

Papua New Guinea

Continent: Australia

Languages Spoken: English, Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu, over 800 indigenous languages

Population: 9,200,000

Currency: Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

Area: 462,840

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Kokoda Track', 'writeup': 'A historic trail in the Owen Stanley Range, significant for its role in World War II during the Kokoda Campaign.'}
- {'name': 'Tufi Dive Resort and Fjords', 'writeup': 'Known for stunning fjords and vibrant coral reefs, a popular destination for diving and eco-tourism.'}
- {'name': 'Mount Wilhelm', 'writeup': 'The highest peak in Papua New Guinea, attracting trekkers and climbers with its challenging terrain and scenic views.'}
- {'name': 'Rabaul Volcano', 'writeup': 'An active volcano near the town of Rabaul, notable for its eruptions and impact on local settlements.'}
- {'name': 'Sepik River', 'writeup': 'One of the largest river systems in Papua New Guinea, famous for its cultural significance and traditional art.'}

Head of State / Government:

Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Mount Hagen Cultural Show', 'writeup': 'An annual festival showcasing traditional dances, costumes, and rituals from various tribes across Papua New Guinea.'}
- {'name': 'Goroka Show', 'writeup': 'A major cultural event featuring tribal sing-sings, where different groups display their unique cultural heritage.'}
- {'name': 'Hiri Moale Festival', 'writeup': 'Celebrates the traditional Hiri trade voyages of the Motu people with canoe races and cultural performances.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Papua New Guinea's cuisine is diverse, featuring staples like sago, sweet potatoes, taro, and seafood. Traditional dishes often include root vegetables, fresh fish, and bush meats, prepared using methods such as roasting and steaming in earth ovens.

Brief History:

Papua New Guinea was first inhabited by humans tens of thousands of years ago. It was colonized by Germany and Britain in the late 19th century, later administered by Australia. The country gained independence in 1975 and has since developed a diverse cultural identity with ongoing challenges related to development and governance.

Important People:

- Michael Somare - Founding Prime Minister and key figure in independence
- Sir Julius Chan - Former Prime Minister

- Dame Carol Kidu - Prominent politician and advocate for social issues
- Sir Mekere Morauta - Former Prime Minister and economist

Current Conflicts:

Papua New Guinea faces internal challenges including tribal conflicts, land disputes, and occasional unrest in the Bougainville region related to autonomy and resource control.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Papua New Guinea: Culture and Nature
- The Kokoda Track - History and Adventure
- Papua New Guinea: The Land of a Thousand Cultures
- Mount Hagen Cultural Show Highlights
- Exploring the Sepik River and its Traditions