



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM02 - TROBRIAND ISLANDS PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS 3 nights, 4 nights or 7 nights ex-Port Moresby

Depart Port Moresby any Sunday or Wednesday. Package includes motel and village accommodation, transfers, most meals, village tours and local guides.

PACKAGE COST* (ground only, does not include any air travel):

Group size	Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4+
Price per person 3 nights	PGK 3,729	PGK 2,579	PGK 2,171	PGK 2,039
Price per person 4 nights	PGK 5,586	PGK 3,864	PGK 3,314	PGK 3,111
Price per person 7 nights	PGK TBA	PGK TBA	PGK TBA	PGK TBA

**To obtain a quote in another currency, use the monthly exchange rates shown at the bottom of our website home page.*

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS: 3 nights

- check-in assist at Port Moresby airport
- information kit with maps and Ecotourism Melanesia souvenir polo shirt
- three nights twin-share motel-style accommodation and set-menu dinner and breakfast at Butia Lodge or Kiriwina Lodge, Losuia
- half day tour of Kiriwina Island
- a string of betel nuts to take with you from Port Moresby to offer to the Trobriands chief
- road and water transfers to and from villages
- full day Kiriwina village cultural experience with sing-sing
- local guide

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS: 4 nights

- as above, plus:
- overnight trip to Kaileuna Island (extendable) including water transfers and village guest house accommodation and local food
- village cultural experience at Kaileuna Island with sing-sing
- Kiriwina Island village to village hike with guide OR another full day village experience OR other preferred activity
- additional accommodation, dinner and breakfast at Butia Lodge or Kiriwina Lodge
- additional services of guide
- additional village gratuities

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS: 7 nights

- as above, plus:
- return transfers by road and/or boat to Vakuta Island or similar
- two nights village guest house accommodation and local food at Vakuta village or similar
- village tour and cultural experiences at Vakuta Island with sing-sing

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- last night at Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge with dinner and breakfast
- additional services of guide
- additional village gratuities

EXCLUSIONS:

- airfares to Losuia and return
- bottled water (BYO or ask village hosts to boil water for you)
- tips (not essential, but appreciated for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- bar drinks
- sing-sings and additional activities at villages:

Note that when visiting Trobriands villages you will be expected to pay extra for hikes to areas outside the village to see waterfalls, tabu places, rainforest etc because these lands may not belong to the family you are staying with, and the actual landowner may expect to be paid a visitation fee or to guide you there himself and be tipped for a guide fee. The amounts will only be small so do not avoid taking such trips - it helps spread the tourist dollars around in the village and prevents petty jealousies which can otherwise cause dissention in the village community. Pay as you go for these little excursions outside the village and follow the advice of your guide on how much to pay.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Sunday or Wednesday PORT MORESBY / LOSUIA (short arrival tour)

Fly from Port Moresby to Losuia airfield on Kiriwina Island with Airlines PNG (airline code CG). Note that storage of valuables and extra bags is available at Ecotourism Melanesia office in Port Moresby if required.

Flight departure and arrival times vary from time to time. See www.apng.com for latest schedule. The airfare is not included in this package and should be purchased online or from your airline agent or travel agent in conjunction with your international ticket.

Losuia is the tiny township and airfield on Kiriwina Island, which is the largest island in the Trobriands group. You will be met at the airfield and transferred to your accommodation at either Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge, depending on availability. (Kiriwina Lodge is located on the waterfront on the edge of Losuia township. Butia Lodge is near the airport - bungalows are situated in the lee of WW2 aircraft camouflage shelters (revetments). Losuia airport is about 15 minutes drive out of town (only a couple of kilometres but the road is bumpy).

After lunch a guide from the lodge will accompany you on an exploratory tour of Losuia area including the Bweka stalactite cave with its underground spring and a stop at the village of the paramount chief of the Trobriand Islands, chief Pulayasi, to pay a courtesy call and offer a string of betel nuts as a ceremonial gift, if he is available.

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

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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 have a fling with other partners with impunity. The romantic customs of the Trobriand Islanders do not extend to outsiders ("dimdims") and visitors who come to the island hoping for a bit of nookie are sorely 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.

Overnight Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast)

DAY 2: MON or THU

KIRIWINA VILLAGE TOUR

Today your guide will take you on a full day exploratory of Kiriwina Island villages. Depending on the weather and the condition of the roads, this might be either northern Kiriwina or southern Kiriwina.

Stops will be made at villages to meet local people and see what they are doing, visit their important yam gardens, see historical WW2 military sites and relics, and places of cultural significance.

Overnight Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast)

DAY 3 TUE or FRI

KIRIWINA VILLAGE EXPERIENCE

Today your guide will take you to spend the day in a Kiriwina village. You will attach yourself to a village family, accompanying them through a typical day's activities. This will include time in the yam gardens, as tending the yam crop is the core activity in the lives of the Trobriand people.

Your day's activities may also include fishing, food preparation, building or repairing huts, paying a visit to the village school (and maybe giving an impromptu talk to the children about your home country!), and an opportunity to try chewing betel nut, if you dare.

The yam cultivation cycle is the basis of the Trobriands calendar, culminating in the yam festival in July/August each year when the yam harvest is celebrated. Villages - and clans within villages - compete to produce the biggest harvest and 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. 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 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.

In the villages only two meals a day are prepared (breakfast and dinner) so

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don't expect a formal "lunch" at the village. Fruit will be offered to you throughout the day and you can arrange to take a packed lunch with you from the lodge if you wish.

Late afternoon you will be transferred back to the lodge.

Overnight Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast).

DAY 4: WED or SAT

FLY OUT OR CONTINUE TO KAILEUNA ISLAND

3-night tour exits today with flight to Port Moresby.

4-night and 7-night tour continues.

Today your guide will accompany you by motorised dinghy across the channel to nearby Kaileuna Island for an overnight stay in a village. Here you will be able to do a little hiking or exploring as well as spending time in a coastal village. Here, away from the main island of Kiriwina, people are more traditional and less reliant on trade store goods.

Overnight village guest house, Kaileuna Island (includes local food only)

Alternatively you can make this a day trip and return to the lodge at Kiriwina for tonight (same cost)

DAY 5: THU or SUN

KAILEUNA ISLAND / VAKUTA

Morning: transfer back to Losuia

4-night tour exits today with flight to Port Moresby.

7-night tour continues to Vakuta

Afternoon: you will be transferred south to Vakuta Island for a two-night stay at Vakuta village. Depending on the condition of the road that leads to the southern tip of Kiriwina at Gilibwa you may be driven most of the way and then take a short canoe trip across the narrow channel to Vakuta Island, or you may undertake the whole trip by motorised dinghy from Losuia.

Vakuta Island is a tropical paradise island with only one main village and is much more traditional than the villages closer to Losuia. The people here live in their own self-contained community and harvest their yams at a slightly different time every year compared to the main island of Kiriwina which means that their social calendar is separate and distinct.

During your stay here you will explore the island with your hosts and participate in the daily life of the village. When you sleep in the village (as opposed to being a day visitor) the village people accept you more readily into their community and this enables you to learn so much more about their culture (which is why you wanted to come to Trobriand Islands in the first place, right?).

Food served at Vakuta will include yam, green vegetables and plenty of fish - probably some lobster too. BYO salt. You will sleep in a guest hut amidst a

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collection of sleeping huts belonging to one family. In the Trobriands there is no such thing as a family house. Each individual or couple has their own separate sleeping hut, and cooking and socialising takes place out of doors or under open-sided shelters. There is no electricity in the village and once the sun sets, cooking fires and kerosene lamps provide adequate lighting for the evening's self-entertainment of telling funny stories, playing games or dancing on the beach, which you can observe or participate in as you feel inclined. Tonight you will sleep on a woven mat under a mosquito net in a traditional Trobriand sleeping hut (Discovery Channel eat your heart out), however a rubber foam mattress can be provided on request.

Overnight village guest house, Vakuta (includes local food only)

DAY 6: FRI or MON

VAKUTA ISLAND

Full day village experience at Vakuta.

Overnight village guest house, Vakuta (includes local food only)

DAY 7: SAT or TUE

VAKUTA ISLAND / LOSUIA

A whole day must be allowed for your return travel because in a remote place like Vakuta Island, meeting up with a boat or vehicle that has come to collect you is infinitely more complex than getting dropped off on the day of arrival. Pickup time and mode of travel will be advised by your guide at the time of dropping you off on Day 5, as it will depend on a number of factors including the weather and availability of fuel in Losuia.

Back at Losuia (touch wood!), spend the rest of the day at leisure or visit local carvers to select some ebony wood carvings to take home, or take a stroll with your guide to a nearby village.

Overnight Kiriwina Lodge or Butia Lodge (includes dinner and breakfast).

DAY 8: SUN or WED

FLY TO PORT MORESBY

Airlines PNG flight departs for Port Moresby via Alotau. Note that flights to and from Losuia often run behind schedule.

TRIP NOTES:

1. Food provided at village guest houses is local style and includes (lots of) yam and other vegetables, tropical fruits, and seafood. A small box of additional groceries will be supplied by Ecotourism Melanesia Ltd for you to take with you to Trobriand Islands. This will include tea/coffee, sugar, flour, cooking oil, crackers and a selection of tinned foods to supplement the food provided in the villages. Trade stores in the Trobriand Islands carry very limited stock, often stale and expired.
2. This tour involves travel in native canoes and small boats that may not be carrying safety equipment. It is your right to decline to travel in such craft if you have concerns for your safety. If you accept the offer to travel in such craft you thereby indemnify Ecotourism Melanesia and its agents and service providers from legal redress by you or your estate in the event of any mishap.

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3. Medical facilities on Kiriwina Island are very limited and there are only 2 flights a week in and out. In the event of an accident or severe illness requiring that you receive urgent medical attention unavailable on the island (the local clinic only has basic medical supplies), we can immediately arrange a chartered aircraft to fly from Port Moresby to Losuia airfield to evacuate you. This will cost about USD\$6000 for the bare aircraft charter (plus extra for the medical crew). You will be liable for the costs incurred for such medical evacuation, and therefore it is important that you take out travel insurance that includes medical evacuation cover, and provide us with your policy number and insurer's telephone number beforehand so that we can liaise directly with your insurer in an emergency. If you do not have insurance, you will have to provide the aircraft charter company with your credit card details over the phone or radio and authorise payment for the charter to be charged to your card. If you are incapacitated such that you cannot provide this authorisation, or if your credit card is declined, this will leave both you and us in a difficult situation. Therefore we extol to you the merits of full travel and medical insurance cover.