



THE LAND OF A MILLION DIFFERENT JOURNEYS

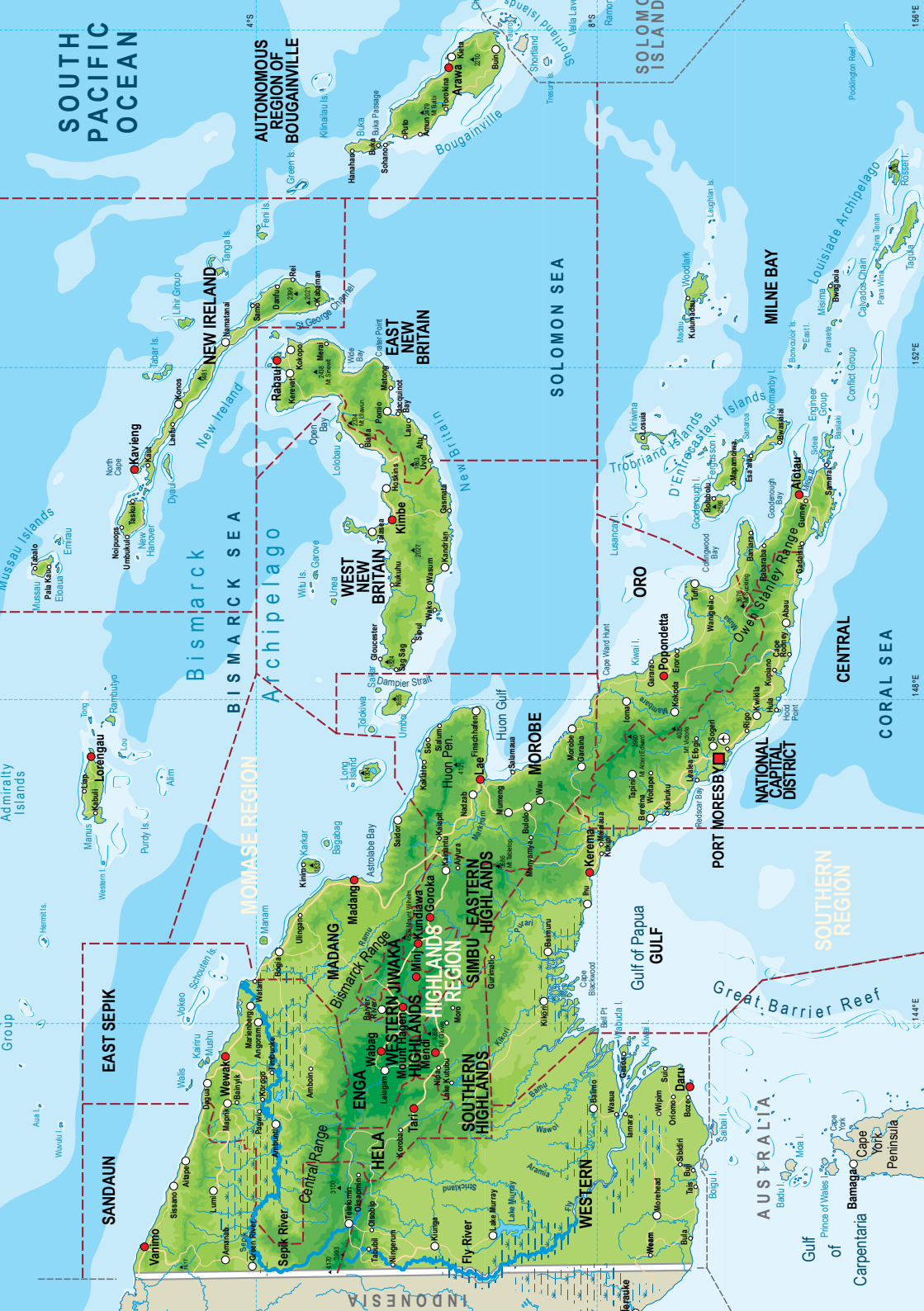
PNG COASTAL 2020

Your guide to Coastal Adventures
in Papua New Guinea



Papua New Guinea

A MILLION DIFFERENT JOURNEYS



Papua New Guinea is Australia's closest neighbour; an independent nation of over 8 million people, located just 150km to the north of Cape York, and sharing a border with Indonesia. One of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, Papua New Guinea is home to more than 800 different languages and a myriad of colourful tribal and national festivals that span the country's annual events calendar.

From trekking the highest mountain in Oceania (Mount Wilhelm, 4,509m), to diving some of the world's most pristine coral reefs, island-hopping across 600+ mostly deserted islands and discovering fiery active volcanoes, Papua New Guinea is an adventure travellers paradise. The country is also popular with war history buffs due to the prominent role it played in WWII, with world-renowned Kokoda trekked by over 4,000 Aussies each year.

This quick reference guide will provide you with the key information on the coastal and island regions of Papua New Guinea.

GETTING TO & AROUND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The easiest departure points to get to Papua New Guinea are from Brisbane and Cairns, where **Air Niugini** and **Qantas** both offer regular services. **Virgin Australia** also flies from Brisbane, and Air Niugini flies from Sydney as well. Beyond Australia, Air Niugini operates an extensive international network, with regular flights from Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Manila, as well as services from neighbouring South Pacific countries.

All international flights to Papua New Guinea arrive at Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby. Both **Air Niugini** and **PNG Air** operate extensive domestic scheduled services from their Port Moresby hub.

Of course if you don't fancy flying, you could always go on a cruise to Papua New Guinea.



Baining Fire Dancers (Rabaul)



Kenu and Kundu Festival (Milne Bay)

WHERE TO GO: COASTAL ADVENTURES

In this guide we focus on the coastal and island regions of Papua New Guinea. See our PNG Highlands 2019 guide for more information on Papua New Guinea's highlands and inland regions.



West New Britain's Thermal Hot River

ISLAND ADVENTURES IN NEW BRITAIN & NEW IRELAND

Popular with divers, surfers, history buffs and adventure seekers, these two easy-to-get-to islands are perfect for first-time visitors. In **West New Britain** (WNB) you can hike to the top of the active Gabuna volcano crater, relax in a natural spa-like thermal hot river or visit the local firefly trees at night and see the rainforest light up. At the other end of the island in **East New Britain** (ENB), a world of history

✈ Kimbe (WNB), Rabaul (ENB) or Kavieng (NI)

awaits: from hidden Japanese WWII war tunnels and Admiral Yamamoto's famed bunker, to the ash-covered remains of old Rabaul town (destroyed by the nearby Mount Tavurvur volcanic eruption of 1937). Over on **New Ireland** (NI) you can go on a 5-day cycling adventure, travelling down the length of the 260km mostly-flat Bulominski Highway, stopping to rest at traditional village homestays along the way.

🏠 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort, Rapopo Plantation Resort, Lissenung Island Resort, Nusa Island Retreat

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN MILNE BAY & TUFU

Divers and snorkellers have been coming to this part of Papua New Guinea for decades, but culture-seekers have only recently cottoned on to this unique part of the world. **Alotau** is the capital of the Milne Bay region, and plays host to the annual **Kenu and Kundu Festival** each November - a lively and colourful cultural display of war canoe racing and 'singsings' (traditional dances). Year-round you can discover harrowing skull caves, and can also learn to cook (and

enjoy) a Mumu feast (a traditional meal of local produce cooked in the earth). Up the coast in Oro Province are the **Tufu Fjords**, home to the world's largest butterfly (the Queen Alexandra Bird Wing, with wingspans of up to 28cm). Visitor participation in traditional daily life is welcomed by the local villagers, who will happily show travellers how to build traditional homes and canoes from sago palms, and how to hunt and gather for food.

✈ Alotau or Tufu

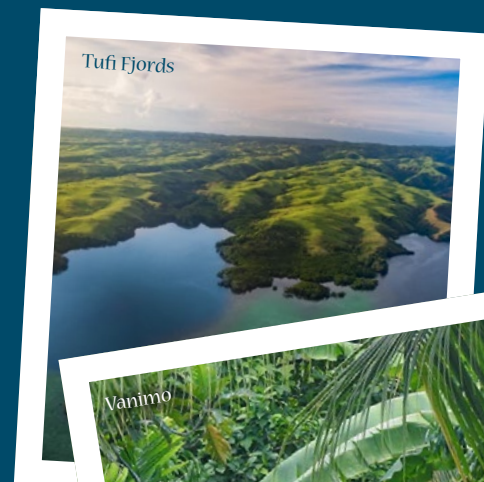
🏠 Alotau International Resort, Driftwood Resort, Tawali Leisure & Dive Resort, Tufu Resort

EXPLORING THE NORTH COAST

This surfing hotspot is also a fishing and diving / snorkelling paradise. Stretching for over 500km, the northern coastline of Papua New Guinea's mainland is as chilled-out as it comes. Here you'll find sleepy port towns and seaside villages that offer the perfect respite for those who've just adventured to the nearby highlands or Sepik River. Spend the day paddling across aqua-clear waters to nearby deserted islands, explore local caves and waterfalls, or tuck into some fresh locally-caught seafood.

✈ Madang, Wewak or Vanimo

🏠 Madang Resort, Tupira Surf Club, Paradise New Wewak, Vanimo Surf Lodge



Tufu Fjords



Vanimo


WHAT TO DO: COASTAL ADVENTURES



DIVING & SNORKELLING

Papua New Guinea is regarded by pro divers as one of the best dive destinations in the world. Home to pristine reefs, countless plane and ship wrecks, and hundreds of untouched atolls, Papua New Guinea's islands and coastal regions are a divers and snorkellers paradise. Dive down to a fully intact Japanese Zero fighter plane, visit the original "Muck Diving" site that put PNG on the map, and swim amongst hammerheads and moray eels in the spectacular drop-offs of the country's fjords. And when the day is done, or if you need a rest day, there's so many natural wonders to explore and cultural experiences to be had. You can even choose from a range of specialist dive resorts, or even liveaboard a dive boat.

 Year-Round (optimal times vary between locations)

 Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort, Lissenung Island Resort, Loloata Private Island Resort, Madang Resort, MV FeBrina, MV Oceania, Nusa Island Retreat, Rapopo Plantation Resort, Tawali Leisure & Dive Resort, Tufi Resort, Walindi Plantation Resort

SURFING

Forget Bali with its overcrowded beaches; head next door to Papua New Guinea, where near-empty surf breaks await. Thanks to the country's world-renowned Surf Management Plan, the number of surfers on any one break is capped, so you'll never be stuck waiting to catch the perfect wave. Surfing is idolised in Papua New Guinea, as are visiting pro surfers. You'll be just as likely to see locals surfing on hand-carved planks of timber, as you will Taylor Jensen (who won the 2017 Men's Kumul PNG World Longboard Championships). Or even no one at all! And when you're done for the day, there's plenty of islands, waterfalls, caves and volcanoes to explore.



November – April



Nusa Island Retreat, Rubio Plantation, Tupira Surf Club, Vanimo Surf Lodge

WHAT TO DO: COASTAL ADVENTURES



Fishing on Lake Murray

FISHING

Papua New Guinea's untouched rivers and lakes, and isolated coastal waters, offer some of the best lures in the world. From the challenge of catching a 'lure shy' Papua New Guinea Black Bass in remote rainforest-lined rivers, to showing off a prized Dogtooth Tuna or Marlin catch out at sea, Papua New Guinea has got to be on the bucket list of all fishing enthusiasts.

 Year-Round (optimal times vary between locations)

 Baia Sportfishing Lodge, Bensbach Wildlife Lodge, Lake Murray Lodge, Liamo Reef Resort, MV K20, MV Ultimate One, Uluai Island Bungalows



Lake Murray

CRUISING

Large ship cruising is a popular way for first-timers to experience Papua New Guinea. The country features on the itineraries of numerous well-known cruise lines, including **P&O**, **Princess**, **Carnival**, **Cunard** and **Silversea**. Whether part of a round-the-world itinerary, voyage across the South Pacific or even a dedicated cruise around Papua New Guinea's shores, calling in cruise ships are becoming more frequent. Dedicated itineraries tend to depart ex Brisbane or ex Sydney. Popular ports of call include Rabaul, Kavieng,

Madang, Milne Bay (Alotau), Kiriwina Island, the Trobriand Islands and the Conflict Islands.

There are also a number of small expedition ships that call into Papua New Guinea each year, many offering specialised tours to the most remote parts of the country. **Coral Expeditions**, **True North**, **Heritage Expeditions** and **Linblad Expeditions** are some of the small cruise brands that offer such itineraries.



P&O Pacific Dawn

STOPPING OVER IN PORT MORESBY



Loloata Private Island Resort



Hilton Port Moresby

Most visitors to Papua New Guinea explore beyond the mostly commercial and government hub of Port Moresby. That being said, if domestic and international flight schedules don't align, then a stopover in the country's capital is worth considering. This once sleepy town is fast growing into a thriving metropolis, with a vast construction programme underway to upgrade the city's infrastructure and transform its waterfront. In 2018 the city played host to global leaders for the APEC Summit, and as such an array of world-class luxury hotels exist, including **Airways**, **Hilton** and **The Stanley Hotel & Suites**. A selection of well-appointed three and four star properties are also on offer.

All hotels offer complimentary airport shuttle services, and from wherever you choose to stay, transportation to the city's popular **Nature Park** (home to 550 native animals and hundreds of plant species) and nearby **Bomana War Cemetery** (where the remains of 3,824 Commonwealth soldiers lay) can easily be arranged.

Those with a bit more time, should consider **Loloata Private Island Resort** - only 40 minutes from Port Moresby's Jacksons International Airport. Opened in 2019, this exclusive and luxury resort offers overwater suites and villas, as well as tours to over 30 nearby dive sites.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Papua New Guinea safe for tourists?

Yes! Tourists are welcomed in Papua New Guinea with open arms and big smiles. We recommend booking on an organised tour or staying at one of our featured list of hotels and resorts, to ensure you have the best possible experience.

Are there any luxury accommodation options?

Absolutely! Whether you prefer 5 star overwater villas, world-class hotels or even more traditional authentic village homestays, there is something for everyone.

How long a trip do you recommend?

To truly experience the country we recommend planning to visit for 7-14 days, taking in 2-3 different locations (mixing up the highlands, coastal and island areas). Single-location short-stay trips are possible, particularly for those visiting from Cairns or Brisbane, and there are also plenty of cruise itinerary options to choose from too.

Can I get my dive qualification in PNG?

Yes, at certain resorts you can! However, we'd recommend getting your license before coming across to make the most of the country's incredible reefs and wrecks.

Are the cultural experiences genuine?

Absolutely! The tribes and villagers are immensely proud of their culture and everyday way of life, and love nothing more than to showcase it to visitors. PNG is not overcrowded with visitors, so you'll generally get a more intimate and interactive experience too.

Is there a nightlife in Papua New Guinea?

Nightlife for Papua New Guineans often consists of watching the sunset over the ocean with a refreshing bottle of SP Lager in hand, and performing 'singsings' and fire dances. In Port Moresby (the capital) you'll find several restaurants, bars and even nightclubs, if that's more your vibe.

Can I buy things from the local tribes and villages?

Yes, please do! You will find plenty of talented craftspeople selling their handmade wares, including bilums (bags), baskets, carvings and artworks. Be sure not to miss the local produce markets either. Supporting these sellers helps their communities to thrive and survive. Just don't forget to declare anything brought back into Australia or New Zealand.



Back cover: Mindima Skeleton Dancers (Epic Trails & @greenulrika)

And that's just a few of the million different journeys available within Papua New Guinea. Highland Adventures also await those interested in trekking, birding, and even more cultural experiences.

For more information about Papua New Guinea please contact your Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (PNGTPA) representative in Australia and New Zealand at: Australia@papuanewguinea.travel

Find your own adventure at
www.papuanewguinea.travel

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