



New Caledonia

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEWS: NEW CALEDONIA NOW ON UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO), has announced that Australia's closest Pacific neighbour, New Caledonia, has been declared a world heritage site – amongst the likes of our own Great Barrier Reef.

The World Heritage List includes 878 properties internationally, which are considered as having outstanding universal value. These include 679 cultural, 174 natural and 25 mixed properties.

A spokesman for the **UNESCO** confirmed the addition to the world heritage list, marking the 33rd French governed site in the world on the list, the second purely natural French site on the list, after the Gulf of Porto in Corsica, France.

Diane Moynihan, General Manager for New Caledonia Tourism in Australia said "Of the 900 varieties of coral in the world, 300 are unique to New Caledonia. I am delighted that this unique destination is now being recognised and protected by such an esteemed organisation as UNESCO.

With the second longest reef in the world at approx. 1,800km (Great Barrier Reef is approx. 2000km) and the largest lagoon in the world, UNESCO has taken an important step in making sure we keep the natural wonders of New Caledonia in their true condition."

The entire New Caledonian reef stretches over 23,000 square kilometres, 15,000 square kilometres of which has been recognised by UNESCO.

Many parts of the reef can be explored within a 20m diving depth, making them easily accessible to amateur divers. So take the plunge and dive into the depths of this breathtakingly beautiful lagoon.

For more information on New Caledonia, including package deals, go to www.newcaledonia.com.au

Information on the New Caledonian Lagoon from the UNESCO website

Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems comprise six marine clusters that represent the main diversity of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the French Pacific Ocean archipelago of New Caledonia and one of the three most extensive reef systems in the world. The lagoons feature an exceptional diversity of coral and fish species and a continuum of habitats from mangroves to seagrasses with the world's most diverse concentration of reef structures. The Lagoons of New Caledonia display intact ecosystems, with healthy populations of large

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predators, and a great number and diversity of big fish. They provide habitat to a number of threatened fish, turtles, and marine mammals, including the third largest population of dugongs in the world. These Lagoons are of exceptional natural beauty, and contain reefs of varying age from living reefs to ancient fossil reefs, providing an important source of information on the natural history of Oceania.

For media information or to organise an interview with New Caledonia Tourism, please contact Carla Webb or Tanya Lim, Horizon Communication Group on 02 8572 5600 or email carla@horizoncommunication.com.au