



PAPUA
NEW
GUINEA

LAND OF MYSTERY





LAND OF MYSTERY

Managing Director
Jarrod La Canna

Advertising Sales
Terry Bartlett & Jarrod La Canna

Graphic Design
Carolyn Tellus

Design Assistance
Annette Bryant
Studio Editor
Karla Dondio

Studio Administration
Leeanne Lisle

Accounts Administrator
Ingrid Jansz

Distribution
Deborah Harris
Jack La Canna

Images sourced via:
alamy.com
Sir Peter Barter
Bob Halstead
www.robertharding.com

madNESS Photography
Jarrod La Canna

Editorial supplied by
Karla Dondio
Jarrod La Canna
Eleanor White
Andrew Abel

Special thanks to
Sir Peter Barter

This visitor publication is compiled and produced by
John Batman Group – The Hospitality Supermarket,
publisher of fine hotel directories and magazines worldwide.

John Batman Group – The Hospitality Supermarket and
Just Brilliant Guides are trademarks of
Binders Compendiums Menu Covers Pty Ltd.
© Copyright All Rights Reserved. JBG-R
John Batman Group – The Hospitality Supermarket
PO Box 726, Ringwood, Victoria Australia 3134
Tel +61 3 9879 8588 Fax +61 3 9879 8688
Email: info@johnbatman.com.au
Web: www.johnbatman.com.au



JUSTbrilliant | GUIDES

INSIDE

2 Explore the Land of Mystery

6 12 Unforgettable Festivals

9 Cultural Wonderland

10 A Tribal Nation

17 7 Awe-Inspiring Treks

20 Island Hopping

29 Top Dive Adventures

32 Madang Magic

36 Moresby's Eats & Beats

37 Out & About

41 Beans & Brews

42 A Birding Paradise

45 Battle Trails

47 Talk. Eat. Discover.

48 Bay Beauty

52 Highlands Highway

56 The Heartland

59 3 Cool Adventures

Elevate your experience with a **BSP VISA DEBIT CARD**

Providing our customers **Improved Security** for safer purchases and

**'TOUCH & GO'
CONVENIENCE.**



Access your funds anytime, anywhere in the world where VISA is accepted and online.



DAVID MEAD
BSP BRAND AMBASSADOR

VISIT YOUR NEAREST
BSP BRANCH TO APPLY NOW.

WE ARE BSP



www.bsp.com.pg

EXPLORE THE LAND OF MYSTERY

Papua New Guinea is a unique land steeped in culture and mystery. True to its claim of being one of the last frontiers on earth, the natural beauty and intricate history of this country beckon to be explored.

The cultural riches and extraordinary wilderness of PNG are a traveller's delight. Nowhere else in the world can one explore such diversity in language and culture than within this fascinating nation. Its unique array of colourful tribespeople draws inspiration from the region's incredible landscapes.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) lies on the eastern half of the second largest island in the world, and shares a border with Indonesia. Fringed by spectacular coral reefs, PNG is surrounded by thousands of atolls and smaller islands, and experiences the highest volcanic activity in the South West Pacific region.

While PNG's landmass is situated in the tropics, running down the length of the island's rugged interior are mountain peaks that occasionally experience snowfall. In the Highlands, the mountainous terrain is so dense and remote that the different groups who migrated to the region developed their own languages and tribal culture to reflect their surrounds.

Lying just south of the equator, the climate in PNG is tropical with the wet season occurring December to March and the dry season May to October. The seasons are not as pronounced as in Asia so, while the humidity can be high at times, the temperatures rarely get too hot. There are, however, exceptions to the region's seasonal rules with Alotau and Lae experiencing the wet season when other regions are dry. Additionally, Tabubil, nestled at the base of the Star Mountains in the Western Province, is known as the "umbrella town" because of its persistent rainfall year round. To further prove PNG's diverse nature, the dry season can be unpredictable across

the mainland, while the island provinces have a steadier climate with milder temperatures and infrequent rainfall.

PNG has a small population of approximately 8 million people, yet no less than 820 different languages are spoken throughout the region. It comes as no surprise then that a quarter of the world's languages herald from PNG. English, Pidgin and Hiri Motu are the official languages of the region. PNG's remoteness has preserved a traditional lifestyle, with many Papua New Guineans still residing in small villages and surviving on farming.

A number of fascinating cultures can still be found in PNG from the famous Huli Wigmen in the Highlands to the enigmatic tribes on the Trobriand Islands. As a result, PNG has sprouted a number of annual festivals that celebrate the customs and costumes of the beguiling locals.



Welcome to the jewel of the pacific.

Discover a prestigious hotel with infinite
possibilities beyond your imagination.



THE STANLEY
HOTEL & SUITES

Call +675 302 8888 to secure your stay, email reservations@thestanleypng.com or visit www.thestanleypng.com

New Cars... Old Fashioned Service

Budget[®]

Drives your kina further™

Reservations
reservations@budget.com.pg

PH: 323 6244



Frequentflyer

BLACK SWAN
INTERNATIONAL

Trakpro

STRENGTH AND RELIABILITY

You need a transport company with a proven track record, one that you can trust to uphold your company's professional image when delivering your goods.

After all, your transport company is an extension of your business, representing you as we collect and deliver your shipments across the country and around the world.



For more information on how
we can help your business,
call 675 3252411
or visit www.pngaf.com.pg

BNC TRADING COMPANY LIMITED
Importers and Distributors Since 1924

Operating since 1924, BNC Trading is the oldest and largest importer, distributor and marketer of grocery products in PNG. With a wide range of products covering food, beverage, health & beauty and non-food items, BNC represents some of the largest multi-national consumer companies in the world such as Unilever (Rexona / Surf / Lipton / Streets Ice Cream / Flora); Lion D&D (Berri Juice); General Mills (Betty Crocker, Old El Paso); Mitsui/Kerr Bros (777 canned mackerel); Kikkoman and Asaleo Care (Drypers / Orchid and Sorbent).

The company has branches in Port Moresby, Lae, Kokopo and Kiunga supplying over 500 stores including grocers, wholesalers, foodservices, bakeries and mining camps.



Port Moresby: Tel: (+675) 323 3366/67 Lae: Tel: (+675) 472 4850
Kokopo: Tel: (+675) 982 8561 Kiunga: Tel: (+675) 7190 9926
Email: info@bngtrading.com.pg | www.bngtrading.com.pg





Airways Residences
PORT MORESBY

Fully Serviced Apartments
For Lease
Long or Short Term...

Tel: (675) 325 4366



MP_1818440d



www.airwaysresidences.com.pg

UNFORGETTABLE FESTIVALS

Culture comes alive in a kaleidoscope of colour at the various shows that occur across the region annually.

MADANG FESTIVAL

Held over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June each year, the Madang Festival celebrates the region's rich culture with a colourful parade, canoe racing, sporting activities and stalls.

NATIONAL MASK FESTIVAL

In July, the National Mask Festival in Rabaul brings the variety of the Papua New Guinean masks to one single celebration. The festival usually runs for four or five days and provides visitors with a fantastic array of performances including fire-eaters, singers, drummers, and more.

MONA FESTIVAL

Mona Festival, the largest cultural event in Bougainville, only launched in 2009 and is staged in Buka. The festival is dedicated to the traditional warrior canoes called 'Monas'. Occurring in July each year, this colourful festival is said to celebrate the cultural diversity and autonomy that inspires peace and reconciliation in Bougainville today.

MOUNT HAGEN SHOW

The Mount Hagen Show highlights the rich culture of the Highlands region in a wonderful display of sing-sings. The show attracts around 50,000 visitors each year and is one of PNG's oldest shows, launching back in 1961. Occurring in August each year, the show provides an insight into the fascinating customs of the local tribes.

SEPIK CROCODILE FESTIVAL

The Crocodile Festival is a three day event celebrating the local tribe's cultural connection to the crocodile. Occurring in Ambunti in August, the festival showcases canoe racing and traditional performances.

ENGA FESTIVAL

One common dialect dominates the Enga Province, which makes it a particular drawcard for those visiting PNG. The Enga Festival is a time when locals can demonstrate just how amazing their culture is. Held in August each year, enjoy the Engans' famous sand painting, which is unique to the area, and the fantastic sing-sing men.

DWU CULTURAL DAY

The Divine Word University Cultural Day, held in August, is an annual event that sees students come together to perform and celebrate their cultural heritage. For more information, call Divine Word University on +675 422 2937.

GOROKA SHOW

The Highlands region is famous for its primitive history, which included cannibalism and violent tribal wars. At the Goroka Show, held in September each year, descendants beat kundu drums and decorate themselves in unusual body paints and feathers to celebrate their unique heritage.

HIRI MOALE SHOW

The Hiri Moale Show, held in Port Moresby in September on Independence Day, has become a premier cultural event. Like everything in PNG, the show illustrates a rich and symbolic history that reflects on age-old stories and customs. During the show, Ela Beach comes to life with stilt houses, colourful canoes and hundreds of people singing, dancing and celebrating tradition.

FRANGIPANI FESTIVAL

Occurring in Rabaul each September, the Frangipani Festival celebrates Independence Day. See the famous Baining Fire Dance, sing-sings, a float parade and more.

MOROBE CULTURAL SHOW

The Morobe Cultural Show in Lae is probably the most famous cultural show in PNG. It is held in October each year and provides visitors with agricultural information as well as showcases the largest group of sing-sings in PNG.

PNG NATIONAL KENU AND KUNDU FESTIVAL

With its rich connection to the water, the people of Milne Bay celebrate a canoe festival in November each year. Visitors will see war canoes and locally-made kundu drums in all their glory.

Events and dates can change from time to time. For up to date information on PNG cultural shows, visit www.papuanewguinea.travel.





CULTURAL WONDERLAND

CULTURAL ORIGINS

Around 50,000 years ago, Asian migrants travelled across the Indonesian archipelago to become the first human inhabitants of PNG. Archaeological remnants such as stone axes and animal fragments discovered in the Ivane Valley date back anywhere between 44,000 to 49,000 years. It's believed islands such as New Britain and New Ireland were settled around 35,000 years ago, and Manus as late as 20,000 years ago. Evidence suggests that, rather than settling in one place, the first regional dwellers moved nomadically from the mountains to lower elevations to rotate their food supply. With migrational groups dispersing over time, the remote conditions gave rise to unique tribal customs and languages.

Early settlers of PNG are ancestrally linked with Australian Aborigines as Australia was once connected to PNG by a land bridge evident during the Pleistocene Epoch. This marked a period when the polar ice caps retained more water, so sea levels were lower than they currently are. The land bridge disappeared approximately 8,000 years ago, which explains why the same race of people became so culturally diversified.

Another migrational wave occurred around 3,500 years ago evidenced by the ornate pottery remnants found throughout the region. The pottery was crafted by the Lapita people who archaeologists initially believed were traders passing through from eastern Asia. It was discovered later that the Lapita people colonised areas of PNG by bringing anything they required to settle comfortably. This included animals and the means to plant crops. Their superior artisan skills are showcased not just in their pottery but in the ingenuity of their flaked stone and wood tools, and shell artefacts.

The first people to settle in PNG were hunter gatherers who subsisted on a diet of animal, fish and local vegetation. With global temperatures eventually increasing around 10,000 years ago, it's no surprise that evidence of agricultural farming was found in PNG from 9,000 years onwards. Papua New Guineans have, in fact, been credited with being one of the first cultures to agriculturally farm land. The existence of domesticated pigs in PNG dates back as early as 5,000 years. Pigs remain culturally and financially important today with marriages still consecrated with a dowry of pigs. To this day, many Papua New Guineans live off subsistence farming.

Tribes in PNG are typically patrilineal, which means land is passed down from father to son and leadership is strictly a man's domain – though in some quarters this has softened slightly. Atypically, New Ireland and Alotau are matrilineal societies and so the preservation of the mother's clan is of the utmost importance. Not only is land passed down from the mother to her children but, in marriage, the offspring notably become part of their mother's tribe and the husband works tirelessly for the betterment of the tribe.

INDEPENDENCE

The first European sighting of the landmass known as PNG today was in 1512 when Portuguese sailor Antonio d'Abreau sighted the coastline. It was a Spanish navigator Jorge de Menezes, however, who became the first European to set foot on the mainland in 1526. The explorer is also credited with naming the land 'Papua', a Malay word used to describe the frizziness of Melanesian hair.

Another Spaniard Yñigo Ortiz de Retez applied the term 'New Guinea' to the island in 1545 because of a similarity he had drawn between the region's Indigenous people and those found on the African Guinea coast.

European traders, adventurers and gold explorers visited the region in the 16th and 17th centuries, but it was the Dutch who formally took possession of the western half of the Island - now the province of West Papua or Indonesia - in 1828. The British announced their intention to claim part of New Guinea in 1884 and the Germans formally annexed the north. A compromise was reached between the nations and an arbitrary line was drawn east west through the supposedly uninhabited Highlands. The two areas were named German New Guinea and British New Guinea. In 1906, British New Guinea came under Australian administration and was renamed Australian Territory of Papua. In 1914, following the onset of World War I (WWI), Australian Forces took possession of German New Guinea.

During World War II (WWII) Japanese Forces occupied parts of PNG, and it was following their expulsion at the end of the war that the two territories were amalgamated into one known as the Territory of Papua and New Guinea under Australian administration. In 1972, the name of the territory was changed to Papua New Guinea and elections saw the formation of a ministry that pledged to lead the country to self-governance and independence. Independence from Australia was ultimately proclaimed by PNG in 1975.

CULTURAL ENDURANCE

In many ways, PNG today is free from modern influences, which means its fascinating culture and traditions are often spectacularly preserved. If you're keen to explore how local tribes go about their daily life, there are plenty of cultural tours you can undertake throughout PNG. For a range of guided tours to local villages throughout PNG, call +675 320 0211 or visit www.papuanewguinea.travel. If you're visiting an island in PNG, you can also ask a representative at your accommodation establishment about reputable cultural tours. PNG also showcases an array of local costumes and performances at a number of annual festivals and shows throughout the year. Don't miss out on the opportunity to see thousands of Papua New Guineans celebrate life and tradition in a kaleidoscope of colour and music.

A TRIBAL NATION

THE SIMBU TRIBE

The Simbu (also known as Chimbu) Province is said to derive its name from the regional language. When early Australian explorers first encountered the locals, they heard the word "simbu" spoken, meaning "thank you", and the name stuck. Kuman is the main language spoken in the region. It has sprouted many dialects over time, perhaps because the area is one of the most populated in PNG today.

The Simbu people are nimble gardeners, managing plant crops such as sweet potato on steep, sloping fields. Through practise, the locals have learnt to expertly till and replenish the soil, vegetating the same plots year after year. Like many regions in PNG, the pig is a status of wealth. The pig killing ritual is still a popular tradition among the Simbu people who like to cook the meat in a mumu underground. The celebratory meal is then eaten communally, as many Papua New Guineans still place great emphasis on community and family.

A certain mystique surrounds the skeleton tribe that resides in the dense, rugged valleys of the Simbu Province. The tribespeople, who until recently remained almost hidden, are known for painting their bodies in black and white body paint in the pattern of a skeleton. Their foreboding appearance, which was once used as a war tactic to terrify the enemy, is now entralling crowds at festivals throughout PNG. Other traditional costumes worn by clans in the region include the spectacular crimson and black feathered headdress. The feathers are taken from the Pesquet's parrot and the headdress is typically worn at ceremonial events such as weddings and festivals.

NEW IRELAND CULTURE

The Melanesian people on New Ireland speak 22 languages in total and are traditionally led in extended family groups by a senior clan leader. While land rites are patrilineal in most regions in PNG, on New Ireland they are dictated by matrilineality, meaning that land is passed down to children via the mother's clan. Three main cultural paradigms are still practiced by locals such as Malagan, Kabai and Tumbuan. While Tumbuan rituals are also practiced by coastal tribes in East New Britain, Malagan and Kabai are distinct to New Ireland. The Malagan figure carvings, which are used in the final stages of ceremony to honour the dead, have become an iconic artefact due to the fact that early European travellers returned with them to Europe. They can be viewed across a number of museums in Europe and Australia today. Malagan Beach Resort and Kavieng Hotel also have these types of carvings on display. Traditional shark hunting is a practice also unique to New Ireland, particularly along the west coast near Tembin and Kontu. Locals who possess the ability to "call up sharks" lure the creatures to the boat before ensnaring them.

THE HULI WIGMEN

One of the most colourful and fascinating tribes in PNG today, the Huli Wigmen hail from the Hela Province. Like many tribes in PNG, their rituals, costume and dance pay homage to the environment, in particular the stunning birds of paradise. Unlike other cultural tribes, where patrilineal lines decree chiefdom, Huli leaders are chosen for their wealth, and prowess in battle and conflict resolution. The Huli people believe they descended from a man called Huli and, even though modern influences have begun to impact the culture, the tribe continues to live a traditional life for the most part.

Men and women do not typically live together. As a result, boys live with their mothers up until the age of eight and then reside with their fathers who teach them how to build and hunt. Young men are reared to be self-sufficient braving the surrounding jungle alone for extended periods as a rite of passage to manhood. At around fourteen, teenage boys attend wig school. Only virgins are accepted into wig school as their purity is said to be more amenable to magic. Each placement is the cost of one pig.

At wig school, a wig master oversees the grooming of hair to ensure that each boy creates a strong foundation for the Huli wig, a unique design of woven hair. The boys are inaugurated into the school with a ritual to cleanse the body and soul. They are then placed on a diet, which typically omits spicy foods and pork fat, to promote healthy hair growth. In addition, the wig master casts magic spells to spur growth along. For the next eighteen months, the boys sleep with a headrest to prevent their hair from being flattened. It's then cut off and a wig specialist weaves it into the shape that forms the basic structure of the much lauded Huli Wigmen headdress. Finally, the wigs are adorned with feathers from the bird of paradise, yellow everlasting daisies and possum fur among other items.

It's not uncommon for Huli Wigmen to grow multiple wigs over many years, as long as they're crafted before marriage. Some are used in everyday life while others are saved for special ceremonial events. Ceremonial wigs typically have peaks at the side reminiscent of the bird of paradise's wing span.

When it's cause for celebration, the Huli Wigmen dedicate much time and effort in preparing their spectacular costumes. Ambua, the yellow clay they paint their faces with, is sacred and sets the Huli Wigmen apart from other tribes. When students finally graduate from wig school, they paint their faces with ambua and go in search for a wife.

Be sure to enquire about a Huli Wigmen cultural tour to find out more about this fascinating culture.



A TRIBAL NATION

THE ASARO MUDMEN

The Asaro Mudmen herald from the Eastern Highlands Province near Goroka. Their costume comprises of white body clay, long bamboo claws and a thick, ghostly mask made from dried clay. Today, competition is fierce among clans claiming their right to the origins of the Asaro Mudmen, which gives rise to some fascinating stories.

The most popular legend has it that the costume arose when the Asaro tribe ran into the Asaro River to escape the clutches of an enemy tribe. When they emerged on dusk and returned to their village covered with mud and looking inhuman, the enemy was struck with fear and fled. The incident gave rise to a new battle costume to frighten away adversaries. At the time, believing the mud from the river was poison, the Asaro tribe decided to make masks from homemade clay with threatening facial features and pig tusks. The sheer weight of the masks is terrifying enough, weighing in at around ten kilos.

Another tale exists where a man who attended a wedding without a costume placed a bilum over his head and covered himself in mud. Convinced he was a ghost, the guests ran from the scene, which gave the man a brilliant idea. He decided, along with his brother and friends, to wear the costume to scare off an enemy tribe. The strategy proved to be highly successful.

Today different groups of Asaro Mudmen perform across PNG at many of the festival events. The spectacular dance reimagines the battleground with Asaro Mudmen wielding spears and performing dance movements as though advancing on the enemy.

THE CHAMBRI TRIBE

The Chambri tribe from the East Sepik Province still practice a totemic crocodile scarification ritual today. The tribe believes that in ancient times crocodiles rose up from the Sepik River and evolved into human form on land. The ritual commemorates the tribe's fabled reptilian lineage.

The crocodile scarification ritual involves the subject being cut by a bamboo sliver on the chest, arms, back and buttocks in a unique pattern to resemble the teeth and scales of a crocodile. The procedure is excruciatingly painful but is believed to be character building for young males of around 30 years of age. Prior to the incisions, the back is hit repeatedly to inflame the skin to ensure fine scarring. After the incisions are made, the recipient lies in front of a fire where smoke and ash are blown into the incisions. Tree oil and clay are massaged into the wounds to prevent infection and also serve to keep the skin raised once the cuts heal.

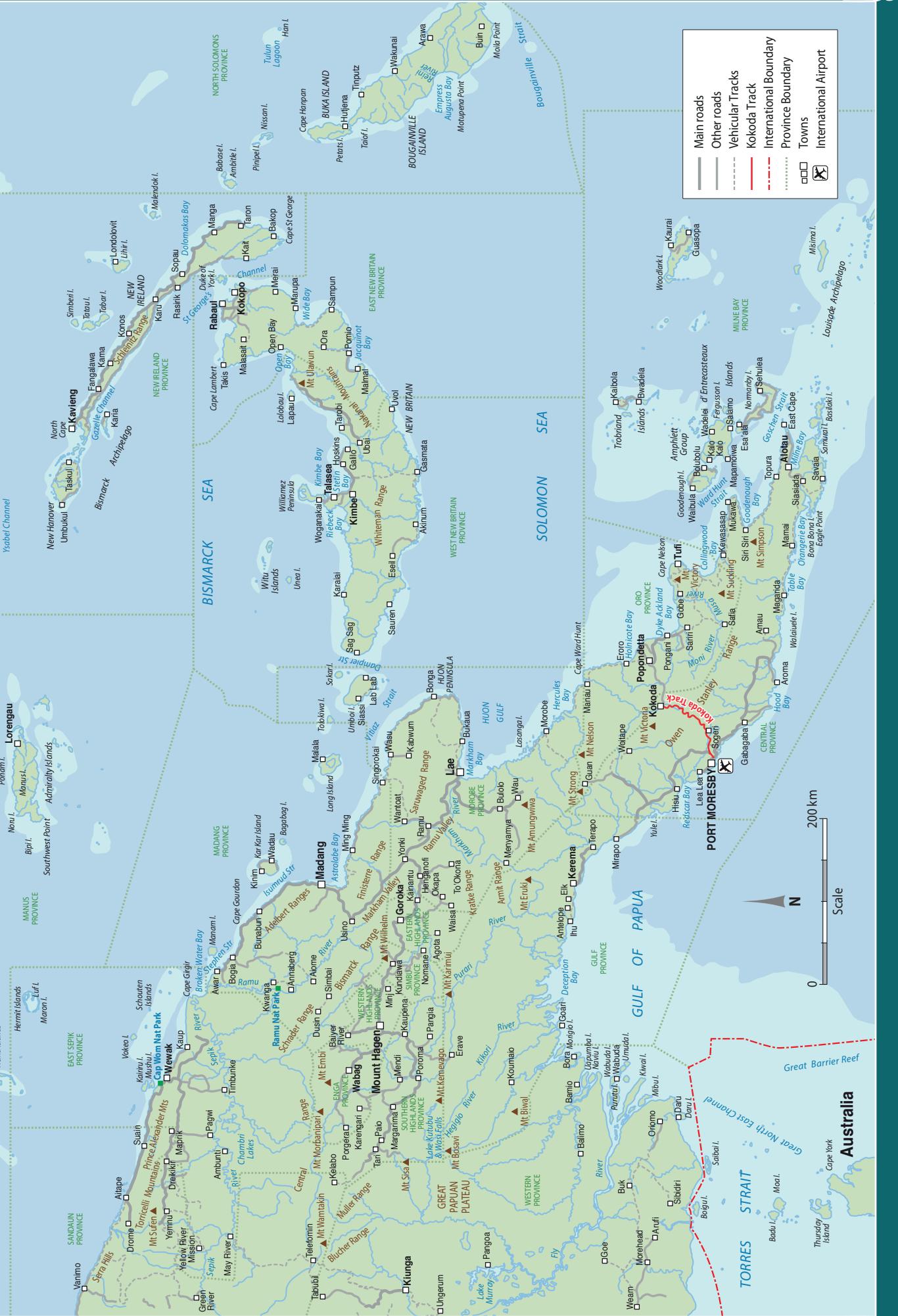
When the ritual is complete, the youths are adorned with a traditional headdress and celebrations follow. A cultural tour showcasing this extraordinary custom is a must do when visiting the East Sepik.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

OCEAN

PACIFIC





Tour Desk & Gift Shop

Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby
Bird of Paradise Hotel, Goroka

- *New Guinea Tribal Artifacts
- *PNG Design T-shirts
- *Export Quality Coffee, and more...



- * Daily Town Tour
- * Village Tour
- * Island Day Trip
- * Scuba Diving
- * Trekking



Port Moresby Tel(675)323-1321/2103
Goroka Tel(675)532-1281

www.pngexplorers.com



VANGUARD INTERNATIONAL

PNG'S Manpower Professionals



- ✓ Selection and Recruitment
- ✓ Contract Labour Hire
- ✓ Immigration Services
- ✓ Payroll Services
- ✓ HR Consulting
- ✓ Psychological Profiling

CONTACT PERSON: Anzillah Miro
Mobile: (675) 7640 4458 / (675) 7086 9339
Email: am@vanguard.com.pg
Website: www.vanguardpng.com

VANGUARD LTD
P: (675) 7500 7500
Level 2, ANG House,
Hunter St,
Port Moresby, NCD



DISCOVER A BOUTIQUE HOTEL WITH LUSCIOUS SURROUNDS,
PERSONALISED SERVICE, AND SO MUCH MORE.

WELCOME TO YOUR PARADISE

+675 323 9333 reservations@lagunahotel.com.pg lagunahotelpng.com





7

AWE-INSPIRING TREKS

PNG offers many exciting options for the avid hiker, from trekking dense rainforests and rugged peaks, to long-distance coastal walks with ocean views.

1 KOKODA TRAIL

The memory of Kokoda lives in the hearts of more than 3,000 visitors who hike the trail every year. Extending 96 kilometres, the trail weaves across river systems and treacherous mountains, through tiny villages and perilous ridges. Trekking Kokoda is a life changing experience due to the sheer endurance required to complete it and the emotional connection it has with WWII soldiers. Today, war relics littered along the trail stand as a ghostly reminder of the fierce battles fought along the trail. Trekkers also get to experience complete remoteness and rare, unusual fauna. All trekkers are required to have a permit which should be obtained prior to hiking the trail. For more information, contact the KTA in Port Moresby on +675 323 6165.

2 KAPA KAPA TRAIL

For endurance trekkers, the Kapa Kapa Trail will prove to be the ultimate challenge. Dubbed 'The Ghost Mountain Trail', the track runs 170 kilometres in length and passes over the Owen Stanley Ranges at a higher altitude to Kokoda. During WWII, the trail was used by American Forces to avoid heavy fighting along the Kokoda Trail and advance upon the Japanese along the north beaches. The trail takes 15 days to complete with an experienced tour guide and is recommended for skilled hikers only. For more information, visit www.kapakapatrail.com.

TREKKING TIPS

- Pack synthetic clothing rather than cotton as it dries faster.
- Carry a clean pair of hiking socks for each day.
- All clothing should be stored in zip lock plastic bags inside your pack.
- Antiseptic powder should be applied to your body on a daily basis and after each river crossing.
- Carry a wide-brimmed hat to protect you from both the sun and heavy rains.
- Pack sunscreen and insect repellent, and apply regularly.
- Check local water is safe to drink and fill your camelbak regularly.
- Take up to twelve salt tablets a day (for long, challenging treks).
- Land in PNG is either communally or family owned. Ask your local guide what permit or other payment is required.

3 MT WILHELM

For the intrepid trekker, Mt Wilhelm presents the perfect challenge. Hovering at 4,500 metres, the peak offers spectacular views of The Highlands. Demarcating the point where three provinces converge (Western Highlands, Simbu and Madang), this hike is tailored for those with a moderate fitness level as it takes three to four days to reach the peak. For more information, contact PNG Trekking Adventures on +675 325 1284.

4 MT GILUWE

As the second highest peak in PNG, Mt Giluwe offers an unforgettable trekking adventure. Take in The Highlands from a fresh perspective while you trek to the summit where not one but two peaks await you. Speak to someone at Kiburu Lodge for guided treks to Mt Giluwe.

5 MT HAGEN

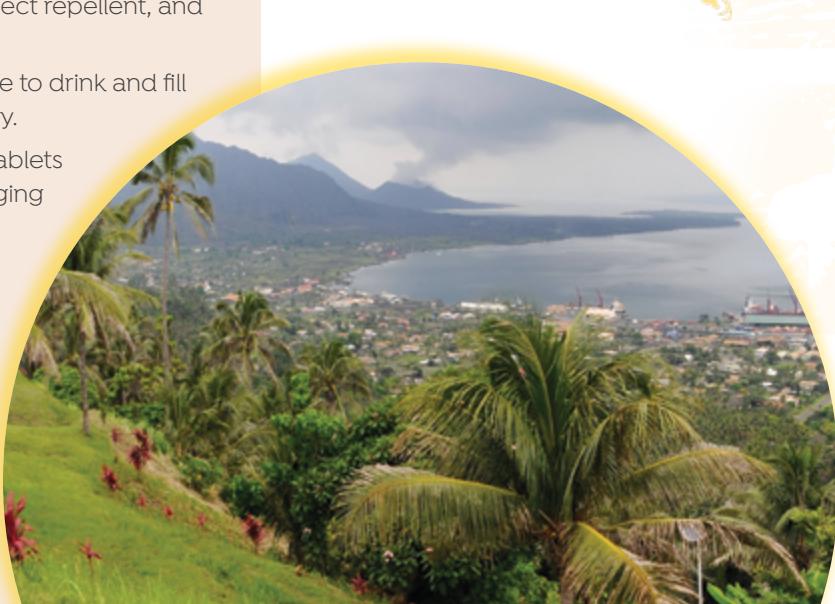
Mt Hagen is the third highest mountain in PNG. Its remote landscape poses the perfect challenge for trekkers who want to get amongst PNG's ruggedness. For treks to Mt Hagen and surrounding peaks in the Western Highlands, speak to someone at your accommodation establishment.

6 ROTOKAS-NUMA TRAIL

The Rotokas-Numa Trail, located on Bougainville, is a demanding yet gratifying trek. Lesser known than the Kokoda Trail, the track stretches from the heart of the island to the west coast canvassing dense jungle, volcanic landscapes and lush waterways. The Rotokas-Numa Trail became a battleground between the Japanese and Allied Forces during WWII, and again in the 90s between the PNG Defence Force and Bougainville Revolutionary Army. It is recommended that trekkers take a local guide with them on their travels. For more information on guided tour packages, contact Rotokas Ecotourism on +675 7078 0211.

7 TRANS-NEW BRITAIN TRACK

The Trans-New Britain Track boasts two routes, one through the Wowo Plateau which features a number of caves, and the other Katula Ridge which extends to West New Britain. For more information on the trek, contact Nakanai Ranges Tours and Adventures on +675 7335 3706. Both East and West New Britain have many extinct and active volcanoes worth exploring which puts you amongst some of the most stunning flora and fauna in the world.



TOUCH & EXPLORE **CPNG**



WORLD CLASS



DISPLAYS & VIDEOS



INTERACTIVE MAPS

ADVERTISE

ENGAGE

DISCOVER

**THE ONLY INTERACTIVE TOUCHSCREEN
@ PNG'S BUSIEST AIRPORT
VIEWING AUDIENCE OF OVER 245,000!**

www.jbg.com.pg



ISLAND HOPPING

EAST NEW BRITAIN

The capital of East New Britain is Kokopo, which lies in proximity to the original capital of Rabaul. Rabaul was destroyed in the volcanic eruptions of Tavurvur and Vulcan back in September 1994. Today, both townships provide a perfect base from which to explore the region.

Rabaul boasts an impressive collection of war relics, tunnels and caverns from the 1942 occupation by the Japanese. With a day's notice, the Rabaul Hotel can organise local guides to take visitors around to see the remnants.

The Rabaul Volcanological Observatory was established after the 1937 eruption at Rabaul. The observatory is responsible for monitoring 14 active and 23 dormant volcanoes spread along three volcanic arcs throughout PNG. Nonetheless, the prevalence of volcanoes with their steep, rocky formations make for some memorable treks. Treks around Rabaul include walking from Volavolo Village to Mt Mother, the tallest mountain in the area. The hike to the top of Mt Mother is a sheer climb to 700 metres but offers fantastic views.

East New Britain is a great place to birdwatch as it is home to a number of exotic birds including the renowned hornbill. The caves in the region are regarded as world class, so be sure to check out the caves at Pomio which can be accessed by boat or vehicle.

If diving is your passion, the WWII wrecks that litter the reefs surrounding East New Britain offer diving and snorkelling with excellent visibility year round. Simpson Harbour, the location where 54 Japanese ships were sunk during the war effort, and the Beehives (a small group of craggy islands) both offer great diving. Tavui Point, once an official submarine base, provides fantastic snorkelling over Japanese submarines.

Sport fishing for marlin and dogtooth tuna is available in the waters around both New Britain and Duke of York Islands. Boats operate from Rabaul, and hotels and guesthouses can also organise trips for you.

The beautiful Duke of York Islands are remote but easy to access. The islands are also perfect for canoeing, swimming and snorkelling with accommodation available on some.

The Baining Fire Dance, which is unique to East New Britain, is routinely performed at night and showcases young men wearing distinctive masks dancing energetically in and out of fire. The dance is believed to be a rite of passage for Baining progeny and is performed

to spirited chanting and drumming. Held in July each year, the National Mask Festival in Rabaul pays homage to the sacred masks of the region. The Frangipani Festival held in September features the Baining Fire Dance, sing-sings, a parade and much more.

DON'T MISS

- Yamamoto's Bunker
- Kokopo War Museum
- The Japanese Peace Memorial
- The National Mask Festival
- The Frangipani Festival
- Diving George's Wreck
- Trekking Mt Mother



KOKOPO





ISLAND HOPPING

WEST NEW BRITAIN

While geographically conjoined with East New Britain, West New Britain is officially a separate province so this way you're still technically island hopping. Kimbe is the capital of West New Britain and birdwatchers will be thrilled to learn that there are no less than 50 endemic species of birds in the Niugini Islands, 18 of which are found around Kimbe alone. The months of June, July and August are best for birdwatching as this is the mating season for the bird of paradise. Ask for assistance at Liamo Reef Resort or Walindi Plantation Resort with employing a guide to show you these magnificent creatures.

There are two plane wrecks in Talasea that are worth checking out. One of the wrecks is a US Mitchell B25 bomber and the other is a Lockheed Vega Ventura. The wrecks are located within 50 metres of each other and offer an insight into the hardships endured by fighting forces. The B25, which was employed to attack Japanese ships in Rabaul Harbour, was force landed after being hit by enemy forces on the portside wing.

The Garu Hot River, located in the hills behind Talasea, is an incredible feat of nature. With its fast flowing rapids, its hot water is a contradiction to the senses. The water runs at just over 41 degrees Celsius and is reputed to have therapeutic properties. You'll need a four-wheel drive vehicle if you want to travel to the river.

While you're near Garu Hot River, you'll observe the villagers farming the eggs of the local megapodes, commonly known as the scrubfowl. Megapodes are similar to a large chicken and lay eggs continually. They take advantage of the warm volcanic earth that surrounds the hot river area and dig large holes in which they lay a clutch of eggs. Megapodes don't sit with the eggs, but rather return when the eggs are due to hatch to clear a way for the hatchlings to exit. Locals selectively harvest megapode eggs from the volcanic ash as a source of food and income.

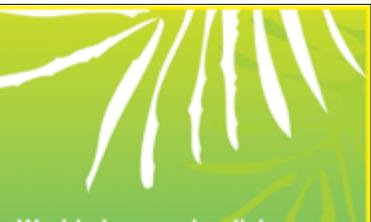
For divers, there are many great options available around Kimbe with tours organised via Liamo Reef Resort or Walindi Plantation Resort. If you're a serious fisher, then contact Liamo Reef Resort to organise a stopover at Baia Fishing Lodge on the north coast where bass fishing is taken to a professional level.

Visitors to Kimbe can stay in quality accommodation at Liamo Reef Resort, Walindi Plantation Resort and Kimbe Bay Hotel. Cheaper accommodation options include Mahonia Na Dari.

DON'T MISS

Diving Zero
Garu Hot River
Spotting Megapodes
Mahonia Na Dari
Bass Fishing





- World class scuba diving in Kimbe Bay, PNG
- 30 years of operation
- Resort style accommodation
- Snorkelling
- Birdwatching
- Friendly smiles and service
- Liveaboard diving on MV Febrina

walindiresort
PLANTATION
mvfebrina
LIVEABOARD
papua new guinea

www.walindifebrina.com
resort@walindifebrina.com
febrina@walindifebrina.com
phone +675 983 5441
phone +675 7234 8460

Images courtesy of Michele Westmorland, Juergen Freund, Derek Sepiolo, Tibor Dombovari, Marcelo Krause, Peter Lange

ISLAND HOPPING ↗

NEW IRELAND

Located north of East and West New Britain, New Ireland extends 320 kilometres in length and just ten to fourteen kilometres in width. Nestled in a picturesque harbour, its capital Kavieng is located at the northern tip of the island and is the commercial hub of the region. Kavieng Market, open most days, is situated along Nusa Parade on the foreshore. For visitors to the region, the market showcases a diverse range of regional fruit, vegetable and seafood including the famed betel nut. To indulge the regional produce, try Kavieng Hotel on a Friday for its Friday Night Seafood Buffet.

Diving spots are plentiful in the region, with WWII wrecks dotted throughout Kavieng Harbour. Near Nusa Island lies the famed Echuca Patch and Der Yang wreck. Touted as one of the best dive sites in PNG, this is one dive not to miss. Between the north of New Ireland and New Hanover, the region is flush with superb dive sites. Albatross Passage, one of New Ireland's better known dive sites, features stunning marine life and coral in a terraced, colourful landscape that rolls out to the Bismarck Sea. Visitors can organise a dive tour through Lissenung Island Resort. For more information call +675 7234 5834.

The region experiences swells between three to five feet during November and April with Kavieng known for several quality surf breaks. Travel south along the East Coast to discover more great spots to surf. New Hanover is also known for its waves and is well worth checking out.

DON'T MISS

Kavieng Market
Surfing Hanover Island
Diving Echuca Patch
The Boluminski Bicycle Tour
Sport, Fly, Game or
Bottom Fishing



Quotas for visiting surfers apply in some areas, so check with your accommodation place when booking.

Fishing enthusiasts won't be disappointed by the abundance of sport, fly, game and bottom fishing available here, enjoyed all year round.

The intersecting currents and tides bring in many pelagic species among a myriad of other species that navigate the pristine waters. New Hanover in particular boasts great fishing. Try Lissenung Island Resort, Pelagic Pursuits, Clem's Place or Nusa Island Resort to book a fishing charter.

New Ireland is renowned for the Boluminski Bicycle Tour, a five day bike ride traversing 264 kilometres of the Boluminski Highway. Cyclists can stop over in a number of villages along the way and absorb the local lifestyle. The tour can be undertaken at any time and is suited to cyclists of moderate fitness, though shorter rides are available. The New Ireland Tourism Bureau (via Kavieng Hotel) and Rainbow Tours offer bike hire and tour packages.


LISSENUNG ISLAND RESORT
Kavieng • Papua New Guinea



Picture a small private island, with a white sandy beach, tall palm trees, beautiful flowers, traditional and comfy bungalows, magnificent sunsets, and fine food. Surrounding this little hideaway are some of the most colourful reefs, best fish life and coolest surf breaks this planet has to offer...

www.lissenung.com

info@lissenung.com Phone 7234 5834
Kavieng, New Ireland Province

KAVIENG



ISLAND HOPPING

BOUGAINVILLE

Today, Bougainville is a peaceful and welcoming island with plenty of interesting attractions on offer. But it wasn't always like this. Between 1988 to 1996, Bougainville was a place of great hardship when friction between the Panguna Copper Mine and the local Bougainville Revolutionary Army escalated into civil war. Sadly, up to 20,000 lives were lost before peace was established. This wasn't, however, the island's first encounter of war.

In 1942, the Japanese used Bougainville as a base to support its operations in the Pacific region. In 1943, Allied Forces attacked aggressively and eventually the Americans took control of the western side of the island. Shortly thereafter, the Japanese Forces infiltrated the mountains and jungles and, ultimately, fought head to head in a battle known as the Hellzapoppin Ridge Battle. Many war relics can still be found throughout Bougainville, including the plane wreckage of Admiral Yamamoto - regional head of the Japanese Forces in WWII. The latter is an extremely popular destination amongst Japanese visitors who are interested in knowing more about their history.

Rotokas Ecotourism, a local initiative, provides guided treks along the Rotokas-Numa Track where visitors can discover war relics, fascinating cave systems and stunning waterfalls. A breathtaking trek

to Mount Balbi, an active volcano, is also highly recommended. If you're a keen birder, embark on a birdwatching

tour to spot the rare moustached Kingfisher, Bougainville crows, the pied goshawk, and much more. In addition, Rotokas Ecotourism can organise village tours where you can experience first hand how the locals live. The islands around Bougainville are also worth checking out. Cruise out to White Island or spend a few days exploring the hospitality of Pok Pok Island or Teop Island.

Keep an ear out for the Reed Festival staged in Arawa twice a year.

MANUS ISLAND

Manus Island boasts heavily timbered hills, striking waterfalls and is home to the stunning Emerald Green Snail.

For a unique outing, ask a local guide to take you to Tewii Lagoon which was home to the legendary mermaids, Henimei and Henipong. The lagoon is located inside a cave where the water is an unusual copper green colour and crystal clear. This is a sacred place for the locals so make sure you ask your guide before swimming in the waters. Wearing conservative swimming apparel is also expected. And beware, the water is cold!

If surfing in remote areas is your style, then there are few places quite like Manus. Sit back in this tropical oasis while the island serves up some excellent conditions for surfing. When the surf flattens out, take the opportunity to explore the exotic marine life with a little snorkelling or diving.

Fishing is abundant in the region, with mangrove bass, milk fish, mullet, mackerel, parrot fish and other varieties available here. Go fly fishing or try your hand at some deep sea fishing. The waters also provide the perfect conditions for sea kayaking due to the tranquil conditions and a number of islands in close proximity. Kayaking around the area at a relaxing pace, you can marvel at the unusual birdlife, beautiful fish and coral reefs, war relics and idyllic, hidden beaches. Just remember that if you stop at a random beach for any length of time to ask one of the locals about seeking permission from a village elder.

Papua New Guineans will always be welcoming and hospitable, but it's important to understand that there are some local courtesies that apply. Offer K10 to K20 or an article of clothing as payment to access beaches.

In the area close to the airport, there are three local villages called Papitalai, Naringel and Ruirui. From here you can do trekking,

DON'T MISS

- Birdwatching
- A Cultural Village Tour
- Trekking Rotokas-Numa Track
- Admiral Yamamoto's Plane Wreck
- The Reed Festival
- Buka Island



swimming, bike riding, birdwatching and more. For a cultural experience, check out the Garamut Dancing which is a traditional dance performed by the locals.

MANUS FOLKLORE

Two mermaids Henime and Henipong are said to have created the tribal world called Tewii. Legend has it, the mermaids resembled normal humans on land, but when they returned to the water they transformed into mermaids. One day the mermaids decided to flee their mother who they often fought with and strayed far out to sea. They were caught in a net by a fisherman who took the mermaids to a chief called Pakop on one of the islands. Subsequently, the tribe ate the eldest sister and the younger one turned into a human being. She was so beautiful that the chief decided to marry her and she gave birth to a son. When her son was teased by the village kids because he was the son of a fish, he and his mother escaped back to Tewii, where the mermaid found that her own mother was deceased. The mermaid met a local chief in the area and her son was eventually made successor of his throne. His descendants are known today as the local Tewii tribe.

THE D'ENTRECASTEAUX ISLANDS

The D'Entrecasteaux Islands extend 160 kilometres across and includes Fergusson, Goodenough and Normanby Islands. Fergusson Island is a fascinating place to explore. One can relax at the famous Dei Dei Hot Springs or take a therapeutic mud bath. If you're seeking something more upbeat, you can embark on a one and a half hour hike from Warluma to Mt Lamanai which offers exhilarating panoramas. Tawali Resort can organise transport to Fergusson Island, which is a three hour boat ride. Alternatively, you can contact one of the local villagers to assist you. Just make sure you clarify the financial details of this arrangement before departing.

On Normanby Island, which is an hour from Tawali in a dinghy, there is a dive site sitting five minutes off shore with plenty of wrecks to explore. The reef sharks and colourful marine life here make for a thrilling dive. Goodenough Island, which is about four hours by dinghy from Tawali, was named by Captain John Moresby after a naval colleague, James Graham Goodenough. The island boasts interesting rock paintings and, around the coast, the snorkelling is spectacular because of the abundant marine life here. If you want to stay on Goodenough Island, camping is

available.

First check with the villagers and

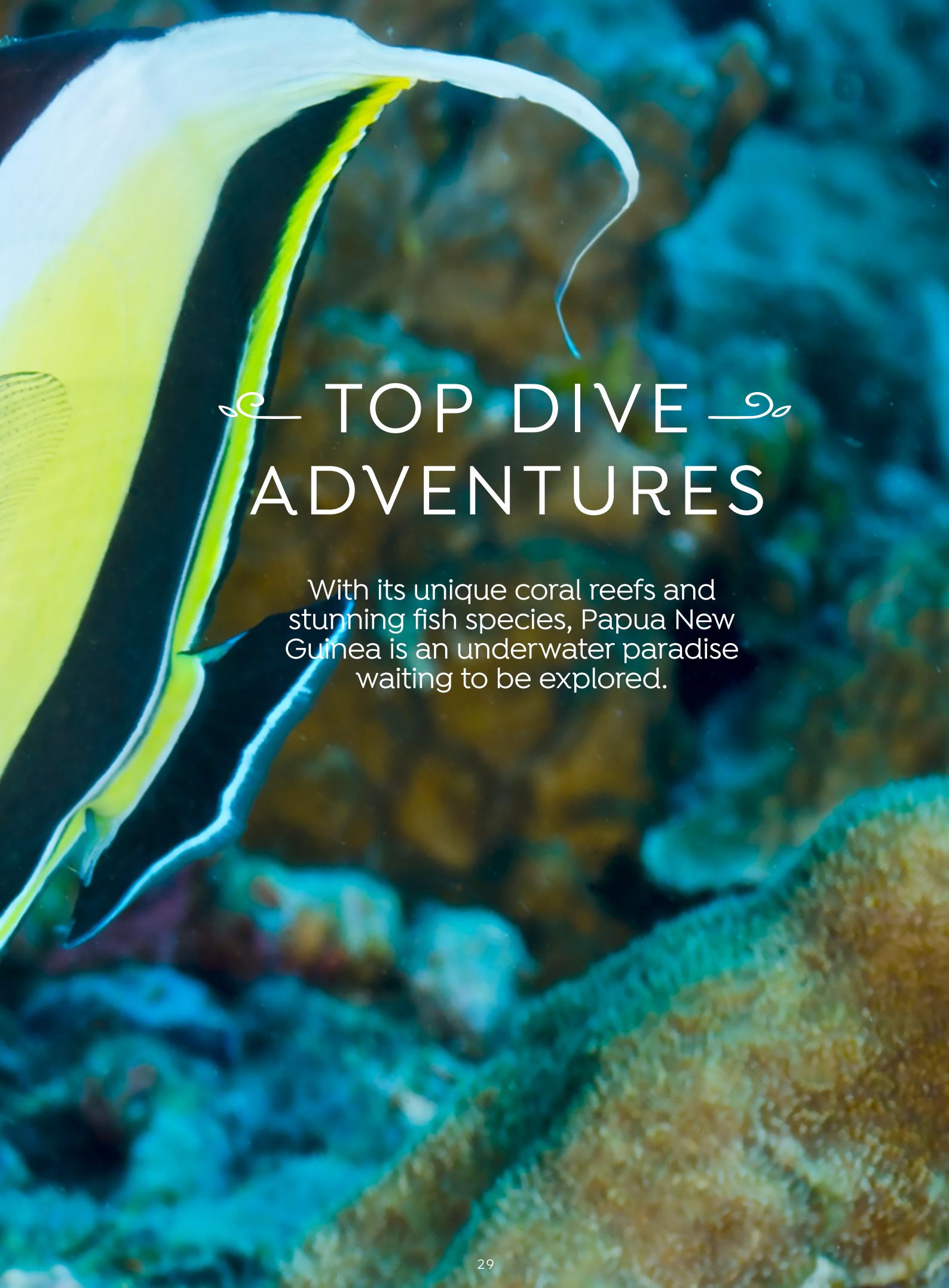
as a courtesy you should pay a fee (K50 is recommended) for their hospitality. Large groups need to organise camping in advance, as in all places in PNG. It's always best to contract a local guide to go with you who speaks the local language.

THE TROBRIAND ISLANDS

The Trobriand Islands, otherwise known as the Islands of Love, are made up of four central islands – Kiriwina Island, Vakuta, Kaileuna and Kitava. The social paradigm here is still dependent on traditional chiefs who govern the villages, though the hereditary lines are passed down via the female bloodline. Likewise, women can choose to have an array of lovers and villages are said to have huts devoted to their amorous activities. During the Milamala Festival, between June and August, the locals celebrate harvesting the yam, which takes ten months to ripen. At this time, traditions of the past are observed with rituals showing gratitude for a fortuitous season. On Kiriwina, the largest island here, accommodation is available and Airlines PNG travels regularly to the region. Just ask a local where the best places are to explore caves, swim and snorkel around the islands.







TOP DIVE ADVENTURES

With its unique coral reefs and stunning fish species, Papua New Guinea is an underwater paradise waiting to be explored.

PNG is renowned for its unique marine biodiversity spanning a territory of some 5.7 million square kilometres. With over 3,000 species of reef fish and 600 species of coral, the Coral Triangle has the highest diversity of tropical fish in the world.

With such incredible marine life at its disposal, PNG is abundant in dive sites from Port Moresby and Tufi in the south to the coastline and islands in the north. Due to the exceptional quality of diving in the region, it's almost impossible to narrow down a list of top dives because, wherever you are in PNG, you're bound to discover awe-inspiring underwater landscapes.

PORT MORESBY

PNG's capital, Port Moresby, offers up a range of great dives. Susie's Bommie, located just fifteen minutes from the CBD, is touted as world class because of its spectacular coral reef garden. With a seamount protruding 30 metres from the seabed, Susie's Bommie attracts a diverse range of marine life from the pygmy seahorse to pelagic varieties of fish. The MV Pacific Gas, located on Horseshoe Reef, was scuttled in 1986 for the purpose of sport diving. The wreck is now home to brightly coloured corals that coat the mast while lionfish, wobbegongs, hammerhead sharks, sweetlips and ghost pipefish hover by. Other dives worth checking out in the region are Pumpkin Patch, End Bommie and Eastern Fields. For dive tours and packages, call the Dive Centre on +675 7202 1200.



TUFI

Tufi's underwater world lights up in a parade of colour with its magnificent coral and fish varieties. The region offers great visibility all year round which means it's perfect for exploring the fjords and WWII wrecks. The Tufi Wharf which was used as a harbour during WWII provides a few sunken Patrol Torpedo boats and a concrete vessel for exploration. Further out, the US Bomber 'Black Jack' which was discovered in 1986 lies at nearly 50 metres depth. While the aircraft's nose was destroyed on impact, it's in otherwise great condition with schools of batfish and sharks typically seen here. Note that this dive is for experienced divers only. Mulloway Reef, Cyclone Reef and Veale Reef also offer great diving. For dive tours and packages, call Tufi Resort on +675 323 3462.

MADANG

Madang serves up an exciting dive at Planet Rock, situated just three kilometres out from its CBD. Featuring a volcanic seamount, a myriad of sea creatures call this locale home including the renowned clown fish, hammerhead sharks and pelagic species that the currents draw in. The Barrier Reef which straddles Madang is known for its sheer volume and diversity of marine life. Magic Passage, which interposes the reef 120 feet across, is the most popular site amongst divers to the region. The combination of fish such as rainbowfish, bannerfish and silvery jacks provides a cavalcade of stunning colour, not to mention the incredible array of hard and soft corals which are sight to behold. The B25 Mitchell Bomber which lies in proximity to Wongat Island and Bagbag Island is also worth diving. For dive tours and packages call Niugini Diving Adventures on +675 422 2766 (ext 329).

EAST NEW BRITAIN

This region was a hotspot for fighting during WWII and, as a result, war wrecks such as aircrafts and submarines litter the reefs surrounding the East New Britain Province.

In turn, this offers great sport diving with excellent visibility all year round. George's Wreck is a real treat for wreck divers. The ship is over 200 feet long and lies bow up on a sharp angle. While you explore the wreck you can spot nudibrands, cowries, stonefish and sea fans. Other great diving sites include Simpson Harbour, Hakkai Maru, Tavui Point – once an official submarine base, Johnnie's Jetty and Watom Island. For dive tours and packages, call Rabaul Dive Adventures on +675 7478 0965.

WEST NEW BRITAIN

For divers to West New Britain, there are many great options available around Kimbe. The area features an abundance of sites, many of which are too deep to get to for the average diver. The most accessible wreck is Zero, which is located within proximity to Walindi. In WWII, the aircraft ran out of fuel and was force-landed close to shore so that the pilot could alight safely. The wreck stayed hidden for almost 57 years because the waters in the area

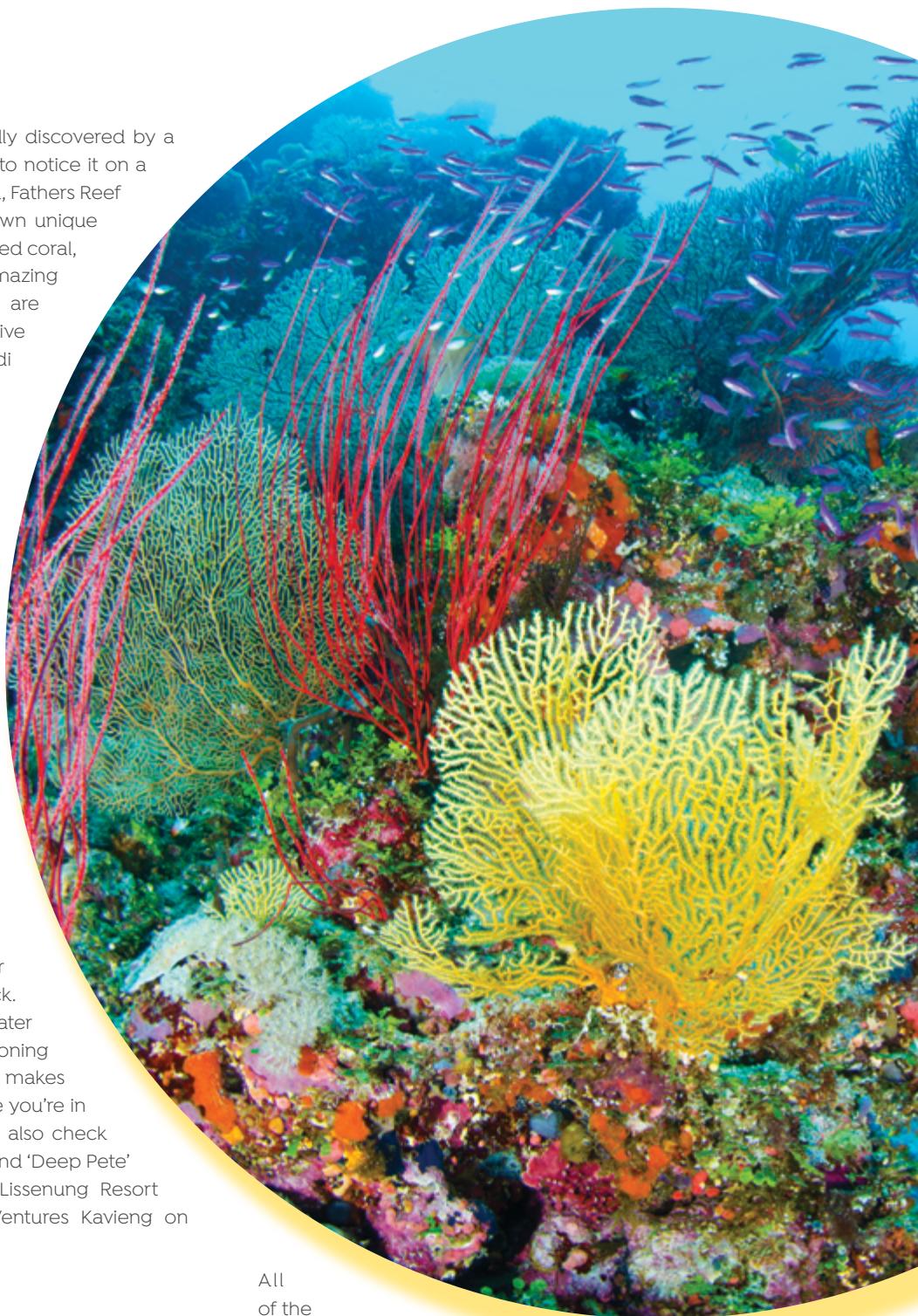
are often cloudy. It was eventually discovered by a spear fisherman who happened to notice it on a day of transparency. South Emma, Fathers Reef and Susans Reef all offer their own unique reef diving among brightly coloured coral, red whip gorgonians and other amazing sea creatures. The Witu Islands are also worth checking out. For dive tours and packages, call Walindi Resort on +675 983 5441.

NEW IRELAND

Albatross Passage is New Ireland's most celebrated dive, and for good reason. Acting as a channel between the northern tip of New Ireland and a smaller island, the site looks like an arena which terraces out to the Bismarck Sea. Laden with iridescent hard and soft corals and schools of fish when the tide flows in, this is one dive not to miss. Keep an eye out for reef sharks, dogtooth tuna, eagle rays and much more as you marvel at this exquisite marine paradise. At Echuca Patch, a coral mount protruding up from the seafloor 50 feet, lies the Dey Yang wreck. While it's not the largest underwater wreck in PNG, its unusual positioning on its side among rainbow coral makes for a great photo keepsake. While you're in the New Ireland region, you can also check out Peter's Patch, Helmut's Reef and 'Deep Pete' Floatplane. For dive tours, call Lissenung Resort on +675 7234 5834 or Scuba Ventures Kavieng on +675 984 1244.

MILNE BAY

Tania's Reef is a coral ridge that projects up from the seafloor 140 feet and can be circled by divers in its entirety. Like most sites in PNG, Tania's Reef is flush with colourful corals and sealife. Keep an eye out for majestic turtles and giant clams. The southern region of Milne Bay is renowned for its manta rays which have an average wingspans of 5.5 metres and are said to be intelligent and highly curious. Mantas typically congregate near Gonu Bara Bara at "cleaning stations" where gobies, shrimps and wrasses rid them of tiny opportunistic crustaceans. If you're diving with mantas, observe them in a way that respects their space. Cherie's Reef, Crinoid City and Lawadi are also known as top dives in the region. For dive tours and packages, call Tawali Resort on +675 7364 0607 or MV Chertan on +675 641 1167.



All of the land-based operators offer a complete diving experience from PADI dive instruction (for beginners) and uniquely tailored dive and stay packages for the more advanced divers. All reputable dive operators in PNG belong to the PNG Divers Association (PNGDA). For more information about PNGDA, visit www.pngdive.net.

For divers and snorkellers interested in PNG marine life, the Bob Halstead's Coral Sea Fish Guide app provides details on over 850 fish species endemic to the region. Halstead has been diving and photographing the fascinating seascapes of the Coral Sea for over four decades now. To download the app, go to the App store or Google Play.



A close-up photograph of a person from the waist up, wearing traditional Pacific Islander clothing. They have a dark complexion and are adorned with a headband made of numerous small, light-colored shells. A large, yellow, dried palm frond or leaf is wrapped around their neck and chest. They are also wearing a yellow leaf skirt. The background shows lush green trees and a bright blue sky.

MADANG MAGIC



As one of PNG's most popular tourist destinations, Madang is known for its tropical beauty, pristine waters and spectacular coral reefs.

Nestled on a beautiful peninsula, Madang is surrounded by picturesque islands and lush highlands. Archaeological relics such as stone-axes discovered in the region suggest that it was first settled somewhere around 40,000 years ago. Like many areas in PNG, Madang has more recently exhibited a history of changing colonial rule. In the late 19th century, Madang was colonised by German expansionists, who established missionary stations and planted European crops, only to be overtaken by the Australian military in 1914. During WWII, the Japanese captured the township of Madang and bloody battles raged until eventually it was liberated by Allied troops in 1944. At the end of the war, the beleaguered township had to be rebuilt over the ensuing years.

Today Madang's tropical beauty shines making it one of PNG's top tourist destinations. Renowned for its azure waters and underwater seascapes, it's the perfect place to embark on a dive adventure. Rainbow coral reefs, bommies and WWII wrecks provide divers with plenty to explore with the oceanic currents luring both pelagic and reef varieties of fish. Be sure to check out Planet Rock, Barracuda Point, Eel Gardens and Magic Passage, which are just some of the popular sites to experience the best of PNG's marine life. Call Niugini Dive Adventures on +675 422 2766 (ext 329) for bookings.

For a leisure activity on land, Madang Golf Course is a magnificent 9-hole course set against a natural backdrop of ocean and hinterland. It's definitely worth a visit even if you're not a golf enthusiast.

Madang is a great base from which to explore the Madang Province. For trekkers and nature lovers, the Kau Wildlife Nature Walk is worth exploring. Kau is the name of the area that is located approximately 22 kilometres north of Madang, and is also the home of the Ohu Butterfly Farm where visitors can view the diverse and beautiful array of butterflies found in this exotic region.

One hour north of Madang lies the Buai Market which sells the famed betel nut. A little further along, the Daka Market is also worth checking out. Daka is consumed with crushed lime when chewing betel nut to enhance its stimulating effects. Both markets provide a cultural insight into the Melanesian way of trading.

If you continue north for another hour, you'll encounter Banara which is a picturesque coastal area where you can enjoy snorkelling or lounging away the hours. When you arrive at Banara, visit the first house and ask the chief for permission to enter. It's customary to offer the chief a small payment or bag of rice as a gesture of your gratitude.

Pig, Kranket and Wangant Islands are great choices for snorkelling and diving in the area. Located on the outer reef of the Madang Lagoon, the waters here are always clear which is perfect for viewing marine life. Transport

to Pig Island can be arranged through your hotel or, for something more adventurous, ask one of the staff about getting a ride to Pig Island on one of the local boats. At Kranket Island, you can wander through pristine bush land and stop by the

DON'T MISS

The Madang Festival
Diving Planet Rock & Magic Passage
Pig, Kranket and Wangant Islands
Bilbil Village Cultural Tour
Madang Golf Course
Game Fishing

large inland lake. Accommodation is available on Kranket Island at the Kranket Island Lodge.

Kar Kar is an active volcanic island that offers visitors the opportunity to trek to its peak. The volcano is three kilometres wide at its mouth and the rich, unique soils have encouraged the proliferation of an extensive range of unusual flowers. Cocoa beans also grow very well in Kar Kar's fertile conditions. The five and a half hour trek is not an easy walk, but you can pay a guide to assist you with carrying food and water. If you're interested in culture, Kar Kar celebrates the Bilum Show in June each year. You can organise boat travel to the island via your resort or by contacting the Madang Visitors and Cultural Bureau on +675 422 3302. It's also worth dropping into the Madang Visitors and Cultural Bureau to see its huge display of memorabilia. The staff can also assist you with discovering more things to see and do in and around Madang.

Game fishing will reap a fine catch in the waters surrounding Madang, with mackerel, tuna, kingfish, barracuda, marlin, wahoo and yellow fin all found in abundance here. Madang Resort charters game fishing boats and also offers a range of other activities. The resort features a 'Haus Tambaran', an ancestral spiritual house, where visitors can enjoy a quintessential cultural experience. Alternatively, take a cultural tour to Bilbil Village to see the local women crafting traditional pottery.

For surfing enthusiasts, the Tupira Surf Club is a bush-style surf resort that caters to intrepid surfers seeking remote conditions. The club is found on the north coast heading out of Madang on the main highway, and is about one and a half hour's drive from Madang.

Jais Aben Resort offers Real Life Village Tours, where guests have the opportunity to experience genuine village ceremonies including the traditional killing of a pig. The resort also offers Dead Man Walking Tours for guests who want to trek through rugged terrain and camp out.

If you're in Madang during the Queen's Birthday weekend, be sure to check out the Madang Festival which features rich displays of cultural dance, song and entertainment. Another event worth checking out is the Kalim Show in Simbai which occurs in August. Contact MTS PNG on +675 422 2655 for more information on tours that coincide with major cultural shows.

There is no shortage of accommodation in Madang with resorts such as Madang Resort, Jais Aben, Kalibobo Village, Madang Lodge and Coastwatchers Hotel all offering first rate lodging.





MORESBY'S EATS & BEATS

Port Moresby offers a range of great places to relax and dine. Enjoy everything from Pacific Rim to Asian to Continental inspired eateries.

DUFFY, GABAKA STREET

A funky café that takes the right kind of care with its coffee beans. A section of the café is dedicated to boutique shopping, so visitors can shop after they've enjoyed some refreshments.

DAIKOKU, HARBOUR CITY

Boasting Japanese Teppan-yaki, Daikoku is as much about the fabulous food as it is about the experience. The restaurant is Japanese owned, so this dining experience is guaranteed to be an authentic one.

FUSION, HARBOUR CITY

Excellent quality and great service are all part of the Fusion experience. Combining Asian cuisine with a Western twist, enjoy a fine dining treat at Fusion.

GRAND BRASSERIE, GRAND PAPUA HOTEL, MARY STREET

Overlooking Jackson's Harbour, the Grand Brasserie makes a bold statement when it comes to quality and style. Combining Asian and Pacific Rim cuisine, the food here looks as good as it tastes.



GRAND DYNASTY, VISION CITY

Boasting the largest restaurant in Papua New Guinea, Grand Dynasty delivers authentic Hong Kong Chinese cuisine which won't cost an arm and a leg. Enjoy Grand Dynasty's casual setting or book a private room.

LAMANA HOTEL, LAMANA ROAD, WAIGANI

Offering a range of eateries including Mediterranean, Indian and Italian cuisine. Graham Ablett, the food and beverage manager at Lamana Hotel, ensures that only the best and freshest ingredients are used.

TASTY BITE, HUNTER STREET

Tasty Bite offers Indian and Tandoor cuisine created by authentic Indian chefs. The food is indeed tasty and no-one leaves this establishment hungry. Large seating available or choose the private room for a more intimate setting.

THE CELLAR RESTAURANT, SHADY REST HOTEL, TAURAMA ROAD

Offering an exciting array of Indian and continental cuisine, The Cellar Restaurant is the place to be for choice. Famous for its dosa lunches and all you can eat Curry Club Buffet, the restaurant is also renowned for its excellent coffee.

THE IMPERIAL CHINESE RESTAURANT, GABAKA STREET

Serving arguably the finest Chinese cuisine in Port Moresby, enjoy a delicious meal at The Imperial Chinese Restaurant. The host, Raymond, is a qualified international chef and likes to check in with customers to ensure meals are exactly as they should be.

RED ROCK BAR, MAGI HIGHWAY

Great views over the bay, enjoy a beer on a Sunday or light refreshments. Kick back and relax and have a chat with a local and learn more about this fascinating nation.



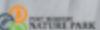
PORT MORESBY NATURE PARK

A must see for travellers to PNG!

PNG's leading tourist attraction

— Home to —

- 250+ PNG animals
- 30 acres of tropical gardens
- Cultural displays & artifacts



- Guided Tours ● Hotel Shuttle Bus
- Souvenir Shop ● Cafe

Open 7 days 8.00am - 4.30pm

Ph. 326 0248 / 326 0258

reservations.pomnp@gmail.com

Goro Kaeaga Rd, University (next to POM National High School)



DYNASTY SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

皇朝海鲜大酒店

Dine in Port Moresby's largest seafood restaurant.

Located at Vision City Waigani, our restaurant offers nothing but the freshest seafood produced with intricate Asian herbs and spices.

- Ample parking
- Safe and secure
- Extensive menu
- Experienced chefs
- Brand new facility, offering nothing but the best to patrons

7 Days a Week

Mon - Fri: Lunch 11.00am - 2.00pm Dinner 5.30pm - 10.00pm
Sat - Sun: Lunch 10.30am - 2.00pm Dinner 5.30pm - 10.00pm

Yum Cha
LUNCH
Sat & Sun

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL: 302 8538 FAX: 302 8539

OUT & ABOUT

Getting around the Port Moresby region, you'll discover a range of great day-time activities.

THE PORT MORESBY NATURE PARK

Showcasing zoological and botanical parks and gardens, this attraction is a great place to relax and unwind. Have the option of taking a guided tour through the gardens with a trained guide. For more information, call +675 326 0248.

TAURAMA BARRACKS

Spend a day at a safe local beach at Taurama Barracks, which offers access to the water. Taurama Barracks is about a ten-minute drive along Taurama Road.

PORT MORESBY ADVENTURE PARK

Beyond the airport lies the Port Moresby Adventure Park which features a couple of large water slides, a lake, fishing and fauna. A great destination for the whole family.

BOMANA CEMETERY

Bomana Cemetery pays homage to over 3,000 soldiers that perished in the region during WWII.

VARIATA NATIONAL PARK

About an hour out of Port Moresby lies the Variata National Park. Within the park are six walking tracks that are plainly marked, offering 40 minute to three hour treks. Keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife here, which includes the beautiful bird of paradise and kingfishers.

KOITAKI CLUB

Koitaki Club is a tranquil establishment where visitors can enjoy refreshments, swimming, horseriding and trekking.

MARCH GIRLS RESORT

Located just 45 minutes from Port Moresby along the Masi Highway, the March Girls Resort is a secure place where visitors can relax and enjoy refreshments, swimming and snorkelling. While here, ask a local to take you out to the 1.5 kilometre reef that runs parallel to the beach for some of the world's best snorkelling.

SUNSET BAR

Located past the LNG site in Napa Napa, this groovy little bar offers basic food and beverages with lovely beach views from the deck.





煌宮海鮮大酒店
GRAND PALACE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

GRAND PALACE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Excellence in authentic Chinese & Malaysian cuisines

~ Ample Parking Space with security ~

~ Caters for up to 250 patrons ~

~ Excellence in Chinese & Malaysian Cuisines ~

~ Yum Cha every Saturday & Sunday ~

LOCATED AT 1ST FLOOR, RH HYPERMARKET

Open 7 days a week:

Lunch: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Dinner: 5.30pm - 10.00pm



For reservations please call 311 2826 or 302 8540



authentic korean cuisine

with gorgeous views

traditional chef

korean bbq

private rooms

120 seat restaurant

open 7 days a week

lunch: 11.00am - 2.00pm

dinner: 5.30pm - 10.00pm

located at vision city.
waigani.



For reservations please call 302 8534

ASIA AROMAS RESTAURANT *Harbourside*

THAI CHINESE FUSION

LOCATED AT GROUND FLOOR, UNIT 4
HARBOURSIDE EAST
GRANVILLE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FINE FOOD

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Open

Monday to Saturday 11am - 2pm & 5pm - 10pm

Sunday 10.30am - 2.30pm

Take Away Available

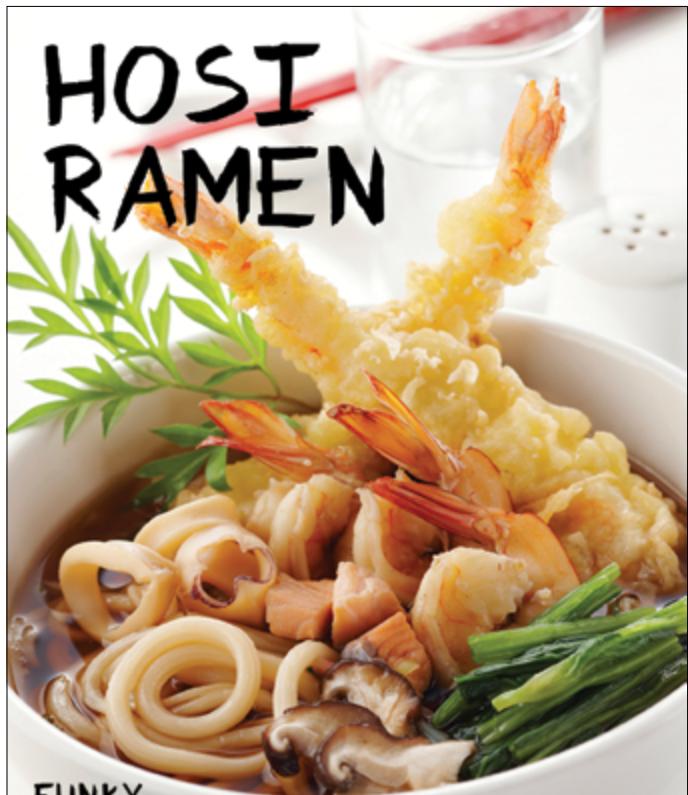
For Reservations Please Call

321 4780 or 7621 4780

Email: infoasiaaromas@gmail.com



HOSI RAMEN



FUNKY,
UPBEAT,
JAPANESE
NOODLE
AND SUSHI
BAR

OPEN 7 DAYS

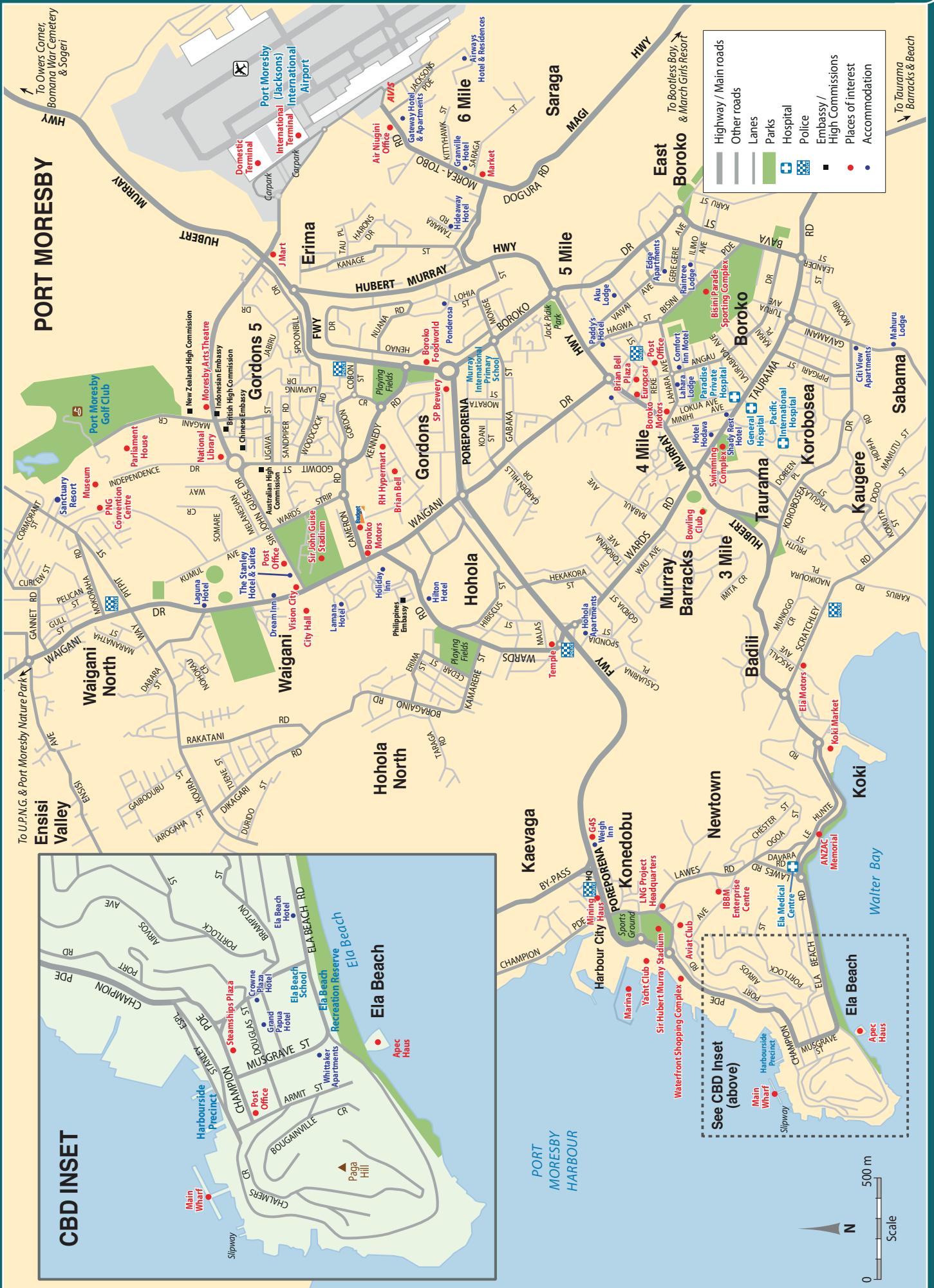
11.00AM - 9.00PM

FOR RESERVATIONS,

PLEASE CALL: 7662 8888

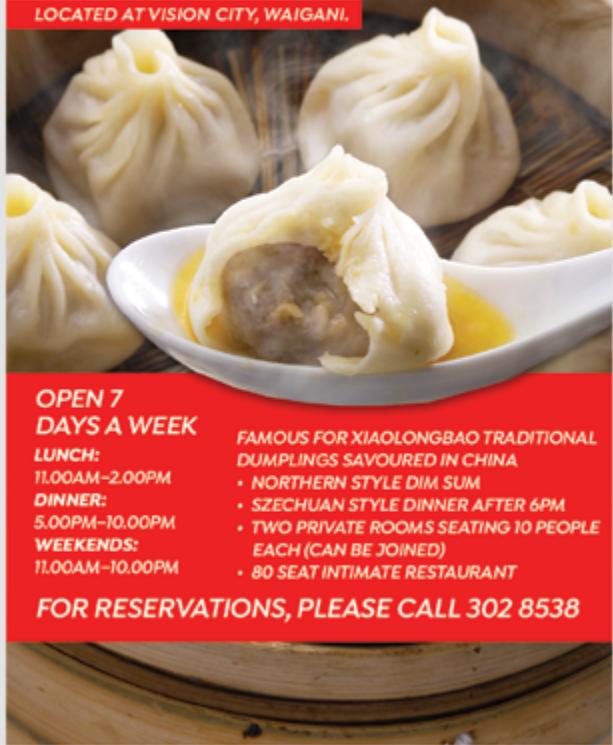
LOCATED AT VISION CITY, WAIGANI.

PORT MORESBY





LOCATED AT VISION CITY, WAIGANI.



**OPEN 7
DAYS A WEEK**

LUNCH:

11.00AM-2.00PM

DINNER:

5.00PM-10.00PM

WEEKENDS:

11.00AM-10.00PM

FAMOUS FOR XIAOLONGBAO TRADITIONAL DUMPLINGS SAVOURED IN CHINA

- NORTHERN STYLE DIM SUM
- SZECHUAN STYLE DINNER AFTER 6PM
- TWO PRIVATE ROOMS SEATING 10 PEOPLE EACH (CAN BE JOINED)
- 80 SEAT INTIMATE RESTAURANT

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 302 8538

IMPERIAL 帝王軒
CHINESE RESTAURANT

Port Moresby's most elegant Asian dining experience

Mon to Sun 10am-3pm
5.30pm-10.30pm



Phone: 311 3668



THE PIZZA SPECIALIST

PIZZA • PASTA • CHICKEN

GROUND FLOOR
VISION CITY MEGA MALL
WAIGANI

TEL: 302 8570



GREAT STEAKS
& OTHER FABULOUS MEALS!



take away available!

HOG'S BREATH CAFE

VISION CITY, WAIGANI DRIVE Ph: 302 8550

Open EVERY day from 11.30am 'til 10.00pm

beans & brews

PNG has always attracted religious groups from around the world, an influx which kickstarted coffee planting in the region. Before WWII, German missionaries arrived and began experimental plantings in the area around Goroka. The perfect environmental conditions, a large available workforce and a worldwide demand for coffee quickly resulted in a successful business formula. In just a short time, coffee became one of the financial mainstays for PNG. Today, around 2.5 million Papua New Guineans derive a primary income from coffee growing.

PNG coffee is highly regarded for its excellent quality and fruity flavours. The elevated landscape, rich soils and organic growing methods all contribute to a superior brew. The process by which the beans are prepared for sale also determines the quality of the final product. Once the coffee cherry (red bean) is picked, the bean is dried to an ideal moisture content. The beans then go through a process of dehusking and careful grading. Finally, the green beans are sent for packaging where they are stored in controlled conditions to protect the integrity of the beans. Typically, coffee is roasted at its destination to guarantee a fresh, quality brew. This also enables roasters to create their own exclusive blends. A visit to a local coffee factory might be in order if you're planning on visiting Goroka. But coffee isn't the only bean grown in PNG lauded for its unique and delectable flavours.

Many international chocolate makers are showing an interest in PNG's cocoa because of its distinct flavours. With 14 dedicated growing regions, cocoa is now the nation's third largest export valued at K360 million annually. The industry is typically run by small business operators meaning that rural communities are directly supported by plantations which employ nearly a third of the locals.

Launched in Kokopo in 2017, the PNG Cocoa Warwagira is committed to educating PNG growers about best practices for cocoa production. During the show, beans are compared and graded with farmers awarded accordingly. The show's objective is to enhance cocoa production so as to compete with international growers.

Prior to the Bougainville Civil War, the region was the largest producer of cocoa in PNG, which declined during the civil unrest. Launched in 2016, the Bougainville Chocolate Festival was created to encourage cocoa production in the region. Boasting chocolate tastings, films, music and games, be sure to get along to this annual celebration.



This funky cafe is conveniently located in Vision City Mega Mall, connected to Stanley Hotel & Suites.

- Big breakfasts, sandwiches, soups, pastas and more
- Come in to meet friends for a relaxed business meeting or for some quiet time with great coffee
- Free WiFi

Open 7 Days
9.00am-9.00pm
For reservations,
please call 302 8666



A BIRDING PARADISE

Papua New Guinea provides a thriving habitat for many exotic bird species. The renowned bird of paradise is what attracts serious birders to the region.

Many visitors are drawn to PNG because of its birdwatching opportunities. Considering there are no less than 646 species on record, it's no wonder the activity is so popular. The bird of paradise is one of the most lauded species in the region, inspiring awe from travellers throughout the centuries.

It's believed the bird of paradise first earned its name in the 16th century when European mariners deemed it heaven sent because of its stunning appearance. PNG boasts 38 species of bird of paradise, from those touting flamboyant plumage to those with alien-like antennae.

Birds of paradise are sexually dimorphic meaning the female and male look different, the latter which often features exuberant colouration. The creature's extravagant mating ritual is one of the most delightful visual performances you'll ever witness.

To draw the attention of a potential mate, adult males fan their feathers into a parasol shape and bring their best dance moves to the occasion. Young males learn the dance by watching their fathers do it and then practice it into adulthood. It's ultimately the female's choice to mate, so plenty of work goes into perfecting the performance.

A few of the popular varieties of bird of paradise are the Raggiana, Blue Bird of Paradise, Queen Carola's Parotia and King of Saxony. Morning time is best suited to catch the bird of paradise in its natural habitat. Birders travel to PNG for many other rare and unique bird species. If you're interested in birdwatching, ask your accommodation establishment about a tour.

AWE-INSPIRING BIRDS

- Bird of Paradise
- Victoria Crowned Pigeon
- Black Sicklebill
- Azure Kingfisher
- Classical Emperor Fairy Wren
- Nicobar Pigeon
- New Guinea Vulturine Parrot
- Black Sicklebill
- Rainbow Bee-eater
- Flame Bowerbird
- Forest Bittern



REGIONS & TOURS

Due to its elevated location, Tabubil in the Western Province attracts an awe-inspiring range of exotic bird species, in particular the bird of paradise. Kiunga Nature Tours (KNT), which has been offering birdwatching tours since the 1990s, has a Tabubil Bird Area Tour for those keen to explore the birdlife in the region. For more information and bookings, call +675 548 1451.

Kiunga is world renowned for its birdwatching as it attracts a stunning range of exotic species.

KNT has a Kiunga Bird Area Tour that boasts four different sites from which to view birdlife.

Bensbach Wildlife Lodge, also in the Western Province, has 191 bird species on record so provides plenty of opportunity to spot both endemic and migratory species. Ambua Lodge is an eco-lodge located in the Hela Province in the Highlands. The region is home to 217 bird species with 13 types of bird of paradise and is a Mecca for birding enthusiasts. The lodge has local guides on hand who can

provide leisurely birdwatching tours or more customised tours for serious birders. For more information on birding tours at the Bensbach Wildlife Lodge, Ambua Lodge and Lake Murray Lodge, contact Trans Niugini Tours on +675 7198 9397.

While the mainland is flush with birdlife, the islands of PNG feature their own fascinating species. The Walindi Resort in Kimbe, West New Britain, offers birding tours. For more information, call the resort on +675 7234 8460.









BATTLE TRAILS

For a relatively young nation, Papua New Guinea boasts a captivating history which has been interspersed with political intrigues and a bloody world war.

During WWII, the Japanese set their sights on capturing PNG which they believed would secure a foothold in the South Pacific and lead to regional domination. The New Guinea Campaign is the broad term used for the battles that ensued between the Japanese and Allied Forces between January 1942 to August 1945. Intricate strategies and bloody combats marked an unsettling period in PNG and many lives were lost on both sides. Here's a snapshot of some of the major battles and events that occurred in the region during WWII.

JANUARY 1942: Japanese troops capture the township of Rabaul on East New Britain to utilise as a base. Over the next twelve months, they build infrastructure that will support a range of aircrafts and naval ships.

MARCH 1942: Japanese troops take Lae and Salamaua without resistance. Meanwhile, the Allied Forces establish Port Moresby as a strategic war base.

JULY TO AUGUST 1942: Japanese troops capture Buna in the Oro Province.

25 AUGUST 1942: The Battle of Milne Bay highlights the Japanese Force's first defeat on land over a period of just two weeks at the hands of the Allied Forces.

SEPTEMBER 1942: The famous Battle for Brigade Hill rages along the Kokoda Trail where many Australian soldiers perish trying to hold Japanese Forces from advancing closer to Port Moresby. In the first instance, Australian troops are forced to retreat, but later regroup to charge in a counter attack from Imita Ridge to recapture Kokoda. Today, the Kokoda Trail is an emotional trek for many

visitors to the region who get to experience first hand the arduous conditions that WWII troops encountered along the trail.

NOVEMBER 1942 TO JANUARY 1943: The Battle of Buna-Gona sees Allied Forces attack Japanese troops that are based at Buna. It is a messy battle with the Allied Forces initially beleaguered by rugged jungle conditions and strong opposition from the enemy. Finally, the Allies secure the region but not without many casualties on both sides.

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1943: The Salamaua-Lae Campaign leads to the Allied Forces securing Lae on 16 September.

NOVEMBER 1943 TO MARCH 1944: The Huon Campaign comprising of a number of battles extends over five months along the Huon Peninsula on the north-eastern region of PNG. It aids the Allied Forces to push Japanese troops further north away from strategic positions such as Port Moresby and Lae.

SEPTEMBER 1943 TO APRIL 1944: The Battle of Shaggy Ridge marks a number of battles that take place within the Finisterre Range, commencing at Ramu Valley and ending in Madang with the Allied Forces dominating.

NOVEMBER 1944 TO AUGUST 1945: In 1942, Aitape is taken by the Japanese but recaptured by the Allied Forces in 1944. The Aitape-Wewak Campaign sees the Allied Forces head east toward Wewak to decimate the dwindling Japanese troops. Cape Wom serves as the location where the Japanese finally surrender in August 1945 heralding the end of WWII.



TALK. EAT. DISCOVER.

Papua New Guinea is rich in fascinating languages, food, artefacts and customs. Take the time to explore the region with all of your senses.

TOK PISIN

Known as pidgin in English, Tok Pisin is a creole language which derives its vocabulary from a blend of languages. English forms the basis of Tok Pisin but the language is also influenced by German, Portuguese, Malay, Chinese and native languages. Tok Pisin translates to “talk pidgin” and is spoken by around two million people in PNG today.

It's believed that the whalers who arrived in the region around the 1850s spoke a rudimentary pidgin, a mix of English and native tongue, in order to trade with the locals. When Papua New Guineans were recruited to German owned plantations in Samoa in the 1870s, they spoke pidgin to communicate with the Malaysian and Chinese labourers. On arriving back home to PNG after their work stints, many labourers continued to speak it.

When the Germans annexed the north eastern part of PNG, known then as German New Guinea, this was influential in isolating the language and allowing it to cultivate unique mechanisms. At the turn of the century, Tok Pisin became a means for the locals to attain European comforts such as cigarettes from settlers. During the Australian administration of PNG, Tok Pisin became more widely spoken and eventually forged itself into the common vernacular.

MUMU

The mumu is a traditional style of cooking which is an integral part of PNG culture. It consists of cooking parcels of food on hot rocks in a small hole in the ground. While remote regions still use the method regularly to cook food, modernised precincts only really use it in ceremony nowadays. With its smokey baked flavours, the mumu is said to be a mouth watering experience.

In preparation for a mumu, locals gather rocks and heat them in fire for a number of hours. A small hole is dug (though aluminium bins are also used) and lined with hot rocks where food parcels wrapped in banana leaves are inserted. The banana leaves are waved over heat just before filling them to increase their durability. The types of food cooked in a mumu is dependent on the region, with sweet potato, taro, yams, chicken, pork and seafood typical of the ingredients used. Before the parcels are sealed, coconut milk is poured over the contents along with spices which induces a delicious caramelisation. More hot rocks are placed on the food parcels, which are cooked for several hours or overnight. Be sure to try the delicious result of food cooked by this traditional method.

CULTURAL ARTEFACTS

Papua New Guinean art forms are as diverse as they are distinctive. Their intricate designs and unique shapes continue to intrigue people the world over. Most Papua New Guinean art has a spiritual and ceremonial meaning, which plays an important role in the lives of villagers.

Honouring tribal ancestors is a major theme in Melanesian life and so it comes as no surprise that the spirits of ancestors are immortalised in artefacts such as masks and sculptures. Artefacts are used in ceremony and rituals to honour both the living and the dead as well they have many practical applications. The indigenous flora and fauna in PNG provide both a source of inspiration and materials for artefacts.

Although artefacts today are produced almost exclusively for resale, they are authentic replicas of traditional spirit figures, ancestral masks and weapons, often incorporating symbolic designs and motifs. You can be sure that every artefact you buy in the region is an original, from the beautifully woven and patterned wicker trays heralding from the Highlands to the brightly coloured carry bag called the ‘bilum’, which makes an evocative keepsake of PNG.

CUSTOMS

When you are trekking in PNG it is important to understand you are walking through someone's backyard – everything is either communally owned or owned by a family or tribe. Certain cultural taboos must be observed. Gifts are expected in exchange for a meal or accommodation in a Papua New Guinean village. Historically an article of clothing, a bag of rice, even pens, paper or batteries would be expected. Today, however, payment is often required in the form of actual money. Always ask your local guide if you are uncertain. Local guides also have the knowledge to help create a truly rewarding cultural experience. Ask as many questions as you can about the local culture, history, flora and fauna. Villagers are friendly and welcoming, but they are fairly conservative so always wear long shorts (knee length) or pants/skirts and t-shirts. Swimming costumes can be too revealing so it is recommended that men wear shorts and women either shorts and a t-shirt or a sarong. Since you're a bit of an oddity, you will be followed by curious children and stared at by everyone anytime you are out in a village, but don't be intimidated – it's not rude to stare in PNG. Break the ice with a smile and a cheerful “apinun” which can help get some interesting conversations started with the locals. Although most villages have a few English speakers, learning some basic Tok Pisin makes for an easier and more interactive visit to rural areas.

← BAY → BEAUTY

Alotau and Tawali provide the perfect base from which to explore Milne Bay. Snorkelling, diving and caving are just some of the popular activities available in the region.







DON'T MISS

- The Canoe & Kundu Festival
- Diving for Manta Rays
- Spotting Birds of Paradise
- The Skull Caves
- The D'Entrecasteaux Islands
- The Trobriand Islands



Milne Bay is renowned for the battle which famously led to the Japanese Army's first defeat on land. In 1942, the Battle of Milne Bay saw the Japanese marines disadvantaged when they landed over ten kilometres from their intended target and underestimated the manpower of the Allied Forces. Nevertheless, the Japanese charged at the Australian Forces but the 2nd Australian Imperial Force units, backed up by strong aerial support, set the stage for success. Suffering heavy casualties, the Japanese withdrew from the area just two weeks later. The Australian War Memorial in Alotau Harbour honours the Battle of Milne Bay and provides a detailed account of the battle for those interested in war history.

Known as the gateway to the Milne Bay Province, Alotau provides access to some of the most amazing coral reefs in PNG which are renowned for muck diving and manta rays. Tawali Resort is located one and a half hours and a fifteen minute boat ride from Alotau, and offers great dive adventures in the region. For more information, call the resort on +675 7364 0607 or +675 7396 0521.

While in Tawali, don't miss out on seeing the skull caves, the most popular of which lies in proximity to the resort. Be sure to take a local guide with you to help navigate the way and check out Hiliwau Waterfall, which is just a ten minute walk from Tawali Resort.

Milne Bay boasts a diverse array of game fish such as wahoo, dogtooth tuna, mackerel and Papuan black bass, just to name a few. If you're interested in game fishing, speak to the Milne Bay Tourist Bureau to get the names of some reputable fishing charters in the area.

Milne Bay, like many parts of PNG, is a Mecca for exotic bird species such as the beautiful bird of paradise. Make sure you get up early because this incredible bird does its seductive dance at the break of day. For tours and other attractions, speak to someone at your accommodation establishment.

If you're in Alotau around November, make sure you catch the Canoe and Kundu Festival to witness warriors in traditional dress and canoes racing on the waters. It's a wonderful homage to a bygone era and a way to experience the culture firsthand.

For accommodation in Alotau, try the International Hotel, Masuarina Hotel, Education Milne Bay Centre, Hiwei Hiwei Hotel, Napatana Hotel, Bayviews Hotel or Driftwood Hotel. For other accommodation in the region, try the Tawali Resort or Dolini Resort which is located two hours from Alotau.

Alotau and Tawali are also great launching pads to explore the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, which is a cluster of islands including Fergusson, Goodenough and Normanby. When missionaries first arrived in Milne Bay, cannibalism was still practiced on Fergusson Island which was generally driven by warfare. Cannibalism was also a way to grieve ancestral death by ingesting the flesh which was believed to preserve the characteristics of loved ones. For locals on Fergusson Island, their flesh eating traditions continued all the way up to the 1960s. That all changed, however, when they encountered an unexpected visitor.

One day a curious helicopter pilot visited Fergusson Island. Sensing the locals' hostility, the pilot hightailed back to the chopper losing a shoe during his lucky escape. The locals, believing the shoe comprised part of the pilot's foot, proceeded to cook it up in soup. They drank the broth (susu) but when it came to carving the shoe found it was too tough to consume. Three months later, the intrepid pilot returned to the island, but this time the locals did not attack him. Warnings of his unappetising flesh had spread quickly throughout the island so the natives kept their distance. As a result, the island became safe for the white missionaries who followed as the locals were too frightened to eat them.

If you have time, be sure to island hop across to Fergusson, Goodenough and Normanby which all boast interesting attractions. The Trobriand Islands also offer a unique look at island life.

Boiboiwaga Island, which is only 45 minutes away from Tawali by dinghy, boasts white sandy beaches and is a top location to both picnic and snorkel. At the southern most region of PNG lies Samarai Island, which acted as the regional headquarters for the PNG government until 1968. Samarai Island provides accommodation and nearly anywhere in its vicinity there are tropical beaches and reefs with stunning marine life.





← HIGHLANDS → HIGHWAY

Travel from Lae to the Highlands or Madang through to the beautiful Ramu and Markham Valleys.

With its deep port and central northern location, Lae is the home of industry and export in PNG. Vastly different to the commercial environs of Port Moresby, Lae is responsible for a large portion of the country's annual economy. It also played a central part in the battle for the region in WWII.

The Lae War Cemetery is the resting place for 2,808 soldiers buried here as a result of the WWII operations in PNG. Most of the burials comprise of Australian servicemen, with only 19 being British. There are also 426 Indians buried within the grounds who were taken prisoner whilst fighting in Hong Kong and Malaya. The cemetery is opened most days with free entry. There's a large building in the centre of the cemetery that features information on the WWII battles including a register showing a complete report of the casualties.

Another interesting yet lesser-known attraction in Lae is the Japanese Memorial, which is on the way to Wagang Village. To get to the memorial, drive out past the Pistol Club and keep going towards Malahang. Just as you arrive at the Malahang Industrial Estate, take a right hand turn

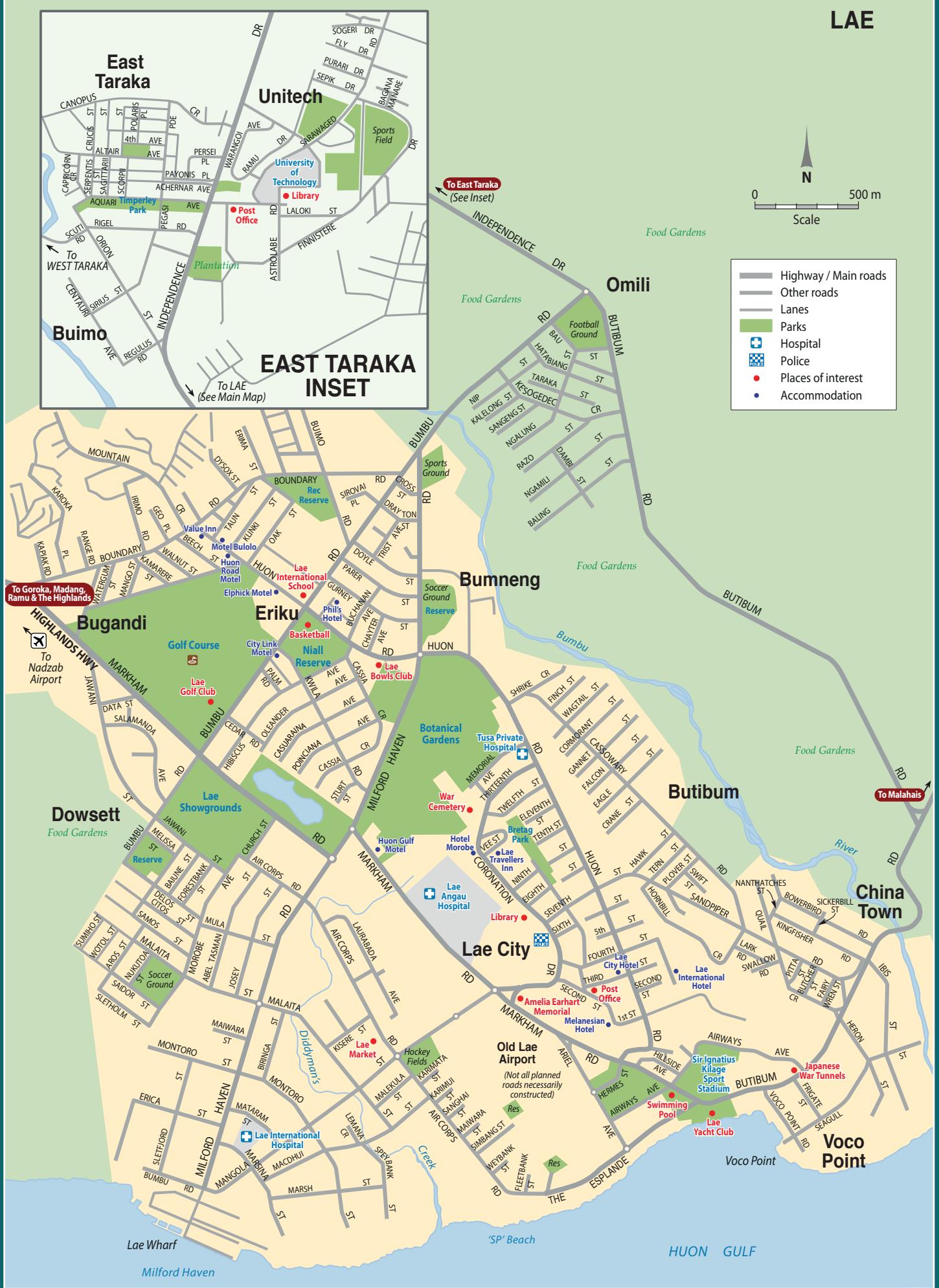
towards the coast and you'll see the memorial about half way along. The best place to locate a guide for this area is at Wagang Village where you can ask to speak to an elder for assistance.

While in Lae, check out the Rainforest Habitat, which is located on the grounds of the University of Technology. Here you can view indigenous flora while watching an array of PNG fauna from the raised viewing platforms. The habitat is home to Agro, a massive Salty Crocodile.

The Lae National Botanic Gardens were recently restored and opened to the public. The gardens are open daily and tickets for entry can be purchased from the Forestry Research Institute. The Crocodile Farm, a commercial enterprise which also supports the conservation of wild crocodiles, is also worth a visit. For fresh produce and exotic flowers, visit the Lae Main Market open Monday to Saturday.

Lae was the last departure point of the famous Amelia Earhart who, in 1937, wanted to be the first person to fly around the circumference of the world. After 29 days of flying, Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, touched

LAE



down in Lae on 30 June 1937 to a rousing audience. Unfortunately, during the next leg of her journey, Earhart and Noonan were unable to get an accurate weather forecast and ran directly into a storm, which was ultimately blamed for taking their lives. Today, the two are honoured as modern day heroes in Lae where a memorial stone and plaque has been erected in Independence Park on the Coronation Drive/Markham Road Junction.

It's possible to travel from Lae to the Highlands or Madang through the beautiful Ramu and Markham Valleys. From Lae, take the Highlands Highway out past Nadzab Airport until you reach the open paddocks of Ramu Valley. If you travel past this point, you'll arrive next in the Markham Valley. From the Markham Valley, drive another 45 minutes until you come to a branch in the road. Turn left if you want to travel up the mountain through the Markham Pass and on to Goroka and the Highlands. Turn right if you want to drive on to Madang.

If you decide to explore Ramu Valley, you'll discover lush farmlands nestled in a backdrop of rolling hinterlands.

During WWII, the region was a strategic location for the Allied Forces to expand their war efforts. After securing Lae, the 7th Division's next task was to take hold of the Ramu and Markham Valley regions. Kaipit was

seized between 19 and 20 September and Dampu followed on 4 October. The Japanese retreated to Shaggy Ridge and Allied Forces had to tackle difficult, mountainous terrain in order to execute their next victorious battle taking the ridge on 19 January 1944.

Today the Ramu Valley is known for its agricultural produce such as sugar cane, poultry and cattle farming. The township of Ramu resembles a simple outpost, but behind the façade is the picturesque property of the New Britain Palm Oil Company, which acquired Ramu Sugar Company in 2008. The property boasts manicured gardens, an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and a war memorial. Although not officially open to the public, the Ramu Agri Industries Guest House offers accommodation, a restaurant, swimming pool and cosy bar. For bookings, contact Ramu Agri Industries in Lae on +675 474 3299.

If you've decided to visit Ramu for a day or two, make sure you speak to your accommodation staff about the local bush treks. The treks can vary in length from a few hours to more adventurous full day treks up to the mountain behind Ramu or through the Wairius River to Wairius Hill. If you are travelling on to Madang or the Highlands, be sure to travel with a local who can assist you in case you encounter any issues.

Lae is home to the famous Morobe Cultural Show so be sure to check it out if you're around in October.

DON'T MISS

- Lae War Cemetery
- The Japanese Memorial
- The Morobe Cultural Show
- Lae National Botanic Gardens
- The Rainforest Habitat
- Ramu Valley



CROSSROADS HOTEL

BOOK ONLINE

New Infinity Pool & Bar
Japanese / Western Fusion Restaurant
Free High Speed WiFi | Fitness Centre
Handy Location to Nadzab Airport
10 Minutes From Lae City

*"Great place to stay"
"A little gem at the Crossroads"
"So Peaceful!"
"Beautiful views and great restaurant"*

TripAdvisor Reviews

Address:
Awilunga Estate
Nadzab Highway, 9 Mile
Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea

Phone: +675 4751124 / +675 71902313
Email: crossroadsreservations@gmail.com
Website: crossroadshotellaelae.com

The premier hospitality supplier in PNG



**Renowned hotel products and supplies
found in establishment rooms worldwide**

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3058 Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea

PHONE: (D) +675 7109 6841 (B) +675 7659 8821

EMAIL: info@jbg.com.pg • WEBSITE: www.jbg.com.pg

THE HEARTLAND ↗

Mount Hagen is the capital of the Western Highlands Province and is famous for the Mount Hagen Show. The township is named after an extinct volcano in the northwest which is said to take its name from Colonel Curt von Hagen.

The prevalence of German-named landmarks in Mount Hagen is derivative of the period 1884 to 1914 when the area was colonised by Germans and known as German New Guinea. Subsequently, the region was overtaken by Australian Forces in 1914 following the onset of WWI.

The Highlands region was only recently developed in the 20th century with some conjecture about who was responsible for first opening up the area. Australian Mick Leahy had previously been prospecting for gold in the Morobe Province when in 1933 he and his brother, Danny, trekked extensively throughout the Wahgi Valley in search for more gold. An Australian Patrol Officer by the name of James (Jim) Taylor embarked on the same patrol to explore the region with the brothers. Some reports state that the Leahy brothers led the expedition, while others suggest Taylor led the patrols. Nonetheless, in 1936 Mick's claim was recognised by the Royal Geographic Society, and later again in 1971 by the US Explorers Club.

Previously having built an airstrip in Bena Bena at Goroka, the Leahy brothers went on to build an airstrip in Kelua to have regular supplies brought in. They were then able to establish a base at Kuta where they eventually found a creek with gold, which later became Kuta Goldmine. As Papua New Guineans traded in Kina shells, Mick was able to have the shells flown in for a minimal cost enabling him to support a large work force to develop his explorations for gold.

While the brothers were moderately successful in their gold digging endeavours, what they didn't realise was that the mountains were abundant in gold deposits sitting just below the surface. These gold deposits were so rich, in fact, that when they were eventually discovered the entire country would ride the back of this resource for decades to come.

Taylor ultimately settled in Goroka and married Yerima, a local from the Minj/Banz area. He eventually acquired land and was credited with planting some of the first crops of coffee in the region.

If you'd like to experience some of the terrain that the Leahy brothers and Taylor tackled, then set aside time to do some trekking while you're in the area. Elevated at 5,500 feet,

Mount Hagen's lush and rugged hinterland is the perfect challenge. Situated in the Wahgi Valley, if you're keen to explore its surrounds for exotic flora and fauna, book a guided trek. For trekking up Mt Hagen, the third highest peak in PNG, call Paiya Tours on +675 7685 8183. Hiking to the summit of Mt Hagen takes approximately three hours for experienced trekkers and four hours for amateurs. This trek is best suited to active individuals.

Today, with mining and agricultural ventures into coffee, sweet potatoes and potatoes, Mount Hagen has expanded to become the commercial hub of the Western Highlands. The cooler climates and high altitudes are particularly ideal for growing Arabic coffee for which the area of Banz is renowned. Ironically, anthropologists have found that the region is the oldest, continuously farmed area on earth, with agricultural practices dating back 9,000 years. There is some debate about whether or not the farming process has been continuous or whether it has been intermittent over the centuries. Nonetheless, it is a remarkable fact given the remoteness of this part of the world.

Trans Niugini Tours is one of the main tour operators in Mount Hagen and offers birdwatching, trekking, fishing and other tailored activities. For more information on tours call +675 7198 9397. There's also a number of more localised tour operators in Mount Hagen. Simply ask one of the staff at your accommodation to point you in the right direction.

The Western Highlands is home to Baiyer River Sanctuary, which extends across a massive 740 hectares and includes 185 species of birdlife. This spectacular nature park and its wildlife are a must-do while you're in the region.

In August every year, Mount Hagen boasts a feast of activities as it plays host to the ever-popular Mount Hagen Show. First launched in 1964, this festival continues to showcase the rich heritage of the local culture featuring 75 tribes from throughout PNG. If you're interested in Indigenous culture and your timing is right, this is one event not to be missed.

On Saturdays you can visit the Hagen Market, one of PNG's foremost markets for fresh produce and other interesting items such as highland hats.

DON'T MISS

- The Mount Hagen Show
- Trekking Mt Hagen
- Birdwatching
- Baiyer River Sanctuary
- The Hagen Market







3

COOL ADVENTURES

1 SURFING

PNG offers consistent surfing conditions without the overcrowding guaranteed under the Surf Management Plan (SMP) administered by the Surfing Association Papua New Guinea Inc (SAPNG), in partnership with the surf camp operators and traditional resource custodians.

On the southern side of PNG, fifteen minutes out of Port Moresby, you'll find Sero Cove situated on the western side of Pyramid Point. This is home to the Pyramid Board Riders Club, an affiliated member of the SAPNG catering for the local and expat surfers based in Port Moresby. The main barrier reef stretches along the southern seaboard all the way to the Milne Bay Province. From May to November, during the south east season, the waves range from three to six feet with the best waves occurring early in the morning. The same area is conducive for kite surfers and wind surfers.

The northern side of PNG boasts some premier surfing locations with waves on the mainland and offshore islands generated by the monsoon swells from mid-October through to late April. Consistent quality waves ranging from three to eight feet, and occasionally stretching to ten feet, can be found at Vanimo, Madang, Wewak and New Ireland Province. The most consistent waves are in Vanimo, Madang and Kavieng, which vary from beach breaks to point and island reef breaks. Surf camps are set up at Vanimo, Madang and Kavieng, and accommodation and transport are readily available. There is also a SAPNG registered Surf Charter boat based out of Kavieng called the PNG Surfaris.

New Ireland Province is one of the most popular destinations for surfers visiting PNG. Around Kavieng there are numerous reef setups, which provide several good and varying surf breaks. Just off Kavieng sits Nusa Island Retreat, an environmentally low-impact facility that provides accommodation, meals and boat transport to the surrounding islands and their breaks. There is also Rubio Retreat surf camp down the east coast of New Ireland Province similar to Nusa Island Retreat. The waves in this region and around Nusa Island Retreat and Rubio Retreat are well established and known in international surfing circles. Nusa Island Retreat limits the number of surfers staying at any one time consistent with the SAPNG Surf Management Plans and is often fully booked during the surf season. The same SMP protocols are applied with the Vanimo Surf Lodge in Vanimo and the Tupira Surf Club in north coast Madang. These are registered surf camps of the SAPNG that adhere to the SMP rules and regulations of surf tourism in PNG.

SAPNG is currently working in partnership with the traditional resource custodians based on the precedent SMP model to open up new surf camps and surf clubs in Manus and Bougainville. SAPNG offers surfers integrated tour packages through its Surf Management Plans, developed in conjunction with traditional resource reef custodians. If you require further information on surfing in the PNG region, please visit www.sapng.com or email SAPNG President and co-founder Andrew Abel on sapng06@yahoo.com.au.



2 FISHING

From the rivers to the oceans, PNG offers the ultimate fishing experience. The coastal waters provide abundant bluewater and big game fishing such as marlin, sailfish, yellow fin tuna, giant trevally and dogtooth tuna. Meanwhile, the black bass, reputed to be one of the world's toughest fighting fish, can be found in the Fly, Sepik and Lower Ramu Rivers. If barramundi's your game, try the remote Bensbach Lodge in the Western Province near the border of Irian Jaya. The lodge is a fisherman's paradise as the Bensbach River here is teeming with barramundi as well as tarpon and saratoga. With sustainability at its core, the lodge has a 'catch and release' policy so that all fish other than what is sufficient for dinner are let go. Aside from fishing, Bensbach Lodge is a tranquil getaway set amongst beautiful natural surrounds and can be enjoyed by nature lovers, alike. For more information on Bensbach Lodge, call Trans Niugini Tours on +675 7198 9397.

For ocean fishing, Baia Fishing Lodge located on West New Britain is a well-known sport fishing lodge that accommodates serious fishermen. Bass fishing here is particularly good if you are a keen angler. The water channels near Kandrian, also on West New Britain, offer the opportunity to catch the Papuan black and spot tail bass as well as oxeye herring. For more information on Baia Fishing Lodge, email baiafishingpng@gmail.com. In the south, Tufi offers up great bottom, game and estuarine fishing. Throughout the reefs, Spanish mackerel, barracuda, wahoo and yellowfin tuna are found in generous proportions. In the estuaries, upstream, you can try your hand at mangrove jack. For more information on fishing charters in Tufi, call Tufi Resort on +675 323 3462.

3 CAVING

PNG possesses several of the deepest cave systems in the world which give rise to incredible underground caverns and stunning formations. The caves located within the Nakanaï Mountains on East New Britain are said

to be some of the most exhilarating worldwide. The caves feature amazing stalagmite formations and enthralling caverns and passages. These caves are generally only suitable for accomplished cavers because of the difficult terrain they pose.

Muruk Cave on East New Britain, which measures 1,123 metres in depth, is one of the most popular caves to explore in the world.

Benua Cave is an accessible caving adventure for the general tourist. Nestled within the Keriaka Plateau on Bougainville, the cave is said to have the world's largest cavern estimated at around 4.5 million cubic metres. The cave is home to an eighteen metre high stalagmite, which is remarkable to see firsthand. Bougainville has a range of other caves to explore including those found on Buka Island. For more information on tours, contact Bougainville Experience Tours on +675 7365 6050. In the Simbu Province, the caves found around Kundiawa were previously used by locals to bury their dead. Ask around for a local guide who will know which caves are open to tourists and escort you there.

For a cave adventure like no other, don't miss seeing the skull caves in Milne Bay. While this attraction sounds a little unusual, it has a fascinating history. It's believed that the locals once found shelter in the caves and used them as a place to hide from their enemies. At night time, however, they would leave the secure environs to hunt down their enemies, return with their bodies and cook them over an open fire. This strategy provided an easy source of food while eliminating a threat. While the bones of the bodies were disposed of, the skulls comprising of men, women and children were retained as trophies. The more skulls collected, the more revered and foreboding the tribe became.

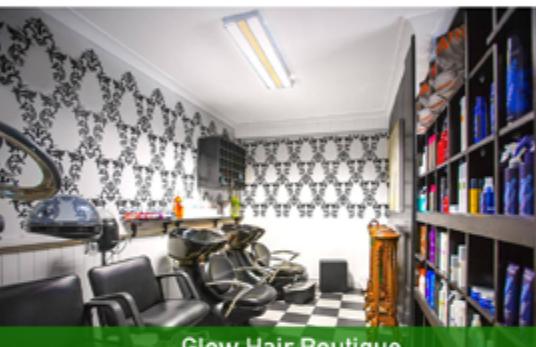
When the missionaries arrived in the 1890s, they deterred the locals from practicing cannibalism by demonstrating how they could use fish, pigs, fruit and vegetables as an alternative food source. They also showed the locals how to build houses which eventually led to the prevalence of villages and a different way of life. Speculation remains as to whether the skulls were the result of a cannibalistic tribe or, in fact, a sacred burial place. The locals were also taught to bury their deceased upright in graves placing the head in a claypot. As the body decomposed, it would separate from the head which would remain in the claypot. The head was then hung in the kitchen as a commemoration of the deceased. When cameras were developed, the missionaries convinced the locals to take the skulls to a graveyard for burial because the deceased could be immortalised in a printed image. The most popular skull cave lies in proximity to Tawali Resort. Be sure to take a local guide with you to help navigate the way. 



New Executive & Superior Rooms



The Cellar Restaurant



Glow Hair Boutique



Mr. Mike's Pizza Company



The Shady Rest Hotel

A great place to stay in paradise!

Free Wi-Fi Available
Gaming Lounge
Tapas Bar
The Cellar Restaurant
Mr Mike's Pizza Company
Glow Hair Boutique & Spa
24 Hour Reception
24 Hour Security
Free Airport Transfer
ATM & Phone Cards Sold

E: reservations@shadyrest.com.pg

E: shadyrest@live.com

W: www.shadyrest.com.pg

Tel: +(675) 323 0047

+(675) 325 9647

+(675) 7323 0000

Fax: +(675) 323 0060

Taurama Road
PO Box 5367
Boroko, NCD



www.shadyrest.com.pg



PAPUA
NEW
GUINEA

LAND OF MYSTERY

jbg

JUST
BRILLIANT
GUIDES