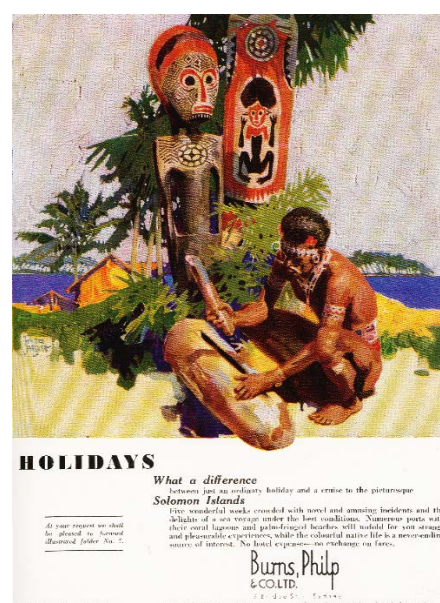


22. Tourism

Early tourists used the scheduled shipping services connecting the Solomon Islands to New Guinea, Australian and other South Pacific ports. Australia's Burns Philp & Co. began to carry passengers on their trading vessels in the 1880s and established a route to the Solomon Islands in the mid-1890s. Many tourists (then called 'round trip people') travelled on these ships in the 1930s. Private yachts also began visiting the Solomons. Visitors without their own floating accommodation had to rely on the goodwill of local plantation owners and other residents. The earliest hotel was Elkington's Hotel which operated between 1916 and 1934, along with a few other more primitive hotels, all on Tulagi. The Second World War intervened, and after the war the Woodford Hotel (which in 1966 was renamed the Mendana Hotel) began in Honiara; it is now Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel. Other major Honiara hotels followed: Blum's Hometell in 1964, which became Hibiscus Hotel, and is now King Solomon Hotel; Chan's Honiara Hotel in Chinatown; and Pacific Casino Hotel, Iron Bottom Sound Monarch Hotel, and Heritage Park Hotel, all on the beachfront. Gizo Hotel was begun in the 1960s.

Cruise ships have been visiting occasionally for over 50 years: P&O's *Oriana* was the first in 1962, and now cruise ships regularly visit Gizo and Honiara. Commercial air services began in 1947, providing more direct access for tourists. Cultural festivals began to be held in Honiara in the late 1960s and 1970s and are now a drawcard to the provinces and to Honiara. The Solomon Islands Tourist Bureau has operated since 1970. The first group tours began in 1969 to Laulasi Island in Langalanga Lagoon, Malaita, and also to look at magapode birds on volcanic Savo Island. There are several small-scale tourist resorts. Tamea outside of Honiara was the first, begun in the late 1960s, faltering in the mid-1970s and operating again in the 1980s and 1990s. Today, Fatboys, Uepi Island Resort and the Wilderness Lodge in Western Province, and Tavanipupu at Marau Sound on the southeast of Guadalcanal, are the best known.



22.1-2. Burns Philp & Co. 1930s posters for tourism in Solomon Islands. (Australian National University Archives)



22.3. Mendana Hotel, Honiara, 1960s. (British Museum, Patrick Barrett Collection)



22.4. Tavanipupu Resort accommodation, Marau Sound, Guadalcanal, 1973. (Brian Taylor Collection)



22.5. Many of the hotel and tourist resorts incorporate traditional architectural styles, such as King Solomon Hotel, Hibiscus Avenue, Honiara. This photograph is from 2006. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.6. Pipeline night club, King Solomon Hotel, Honiara, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.7-8. Honiara Hotel, Chinatown, Honiara, front entrance and reception, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.9. The upstairs bar at Honiara Hotel, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.10. Malaitan pan pipe dancers at Honiara Hotel, 2012. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.11. Iron Bottom Sound Monarch Hotel, Honiara, 2016. (Hadley Leung Collection)



22.12. Iron Bottom Sound Monarch Hotel reception, Honiara, 2016. (Hadley Leung Collection)



22.13–14. Fatboys Resort, Babanga Island, Western Province, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.15. Locally-owned Sunset Lodge, Savo, 2011. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.16. Gizo Hotel, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



22.17-19. The isolated, beautiful Tavanipupu Resort, Marau Sound, Guadalcanal, 2012. (Clive Moore Collection)