

TJIBAOU CULTURAL CENTRE NEW CALEDONIA



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Are you keen to have a holiday in some exotic location close to home to satisfy your keen gardening interests? How about planning a trip to New Caledonia?

New Caledonia is one of the horticultural biodiversity hotspots in the world, with over 80% of its plants found naturally nowhere else. Having climates ranging from subtropical in the south, to tropical in the north, many of these plants now thrive in gardens in the warmer areas of Australia.

Palm enthusiasts will be aware of the great biodiversity of palms on the islands – many highly ornamental and sought after.

Thirteen of the eighteen species of *Araucaria* (which includes the Norfolk Pine, Hoop Pine and Bunya Pine) are found on the island, as well as 8 species of *Agathis* (Kauri Trees).

There are some fabulous national parks close to Noumea where interesting plants can be seen, such as the Riviere Bleue and the Madelaine Falls.

At the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, as well as admiring the magnificent architecture of Renzo Piano, you are able to see many of the local plants used in the adjacent landscape and learn of their significance and use by the native Kanak people.

The landscape is tremendously scenic and varied. It's a great shock to land in Noumea and see the towering hills and mountains around you. Beautiful beaches are surrounded by the largest lagoon in the world which is in turn enclosed by the coral reef.

