

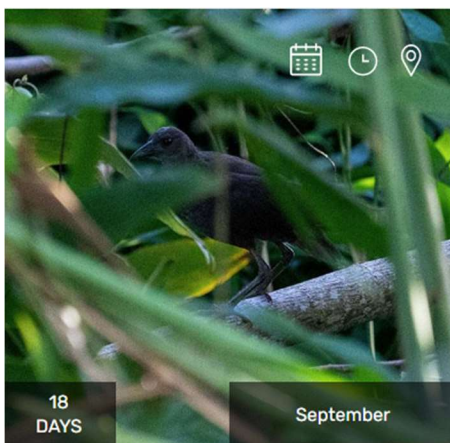
The Solomon Islands lie in the Pacific Ocean and stretch in a long archipelago from the island of Bougainville (PNG) down towards Vanuatu. There are around 992 islands in the archipelago but only 6 of these are major ones. The Solomons are archetypical south sea islands, reef fringed sandy beaches with a backdrop of palms and beautiful blue and turquoise sea. In recent years the Solomons have been promoting themselves as a tourist destination and a number of dive resorts, surfing resorts and a number of new landowner lodges and hotels have been set up set up. War tourism has long been an important part of the economy with Iron Bottom Sound of Guadalcanal offering a huge number of WW2 wrecks to dive on, a war museum and several battlefield tours.

The Solomon Islands has also been looking at nature tourism in a big way. The reefs around the islands have one of the biggest diversities of coral and fish species in the world. Most of the islands are covered by dense rainforest and it is estimated that there are around 4,500 plant species on the islands of which around 3,200 are native to the islands. Over 130 species of butterflies can be found in and around the forests and countless insects, reptiles and amphibians live there. The world’s largest skink, the arboreal **Prehensile-tailed Skink** is found in the Solomons. Only **47 species of mammal** have been recorded in the islands but **26 of them are endemic or near endemic** and many are threatened with extinction as forests are logged and pressure from population increases.

The Solomon Islands avifauna also has a high degree of endemism. With a total **checklist of 302 birds, 102 are endemic** to the islands. While 37 of these can be found throughout the archipelago the rest are endemic to very small areas, so a lot of island hopping is needed to see them. In addition, many of the islands have very different endemics in the lowland than are found up in the mountains. For example, on Kolombangara, **Roviana Rail** is in the lowlands while **Kolombangara Leaf Warbler** is way up the mountain in the moss forest on the lip of the crater. On the small island of Ranonnga there is a **Ranonnga White-eye** but just a short boat ride away, Vella Lavella has its own **Vella Lavella White-eye** and nearby Gizo has yet another one the **Gizo White-eye**. If White-eyes don’t generate much enthusiasm there is always **Black-faced Pitta, Fearful Owl, Sandford’s Sea Eagle, Cardinal Lory, Duchess Lorikeet, Ultramarine Kingfisher** or perhaps **Crested Cuckoo-Dove**.

Our birding partner, Sicklebill Safaris, have been working together with the Solomon Islands Tourist Board for the past 5 years to train bird guides for each of the major islands, to advise on the setting up of lodges and to attract birders and other nature enthusiasts to the Solomons.

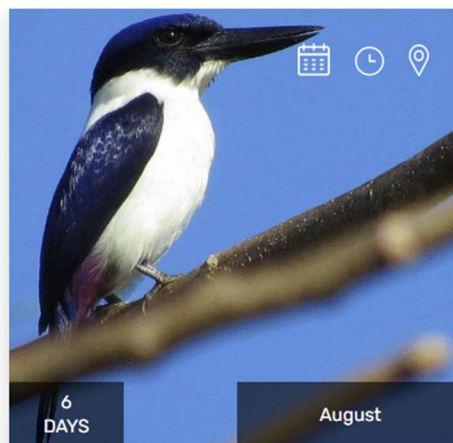
Here are the group tours we are offering for 2024.



18
DAYS

September

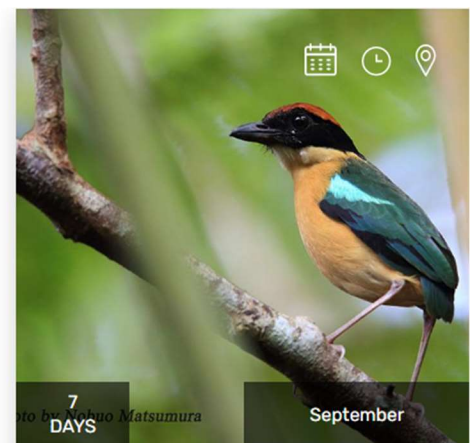
Gentle Solomons



6
DAYS

August

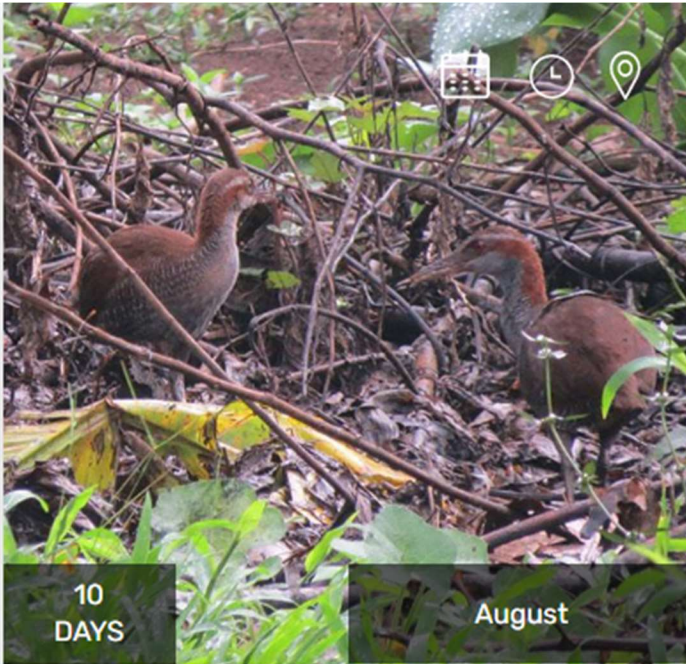
Taste Of Solomons 1:
Guadacanal & Rennell



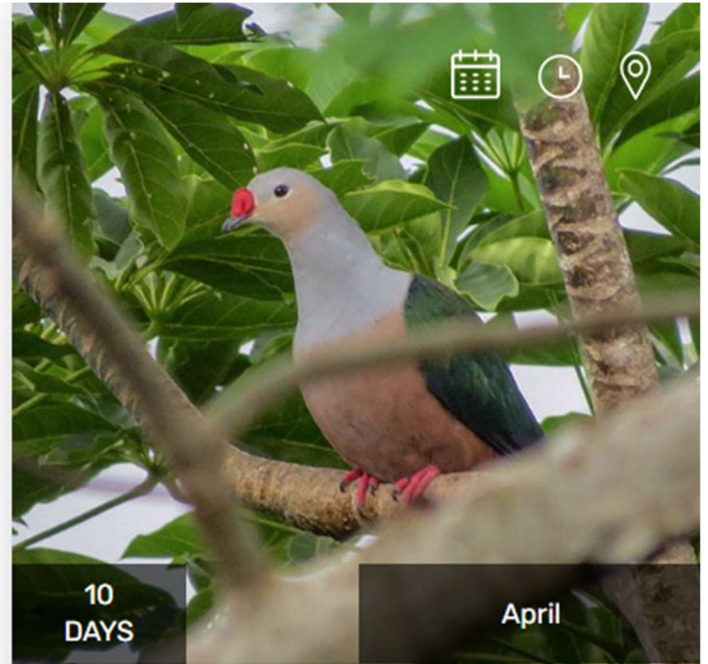
7
DAYS

September

Search for the Black-Faced
Pitta – Taste Of Solomons 2



Gizo & Kolombangara : Taste Of Solomons 3:



Taste Of Solomons 4: Makira

To register your interest in these or private tours, for PNG or the Solomon Islands, please contact Sicklebill Safaris direct and mention this website.

Email: info@s2travel.com.au Telephone: +61 (0)7 4096 8063

We are both located in Queensland Australia, GMT + 10 hours, so please keep this in mind if you are calling from overseas.