



Ecotourism Melanesia

Explore Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific

EM27 RABAUL WEEKENDER / RABAUL EXTENSION

2 or 3 nights Rabaul

Private tour package for independent travellers including excursions and half board plus pricing options for 4 star (deluxe), 3 star (standard) or 2 star (budget) accommodation. Flights extra.

Rabaul is a vibrant regional town very different from the rest of Papua New Guinea. Despite being more westernised and having less traditional cultural attractions, Rabaul has many other drawcards for visitors especially its volcanoes, World War II history and relics, spectacular scenery, great diving and snorkelling, cross-country hikes and jungle expeditions, colourful markets and friendly people.



DAY A



RABAUL (arrival and half day Kokopo land tour)

On arrival at Rabaul airport, meet up with our Rabaul guide and transfer to your accommodation by private car or hotel shuttle in time for lunch (not included today).

After lunch commence a half day of the Kokopo (New Rabaul) area including the vibrant Kokopo Market, the Kokopo Museum, historical cemeteries and sites.

After dinner, an optional excursion is available (extra cost) to Gaulim Village for a private performance of the Baining Fire Dance featuring huge fabric-covered cane-framed masks worn over the head-and-shoulders by the barefoot dancers.

Overnight hotel, Kokopo (New Rabaul) (includes breakfast)

DAY B



RABAUL (full day old Rabaul land tour)

07:00 Commence a very long full day tour of old Rabaul following a circular route going out in the morning on the coastal lowland road and back in the afternoon via the inland hills route with the afternoon sun behind you for best photos of Simpson Harbour and the smoking volcano.

Your guide will attempt to include all the following stops as time and conditions allow: Japanese barge tunnels and gun emplacements, Chinese cemetery, Vulcan volcanic cone, old Rabaul market and shops, Japanese Peace Memorial, old Rabaul airport (close-up viewing point of Tavurvur volcano), Matupit village and hot springs, Admiral Yamamoto's bunker, Rabaul Hotel lunch stop (included), Rabaul Historical Society Museum, Rabaul Seismic Observatory (harbour views only, no entry), Submarine Base, scenic North Coast Road (optional stop at Kabaira Beach for snorkelling) then inland via Kerevat town, Toma village (harbour view photo stop) and Uluganan villages back to Kokopo.

18:00 Arrive back at Kokopo

Overnight hotel, Kokopo (New Rabaul) (includes breakfast)

DAY C



RABAUL (full day Blanche Bay and Duke of York Islands private boat trip)

Another early start today for a day of recreational activities and exploring: in the morning a half day of either beach and snorkelling or scuba diving in Blanche Bay off Kokopo and in the afternoon a boat trip to the Duke of York islands to explore the beautiful islands and visit the community there.

07:00 Depart from your hotel to the front beach or jetty at Kokopo and board your private banana boat.

(1) if you select the beach and snorkelling option your boat will take you 20 minutes across the water to uninhabited Pigeon Island to enjoy a beach walk around the tiny island, a swim in the clear water or a snorkel over the patches of coral which surround the island. Bottled water and snacks are supplied.

(2) if you select the scuba diving option your boat will take you first to dive the wreck of a Mitsubishi Zero fighter aircraft wreck a short distance off the beach near the mouth of Simpson Harbour, and continue right into the harbour to dive the wreck of the Japanese transport ship Hakkai Maru. *Please note the cost of boat transfers and dive site access is included in your tour price but there is an extra cost for air tanks and dive gear hire if you choose the scuba diving option - you will pay direct to the dive master on the day by cash or credit card.*

Blanche Bay and Simpson Harbour are often frequented by pods of dolphins and your speed boat is likely to attract a "dolphin escort" as you proceed from place to place. Your guide may even be able to arrange a stop where you can interact with the dolphins. The dolphins enjoy contact with humans.



After your morning of beach, snorkelling or diving you'll eat your picnic lunch (included) en route as your boat continues on to the idyllic Duke of York Islands, a small group of flat, rain-forested tropical islands located 40 minutes boat ride north east of Kokopo, on the other side of Pigeon Island. Unlike mainland Rabaul where the population has become semi-urban, the inhabitants of these islands still live a largely traditional lifestyle, living in communal villages, relying on fishing and their vegetable gardens for food, and practising many of the tribal customs now seemingly lost on the mainland. The population here, although still several thousand, is gradually decreasing due to a government policy of resettling the islanders on the mainland to avoid future overpopulation and possible impact of natural disasters, because the islands are sitting right on top of a seismic subduction zone where two tectonic plates rub together and are subject to earthquakes and resultant tsunamis which erode the shoreline and inundate the gardens and wooded areas with poisonous salt water.

You'll tour an island village, meet a local family and hear about life on the islands, see a demonstration of the making of the "tambu" - long strings of decapped cowrie shells coiled into hoops, used as traditional money for large transactions like bride price, compensation to settle disputes, purchase of pigs and other livestock, and use of land or sea resources.

To cap off your visit to the islands you'll be able to taste some island foods and witness a traditional dance on the beach.

Overnight hotel, Kokopo (New Rabaul) (includes breakfast)

DAY D



RABAUL (departure)

Early check-out from your accommodation and transfer to Rabaul airport on your hotel shuttle. Your shuttle driver or accompanying hotel staff will assist you to check in for your flight to Port Moresby.

On request, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you on arrival and assist you with your onward connection or other arrangements.

Left: Remains of "Queen Emma's" homestead steps.

TOUR ENDS or add extra night

PRICING

Published rates based on twin share accom and valid thru end 2021

	Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 4	Group of 6+	Single supp
RABAUL 2 NIGHTS GROUND PACKAGE					
With Deluxe (4 star) accom and car	USD 1560	USD 900 pp	USD 600 pp	USD 480 pp	USD 210
With Standard (3 star) accom and car	USD 1200	USD 690 pp	USD 465 pp	USD 380 pp	USD 150
With Budget (2 star) accom and car	USD 975	USD 560 pp	USD 375 pp	USD 310 pp	USD 110
RABAUL 3 NIGHTS GROUND PACKAGE (incl islands trip)					
With Deluxe (4 star) accom and car	USD 2900	USD 1650 pp	USD 1105 pp	USD 885 pp	USD 315
With Standard (3 star) accom and car	USD 2230	USD 1280 pp	USD 860 pp	USD 705 pp	USD 225
With Budget (2 star) accom and car	USD 1810	USD 1045 pp	USD 700 pp	USD 575 pp	USD 205
RABAUL EXTRA NIGHT GROUND PACKAGE					
Includes extra night hotel + full day tour or activity					
With Deluxe (4 star) accom and car	USD 890 pp	USD 510 pp	USD 340 pp	USD 275 pp	USD 105
With Standard (3 star) accom and car	USD 685 pp	USD 395 pp	USD 265 pp	USD 220 pp	USD 75
With Budget (2 star) accom and car	USD 555 pp	USD 320 pp	USD 215 pp	USD 180 pp	USD 55
OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO BAINING FIRE DANCE					
Includes transfers, guides, private performance	USD 800 pp	USD 500 pp	USD 400 pp	USD 300 pp	N/A
OPTIONAL DINNER SUPPLEMENT (food only)					
Deluxe (4 Star) - buffet or 3 course menu choice	USD 40 pp/nt	USD 40 pp/nt	USD 40 pp/nt	USD 40 pp/nt	N/A
Standard (3 star) - 3 course hotel menu choice	USD 30 pp/nt	USD 30 pp/nt	USD 30 pp/nt	USD 30 pp/nt	N/A
Budget (2 star) - 2 course hotel menu choice	USD 20 pp/nt	USD 20 pp/nt	USD 20 pp/nt	USD 20 pp/nt	N/A
OPTIONAL FLIGHT TICKETS POM-RAB-POM					
Pay our flat rate quote or arrange your own air	USD 500 pp return	USD 500 pp return	USD 500 pp return	USD 500 pp return	N/A

INCLUSIONS

RABAUL 2 NIGHTS (DAYS A, B, D) - LIST OF INCLUSIONS

- Rabaul - airport/hotel/airport transfers by hotel shuttle or private car
- Rabaul - 2 nights hotel with breakfast
- Rabaul - half day private new Rabaul (Kokopo) District tour
- Rabaul - full day private old Rabaul District tour with lunch

RABAUL 3 NIGHTS (DAYS A, B, C, D) - LIST OF INCLUSIONS

- Rabaul - inclusions as per 2 nights package above PLUS:
- Rabaul - 3rd night hotel with breakfast
- Rabaul - full day private boat tour of Blanche Bay and Duke of York Islands with lunch

RABAUL EXTRA NIGHT - LIST OF INCLUSIONS

- Rabaul - extra night hotel with breakfast
- Rabaul - full day private land tour (eg volcano climb, jungle hike) or dive/snorkelling trip with lunch

INCLUSIONS ON ALL OUR TOURS

- (i) services of an experienced local guide with mobile or satellite phone for communication
- (ii) all transfers by private car with bottled water, umbrellas
- (iii) any tips/gratuities due to local villages, guides, drivers, demonstrators and helpers
- (iv) basic safety equipment eg seat belts for cars, life vests for motor boats
- (v) daily reconfirmation of flights and arrangements coordinated by our Port Moresby office
- (vi) 24 hour emergency backup from our Port Moresby office

EXCLUSIONS

internal flights (optional extra or pay for your own)

dinners (optional extra or pay cash/card at your hotel)

private Baining Fire Dance excursion and performance (optional extra)

NOTE: Rabaul is a high rainfall destination and you are likely to experience rainfall on at least one of the days of your visit. Rain usually falls in the afternoons for a few hours then clears up. Whole-day rain is uncommon, even in the "wet" season (Dec to Mar). Rain is a part of life year-round in the wet tropics so when it rains people just put up their umbrellas or walk around in the wet and get dried off later - the hot temperatures mean you are unlikely to catch a cold. Your tour itinerary will still proceed even if it's raining and there will be no refunds or rescheduling of land outings just because of rain. However travel by boat will be cancelled if the sea is unsafe for small craft and in this case an alternative land activity will be provided.