



Study tour

The challenges of World Heritage in the Pacific Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu.

In conjunction with



The ANU's Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (IPPHA) invites you to participate in a what will be an engaging and memorable study tour to one of our region's newest World Heritage properties - Chief Roi Mata's Domain in Vanuatu. Chief Roi Mata's Domain is a cultural landscape including ancient Melanesian villages, caves, rock art, tropical islands, protected coral reefs and some of the most famous archaeological sites in the Pacific. It is one of the locations where Indigenous oral history has been demonstrated to have been passed on with remarkable accuracy from generation to generation for over 400 years.

On this study tour, you will be immersed in Melanesian heritage and local life. You will also gain a unique insight into how the idea for this World Heritage Site emerged, took hold and has developed with strong local community ownership. Over five days, you will have an opportunity to experience at first hand issues and approaches to cultural heritage, cultural tourism and sustainable development in one of Australia's near Pacific neighbours.

The tour has been developed by IPPHA in collaboration with the World Heritage and Tourism Committee for the Lelema region. The tour provides an important opportunity for Australian heritage professionals to engage directly with Ni-Vanuatu managers and custodians of Chief Roi Mata's Domain. Accompanying the tour will be Dr Meredith Wilson who has been instrumental in developing the World Heritage nomination and management systems and Alison Fleming who has spent a year with the World Heritage Project as an Australian Government Youth Ambassador for Development.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of aspects of Vanuatu's natural and cultural environment through a VIP guided tour through the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and other tour activities on the main island of Efate. You will be introduced to the cultural landscape of the World Heritage site through the Roi Mata Cultural Tour, developed by the local community as part of the project. You will also spend a day with members of the local community – harvesting food from their gardens, visiting the local primary school, and learning about a recently-established *kastom* revitalisation project.

The study tour will include discussions involving the Chiefs and landowners of Chief Roi Mata's Domain, members of the local community management body, staff from the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and tour participants. An evening kava ceremony will be held in memory of the last holder of the Roi Mata title.

The total cost of this tour is AUD 2500 (excluding international airfares). This price includes all accommodation (in Port Vila for two nights and at Mangaliliu Village for two nights), meals and travel within Vanuatu. The tour will be limited to 10 participants. You will be provided with a reading pack when you sign up for the tour.



Study tour objectives

The aim of the study tour is to provide a unique insight for people interested in the heritage of Australia Pacific neighbours and those wanting to develop an understanding of how World Heritage nomination and management can progress with strong local community involvement.

The study tour is designed to be a learning experience for not only study tour participants, but also Ni-Vanuatu managers and custodians who will greatly benefit from the interaction with interested and well informed travellers and cultural heritage practitioners. It is anticipated that this shared experience will provide participants with a strong appreciation of cross-cultural approaches and issues relating to heritage practice in the Pacific region. It will also provide feedback and practical advice to Ni-Vanuatu managers and custodians.

The study tour will:

- a) introduce the spectacular, yet little known, natural and cultural heritage of Vanuatu;
- b) present the history and culture of the World Heritage property of Chief Roi Mata's Domain;
- c) allow participants to experience Chief Roi Mata's Domain through the locally-conducted Roi Mata Cultural Tour;
- d) provide opportunities for engagement with the management body charged with looking after the heritage and tourism aspects of the property;
- e) foster appreciation of the wider cultural context of Chief Roi Mata's Domain through participation in daily activities with locals;
- f) visit areas of the management buffer zone to discuss threats and challenges to the World Heritage values; and
- g) encourage reflection and discussion on the study tour experience through formal and informal discussion with key members of the local community.



Chief Roi Mata's Domain

Chief Roi Mata's Domain is an outstanding illustration of the exceptional living connection between Pacific people, their landscapes and their traditions. The last holder of the paramount chiefly title of Roi Mata, who died in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, remains the central figure of a body of oral tradition still recounted today in Vanuatu. His innovative strategies for the resolution of widespread conflict on the island of Efate, including establishing the new cultural practice of peace feasts and new social structures linked by women rather than men, continue to be observed and celebrated in contemporary Efate society.

Narratives about Chief Roi Mata sustain the cultural and moral values that he instituted, and have guided archaeologists to key sites associated with his life and death. These sites, all of which lie within his former domain, include Roi Mata's chiefly residence at Mangaas, the site of his death at the spectacular chamber cave of Fels on Lelepa Island and the mass burial at his grave on the island of Artok. The ongoing customary *tapu* prohibition on the further use of Mangaas or Artok Island following the death of Roi Mata is without parallel in the world, and has preserved the unique combinations of natural and cultural values of these places over the last four centuries.

Expert tour guides

Your study tour will be led by Dr Meredith Wilson and Alison Fleming. Dr Meredith Wilson is an archaeologist who has a long relationship with particular communities in Vanuatu through the Vanuatu Cultural Centre. In Australia, she has undertaken archaeological and heritage management work in the Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay, Willandra Lakes, Kakadu National Park and Namadgi National Park.

From 2004 to 2008, Meredith coordinated the nomination of Chief Roi Mata's Domain as the first World Heritage nomination by the Republic of Vanuatu. The World Heritage property is an outstanding cultural landscape under traditional Ni-Vanuatu ownership and management. Meredith holds a BA (Hons.) from the University of Sydney and a PhD from the Australian National University.

Alison Fleming works in community development in the Pacific Region. While completing a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Sustainability) at the Australian National University, she has worked on the development of international environmental policy in the Pacific through the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Since June 2009, Alison has been living in Mangaliliu Village in Vanuatu and working with local communities on the challenges associated with the management of the newly-inscribed World Heritage site of Chief Roi Mata's Domain. This has included assisting communities to strengthen their cultural tourism business, *Roi Mata Cultural Tours*. This experience makes Alison an ideal tour guide.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday 20 Sept	Day 2 – Tuesday 21 Sept	Day 3 – Wednesday 22 Sept	Day 4 – Thursday 23 Sept	Day 5 – Friday 24 Sept
AM: Depart Canberra ▪ Fly to Sydney or Brisbane ▪ Connecting flight to Port Vila	AM: Around Port Vila ▪ Walk to the harbour foreshore and local produce and craft markets ▪ Morning tea at Café Nambawan ▪ Visit to the Vanuatu National Museum	AM: Chief Roi Mata's domain ▪ Travel to Chief Roi Mata's Domain (CRMD) ▪ Participation in full day 'Roi Mata Cultural Tour' (lunch inclusive) (9.00am – 3.00pm)	AM: Lelema life ▪ Visit a family garden (gather food for lunch) ▪ Bislama / Lelema language lesson (prepare lunch) ▪ Visit Craft Revitalisation Project/purchase handicrafts ▪ Visit to the local school (Education Foundation) Lunch under the mango tree	AM: Community-based enterprise ▪ Discussion of options for community tourism development including feedback from participants at Mwalakot (Mangaas) ▪ Return to Vanuatu National Museum Lunch and farewell from Director of Vanuatu Cultural Centre
PM: Arrive Port Vila ▪ Settle into accommodation ▪ Dinner at Bodega Restaurant ▪ Slide show introduction ▪ Return to accommodation	PM: Vila Surrounds ▪ Drive to Eton beach (bus tour) ▪ Catered lunch and swim ▪ Ekasup Cultural Tour ▪ Dinner at Nambawan Café ▪ Return to accommodation	PM: Managing world Heritage ▪ Meet with members of the World Heritage and Tourism Committee for the Lelema region ▪ Village BBQ and Lelema String Band ▪ Overnight stay with village host families	PM: Community issues and World Heritage ▪ Snorkelling at the 'Survivor' Beaches ▪ Discussion of management and buffer zone issues under Bauluku banyan tree ▪ Kastom kava at Mwalasayen (Lelepa Isld) ▪ Return to Village	PM: Departure (or stay on...) ▪ Fly to Sydney or Brisbane ▪ Connecting flight to Canberra OR ▪ Stay on privately for an indulgent weekend...

Cost and logistical arrangements

Costs and inclusions

The cost of the study tour for each participant will be AUD 2500 .00 (excluding airfares). Participants will be limited to 10 people to ensure a high quality experience.

This cost includes:

- An ANU specialist who will accompany the study tour and provide expert interpretation
- A tour guide who is very familiar with the local people and places
- Local fees for cultural tours and site entry
- All ground transport on arrival in Vanuatu
- All accommodation in Vanuatu (Port Vila for two nights and Mangaliliu Village for two nights)
- All meals (excluding alcoholic beverages to be purchased at own expense)
- First aid kits and other incidentals
- Tour information pack

Booking your place

To secure a place in the study tour you will need to fill in the Active Travel Booking Form (see attached PDF) and pay a deposit of \$500.00 per person. They will process your booking form and provide you with a receipt. They will also process the final payment due on 9 August 2010.

Airfares

Air Vanuatu fly Sydney to Port Vila v.v. direct on a daily basis.

The flight schedule is as follows:

Depart Sydney	10:40	Air Vanuatu flight NF11
Arrive Port Vila	15:00	

Depart Port Vila	15:10	Air Vanuatu flight NF10
Arrive Sydney	17:50	

Airfares start from \$675.00 per person including taxes, airline surcharges and fees, this airfare quote is subject to availability of qualifying seats at the time of booking. Air Vanuatu requires full payment and ticketing within 72 hours of a confirmed booking. Change and cancellation fees apply after full payment and ticketing. Travel insurance is strongly recommended, please ensure your travel insurance policy covers your personal requirements and pre-existing medical conditions.

Contacts

For itinerary and all other questions: Email: sandy.blair@anu.edu.au

For costs, payment and travel planning: Martine Chaytow, Active Travel, 1st Floor Garema centre, Bunda St, Canberra ACT 2601. Telephone: 6249 6122 Fax: 6249 7688 Email: martine@activetravel.com.au.