Vanuatu – Checking in

Darol Vuti is now the person in charge of vessels coming to Vanuatu. The following are the requirements received from him for entering the ports currently listed on their web site, specifically Port Vila and Luganville. His email is vdarol@customs.gov.vu

**Yacht arrival requirements:**

**Authorized Port of Calls**

* Send Arrival Notification to Customs 24hrs prior to arrival
* Customs responds with inward and outward reports to be completed by yacht master
* Complete the report and send it back to Customs or it can be completed upon arrival during clearance.
* Health Documents must be sent to Health team for verifications and assessments
* Customs grant approval of entry and arrange for arrival clearance

**Unauthorized Port of Calls**

* Send Request permission to Port Vila Customs or Luganville Customs to enter into or depart from unauthorized port of calls in Vanuatu
* Health Documents must be sent to Health team for verifications and assessments by yacht Master
* Based on Health Advice, Customs grant approval and issue approval certificate which includes arrival clearance charges
* Customs Port Vila/Luganville notify the Customs Officer or Area Administrator to be on standby for clearance

**Service fee**

The fee for the services of an officer is as follows:

(a) from 6:00am to 7:30am Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) – VT1000 per hr.

(b) from 4:30pm to 6:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) – VT1000 per hr

(c) from 6:00pm to 6:00am Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) – VT1500 per hr

(d) on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays - VT2000 per hour.

For each hour or part of an hour during which the officer provides services requested under subclause (2), including travelling time, the minimum hour charged for each officer is **3 hours**.

**Fee for clearance at places other than appointed port or airport**

(1)   A person requesting the services of a Customs officer on a craft that lands or berths at a place that has not been declared under section 14 of the Act, is to pay:

(a)    the relevant service fee for each officer as set out in subclause 2(2); and

(b)   a clearance fee of VT5000.

  (2)   A person making a request under this clause is to meet:

(a)    the cost of transporting the Customs officer to and from the relevant place; and

(b)   meals and accommodation for the whole time in which the officer spends in providing the service.

**Value added tax liability on fees**

A fee charged for services or licenses provided for under this regulation, is **inclusive** of value added tax.

**TANNA** - For another Port such as Tanna, the advice is summarized by Vanuatu Customs as follows:

1. Basically Complete Maritime Declaration of Health - attached
2. Send request email 24 hours before arrival to customsborder@vanuatu.gov.vu  for entering an-authorize Port (Port Resolution) with details for an approval;

(a) the name of the vessel; and

(b) the voyage; and

(c) the estimated date and time of arrival in Vanuatu; and

(d) the appointed port or other place where the craft will land or berth; and

(e) the name of the master or skipper of the vessel; and

(f) the name and contact details of the person providing the information.

(g) the names of passengers on board.

Complete Customs arrival form once arrived at Port for clearance and present them with your last Port clearance

An-authorized Port of entry fee is VT5,000

**Payment**

 You can pay the charge with dollars if you don’t have VATU but you have to know that Customs Exchange Rate is updated every month and is different from commercial Banks.  On that note, see attach the Rates for this month for your perusal. (This information comes from Darol Vuti, the Customs officer. Email vdarol@customs.gov.vu).

Now, what happens in practice.

SV Loupan provided the following after arriving in 2022 and using the above guidance.

You cannot get vatu in Port Resolution. You have to go to Lenakai to find a nice ATM (you will find several).
Cash is really important here, all fees to officials needs to be paid in cash. (Although see the above official exchange option).
All officials are based in Lenakai and need to drive to Port Resolution to clear you in. You have to pay for the mileage, approx 3000 vatu. If they cannot combine (customs, immigration, biosecurity) to come at the same time you might end up to pay several trips to Port Resolution. Another way to to the check in is to ask the Commodore of the Port Resolution Yacht Club to
drive you to Lenakai to do the check in. However, important that you contact all of them (customs, immigration, biosecurity) in advance to schedule a meeting, the Commodore can help you to do this if you ask him kindly :-). The trip to Lenakai will cost vatu 3000 per person (including return).

Also, if you need to get SIM-cards for mobile internet you have to go to Lenakai. You will find a Vodafone store that can help you with this and at the market
you can find a small Digicell shop (very helpful). Price for a SIM card is vatu 200, then you have to buy and load a plan. A 30-day prepaid data plan giving you approx 20 GB of data will cost vatu 3000. Vodafone have very good coverage here in Port Resolution, 4G LTE is offered that will give good speed.

The Port Resolution Yacht Club is a world famous place! This is the place where the World ARC and the Oyster Rally will check in when they arrive in Vanuatu!

Thanks SV Loupan for this information.