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OPENING SHOT



PICTURE: MILEN STILIYANOV A slice of PNG life. Children paddling a traditional canoe over a reef in turquoise waters at Laukanu village, Salamaua, Morobe Province.



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BEST OF PNG





LERON PLAINS, MARKHAM VALLEY, MOROBE PROVINCE

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COVER PHOTO A performer from the Eastern Highlands wears a traditional bilas (costume) at the Goroka Show. The costume is characterised by a headdress of feathers, as well as red, blue and white face paint. Picture: David Kirkland

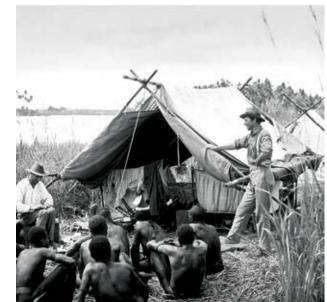


A LEAKY BOAT AROUND NEW GUINEA 3 men, 13 months, 6300 kilometres



THE YEAR IN PICTURES Our favourite photos from the pages of *Paradise* in the past 12 months.





A STEP BACK IN TIME **52** We retrace a 1922 expedition to PNG by the famed Antarctic photographer Frank Hurley.

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TRAVEL AND CULTURE MAP

2 PNG overlaid with information icons for travellers: festivals, lodges, activities, key towns and airports.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Paradise Annual 2019. The annual showcases the best writing and photography that has appeared in *Paradise*, the in-flight magazine of Air Niugini, in the past 12 months.

This is the second year that we've produced an annual, following on from the success of the first in 2018.

The free annual is distributed in hotels, cafes, airport lounges and travel agencies and includes stories about PNG travel and culture.

Where necessary, stories have been updated from when they were first published, but essentially they remain true to their original form.

Once again, we have a guide to all of PNG's 22 provinces. We believe it is one of the most comprehensive province-by-province guides ever published.

We've nicknamed the annual 'PA' to help differentiate it from the regular issues of *Paradise* that come out every two months and are carried on Air Niugini flights.

There's a strong Papuan New Guinean voice in the annual, with no less than 10 PNG writers contributing to the magazine. Among them are four who have written short essays about parts of the country they know and love. The 'Essays from the Heart' start on Page 34. Award-winning Australian writer Ben Groundwater is another contributor, nominating his seven best PNG experiences. War historian and author Peter Williams chimes in with a gripping piece about the World War 2 battle for Milne Bay. Rugby league legend Andrew 'ET' Ettingshausen writes about a PNG fishing trip.

We're blessed with outstanding portfolio of photography again, including images from David Kirkland, Rocky Roe, Milen Stiliyanov, Joel Coleman, Jimmy Nelson Paul Kerrison, Chris McLennan and others.

We also feature the historic pictures of legendary photographer Frank Hurley, who journeyed through PNG in 1922. Hurley was most famous for his Antarctic photos, especially his iconic images of Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* stuck in pack ice.

His PNG photos are no less intriguing and have kindly been made available to us by the Australian Museum.

Our thanks also go to the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority for access to its vast library of images.

ROBERT UPE, Editor

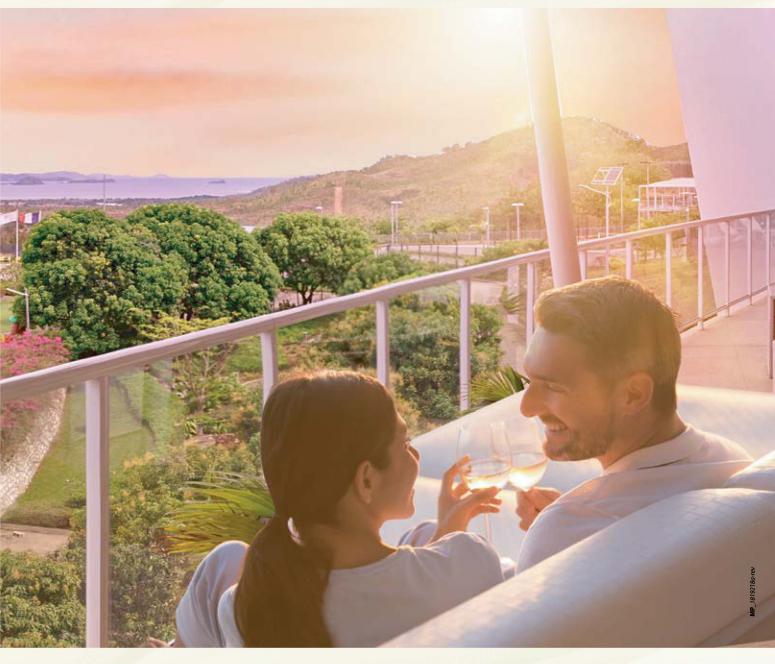
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A MESSAGE FROM AIR NIUGINI'S MANAGING DIRECTOR



Air Niugini has been bringing the world to Papua New Guinea since it was founded back in 1973, two years before PNG achieved its independence.

As the country has grown and developed, so has our role as the country's major domestic and international airline — and a champion of PNG's tourism sector.

Air Niugini — together with its low-cost subsidiary Link PNG — carries around 1.4 million passengers each year, while Air Niugini Tours makes it easy for travellers to enjoy PNG's key tourism centres. Founded in 2016, our Business Travel Centre has also rapidly become PNG's leading travel agency.

As well as having PNG's most extensive domestic air service, with sales offices across the country, Air Niugini now flies regularly to and from most of the major centres in the Asia-Pacific region, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Sydney and Manila.

As you will agree as you read this annual — a sister publication to *Paradise*, Air Niugini's inflight magazine — PNG is a beautiful country with truly unique fauna and flora and many rich and varied cultures. It offers a range of travel experiences that are now recognised by leading travel guides globally as without parallel anywhere in the world.

I hope *PA* — *Paradise Annual 2019* — inspires you to explore and enjoy more of our extraordinary country in the company of Air Niugini.

Alan Milne Managing Director



BEST

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TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR FIRE WORKS STRUCTURE, ASINI VILLAGE, SALAMAUA, MOROBE PROVINCE XPO

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EXPOR1



A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT

PNG has the potential to be one of the world's most intriguing destinations. David James reports.

PNG TOURISM AT A GLANCE

- Cultural activities are one of the main reasons for tourists to come to PNG
- Visitors spend an average of PGK7529 per trip
- The National Government has plans to attract
 1.5 million tourists to PNG annually by 2030
- 53% of visitors are from Australia

A study of Papua New Guinea tourism by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has found that, for the first six months of 2018, there were 34,600 visitors to the country. They spent a total of \$US78 million (PGK260 million), an average of \$US2262 (PGK7529) per trip.

The study looked at tourism numbers between January and June last year. It found that visitors spent on average PGK757 per day.

Almost two-thirds of visitors were male. Forty per cent had a household income under \$US50,000, 34 per cent between \$US50-100,000, and 26 per cent over \$US100,000.

'Culture and history' was nominated as the top reason for holiday visitors to choose PNG.

The IFC found that 54 per cent of visitors to PNG in the first six months of 2018 arrived for business purposes. Thirty per cent were tourists, and 16 per cent arrived to visit family and friends.

The top five industry sectors that benefit from tourism are: accommodation (\$US31.2 million; PGK103 million), aviation (\$US23.7



Opposite: Jungle travel by river. Above: Joining in at a cultural show. Below: Kidding around at the beach. Bottom: A show of tradition. Right: Hanging out with the locals. Bottom right: Sharing a photo. Pictures: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority, Robert Upe









million; PGK79 million), food and beverage (\$US8.3 million; PGK27 million), local transport (\$US3.8 million; PGK12.7 million) and domestic travel (\$US3.6 million; PGK12 million).

The IFC believes the tourism market has potential to grow: "With the right investments in infrastructure, capacity building, product development and marketing and tackling regulatory issues, PNG could receive an extra \$US117 million (PGK391 million) per year in niche market tourism revenues and position itself as a globally recognised tourism destination."

Fifty three per cent of visitors were from the Australian market, which is predominantly a mature, male market with most visitors aged between 40 and 70.

The New Zealand holiday tourism market is described as 'split'. "There is a grouping of younger travellers and a grouping of older travellers.

The North America holiday market is the highest yielding and oldest market for Papua New Guinea. "Given the demographics, high spend and low rates of interest in returning, PNG is seen as a once-ina-lifetime destination. With the older demographic, accessibility is likely a concern for this market.

"For North American visitors, cultural activities are important. Travel agents play an important role in marketing the destination and booking travel."

The high-yielding European holiday market has the longest average length of stay.

PNG's National Government has set out long-term plans to promote the industry. The aim is to achieve 1.5 million tourists per year by 2030.

The Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, recently said that the government is aiming to build at least 2000 beds in Kokopo.

The Tokua airport (New Rabaul airport) is to be upgraded for direct flights from Australia, China and Japan.

PARADISE 13 ANNUAL 2019

TOURISM

BRIGHT Prospects

Hotel boss Marc Ehler says PNG has the right ingredients to attract more visitors. David James reports.

Papua New Guinea has untapped tourism potential, according to Marc Ehler, the group general manager of Coral Sea Hotels. "The leisure and adventure tourism prospects in PNG are enormous," he says.

Ehler, who joined the Steamships-owned Coral Sea Hotels chain at the start of 2018, has visited 70 countries and worked in many of them.

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"WHEN YOU GO TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, YOU GET TO KNOW THE REAL CULTURE, AND DURING THE CULTURAL SHOWS TOURISTS LOVE A SING-SING AND TO DANCE ALONG."

He says a comparison with the Maldives and Seychelles is instructive.

"They have sun, sea and sand only and they are hugely successful in tourism. Here, PNG has so much more: the fauna and the flora, the bird life, the mountains, game fishing, extraordinary diving, the cultural shows, and the tribes. You can truly experience 'a million different journeys' as the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority's slogan suggests.

"PNG's culture is very natural. It is not staged, and that is very unique.

"When you go to the countryside, you get to know the real culture, and during the cultural shows tourists love a *sing-sing* and to dance along," he says.

Ehler notes that PNG currently has niche tourism markets, which focus on mountaineering and diving and history, with the Kokoda Trail being one of the most famous attractions.

The new undersea cable from Australia to PNG will also be important for both the business and tourism markets, according to Ehler.

"Obviously, you want to really experience the destination, so connectivity at first may not be that important.

"But, later on, you will want to send the pictures of the amazing nature and underwater corals and ocean life, people and cultural shows you have taken."

He says competition among hotels in Port Moresby has increased.

With the new Hilton Port Moresby opening last year, he says the PNG capital now has about 2200 rooms of "decent international quality".



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ADVENTURE



A LEAKY BOAT Around New Guinea

3 MEN, 13 MONTHS, 6300 KILOMETRES

A Danish adventurer and his PNG crew have completed the first recorded circumnavigation of New Guinea in a traditional sailing canoe. Richard Andrews reports on the momentous voyage.

High seas, capsizes, crocodiles, treacherous reefs, bureaucracy and even testy sea gods. Thor Jensen and his crew faced many challenges during the first recorded circumnavigation of New Guinea in a traditional sailing canoe.

Starting and ending in the Tawali Resort, Milne Bay, the Danish artist's 6300-kilometre voyage lasted an epic 13 months and 21 days.

Jensen, 36, has kayaked around Denmark, explored the jungles of Venezuela and sailed across the Atlantic. But PNG has held a special fascination for him since childhood.

"I heard about these great canoes and wanted to learn from local people how to sail one, just like the Melanesians have done for centuries," he says. Jensen went to Milne Bay where he teamed up with master sailors Job Siyae and brothers Sanakoli and Justin John, who helped him find the right craft for the job.

"I bought the *Tawali Pasana* from the brothers' uncle on Basilaki Island," says Jensen. "It's a traditional wooden canoe, about nine metres long and two metres wide, powered only by paddle and wind.

"The canoe was made using ancient methods, but fitted with nylon ropes and sail. A symbol to me of PNG's journey from past to present."

> Above: Danish adventurer Thor Jensen. Right: The *Tawali Pasana,* powered by paddle and wind. Pictures: Paul Kerrison, Thor Jensen





Above: All hands on deck. Below: Freshly caught seafood for dinner. Bottom: Justin and Sanakoli John cutting out replacement parts for their traditional sailing canoe. Right: Sanakoli John snorkels over a reef to collect seafood.







ADVENTURE



Setting off from Tawali, the first 600 kilometres were mostly smooth sailing, but then trouble struck near Lae, when the canoe needed a new outrigger. The crew spent six days in Bukawa village where locals searched for a suitable tree and helped build the replacement part.

Then, Siyae developed a medical condition after two months at sea and had to return home, leaving his three friends to continue the journey.

"It was a sad moment," says Jensen. "Job Siyae was my first contact in PNG and it is to his credit that this expedition got off to a good start."

North of Lae, on the notorious Popongara Reef, high winds stirred up huge waves that filled the boat and almost sank it. Jensen had to jump out and climb on the outrigger to stabilise the canoe, while the others started bailing. A desperate search followed for a place to land on the rocky coast.

"Legend has it that the reef is guarded warily by a halfserpent, half-man," says Jensen. "Sanakoli warned me to be respectful and paddle in silence as we looked for shelter.

"It was good advice. There's still a lot of magic in PNG and we made it safely to a beautiful bay near a village called Wandukai."

News of the adventurers travelled ahead of them throughout the journey, by internet, cell phone and bush telegraph. Jensen says people all along the way were very protective and welcoming.

"We'd arrive at a village in the evening, meet the chief and be offered accommodation. People would give us bananas, coconuts and smoked fish, which we'd exchange for coffee "NORTH OF LAE, ON THE NOTORIOUS POPONGARA REEF, HIGH WINDS STIRRED UP HUGE WAVES THAT FILLED THE BOAT AND ALMOST SANK IT. A DESPERATE SEARCH FOLLOWED FOR A PLACE TO LAND ON THE ROCKY COAST."

and sugar. I also developed a taste for local yams and taro."

Warned of high seas near the mouth of the Sepik River, the crew decided to sail 40 kilometres off the coast and landed on Bam Island, one of a string of volcanic islands off PNG's northeast.

"We hopped from one island to the next, amazed by all the different cultures and communities that seldom receive visitors and live almost unsupported by the outside world."

But sailing from Vanimo into the Indonesian waters of West Papua, it was modern culture that created one of the journey's biggest obstacles. The *Tawali Pasana* was stopped in Jayapura by local authorities and turned back to PNG because some paperwork was missing.

The John brothers returned to Milne Bay to see their families, while Jensen spent two months in Vanimo securing



the necessary documents. He also ran out of money and had to chase sponsorship.

When the voyage continued, West Papua offered further challenges, especially the two months the crew spent travelling along the southern mangrove coast.

"It was scary to sleep in river mouths because of the crocodiles," he says. "Sometimes we had to wade through mud and murky water to reach the shore and I constantly had foot infections."

When the crew stopped for supplies at the island of Yos Sudarso, they hit another problem: water suitable for drinking was hard to find. However, the place had its upside.

"We were able to eat plenty of mud crabs," says Jensen. "That was good, as there was not much other food on that stretch."

Named after Thor, the Norse god, Jensen describes himself as "a relaxed guy who doesn't have the same temper" as the hammer-wielding deity. However, the hardships, dangers, lack of finances and long months spent together started taking their toll on the three modern-day Vikings towards the end of the journey.

"It's been one long battle and I have to admit we were getting a bit tired of each other," says Jensen. "But amazingly enough, we only had two fallouts while travelling." All that was forgotten on October 20, 2017, when the three men reunited with Job Siyae and arrived back at the starting point.

"It was amazing and unreal to paddle the last hundred metres to the jetty of Tawali Resort," says Jensen.

"Traditional dancers were beating *kundu* drums and spear-thrusting warriors shouted as we arrived in a spray of champagne. I felt relief and pride having survived what was an arduous, magical and historic odyssey."

Jensen describes Justin and Sanakoli John as "national heroes", saying their remarkable sailing skills honour their forefathers and have created a legacy that will inspire future generations to value their traditions.

The Danish artist is now working on a book and documentary that he hopes will inspire more people to visit PNG.

"It's a beautiful country that's largely unspoiled. We believe tourism will create income for villages and incentives to protect the environment."

To read more about the voyage, see thordox.dk.

Above: Thor Jensen and his crew, warmly greeted at the Kenu and Kundu Festival at Alotau.



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Travel Advice - Tours

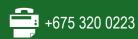
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PNG GEMS

7 ESSENTIAL PNG EXPERIENCES

Award-winning travel writer Ben Groundwater dives in at the deep end and picks out some of PNG's most irresistible adventures.

Visitors feel it the minute they touch down in Port Moresby, the moment the aeroplane doors open and they step out onto the tarmac. There's an air of adventure that permeates Papua New Guinea, a sense that here, a courageous soul will find what he or she is looking for.

There's so much about PNG that appeals to the adventure travel set. It's the landscapes: from densely forested mountains to tropical islands, volcanic fjords to underwater wonderlands. It's also the culture: with more than 1000 distinct tribal groups, and 852 spoken languages, this is a country that fascinates. And of course, PNG's appeal is also in its activities: from long hikes through the jungle to scuba diving under the sea, kayaking in pristine waters to exploring urban and rural life.

Essentially, there's never a dull moment in PNG. And if visitors have the right sense of adventure, the willingness to step outside of their comfort zone and discover the activities that truly make this country tick, they'll love every minute of it.

"DEACON'S REEF IS HOME TO SOME OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR CORAL ON THE PLANET, VAST WALLS OF THE STUFF THAT REACH 30 METRES TO THE SEA FLOOR BELOW."

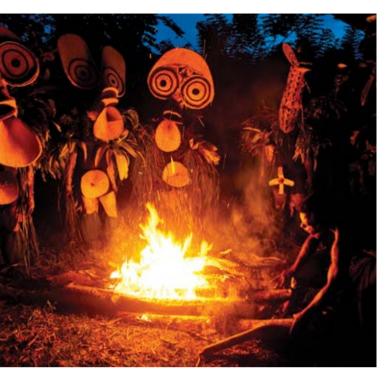
DIVE IN MILNE BAY

For scuba divers, to describe PNG as an 'adventure' would be to sell it short. Because PNG is paradise. There's pretty much nowhere else in the world that offers diving of the same quality – nowhere you'll find the same mix of hard and soft corals, with colours so perfectly visible in clear ocean; nowhere you'll discover such abundant sea life ranging from the tiniest, most colourful nudibranch (a sort of neon mollusc that you'll spot gracefully gliding by) to the largest pelagic fish, or World War 2 wrecks resting in shallow water. And you certainly won't find a spot like this that you'll be sharing with barely another soul.

There's excellent diving in the Milne Bay area, where many divers tend to begin their underwater adventure at a site called Deacon's Reef, which is just 10 minutes by boat from the dive resort Tawali (accessible from Alotau). Deacon's Reef is home to some of the most spectacular coral on the planet, vast walls of the stuff that reach 30 metres to the sea floor below, giant underwater gorges that divers can fin through as soft corals twist and wave on either side. Nearby Barracuda Point, meanwhile, is a fish-lover's paradise, where schools of parrotfish, angelfish, sturgeons and gropers battle for space with the eponymous barracuda.

WATCH THE BAINING FIRE DANCERS There's a thump of wood on wood, a cadence that echoes in the jungle, its power amplified by the pitch darkness around. Thump, thump, thump. That's all you hear. You trick yourself into thinking you can see it, too. And then it happens: a figure ducks out from the darkness, strikes a match and lights the giant pile of sticks and leaves in the centre of the clearing, the bonfire catches, and the Baining fire dancers appear.

Deacon's Reef at Milne Bay. Picture: Diveplanit



Baining fire dancers in the thick of the flames. Picture: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority

This is a ritual played out in the province of East New Britain, up in the mountains to the south of Kokopo. It's a richly held tradition, a ceremony conducted by the Baining tribe that the lucky few visitors also get to witness.

You wait in that clearing in the forest as the bonfire builds in intensity, until finally the dancers run in, their legs and torsos human, but their heads huge and ethereal, their eyes boggling wildly in the dancing light. One by one, the dancers crash into the fire, stomping on it, dancing in it, revelling and fighting it.

These fire dances are a ritual of celebration and obeisance, an initiation ceremony and an appeasement of the gods. They're also unique to PNG, and the journey from Kokopo up into the mountains, in the dead of night, to witness a ceremony is something visitors never forget.

STAY WITH LOCALS ON AN ISLAND There are no hotels in Maira, a small village on the island of Mioko. There's a small collection of wooden houses, a brightly painted school and a footy field. There's a beach where locals hang out and chat. It takes about two hours to get to Maira from Kokopo, the capital of East New Britain, but it seems another world away.



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Maira village children at play at Mioko Island. Picture: Robert Upe

Gone are the trappings of modern life (save for a generator to charge everyone's phones), and in their place is tropical bliss, the likes of which people travel a long way to enjoy.

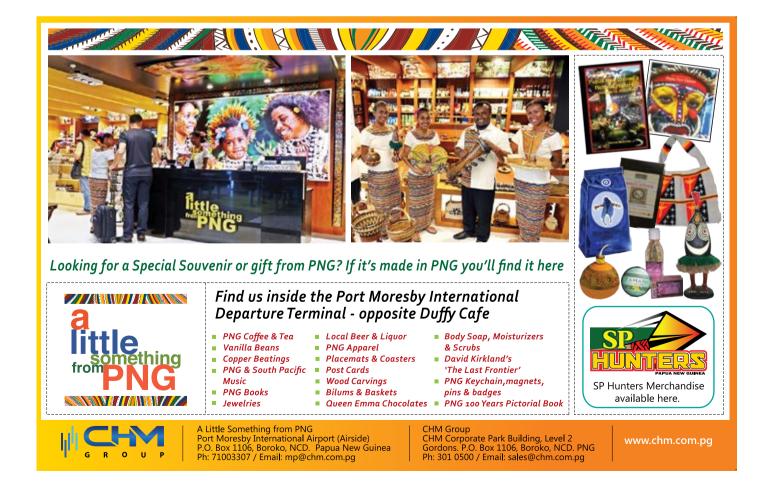
Your accommodation here: someone's house, on a thin mattress below a mosquito net, on a wooden floor. Your activities: wander the village, sitting with groups of women as they weave mats, kicking a footy with the local kids, resting under trees and sipping from fresh coconuts. That's about it. Mioko Island is a time warp, a place where shells are occasionally used as currency. Relax and just soak it up.

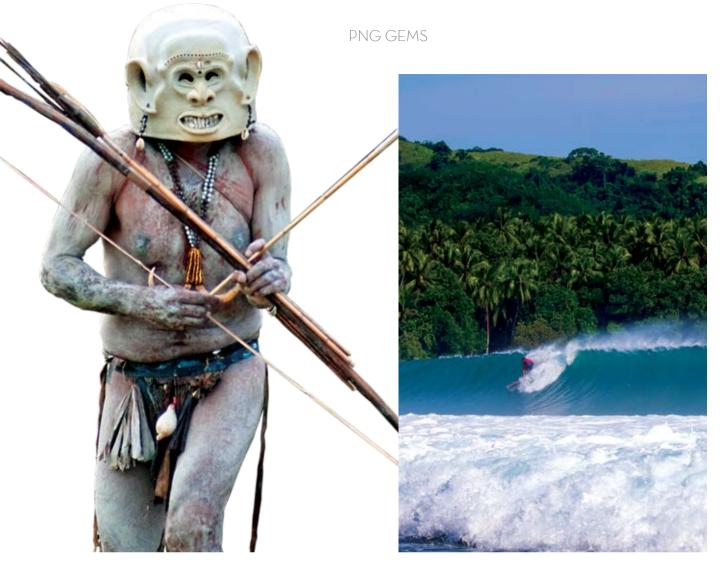
JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT THE GOROKA SHOW

Brilliantly plumed people from many different tribes, gathered together, their outfits imposing and impressive, their attitudes proud but welcoming – these are the first images that come to mind for many when they picture PNG. Their photos are everywhere, because they're so striking.

This gathering is a highlight of the Goroka Show, an annual cultural festival in the Eastern Highlands, an event that draws members of more than 100 tribes, who come together to display their culture and to share in the traditions of others.

It feels like an adventure just being in Goroka, far up in





the mountains, a place that's so distinct and so isolated from the rest of the country. However, at show time in September, the town comes into its own, filling up with performers and onlookers from all around. Don't miss the *sing-sings*, the traditional dances and rituals at which those beautifully costumed performers – clad in feathers and face paint, beads and chalk – strut their stuff.

HIKE THE KOKODA TRAIL

This isn't just one of PNG's great adventures – it's one of the world's great adventures, and it's a journey that's become close to the heart for many visitors, particularly Australians.

What was once a World War 2 battlefield, where Allied troops repelled the advances of the Japanese as they sought to capture Port Moresby, has now become a rite of passage for modern travellers, a way to respect the sacrifices of the soldiers while having an adventure of your own.

Hiking the Kokoda Trail is no picnic. It's a 96-kilometre slog along an undulating and sometimes muddy trail that leads into the heart of the PNG jungle. You're looking at about eight or nine days to complete this arduous journey, with full days of hiking, and long nights spent in tents resting aching limbs. It's tough, yes – but the scenery is beautiful, the



Top left: Asaro Mud Men are a feature at the Gorokoa Show. Picture: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority Top: Catching a wave at Tupira. Picture: Jason Pini, Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea Above: A river crossing on the Kokoda Trail. Picture: Kokoda Treks

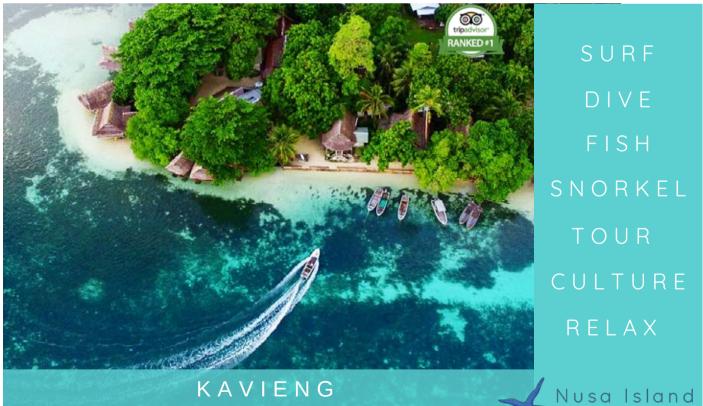
people you share this experience with may be friends for life, and the feeling of achievement is worth every ache and pain.

SURF THE LONELY WAVES OF TUPIRA There isn't a surfer alive who doesn't dream of a perfect break without anyone else on it. And Tupira, in the province of Madang, offers that very place. The surf culture is in its infancy in this northern coastal village, where there's just one surf club, which caps its occupancy at 12 surfers. Those lucky few have their choice of seven breaks, all the sort of clean, barrelling waves that surfers picture when they go to sleep at night. There's a few right-handers, a few left-handers, some that work every day of the week, others that need a little more swell to really turn it on. Regardless, you're almost guaranteed a good ride in Tupira any day between October and April.

And of course, the adventure doesn't begin and end in the ocean. This is a part of PNG that's rarely visited by tourists, a rustic spot with friendly locals and beautiful landscape. Most surfers stay at Tupira Surf Club, which doubles as a guesthouse, eating food prepared (and often caught) by the locals, going out fishing on quiet days, and just hanging out in the nearby village.



Fjord country in Oro Province. Picture: Matt Krumins



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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KAYAK PNG'S FJORDS

PNG has fjords. That's the first thing to get your head around, the first surprise of many who visit the beautiful area around Cape Nelson in the northern Oro Province.

Here, a series of deep fjords have been carved out by volcanic movement over millions of years and, these days, the pristine waterways are perfect for exploring by sea kayak.

Many adventurers choose to base themselves in Tufi, a small village (as well as the name of the resort, tufidive. com) on the tip of Cape Nelson, which was once a British government station, and which now provides easy access for exploring the fjords.

Each waterway snakes its way through steep, densely forested mountains, the pathways cut long ago by lava flow. Villagers paddle past in wooden dug-out canoes. Groups of divers head to the reef.

In a kayak, the pace is gentle and the scenery spectacular. You call in and visit small villages that barely see a western visitor all year. You paddle into estuaries and explore inlets. You spend the night in homestays in tiny towns. It's an adventure like no other.

KEY CONTACTS, DATES

- · Tawali Resort, Milne Bay, see tawali.com.
- Baining fire dancers can be seen at the Mask Festival at Kokopo on July 10–12.
- A homestay at Maira on Mioko Island can be booked with villagehuts.com or Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort, see kbb.com.pg.
- The Goroka Show is September 14–15. Multiple tour companies operate trips to the show.
- The Kokoda Trail is best between May and October. Multiple operators take trips, see kokodatrackauthority.com.
- Tupira Surf Club, tel. +675 7349 3169, see facebook. com/tupiramira.
- Tufi Resort, see tufidive.com.

Ben Groundwater is a travel writer, blogger and author who has visited 60 countries, including PNG. He was named the 2015 travel writer of the year by the Australian Society of Travel Writers.

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CAVING

TALES FROM THE UNDERWORLD

An expedition has journeyed deep into the cave systems of the Southern Highlands. Richard Andrews reports on the subterranean adventure.

Sacred grottoes housing spirits that protect the unborn; strange creatures; a subterranean lake with healing powers; dark unexplored rivers; mysterious wall carvings that explain Creation; storytellers branded by fire.

That's not a Tolkien epic or a *Game of Thrones* script. They're images contained in a report that describes a caving expedition in the Southern Highlands.

Stephen Read and a team of 14 'sporting scientists' explored and surveyed dozens of unmapped caves in the 1200-metre high Darai Plateau, a largely uninhabited area of dense rainforest that extends at least 70 kilometres southeast from Mount Bosavi.

The expedition followed reconnaissance by a smaller group in 2011 on the foothills of Mount Bosavi – a journey inspired by a BBC documentary called *Lost Land of the Volcano*.

"We were conscious we had only scratched the surface of the area back in 2011," says Read, 35. "The team returned home and then devoted 18 months to finding funds and members for a second expedition."

Over the past decade, the Belfastbased adventurer has chalked up new routes and first ascents in Ireland, climbed icy slopes across Europe, the US and Scotland, and clambered through caves in China and Albania. However, the PNG expeditions were the fulfilment of a boyhood dream.

"What adventure-minded youngster wouldn't want to spend a month or two trekking an exotic rainforest on an extinct volcano?" he says. "Mount Bosavi is one of the last remaining wild places on earth and a future UNESCO World Heritage site."

Read credits Australian naturalist Paul O'Dowd, and local Kosua villagers, for the success of the expeditions, which have mapped a total of 60 caves and more than 15 kilometres of passage.

"The Kosua organised logistics, guided us and helped us find the caves," he says. "We would have been lost without them. There were no paths."

To reach ground zero, the team chartered a Twin Otter in Mendi and flew from the provincial capital to a grassy landing strip outside the remote village of Fogama'iu. A traditional welcome awaited.

"All the travel and logistical stresses, nerves and anticipation soon melted into the smooth rhythmic beat of the *kundu* drums," says Read.

"Our first days in Fogama'iu focused on *tok tok* negotiations with elders and landowners. We also set up Paradise Camp, which we named because of the abundance of coconuts and pineapples, as well as the crystalblue bathing pool."

The camp was soon exchanged for arduous jungle treks, bat-filled

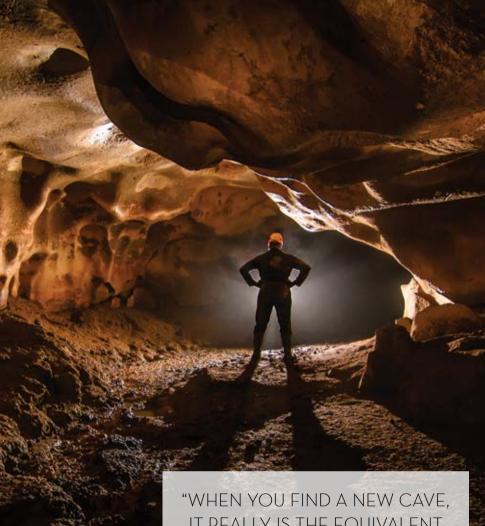


limestone chambers and caves that ranged from dark, wet, crawlingspaces to the awe-inspiring threekilometre Hayamaene Cave.

The team combined the local climbing-down-branches technique with high-tech methods using nylon rope, solar-powered lights and satellite phones.

"We managed to avoid any great sickness, injuries or foot rot," says Read. "The worst ailments were mosquito bites and leeches. Also, many boots died during the expedition."

According to Read, the experience was like no other. "It's a cliche, but when you find a new cave, it really is the equivalent of being the first person on the moon."



WHEN YOU FIND A NEW CAVE, IT REALLY IS THE EQUIVALENT OF BEING THE FIRST PERSON ON THE MOON."





But it's more than being 'first' that motivates Read, who admits that caving lacks the glamour of many other sports.

"The average person is not going to spend two years rolling around in mud and darkness to find some virgin passage," he says. "It's the archaeology, legends and mythology that also attract many cavers."

It's no secret that caves have played a prominent cultural role throughout human history. From prehistoric times

Main picture: Underground in the Southern Highlands. Picture: Brian MacCoitir Top left: Dropping in. Picture: Kayleigh Gilkes Left: Stephen Read floats through a cave. Picture: Axel Hack through ancient civilisations such as Egypt, India and Greece, caves have been associated with many heroes and spiritual figures including Odysseus, Merlin the Magician, high priests, shamans and gurus.

"Caves are similarly significant for the Kosua," says Read. "They were familiar with many in the area.

"We saw caves with wall carvings that depicted Creation and legendary heroes. Others were homes for mythological creatures, or meeting places with the bodies of ancestors. Some caves are associated with fertility and are reserved for women to give birth, surrounded by protective spirits."

Caves also mark land boundaries for different clans and are a source of protein in the form of flying foxes, a Kosua delicacy.

"However, what really blew me away was the farewell *sing-sing*," says Read.

"Three villages gathered at sunset in their fantastic costumes and celebrated all night, with elders chanting, singing and telling stories that were handed down.

"Sometimes people are so moved, they start crying. In that case, tradition demands they take a flame and brand the back of the person who made them cry.

"The more scars elders and Big Men display, the more they're respected for their skills and tribal memory. To see that in practice was spine-tingling."

Back in Ireland, Read and the team are working to encourage ecotourism in the Bosavi region to help the Kosua preserve their culture and environment.

"We have already established a cooperative with guest houses and a designated itinerary to the more accessible caves. We met teenage boys who are keen to act as guides and use the money they earn for school fees," Read says.

"I can't wait to go back."

Origin Papua New Guinea organises expeditions to Mount Bosavi. See originpng.com.

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MY PNG

ESSAYS FROM THE HEART

Four Papua New Guineans write about a part of the country that they know and love.



A GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY

BY RUTH BIHORO

In the early 1920s, Salamaua was unknown to the outside world. My grandfather, Bumbu Agi, lived in the comfort of this paradise of white sandy beaches, swaying coconut palms, sparkling blue sea and colourful sea life.

That was until World War 2 took away the peace and turned his paradise into a horrific battlefield. After the war, during colonisation, grandfather got married, had eight children and started working as a bus driver in Lae.

But Bumbu Agi was not an ordinary bus driver; he owned much land back home, and among this land was the sacred ancestral fishing ground "WE OPENED A PICNIC SPOT ON OUR LAND AND WE HAD AMERICAN-BASED CHRISTIAN POP ARTIST BECKAH SHAE VISIT TO RECORD SOME MUSIC."

Mundaha. Perhaps it was grandfather's exposure to white colonists that led him to believe that he had to preserve his sacred fishing land, and envisioned it to be developed for economic purposes after he returned home.

Despite my conclusion, the mystery still remains of why my grandfather,

in 1986, one year before I was born, took my parents fishing in his sacred ancestral fishing ground and said *wanpela taim yutupla kam wokim sampela wok lo hia* (one day both of you must come and build something here).

Grandfather entrusted to my mother and father, a man from the highlands of Morobe, his land. My mother said my father won his heart through his respect and hard work.

I was born in 1987 and grew up spending all of my holidays with my grandparents until grandmother died in 2002 from a terrible fall. My grandfather lived a full life and, after 11 years away from his beloved wife, died in 2013, peacefully in his sleep.

I was devastated, but his death pushed us to develop Mundaha.

Christmas 2013 marked the start of hard work for my siblings and myself as we camped on the beachfront. The nights were cold and windy and it rained into our canvas at times, but we worked hard each morning to clear the land. We built a house, helped by our uncles from Garaina.

Since 2013, my parents and I have pumped our energies into developing this land, with help from our extended family.

In 2015, we opened a picnic spot on our land and we had American-based Christian pop artist Beckah Shae visit to record some music. In September (2018), we opened some trekking trails that connect the islands along Huoncoastline and into Garaina.

Mundaha is open for business.

"I SEE MY MOTHER. I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY TEARS AS I WALK TOWARDS HER, OPEN ARMS. IT IS THE LONGEST HUG I'VE EVER HAD. IT FEELS SO GOOD TO BE HOME AGAIN."



HOMEWARD BOUND

BY CECI TUNN

It's been 10 years since I've been in Papua New Guinea, the country where I was born and still regard as my first home.

I return with trepidation, mixed with excitement. I left as a wideeyed island girl and return as an independent worldly woman.

My father would have given me one of his big bear hugs if he was here. He would say 'that's my brave little girl', and I would remind him that I'm not so little anymore. I miss him so much. He was the reason for my last visit all those years ago, when cancer took his life.

I arrive in the early hours of the morning in Port Moresby, from Hong Kong, on Air Niugini. As I disembark, I feel a little strange and realise that I am arriving as a foreigner in my motherland.

I feel a tad apprehensive but notice that things haven't changed much. I get a visa upon arrival and the woman serving me gives me a pleasant smile, almost like welcoming me home.

My brother, Igen, greets me in the arrivals lounge. He holds out his hand

to shake mine and I ignore it and give him a hug instead. Then I see my mother. I can't hold back my tears as I walk towards her, open arms. It is the longest hug I've ever had. It feels so good to be home again.

Back at the family house, I have wonderful freshly baked scones for breakfast and later *aigir* (food cooked with hot stones) for lunch. It's the local cuisine from my home province, East New Britain.

After two nights in Port Moresby, I'm back at the airport with my mother, and sister, Jane. As we wait for our flight, the Papua New Guinean Cardinal, Sir John Ribat, walks in. Sir John is a cousin of my father and I haven't seen him in a very long time. We catch up on old times before flying to Hoskins Airport in West New Britain Province.

By late afternoon we're on the road in a hired four-wheel drive. The journey into Kimbe isn't smooth, because of potholes, but I'm enjoying the natural beauty. We check in at a hotel and then go to my younger sister Rachel's house after dark. She has prepared a delicious *mumu*, food cooked in a pit.

The next day, we explore the town.

It's so small that the locals call it 'fourcorner town'. On the outskirts, there are neat rows of palm oil trees. New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL) is the biggest employer in the province.

Walindi Plantation Resort is a charming resort about 30 minutes' drive out of town. It is famed for diving and snorkelling, and is so quiet.

I sit briefly on a log washed ashore, staring out to sea thinking about nothing but the present.

A week flies by and I am back in Port Moresby for the remainder of my holiday.

The capital feels dry and busy compared to Kimbe. Road works and building construction are going on in preparation for APEC.

There is a citywide ban on the sale and chewing of betel nut, but there are still a lot of stains on the newly built roads and pavements.

I can sense the pride in the majority of the people for the improvement in the city, but a few keep spitting.

My trip has been an emotional rollercoaster but I am glad that I have seen my family and met three nephews and one niece for the first time. I return to China filled with contentment. Until the next time ...

MY PNG

AN IDYLLIC COASTAL VILLAGE

BY NALAU BINGEDING

Busamang village, in Morobe Province, is on a stretch of beach south of Lae. The village can be reached by speedboat from the city in 40 to 50 minutes.

Busamang villagers live a laidback lifestyle, engaging in fishing, subsistence gardening and sago making. They sell dry coconuts, fish, turtle eggs and sago to sustain their livelihoods.

The village is endowed with beauty, including long, white sandy beaches, crystal-clear seas with colourful coral and fish species, as well as pristine waterfalls. The crystal-clear seas are perfect for snorkelling and diving.

A NERVOUS JOURNEY

BY THOMAS IVARTURE

My friend, Owen, invited me to visit Poliamba, New Ireland Province, where he lives. I had never ventured alone to a new place, so the idea was 'unsettling', but I wanted to prove my mettle.

At the time, I was in Kokopo, East New Britain, so I decided to take a dinghy from Kokopo across to Namatanai, on the west coast of New Ireland, and then a PMV (public motor vehicle) to Poliamba.

Accompanied by a colleague, Ricky, I made my way to the Kokopo beachfront, where rows of boats line the shore. I was bewildered by the activity: locals were peddling a variety of goods, while skippers were enticing potential passengers.

I had no idea which boat to take, but Ricky was familiar with the scene and confirmed a place for me on a dinghy named Firefly to take me 70 kilometres across Saint George's Channel.

As we gained speed, the dinghy smacked into the water. The skipper traversed the waves at an angle, which made things more comfortable, but slower.

At one point we ran out of fuel, with no land in sight. Calmly, the skipper I know of an expatriate family that regularly goes to Busamang on weekends and public holidays to swim in the sea. The father usually snorkels while the mother gives her two children swimming lessons.

Huge leatherback turtles come ashore from September to December and lay eggs on the beach.

Later, hatchlings break out from the eggs and scurry to the sea.

The scenic Bulaa waterfall is a 20-minute walk from the coastline. Water tumbles off a 15-metre high sandstone cliff, with the cascade creating mists and a thundering sound that can be heard miles away.

Bulaa is an historic place for Busamang village and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New

unplugged the fuel line from the empty canister and plugged it into a reserve canister under a tarpaulin. The tarpaulin also revealed a hole in the stern the size of a 20 toea coin, which was meant to drain excess water in the dinghy while moving.

We weren't moving, and it wasn't draining!

My mind was screaming at the skipper to plug that hole, but on the outside I was calm as a Hindu cow.

As I looked on, the skipper chewed on a buai and lit a rolled-up cigarette. Taking his time, he finally fired up the engine and we continued.

"AT ONE POINT WE RAN OUT OF FUEL, WITH NO LAND IN SIGHT."

A bit past 2pm, we arrived at a beach on the west coast and a truck arrived to take us into Namatanai town.

I asked our driver, Dumlick, if he could point out a PMV going to Kavieng. Being a decent fellow, he made sure I found the right vehicle and even told the driver that I was new here and I was to be let off at Poliamba. Guinea. Bulaa was home to a thriving church-run teachers college for girls in the colonial days. However, the school was moved to what is now the Balob Teachers College in Lae.

Tourists love the beauty and tranquility of the waterfalls.

Busamang has several scenic waterfalls, but the others are much further inland and harder to reach. However, if ecotourism is to become a business venture for the Busamang people, they will have to find ways to make these waterfalls more accessible.

The government of Papua New Guinea is encouraging ecotourism to generate income for the country and some villagers have set up guest houses. However, the number of tourists coming to the village is low.

The sun was getting low as we drove along the Boluminski Highway, with the 15-seater bus casting shadows on the pavement. Music blared from the stereo, but the best part was the orange wonderland created by the setting sun on the sea.

Aptly named bilas peles (beautiful place), New Ireland was truly living up to its reputation.

We crossed several bridges over rivers that flow from the mountains, and eventually darkness fell.

We made several stops, including at a night market where the driver reassured me that we were near Poliamba.

We continued, making several more stops as passengers disembarked. By 10pm I was getting frantic. What if the driver forgot my stop? What if we had passed Poliamba? Where was I going to sleep for the night?

But five hours and 150 kilometres from Namatanai, we pulled into Poliamba.

I looked out, and to my relief saw Owen approaching the bus.

As I disembarked, I could see the beginnings of a smile on his face: "Bro, I was starting to think you were never going to make it."

"So was I, brother! So was I!"

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ENT

THE BEAT GOES ON

Belinda Jackson reports on a musician who is reviving Papuan drum culture.

The sound of the drum is low and heavy, like a heartbeat that rises and falls with the tide. It's the sound of the *kundu*, the traditional drums that once heralded life's milestones throughout Papua New Guinea and West Papua.

"In the past, music always had a function in my village: at ceremonies, festivals, bride prices," says Papua New Guinean-Australian drummer and percussionist Airileke.

But with industrialisation, modernity and introduced religions, the ceremonies are no longer being observed in his village, and the *kundu* – also called *gaba* in his language, Motu – has almost died out in his village and many other urban areas in PNG and West Papua.

"Sadly, some things got left behind that were probably at the time seen as not so relevant. *Gaba* was one of those things."

A drummer by heart and by family tradition, Airileke is on a mission to retain and revive the culture and rhythms of Papuan drums.

The musician's family is from

Gabagaba, an hour south of Port Moresby, a hub of drumming and dance that became famous as a *sing-sing* ground. "That's how our village got the name Gabagaba or 'Drum Drum," he explains.

"So, most people in my village are not surprised that I followed the way to revive the tradition of *gaba*." As a music producer, Airileke has worked with such greats as legendary singers Telek, the late Tony Subam and legendary Australian indigenous band Yothu Yindi, and in 2015 returned to Port Moresby to direct the Pacific Games opening ceremony. One of his latest projects is, Sorong Samarai, the revival and preservation of *gaba*.

"The *gaba* would welcome the *lakatoi* (double-hulled canoes) as they returned from the *hiri* (trade voyages),

we never used it for entertainment," he says.

The drums' shapes, functions and names change around the region: *tifa* in West Papua, *kundu* in PNG's widely spoken Tok Pisin areas, *warup* in the Torres Strait, and *gaba* in his homeland.

"It's the same drum, though the shape varies across the island," he says, describing the cylindrical or hourglass shape of *kundu*, which range from light timber drums of about 80 centimetres in the Momase region, to instruments of up to a metre long in Central Province. And, unlike the European idea of the drummer sitting behind the rest of the band, here the drummer is the dancer.

The handheld drums dictate their drummer's movements: the smaller drums allow for big, energetic moves from the drummer-dancers, while the massive headdresses and larger instruments of the Motuan dancers are married with slower, more graceful actions.

> "Traditionally, it's one man, one *gaba*," says Airileke. "Every man in my village would have his own *gaba* and it was up to him to maintain it and keep it tuned with beeswax, and coconut oil to keep the wood well-maintained." The drum skin was traditionally made from

traditionally made from goanna or file-snake skin, though recently there's been a rise in possum, kangaroo or goat skins, and even rice bags or cloth that's been soaked in mud.

"The secret of the gaba is



its sweet spot," says the drummer, who uses a modern set-up of *kundus* mounted on stands and played with both hands. He has a full range of drums including subs – deep-sounding drums that have subsonic frequencies similar to what you'd hear in a nightclub or in hiphop music – which are up to three metres long.

"They can really shake the earth. But you can't get too excited and hit the *gaba* too hard," he says. "The skins are quite delicate. But if you play it with the right velocity, it will sing ... that's the sweet spot." Ask him the best drummer he's heard, and Airileke names his late grandfather, Boga Kwarara (aka Bubu Billy). "His *gaba* was always immaculately tuned and would resonate throughout the entire village," he recalls.

Airileke also learned from dancer, storyteller and drummer Markham Galut from Morobe Province, and he has travelled through West Papua and PNG collecting rhythms and songs, learning the different styles.

For his Sorong Samarai project, Airileke teamed up with PNG reggae duo Twin Tribe and a Papuan 'supercrew' including dancers the Roem brothers of Wamena, PNG rapper Sprigga Mek, PNG singer Jagarizza, rising Indonesia star Ukam Maniczy of Sorong in West Papua and Richard Mogu of Mailu.

They travelled from Sorong in the far west of West Papua to Samarai in Milne Bay Province, the far eastern point of PNG, crossing the Papuan landmass in canoes, dinghies, buses, aircraft and by foot in a journey that took – on and off – about three months.

The group has also performed across Australia, including at the Sydney Opera House, and in Vanuatu, blending traditional and high-tech electronic instruments.

"I believe the voice of our ancestors speaks through the *gaba*," he says. "I also believe it is the key to our future. It is the living voice of our identity and our sovereignty."

Left: Drummer Airileke. Above: Storyteller and drummer Markham Galut.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

We look back on some of our favourite photos to appear in Paradise magazine.





Below: Papua New Guinean performers from Chimbu find their rhythm at the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival in the Solomon Islands last year. Picture: David Kirkland Opposite: A tropical silhouette on a remote atoll in Manus Province. Paradise reported on the atolls in July-August 2018. Picture: Joel Coleman







Above: APEC Haus lights up in Port Moresby. Paradise ran extensive coverage about APEC, the biggest event to ever come to PNG, in the November-December 2018 and January-February 2019 issues. Picture: Rocky Roe Right: A model struts out at the Pacific Runway Show in Sydney, Australia, in late 2018, showing off one of the creations of Papua New Guinean fashion designer, Tabu Pelei-Warupi. The Tabu label was a big hit at the show.

Picture: Dusk Devi



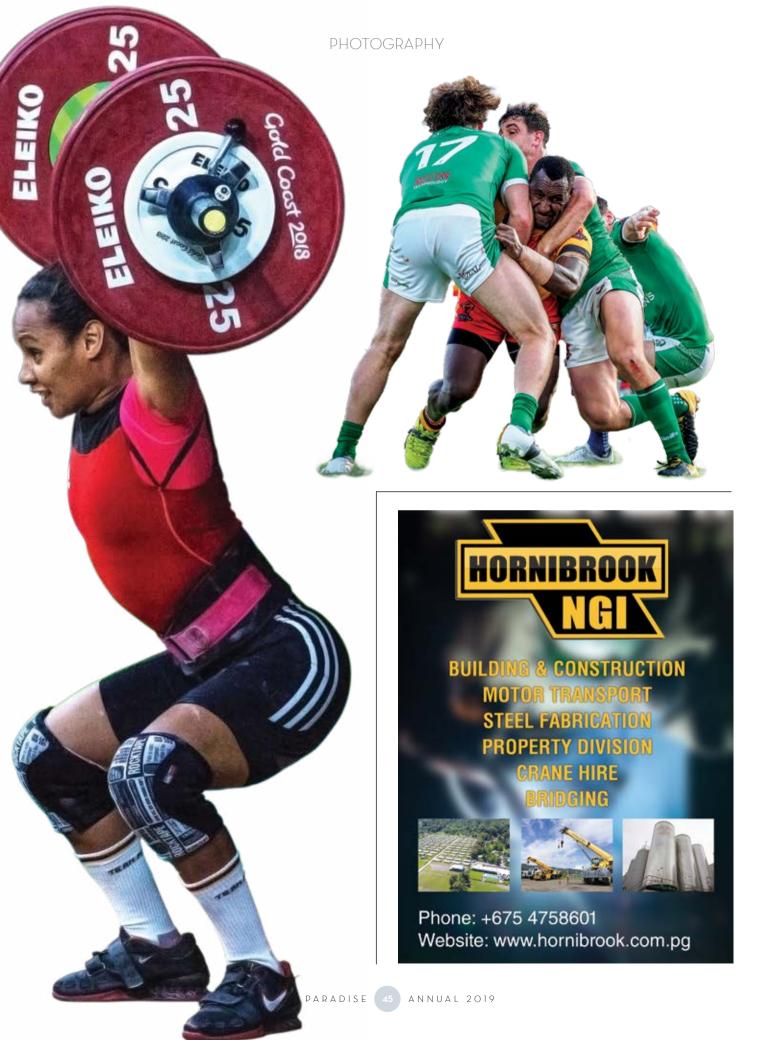




Left: Flag bearer Vero Nime leads Papua New Guinea's Commonwealth Games team onto the stadium for the start of the Games on the Gold Coast, in Australia, in April 2018. Picture: PNG Olympic Committee Above: Naomi Kaupa scores Papua New Guinea's first-ever try at a women's Rugby League World Cup. Paradise reported on the World Cup and the rise of the Orchids women's team in March-April 2018. Picture: Benard Poma Right: PNG weightlifter Dika Toua wins silver at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in Australia. PNG won three medals overall, its best ever result at the Games. Paradise reported on the

event in the July-August 2018 issue. Picture: PNG Olympic Committee

Far right: Papua New Guinean powerhouse Willie Minoga pushes into an Irish tackle at the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. *Paradise* reported on the event in the January-February 2018 issue. Picture: Dave Buller





Paradise reported on the work of British photographer Jimmy Nelson in the May-June 2018 issue of the magazine. Nelson has come to prominence for his glamorous portraits of indigenous communities around the world. In this photo, he has snapped Huli Wigmen in the Tari Valley. Picture: Jimmy Nelson

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MADANG RESORT



A successful fishing expedition. Two boys from Hangan village on Bougainville's Buka Island pose with their freshly caught reef fish. The boys were featured in the May-June 2018 issue of *Paradise*. Picture: Bruno Louey

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'ET' CASTS A LINE IN PNG

Former rugby league player and keen fisherman Andrew 'ET' Ettingshausen is lured to West New Britain to chase big-fighting bass, but he is equally captivated by the vibrant culture and volcanic wilderness.

The surface lure touches down in an eddy beside an upturned tree. It bobs gently for a moment. Then there is an explosion of water as it is taken, and in a heartbeat a giant bass is heading back to its lair.

I lock my thumb onto the spool and lean back hard on the rod, applying all the pressure I can. The bass, with its tail half out of the water, thrashes like crazy as it pulls my rod dead straight, a position you never want to be in.

No rod flex means I have no control as the big fish surges towards the safety of the upturned tree. I hold on tight and finally get a small wind on the reel.

The fish, under extreme pressure, kicks again, but this time I am able to get a bend in the rod. After five short pumps and winds, I have her head pointed the right way.

Another dive sees the big fish bury into weed. It is now or never as my guide, Riccard Reimann, motors his long boat towards the fish. I keep maximum pressure on her and after a 30-second stalemate the huge fish is only a couple of metres away.

I yell for the net and amongst a scoop of weed the giant bass slides part way inside. Half the fish is hanging out of the net, so we have to cradle her thick tail, but that is enough to bring her on board. We yell and scream as if we have won lotto and just stare in disbelief at the big spot-tail bass lying before us.

My cameraman has got the strike on film, so I know the footage will be outstanding for my Australian fishing show, *Escape Fishing with ET*.

A couple of quick photos are taken before I ease the 18-kilogram fish back into the water. It doesn't take long before she builds up the energy to kick away, back to her river home to live another day.

Now that's one Papua New Guinea encounter I'll never forget.







Opposite: Andrew 'ET' Ettingshausen. Top: The smouldering Ulawun volcano. Middle: Baia Sportfishing Lodge. Above: 'ET' with rugby league teammate Benny Elias.

Reimann has guided me many times at his Baia Sportfishing Lodge. Each time, the adventure has been one to remember.

We have flown with Air Niugini all the way from Brisbane, via Port Moresby, to Hoskins Airport in West New Britain, to get to the lodge.

Joining me on this adventure are some mates who have never been to PNG before, so I am excited by what I know will unfold on our week-long fishing trip.

The journey from Kimbe, the closest town, to the fishing lodge takes three hours by car and two hours by boat.

Volcanoes rise from the ground, standing tall like beacons to a lost world. Among them is the 2234-metre smouldering Ulawun. As we journey, we pass remote villages where subsistence farming is a way of life.

The flat-calm seas that surround West New Britain are deep, with underwater seamounts forming unique habitats for a large range of aquatic species. Shark and marlin are top apex predators, followed by sailfish, yellow fin tuna, wahoo, mackerel, mahi mahi, dogtooth and trevally.

"A COUPLE OF QUICK PHOTOS ARE TAKEN BEFORE I EASE THE 18-KILOGRAM FISH BACK INTO THE WATER. IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE SHE BUILDS UP THE ENERGY TO KICK AWAY, BACK TO HER RIVER HOME TO LIVE ANOTHER DAY."

We are here, though, to target a different kind of species endemic to the northern rivers of PNG. Black bass, with their close cousin, the spot-tail bass, thrive in the warm rivers that run almost fresh right to the sea.

A large mountain range runs the length of New Britain, and during each tropical wet season thunderous clouds pour water across this lush landscape.

Throughout the rest of the year freshwater continues to stream from underground springs in abundance.

Friendly locals welcome us at the lodge, and with rods in hand we still have time to wet a line at the end of day one. With a party of seven, plus two guides, our first stop is after a short boat ride to Torio River. Everyone is super excited and some large dead trees washed down river by monsoon storms are our first port of call. Big predators such as black bass love hiding in areas like this that make it easy for them to ambush their prey.

FISHING



A crocodile catches the sun.

Casting along the dead timber brings instant success. My old Kangaroo rugby league teammate, Benny Elias, is the first to hook a small black bass. Elias, not being used to fishing tropical water, is surprised at the power of the bass. At a couple of kilograms, he worries how he can pull a bigger fish on board, but he is on fire and lands five fish, including a mangrove jack.

Heading for home, we come across foaming white water in the deep, where large yellow fin tuna are chasing schools of baitfish. We catch one of the yellow fin and take it home for dinner. A trip like this with friends, to a destination as unique as PNG, is an adventure of a lifetime. We are six city slickers, who spend days on end battling peak-hour traffic in builtup suburbia and talking business on mobile phones. It's a different world at the lodge, where each night we talk about our awesome day and the sights we have seen.

One day, we come across two crocodiles, ending any thoughts of swimming in the crystal-clear water, even though the crocs hardly move while villagers collect mussels nearby.

After catching many big bass over the years, I am enthralled to see the city slickers battle these mighty fish. In this setting, so magnificent and vibrant, you can feel the beating heart of the jungle surrounding us.

The boys are doing well, holding their own against a powerful species that has been widely recognised as one of the toughest fighting fish, pound for pound, that can be caught anywhere in the world.

Lifetime memories are made during the week and new friendships are forged. A trip to Baia Sportfishing Lodge will be one you won't forget. While the great fishing is a bonus, it's about experiencing a new culture and a feeling of freedom that ignites senses in you that have long been forgotten.



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EXPEDITION

A STEP BACK IN TIME

Tim Griffiths retraces a 1922 expedition to PNG by the famed Antarctic photographer Frank Hurley, who ventured deep into the Lake Murray region in Western Province.



When world-famous photographer Frank Hurley and Australia Museum scientist Allan McCulloch sailed their ketch *Eureka* into Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbour in December 1922, they had every reason to feel pleased with themselves.

They had just penetrated the interior of Papua by journeying up the Fly and Strickland rivers into Lake Murray. They had succeeded in achieving first contact with tribes in the upper reaches of the lake that still practised headhunting.

The duo assembled an extensive collection of artefacts and Hurley took hundreds of photos on glass-plate negatives. His photographs captured the diversity of the people and their culture in the Gulf and Western provinces.

He photographed men's houses, some more than 120 metres long and 20 metres high and which no longer exist, except in his photographs.

Above: Masked dancers at Tovei village. Above right: A longhouse on the Fly River.

Right: Frank Hurley and Allan McCulloch camped on the Aramia River, Western Province. Far right: Villagers surround *Eureka* during her 1922 visit.

Pictures: Frank Hurley, reproduced with permission from the Australian Museum



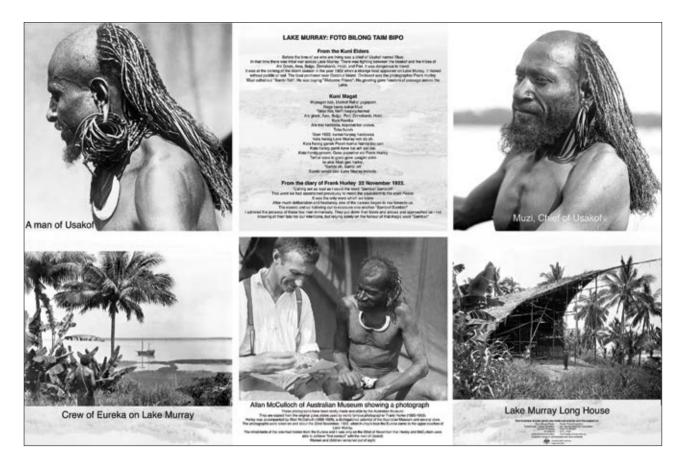








EXPEDITION



As part of the expedition, Hurley even made the first aircraft journey in the country on October 5, 1922, when he flew from Port Moresby to Yule Island and later on to Daru to join up with *Eureka*.

The plane was a Seagull Flying Boat with an open cockpit and was constructed of timber, canvas and wire. It had an average speed of 96kmh (60mph).

Imagine Hurley's surprise on his return to Port Moresby when the government welcoming party at the main wharf came on board *Eureka* and seized the entire artefact collection, despite Hurley and McCulloch having been issued collection permits.

The colonial administration announced an official inquiry into allegations of improper collecting methods, intimidation and use of force. Witness statements were obtained. Hurley denied the allegations and denounced the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Hubert Murray, in *The Sun* newspaper in Sydney for trying to prevent the collection being seen by the public.

While the artefacts were intended for the Australian Museum in Sydney, Hurley was first and foremost a commercial man. Some of the artefacts were wanted by him to serve as props for the release of his film, *Pearls and Savages*. Ultimately the majority of the artefacts were released to the Australian Museum where they became a key part of its Pacific culture display. Ninety-five years later, Dr Jim Specht and myself set out with several others to retrace the route taken by Hurley and McCulloch.

Specht is the former head of anthropology at the Australian Museum and co-compiled (with John Field) *Frank Hurley in Papua*, published in 1984. In 2015, Allen & Unwin published *Endurance*, my novel based on the life of Hurley.

Even today Lake Murray, in the remote Western Province, remains difficult to reach. There are no connecting roads or regular airline passenger services.

"THEY CAME TOGETHER IN PEACE AND SOON WERE EXCHANGING GOODS. WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HOWEVER, REMAINED OUT OF SIGHT."



Left and above: The interpretive panel. Pictures: Tim Griffiths

Consort Shipping offered us passage on its vessel Kiwai Chief across the Gulf of Papua to Everill Junction, where the Fly and Strickland rivers intersect. From there, the Ok Tedi Development Foundation provided a fast-moving banana boat up the Strickland and Herbert rivers and into Lake Murray, where we stayed at the picturesque Lake Murray Lodge run by Trans Niugini Tours.

On our journey in Hurley's footsteps we carried with us a large interpretative panel, made of stainless steel and aluminium, on which a number of Hurley's Lake Murray photographs are printed. Fully assembled, the panel stands three metres high and three metres wide.

With assistance from local elders, the panel was erected and unveiled at Lake Murray station before a crowd of over 300 villagers. The panel contains a short story about the historic meeting between Hurley and the Lake Murray inhabitants and has now become a tourist attraction.

Hurley's diaries describe meeting and photographing a Lake Murray chief, Homoji, from the village of Dukoif. No such village exists. But on a previous trip to Lake Murray I had visited the island of Usakof in Lake Murray, which I surmise is the location of Hurley's meeting.

The villagers there know the story of Hurley. One of them has a stained and torn photograph in his hut of his great grandfather Muzi. The subject of the photograph looks proud and self-assured. The front half of his head is shaved and the back has long Rastafarian hair with straw extensions.

It is, in fact, Hurley's photograph taken of the 'chief', who Hurley had described as Homoji.

Most people in Lake Murray have never seen the photographs of their ancestors taken by Hurley, hence the idea of the large weatherproof interpretive panel that shows some of the images and also explains the circumstances of the historic meeting, both in English and the local *Kuni* language.

Hurley's diary describes how most of the inhabitants of Lake Murray fled their villages when they saw the Eureka steaming across the lake. It was only near Usakof that Hurley was able to get within range of a group of men in log canoes that he could call out the only *tok ples* phrase that he knew, *"sambio, sambio"*, meaning peace.

The Lake Murray men called back "*sambio*, *sambio*." They were extremely brave because they had no knowledge of these strange white men who were well armed with guns.

Neither completely trusted the other, but they came together in peace and soon were exchanging goods. Women and children, however, remained out of sight.

Hurley was particularly keen to trade goods for human heads because it was head hunters that most excited the audience he needed for his film to be successful.

Over the next few days, he captured a number of wonderful portraits of the men of Lake Murray.

There was much debate as to exactly where the interpretive panel should be erected and our group spent three days in talks with villagers at Usakof and the nearby government station at Boboa. Hundreds of villagers attended the meetings, listening intently, with some occasionally questioning the correct translation into *tok ples*.

We should not have been surprised by the first two questions from the villagers. "Does the museum still have the artefacts taken by Hurley and McCulloch? "Can we get them back?"

Repatriation of artefacts is a complex issue. To be successful, it usually requires a return to an established, well-resourced museum.

It was the next question from the Lake Murray villagers, however, that was unexpected.

"Muzi was a great chief but he disappeared after Hurley came ... did Frank Hurley take Muzi back with him on his boat? No one here knows what became of him."

There is no satisfactory answer to the question. Muzi went on board the *Eureka* but there is no suggestion in the diaries of Hurley and McCulloch that he travelled with them. It remains a puzzling gap in the oral history.

The interpretive panel includes the names of several sponsors of the modernday journey made by Tim Griffiths. Air Niugini provided airfares and freight. Trans Niugini Tours, the Australian High Commission, Consort Shipping, the Ok Tedi Development Foundation, Alpha Insurance and North Fly Rubber were also major sponsors. The Australian Museum provided permission to reproduce Frank Hurley's photographs. CULTURE

PIECES OF PNG

1. HULI FIGHTING PICKS

WHAT ARE THEY? These traditional weapons were used mainly by the Huli-speaking people in Hela Province in the highlands region, where they are referred to as *ayu nogoba*. The Huli are well known for the application of bright yellow ochre face paint for *singsings* and ceremonies, where they also wear their iconic and spectacular wigs. WHERE ARE FIGHTING PICKS MADE?

Traditionally they were made in many villages in this highlands region and today they are made in villages close to the main provincial towns of Tari, Koroba and Komo – the Huli heartland.

WHO MAKES THEM? As personal weapons, the picks were traditionally made by the men in the village. HOW ARE THEY MADE? The relatively light wooden handle, perhaps incorporating an angle formed by a branch, is shaved to the correct dimensions. A groove is cut into the top 'arm' of the handle into which a black palm shaft is laid and held in place with a tight binding of split cane. At the end of the black palm shaft, a sharpened cassowary bone or claw tip is attached, also held in place with tightly woven split cane.

HOW WERE FIGHTING PICKS USED TRADITIONALLY? Huli fighting men used them for close combat in interclan tribal fights that arose in disputes about land, women or compensation payments, alongside bows and arrows, which were used as longer distance weapons. The acute angle between the handle and the pointed end of the pick means they are used to attack enemies who are running away – striking them from behind and over the shoulder to inflict wounds in the chest or around the side into the belly. Alternatively, a pick could be swung in a backward motion while retreating, to injure a chaser. Fighting picks are not used as weapons today.

WHERE CAN FIGHTING PICKS BE BOUGHT? They can be found at local markets in Hela Province, including Tari, and at the annual Mount Hagen or Goroka shows, where they are sold in stalls.

- JOHN BROOKSBANK



CULTURE

IF A MASK IS CARVED WITH GNASHING TEETH OR A PROTRUDING TONGUE, THIS INDICATES THAT IT IS INTENDED TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS.

2. SEPIK MASKS

cone shells, pig tusks and feathers Mindimbit, Tambanum, softwood, although some areas make are carved from local timber, usually HOW ARE THEY MADE? Most masks younger men in the village. tambaran, away from women and which happen around the haus are involved in spiritual ceremonies, patrilineal and only such initiated men adult males. Sepik societies are masks was only carried out by initiated of clan spirits, the making of such were traditionally the representation WHO MAKES THEM? Since they worn during initiation ceremonies. eyes and a mouth it is likely to be When a mask has cut-out holes for intended to ward off evil spirits. tongue, this indicates that it is with gnashing teeth or a protruding and cockatoo. If a mask is carved of certain birds such as cassowary coloured clays, various cowries and incorporate local natural dyes, Ornamentation of masks can HOW ARE THEY DECORATED? Angriman or Murik Lakes. places such as Iatmul, Boiken, identified as coming from villages and they can be clearly masks is unique to particular The style, and decoration, of the live in the Sepik River region. spirit masks are made by people who WHERE ARE THEY MADE? Sepik *tumbuan*, or made only for display. framework of a dance costume called a on to a large cone-shaped wicker worn directly over the face, fastened represent clan spirits. They can be WHAT ARE THEY? Sepik masks

> basketry or clay masks. Some masks are fabricated on the roundish base of a turtle shell. Increasingly today, Sepik men living in Wewak, Madang, Lae or Port Moresby earn a small income from carving masks from timber-yard offcuts.

- JOHN BROOKSBANK you think looks good. Choose with your heart and buy what especially as souvenirs for tourists. may be an amalgam of styles made in Papua New Guinea. Many of these at local craft markets and larger hotels authenticity. Masks are also available the Sepik River and its tributaries Museum at Waigani. Today, masks can overseas museums and the National administrators; many can be seen in collected by missionaries and colonial kept in village haus tambaran were WHERE CAN SEPIK MASKS BE SEEN they represent during dances. supernatural figures, were traditionally as representations of mythical or HOW WERE THE MASKS USED be bought directly from villages along **TRADITIONALLY?** Spirit masks, an absolute guarantee of style AND BOUGHT? Very old Sepik masks thought to actually become the spirits directly by male initiates, they are Blackwater. When masks are worn kept in the village spirit house, haus masks from Wosera, Abelam and ceremonies, such as the basketry yam tambaran, the domain of adult to promote good harvests in annual ceremonies. Other types were used wore some masks during initiation women of the community. Elders initiated men and kept secret from

PARADISE 57 ANNUAL 2019

CULTURE

3. HOOK FIGURES

WHAT ARE THEY? Stylised human figures resembling masks with distinctive hooks. They can be used both as practical household items and as ceremonial figures representing ancestral spirits.

WHERE ARE THEY MADE? Several cultures in the Middle and Upper Sepik River regions carve sacred figures - such as the Bahinemo people's garra figures and the Yimam people's yipwon figures - that incorporate a series of opposed hooks. WHO MAKES THEM? They can be made by both the men and women of the village. Each region has its particular way of creating the figures, with Kanganaman village known for fine and elegant hooks, Kandangai village for hooks with protruding eyes, and the Hunstein Mountains for concentric hooks.

HOW ARE THEY MADE? Hook figures are usually carved from a single piece of wood in a double hook shape, sometimes elaborated with spikes or other designs, and may be as small as a hand or as large as a human. In some places, pig tusks are used to create the hooks and attached to the wood with bilum string. The wood can be painted with natural red, black or white pigments to provide colour, but decoration and carving are usually minimal. Many have a hanging hole at the top.

HOW ARE THEY DECORATED? Hook figures can vary greatly in shape and style between regions and villages. Many resemble masks with stylised faces, but all have some form of opposing hooks. Some are decorated with animals or the sun and moon and may have added feathers or shells. Some Sepik River figures display highly inventive iconography, with backwardturned legs, hooks instead of feet and mask-like faces. Hook figures are notable for influencing western artists from the 1930s onwards, including British sculptor Henry Moore and Chilean surrealist Roberto Matta Echaurren, both inspired by this radical depiction of the human form.





HOW WERE THEY USED **TRADITIONALLY?** Hook figures might have originated in the Great Hornbill war-related spirit ancestor of southeast Asia, with its large curved beak, though some interpret the hooks as representing the antennae of catfish. Hook figures depict ancestral spirits and were used to summon such spirits before clans set off on a hunt or raid. Each bore a specific name, and was often particularly associated with a senior male. Hook figures are carried in the hands of male dancers. or sometimes held between their legs, during initiation ceremonies. Some hook figures are large, owned collectively by a clan, and kept in the most sacred area of ceremonial houses. In contrast, other hook figures have practical uses for hanging food and other items in the house. A hook that has been used in this way often develops a smooth patina along the rim's top surface where bilum bags have been hung.

WHERE CAN HOOK FIGURES BE BOUGHT? You can find hook figures made for tourists in craft shops, and antique versions in upmarket galleries. Antique hook figures can sell in international auction houses for as much as \$US170,000. - BRIAN JOHNSTON



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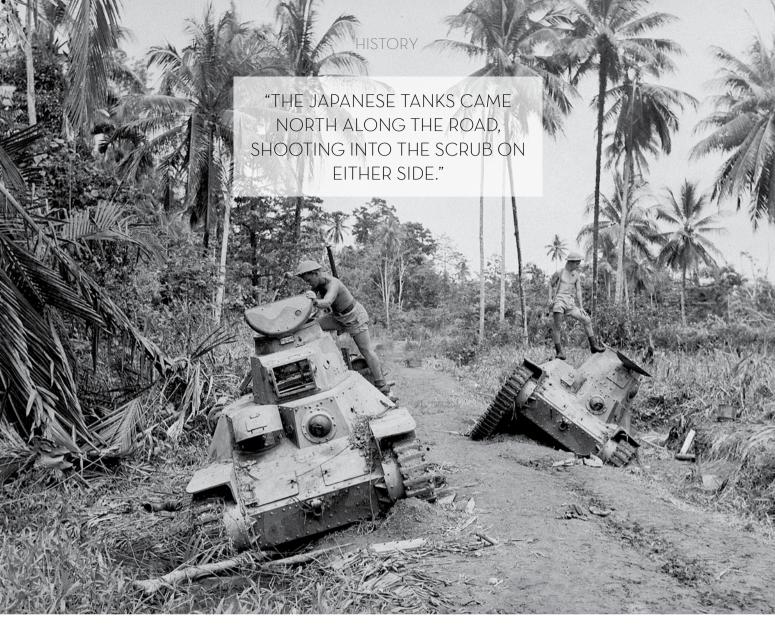
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WHEN WAR CAME TO MILNE BAY

In August and September 1942, Milne Bay was the scene of Japan's first defeat on land in World War 2. The Japanese aim was to capture Port Moresby by a two-pronged attack: one along the Kokoda Trail and the other via Milne Bay, where their objective was Gurney Airport. Then called No. 1 strip, Gurney Airport was built in 1942 by US Army engineers.

A Japanese invasion force came by sea from Rabaul and landed in Milne Bay. After two weeks of fighting, known as the Battle of Milne Bay, the Japanese were defeated by Australian soldiers and airmen. The remnant of the Japanese force was evacuated to Rabaul by sea. The half dozen encounters that make up the Battle of Milne Bay, took place along what is now a 12-kilometre drive from Wanaduela Bay to Gurney Airport. At the time there was nothing along this route but a muddy track and villages dotted here and there on a narrow coastal flat, hemmed in by the bay to the south and the Stirling Range and thick forest to the north. In the late 1960s a new town, Alotau, was built here and the provincial capital moved to it from Samarai. Through the streets of Alotau, the scenes of this fighting can still be traced. War historian Peter Williams takes us on the journey.



Not long before midnight on August 25, 1942, Eli Dickson was woken by a noise he could not have heard before. It was the grinding sound of two Japanese tanks coming down a landing barge ramp onto the beach at Wanaduela Bay, three kilometres east of Alotau (No. 1 on map).

Moments later, Japanese soldiers were in Dickson's village, rounding up the men and asking for directions to Gurney Airfield. Some villagers fled into the bush, but others, including Dickson and Tom Maioro, were pressed into service as guides and carriers.

The Japanese brought 1300 troops by sea from Rabaul for the simple task of capturing the airstrip and defeating the 500 Australians they believed were present. This was a serious miscalculation by the Japanese, because there were in fact over 4000 Australian fighting troops present, with another 4000 Australians and Americans tasked with building airstrips, a port, warehouses and all the essentials of the large military base they were constructing at Milne Bay.

With Maioro as an unwilling guide, the Japanese moved quickly westward along the coastal track in a thunderstorm,

entering what are now the southern suburbs of Alotau.

Fording the Golianai River they came to Cameron's Springs (No. 2 on map), where the first clash of the campaign took place. The site can still be seen, 100 metres south of Sanderson Bay, where Cameron's Springs gushes from the steep-sided hill near the road. This was the foremost Australian position, lieutenant Bert Robinson and 14 men holding the narrow gap between the bay and the hillside.

At 1am on August 26, the four Japanese scouts leading the column encountered Robinson's sentry, private Wallace Whitton, a clerk from Yeerongpilly in Queensland. Unsure in the rain and the dark, Whitton called out to challenge the unknown men, who shot him dead. Robinson's party then killed the four Japanese.

> Above: Australian infantrymen examine two bogged and abandoned Japanese tanks at Rabe. Pictures: Courtesy of Australian War Memorial, US Army Small Ships Association

HISTORY





Left: Corporal John French. Above: Squadron leader Peter Turnbull. Right: Nurse Maiogaru Taulebona.



Unharmed, Maioro took to the bush and ran back to his village. Within minutes the Japanese tanks came north along the road, shooting into the scrub on either side, prompting Robinson to fall back to KB (Koebule) Mission.

At dawn a dozen Australian fighter aircraft, P-40 Kittyhawks, took off from Gurney and within minutes were over Wanaduela Bay, where the Japanese had landed. They were led by 25-year-old squadron leader Peter Turnbull, once an electrician from Armidale in NSW, now an Australian fighter ace with 12 kills. They strafed the landing barges, then the supplies and ammunition stacked on the beach, destroying much of it. The Japanese plan was thrown into disarray by this loss of essential equipment.

The following day, the Japanese advanced towards KB Mission where the 560-man 2/10th Australian Infantry Battalion was dug in waiting for them. Turnbull was again in the air and spotted the two Japanese tanks moving along the road curving around Sanderson Bay, near where the Battle of Milne Bay memorial, a black three-metre high granite column, now stands (No. 3 on map). Turnbull swooped down to attack. Hit by fire from the ground, he was killed when his plane failed to pull out of the dive and crashed in a gully 200 metres east of where Alotau general hospital now stands (No. 4 on map).

The night after Turnbull's death, August 27, the Japanese attack on KB Mission commenced.

The Japanese tanks, moving along the track in a rainstorm, burst into the Australian position, illuminating the defenders with searchlights and opening fire. Having no way to stop the tanks – their anti-tank guns could not get past the boggy road to their rear, and their anti-tank grenades malfunctioned in the wet and the heat – the Australians were driven back.

One hundred men, Australians and Japanese, died

alongside the road here. The Koebule Primary School grounds mark the centre of the scene of fighting. The Australians retired to the last good defensive

position before Gurney Airfield. This was No. 3 strip, a half completed airstrip four kilometres east of Gurney. The ground cleared of trees offered a good defensive position as the Japanese had to charge across the clearing to get at the Australians on the far side.

Throughout the battle heavy rain made all movement difficult and turned the track along the coast to slush. The worst area was between Rabe and No. 3 strip. This was fortunate for the Australians, because it rendered the track impassable to vehicles. The two Japanese tanks became bogged in the mud near Rabi village, and were abandoned (No. 5 on map).

On August 29, 700 Japanese reinforcements arrived by sea, bolstering Japanese numbers to 2000 men. The next day was quiet, as the Japanese reinforcements marched along the coast to join their comrades facing the Australians across the strip.

At 3am on August 31, five days after the Japanese landed, they attacked No. 1 strip. Charging across the half-completed runway, they were cut down by the defending Australians, helped by a small group of American engineers. In an open grassy park beside the road, a remnant of the land cleared to build the airstrip, a plaque announces: "This marks the westernmost point of the Japanese advance. 83 unknown Japanese Marines lie buried here.

It was now the Australians' turn to go on the offensive, driving the Japanese back towards their landing place.

The final chapter of the battle for Milne Bay took place a kilometre south of Cameron's Springs at the ford of the Goilanai River.

A hundred metres south of the post-war bridge the road





forks to either side of a small park containing two memorial signs. This was the scene of the last serious fighting of the Battle of Milne Bay, on September 4, 1942. Not far from the park, corporal John French was killed while capturing three Japanese machine gun positions and earning the only Victoria Cross awarded in the battle (No. 6 on map).

The Japanese had already decided to withdraw and on

Top: A Royal Australian Air Force Kittyhawk at Milne Bay's Gurney Airfield in 1942.

Above: A Japanese landing barge sits aground in Wanaduela Bay. The remains of the barge can still be seen today at low tide. the night of September 5 their ships once again entered the bay, evacuating the remnant of their force to Rabaul.

The two-week Japanese occupation of Milne Bay cost them 700 lives, and as many again wounded.

The Australians lost 167 dead and the Americans 14.

The combined total of Allied wounded was almost 400.

There is one more story of the battle, concerning one of the wounded. Most nights Japanese warships entered the bay to bombard Gurney, sometimes encountering small craft the Australians were using to move men and supplies along the shore.

On the night of August 28, the searchlights of Japanese destroyer Urakaze illuminated one of these boats, opened fire and sank it. A wounded survivor, leading aircraftsman Jim Donegan, drifted ashore near Divinai village, in the Japanese-controlled area of the north shore.

He was found by local people and taken to their village. There he was placed in the care of a mission-trained nurse, Maiogaru Taulebona. She tended his wounds and fed him. When a Japanese patrol came through the village she hid him under a canoe.

When Donegan was strong enough, Taulebona placed him in a canoe, concealed him under a pile of vegetables, and paddled him through the night westward to the Australians. After the battle she was awarded the Loyalty Medal and told she could take as a reward several items from an Australian supply dump. Nurse Taulebona chose a bicycle, a rain cape, a pair of sunglasses, seven yards of bright red material to make skirts, and a carton of aspirin.

Dr Peter Williams is a historian living in Canberra, Australia. He has visited the battlefields of Papua New Guinea, interviewed Australian, Papuan and Japanese veterans and researched in all three countries. His books include *The Kokoda Campaign 1942: Myth and Reality*, and *Kokoda for Dummies*. BUTTERLIES

SAVING THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUTTERFLY

Richard Andrews reports on a mission to increase the population of the Queen Alexandra's birdwing butterfly.

Butterflies hold a special place in many cultures, symbolising everything from happiness and transformation to departing souls and messages from heaven.

But it's the butterfly as a symbol of resurrection that is particularly relevant in Papua New Guinea, with moves to revive dwindling numbers of the Queen Alexandra's birdwing (Ornithoptera Alexandrae) – the world's largest butterfly.

With a wingspan the size of a dinner plate, the brilliantly coloured birdwing spans up to 30 centimetres and makes a spectacular sight flying high through the trees. The butterfly is a motif in local culture and even featured on the Oro (Northern) Province flag.

War, volcanoes, forest clearing and poaching have all devastated the birdwing population, leaving it largely confined to a small stronghold in Oro's remote Managalas Plateau.

Protected by the PNG Government, the birdwing is listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and a UK entomologist is driving a program to support the country's conservation efforts.

"Everyone loves butterflies," says Dr Mark Collins. "They're also a flagship species that carries a strong message about the importance of biodiversity." Collins chairs the Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust, which is supporting a conservation project, in conjunction with New Britain Palm Oil, to strengthen birdwing populations.

"It's no secret that deforestation by oil palm corporations was largely responsible for reduction of the butterfly's habitat," Collins says.

"But in recent years, the industry has been trying to put itself on a more sustainable footing by adopting policies on endangered species."

Collins' project includes identification of forest buffer zones and protection of breeding sites, combined with replanting the

"WITH A WINGSPAN THE SIZE OF A DINNER PLATE, THE BRILLIANTLY COLOURED BIRDWING SPANS UP TO 30 CENTIMETRES AND MAKES A SPECTACULAR SIGHT FLYING HIGH THROUGH THE TREES."

and development activities," says Angelus Palik.

According to Collins, the Managalas Plateau is home to many other remarkable species, although he acknowledges that improvement to infrastructure is needed to attract more visitors.

"Getting to the plateau means driving on unmade roads and wading rivers. It's not for the fainthearted," he says.

The Norfolk scientist says no one really knows why the birdwing is concentrated in such a relatively small area. According to one theory, the Managalas Plateau may have been a 'lost world'.

"The area is volcanic and could have been cut off from the outside at one time, allowing the butterfly to evolve in isolation into an amazing species," Collins says. "But it's still a mystery."

Aristolochia vine, on which the

birdwing feeds and lays its eggs.

A butterfly breeding facility, research

lab and conservation incentives to the

area's landowners are also involved.

"Local people are going to be

very important to retain the forest's

biodiversity," Collins says. "I see great

Those views are endorsed by a

local conservationist, employed for

the past four years by Higaturu Oil

to increase the Queen Alexandra's

birdwing population and save it

from extinction due to human

Palms. "The project will greatly help

potential for ecotourism by people who

want to see these butterflies in the wild."

Ironically, large tracts of the birdwing's habitat were destroyed by a volcano, when Mount Lamington erupted in 1951.

Other forest clearing occurred during World War 2, when Oro's capital, Popondetta, was an important air base with about two dozen landing strips.

Collins says his passion for butterflies dates back to his childhood. "As a watcher, not a collector," he stresses.

Not all butterfly lovers share this approach.

The English naturalist Albert Meek

first recorded the birdwing in 1906 on a collecting expedition to PNG. The fast-flying butterflies frequent high rainforest canopy, making capture difficult. So Meek resorted to blasting them down with a shotgun.

The buckshot-peppered specimens were sent back to England, where the species was named in honour of Queen Alexandra, the wife of King Edward VII. Since then, the butterflies have remained extremely attractive to collectors, fetching high prices on the black market.

"Dead butterflies are very easy to transport across international boundaries," Collins says.

"There's some suspicion poachers smuggle them across the border to West Papua and then further afield into Indonesia, from where they're trafficked around the world."

One instance, in 2007, involved a Japanese butterfly smuggler sentenced to 21 months in prison when he tried to sell a pair of birdwings for \$US8500 to a US undercover agent posing as a collector.

"However, illegal trade is not the major threat," Collins says. "It's factors such as loss of habitat, which means larger issues are involved.

"I believe the Queen Alexandra's birdwing has the potential to be an icon symbolising the need for conserving many other species as well.

"Our project should elevate this butterfly to the insect equivalent of Asia's tiger and Africa's elephant."

FOREIGN Correspondent

For more than 40 years, ABC journalist Sean Dorney has been reporting on PNG and the Pacific. After he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease last year, friends and colleagues gathered in Brisbane, Australia, to pay tribute to his life and work. Kevin McQuillan reports.

Sean Dorney spent 17 years as the ABC's Papua New Guinea correspondent, marked by being both deported and awarded an MBE by the PNG Government.

His relationship with PNG began in 1974, when he was seconded to work for the newly established National Broadcasting Commission, just before the creation of the Independent State of PNG.

"Dorney was present at the creation, and by reporting it, fostered its creation," former ABC diplomatic correspondent, Graeme Dobell, said at Dorney's tribute in Brisbane.

"Quite an achievement for one man with a microphone."

Dorney met his wife, Pauline, a Manus islander and NBC broadcaster, in Port Moresby.

They married in 1976 and moved to Australia. In 1979, he was appointed the ABC's correspondent in Port Moresby. They are devoted to each other, more than 40 years on, and he attributes much of his success to Pauline, who "is a broadcaster and knows what the business is about".

Dorney's links to PNG were

established well before his arrival.

His father, Dr Kiernan 'Skipper' Dorney, was a highly respected surgeon, and one of the most decorated Australian doctors during World War 2, earning a DSO in PNG for continuing to treat wounded soldiers although his post was under

"(ANDREW) PEACOCK SAID ONE THING HE'D DISCOVERED IN PNG WAS NEVER TO TRAVEL WITH DORNEY - IT WAS BAD FOR THE EGO."

direct shelling from an enemy gun firing at point-blank range.

Sport rules in PNG, and Dorney's captaincy of the Kumuls rugby league team in 1976 made him a local hero. Anyone who has met Dorney knows that he is not your typical big, musclebound player.

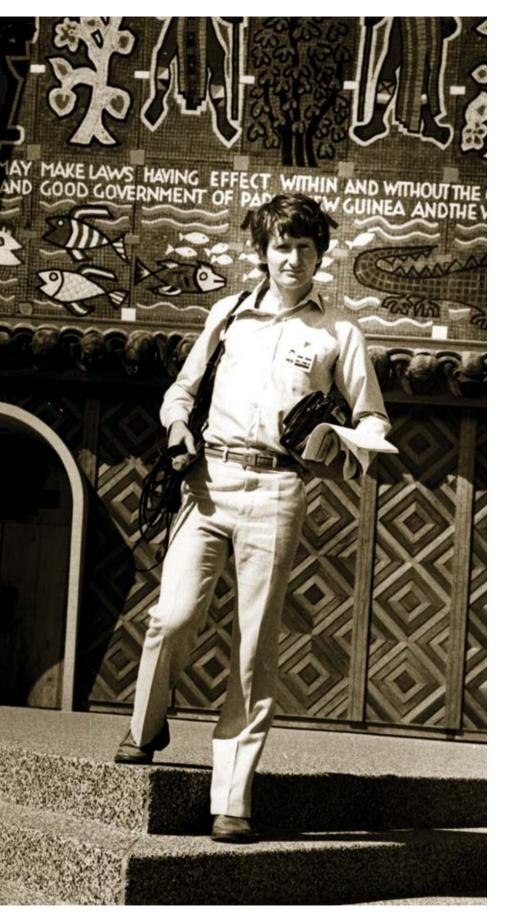
"It (playing for the Kumuls) certainly helped me as a journalist," Dorney says. "It proved a huge source of recognition in PNG."

To say Dorney is well known throughout the Pacific is an understatement.

On one occasion, the then Australian foreign minister, Andrew Peacock, reported getting off a plane in the Highlands to a polite welcome from several thousand people. Then Dorney emerged from the plane and the crowd went berserk. On his return to Canberra, according to Dobell, Peacock said one thing he'd discovered in PNG was never to travel with Dorney – it was bad for the ego.

His fame, though, couldn't stop his deportation in 1984, by the then foreign minister Rabbie Namaliu, after the PNG Government objected to the screening of an interview with Irian Jayan rebel leader, James Nyaro, by the ABC.

Two years later, Prime Minister Michael Somare told Dobell not to worry about Dorney.



The chief flashed that broad grin, reports Dobell, and said: "Don't worry, we'll get Sean back. He's one of ours".

PNG-born Max Uechtritz, a former ABC correspondent and news editor at Al Jazeera, says: "Sean Dorney is a 'journalist's journalist' whose reporting was unvarnished and no-frills.

"He was fastidious with facts, his analysis was informed by grass-roots knowledge and an impeccable range of contacts who trusted him because of his integrity and professionalism. Sean is a role model for all young (and old) journalists."

Asked what was a highlight of his reporting of PNG, Dorney says: "In terms of spectacle, nothing can compare with flying over two exploding volcanic vents in the (1994) Rabaul volcanic eruption".

But the trauma of the 1998 Aitape tsunami, which claimed 2500 lives, was the most emotional reporting experience of his career.

He won an award for his reporting on that event. In 2000, Dorney completed a two-part television documentary marking the 25th anniversary of PNG independence and spanning his own quarter of a century involvement with the country.

As well, he has written two books about PNG.

His legacy extends to providing mentoring to Pacific journalists.

EMTV presenter and former ABC producer/presenter, Tania Nugent, told the Brisbane audience: "Sean, thank you. Thank you for everything you've done. Thank you for planting the seed for a generation of all of us."

Dorney is tackling motor neurone disease with his trademark humour and optimism.

He says: "Having captained the Kumuls, having won a Walkley award ... those things pale into insignificance when you can get your socks and shoes on in less than 10 minutes."

Left: Sean Dorney, the newsman who also captained the Kumuls.

SPORT



FLOWER POWER

PNG's inaugural women's rugby league team, the Orchids, has a mission on – and off – the field. Joanna Lester reports.

When PNG Orchids captain Cathy Neap and her teammates lined up to sing the national anthem before their first match in the Rugby League World Cup at the end of 2017, they knew they were representing not only their families, tribes and provinces, but also every woman and girl in the country.

Rugby league is not only Papua New Guinea's national sport, but also a unifying force in a land of diverse culture and geography.

Although PNG women have been playing the sport sporadically for four decades, the country had never had a women's national team.

That all changed in 2017, when women from across the country were selected for the inaugural Oil Search PNG Orchids squad to face Australia in the annual Prime Minister's XIII match in Port Moresby, before heading to Sydney for the Women's Rugby League World Cup.

The players suddenly became symbols for the changing status of women in PNG. Neap explains: "In our country and culture, men are always above women, and rugby league has always been the sport that is maledominated. But now, through rugby league, we have become equal to the Kumuls (the men's national team), and people see us differently."

During visits to primary schools in Port Moresby before departing for the world cup, players tearfully recounted the struggles and resistance they had faced to make it this far, and how they hoped to pave the way for the next generation of girls to achieve their dreams in whatever male-dominated arena they wished to enter, be it rugby league or anything else.

Amelia Kuk, a former PNG rugby 7s representative who played twice for the Australian Jillaroos before switching back to PNG with the Orchids, agrees that rugby league is one of the most powerful vehicles to change perceptions of women in the country. SPORT



"Some people here look at women and think they're supposed to be in the kitchen, not on the sporting field. But now that the Orchids have played in the world cup, we're starting to change the mentality of every Papua New Guinean that we can play alongside the men; we're equivalent to them.

"We're showing that just because you're a woman in PNG, that doesn't mean you can't play footy or achieve your dreams. The idea that men are better at everything – let's just put a stop to that right now.

This nation is about to change, and it starts with us."

As strong female role models who command increasing respect from men, the Orchids also hope to address the widespread problem of genderbased violence. Prop Maima Wei explains: "We're talking about it and raising awareness. We're trying to drive through the message that 'strong men respect women', and change people's mindsets."

The Orchids quickly became fan favourites at the world cup, thanks

to their heart-warming stories and on-field passion, attracting widespread media coverage and a vocal crew of supporters.

They faced England, Canada and New Zealand in the pool matches, losing all to three but gaining valuable international experience so they can come back stronger next time.

Thanks to the investment of the sport's authorities and the opportunity to participate in the world cup, women's rugby league is now booming in PNG.

"It's the fastest-growing brand of our sport," confirms PNGRFL chairman Sandis Tsaka. "The growth has been exponential in the last four years and we feel privileged that's happening, more so because of the country we are in. We have a lot of customs and traditions that are restrictive to our women-folk, so this not only provides an opportunity for the girls to play rugby league but also a platform to raise social awareness and address the other issues affecting women in our country. They're doing a tremendous job."

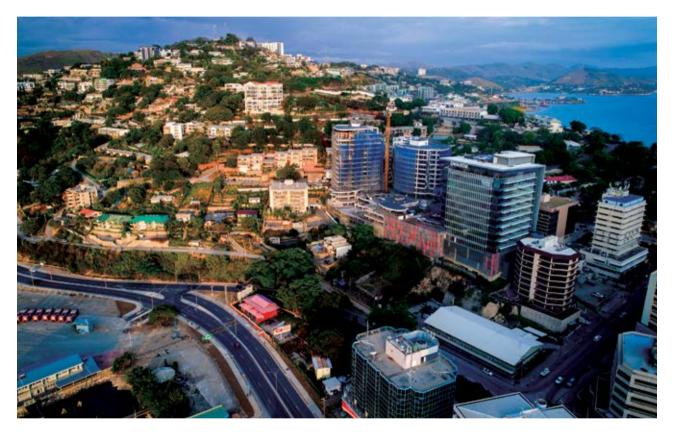
Main picture: Orchid Amelia Kuk. Top left: The Orchids have won many adoring hearts, including the students at Holy Rosary School in Port Moresby. Top right: Captain Cathy Neap. Pictures: Benard Poma, NRL Photos METRO

CITY GUIDE PORT MORESBY

Grace Maribu provides an insider's guide to the

Papua New Guinean capital.

Pictures: David Kirkland



Port Moresby is one of the fastest-growing cities in the Pacific. The exponential growth of the Papua New Guinean capital over the past decade has been pushed along by injections of capital by the national government, as well as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that was held in November 2018. APEC brought world leaders to the city and resulted in a boom in restaurants, hotels and other infrastructure. The dizzying pace of change has not been lost on PNG's neighbours. Former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott observed during a visit that the city is "no longer a colonial outpost".

GETTING AROUND

The city's roads, once badly potholed, are in better condition than ever before and a more streamlined road network has cut commute times of a few years ago by almost a quarter.

One way to get around is to hire a car with driver. Deal with one of the international hire companies (Hertz, Europcar or Avis).

For reliable taxi services try City Loop (Tel. 1800 000), Comfort (Tel. 325 3046) or Scarlet (Tel. 7220 7000). You can also hire a taxi driver, about PGK200 a day.

SIGHTS

The award-winning Port Moresby Nature Park (corner Waigani Drive and Goro Kaeaga Road, Waigani; facebook. com/PortMoresbyNaturePark) provides a showcase of PNG flora and fauna.

More than two kilometres of walkways thread under and through the jungle canopy, with well-maintained gardens displaying local and exotic plants.

Wildlife displays include tree kangaroos, hornbills, fruit bats, cassowary and a large aviary that houses parrots and birds of paradise. The gardens have a cafe and picnic areas.

Port Moresby's original inhabitants are Motu Koitabu, seafaring people of Polynesian descent.

The Motuans arrived as recently as 2000 years ago, building their villages on stilts over the water to keep them safe from black magic and bad spirits.

You need an invitation or a guide to visit Hanuabada, one of only two remaining stilt villages in Port Moresby, the other being Koki at the eastern end of Ela Beach. Ask at your hotel for guides or tour companies that can take you there.



PORT MORESBY SPECIAL

Harbourside is a newly established and lively precinct of eateries in town. Notable restaurants include Asia Aromas (Tel. 321 4780), Naked Fish (Tel. 320 2293), and Duffy Cafe (duffypng.com). Harbourside is the perfect place to unwind after a long day, see the sunset, listen to live music and enjoy the evening breeze.



CULTURE VULTURE

The National Museum & Art Gallery (Independence Drive, Waigani, museumpng.gov.pg) has artefacts from all the provinces and has recently re-opened after a major refurbishment. The main building is a stunning example of traditional architecture and art, with sculpted pillars and thatched roof (also see the stirking Parliament Haus building next door).

The museum has well over 30,000 anthropological collections, more than 25,000 archaeological collections, more than 18,000 natural science collections, more than 20,000 war relics and more than 7000 contemporary art collections.

The most famous cultural festival in the city is the Hiri Moale Festival in November. It's a week-long extravaganza that includes elaborate street floats, canoe racing, historical re-enactments, traditional dancing and the Hiri Hahenamo Quest, a blend of Western beauty pageant and Motuan tradition.

DOING BUSINESS

The Airways Hotel (airways.com.pg), the Grand Papua Hotel (grandpapuahotel.com.pg), the Lamana Hotel (lamanahotel.com.pg), the Laguna Hotel (lagunahotelpng. com.pg), the Hideaway Hotel (thehideawayhotel.com.pg), the Stanley Hotel (thestanleypng.com) the Gateway Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg) and the new Hilton Port Moresby (www3.hilton.com) are among the most in-demand locations for business gatherings.

Most have large auditoriums and conference rooms with state-of-the art sound, audio and lighting equipment.

RETAIL THERAPY

The Ela Beach craft market is particularly good if you want PNG artefacts, including *bilums*, woven baskets, shells, jewellery, artwork and woodcarvings. It's on the last Saturday of each month. There are also rotating Saturday markets at the Laguna Hotel (first Saturday), the Holiday Inn (third Saturday),

and the Moresby Arts Theatre (second Saturday).

Vision City (Waigani Drive, Port Moresby; visioncity.com. pg) is the city's first and only shopping mall, connected to the Stanley Hotel (thestanleypng.com). There are more than 100 shops in the four-hectare air-conditioned complex, including Wantok Clothing and Jack's of PNG for PNG and Pacific clothing.

SPORTING LIFE

In 2015, Port Moresby hosted the 15th Pacific Games and spent millions of kina upgrading its sports facilities. The city has continued to host major sporting events, among them the FIFA Under 20 Women's World Cup (2016) and the Rugby League World Cup (2017).

The Bisini Sports Ground, which comprises the National Football Stadium (NFS), netball courts, softball pitch and two soccer fields, is the place to be during weekends for sport's fans. The NFS is the home of the SP Hunters rugby league team.

The Taurama Aquatic Centre has a 50-metre pool, children's pool, plus splash pad.

ESCAPE

If you're interested in war history, take a trip to the Bomana War Cemetery at Nine Mile to pay homage to World War 2 Anzac soldiers.

An hour and a half drive away from downtown Port Moresby is Owers' Corner, where the road becomes the footpath that connects to the start of the Kokoda Trail. It was the scene of a month-long battle during World War 2, which played a crucial role in halting the Japanese advance just 48 kilometres from Port Moresby and prompted the Japanese retreat.

A replica of one of the two 25-pound guns used in the battle is on display.

Owers' Corner is an ideal place to look out over the trail and have a picnic.

The Port Moresby Adventure Park (Hubert Murray Highway, 14 Mile; Tel. 325 5049) is great for family outings and picnics. It has a waterslide, mini lakes and an animal sanctuary.

For the more adventurous, take the Sogeri Road to the Koitaki Country Club (facebook.com/ koitakicountryclubsogeri) for another family fun day of picnicking, horse riding and swimming. Ten minutes

POPULATION: 310,000+

LANGUAGE: English, Hiri Motu, Tok Pisin TAXI FARE FROM AIRPORT TO CBD: PGK5O. INTERNATIONAL DIALLING CODE: +675 POWER: Australian-style plug, 220V/240V CURRENCY: Kina (PGK) further along this road, you'll come across Crystal Rapids, where fresh fruit and vegetable stalls line the roadside. The river here makes for good swimming.

Diving and Fishing is huge here too. POMSAC out of the Royal Papua Yacht Club (rpyc. com.pg) and Sport Fishing PNG (sportfishingpng.net) do day trips.

An ideal spot for a family or group picnic is Fisherman Island. Archaeological evidence suggests that this island remained uninhabited for the last 1000 years, before the fishermen tribes from Hula settled there in the 1950s. Today, this small, clear-water island has a thriving fishing community, Moukele village.

Half an hour's boat ride from the city, the island is an ideal getaway.

No boat? Rent one through the Royal Papua Yacht Club. There are no dining spots or lounges, so you need to take your own food, water and drinks, sunglasses, spare clothes, umbrellas, foldable chairs or blankets – and don't forget swim gear.

Tour operators who can get you there include PNG Value Tours (pngvaluetours.com), Tour HQ (tourhq.com) and PNG Holidays (pngholidays.com.au).



PILLOW TALK

Port Moresby's tourism/ hospitality pride is the awardwinning Airways Hotel (Jacksons Parade, Seven Mile; airways.com.pg) perched in beautiful gardens on a hill overlooking the airport. Enjoy sumptuous meals at the hotels restaurants, or spoil yourself at the day spa. Nearby is the Gateway Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg/ index.php/locations/gateway-hotel), a cosy yet upscale hotel also in beautifully landscaped grounds.

The Waigani area has seen a hotel boom over the past couple of years. A number of fine establishments are clustered along the thoroughfare of this district, including the new Hilton Port Moresby.

The Stanley Hotel and Suites (Sir John Guise Drive, Waigani; thestanleypng.com) is also in this area, offering five-star service, a ballroom that is the biggest in the southern hemisphere and direct connection to the Vision City shopping mall, cinema, and a nightclub.

For a full listing of hotels, see Page 96.

WATERING HOLES

There's nothing quite like the view of Fairfax Harbour and the marina from the Royal Papua Yacht Club (rypc.com.pg). The home of sailing in PNG, with an imposing clubhouse located on the beachfront of Port Moresby Harbour, the club traces its history back to colonial days. The club has four bars. You can only get in if a member signs you in, although there's usually someone around to do that.

Jackson's Bar at the Gateway Hotel, Mojo Social (mojosocialpng.com), Edge by the Sea at Harbour City and Naked Fish at Harbourside are also popular.

The Lamana Gold Club (lamanahotel.com.pg) and the Cosmopolitan Night Club (cosmopolitanpng.com) are popular for late nights.

EATS

Once considered a culinary backwater, Port Moresby now has a thriving dining scene. More than 20 new eateries, many of them in hotels, have opened in the past few years, serving cuisine from around the world.

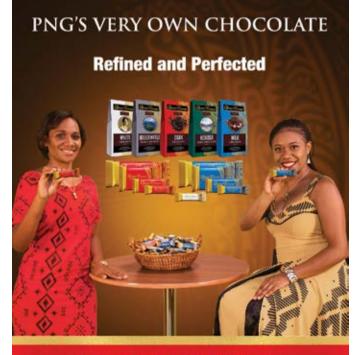
For a full listing of restaurants, see our directory starting on Page 96.

TUCK-IN

The city's new Mumu restaurant at Star Mountain Plaza is a sophisticated offering being run by the Hilton. It has traditional-style cooking in an earthenware oven. Barramundi, steak, pork and lamb are among the choices, with sides that include root vegetables that are popular in the PNG diet.

The Village Kitchen & Cafe at the Wellness Lodge (thewellnesslodge.com) in East Boroko also offers traditional *mumu*.

Additional reporting by Kevin McQuillan and Robert Upe.



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AIRPORT REVIEW PORT MORESBY

Despite being PNG's largest and busiest airport, Jacksons International Airport is still relatively small, meaning it is easy to navigate and has short queues. Nicola Gage reports.



+ WHERE

On the edge of the city in the suburb of Saraga, the airport – on Morea-Tobo Road – is a short drive from most areas of Port Moresby.

HAIRPORT CODE POM



+ TERMINALS

Two terminals. Terminal one is for domestic travel and terminal two is international. Located next to each other, it's only a short walk between them, making for a relatively smooth transit from domestic to international flights.

LOUNGE ACCESS

Air Niugini's Paradise lounge has comfortable seating with food and beverages available – a relaxing place to wait for your flight.

DISTANCE TO CBD

8 kilometres



+ TAXIS & HIRE CARS

Taxi stands are outside arrivals, however they are not always safe to use. Instead, hire a car from major companies such as Hertz (+675 3254999) or Avis (+675 3249400), which are based outside international arrivals, a Black Swan escort car (a car that follows your transport, especially during the night) or a Black Swan taxi with driver (blackswanss.com/securetransport/).

OTHER TRANSPORT

Most hotels provide airport transfers.

🔶 SHOPS

There are two main stores in the international departure lounge that sell a variety of traditional items, so you can take home a little keepsake from PNG. There are plenty of souvenirs, from bilum bags and meri dresses to traditional hats and wooden carvings. The duty free shop is also filled with plenty of items to take on your travels.

🔶 FOOD & BEVERAGE

There are plenty of options in terminal two including alcohol, sandwiches, pastries, wraps, crepes and cakes. Oh, and very good coffee. Drinks and sandwiches are also available in terminal one.

🔶 WI-FI

Free Wi-Fi is available at both the domestic and international departure lounges. To log in you need to present your boarding pass and passport at the information desks in either terminal.

+ FAVOURITE CORNER

Inside the international departure lounge you'll find local PNG company Duffy coffee roasters (below). Like its other businesses in Port Moresby, this cafe has tasty coffee accompanied by both fresh food and sweet treats. The seating area is dotted with different relics from World War 2, which you can read about and peruse while waiting for your flight.

+ WHAT ELSE

Two phone stores are located in the international arrivals hall where you can purchase local sim cards with promotional short-term deals. The tourist information desk at international arrivals has information pamphlets about things to do, and there are plenty of ATMs – and a foreign exchange desk – making it easy to withdraw local currency.

NEARBY HOTELS

The award-winning Airways Hotel (airways.com.pg) almost sits on the edge of the runway. It boasts a restaurant, cafe, spa, hairdresser and pool. Next door is the Gateway Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg). Both offer airport pick-up.



+ SKYTRAX SAYS

"Very little queueing times in both the domestic and international terminals. Jacksons International has just undergone some big renovation work and is looking excellent, with great shopping and cafes. A pleasant airport to transit."



DIARY

THE YEAR AHEAD IN PNG

May 6–12, SP PNG Golf Open, Port Moresby

The region's best golfers battle it out on the fairways and greens at the Royal Port Moresby Golf Club. **royalpomgolf.com**

May 9–19, Tumbuna Show, Mount Hagen

This is an annual gathering of more than 100 tribesmen and women at Kum Mountain, 13 kilometres from Mount Hagen. It includes dancing, cultural performances and a *mumu* feast. pngtours.com

June 8–10, Madang Festival, Madang

This colourful cultural event is on the Queen's Birthday weekend each year. The Bilum Festival on Karkar Island is held the week before. papuanewguinea.travel

June 28–30, Selkambang

Festival, Kiunga There are plans for this

fledgling festival, formerly the North Fly Cultural Show, to become an annual event each June. *Sing-sing* groups will perform at the festival, which attracts hundreds of locals, but few tourists. **Tel. +675 7983 7619 (festival** committee).

July 5-9, Reeds Festival, Bougainville

Bamboo pipes and swaying grass skirts are part of this cultural festival near Arawa. Email the Bougainville Heritage Foundation (allan.gioni29@gmail.com).

July 10–12, National Mask Festival, Kokopo

The masks of East New Britain reveal their stories in this festival highlighted by the Baining fire dancers. facebook.com/events/ 190319068431041/ papuanewguinea.travel

August 5-7, Sepik River Crocodile & Arts Festival, Ambunti

Celebrating the role crocodiles play in the lives of the Sepik people, this annual celebration includes skin-cutting rituals, and a conservation edge. facebook.com/ groups/406676416030883/

papuanewguinea.travel

August 9–11, Enga Cultural Show, Wabag

A showcase of song, dance and culture. engashow.com

Opposite: PNG's cultural shows feature dancers and performers in traditional dress. Picture: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority

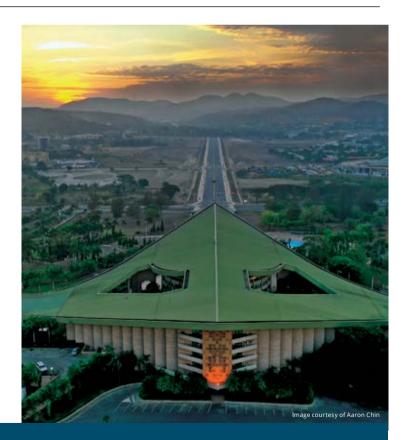
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DIARY



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August 17-18, Mount Hagen Show, Mount Hagen

Up to 75 tribes gather in the Western Highlands province to create one of PNG's biggest cultural events, with traditional music, dance and storytelling. papuanewguinea.travel

September, Garamat and Mamba Festival, Wewak

Dance, sing and plant yams at this annual festival of renewal that is usually held in the first week of September. The stars of the week-long feastival are the garamut (drum) and mamba (bamboo flute).

Right: A colourful parade at Rabaul's Frangipani Festival.

September 13-16, Frangipani Festival, Rabaul

Celebrating Rabaul's survival after the 1994 eruptions of Mount Tayuryur, and named after the trees that line the city. witness fire dances, canoe races and float parades in the East New Britain Province capital. papuanewquinea. travel facebook.com/ rabaulhistoricalsociety

September 14-15, Goroka Show. Goroka

This gathering of PNG's tribes in the Eastern Highlands is now in its sixth decade, with more than 100 tribes travelling to the sing-sing, including headlining Mudmen. gorokaevents.com papuanewguinea.travel



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Image © David Schuler

Image © Marcelo Krause

Image © Peter Lange



September 16. Hiri Moale Festival, Port Moresby

PNG's Independence Day, on September 16, is the anchor for this Port Moresby celebration. which remembers the Motuan people's historic trading routes. papuanewguinea.travel

October 12-13. Morobe Show. Lae

The annual Morobe Provincial Agricultural Society show has been going strong since 1959. Livestock, agricultural and horticultural displays are joined by traditional dances, sing-sings, cowboy events and the crowning of the show queen. morobeshow.org.pg

October 25-26, Huhu War Canoe Festival Wagawaga, Alotau

The war canoes of Milne Bay Province are the focus of this annual festival, with war dances and battle re-enactments. Warriors demonstrate paddlina techniques in traditional war canoes. Experience the Huhu culture in an authentic village setting. facebook.com/ HuhuWarCanoeFestival

October, PNG Human **Rights Film Festival**, countrywide

Tackling such issues as gender equality, youth rights and freedom of speech through films and panel discussions. this festival runs in Port Moresby and other major cities.

facebook.com/PNGHRFF

November 1-3. Kenu & Kundu Festival, Alotau

Traditional canoes (kenu) and drums (kundu) are a big part of this festival of dancing, drama and craft. Tribe's from 600 islands in the region attend, with some crews paddling for weeks to reach the festival. nationalkenukundufestival. com

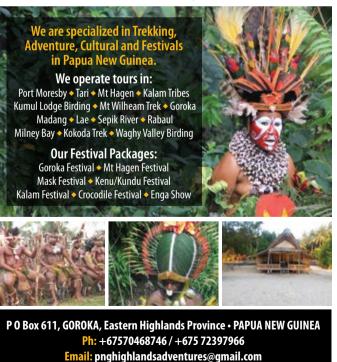
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HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY?

960 KILOMETRES
AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Buka daily, except

Sunday The flight time is 1 hour 40 minutes.

With mist-shrouded mountains, belching volcanoes and palm-fringed beaches, two main islands make up most of Bougainville: the larger main island for which the region is named, as well as Buka, separated by the 'passage', one of the fastest-running currents in the world. The region encompasses smaller atall chains with rich fishing waters.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- A must visit near Buin for World War 2 buffs is the downed plane of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto. Arrange with Bougainville Tours (bougtours.com).
- Lace up your boots with rotokasecotourism.com and hike the Numa Numa Trail across the spine of Bougainville Island.
- Cool off with some snorkelling and swimming in some of the sun-kissed islands just off Buka. Hotels can arrange transport

WHERE TO STAY

In Buka, overlooking the passage, are Reasons (+675 72259041), Destiny (+675 7069 2458) and Kuri (kuriresortbuka.com); a few streets back is the Toyena (toyenalodge@gmail.com).

- GORDON PEAKE



CENTRAL

CAPITAL PORT MORESBY 237,016 PEOPLE



Most people arriving into PNG will find themselves in Port Moresby, which is in the National Capital District The city is a springboard to Central Province, that includes mountains, river deltas and islands.

The starting point for the Kokoda Trail is at Owers' Corner, about 60 kilometres from Port Moresby. It's possible to do a day trip and to visit the Bomana war cemetery at the same time. (Ask at your hotel for a tour operator.)

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Tackle the 96-kilometre Kokoda Trail. See kokodatrackauthority.org for licensed tour operators
- There's good diving at the reef behind Fisherman's Island, near Port Moresby. The Dive Centre (+675 7202 1200) will get you there.

WHERE TO STAY

About 20 kilometres from Port Moresby, the Loloata Island Resort (Ioloataislandresort.com) is scheduled to re-open mid 2019 after a major renovation.

GRACE MARIBU



CHIMBU

CAPITAL KUNDIAWA 376,473 PEOPLE 6112 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 432 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Mount Hagen up to four times daily. Flight time is 1 hour. (There are no flights to Kundiawa.)

The terrain of this province consists of mountains, isolated ravines and rock formations covered in rainforest. It all converges around the highest peak in the land, Mount Wilhelm (4509 metres). This big boy has beautiful lakes, mysterious caves, snowfalls, and majestic views.

The bustling commercial centre of Kundiawa perches on a mountainside beside the Chimbu River.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Trek up Mount Wilhelm. Two operators to take you there are PNG Trekking Adventures (pngtrekkingadventures.com) and Buna Treks and Tours (bunatrekkers@gmail.com).
- Bird watch at Betty's Lodge (villagehuts.com), at the foot of Mount Wilhelm.

WHERE TO STAY

Near the town centre, Kundiawa Hotel has 16 rooms with ceiling fans. The Greenland Motel is another well-priced option. It's about a two-hour drive from Goroka or Mount Hagen to Kundiawa. Village Huts (villagehuts.com) can arrange transport and accommodation.

– SIVA KIMA



EASTERN HIGHLANDS

CAPITAL GOROKA 579,825 PEOPLE 11,157 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 360 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Goroka twice daily. The flight time is 50 minutes.

The Asaro Valley of the Eastern Highlands is home to the famed Asaro Mudmen. Clad in ivory-white paint, elongated bamboo fingers and fearsome masks, the Mudmen captivate onlookers with eerie performances impersonating ghosts emerging from jungle mists.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Experience one of the biggest cultural festivals in PNG at the annual Goroka Show, each September. Book with Trans Niugini Tours (pngtours.com).
- Pick up traditional souvenirs at the *bilum* and craft market along Elizabeth Street in Goroka.
- See historic artefacts at the JK McCarthy Museum in Morchauser Street in Goroka. McCarthy was a legendary patrol officer.

WHERE TO STAY

Set in tranquil gardens, the Pacific Gardens Hotel (pacifichotel. com.pg) in Goroka has standard self-contained rooms. It offers restaurant, bar, free wireless internet and airport transfers. Close to the airport, Bird of Paradise Hotel (coralseahotels.com. pg) has upmarket accommodation, a pool and a deck bistro.

– SIVA KIMA



EAST NEW BRITAIN

CAPITAL KOKOPO 328.369 PEOPLE



15,816 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 750 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Rabaul up to three times daily. The flight time is 1 hour 25 minutes.

East New Britain is known for volcanoes, the Baining fire dancers, war history, idyllic islands, excellent wreck and reef diving and the annual Mask Festival each July.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Visit the hot springs at the foot of smoking Mount Tavurvur, or climb to the top. Most hotels will arrange tours.
- Take a boat trip to see spinner dolphins. Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort (kbb.com.pg) and Rapopo Plantation Resort (rapopo.com) run tours.
- Visit the Kokopo War Museum, the bunker of Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto and the Bita Paka war cemetery.
- Take a day trip to the Duke of York Islands (most hotels will arrange), or stay overnight (villagehuts.com).

WHERE TO STAY

In Kokopo, the Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort (kbb.com.pg) and Rapopo Plantation Resort (rapopo.com) are by the sea and have volcano views. In Rabaul, the Rabaul Hotel (rabaulhotel. com.pg) survived the 1994 volcanic eruption and has become an icon.

- ANNETTE SETE



EAST SEPIK

CAPITAL WEWAK 433,481 PEOPLE 43,426 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 760 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Wewak daily. The flight time is 1 hour 20 minutes.

Among the province's customs is crocodile scarification, a painful ceremony in which young men have their skin cut so the scars heal and look like crocodile scales.

The province is dominated by the Sepik River, which flows 1126 kilometres from source to the sea.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Attend the annual Crocodile Festival at Ambunti, a three-day cultural celebration, usually in the first week of August.
- Ambunti, on the Middle Sepik River, is the region's cultural centre. From Ambunti, travel by motorised canoe, staying in village guesthouses.
- See the Sepik on a luxury cruise on The Sepik Spirit, operated by Trans Niugini Tours (pngtours.com).

WHERE TO STAY

In Wewak, try the Paradise New Wewak Hotel (+675 456 2155) or Talio Lodge (taliolodge.com).

- GRACE MARIBU







Top: A smoking volcano near Rabaul. Left: A young man with crocodile scarification, a ritual in the East Sepik. Above: Children at play at the Kokopo War Museum. Pictures: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority



ENGA

CAPITAL WABAG

432,045 PEOPLE



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 609 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Wapenamanda Airport four times weekly. The flight time is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Enga is in the northernmost part of PNG's highlands. There are mountains over 2000 metres, wild rivers, lush valleys, waterfalls, striking birdlife and glorious orchids.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Watch birds of paradise feed from the balcony at Kumul Lodge. The ecolodge is world famous among birdwatchers, and also conducts orchid tours.
- Take a peek at the Engan way of life at the Take Anda cultural centre in Wabag. Photographs, paintings and artefacts – including bird of paradise headdresses and fighting shields – can be seen.
- The annual Enga Cultural Show takes place each August (engashow.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Ribito Hotel (ribitohotel.com), Wabag Lodge (wabaglodge855@ gmail.com) and Daewon Hotel (dwltdhagen@gmail.com) offer good value in Wabag. They are close to government offices, shops, the cultural centre and buses. Kumul Lodge (kumul-lodge. com) and Yaskom Resort Hotel (+675 7066 4580) are out of town, along the Highlands Highway.

- DANIEL KUMBON



GULF

CAPITAL KEREMA 237,017 PEOPLE

34,472 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 229 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI does not fly into the province. The closest Air Niugini serviced airport is Jacksons International in Port Moresby.

Gulf Province is located on Papua New Guinea's southern coast. It has a concave coastline of large deltas that lead into the Lakekamu Basin, rich with birds and wildlife.

The province offers mountains and wide expanses of seasonally flooded grass plains stretching out from the Turama, Kikori, Purari and Vailala rivers.

There's a rich history here, which includes European occupation.

World-class fishing along the coast of Gulf attracts international fishers, however few tourists visit the Gulf and tourism facilities are scarce.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- If you want to catch the famed Papuan black bass, book through sportfishingpng.net.
- The provincial school arts and crafts festival is held every November.

WHERE TO STAY

The main accommodation in Kerema is GMI Hotel (+675 648 1397). Mission stations offer lodging (papuanewguinea.travel. com).

- JOYCELIN LEAHY



HELA

CAPITAL TARI 249.449 PEOPLE



10,498 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 617 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Tari two times a week. The flight time is 1 hour 30 minutes.

The province is home to Huli Wigmen, who have become one of the most internationally recognised symbols of PNG. The Huli are distinctive for their face paint and elaborate wigs made from human hair.

Be sure to pack some warm clothing for your visit – it can be cool in the mountains.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Trek into the Tari Gap or raft the Tangari River.
- Bushwalk with a guide into the mountains to see birds, including the famed birds of paradise.
- Visit Huli villages and the Huli wig school.
- Watch a sing-sing performance by Huli and other tribal groups.
- To undertake these activities, see pngtours.com and papuanewguinea.travel

WHERE TO STAY

Ambua Lodge is operated by Trans Niugini Tours (pngtours.com) and has a range of cultural and bird-watching excursions. At the time of going to print, the lodge has temporarily closed, but check the website for updates.

- JOYCELIN LEAHY



JIWAKA

CAPITAL BANZ 343,987 PEOPLE 4798 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 483 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Mount Hagen up to four times daily. The flight time is 1 hour.

Guarded by mountain ranges, the Waghi Valley cuts a swathe through Jiwaka Province.

The fertile valley is fed by the indomitable Waghi River that glints pale brown in the sunlight.

To reach Jiwaka, fly to Mount Hagen, the capital of the Western Highlands, and then travel overland. It's about an hour to Banz.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- See Banz come alive during the Jiwaka Show (pngtours.com), a colourful cultural event.
- Visit coffee plantations and see what goes into making a perfect cup of coffee. Plantation owners should be notified of visits beforehand.
- Purchase some packaged coffee in local shops to taste the exquisite flavours. Coffee from Jiwaka and the highlands region is highly regarded.

WHERE TO STAY

Jiwaka Mission Resort (jiwakamissionresort.com) provides clean and comfortable rooms at affordable prices in the Banz area. Hire cars, tours and airport transfers can be arranged with the resort.

- SIVA KIMA



MADANG

CAPITAL MADANG **493.906** PEOPLE



28,886 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 494 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Madang twice daily. The flight time is 1 hour.

It's only when you get to Madang that you've truly arrived in paradise. Imagine taking that first sip of an ice-cold beer while gazing out at a picture-perfect view of the sea and swaying palm trees.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Dive the many reefs scattered around Madang Harbour (pictured) or hire a kayak to visit islands.
- Drive up the coast to Tupira Surf Club (sapng.com/surfcamps-boats/tupira-surfclub), home to excellent waves from November to April.
- Have lunch and a swim at Jais Aben Resort (jaisabenresort. com).
- Go to Balek Wildlife Sanctuary where there's a small village and a sulphuric creek in a paradise-like setting.
- Time your visit with the Madang Festival, held each June.

WHERE TO STAY

Madang Resort (madangresort.com) is a fully serviced resort with waterfront bungalows, two restaurants, a dive shop, swimming pools and conference facilities. Also consider Madang Lodge (Tel. +675 422 3395), Madang Star International (madangstar.com.pg) and Jais Aben Resort (jaisabenresort.com).

- MARISA HOWDEN



MANUS

CAPITAL LORENGAU 60,485 PEOPLE 2000 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 821 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Manus daily, via Madang/Lae. The flight time via Madang is 2 hours 30 minutes and via Lae it is 2 hours 25 minutes.

It may be the smallest and the least populated province in PNG, but Manus has some of the loudest drumbeats in the country. Join the dance in August–September each year at the Manus Cultural Show.

Also referred to as the Admiralty Islands, Manus comprises 18-plus islands.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Surf at Rambutso Island and stay at Bundro Village Bungalows (davidputulan@gmail.com).
- Surf at Manus Island and stay at Chopon Surf Lodge (choponsurflodge.com).
- Hike up Mount Dremsel, (arrange through local hotels). It is the province's highest point and includes limestone caves with large chambers.

WHERE TO STAY

The Seeadler Bay Hotel (seeadlerbayhotel.com) is within walking distance of Lorengau and the 28-room Lorengau Habourside Hotel (lorengauharboursidehotel.com.pg) is positioned in the heart of Lorengau township. Village stays can be arranged by both hotels.

- JOYCELIN LEAHY







Left: The Coastwatchers Memorial Lighthouse in Madang. Picture: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority Top: The tiny Salamaua isthmus, about one hour from Lae in Morobe. Picture: Milen Stiliyanov Above: A smiling boy from the Trobriand Islands in Milne Bay. Picture: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority



MILNE BAY

CAPITAL ALOTAU 276,000 PEOPLE 270,000 SQUARE KILOMETRES



AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Alotau's Gurney Airport daily. The flight time is 50 minutes.

Comprising more than 435 islands scattered across hundreds of kilometres, Milne Bay Province is a place of spectacular natural beauty, perfect for snorkelling, diving, secluded white-sand beaches, hot springs and traditional villages.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Kayak or stand-up paddleboard along the junglelined Dawadawa River, with PNG Trekking Adventures (pngtrekkingadventures.com).
- Time a visit with the three-day Kenu and Kundu Festival in Alotau in early November each year, where war canoes with warriors in traditional dress race to the beat of island drums.
- Visit the ruined buildings at the former administrative centre on Samarai Island. There's also a market there every Saturday.

WHERE TO STAY

Tawali Resort (tawali.com) is a rainforest hideaway with access to fantastic snorkelling and diving. Doini Island Plantation Resort (doiniisland.com) has beachfront bungalows. In Alotau, Driftwood (driftwoodresortpng.com) has 11 elegant bungalows on the water's edge and a jetty restaurant.

- NINA KARNIKOWSKI



MOROBE

CAPITAL LAE 674,810 PEOPLE 33,705 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 307 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Lae four times daily. The flight time is 45 minutes.

Morobe is Papua New Guinea's most populous province and the gateway to the interior of the country. Lae is the country's second-biggest urban centre and industrial hub.

The province includes the biodiverse Huon Peninsula, the Markham Valley and Delta, and coastal areas extending into the Bismarck Sea.

Morobe had a gold rush in the 1920s. World War 2 was fought intensely on its land and waters.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Every October, Morobe comes alive with the Morobe Provincial Agricultural Show (morobeshow.org.pg), held in Lae since 1959.
- The towns of Wau and Bulolo offer bird and butterfly watching.
- Salamaua is a tiny isthmus about an hour from Lae by boat. Go for the incredible snorkelling and swimming.

WHERE TO STAY

Lae International Hotel (laeinterhotel.com), Hotel Morobe (hotelmorobe.com), Lae City Hotel (laecityhotel.com) and Huon Gulf Motel (coralseahotels.com.pg) are all in the heart of Lae.

- GRACE MARIBU



NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT

CAPITAL PORT MORESBY

369,139 PEOPLE



240 SQUARE KILOMETRES
The National Capital District (NCD) is Port Moresby. It is

both a city and a district. NCD is the gateway to Papua New Guinea - the nation's capital, centre of politics, trade and commerce.

Port Moresby is a growing and bustling metropolitan area Hotel and restaurant developments have taken off in the past few years, propelled by APEC.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Visit the National Museum and Art Gallery (museumpng.gov. pg) in Waigani.
- Get an overview of Port Moresby with a day tour with a tour operator such as Pepeta PNG (pepetapng.com), including craft markets.
- The annual Hiri Moale Festival in September commemorates the great Hiri trade voyages and includes the crowning of the Hiri queen.

WHERE TO STAY

The Airways Hotel (airways.com.pg) and Gateway Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg) are near the airport; the Stanley Hotel (thestanleypng.com) is at Waigani. The newest hotel in town is the Hilton (www3.hilton.com). Budget travellers may like the Shady Rest Hotel (shadyrest.com.pg) at Three Mile, or Raintree Lodge (raintreelodgepng.com) at Boroko.

- GRACE MARIBU



NEW IRELAND

CAPITAL KAVIENG 118,350 PEOPLE



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 859 KILOMETRES AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Kavieng daily, via Rabaul. The flight time is 2 hours.

One of the northernmost islands of PNG, New Ireland is long, narrow and mountainous, with vast stretches of beautiful beaches. The province comprises many islands (the largest is New Ireland) and is part of the Bismarck Archipelago.

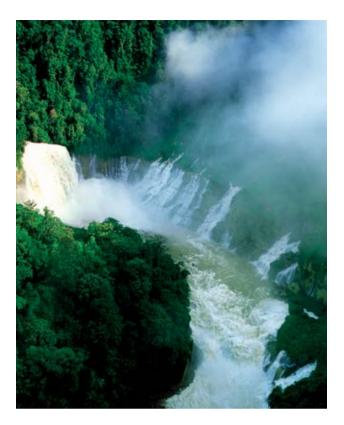
THINGS TO SEE & DO

- There's surfing, fishing, diving, snorkelling, island hopping and canoeing. All can be arranged with accommodation providers.
- Take a short boat ride from Kavieng to Nusa Island where day visitors are welcome at Nusa Island Retreat (pictured). There's a small village on the island where you can buy handicrafts.

WHERE TO STAY

Kavieng Niu Lodge (kaviengniulodge.com) has air-conditioned accommodation in town. Nusa Island Retreat (nusaislandretreat. com) and Lissenung Island Resort (lissenungisland.com) are perfect if you're surfing, diving, snorkelling or fishing. The live-aboard surfing, diving and fishing boat *PNG Explorer* (pngsurfaris.com) is based at Kavieng.

ANNETTE SETE





Left: Wasi Falls in the Southern Highlands. Above: Surf's up at Lido Right, near Vanimo in Sandaun Province. Pictures: Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority

ATIONS Executive Club



BENEFITS OF BEING AN AIR NIUGINI EXECUTIVE CLUB MEMBER

- Access to award winning domestic Paradise lounges and international partner lounges
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- Priority baggage tags
- Priority waitlist
- Guest passes
- Receive a free gift pack

For more information contact us on Phone: (675) 327 3420 or Email: exec.club@airniugini.com.pg or Visit: www.destinations.com.pg

Mr John Smith 100 000 000 EXPIRY ENDS NOV-17





ORO

CAPITAL POPONDETTA

176,206 PEOPLE



34,650 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 139 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Popondetta twice daily. The flight time is 35 minutes.

Oro Province is the birthplace of the world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra's birdwing, with a wingspan up to 30 centimetres. The Kokoda Trail runs through the province (as well as Central Province), and there is worldclass diving.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Visit Tufi Resort (tufidive.com) for diving, snorkelling, kayaking, fishing and cultural experiences.
- See war relics along the coast in Buna and Gona. It is recommended that visitors take a guide. Ask for one at Oro Guest House (+675 7316 O4O2 / 7119 8112) or email ogh.popondettapng@gmail.com; or contact PNG Trekking Adventures (pngtrekkingadventures.com).
- See the birdwing butterfly at Ondahari Village, about 40 minutes from Popondetta. Make bookings for the village guest house at the Oro Guest House in Popondetta.

WHERE TO STAY

The Tufi Resort (tufidive.com) is the province's top accommodation and has breathtaking views over fjords, the sea and mountains covered in rainforest. World-class diving is among the many activities on offer. Traditional village accommodation is available through Tufi Village Stays (tufivillagestays.com).

- JOYCELIN LEAHY



SANDAUN (WEST SEPIK)

CAPITAL VANIMO 248,411 PEOPLE 35,920 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 993 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Vanimo four times weekly. The flights are via Wewak. The flight time is 2 hours.

Sandaun Province (formerly West Sepik) is the outer province of PNG, bordering Indonesia at West Papua. Provincial capital, Vanimo, is only 30 kilometres from the Indonesian border, which is closed to tourists.

Sandaun has seen little development and tourism but on the coast, west of Vanimo, there are good beaches for swimming and surfing.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Head eight kilometres west of Vanimo to the village of Lido for some surfing.
- Aitape, an old German missionary station, can be reached by boat from Vanimo (ask locals for boats and guides). There's some surfing here and you can trek and visit waterfalls.
- Tenkile Conservation Base (tenkile.com) has a collection of endangered tree kangaroos.

WHERE TO STAY

Vanimo Surf Lodge (vanimosurflodge.com) has friendly service and air-conditioned rooms, or try the Golden Medallion Hotel (Tel. +675 457 1113).

- GRACE MARIBU



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

CAPITAL MENDI 515.511 PEOPLE



15,089 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 1088 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI currently has no flights to Mendi.

The Southern Highlands is a province where you can get off the tourism grid into unseen and often unheard-of places.

Geographic highlights include 4368-metre Mount Giluwe, the second-highest mountain in PNG; spectacular waterfalls; and Lake Kutubu, the second-largest lake.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Of all the waterfalls, make sure you see the spectacular 100-metre Wasi Falls.
- Go to the Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival at Daga village beside Lake Kutubu The festival, in September, acknowledges the importance of the *kundu* drum and the Digaso oil - both significant in Southern Highlands culture. Details from sjeffrey@www.pacific.org.

WHERE TO STAY

Relax at Tubo Eco Lodge, with a perfect view of Lake Kutubu, and enjoy superb birdwatching. Norman Ba'abi is the owner (nibaabi@gmail.com). Alternatively stay in Kiburu Lodge (+675 549 1350), a wilderness retreat in the rainforest, only 10 minutes from Mendi.

- JOYCELIN LEAHY



WESTERN HIGHLANDS

CAPITAL MOUNT HAGEN 362,850 PEOPLE 4299 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 514 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Mount Hagen up to four times daily, except Wednesday. The flight time is 1 hour.

Mount Hagen is the third-largest city in PNG, but it feels rural, especially as you come in to land over grass huts and terraced gardens throughout the fertile Wahgi Valley.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Go to the Mount Hagen Show, held each August and see locals in traditional dress (pictured).
- Wander around the Mount Hagen market, where the locals are welcoming and there's a wide array of produce and other goods.
- Enjoy some of PNG's best coffee in park-like surroundings at Kofi Cave, near the airport.
- Play a round of golf at Mount Hagen Golf Club (mthagengolfclub.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Rondon Ridge Lodge (pngtours.com), 40 minutes from Mount Hagen, is part of the Trans Niugini Tours chain. The lodge is in the hills overlooking Mount Hagen. Two of the best hotels in town are the Highlander (coralseahotels.com.pg) and the McRoyal (mcroyalhotelpng.com). For no-frills accommodation, try Martha's Retreat (facebook.com/marthasretreatpng).

– JOYCELIN LEAHY



WESTERN

CAPITAL DARU 201,351 PEOPLE 98,189 SQUARE KILOMETRES



98,189 SQUARE KILOMETRES

HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 434 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Daru four times weekly. The flight time is 1 hour 10 minutes.

Make sure you are camera-ready when you enter Western Province, it is a bird watcher's paradise. Many also travel here to catch PNG's mighty black bass and barramundi.

The largest river in PNG, the Fly, runs through the province, which is a patchwork of winding rivers, lakes and wetlands. The giant OK Tedi mine is in the province.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Fish the Fly River, Lake Murray and other areas, based at Bensbach Wildlife Lodge or Lake Murray Lodge, operated by Trans Niugini Tours (pngtours.com).
- Kiunga-based Quinten Tours (+675 7198 9397) runs fishing, birding and cultural safaris.
- Kiunga Nature Tours (+675 548 1451) conducts birdwatching excursions and trips to villages.
- Journey to Wawoi Falls, one of PNG's most spectacular waterfalls.

WHERE TO STAY

The Bensbach and Lake Murray lodges operated by Trans Niugini Tours (pngtours.com) offer the pick of the province's accommodation. In Kiunga, the 43-room Cassowary Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg) opened in 2018. It has a restaurant, bar, pizzeria and two conference rooms.

- JOYCELIN LEAHY



WEST NEW BRITAIN

CAPITAL KIMBE 264,264 PEOPLE 20,387 SQUARE KILOMETRES



HOW FAR FROM PORT MORESBY? 525 KILOMETRES

AIR NIUGINI flies from Port Moresby to Kimbe twice daily. The flight time is 1 hour 5 minutes.

This province occupies the western half of New Britain Island. Unlike neighbouring East New Britain Province, the west is largely unknown by tourists, even though it boasts great diving, snorkelling, fishing and trekking.

Hoskins Airport is about 45 minutes' drive from the main town of Kimbe.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

- Kimbe Bay is famous for its coral, rewarding snorkelling and diving experiences, and volcanic caves.
- There's excellent fishing (baiafishingpng.com) at Kimbe Bay.

WHERE TO STAY

Walindi Plantation Resort (walindifebrina.com) is the perfect getaway for divers, offering land-based diving, as well as excursions on board the MV *FeBrina*. Fishermen are well served at the Baia Sportfishing Lodge (baiafishingpng.com). Liamo Reef Resort (liamoreefresort.com), Kimbe Bay Hotel (+675 983 5001) and Genesis Hotel (Tel. +675 983 4011) also provide accommodation within the main town of Kimbe.

- ANNETTE SETE

DIRECTORY

PNG travel tips, hotels, lodges, places to eat & tour operators

TRIP NOTES

CLIMATE

With the exception of the Highlands, Papua New Guinea has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internet: Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. In other urban centres, you may still be relying on dial-up. For those staying longer, wireless internet, via a USB modem, is available. Complimentary Wi-Fi is becoming more common at hotels, and is also available at Jacksons International Airport. Phone: International mobile phone roaming is possible in PNG but it can be costly. A cheaper option is to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit (including data packs for smartphones).

ELECTRICITY

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz, using Australianstyle plugs.

GETTING AROUND

AIRPORT TRANSFERS: For arrival/departure in Port Moresby, any of the hotels listed in this guide will provide a complimentary transfer.

CAR HIRE: Deal with one of the international names and ask them to provide a driver (PGK450+ per day). With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/ SUVs are recommended. **TAXIS:** Recommended firms are City Loop (1800 000), Comfort (325 3046) and Scarlet (7220 7000). Domestic flights: Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight (for instance, vou cannot drive between Port Moresby and Lae). Air Niugini offers passengers the chance to book (and for some flights. also to check in) online, but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at check-in. Aircraft and helicopter charters are available for travel to remote locations.

HEALTH

Serious medical conditions can be treated in Port Moresby at Pacific International Hospital and the Government Hospital, which have 24-hour emergency and critical care services. Some conditions may require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover (the cost of medical evacuation can reach \$US30,000). Visitors should also note that malaria is prevalent in PNG and there have been cases of measles and tuberculosis.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

For St John Ambulance phone 111 or 7111 1234. St John provides 24-hour ambulance service in Port Moresby.

MONEY

PNG's currency is the kina (PGK). ANZ and Bank of South Pacific (BSP) have branches at Port Moresby's international airport. ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and other urban centres.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

PNG observes a number of public holidays unique to the country. In 2019, they include National Remembrance Day on Tuesday, July 23; National Repentance Day on Monday, August 26; and Independence Day on Monday, September 16.

SAFETY

While the situation is not as bad as portrayed by some international media, you should always take precautions, especially at night.

TIME ZONE

PNG has a single time zone, 10 hours ahead of UTC/ GMT.

EATING OUT

PORT MORESBY

AIRWAYS HOTEL: Port Moresby's ritziest hotel has several places to eat. If you're after fine dining, Bacchus is the place to go. For something more casual, go poolside to Deli KC. The Vue Restaurant, which has a buffet each morning and evening, as well as an a la carte menu, has stunning views.

See airways.com.pg.

ASIA AROMAS: Offering Chinese and Thai food by the water at Harbourside, this eatery has consistently good reviews on social media. Outdoor seating is available. A good spot for sunset drinks. *Tel.* +675 321 4780. Aviat CLUB: The club is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Home-style meals include stir-fries, toasted sandwiches and salt-and-pepper prawns. This is a great spot to sit at lunchtime under the shady mango trees, or in the airconditioned bar. See facebook.com/pages/ Aviat-Club/141553252563094.

BEL CIBO: A casual and affordable family style restaurant serving Italian-American at Vision City. See belcibopng.com.

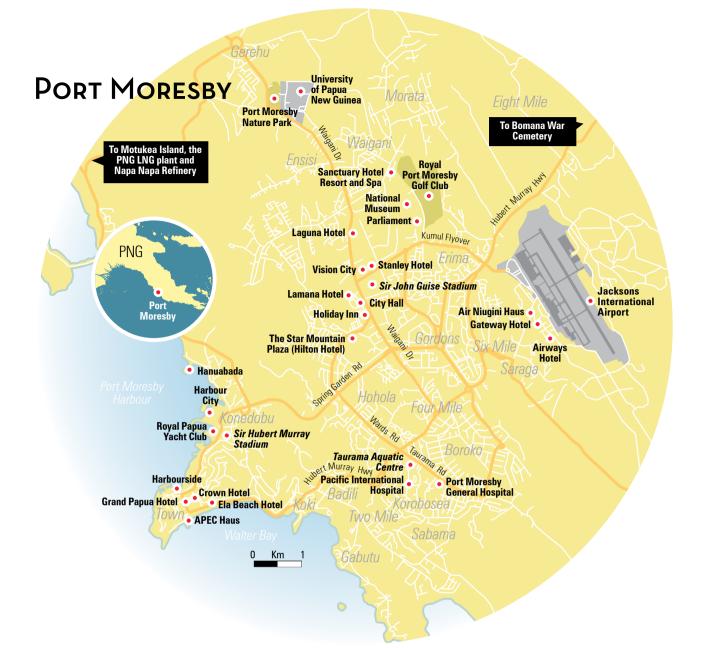
CROWN HOTEL: There are multiple eating options at Crown. The in-house restaurant includes a buffet for breakfast (eggs cooked to order), as well as lunch and dinner. It's one of the few restaurants in Port Moresby with gluten-free choices. The hotel also has fine dining at the Rapala restaurant. See *ihg.com*.

DAIKOKU: The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi bowls and a large range of sushi. Tucked away above the Stop n Shop shopping centre in Harbour City, chefs will whip up your meal at your table. See daikokupng.com.

DUFFY CAFE: Known for excellent coffee and homemade cafe-style food and bakery items, Duffy has three locations - at Harbourside, Gordons and Jacksons International Airport.

See duffypng.com.

DYNASTY AT VISION CITY: This may be the biggest restaurant in Port Moresby. Its size, its chandeliers and



its gold decor make it a favourite for balls, dinners and parties. The menu is huge, too, with pages of Asian dishes. See facebook.com/pages/ Dynasty-Restaurant-Vision-City/148278471918956.

EDGE BY THE SEA: The 'Edge' cafe was renovated in 2017 and has alfresco dining with a wonderful marina outlook from the ground floor at the Edge Apartments in Harbour City. Eggs benedict, burrito bowls, pork burgers and grilled snapper are among the breakfast and lunch menu favourites.

There's a mist water system in the alfresco area that can reduce the ambient air temperature by up to 10 degrees ... perfect for those blistering-hot days. *Tel.* +675 7995 5263.

ELA BEACH HOTEL: The Beachside Brasserie aims to be one of Port Moresby's best value-for-money restaurants, offering seafood and other dishes from the Pacific Rim, curry, pastas,

and a classic grill menu. It's

located next to the pool, set

See coralseahotels.com.pg.

in Italian gardens.

ELEMENT BAR AND

RESTAURANT: One of Port Moresby's newest restaurants, Element offers Asian fusion with excellent service. On Champion Parade, on the first level of MRDC Haus, it has modern decor and a huge balcony. *Tel.* +675 7252 8778.

Fusion: This is one of the city's busiest restaurants. It's a fusion of flavours from China, Thailand and Vietnam. Takeaway available. There's also a sister restaurant, Fusion 2, in the far corner of the ANZ Bank Compound in Waigani. *Tel.* +675 7196 6666.

GATEWAY HOTEL: The

hotel's dining options include: Jackson's Gaming-Restaurant-Bar, which has a rooftop bar with views of the airport, as well as claims to the best lamb rack in town. Sizzler's Family Restaurant offers value dining, while Enzo's Express does quick lunches, coffee and pizza. The hotel's Departure Bar, next to the hotel lobby, is a comfortable and airconditioned space to while away some transit hours in between flights. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

DIRECTORY

GRAND PAPUA HOTEL: The

elegant Grand Brasserie has an a la carte menu of modern European cuisine, as well as buffet options. The Grand Cafe, on Douglas Street, has barista-made Goroka coffee, fruit juices, freshly made salads and sandwiches. The Grand Bar - with stylish marble, high ceilings, timber floors and window shutters - has a light menu and is a popular place to wind down after work. See grandpapuahotel.com.pg.

HILTON PORT MORESBY:

The hotel has five eating areas including Mumu, which is named after the traditional earthen oven of PNG and serves traditionally inspired dishes. There's also a top-floor lounge bar called Summit, cafe-style dining in Copper on the lobby level, all-day dining and a breakfast buffet at Feast, and quick bites, such as sandwiches and coffee, at Halo in the convention centre foyer.

See www3.hilton.com. Tel. +675 750 1800.

Hosi Ramen: As the name suggests, this Japanese restaurant at Vision City specialises in ramen (noodles served in broth with meat and vegetables). See facebook. com/pages/Hosi-Ramen/565779996932557.

KOREAN GARDEN: An affordable menu at Vision City that includes a do-ityourself barbecue, as well as traditional favourites such as kimchi and gimbap. See facebook.com/ pages/Korean-Garden/595454767289525.

LAMANA HOTEL: You're

spoilt for choice here with Spices (Indian), the Italian Restaurant, Rio's at the Temple (Brazilian), Cafe Palazzo, Lanes Ten Pin Bowling, and PNG's biggest nightclub, The Gold Club See lamanahotel.com.pg.

MAGI SEAFOOD RESTAURANT:

A local secret on Spring Garden Road (same side as SP Brewery) with excellent Asian food, but specifically the best mud crab in town, which needs to be ordered 24 hours in advance. *Tel.* +675 323 3918.

Mojo Social: This casual Mediterranean-inspired bar and restaurant is on the ground floor of PWC Haus at Harbour City. Tapas-style dishes, risotto and pizza are among the offerings. See mojosocialpng.com.

Naked Fish: A seafood and steak restaurant at Harbourside. Great spot for sunsets and the water views *Tel.* +675 320 2293.

ROYAL PAPUA YACHT CLUB:

Relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens. See rpyc.com.pg.

SEOUL HOUSE: This restaurant specialises in Korean and Thai food, cooked on the hot plate right in front of you. Seoul House is tucked away in a garden oasis compound in Five Mile. *Tel.* +675 325 2231.

SOGNO: This is a traditional Italian restaurant with pastas, risottos and pizzas served out of a stone oven at Harbourside. *Tel.* +675 320 0007.

STANLEY HOTEL AND SUITES:

This Waigani hotel has several restaurant choices, including the fine-dining Silver Leaf and the chic tapas-style Monsoon Lounge. Green Haus restaurant has all-day dining, including buffet dinners with live cooking stations. See thestanleypng.com.

TANDOOR ON THE HARBOUR:

Come here for a curry with great bay views. See facebook.com/ tandoorontheharbour. Tasty Bites: This Indian restaurant is tucked away in the town centre in Hunter Street near Crowne Plaza. Bookings recommended. *Tel.* +675 321 2222.

VISION CITY: PNG's first major shopping mall houses an increasing array of eateries. The cavernous Dynasty (Chinese) and the Ten (Japanese) are standouts.

See visioncity.com.pg.

LAE

BUNGA RAYA: This local favourite, serving Malaysianstyle Chinese, is located next door to the Lae Golf Club. Be sure to try the stuffed lettuce cups, laksa and claypot tofu. *Tel.* +675 472 7177.

CAFE 411: There's a cosy atmosphere at this casual cafe next to Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive. The Western-style menu includes finger foods and PNG coffee. *Tel.* +675 479 0100.

CHIGI'S CAFE: This delightful place inside the temporary Brian Bell store near the Lae main markets serves good coffee, milkshakes, sandwiches, cakes and salads. *Tel.* +675 7217 1966. GOLDEN AVIAT: A good option for Chinese, located on Huon Road in Eriku. Open for lunch and dinner, and yum cha on Sundays. *Tel.* +675 472 0486.

Huon CLUB: This private members' club offers air-conditioned facilities, comfortable lounge chairs, an expansive deck overlooking the Lae Golf Club, a fully stocked bar and Foxtel to preview all the racing and sporting events. *Tel.* +675 7347 1058.

LAE CITY CAFE: Located in the Lae City Hotel on 3rd street, the cafe serves Western and Asian cuisine. The signature dishes include ribs and Nasi Goreng. *Tel.* +675 472 0138.

LAE GARDEN RESTAURANT:

The Asian menu includes staples such as crispy chicken and butter prawns. The elegant restaurant,inside Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive, offers breathtaking views of the city from its balcony.

Tel. +675 479 0100.

club is excellent for a few sundowners as you overlook the stunning green. *Tel. +675 472* 1363.

LAE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL:

Home to three restaurants – Luluai's Italian Pizza, Vanda and Kokomo – which serve an array of international cuisine, including Indian and seafood buffets. The Sportsman's Bar (aka Jack's Bar) is a good place for a nightcap. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 7000.

LAE YACHT CLUB: The perfect place for late-afternoon beers, or just as nice for a relaxing lunch. Serves pubstyle food. See laeyachtclub.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 4091.



MOUNTAIN VIEW RESTAURANT:

Located at the Crossroads Hotel at Nine Mile. Be sure to try the Japanese fusion menu – it's the only place in town where you can get good sushi. See hornibrook.com.pg/ crossroads. Tel. +675 475 1124.

HOTELS

PORT MORESBY

AIRWAYS HOTEL: Airways is within a large, secure compound next to Jacksons International Airport. An inspiring setting, luxurious rooms, excellent service and very good food options. See airways.com.pg. Tel. +675 324 5200.

CITI BOUTIQUE HOTEL: The

Citi Boutique Hotel is in Boroko, a quiet residential area with shopping centres and sporting facilities. It has 60 deluxe queen and twin rooms, a business centre, cable TV and free Wi-Fi. There's also a day spa and beauty salon, restaurant, bar, karaoke room, and a rooftop terrace. The hotel provides free airport transfers. See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300

CITI SERVICED APARTMENTS

AND MOTEL: There are two Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel properties, one block located at East Boroko and the other at Manu. They are set in safe and secure grounds. The apartments are fully kitted out. They include cable TV, free Wi-Fi, washing machines, dryers, fridges, fans and air conditioning. Housekeeping is also provided. See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300.

DIRECTORY

CROWN HOTEL: Upmarket

rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving cafe and Mediterranean restaurant. See *ihg.com*.

Tel. +675 309 3329.

ELA BEACH HOTEL AND

APARTMENTS: On the fringe of the CBD, this constantly expanding hotel/apartment complex is part of the Coral Sea Hotels group. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 321 2100.

GATEWAY HOTEL:

Conveniently located just minutes from Jacksons International Airport, the hotel has a range of dining options, conference facilities, modern gym and two swimming pools. Free airport shuttles are available for guests.

See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 327 8100.

GRAND PAPUA: This premium hotel features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate restaurant and bar areas are popular for business meetings. Centrally located.

See grandpapuahotel.com. pg. Tel. +675 304 0000.

HILTON PORT MORESBY:

The capital city's newest luxury hotel opened in late 2018 and is in the government district 10 minutes from the airport. There are five restaurants, an executive lounge, six meeting rooms, a convention centre, swimming pool and fitness centre. All rooms in the 15-storey hotel include floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodation includes standard rooms, executive rooms and suites. See www3.hilton.com. Tel. +675 750 18000.

HoliDay INN: Located in Waigani, the large grounds include a walking track in a tropical garden, outdoor restaurant and bar area, business centre and gym. Includes three-star Holiday Inn Express hotel. See *ihg.com*. *Tel.* +675 303 2000.

LAGUNA HOTEL: The 6O-room property is a five-minute drive from the heart of Port Moresby and features a lagoon-style pool, free airport transfers, Wi-Fi and buffet breakfast. See lagunahotelpng.com. Tel. +675 323 9333.

LAMANA HOTEL: In Waigani, the hotel has 24-hour free airport transfers, free inroom Wi-Fi, a conference centre, restaurants, and the famous Gold Club. See lamanahotel.com.pg. Tel. +675 323 2333.

SANCTUARY HOTEL RESORT

AND SPA: Located in Waigani, the property has a range of room styles in a garden setting, plus outdoor pool. See thesanctuaryresort andspa.com.

STANLEY HOTEL AND

Surres: One of Port Moresby's newest hotels, this is a luxurious 429-room property in Waigani, close to government offices and embassies. It has 95 longstay apartments, gym, pool, cafe, restaurants and an executive lounge. Connected to Vision City Mega Mall. See thestanleypng.com. Tel. + 675 302 8888.

LAE

CROSSROADS HOTEL: The hotel has a Japanesethemed restaurant, bar service, gym, Wi-Fi and complimentary transfers to Nadzab Airport. See hornibrook.com.pg/ crossroads. Tel. +675 475 1124. HOTEL MOROBE: A centrally located 38-room boutique property built in 2014. See hotelmorobe.com. Tel. +675 4790 100.

LAE CITY HOTEL: Located in the main Top Town area, this hotel has 24-hour concierge and an excellent cafe and restaurant with Western and Asian cuisine. See laecityhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 0138.

LAE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL: The city's premier hotel has recently renovated rooms, full bar service, conference and banquet halls, a gym and pool. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 2000.

LAE TRAVELLERS INN: An affordable option, offering clean and comfortable rooms. *Tel.* +675 479 0411.

RESORTS & LODGES AROUND PNG

AMBUA LODGE: One of six lodges belonging to Trans Niugini Tours, located near Tari in Hela Province. Known for birdwatching and cultural tours among the Huli. See pnatours.com.

BAIA SPORTFISHING LODGE: Estuary and blue-water fishing specialist.

See baiafishingpng.com. BENSBACH WILDLIFE LODGE: Also part of the Trans Niugini Tours group, this remote lodge in Western Province is the group's premier wildlife location in PNG and famous for its barramundi fishing. See pngtours.com.

DRIFTWOOD RESORT: A waterfront Alotau property with 11 bungalows and a restaurant that spills on to a private jetty. See driftwoodresortpng.com.

DOINI ISLAND PLANTATION

RESORT: Beachfront bungalows and resort facilities on an otherwise deserted island, via Alotau. *See doiniisland.com*.

JAIS ABEN RESORT: On a former coconut plantation at Madang, the property has beachfront bungalows and a good range of activities, from snorkelling to jungle treks.

See jaisabenresort.com.

KARAWARI LODGE: Part of the Trans Niugini Tours group, located in remote jungle alongside the Karawari River in East Sepik Province. See pnatours.com.

KOKOPO BEACH BUNGALOW RESORT: Volcano and sea views in an authentic PNG setting, including semi-open restaurant with sago roof. Big range of tours/activities. See kbb.com.pg.

LAKE MURRAY LODGE: Part of the Trans Niugini Tours group of lodges, in Western Province. A favourite among anglers. See pngtours.com.

LIAMO REEF RESORT: Has beachfront views of Kimbe Bay, resort facilities including pool and tennis, and activities such as snorkelling and kayaking. See liamoreefresort.com.

LISSENUNG ISLAND RESORT:

Twenty minutes by boat from Kavieng, with surfing, diving and four bungalows built from traditional materials. See lissenungisland.com.

LOLOATA ISLAND RESORT:

Undergoing renovations and expected to reopen mid 2019. The resort is a popular weekend getaway spot near Port Moresby. Perfect for divers and snorkellers. See loloataislandresort.com.

DIRECTORY

MADANG LODGE: A boutique property on Astrolabe Bay with 54 rooms and a waterfront restaurant. See madanglodge.com.

MADANG RESORT: A town landmark, with 120 rooms and 80 more in the adjacent Kalibobo Village. Multiple restaurants and pools, tennis court, and home to Niugini Diving Adventures. See madangresort.com.

MALOLO PLANTATION

Resort: Snorkelling, diving and cultural tours are available from this Madang property, part of the Trans Niugini Tours group. See *pngtours.com*.

NULI SAPI: On Logeia Island, via Alotau, there are four basic overwater bungalows made from bush materials. See nulisapi.com.

NUSA ISLAND RETREAT:

A short boat ride from Kavieng, the retreat includes overwater bungalows and is booked out by surfers. Diving, fishing and other activities are also on offer. See nusaislandretreat.com.

RAPOPO PLANTATION RESORT:

Diving, fishing and local tours are available from this Kokopo property. See rapopo.com.

Rondon Ridge: Mick Jagger stayed in this lodge, near Mount Hagen. Part of the Trans Niugini Tours group. See pngtours.com.

RUBIO PLANTATION RETREAT: The retreat has beachfront bungalows and there's surf out the front. Village visits, cycling, snorkelling and fishing also on offer. See newirelandsurf.com.

TAWALI LEISURE AND DIVE RESORT: Diving's the main game, but lots more is on offer, from village tours to waterfalls.

See tawali.com.

TUFI DIVE RESORT: Known for its diving, this boutique resort in Oro Province has views over sea, fjords and rainforest. Diving aside, a great range of culturally immersive activities are available. See tufidive.com.

TUPIRA SURF CLUB: The

club is 180 kilometres north of Madang and has a mix of basic bungalow and guesthouse accommodation in one of PNG's prime surfing areas. See tupira.com.

VANIMO SURF LODGE:

Traditional beachfront huts and access to north-coast surf breaks near Vanimo. See vanimosurflodge.com.

WALINDI PLANTATION RESORT:

A dive resort on the shores of Kimbe Bay; also home to the live-aboard dive vessel MV FeBrina. See walindifebrina.com.

TOUR BOOKINGS & OPERATORS

AIR NIUGINI: The airline offers a range of PNG holidays, including packages to cultural shows and getaways to the coast and highlands. It also has a Business Travel Centre (Tel. +675 321 2888) with an office in Port Moresby.

See airniugini.com.pg.

ALPHABLUE LIMITED: Offers snorkelling, sport fishing and sightseeing by speed boat within Milne Bay. The site has a good list of local operators. See alphablueltd.com.

AUTHENTIC SEPIK Tours: Local-run river

tours from Wewak, with accommodation in village guest houses or with families. See authenticsepiktours.com.

Buna Treks & Tours: A

Kokoda trekking specialist that also arranges Mount Wilhelm treks, day tours around Port Moresby and more. See facebook.com/

bunatrekkers.

COUNTRY TOURS: Offers a wide range of tours across PNG, from birdwatching to diving and cultural shows. See www.countrytours.com.pg.

KABAIRA DIVE TOURS: Rabaulbased tour operator offering Rabaul and Kokopo land tours, island picnics, harbour cruises, snorkelling, diving and fishing.

See kabairadive.com.pg.

KOKODA TRACK AUTHORITY: The KTA manages and promotes the trail and has a listing of 37 accredited operators, plus other useful information for trekkers. See kokodatrackauthority. org.

MELANESIAN TOURIST SERVICES: Based in Madang. Variety of trips and activities. See www.mtspng.com.

PEPETA PNG: Offers packages to festivals, destinations around the country, and Port Moresby day tours. See pepetapng.com.

PNG HIGHLANDS ADVENTURES: Trekking, rafting, birdwatching and cultural tours. Based in Goroka. See pnghighlandsadventure tours.com.

PNG HOLIDAYS: Has a comprehensive listing of tours and accommodation all around the country. See pngholidays.com.au. PNG SURFARIS: A surf charter operator, based in Kavieng, that runs liveaboard surf and dive trips. See pngsurfaris.com.

PNG TREKKING ADVENTURES:

Offers a range of treks, including Kokoda Trail and Mount Wilhelm climb, plus cultural tours, kayaking and Port Moresby day trips. See pngtrekkingadventures. com.

RABAUL-KOKOPO DIVE:

Operates from the Rapopo Plantation Resort in Kokopo. See rabaul-kokopodive.com.

Sepik Adventure Tours:

A range of trips available, including exploring the famous Sepik River by canoe. Locally owned and operated. *Tel.* +675 7259 6349.

SportFishing PNG: River, reef and coastal fishing trips. See sportfishingpng.net.

SURFING ASSOCIATION OF

PNG: Provides a guide to PNG surfing, places to stay and a list of operators that run surf trips. See sapna.com.

TRANS NIUGINI TOURS: Owns and operates a series of wilderness lodges and tailors trips to those lodges. Also operates the *Sepik Spirit* riverboat.

See pngtours.com.

VILLAGE HUTS: An adventure and backpacker specialist with a network of small locally owned huts, guesthouses and activity providers. See villagehuts.com.

VILINK TOURS & EXPEDITIONS PNG: ViLink is short for

'village link'. This Alotaubased operator offers culture, wildlife and village experiences. *Tel.* +675 7339 4580.

Paradise Annual 2019 does not vouch for any of the listed businesses. Travellers should make their own inquiries on the suitability and quality of each business.



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TWO-MINUTE GUIDE TO TOK PISIN WORDS/PHRASES

Papua New Guinea has more than 800 languages, but the three official languages are Tok Pisin, English and Motu. Here, we outline some Tok Pisin, which is the largest lingua franca of PNG.

- Where do I find a taxi?
- Bai mi painim taxi long we?
- One coffee with milk, please. Wanpela kap kopi wantaim milk plis.
- Where is the toilet? **Toilet istap we?**

- How much is this? Hamas long dispela?
- Thank you very much. Tenkiu tru.
- You understand English? Yu save long tok Inglis?
- Where is my bag? Bag bilong mi istap we?
- Where can I change my money?
- Wanem hap bai mi ken senisim moni bilong mi?

- One beer, please. Wanpela bia plis.
- Why? Bilong wanem?
- How many children do you have? Yu gat hamaspla pikinini?
- Where are you from? Yu bilong wanem hap?
- I don't know. Mi no save.
- What do you want? Yu laikim wanem samting?

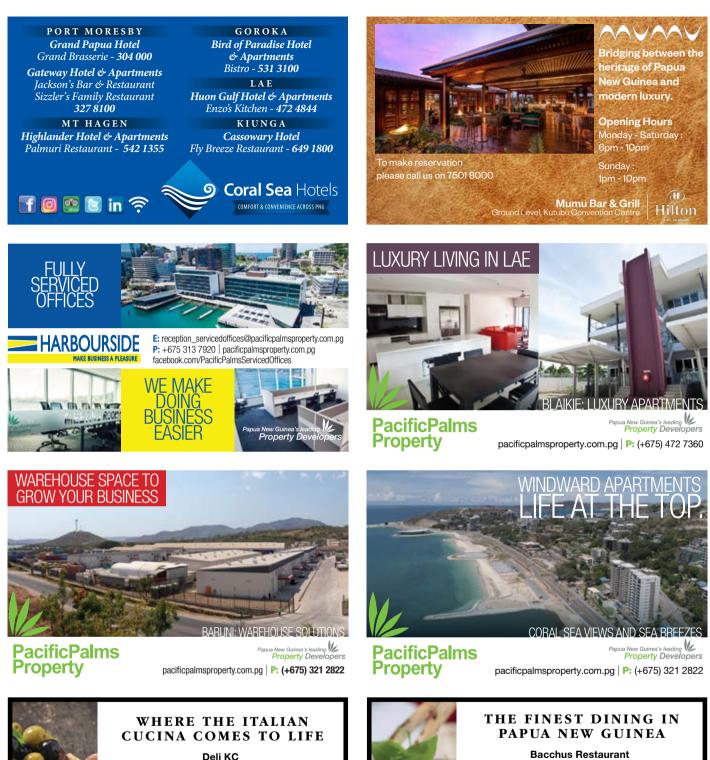
- Restaurant Ples bilong kaikai
- Goodbye Gutbai
- Hello Halo
- Water Wara
- Baggage Kago
- Airport Ples balus
- Place Ples
- Fish Pis

The Paradise Travel & Culture map of

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEW IRELAND RESORTS & LODGES 💽 LIHIR 💢 23 Nusa Island 8 Liamo Reef 16 Malolo Т. Boluminski Retreat Resort Plantation Hiahwau RABAUL 🔮 🧙 🌫 🗙 🗡 Resort 2 Lissenung 9 Kokopo Beach Island Resort Bungalow **17** Bensbach Wildlife Lodge Resort 3 Tufi Dive Resort Mount Re **10** Doini Island 18 Karawari Tawali Leisure 4 Plantation Lodge and Dive Resort кокоро Resort $\times \times$ 19 Vanimo Surf X 🤕 惹 5 Walindi **11** Loloata Island Lodge Plantation 00 Resort BUKA 20 Driftwood resort EAST NEW BRITAIN AUTONOMOUS REGION 12 Nuli Sapi Resort 6 Madana Resort OFBOUGANNILLE 21 Jais Aben X **13** Lake Murrav 7 Rapopo SOLOMON SEA Lodge Resort Plantation ARAWA Resort 14 Ambua Lodge 22 Tupira Surf **KIETA** Club 15 Rondon Ridge **23** Rubio Plantation Retreat **W**KEY FESTIVALS Port Moresby Rabaul **Mount Hagen** Frangipani Festival Hiri Moale Festival Mount Hagen Show Goroka Lae Wabag Morobe Show Goroka Show ISLANDS Enga Čultural Alotau Wewak Show Kenu & Kundu Crocodile Festival Festival Kokopo Madang Mask Festival Madang Festival 0 KM 200 😒 Fishing Treks LOUISADE ARCHIDELAGO 🗡 War history Cycling Cycling Bird & butterfly watching **Diving & snorkelling Airports** Surfing



SERVICES DIRECTORY



Fresh homemade pasta, pizza, soups, sandwiches, pastries, cakes, great coffee, Italian small goods, antipasti, breads, homemade chocolates, gourmet cheeses and much more.



For reservations please call 324 5200 (ext. 3400) www.airways.com.pg

Bacchus Restaurant

Experience PNG's premium dining destination. At Bacchus, talented chefs prepare cuisine of the highest quality. With the country's best-stocked wine cellar and attentive table service, Bacchus transforms every meal into a memorable experience.



For reservations please call 324 5200 (ext. 3400) www.airwavs.com.pg

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 - www.rapopo.com

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fish feeding, swimming

boarding, outrigger

with the dolphins, paddle

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ICOM		\mathbb{S}	Fibre and Copper Data Networks Vehicle and Asset Tracking
🐈 Yeastar		Ŏ	HF/VHF/UHF Radio
Pom: 325 6322 Lae: 472 6262 or email: info@tepng.com		\odot	VSAT Satellite IP CCTV Solutions Phone and PABX Systems Satellite Phones

PHOTO FINISH



PICTURE: CHRIS MCLENNAN In the absence of roads, the Karawari River provides one of the main thoroughfares through the jungle in East Sepik Province. Visitors to this remote region can stay at Karawari Lodge.



CONCIERGE

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