CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE FROM NEW CALEDONIA TOURISM ON 27.02.20

• Due to the global coronavirus outbreak and concerns from locals on Lifou and Maré in the Loyalty Islands and the Isle of Pines, cruise ships are not stopping at ports in these destinations at the current time

• New Caledonia has no recorded cases of coronavirus in its territory and, with no direct flights from China and well-developed health and safety services, the risk of contamination is low – Smart Traveller Australia has no warnings in place for the destination

• New Caledonia, like many other countries in the world, has implemented all the necessary measures to protect its population while continuing to welcome tourists - epidemiological monitoring, distribution of information on the subject, border surveillance, implementation of procedures for the management of suspected cases, etc. More information on these measures is below

• Despite this, locals on Lifou, Maré and the Isle of Pines are concerned about the outbreak, and have called for a ban on cruise ships docking in these ports as a precaution. New Caledonian authorities are working closely with locals to find a solution

• Lifou, Maré and the Isle of Pines are still open for tourism, and visitors who undergo prior checks can access these destinations via domestic flights

• New Caledonia as a whole is open, safe to visit and is ready to welcome visitors, and there are no other limitations. Those visiting New Caledonia on a cruise are advised to check with their travel agent or cruise companies’ representative regarding their service and its stops. Those travelling to New Caledonia otherwise are advised to speak to their travel agent or visit the Smart Traveller website for any questions - https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/

On a cruise
• The on-board doctor will regularly carry out checks and report on the health of the passengers to the New Caledonian health authorities both during the cruise
and before and after disembarking. In case of any concerns, the health authorities are free to take any necessary protective measures.

- Those who are sick are to stay on board the ship. Those who become sick while ashore, are to reembark the ship immediately.
- Those who have visited a risk zone (China, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, South Korea or Northern Italy) or whom have been in contact with someone who has been in a risk zone during the last 14 days before any stopovers are not allowed to disembark.

At the airport
When disembarking from the plane, travellers must complete health declarations that will be analysed by the local authorities. People who have stayed in a risk zone (China, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, South Korea or Northern Italy) will receive a specific questionnaire and have their temperature measured.

* * *