



143 CAMPBELL STREET  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010  
TOLL FREE 1800 622 523  
TEL 02 9211 0944  
FAX 02 9211 1066  
EMAIL [info@vanuatuescapes.com.au](mailto:info@vanuatuescapes.com.au)  
WEBSITE [www.vanuatuescapes.com.au](http://www.vanuatuescapes.com.au)

# TELECOM VANUATU ROUND ISLAND RELAY

Saturday 26 July 2008

## About the Race

Relay races don't come much more challenging than the Telecom Vanuatu Round Island Relay, one of the world's truly unique running experiences.

The Round Island Relay was first staged as one of the sports events organised to celebrate Vanuatu's Independence in July 1980. Three teams of 10 runners raced around the island, a feat that many locals at the time thought impossible, symbolically linking the villages en route.

The 10 stages of the race are not equal distances but based on landmarks and terrain, short hilly sections (the shortest is a hilly 11.6km) and longer flat sections up to 16km. Road conditions vary from tar sealed to rugged coral and dirt roads, passing through traditional villages, taking in mountain rainforest, crossing crystal clear streams and through coconut plantations. The latter stages of the race take runners along the edge of coral reefs and white sand beaches offering some of the most breathtaking views you'll ever see.

Local teams often train for specific stages of the race with team members becoming specialists over the early morning hilly sections of the race on the western side of the island whilst others train specifically for the hot flat longer sections later in the day on the eastern side of the island.

Villages and communities along the route join in the event acting as staging points and entertaining and cheering on the teams. Throughout the day anticipation builds as news of the teams at the various checkpoints is relayed back to the leader board at the Seafront Stage Finish in Central Port Vila where hundreds of locals gather to welcome the teams home.

Whether your team is racing for a top place finish or simply aiming to get around the island you are sure of a great time and the opportunity to experience the friendliness, fun, tradition and culture of Vanuatu.

## Stages

Post Office - Tamate Village : 13.0 km  
Tamate Village - Lelepa Landing : 11.6 km  
Lelepa Landing - Siviri : 14.1 km  
Siviri - Saupia Clinic : 12.7 km  
Saupia Clinic - Bethel Village : 14.8 km  
Bethel Resort - Forari Bridge : 13.3 km  
Forari Bridge - Dry Creek : 16.0 km  
Dry Creek - Rentabao City : 14.9 km  
Rentabao City - Teouma Bay : 13.0 km  
Teouma Bay - Post Office : 14.6 km

## Telecom Vanuatu Round Island Relay

