EM02 TROBRIAND ISLANDS EXPERIENCE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS
Flexible 2, 3 or 4 nights package with optional village overnight

Our Trobriand Islands cultural experience features a tour of villages on Kiriwina, the main Island in the Trobriands and (for 3 nights stay or longer) a unique village experience at idyllic Munuwata Island, where you will be able to soak up the fascinating culture of the Trobriand Islanders and observe the subsistence lifestyle of people living off seafood, coconuts and yam gardens.

Flights to Losuia the small town on Kiriwina Island, the largest of the Trobriands, operate almost daily - see www.apng.com and www.airniugini.com.pg

The trip cost includes motel accommodation, transfers, most meals, village tours and activities, and local guides. The basic 2 night package includes two nights accommodation and touring on Kiriwina only. The three and four night packages include a day trip to Munuwata island and even an option to overnight there in a village hut.

| Package Cost* (these prices are ground only, does not include any air travel): |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Group size                  | Group of 1      | Group of 2-3    | Group of 4-5    | Group of 6+     |
| Price per person 2 nights  | USD 2200        | USD 1500        | USD 1250        | USD 1100        |
| Price per person 3 nights  | USD 2500        | USD 1750        | USD 1450        | USD 1250        |
| Price per person 4 nights  | USD 2800        | USD 2000        | USD 1650        | USD 1400        |
| Price per person extra night (accom, meals and activities) | USD 300 | USD 250 | USD 200 | USD 150 |

*Prices subject to change but otherwise valid till end 2016.
PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:
- Port Moresby - check-in assist for Losuia flight
- Port Moresby - tour information package (itinerary, maps, destination information)
- Losuia - airport meet and greet, all transfers
- Losuia - arrival lunch and half day walking tour of Losuia township
- Losuia - 2.0 star motel style accommodation including set-menu meals
- Losuia - full day road tour of Kiriwina villages
- Losuia - full day boat tour to Munuwata Island (packages of 3 or more nights only)
- Losuia - additional nights motel accommodation and day touring around Kiriwina OR overnights on Munuwata Island with activities on the island (packages of 4 or more nights only)
- Munuwata Island - all visits include traditional flower necklace welcome, traditional dancing program, village tour, freedom of the island, local style food, local English speaking guide, village entry fees, other gratuities to locals
- Munuwata Island - optional village style sleeping accommodation in guest hut with camp bedding (please advise in advance if you wish to take up this option)
- Throughout the tour we provide:
  - daily guide and assistant guide or driver i.e. 2 staff to accompany you or your group at all times
  - all fees and gratuities for local villagers, demonstrators and helpers
  - all airport/hotel transfers
  - all road travel by late model mini bus or four wheel drive vehicle
  - all water travel by open speed boat, skiff or motor canoe with life vests supplied
  - various additional gear if required for your safety and comfort in remote areas such as mobile satellite phone, tropical first aid kit, mosquito net, life vest, tropical sleeping bag, supplementary food supplies (we may ask you to carry such items with your personal baggage from Port Moresby to your destination; if this incurs any excess baggage penalty we will pay the charges)
  - daily reconfirmation of flights and arrangements coordinated by our Port Moresby office
  - 24 hour assistance from our Port Moresby office (phone 7700 5066, 7204 6950 or 7686 8917)

EXCLUSIONS:
- airfares to Losuia and return
- tips (not essential, but appreciated for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- bar drinks
- Personal items. Bring your own favourite snacks, favourite bath soap, favourite toilet paper, small quick-dry towel, personal medications and first aid kit, personal hygiene requirements, brimmed hat or cap, “amphibious footwear” (sandals or quick-dry canvas shoes), insect repellent, sunscreen, personal flashlight, battery-operated personal fan. Note that aerosol cans are not permitted on domestic flights in PNG: bring roll-ons or pump-action sprays.
ITINERARY

DAY 1: PORT MORESBY / LOSUIA

Ecotourism Melanesia staff will assist you to check in at Port Moresby airport domestic terminal. Early check-in is essential as this flight is sometimes overbooked. We may have to give you some life jackets and/or other equipment to carry with you.

(NB Storage of valuables and extra bags is available at Ecotourism Melanesia office in Port Moresby if required).

On arrival at Losuia airfield you will be met by our local guide and/or the shuttle bus from Lokuia Lodge. The drive in to the township from the airfield is only a couple of kilometres but takes about 30 minutes because the road is bumpy and progress is slow. After checking in to your room at the lodge, lunch will be served. You can expect a seafood dish with local vegetables - including yam of course.

After lunch a guide from the lodge will accompany you on an exploratory walking tour of Losuia township, jetty and satellite villages.

Overnight 2 star accommodation at Lokuia Lodge (formerly Kiriwina Lodge) in air-conditioned room with private bathroom, includes set-menu meals.

DAY 2: LOSUIA (Kiriwina Island touring by vehicle)

In the morning depart by vehicle with our local guide for south Kiriwina including Wawela Beach, the prettiest white sand beach on Kiriwina and Gilibwa the southernmost point of Kiriwina Island which looks across a narrow strait with rushing tidal currents to neighbouring Vakuta Island, if the road and weather are amenable.

Return to the Lodge for lunch.

Continue in the afternoon on a tour of central Kiriwina villages, which may include the paramount chief’s village if he is available, and chief John Kasaipwalova’s private collection of Trobriands artifacts and traditional money, as far as Kaibola on the northern tip where there is a cruise ship jetty. (The so-called burial caves are tidal, involve scampering over razor-sharp rocks and are not accessible on this tour.)

Overnight 2 star accommodation at Lokuia Lodge (formerly Kiriwina Lodge) in air-conditioned room with private bathroom, includes set-menu meals.

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DAY 3: LOSUIA (Munuwata Island excursion by small boat)

(Fly out to Port Moresby today if you are taking the 2 night package)

07:00 After breakfast board a local banana boat with your guide for the trip out to Munuwata Island. Life jackets are supplied. The boat journey follows the shoreline of the islands most of the way and you will not be out of sight of land at any time.

(NB If the weather precludes boat travel to Munuwata this excursion will be cancelled for your own safety at the discretion of our local guide and alternative touring on Kiriwina will be arranged. Refunds or part refunds will not apply).

At Munuwata you will have a full-on cultural experience with a small community of Trobriand Islanders living on a tiny island that most of us would call paradise except for the occasional plop of poo on the beach 😊.

On arrival at the island you will be treated to a traditional welcome on the beach with a flower lei and similarly lei’d maidens will escort you up the sand to the village. Don’t worry, this is not just a tourist show as the islanders would normally offer such a colourful welcome to any special visitors from the other islands as well.

At the village square, the community will then treat you to the “best of” their cultural repertoire including the tapoika dance (a hilarious sexually suggestive routine mimicking the pounding of sago with a pestle), a boy’s dance and a girl’s dance.

If it’s a school day the children will probably miss school today to be present for your arrival … don’t worry they will learn more from you and your visit than they would pick up in a day at school.

During the traditional dancing you are welcome to get up close with your camera and take as many photographs as you like, or even join the troupe.

After the performance the kids will run and play on the beach while you enjoy a local style spread for your lunch. Bottled water will be carried from Losuia by your guide.

In the afternoon the Munuwata people will be keen to show you around their village, their gardens and their daily routine. You’ll see how they build and repair houses with bush materials, how they grow and cook their own food, and how they catch fish with lines and nets. Lobsters are also common on the reefs around Munuwata and if it is the right season you will see the boys going out skin-diving with spears.

A visit to Munuwata would not be complete without getting into (and falling out of) one of their native canoes so don’t miss the opportunity to go out for a paddle.

Later in the afternoon when the sea is at its calmest, depart Munuwata for the one hour boat ride back to Kiriwina.

Overnight 2 star accommodation at Lokuia Lodge (formerly Kiriwina Lodge) in air-conditioned room with private bathroom, includes set-menu meals.
TOUR NOTE: Overnighting on Munuwata Island

If you are taking the 4 nights package (or longer) and decide to spend a night (or more) on Munuwata Island you will be accommodated in a very basic native hut the same as the islanders sleep in. (In the Trobriands married couples sleep in their own sleeping hut separate from their children). You will sleep in a clean tropical sleeping bag on a woven leaf mat (no mattress), under a mosquito net, just like the islanders. However we may be able to give you an inflatable mattress to take with you from Port Moresby if a night on a hard surface is likely to incapacitate you ☺

If you sleep on the island your every move will be studied by the village kids so don’t expect too much privacy during your overnight village stay!

There is no electricity on the island and the people use firelight from their cooking fires to see what they are doing. For your convenience tilly lamps will be provided so you can find your way around. BYO flashlight.

A local style hot dinner will be served showcasing the food available on the island. You may be offered:

- yam cooked in coconut cream and yam baked in the fire
- cassava (tapioca), sweet potato
- stewed greens such as aibika (a leafy vegetable which is a PNG staple)
- fish baked in the fire wrapped in leaves
- shellfish still in their shells roasted in the coals
- crab or lobster barbequed in its shell
- fresh green coconut juice

After dinner, enjoy come conversation with your guide and a few of the villagers who speak English, then retire early to bed.

Tank water is available for bathing and there is an outdoor latrine specially for guests.

Island breakfast at Munuwata will be local-style sago cakes and lemongrass tea, or similar, with more of the island’s delicious fresh fruit.

The next day at Munuwata today is at leisure for you to soak up the village lifestyle, explore more of the island, try your hand at fishing, learn some basket weaving or mat weaving (living on an island covered in coconut palms, the islanders are expert weavers), or lend a hand with preparing lunch. If you are feeling energetic, ask the locals to teach you how to play Trobriands Cricket (be warned, there are NO rules!).

Your lunch will be another sampling of island fare, hopefully including something yummy that the boys caught while out fishing last night.

SUBSEQUENT DAYS

MUNUWATA ISLAND OR KIRIWINA

For the rest of your Trobriand Islands package you may elect to have more nights on Kiriwina and explore more of Kiriwina Island OR stay more nights on Munuwata Island.

The only proviso is that you must spend your last night at the lodge on Kiriwina in order to ensure that you make your flight out.

LAST DAY

LOSUIA / PORT MORESBY

Check in at the airfield for your flight to Port Moresby or Alotau. On arrival at Port Moresby our staff will meet you if there is any equipment to collect, otherwise transfer straight to your hotel or onward flight.

(NB Losuia flights are occasionally delayed or even cancelled so do make allowance for this when booking your onward flights especially international connections).

TOUR ENDS - See trip notes below
ABOUT LOSUIA
Losuia is the tiny township and airfield on Kiriwina Island, which is the largest island in the Trobriands group. Losuia airfield is a former wartime American air base and has a very long runway. Losuia township has a population about 5,000 and hosts a high school, a small hospital, some minor local government offices and a dozen small trade stores. Very much a “one-horse town”. Some of the population live in surveyed streets while the bulk live in satellite villages. There is only one place to stay in Losuia and that is Kiriwina Lodge, a budget motel. Out near the airport is Butia Lodge (named after a local species of flower) which has bungalows built into WW2 aircraft revetments (camouflage shelters).

ABOUT THE “ISLANDS OF LOVE”
The Trobriand islanders have both Melanesian and Polynesian features and are thought to have arrived by sea from Polynesia at least a thousand years ago. The “Trobes” are known as the “islands of love” because of the islanders’ custom of encouraging young males and females to engage in romantic behaviour soon after puberty. This is widely misinterpreted by westerners as promiscuity but it is actually a form of courtship and marriage ritual, its purpose is to help the young men and women quickly decide on a partner and settle down. However there is also said to be a tradition that, during the annual yam harvest celebrations, married or betrothed couples are permitted to flirt with other partners. The romantic customs of the Trobriand Islanders do not extend to outsiders (“dimdims”). Visitors who come to the islands hoping for a bit of nookie are usually disappointed! The Trobriand Islanders are a very proud people and they value the propagation of their genetic lines and they disapprove of casual relationships between islanders and outsiders.

ABOUT THE YAM CYCLE
The yam cultivation cycle is the basis of the Trobriands calendar, culminating in the yam harvest in July/August each year when the villages - and clans within villages - compete to produce the largest yams. Harvested yams are stored in “yam houses” in the centre of the village as a way of “showing off” a clan’s yam harvest.

ABOUT TROBRIANDS CARVINGS
In all Trobriands villages you will see artisans producing beautiful wood carvings from rosewood, ebony wood and kerosene wood. Trobriand carvings are without doubt the best in Papua New Guinea so take the opportunity to purchase from the source at basement prices. Apart from carvings you will be able to purchase cultural artifacts such as traditional dress (grass skirts, necklaces etc), lime gourds and spatulas (used for chewing betel nut), cooking utensils and bamboo combs. Trobriand Islanders are traders by tradition so they welcome the opportunity to sell to visitors but don’t feel pressured to buy more than you want.

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MORE ABOUT MUNUWATA ISLAND

Munuwata is a tiny tropical island paradise about one hour’s ride due west of Losuia by banana boat. (A banana boat is large open fibreglass dinghy with outboard motor. Its up-curved shape at the front gives it a bent appearance like a banana). Sometimes the trip takes longer if the sea is choppy and your boat driver may take you the long way around, hugging the lee of Kaileuna Island to avoid the chop. Life jackets are provided but you will probably be more interested in the tarpaulin that will keep you dry from sea spray.

Munuwata Island (also spelled Mounuwata) is inhabited by a small community of about 100 people. Their language and customs are closely related to the people of Kaileuna, the nearest large island. Despite their proximity to Losuia the people of Munuwata live a remarkably traditional subsistence lifestyle, growing yams and other vegetables in small gardens and catching fish and other seafood from the waters that surround their island.

Munuwata is fringed by sandy beaches and reef. You can walk around the island in about 2 hours. There are about 20 houses grouped into a small village at one end, and the rest of the island is light rainforest and gardens. All the houses on Munuwata are traditional style Trobriand huts and there are no modern buildings.

There are not enough children here for the island to have its own school so the kids paddle to the next island (Kuiawa) every day for school. Fortunately there is a submerged sandbar joining the two islands and the water is not deep. Understandably though, Munuwata kids have strong arms from paddling!

In the past, tourists have not visited Munuwata, although the islanders travelled regularly to Losuia to compete in dance competitions at the regular festivals. In 2010 Ecotourism Melanesia came to an exclusive arrangement with the local people to host visitors that we bring in for village stay experiences. Part of the deal is a commitment by the villagers not to build any modern houses or other prefabricated buildings on the island, using only traditional building materials to make and repair their houses, and to ensure that all sing-sing performances and other cultural demonstrations are true to their ancestral traditions. The village elders are happy with this arrangement because they want to motivate their young people to maintain the island traditions and not allow their dances or customs to be watered down by outside influences like plastic decorations.

See map next page