



VANUATU

TANNA AND PENTECOST ISLANDS

12 - 19 APRIL 2021

Ignacio Palacios

VANUATU

The beautiful Melanesian nation of Vanuatu stretches across 1,300km of the South Pacific Ocean with the archipelago comprising of more than 80 islands, dotted along an invisible north to south line, located to the east of Australia. Remote islands with active volcanoes, indigenous tribes and a history of cannibalism sounds like something straight out of a story book, yet Vanuatu offers all that and more. The perfect island escape where time stands still.



TRIBES AND MT YASUR (TANNA ISLAND)

The sixth largest island in the archipelago, Tanna, is just 40km long and 19km wide, but packs in plenty to see and do. In my opinion, the most interesting of all the islands, Tanna is an extraordinary place with the world's most accessible active volcano (Mount Yasur). Tanna also offers sublime secluded beaches and some of Vanuatu's most intriguing traditional village life. During the tour, we will focus on landscape and portrait photography during our visits to a few of the indigenous villages.



Mt Yasur Volcano, Tanna

LAND DIVING FESTIVAL (PENTECOST ISLAND)

The Nangool (Land Diving Festival) is a ritual performed by the men of Pentecost Island and it is said to be the precursor to the modern day bungee jumping craze. Men jump off 20-30 metre high wooden towers with only two or three vines wrapped around their ankles, with no safety harnesses in sight! The platforms are at several different heights, with the most experienced diver jumping from the top whilst people below dance and sing chants, providing emotional support for the divers.

The Land Diving ritual is associated with the annual yam harvest and is performed annually in the months of April, May or June. A good dive helps ensure a bountiful yam harvest. The villagers believe Land Diving can enhance the health and strength of the divers. A successful dive can remove the illnesses and physical problems associated with the wet season. Considered as an expression of masculinity, Land Diving demonstrates the boldness that has always been associated with the 'bwahti' or warrior. Nevertheless, the men who do not choose to dive or back out of diving are not humiliated in any way.

In the Sa language, gol refers to both the tower and the land dive. The tower symbolically represents a body with a head, shoulders, breasts, belly, genitals and knees. The diving platforms represent the male genitals whilst the struts beneath represent the female genitals.



Land Diving Festival, Pentecost Island

ITINERARY

12 April: On arrival in Vanuatu, we will be make our way to our hotel in Port Vila, the capital city of Vanuatu, for our overnight stay.

13-16 April: We will take a short flight to Tanna where we will spend the next three days, photographing its incredible volcanic landscapes, capturing the local village smiles and soaking up the laid back island atmosphere. There will be time for critique sessions, presentations and perhaps a moment to edit your imagery during your stay on the island. Accommodation in Tanna is at the beautiful White Grass Ocean Spa & Resort. For further details, please refer to the link <https://www.whitegrasstanna.com/>

17 April: A short flight to Pentecost Island for the exciting annual Land Diving Festival. Our shutters will be clicking over time as we witness this incredible spectacle. Our overnight stay will be in basic homestay accommodation.

18 April: Today, we will take our return flight to Port Vila for our overnight stay.

19 April: We say farewell as you embark on your onward journey.

Note: Travelling in Vanuatu requires flexibility and patience. Visitors essentially need to embrace 'island time'. Flight cancellations sometimes occur in the island nation due to inclement weather and itinerary changes may be necessary to ensure that we are able to experience the best photographic opportunities. Closer to the tour departure date and depending on group size and prices, we may charter inter island flights.



Waterfall, Pentecost Island



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Vanuatu adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning master.



"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio Palacios

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

During our trip in Vanuatu, there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.





CHECKLIST

Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended. (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lens
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- As a Nikon photographer, Ignacio plans to bring two bodies and lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus a x1.4 teleconverter, a 24-70mm f2.8 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 and a 400mm f2.8 prime.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- We recommend you pack a variety of comfortable clothes to keep you comfortable across the varying temperatures
- Comfortable hiking boots
- And you may wish to bring swimwear to take advantage of the pools in our hotels.

Luggage preparations

- We recommend you shrink-wrapping your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible in the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.



IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

**To reserve your place for 2021
or to make an enquiry, please email
ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au**





THE TEAM

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au



"My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments."

Ignacio Palacios





TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **12 – 19 April 2021**

Arrival and departure: the tour commences in Port Vila and ends in Port Vila, Vanuatu. I will provide details of my flights to the group so you can book the same if you are coming from Sydney.

Tour price: **AUS\$6,490** per person, GST not applicable
Single Room supplement: **AUS\$890**

Group size: maximum 8 participants

Deposit: a deposit of **AUS\$1,500** is required upon booking

Terms of payment

- A deposit of AUS\$1,500 must be paid to secure your place.
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid three months before the tour starts
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received.

What's included

- Ignacio's tuition and guidance, presentations and processing sessions
- Accommodation in Port Vila (2 nights), Tanna (4 nights) and Pentecost (1 night)
- Meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- Transport, transfers and internal flights in between islands
- Guides.

What's not included

- Travel, medical and cancellation insurance. Please note that travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking.
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Optional personal activities
- Alcohol consumption
- Souvenirs, laundry and any other personal expenses
- Tips/gratuities.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled before 3 months before the tour starts, a fee equal to 50% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled after 3 months before the tour starts, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings must be paid in full if the tour is starting within 3 months
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Special Note regarding COVID-19

In case that this tour had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, quarantine and/or any other travel restrictions imposed by Governments, the trip will be postponed to a convenient time at no extra cost. However, a small increase might occur due to hotel increased hotel rates.

Visas

Vanuatu tourist visa is not required for citizens of Australia for a stay up to 30 days. However, things change and all travellers are responsible to contact their local embassy to confirm all passport, visa and travel requirements at least 6 months prior to departure.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above. Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants.

IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund

- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 4 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

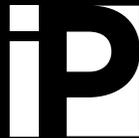
Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2021
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
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