



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

ITINERARY FOR: MOROBE SING-SING AND EAST COAST BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2006

14 NIGHTS FULLY ESCORTED TOUR (max 16 people plus guide).

Port Moresby, Lae, Finschhafen, Salamaua, Gona, Sanananda, Buna, Popondetta, Kokoda, Bomana War Cemetery, Owers Corner

AUD\$5470 fully inclusive of all tour content in PNG. Airfares from Australia additional.

Witness the colourful Morobe sing-sing and explore rarely-visited World War 2 battle sites of New Guinea's eastern coastline aboard local charter vessel MV Enjoy. Explore the historical coastal hamlets of Finschhafen and Salamaua, ponder the sombre beach-head battlefields of Gona and Buna and visit both the northern and southern ends of the famous Kokoda Track. The tour is designed for war veterans and their families and others interested in New Guinea's wartime history. There is no strenuous exercise involved apart from climbing in and out of boats and some easy walking. Tour leader: Major Bruce Copeland (Australian Army, retired, now resident in Port Moresby).

Day 1: Thu 02 Nov 06

Arrive Port Moresby from Cairns or Brisbane. Transfer to domestic terminal for connection to Lae departing 3.50pm.

On arrival at Lae's Nadzab airport at 4.35pm, transfer 45 minutes by road into Lae and check in at the Melanesian Hotel. After dinner, a lecture on the New Guinea and Kokoda Campaigns by Maj. Bruce Copeland (Australian Army, retired). Overnight Melanesian Hotel, Lae (twin share, includes dinner and breakfast).

[Lae, the capital of Morobe Province, is linked by highway to the major towns in the Highlands and is PNG's major seaport. It has a tropical climate but is out of the cyclone belt.](#)

Day 2: Fri 03 Nov 06

Full day tour of Lae including Butibam Village, the old Lae airfield, Lae War Cemetery, Amelia Earhart Memorial, Botanical Gardens and/or the Rainforest Habitat, a conservation park with over 460 specimens of fauna including 100 birds of paradise. Tour includes picnic lunch. Overnight Melanesian Hotel, Lae (twin share, includes dinner and breakfast).

Day 3: Sat 04 Nov 06

Attend Day 1 of the Morobe Show, a showcase of commercial and agricultural products from all over Papua New Guinea. Guides will be available to accompany you on your exploration of Show exhibits and activities. Buy your own lunch today from one of the many food stalls. Mid-afternoon, visit the old military air base at Nadzab. At Nadzab airport, board a charter aircraft for a scenic flight of the Markham Valley area, overflying the locations of WW2 airstrips and installations. Overnight Melanesian Hotel, Lae (twin share, includes dinner and breakfast).

Day 4: Sun 05 Nov 06

Attend Day 2 of the Morobe Show, known as the Morobe Singing. Over 60 cultural groups from all over Papua New Guinea will perform, a microcosm of PNG's kaleidoscope of cultures. Guides will accompany you and interpret the performances for you. Overnight Melanesian Hotel, Lae (twin share, includes dinner and breakfast).

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IEPNG Haus (Section 56 Lot 10) Spring Garden Road • Gordons, Port Moresby • Papua New Guinea

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- Day 5: Mon 06 Nov 06 Board *MV Enjoy* for a full day's cruising to Finschhafen. *MV Enjoy* is a cute, fully equipped charter vessel with seating for up to 20 people and sleeping accommodation for 12. Before arriving in at Finschhafen, the boat will call in at the Tami Islands (known for their wooden carvings and skills in traditional voyage and barter systems) where local artisans produce exquisite carvings. Picnic lunch on board the boat.
Overnight Huon Peninsula Lodge (twin share, includes dinner and breakfast)
- Day 6: Tue 07 Nov 06 Full day tour of Finschhafen district including beach-head battlefields, war relics and beautiful Butaweng Falls. You will drive over bumpy bush tracks sitting on seats in the back of a truck to Malasiga Village and the Simbang Memorial Church (the birthplace of the Lutheran Church in PNG - it has carved pillars which record the history of the church). A little walking (and some cool swimming in the waterfall) will be involved.
Overnight Huon Peninsula Lodge (twin share, includes lunch, dinner and breakfast)
- Day 7: Wed 08 Nov 06 A full day's cruising from Finschhafen to Salamaua. Relax with a book, sunbathe or tow a mackerel line behind the boat, enjoy the coastal scenery. (Or cover in the cabin if it's raining!). Arrive Salamaua late afternoon. Barbeque lunch (mackerel steaks?) on board the boat.
Overnight Salamaua Haus Kibung OR on board *MV Enjoy* (includes all meals).
- [Salamaua has played a pivotal role in the history of Papua New Guinea. Salamaua was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of WW 2 and it was also the main port and airstrip for the goldfields of Wau and Bulolo during the gold rush days of the 1920s and 1930s. Today, Salamaua is a much smaller town than in the gold rush days and has only a few shops and a high school.](#)
- Day 8: Thu 09 Nov 06 Full day sightseeing around Salamaua, including the famous Salamaua Isthmus, Japanese big guns, Coastwatcher's Ridge (for the fit) and battlefield sites.
Overnight Salamaua Haus Kibung OR on board *MV Enjoy* (includes all meals).
- Day 9: Fri 10 Nov 06 A full day's cruising from Salamaua to Morobe District Station via the picturesque Royle Channel. A string of offshore islands will pass by to port and the coastal mountain ranges to starboard. Stops may be made at points of interest including Lababia Island where local handicrafts such as tapa cloth are available for sale and a sago-making demonstration may be arranged, and demonstrations of basket and mat weaving. Also a snorkelling stop at one of the uninhabited islands may be possible. Lunch on board boat.
Arrive late afternoon at the Morobe District government station, a remote coastal outpost where tourists are rarely seen.
Overnight Morobe Station Guest House OR on board *MV Enjoy* (includes all meals).
- Day 10: Sat 11 Nov 06 Australian Remembrance Day today and you will observe a minute's silence at 11am to remember the sacrifice of the fallen as you motor south parallel to remote uninhabited shores dominated by rivers and swamps. Lunch on board boat. The boat will arrive late afternoon offshore from Gona village where Japanese troops first landed in July 1942 and slaughtered local villagers and Anglican missionaries. You'll transfer ashore by dinghy or local canoe and be welcomed at the village guest house with by a traditional dancing group.
Overnight Gona Village Guest House (includes all meals).
- Day 11: Sun 12 Nov 06 Spend the morning inspecting battle sites and relics around Gona with commentary by Major Bruce and then transfer by canoe or dinghy along the beach to Sanananda Village. Lunch will be served at the Sanananda Guest House followed by a tour of

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Sananada battle sites and relics. A further dinghy transfer will bring the group to Buna village. Here there is a little museum housing relics including some unidentified human bones. Inspect the beach-head and inland battle sites before retiring for the evening.
Overnight Buna Village Guest House (includes all meals).

The invasion of the Papuan mainland began when the Japanese landed on the beaches between Gona and Buna on the night of July 21-22 1942. After the Japanese had been routed from the Kokoda Track in September/October, by early January 1943 Australian forces had pushed the Japanese right back to the beach heads at Gona and Buna where they first landed. Here, the Japanese were trapped when the Imperial Navy failed to rescue them in time, and there were many slaughterous last-stands on the battlefields and beaches of Gona, Buna and Sanananda. The Papuan campaign finally ended with the surrender of the Japanese survivors on January the 22nd 1943.

Day 12: Mon 13 Nov 06 Departing Buna after breakfast, travel in the back of a large passenger truck along the Buna feeder road to the Girua airfield complex where American air transport, fighter and bomber squadrons were based during the war. Aircraft wrecks, old supply dumps and protective revetments can be viewed on the fringes of abandoned runways, some now planted with oil palms. Arriving in Popondetta town, have lunch at the Lamington Hotel and visit the Popondetta Memorial Park which has excellent visual displays of the Buna, Gona and Kokoda battles. Last time we looked, a surviving fuzzy wuzzy angel was in charge of tending the park.
In the afternoon, a four hour road trip from Popondetta to Kokoda, a little bumpy in places but you'll survive. Arrive Kokoda late afternoon to a hearty welcome from Priscilla Ogomeni, owner of Kokoda Mountain View Lodge, more commonly known as Priscilla's Place.
Overnight Kokoda Mountain View Lodge (includes all meals)

Day 13: Tue 14 Nov 06

Spend a pleasant day at Kokoda touring battle sites, inspecting the little museum and perhaps a peek in at the local school and hospital to see how Australian development aid is being applied. You will be taken to a local village about half an hour's drive out of Kokoda township to taste a mumu (earth oven) lunch and meet a couple of surviving wartime carriers (fuzzy wuzzy angels).
Early in the morning, before the day's touring and if you are feeling fit, a guide can take you for an hour's walk up the first stretch of the Kokoda Track so that you can experience a little bit of it.
Overnight Kokoda Mountain View Lodge (includes all meals)

Day 14: Wed 15 Nov 06

This morning a charter aircraft from Port Moresby will pick up the tour group at Kokoda airstrip and fly you low along the course of the Track to Port Moresby. The aircraft will circle the 60th anniversary memorial at Isurava and overfly the waypoint villages of Isurava, Alola, Kagi, Efogi, Menari and Naoro before descending over Sogeri and Hombrum's Bluff to Port Moresby.
After a rest and lunch at the Gateway Hotel, a tour bus will drive you out to Bomana War Cemetery to visit the almost-4,000 graves of Commonwealth soldiers, over 600 of whom fell on the Kokoda Track and many more at Buna and Gona. The tour bus then climbs up the scenic Sogeri Gorge and along a bumpy side road to Owers Corner, from where George and Ron, two gunners who toured with us last year, said they pumped 700 rounds into the Japanese position at Ioribaiwa Ridge before the Japs turned tailed and "advanced to the rear" back towards Kokoda, their Imperial dreams of invading Port Moresby bitterly shattered.
A farewell dinner and debriefing tonight with some invited guests at the Gateway Hotel.
Overnight Gateway Hotel (includes all meals)

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Day 15: Thu 16 Nov 06

Fly out to Australia.

PX3/QF350 departs for Brisbane at 6.40am

PX90/QF384 departs for Cairns at 9.25am

CG100 departs for Cairns at 4.30pm

TOUR INCLUSIONS (\$5470 per person)

- meet and greet at Port Moresby airport, transfer to domestic flight
- scheduled or charter flight from Port Moresby to Lae
- Lae airport to city transfer
- 4 nights twin-share premier room accommodation at the Melanesian Hotel, Lae (or equivalent 3.5 star)
- 4 dinners (set-menu or buffet) and 4 full breakfasts at the Melanesian Hotel, Lae (or equivalent 3.5 star)
- full day tour of Lae city sights by airconditioned 25-seater bus
- 2 days attendance at the Morobe Show and Sing-Sing including transfers, tourist entry passes
- 30 minute scenic flight over Markham Valley and Lae
- 4 days deck travel aboard charter vessel MV Enjoy (Lae-Finschhafen, Finschhafen-Salamaua, Salamaua-Morobe, Morobe-Gona) - day beds available in cabins for resting. Includes picnic or BBQ lunches on 4 sailing days.
- Two nights twin share accommodation and meals at Huon Peninsula Lodge, Finschhafen (2 star)
- 1 full day guided tour at Finschhafen
- Two nights twin share accommodation with catered meals at Salamaua Haus Kibung OR two nights on board MV Enjoy (depending on tour group numbers)
- 1 full day guided tour at Salamaua
- 1 night twin share accommodation with catered meals at Morobe Station Guest House OR one night on board MV Enjoy (depending on tour group numbers)
- Sago-making demonstration at Lababia Island (if time and weather allow)
- Snorkeling in Royle Channel if time and weather allow)
- 1 night accommodation and local-style meals at Gona Village Guest House
- short tour of Gona battle sites and relics
- small boat transfer from Gona to Buna via Sanananda
- short tour of Sanananda battle sites and relics
- lunch at Sanananda Village Guest House
- short tour of Buna battle sites and relics
- 1 night accommodation and local-style meals at Buna Village Guest House
- passenger truck transfer from Buna to Kokoda via Girua airfield and Popondetta town
- 1 set-menu lunch at Lamington Hotel, Popondetta
- 2 nights twin share accommodation and meals at Kokoda Mountain View Lodge (2 star)
- 1 full day guided tour at Kokoda including village experience and village lunch
- charter flight from Kokoda to Port Moresby overflying Kokoda Track villages if weather allows
- 1 set-menu lunch at Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby
- half-day tour to Bomana War Cemetery and Owers Corner by bus or 4WD vehicle
- 1 buffet dinner and debriefing session at Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby
- Port Moresby airport transfer on departure
- Tour information kit with maps and historical information
- Souvenir polo shirt
- Services of tour escort and local guides

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Travel insurance and visa fees
- Lunch on Day 3 and Day 4 (Morobe Show)
- Any other meals not specified in the itinerary and inclusions above
- Bar drinks, between-meal snacks, tips, souvenirs, personal items

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TOUR NOTES

1. **Bookings.** 10% deposit must be paid at time of booking in order to secure a place on this tour. The deposit should be paid directly to Ecotourism Melanesia or your travel agent. The tour will operate with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 16 passengers, plus tour escort. In the event that less than 10 confirmed bookings are received by close of business Monday 2nd October, the tour will be cancelled and deposits will be refunded. In the event that the minimum number of confirmations are received by the cut-off date, the tour will be confirmed to proceed and all passengers will be invoiced for immediate settlement of the 90% balance owing. Passengers who cancel after this point will forfeit their deposit.
2. **Airfares from Australia.** The tour cost \$5470 includes all travel, accommodation, meals, activities etc at the PNG end but does not include airfares from Australia. Passengers should purchase their airfares directly from Qantas (www.qantas.com.au or phone 131313) or from Air Niugini (www.airniugini.com.pg or 1300 361 380 or sales.Brisbane@airniugini.com.pg) or from your travel agent.
3. **Tour descriptor and disclaimer.** This is an expeditionary "soft adventure" tour, not a luxury cruise. Deck travel on board MV Enjoy, a charter dive boat, is comfortable but not decadent. Some of the accommodation in remote areas (ie Salamaua, Morobe, Gona, Buna, Kokoda) is of a very basic nature equivalent to "backpacker dormitory" style although we will make every effort to make facilities as comfortable as practicable. Some parts of the advertised itinerary and some of the advertised activities may have to be modified, or omitted, in response to unexpected circumstances arising before or during the course of the tour that are beyond the control of the tour company. In purchasing a place on this tour you agree to accept the possibility of such changes to itinerary and activities without recompense. Obviously it is in the best interests of our company's reputation that the incidence of such changes is minimized and that equivalent alternative activities be substituted, but we make no absolute guarantee of such.
4. **No single supplement.** Due to limited accommodation available at many overnight stops on this itinerary, a single supplement is not offered and you must be "willing to share" with another tourist of the same gender on this tour. However, if at the time of the tour there is excess accommodation available at hotels in Lae and Port Moresby, and you would like to occupy your own hotel room at additional cost, we will endeavour to arrange a single room for you on the following basis: that you pay the hotel directly for the additional room, at actual cost (using cash or credit card), without credit or refund from Ecotourism Melanesia for the twin share accommodation component of your tour cost.
5. **MV Enjoy.** This 15 metre dive charter boat is based in Lae and is chartered by Ecotourism Melanesia for the purpose of providing point to point water transport on this tour. This tour is not intended as a live-aboard cruise and accommodation is booked on shore for all overnights on this tour. However, cabins on board MV Enjoy are available as back-up accommodation and for day resting.
Boat specifications:
Length 15m, Draft 2.1m, Range 1500nm
Electronics: VHF, HF radios, satellite telephone, radar, GPS, autopilot
Electricity on board: 240V 12 KVA
Water on board: 1200 litres capacity with 60 litres per hour desalinator
Dinghy tender: 12 ft inflatable with 9hp outboard motor
Seating capacity: up to 20 pax (with some outside on shaded deck and some inside airconditioned saloon)
Sleeping capacity: up to 13 people in 4 x (very tiny) twin-berth cabins and 1 x 5-berth dormitory
Other facilities: TV with DVD player, washing machine, fridge
6. **Tour leader.** Major Bruce Copeland (Australian Army, retired) is 60 years old and first came to Papua New Guinea in the 1970s as a trainer for the PNG Defence Force, based in Lae. After displaying considerable talent with the local lingua franca, Tok Pisin (Pidgin English) he was later transferred to the Defence School of Languages at Point Cook and taught Pidgin to Australian defence personnel (and later Foreign Affairs staff and other public servants) prior to their posting to Papua New Guinea. Upon retiring from the Army Bruce returned to marry and live in PNG. His father served with the 4th Light Ack Ack Regiment of the 9th Division in Salamaua in 1942 and Bruce has taken a keen interest in the history of the New Guinea

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campaign. Recently he began walking the Kokoda Track again as a military history guide for tour groups, after having first toughed it over the Track in 1978 with a group of fellow army officers.

7. **Other terms and conditions** of booking a tour with Ecotourism Melanesia are stated on your invoice and available on our website. Where terms stated on your invoice are inconsistent with terms stated on this tour itinerary, the specific terms for this tour over-ride the terms stated on your invoice.

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