



New Caledonia

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France's recent effort to establish a new political agreement for [New Caledonia](#) has been **unsuccessful**, increasing uncertainty about the **territory's future**. This follows years of unrest and three **referendums** held between 2018 and 2021, in which **independence was rejected**.

New Caledonia

- **Geography:** It is a **French overseas territory** in the southwestern [Pacific Ocean](#), about **1,500 km east of Australia**.
 - It includes **Grande Terre** (with capital **Nouméa**), the **Loyalty Islands** (Ouvéa, Lifou, Tiga, Maré), **Belep archipelago**, **Isle of Pines**, and **remote islands**.



- **Historical Background:** Inhabited **originally by Kanaks** (indigenous Melanesian inhabitants of New Caledonia), it was **seized by France in 1853**. Kanaks gained **French citizenship** post-**World War II**, but 1960s migration reduced their majority, sparking independence movements.
 - The **Matignon Agreements (1988)** and **Nouméa Accord (1998)** promised 3 independence referendums. All votes **favoured France**, though the 2021 referendum was boycotted by pro-independence groups.
- **Rivers & Climate:** The longest river is the **Diahot (100 km)**. It has a [subtropical climate](#), the east coast receives significantly more rainfall than the west coast.
- **Biodiversity:** Home to *Amborella trichopoda*, a **rare plant species** and **endemic birds** like the **kagu**.
 - Its [lagoons](#) have been a [UNESCO World Heritage site](#) since 2008.

Overseas Territory:

- It refers to a **region or land** that is **geographically separated from a country's mainland** but **remains under its sovereignty and administration**.

Read More: [Referendum in New Caledonia](#)

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