% of rooms) and in Western Province (19% of rooms). Just under one half of all rooms take the form of hotels/motels (three-quarters of rooms in these categories being in Honiara). The main operations – all in Honiara - are the Solomon Kitano Mendana (Japanese-owned) with 94 rooms, the King Solomon Hotel (Australian-owned) with 55 rooms, the Honiara Hotel with 66 rooms, the Pacific Casino Hotel with 42 rooms and two motels (Quality and Airport) each with 29 rooms. The Gizo Explorer Hotel with 45 rooms and Agnes Lodge with 18 rooms (both in Western Province) are the largest accommodation establishments outside Honiara. Resort developments are up to 12 rooms.

Up to the time of the outbreak of civil unrest at the end of the 1990s, most new development had taken place in the guesthouse sub-sector. *Urban guest houses* accounted for a quarter of all the country's tourist rooms, while *rural or island guest houses*, which equate broadly with the ecolodge type of accommodation, had grown to comprise one-in-three accommodation establishments and 11% of total rooms at an average of three rooms per operation). Present estimates are there are close to 60 tourist accommodation

operations though many of these are in virtual hibernation because of the reduced flow of tourists in the past few years to outer islands. A listing is given in Appendix 1.

## **2.2 Market Trends**

Having fluctuated over the two previous decades at between 10 and 12 thousand arrivals per year, 1998 saw a significant rise to nearly 16 thousand arrivals coinciding with additional Solomon Airlines' capacity. The outbreak of civil unrest saw a fall in arrivals in 1999 and a further drop the following year as the disturbances increased and Henderson Airport was closed. The volume of arrivals in 2000 (5,320) was less than one-third the level of two years earlier. There was no appreciable recovery in 2001/2/3 with arrivals at or close to 5 thousand a year, in consequence of continuing market uncertainty and the difficulties of the national carrier.

There is no recently-prepared tourism development policy and plan, the proposal submitted to the EU in 2000 having been rejected on the basis that the EU's assistance should be focused on the country's other more fundamental needs. The EU is setting up a Euro20mn transport trust fund (covering both infrastructure and operations) which should provide benefits for tourism, as will its assistance in provincial capacity building, educational support, and micro project and non-state actor development.

Analysis by origin and purpose since 1999 is unhelpful since the discretionary tourist has been deterred from visiting the country since then. The last "normal" year of 1998 shows that Australia is the primary tourist source market with 42%, followed by Asia (14%) and Europe (13%). The 1990s saw a growing reliance on the Australian market. Around 40% of tourists in 1998 were on business or attending conferences, with 36% on holiday, and 10% on visits to friends/relatives. An estimated two-thirds of holiday visitors in 1998 were recreational divers. The cruise-ship market was in a steady decline but grew 23.4% in 2002 compared to 2001 and continued to grow in 2003. It appears to have stagnated somewhat in 2004.

There is presently little cruise visitation – the 45-passenger visit of the German MV Bremen in October 2003 being one of the few. However cruise tourism is one of the eight segments being targeted in the SIVB's 2004 Marketing Plan – through close collaboration with GTS and TradeCo Shipping, contacts with cruise lines and trade advertising and promotions.

### Occupancy and Seasonality

Prior to the outbreak of ethnic violence, occupancy levels were strong at close to 80% in Honiara and half this level in the other provinces. The civil disturbances brought these down – to 40 to 50% in the case of Honiara's leading hotels and as low as 10% elsewhere. Current trends are upward – 70% in Honiara – but this is largely due to the influx of aid and business personnel during the recovery phase.

The seasonality of Solomon Islands' tourist arrivals is not heavily skewed though lower levels of visitors are recorded in January and February than during the remaining months of the year.

### Estimates of Expenditure

In 1998 foreign exchange earnings from tourism were SI\$31.9mn (US\$5.7mn), equivalent to 4.8% of total domestic exports. In 1999 – prior to the outbreak of the civil unrest – average expenditure per visit was SI\$1,889 (US\$366) or SI\$262 (US\$51) per day, the

average length of stay being just over seven days. Tourism earnings fell to SI\$27.5mn (US\$4.9mn) in 1999 and to SI\$18.4mn (US\$3.3mn) in 2000.

### 3. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOURISM

The CBSI identified fisheries and tourism as the two sectors most likely to accelerate the country's economic growth in its 2003 Annual Report but it stresses that this potential will only be realized with investment in the appropriate supporting transport infrastructure and investment in education and training.

Tourism is administered through the Department of Tourism while marketing and promotion is handled through the SIVB, which has been the beneficiary of funding from the Government of Taiwan over the past two years. The SIVB collects the bed tax levied by government and uses this as part of the state's subvention of SI\$60,000 per quarter. Private sector representation in the tourism sector has reduced since the onset of the civil disturbances with only the Western Province Tourism Association and the Ecotourism Association of the Solomon Islands remaining active.

There are reports of new investment in tourism following the successful deployment of the RAMSI e.g. plans have been announced for three small hotels, one being an upmarket offshore island resort catering for guests wishing to swim with dolphins. However, there is the need both for more evidence of settled conditions conducive for investment and progress in establishing the infrastructure and other support for tourism development (i.e. education and training, transport infrastructure and services – both international and domestic, and utilities supply).

#### Provincial Development in Ecotourism

Government incentives favour development in the provinces outside Guadalcanal. The reduction of tourist activity in the provinces caused by a combination of tourist fears about safety and the real difficulties of travelling outside Guadalcanal is preventing these areas from realising their potential. The growing attraction to international tourists of a destination's natural and socio-cultural resources has been harnessed by the travel and tourism industry in a broad range of development and product offerings under the label **ecotourism**. The attraction of the different provinces of the Solomon Islands is considerable since they possess the resources with the potential for development in line with these current tourism trends for access to the nature and culture of the places they visit with few signs of modern tourism development. Many areas in Western Province and other provinces like the World Heritage Site Lake Tengano in Renbel Province have the pristine environment, which attracts tourists.

The Solomon Islands has the potential to become a leading ecotourism destination, both in its own right and in collaboration with its Melanesian neighbours Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Ecotourism and ecotourism-related products suitable for the provinces include:

- accommodation in the form of ecolodges or ecoresorts,
- nature tours incorporating traditional skills,
- diving (including liveaboard boats),
- game fishing,
- cultural and handicraft centres.

Within the cultural area, one suggestion to emerge is the establishment of a traditional South Pacific music-recording studio.

### Airline Development

No significant further recovery or new development of tourism in the Solomons can be expected until the problems currently being experienced by the national carrier are resolved. As at May 2004 the intention was to enter into a strategic alliance with an outside carrier by the end of the year with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. The partner airline would bring management skills and technical knowledge to Solomon Airlines. This is a priority need and opportunity for partnership.

### Tourism Training

Equally important as access to and within a country is the level of service provided. The need to establish a vocational centre for tourism and hospitality education and training is widely recognized if the Solomon islands is to develop its tourism sector in a sustainable way bringing maximum benefits to the local population. This will not be achieved without external assistance – either through the donor community or as a joint venture with an overseas tertiary institution.

## **4. OPERATING ENVIRONMENT FOR TOURISM INVESTMENT**

### **4.1 Investment Framework**

The Government of the Solomon Islands considers private sector investment and development to be an important priority in its plan of achieving economic self-reliance and independence through sustainable development. In this regard, foreign investment is seen as an important means of realizing this objective. Tourism in general (and hotel and resort development in particular) is one of several priority sectors for investment.

The Investment Act of 1990, subject to an amendment in 1996, governs foreign investment in the Solomons. It is under present review and new legislation is anticipated to be in place by the end of 2004 designed to speed up and simplify the process. Under current legislation all foreign investment applications are required to be submitted to a Foreign Investment Board. Of the 53 applications approved by the Foreign Investment Board in 2003, 4 were for tourism ventures. The criteria for investment approval include:

- the extent of contribution to the economic development of the country
- the number of jobs and training provided for Solomon Islanders
- the number of foreign citizens to be employed – these only being permitted where there are no locals with the appropriate skills
- the amount of local raw materials and supplies to be used
- the capacity of the proposed venture to promote exports or substitute imports
- the extent to which the proposed investment would be dispersed to the provinces
- the extent and capacity to transfer technology
- the extent of any spin-off benefits
- the total paid-up capital in the investment and the loan financing arrangements.

A number of activities are reserved for citizens of the Solomon Islands. In the tourism sector reserved activities include small restaurants (i.e. under six employees) and motels, guesthouses and inns with less than 100 rooms. Work permits are required for foreign employees. These will be granted if there are no Solomon Islanders qualified or available for the job, and the applicant is properly qualified with the required experience.

Taxation is payable on total income less personal exemptions, the highest rate of 40% being levied on those with annual incomes of US\$11,568 and above. Company tax is 30% for

resident companies and 35% for non-resident establishments. The General Sales Tax is set at 10% and has been extended recently to bar-trade activities.

Around 85% of land in the Solomon Islands belongs to local people under *kastom* arrangements. The remaining 15% is native land, government-owned, mainly located in and around Honiara. Negotiations with *kastom* landowners have proved to be especially difficult for outsiders – whether Solomon Islanders or foreign – and need to be approached with great sensitivity and openness. A process exists for acquiring land but it is a lengthy one. One solution being explored by government is the identification of attractive, potential sites for tourism development involving the participation of local landowners prior to any announcement that the sites are “open” for tourism development proposals.

#### **4.2 Incentives Regime**

The Investment Board may negotiate investment incentive packages for individual proposals. These include:

- up to 10 years tax free holiday
- the capacity to carry forward losses (for up to five years)
- depreciation on capital expenditure of 40% in the first year and 5% per annum thereafter for factory expansions NB a special rate of 50% is allowed for tourist developments
- double deduction for expenditure on apprenticeships and tertiary education
- 150% deduction for cost of inter-province transport of raw materials
- 150% deduction for export promotion expenditure
- duty free entry for capital equipment and drawback on re-exported items
- special additional incentives for tourism developments
- free movement of capital and profit remittances.

#### **4.3 Access to Finance**

The Central Bank of the Solomon Islands (CBSI) is responsible for the country's monetary system. Capital transactions, borrowing remittances etc require specific CBSI approval. Non-resident investors may not raise equity or long-term capital from the country's banking system. Resident foreign investors may seek specific approval for such borrowing. Working capital is available.

The Development Bank of Solomon Islands was set up in 1987 to promote Solomon Islanders' participation in economic development, to boost rural development and to support industries to strengthen the country's economic independence.

The major commercial banks operating in the Solomon Islands are the National Bank of the Solomon Islands (its major shareholder being Bank of Hawaii), Westpac and ANZ Banking Group. Lending interest rates run at 15% or over.

#### **International Financial Institutions**

The Solomon Islands as a signatory to the Cotonou Agreement has access to the facilities of the EIB. As a member of the World Bank, the facilities of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) would be available for projects in this country.

## **APPENDIX ONE: INVENTORY OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION AND DIVE OPERATORS**

### **TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**

*NB number of rooms/units given in parentheses*

#### **Honiara and rest of Guadalcanal**

Solomon Kitano Mendana (94).  
King Solomon Hotel (55).  
Honiara Hotel (66).  
Pacific Casino Hotel (42).  
Quality Motel (29).  
Airport Motel (29).  
Solomon City Motel (8).  
Travellers Motel (17).  
Chester Resthouse (8).  
Island Lodge (17).  
Lolo Resthouse (12).  
St Agnes Mothers Union Resthouse (8).  
United Church Resthouse (10).  
Kukum Transit (6).  
Binaboli Resthouse (11).  
Fountain Family Inn (9).  
Mbumburu Resthouse (6).  
Tawaihi Island Retreat.  
Tavanipupu Island Resort (6).

#### **Malaita Province**

Island Travellers Lodge (6).  
Auki Lodge (6).

#### **Isabel Province**

Mothers Union Resthouse (7).  
DOY Resthouse (9).  
Isabel Provincial Resthouse (5).

#### **Central Province**

Maravagi Resort (12).  
Vanita Restaurant Accommodation (5).  
Central Province Resthouse (6).  
Tulagi Hill View Lodge (4).  
Yandina Plantation Resort.

#### **Makira Province**

Provincial Resthouse (9).  
Star Beach Resthouse (5).  
Joridon Lodge.

### **Renbel Province**

Tahamatangi Lodge (10).  
Tengano Lodge (6).  
Kia Koe Lodge (10).  
Neitasi Lodge (3).  
Aotaha Cave Resort (3).  
Suani Guest House (7).

### **Western Province**

Gizo Explorer Hotel (45 rooms).  
Koburutavia Divers Lodge (7).  
Paradise Lodge (9).  
Rekona Lodge (10).  
Nagua Resthouse (8).  
Agnes Lodge (18).  
Zipolo Habu Lodge (4).  
Noro Lodge (8).  
Uepi Island Lodge (10).  
Matikuri Lodge (6).  
Vanuarapita Lodge (6).  
Horena Lodge (2).  
Seghe Resthouse (4).  
Lagoon Lodge (4).  
Jae Lodge (2).  
Ropiko Lodge (3).  
Mavo Resthouse (4).  
Kajoro Lodge (3).  
Rogosakena Lodge (2).  
Serere Lodge (4).  
Tibara Lodge (4).  
Letina Lodge (3).  
Wilderness Lodge (2).  
Mariu Resort (6).  
Phoebe Resthouse (5).  
Ropik Guesthouse (5).  
Gelvina's Motel (5).  
Green Motel (7).

### **DIVE OPERATORS**

#### **Honiara**

Aqua Action.

#### **Central Province**

Solomon Islands Diving.

**Western Province**

Adventure Sports Gizo.  
Uepi Island Resort.  
Solomon Sea Divers.  
Dive Munda (Blue Zone Scuba).

**Temotu Province**

Ngarando Dive.

**Liveaboard**

Billikiki Cruises.

## APPENDIX TWO: INTERNET RESOURCES ON THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau

*Address:* PO Box 321, Mendana Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands

*Tel:* (677) 22422

*Fax:* (677) 23986

*Email:* [info@sivb.com.sb](mailto:info@sivb.com.sb)

*Web:* [www.visitsolomons.com.sb/](http://www.visitsolomons.com.sb/)

### Investment considerations

<http://www.solomons.com/iinvest.htm>

<http://www.solomons.com/iwhyinv.htm>

<http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/investment/indax.shtml>

<http://www.tcsp.com/spto/export/sites/SPTO/investment/solomons.shtml>

### Economic policy & performance, Financial infrastructure & regulatory framework

[http://dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon\\_islands/solomon\\_islands\\_brief.html](http://dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon_islands/solomon_islands_brief.html)

<http://www.usaid.gov.au/country/country.cfm?CountryId=16>

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/docs/IG/P14.htm>

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Annual\\_Report/2002/sol.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Annual_Report/2002/sol.asp)

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2003/pdf/SOL.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2003/pdf/SOL.pdf)

### Law

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/world/australasia.html>

### Tourism statistics

[http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/investment/table\\_A2.shtml](http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/investment/table_A2.shtml)

[http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/investment/table\\_A3.shtml](http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/investment/table_A3.shtml)

<http://www.spc.int/prism/country/sb/stats/>

[http://www.forumsec.org.fj/tid/tourism/sb\\_a.htm](http://www.forumsec.org.fj/tid/tourism/sb_a.htm)

### Key indicators of developing Asian and Pacific countries

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2004/pdf/SOL.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2004/pdf/SOL.pdf)

### National Institutions, General Information, Political Information, Information from Encyclopaedias, Tourist Information, Information on Human Rights, Other Information (2001)

<http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/sb.html>

### Project profiles

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Profiles/ctry.asp?ctry=40>

### General information, tourism profile, (March 2003)

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Business\\_Reference\\_Guides/BIG/sol.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Business_Reference_Guides/BIG/sol.pdf)

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/docs/IG/Tourism%20Guide%20Sydney.pdf>

### Geography, people, government, economy (December 2004)

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bp.html>

### Communications Policy Statement & Facilities

<http://www.undp.org/fj/documents/ICT4DEV/ePac%20SOI%20mission%20Report.pdf>

**Tourism attractions, tourism accommodation**

<http://www.visitsolomons.com.sb/>

<http://www.commerce.gov.sb/Tourism/>

<http://www.tcsp.com/spto/cms/destinations/solomons/index.shtml>

<http://www.spto.org/sitemap.shtml>

**General information**

<http://www.adminet.com/world/sb/>

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/bp.html>