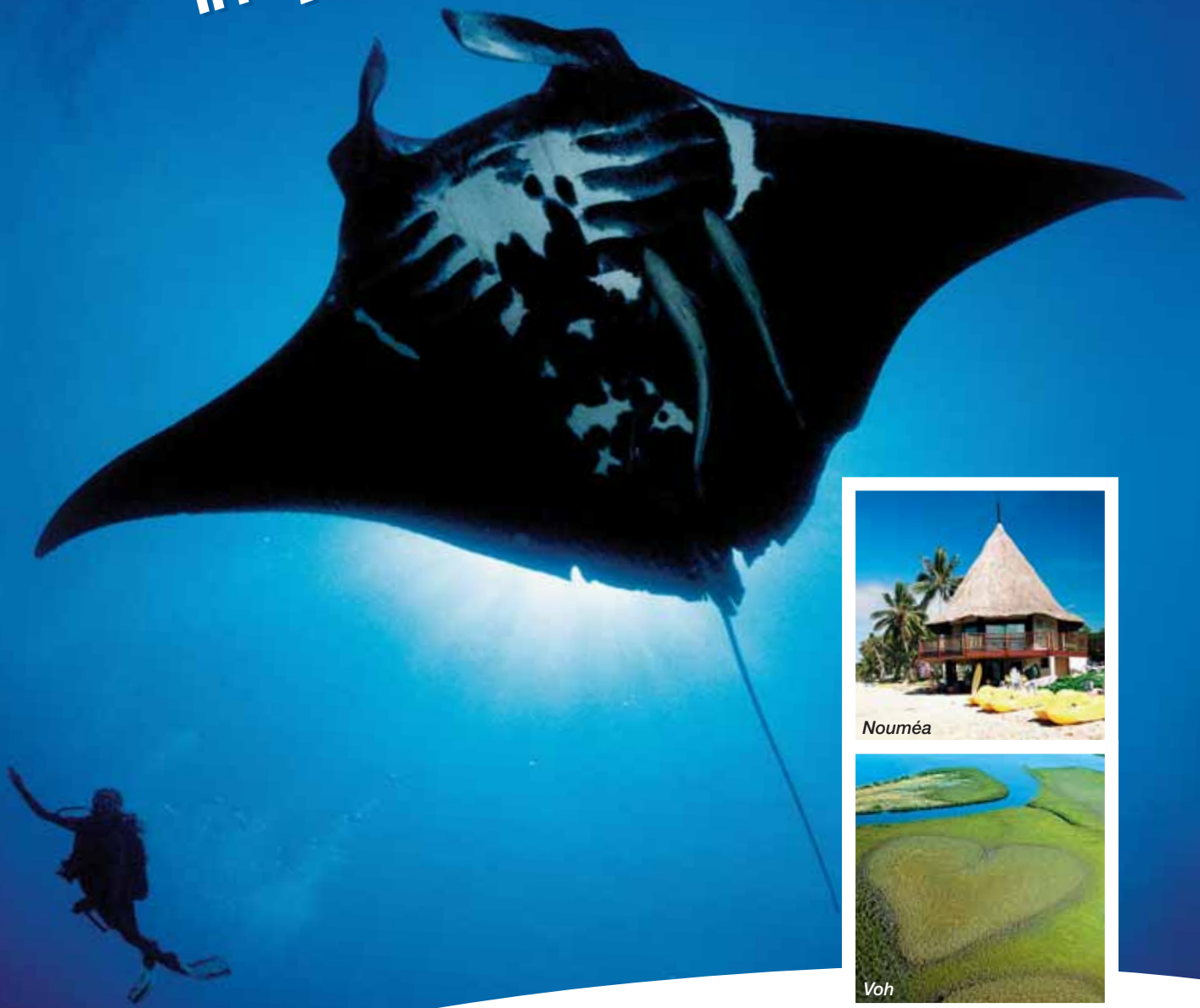


# Diving...

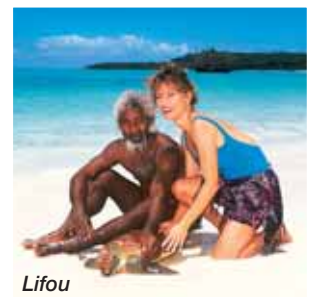
in New Caledonia !



Nouméa



Voh



Lifou

Experience the unforgettable...

[www.newcaledonia.co.nz](http://www.newcaledonia.co.nz)

...the world's largest

lagoon !



Upi – Île des Pins



Phare Amédée – Nouméa

## An incomparable wealth of marine life...

*24,000 km<sup>2</sup> of lagoon protected by an immense coral barrier reef extending over 1,600 km, exceptional variety of flora and fauna, mostly endemic, as well as calm and clear waters ... New Caledonia can offer you this... and much more ! On this French archipelago, at the end of the world, the diving complies with strict regulations, and is supervised by professional and experienced dive monitors with top security conditions including a decompression chamber. All you need to ensure your visit to the warm waters of the South Pacific is a unique and memorable experience.*

The New Caledonian lagoon is bursting with unique treasures. It is one of the rare places in the world where there are so many species living side by side.

**All year long, the New Caledonian lagoon unveils an exceptional fauna: parrot fish, blue rockling, grouper, leopard rays, reef sharks, tuna, tazars, red snappers, red mullets...** not to mention the **lobsters** and their local cousins, the “**popinées**” as well as the **turtles and sea cows**. Add to this landscape a luxurious flora: caverns decorated with **bryozoaires and gorgones, sponges** in weird and wonderful forms, **fluorescent coral**, flower shaped, in balls or bushes. **Diademic urchins, star fish, and crinoïdes**. **Shellfish** enthusiasts can discover a multitude of marine mollusks, in particular magnificent **cowries** like the Cyprae Niger and lambis. With a little luck, divers can admire endemic **nautilus** floating near the surface. These animals, veritable “living fossils” usually frequent the great depths (150-600 m). During the months of, “clouds” of young cuttlefish swarm the anchorages located on diving sites.

**In February and March**, turtles swim ashore to lay their eggs. The dugongs (sea cows) are plentiful, particularly around “**îlot Maitre**” located not far from Nouméa, basking on the surface of the water.

The month of **April** signals the beginning of the spawning season for the **Dagsit sharks** lasting until June. The females are particularly friendly towards divers, especially near the Boulari Pass. The **Manta rays** join in the spectacle, much to the amazement and pleasure of underwater photographers.

Towards the month of **September**, the arrival of the hot season and trade winds signals the beginning of the hatching period. The lagoon is invaded by myriads of small fish that can be found particularly in caves and wrecks whilst huge flocks of sea birds dart in all directions on the surface in search of prey. **Game fish** (bonito, tuna and enormous “carangues”) and other species take part in the festival.

From **mid-October to the end of November**, the huge rocklings begin their migration. One of their main destinations is the fossil canyon in Dumbéa where the famous “rockling wall” is located (descending from 11 to 33 m, considered a “meeting place” for rocklings). This is a magnificent dive in the current for experienced divers.



To vary the diving possibilities, numerous wrecks are also accessible to divers, some of which have been especially sunk for dive sites...

**Unspoilt and sparsely populated...**



The immense expanse that is the New Caledonian lagoon coupled with the limited frequentation of divers has allowed the majority of dive sites to be perfectly protected. Today, the dive centres are scattered over the whole of the archipelago, from the North to the South and on the surrounding Islands. No chance of meeting up with other divers underwater !

The types of dives available are also varied, adapted to the levels and preferences of each diver. Options provided range from introductory dives to pothole diving, initiation dives, dive courses and qualifications, photo-reportages and night dives. The underwater landscapes are also ever changing : from shallow lagoon to open sea, coral reefs to underwater rifts... Whatever your preference, most dives take place between 0 and 15 metres in depth and can be experienced by all divers at either beginner or experienced levels. In New Caledonia, diving is a truly pleasurable leisure activity, reinforced by a pleasant water temperature (between 21 and 28° depending on the season).



Poindimié



Easo – Lifou

# The most beautiful sites...

Indicative list only !

## Boulouparis

- **La corne de Ténia (Tenia Horn):** to experience it to the full you need to make 2 or 3 different dives. It is a cliff face with its particularity "the horn", a coral massif which rises up out of the



blue waters and which harbours lots of different fauna (numerous fish species, shoals of grey sharks, turtles, eagle rays, pelagic marine life...). Minimum level 1 required.

## Bourail

- **La fausse passe de l'îlot Vert (the false pass of the green islet):** site providing numerous possibilities, from initiation dives to deep dives. Abundant marine life: black pointer sharks, leopard sharks, stingrays, leopard rays, rockling, large shoals of pelagic marine life, Napoleons ...

- **Le grand coude de Kélé (Kélé elbow):** nice vertical drop of 18 to 70 m with some good sized canyons and magnificent coral. Grey sharks, eagle rays, shoals of becuene fish and rocklings.

- **La faille de l'îlot Shark (Shark islet rift):** dive in an old riverbed invaded by the sea. Lots of current and visibility sometimes reduced. Guitar rays can still be found.

## Hienghène



- **Daiman Reef – Cathédrale :** a deep rift leads into a tunnel which emerges into an area frequented by large pelagic marine life.. the dive then continues in the void with the seabed being more than 55 metres below), along a breathtakingly high wall. The beautiful gorgonia and the abundant sealife attached to the walls can't let you forget the passing by of humpback parrotfish (October, November), tuna, barracuda, tazars, grey sharks and "albimarginatus..."

- **Hienghène Pass – a haven for whales :** large humpback whales can often be observed near the great Hienghène pass or inside the



lagoon, between July and November. These mammals particularly like this area north of Hienghène island. The dive begins with the descent into a well which emerges under a large arch dotted with gorgonia.

- **Hiengu Pass :** the Fonti reef is a large coral massif sheltered from the tradewinds. Two large caves whose ceilings open up to the surface deliver a very nice perspective as well as beautiful plays of light on gardens of pristine coral where many rock ling have made their home.

## Isle of Pines

- **Le jardin d'Eden (Garden of Eden):** succession of rifts between 5 and 50 m. Soft corals, gorgons, alcyonaires and sponges. Experienced divers.

- **La vallée des gorgones (Gorgon Valley):** numerous rifts. Abundant fauna.

- **La grotte de la 3<sup>e</sup> (The 3<sup>rd</sup> cave):** unique dive in a forest with stalactites and stalagmites in the immersed part of the cave. Guaranteed cave atmosphere. Experienced divers.

- **Kasmira Reef:** high seabed full of fish and leopard sharks. Dive corresponds to all levels.

## Lifou

- **The Shoji Reef** is a forest of gorgonia and soft coral where very diverse and unusual pelagic fauna abound (shoals of grey sharks, "carangues", barracuda, "dog toothed tuna" and even, leopard rays, manta rays, hammer sharks, and the famous "carite rock ling", the giant of the area ...).

- **The Gorgone Reef** is a site which is sheltered from the prevailing winds where enormous clumps of coral on the sandy seabed are linked together by arches covered in marine life : huge multicoloured gorgonia, tuna, grey sharks, leopard sharks, or white pointer sharks, turtles, "Napoléons", barracuda and perhaps even a small shoal of dolphins, "paper fish", "Merlet scorpion fish" (rares), "crevettes".



Aiguille de Prony – Mont-Dore



Pléaïdes du nord – Ouvéa



Hienghène



Ténia

• **The Tomoko Point** is composed by a canyon maze of grottoes, tunnels, where the sun rays dance. They illuminate superbe orange gorgones, sleeping crayfishes, myriads of warrior fishes and nonchalant sharks.

#### Mont-Dore

• **L'Aiguille de Prony (Prony needle):** huge chimney whose foundations originate 38 m underwater and rise to 2 m below the surface, result of immense hydrothermal activity. Kingdom for bivalves. Spawning season for rocklings in November...

#### Nouméa

• **L'île aux Canards (Duck Island):** Under water pathway in a marine reserve. Ideal site for initiation dives and guided visits organised by the center for Initiation of the Environment.

• **Dieppoise wreck:** last wooden patrol boat of the Royal Navy sunk in 1988 by the National Navy to become a dive site, located 26 m



underwater. Superb rocklings and myriads of other fish. Site corresponds to beginners.

• **La patate à Tépava (The "Patate" at Tépava):** this coral formation which lies at a depth of 12 m, is penetrated by several straight tunnels. Abundant fauna, large rockling, stingrays, small lagoon sharks and turtles. Dive corresponds to all levels.

• **Snark wreck:** Panamanian cargo ship sunk in 1942 near a sandbank. Leopard and black spotted rays are frequent.

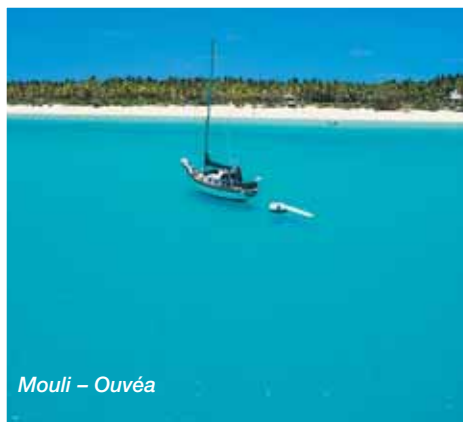
• **La patate du Phare Amédée:** underwater reserve, home to a multitude of fish: parrotfish, yellow "barbillons", butterfly fish... Ideal place for a first dive.

• **The southern point of the Tabou Reef:** the very jagged slope of the reef ends on a seabed of 25 m. The marine life is abundant: porcelain crayfish (panulirus ornatus), "carangues", tazars,...

• **La patate du Sournois (The sneaky "patate"):** rises up from a 10 m seabed. In calm weather, the weak current makes this dive ideal for beginners. A large shoal of yellow cord "mulletts" (mulloidichthys flavolineatus) adds a beautiful touch of gold. During the cooler season, living nautilus can also be observed at this site.

• **Boulari Pass:** is known for its concentration of fish (large round loach, shoals of blue loach, "carangues"...). With luck, you will witness the manta rays' ballet.

• **Humbolt wreck:** "Palangrier" sunk in 1993 to make an artificial reef. This site is inhabited by castex rockling, night mullet, and chicken scorpion fish.



Mouli – Ouvéa

## Dive Security

The Comex 1800 decompression chamber has been operational since June 2004 to respond to any diving accident. The 24 hour constraint every day of the year is integrated into the emergency plan. The decompression chamber is located near Nouméa's main hospital, accessible by land, sea or air. It is managed by the legal association of 1901 "Sécurité Plongée" (Diving Safety)

President: Lionel Bonnet

Ph/Fax: (687) 46 11 22

Secretary: Eric Herbert

Ph: (687) 78 34 93

#### Ouvéa

• **The Ouvéa atoll and its cluster of small islands** islands protect one of the most beautiful islands in the world with its 25 kms of fine white sand. The diving sites outside the coral reef are protected from the tradewinds. Here drift diving is the norm.

#### Poindimié



• **Pascaline, Dephy, Val d'Isère, Spaghetti, Natacha :** Divers will be spoiled for choice with the centre's 50 sites characterised both by a relief made of rifts, arches and canyons scattered with gorgonia and "alcyonnaires" and a diversity of fauna (small and large fish) and other crawling sea creatures.

#### Poum / Malabou Beach

• **The reef which borders the Malabou lagoon** designates an area classified by many experts as being amongst the most beautiful underwater diving sites in the world : **canyon Valley, Fish Market, Poum Pass, Carrey island, canyon des Demoiselles, Gazelle Pass.**



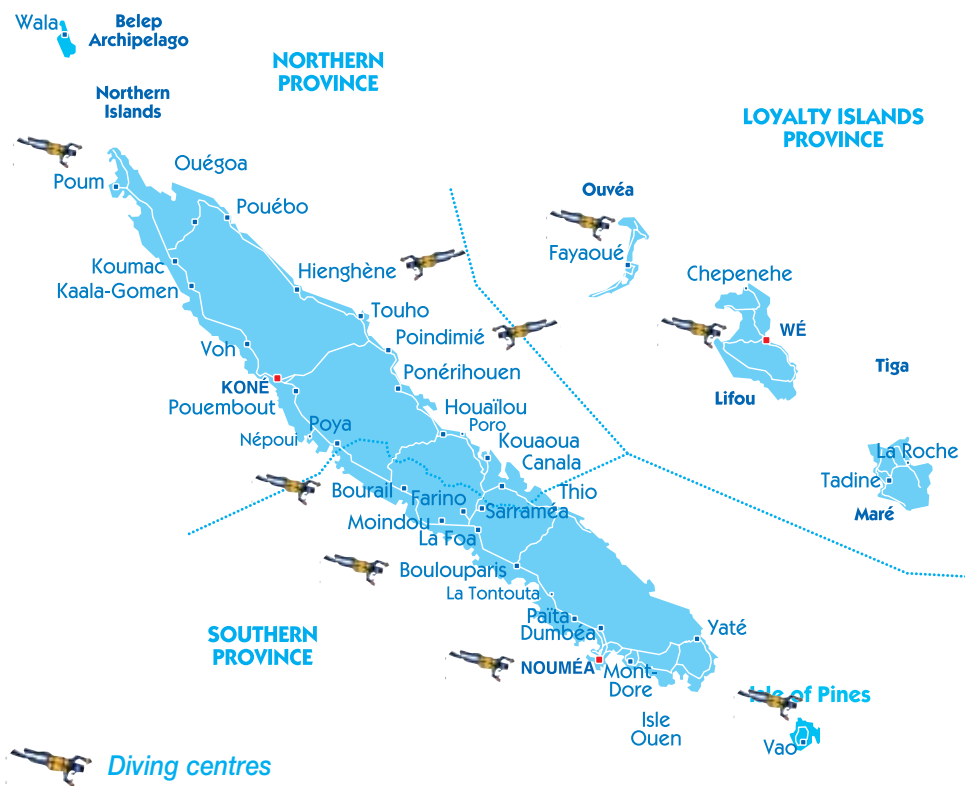
Kuto – Île des Pins



Île aux Canards – Nouméa

## 10 good reasons to dive in New Caledonia

- The world's largest lagoon.
- An ideal water temperature (21 to 28°).
- Experience an abundance of marine life...from the smallest to the largest.
- Immense variety of vegetal and animal species.
- Diverse choice of underwater landscapes.
- Virgin and rarely visited dive sites.
- Dives adapted to respective levels of expertise.
- Professional dive operators and compliance to strict regulations.
- Optimum security including decompression chamber.
- Comfortable boats able to accommodate disabled people.



## Regulations

New Caledonia has established its own regulations with regard to underwater diving (deliberation dated 27 August 2002) with the objective of conforming to the international courses and qualifications (PADI, ANMP, FFESSM, CMAS, SSI,...). The professional dive centres are also obliged to hold a tourist license to operate, which is controlled annually.



## Nouvelle-Calédonie Plongée

The association "Nouvelle-Calédonie Plongée" (New Caledonia Diving) made up of 11 dive centres produces and sells the "Carte Plongée +" (Dive+ card) which gives divers access to the most beautiful sites in New Caledonia in conjunction with the affiliated dive centres.

Ph/Fax: (687) 42 83 59  
[contact@nouvellecaledonieplongee.com](mailto:contact@nouvellecaledonieplongee.com)

[www.nouvellecaledonieplongee.com](http://www.nouvellecaledonieplongee.com)

# Diving



Phare Amédée



Luengoni - Lifou



# Centres Diving in New Caledonia

## Boulouparis

### Bouts D'Brousse \*

Bouraké public camping site – Boulouparis  
Ph: (687) 43 29 62 – Fax: (687) 43 34 62  
Mobile: (687) 77 88 65  
bdb@mils.nc  
www.ilot-tenia.com

## Bourail

### Bourail Sub Loisirs \*

Roche percée nautical base – Bourail  
Ph/Fax: (687) 44 20 65 – Mobile: (687) 78 20 65  
butterfly.diving@lagoon.nc

## Hienghène

### Babou Côte Océan \*

Kouloué camping site  
Ph/Fax: (687) 42 83 59  
info@babou-plongee.com  
www.babou-plongee.com

## Isle of Pines

### Kunie Scuba Center \*

Kodjeue hotel – Baie de Ouaméo – Ile des Pins  
Ph/Fax: (687) 46 11 22  
kuniescuba@canl.nc  
www.kunie-scuba.com

## Lifou

### Lifou Fun Dive \*

Easo – Xepenehe – Lifou  
Ph/Fax: (687) 45 02 75  
lifoufundive@lagoon.nc  
www.lifoufundive.com

## Nouméa

### Alizé \*

127, promenade Roger-Laroque  
Palm Beach commercial centre  
Anse Vata – Nouméa  
Ph: (687) 26 25 85 – Fax: (687) 26 25 22  
info@alizedive.com  
www.alizedive.com

### Amédée Diving Club \*

Marine Corail – 28 rue du Général-Mangin  
Nouméa  
Ph: (687) 26 40 29 – Fax: (687) 28 57 55  
Mobile: (687) 78 36 66  
amedee@canl.nc  
www.amedee.sponline.com

### Lagoon Safaris \*

Kuendu Beach Resort – Nouville – Nouméa  
Ph/Fax: 24 18 04 – Mobile: (687) 78 94 72  
lagoon.safaris@lagoon.nc  
www.lagoon-safaris.nc

## Abyss Plongée

Mobile: (687) 79 15 09  
lional@abyssnc.com  
www.abysnc.com

## Ouvéa

### Ouvéa Plongée \*

Mouli – Ouvéa  
Ph/Fax: (687) 45 09 90 – Mobile: (687) 77 24 40  
contact@ouveaplongee.com  
www.ouveaplongee.com

## Poindimié

### Tieti Diving \*

Monitel de Poindimié  
Ph/Fax: (687) 42 42 05  
tieti.diving@offratel.nc  
www.tieti-diving.com

## Poum

### Centre de Plongée de Malabou \*

Malabou Beach Resort  
Baie de Néné – Poum  
Ph: (687) 42 39 83

\* Affiliated dive centres to the "Nouvelle-Calédonie Plongée" association's (NC dive centre's association)

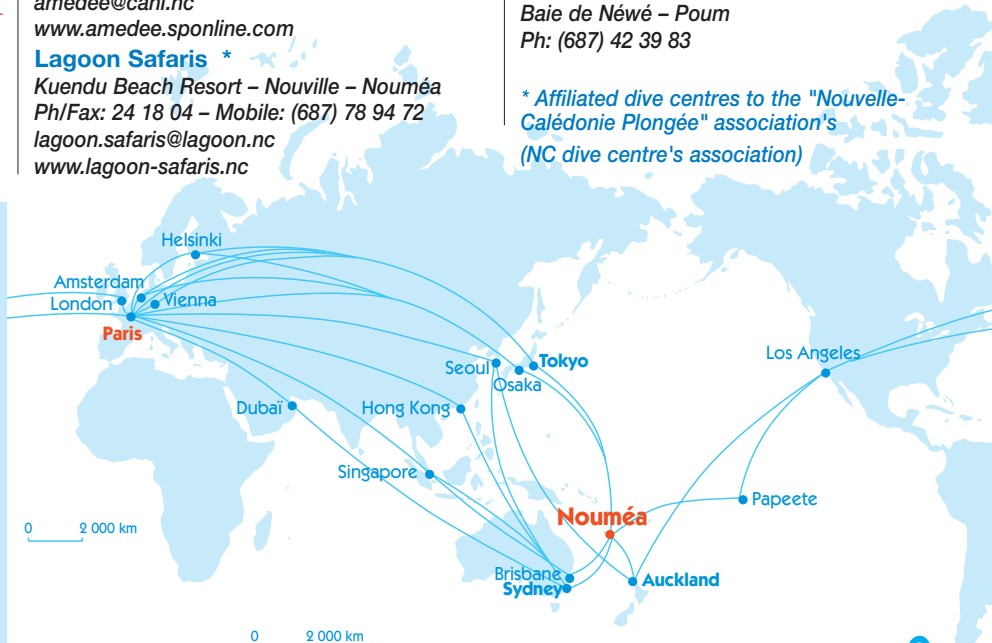
## Baggage allowance on Air Calédonie

A supplementary baggage allowance of 10kg (total of 20kg maximum) is permitted on domestic flights for people wishing to dive out of Nouméa.

It is advisable to obtain further information from your dive operator or from the domestic airline, Air Calédonie, before confirming your airline ticket.

### Air Calédonie

Ph: (687) 28 78 88 – Fax: (687) 28 13 40  
resa@air-caledonie.nc – www.air-caledonie.nc



www.visitnewcaledonia.com

