



# 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 Monday or Friday. 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	1 person	2 people	3 people	4+ people
Price per person 3 nights	PGK 3,857	PGK 2,393	PGK 2,238	PGK 1,821
Price per person 4 nights	PGK 4,971	PGK 2,893	PGK 2,681	PGK 2,350
Price per person 7 nights	PGK 7,829	PGK 5,214	PGK 4,324	PGK 3,600

*\*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 (with extra breakfast on day of arrival if required)
- day tour of Kiriwina Island on arrival
- 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 Island village experience (Day 2)
- full day Kaileuna Island village experience (Day 3)
- local guide from Butia Lodge as required (for tours, hiking, interpreting, escort to villages etc)
- services of village hosts at villages
- village gratuities

### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS: 4 nights

- as above, plus:
- Day 4 choice of Kiriwina Island village to village hike with guide OR another full day village experience on Kiriwina Island (either same or different village to Day 2)
- fourth night of 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 water to Vakuta Island (some hiking along the beach from the boat dropoff point to the village proper may be required)
- two nights village homestay and village-style meals at Vakuta village

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- services of village host as guide at Vakuta
- 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
- lunches at villages (purchase fruit from village markets or dry goods from village shop)
- 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.*

### GENERIC ITINERARY

#### DAY 1

#### ARRIVAL AND KIRIWINA ISLAND 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 number and departure time varies with the day of the week. See [www.apng.com](http://www.apng.com). The airfare is not included in this package and should be purchased separately from your airline agent or travel agent in conjunction with your international ticket. Airlines PNG domestic tickets cannot be purchased online.*

*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 at 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).*

Depending on your time of arrival, a guide from the lodge will accompany you on a scenic tour of Kiriwina Island by road, including the Bweka stalactite cave with its underground spring, WW2 military sites and relics, and places of cultural significance. If the opportunity arises you may 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.

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

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## DAY 2

### 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 trade with 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 don't expect a formal "lunch" at the village. Fruit will be offered to you throughout the day but you might also like to bring a stash of biscuits in your bag to keep you going. There is a little store at the lodge where you are staying.*

Late afternoon you will be transferred back to your accommodation.

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

## DAY 3

### KAILEUNA ISLAND VILLAGE EXPERIENCE

Today your guide will accompany you by motorised dinghy across the channel to nearby Kaileuna Island to spend the day in another 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 that little more traditional and less reliant on trade store goods.

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

## DAY 4

### VILLAGE TO VILLAGE HIKING ON KIRIWINA ISLAND

3-night tour exits today with flight to Port Moresby departing in the afternoon. 4-night and 7-night tour continues.

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Today you have the option of a day hike on Kiriwina Island with your guide walking through a number of villages and visiting some WW2 sites and relics  
OR  
another full day village experience on Kiriwina, in a different village

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

## DAY 5

### VAKUTA ISLAND HOMESTAY

4-night tour exits today with flight to Port Moresby departing around noon.  
7-night tour continues.

Today 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 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 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 Vakuta Island (village homestay)

## DAY 6

### VAKUTA ISLAND HOMESTAY

At Vakuta Island. Hopefully you will get to join in a game of tug-o-war or Trobriands cricket, two very popular village games.

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|  
Overnight Vakuta Island (village homestay)

#### DAY 7

##### TRANSFER BACK TO KIRIWINA

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

##### FLY TO PORT MORESBY

*Flight number and departure time varies with the day of the week. See [www.apng.com](http://www.apng.com).*

##### TRIP NOTES:

1. Instead of staying at the Lodge on Kiriwina you may opt to sleep at a village homestay on Kiriwina. Village accommodation on Kiriwina is very spartan, the food is very bland and water for bathing is drawn from wells. This option is recommended only for cultural tourists keen to experience the Trobriand culture *in situ*. This is not your typical tropical island luxury resort vacation. Even Kiriwina Lodge and Butia Lodge are only very basic motels.
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 accident or mishap.
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.

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