



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM15 - TUFU FJORDS HIKE AND PADDLE PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS AND SMALL GROUPS

7 nights ex-Port Moresby (1 night Tufi Dive Resort, 6 nights village guest houses)

The Tufi district of Oro Province is famous for its Nordic-type fjords. The breathtaking topography is dominated by some 25 fjords which penetrate deep into the coastal landscape. Many of the fjords feature sheer basalt cliffs. There are numerous white sandy beaches perfect for swimming, and pristine fringing reefs offer excellent snorkelling. The water clarity is stunning and scuba diving is a major attraction for visitors to the area. The people of the Tufi area have a rich cultural heritage that is nurtured and treasured. Village people in the Tufi district are experienced at hosting visitors in village guest houses for hiking, fishing and skin diving experiences.

EM15 is a village to village trek in a safe rural area of PNG with spectacular scenery and fantastic snorkelling. The tour can commence any Monday or Friday, and the itinerary varies slightly according to the day of arrival due to variable flight times - see below. Private groups of 6-9 people will find it economical to charter a small aircraft and fly in on any convenient day.

The package price includes accommodation, meals, canoe transfers, guides and activities (except where stated). BYO snorkelling gear. The trip features daily hikes of varying duration, some canoe paddling, and plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling, beachwalking, fishing, birdwatching, playing volleyball with the villagers etc. Each night you will overnight in a village guest house and next day your host will walk or paddle with you to the next village on the itinerary. All accommodation, meals, guides and village-based activities are included in the cost of the package (except additional hire of motorised dinghy for outer reef fishing, sightseeing etc - pay as you go).

PACKAGE COST*: (per person, twin share, does not include airfares)

Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3**	Group of 4+***
PGK 4833	PGK 3542	PGK 3139	PGK 2979

*To convert these rates to other currencies, use the exchange rates quoted on our website home page www.em.com.pg

**based on 1 x twin and 1 x single

***odd-numbered larger groups based on twin shares plus one single

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Six nights village guest house accommodation including local-style meals (fruit, vegetables, seafood, scones)
- One night standard bungalow accommodation and main meals at Tufi Dive Resort (twin share basis) - with extra breakfast for Monday morning arrivals
- Motor boat transfer from Tufi to Siu village
- Guide fees
- All non-motorised activities at villages
- Sing-sing at Orotoaba Village
- Outrigger canoe transfers
- Tropical first aid kit (on request - loan basis)

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfares
- Motor boat hire for excursions
- Activities ex-Tufi Dive Resort
- Snacks and bar drinks at Tufi Dive Resort

MONDAY TO MONDAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday

PORT MORESBY / TUFU / SIU VILLAGE

0430 Check in at Port Moresby airport.

0600 Depart Port Moresby on Airlines PNG scheduled flight to Tufu

0700 Arrive Tufu airfield, Tufu Dive Resort staff will meet you on arrival. Short walk from the airfield to the resort.

0730 Have breakfast at Tufu Dive Resort.

0830 Full day scuba diving or snorkelling with Tufu Dive Resort. If you are a diver, you should be able to fit in two boat dives today.

Tufu Dive Resort is a small, boutique dive resort that offers a range of activities including scuba diving (if you have your scuba ticket), snorkelling, fishing and kayaking. Scheduled morning and afternoon boat dive trips operate every day, snorkellers can also tag along to some of the dive sites which also have suitable snorkelling. There is also a very good house reef just near the wharf, suitable for both diving and snorkelling. If you are not an aquatic person, you may prefer to take a stroll around the Tufu government "station", meeting the locals and soaking up the laid back rural town atmosphere. There are about 50 houses, a couple of little shops and a few provincial government offices. Only the resort has electricity. You can also spend the day hiking around the spur (rim) of the main Tufu Fjord, passing through local villages, or just relaxing at the resort which has a fully stocked bar and plenty of comfortable chairs with panoramic views and wickedly refreshing sea breezes. There is also a small freshwater swimming pool and a great library of books and videos.

1630 Tufu Dive Resort staff will transfer you by motor boat to Siu village, approximately 30 minutes ride south of the resort.

(NB if you are not a diver and you wish to skip the option of spending the day at Tufu Dive Resort, we can arrange for you to be transferred straight to Siu village after breakfast instead.)

1700 Arrive Siu village. Your host Gladstone Aguba will have a warm welcome ready for you. Your bungalow is perched on a small point overlooking the coastline - perfect.

Overnight Siu Village Guest House.

Day 2: Tuesday

SIU VILLAGE

Spend the day at Siu village. Village tour, great canoe paddling, snorkelling and beachwalking around the pretty inlet. The snorkelling here is fantastic. You can paddle yourself around in an outrigger canoe exploring the coastline of the Utukwaf fjord or your hosts can take charge of the canoe while you plunge into the crystal clear water and explore the coral and tropical fish. There are a couple of scenic waterfalls in the fjord that you can paddle right up to.

Day 3: Wednesday

SIU VILLAGE / OROTOABA VILLAGE

After breakfast and maybe a quick snorkel, you'll commence your transfer from Siu to Orotoaba. There are two ways of doing this. If you want a challenging hike, you can go the "back way" walking inland from Siu via Jikuatala and follow a track that climbs up and down several steep spurs. This hike will take 2-3 hours including rest stops at the top of each spur. Or, you can paddle 30 minutes to Jebo beach and you can walk up the "front way" which is the track that the village people normally use to get to Orotoaba. This is a well worn, moderately steep foot track that wends through tall grasses up the northern spur of Uramanoa Fjord, and only takes about 45 minutes of steady climbing from Jebo beach.

Your host from Orotoaba, Rodney Mokuta, may meet you at Siu and hike with you if you are taking the back way, or may wait for you at Jebo beach if you opt to come up the front way. Although a young man, Rodney is passionate about village-based tourism. He lives at home in the village with his father Stanley who is a retired medical doctor.

Orotoaba is a large hilltop village with green lawns, flowers, cool breezes and stunning fjord views. It is a short but steep climb down to a small beach in the adjacent Ibura Fjord for swimming (or swim to your heart's content off beautiful Jebo beach before hiking up to Orotoaba).

If you are interested in wildlife you can take a quiet afternoon foray into the forest to view a variety of insects, mammals and birds you may not have noticed during your hikes. The world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing, is native to this area and can be found in the village gardens if you are lucky. Alternatively, get up early and Rodney will take you to see a stand of trees hosting a small flock of Bird of Paradise.

In the evening a village cultural group will perform a sing-sing in your honour featuring bare chested dancers with intricate facial tattoos, adorned with traditional tapa (bark) cloth and spectacular coloured feather headdresses. You haven't seen anything like *this* before.

Overnight village guest house, Orotoaba village (includes local style dinner and breakfast).

Day 4: Thursday

OROTOABA VILLAGE / TAINABUNA VILLAGE

A short downhill hike today, descending and ascending the spurs at the end of Ibura Fjord and then a steady downhill walk to the hamlet of Tainabuna. You can start walking straight after breakfast if you choose, or spend the morning at Orotoaba first before heading off.

The guest house at Tainabuna is across the inlet from the village proper and has its own private beach and lookout point. Spend the day beachwalking, lazing in the shadows of huge trees overhanging the beach, paddling an outrigger canoe around the calm inlet, or doing more snorkelling. You can even swim right around the inlet; there aren't any sharks due to the fringing reef. Your hosts are available to assist with showing you around or paddling your canoe if you wish, or you can explore by yourself.

Overnight village guest house, Tainabuna village (includes local style dinner and breakfast).

Day 5: Friday

TAINABUNA VILLAGE / BAUWAME VILLAGE

Another short hop today. Bauwame is only half an hour's paddling or one hour's walk away. If walking, you have to take the back way due to mangroves further along the beach which are difficult to traverse. Your hosts will be just as keen to paddle you. Again, you can head off early or spend the morning at Tainabuna first.

Bauwame is a clifftop village at the southern entrance to Amuian Fjord, the largest of the Tufi fjords. The guest house here has panoramic views of the fjords and towering Goodenough Island which sits on the eastern horizon. There is a tiny uninhabited island about ten minutes paddling from shore which you can explore at leisure; your hosts can even maroon you there for a few hours with some water and fruit to give you some time to yourself (walk around the island, paddle in the shallows and snorkel to your heart's content - don't forget the 15+ sunscreen).

Outrigger canoes are available for exploring the Amuian Fjord, or you can pay extra

to hire a motorised dinghy to give you the grand tour, including snorkelling stops at some of the bommies (reef outcrops) in the fjord. Amuian Fjord really is majestic. From Bauwame guest house you will also have clear views of the volcanic mountain range to the west which was responsible for the formation of the fjords from lava flows. Bauwame and all other villages in the Tufi area are littered with igneous boulders which rained from heaven thousands of years ago during what must have been one of the most spectacular volcanic eruptions in the history of the earth.

Overnight village guest house, Bauwame village (includes local style dinner and breakfast).

Day 6: Saturday

BAUWAME VILLAGE / KOFURE VILLAGE

After lunch you will be paddled to Tufi proper, about 30 minutes by outrigger (too far to walk in a day due to the meandering terrain). If there is a decent breeze your canoe captain may unfurl a patchwork sail made of rice bags and cuts of black plastic which will whisk you over the reefs. Your outrigger will tie up at the Tufi wharf and then there is a steep climb up a cliffside driveway to the Tufi Dive Resort. If you are a diver you may wish to arrive at Tufi Dive Resort in time for the afternoon boat dive trip, and proceed on to Kofure village afterwards (this must be arranged in advance of course). Otherwise, after a cool drink and a rest at the Resort bar, meet up with your host from Kofure at the resort, take a walk across the airstrip to where another canoe will be waiting for you to paddle around the point to Kofure. Great reef viewing en route, and you can even jump out of the canoe and snorkel as you go (ask the paddlers to tow you behind the canoe with a piece of rope for the ultimate in lazy snorkelling!).

At Kofure, tour the little village and relax on the little beach with a fresh coconut drink before sunset. Perfect.

Overnight Kofure Village Guest House (includes meals)

Day 7: Sunday

KOFURE VILLAGE / TUFU DIVE RESORT

This morning, snorkel and relax at Kofure, or go for a canoe expedition through the mangrove labyrinths. After lunch, a scenic 3-hour hike along the spur of Maclaren Fjord brings you to Tufi Dive Resort by late afternoon. Alternatively, you can paddle and/or snorkel back the way you came. If you prefer to hike, your bags can still be transferred by canoe to Tufi while you are walking.

You will spend the last night of your trip at Tufi Dive Resort, unless you choose to extend for a few days to do some scuba diving (occasionally there are charter flights out on Wednesdays - check at time of booking). It won't be possible to do any diving today if you are flying out in the morning, due to the no-diving- 24-hours-before-flying rule.

The resort has 24-hour electricity, telephone and internet.

Overnight Tufi Dive Resort (standard twin-share bungalow, main meals are included but all additional snacks, drinks from the bar, scuba diving and other chargeable activities are not included and can be paid for in cash or by credit card.)

Day 8: Monday

TUFU / PORT MORESBY

After an early breakfast, walk to the airstrip to wait for your flight to Port Moresby which will depart at approximately 0730.

FRIDAY TO FRIDAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday

PORT MORESBY / TUFI DIVE RESORT

1430 Check in at Port Moresby airport.

1600 Depart Port Moresby on Airlines PNG scheduled flight to Tufi

1700 Arrive Tufi airfield, Tufi Dive Resort staff will meet you on arrival. Short walk from the airfield to the resort.

Overnight Tufi Dive Resort (standard twin-share bungalow, main meals are included but all additional snacks, drinks from the bar, scuba diving and other chargeable activities are not included and can be paid for in cash or by credit card.)

Day 2: Saturday

TUFI DIVE RESORT / SIU VILLAGE

0700 Breakfast

0830 Full day scuba diving or snorkelling with Tufi Dive Resort. If you are a diver, you should be able to fit in two boat dives today.

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(NB if you are not a diver and you wish to skip the option of spending the day at Tufi Dive Resort, we can arrange for you to be transferred straight to Siu village after breakfast instead.)

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Overnight Siu Village Guest House.

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Your host from Orotoaba, Rodney Mokuta, may meet you at Siu and hike with you if you are taking the back way, or may wait for you at Jebo beach if you opt to come up the front way. Although a young man, Rodney is the chairman of the Tufi Ecotourism Development Association and is passionate about village-based tourism. He lives at home in the village with his father Stanley who is a retired medical doctor.

Orotoaba is a large hilltop village with green lawns, flowers, cool breezes and stunning fjord views. It is a short but steep climb down to a small beach in the adjacent Ibura Fjord for swimming (or swim to your heart’s content off beautiful Jebo beach before hiking up to Orotoaba).

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Day 6: Wednesday

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leisure; your hosts can even maroon you there for a few hours with some water and fruit to give you some time to yourself (walk around the island, paddle in the shallows and snorkel to your heart's content - don't forget the 15+ sunscreen).

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Day 7: Thursday

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At Kofure, tour the little village and relax on the little beach with a fresh coconut drink before sunset. Perfect.

Overnight Kofure Village Guest House (includes meals)

Day 8: Friday

KOFURE VILLAGE / TUFU DIVE RESORT

This morning, snorkel and relax at Kofure, or go for a canoe expedition through the mangrove labyrinths. After lunch, a scenic 3-hour hike along the spur of Maclaren Fjord brings you to Tufi Dive Resort by 3.30pm to have a cool drink and check in for your flight (the airline office is located at the resort).

Alternatively, you can paddle and/or snorkel from Kofure back to Tufi (ie the way you came). If you prefer to hike, your bags can still be transferred by canoe to Tufi while you are walking.

1715 Flight departs Tufi airfield for Port Moresby.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS:

- o Extra nights Tufi Dive Resort (flights out of Tufi are on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons with occasional charter flights on Wednesdays)

TRIP NOTES:

1. **Physical fitness.** This tour is designed for visitors with an interest in, and whom are fit for, hiking of moderate difficulty. Visitors who do not have adequate physical fitness for the hiking described in this tour should consider another tour (eg EM16 Discover Tufi).
2. **Wet weather.** Tufi is subject to regular rainfall even during the dry season (April to November), though most rain falls at night. If the weather is wet during your stay you may not be able to complete all the activities described in this itinerary.
3. **Suggested packing list for this tour:**

You should pack your personal gear into a medium size lightweight pack (preferably waterproof with an internal frame). You may find it helpful to pack your personal items in garbage bags or ziplock plastic bags to protect them from the wet, especially your camera and Mars bars. Personal gear includes two or three changes of clothes (warm days, warm to cool nights), light hiking boots with 2 pairs of cotton/wool blend hiking socks, a pair of light tracksuit pants or similar to sleep in, hat with wide brim to keep sun and rain off your face, waterproof torch with spare batteries, rain poncho, quick-dry towel, your favourite soap in a leak-proof container, two rolls of your favourite toilet paper, a one-litre water bottle to carry with you (guides will usually carry extra water), and your personal first aid kit. Your personal first aid kit will contain Band-aids, blister dressings, topical cream for bites and grazes, antibiotic cream for cuts and scratches, paracetamol, Deep Heat or other muscle linament and the all-important insect repellent.
4. **Bedding.** The village guesthouses will provide clean bedding for you. Alternatively you may choose to bring your own tropical sleeping bag or a bed liner of the type used at youth hostels, or an empty quilt cover that you can sleep inside. Your sleeping bag or sheet will also protect you from mosquitoes although mosquito nets are also provided at the village guesthouses.
5. **First aid.** On request, Ecotourism Melanesia will provide you with a tropical first aid kit to take with you to Tufi and return to us afterwards. This will include emergency treatment for malaria, anti-diarrhoea medication and oral rehydration salts, topical antibiotic, wound dressings, bandages.
6. **Bathing.** At the village guest houses you have the option of bathing Asian-style by scooping water over yourself from a drum of water inside a closed-off outside bathroom, or walking down to the stream and bathing with your clothes on, usually in front of other people. Males may bathe in shorts, ladies should bring a sarong or quick-dry shorts and top to wear for bathing.
7. **Guides and helpers.** While staying in the villages and going on hikes, you will be accompanied most of the time by a village guide or helpers arranged by the operator of the village guest house. These guides / helpers are often your host's own family members. Your guides/helpers will show you around, paddle the canoe for you, help you communicate with any village people who don't speak English, and accompany you on hikes and walks. There is no need for you to make any direct payment to these guides and helpers as they are paid a daily fee by the operator of the village guest house. However if you wish to reward exceptional service from a particular individual you are welcome to do so (ie pay a tip) but please be discreet so as not to cause disputes. If a guide or helper asks you for a gratuity you should politely say that you will talk to the guest house operator about it first. If you would like to take any gifts to the villages, clothing is the best type of gift to take because clothing is difficult to obtain in the rural areas. Large size T-shirts are a sure bet as they can be given to both males and females of various builds. Other suitable gifts include caps, small flashlights, soap, cooking spices and pens and pencils for the children to use in school.
8. **Food.** Most of the food that will be offered to you at the village guest houses will be freshly harvested vegetables and seafood, possibly some chicken or pork. If you are a fresh food fan, you will be very happy. There is no electricity in the villages and leftover food is given to the village animals at the end of the day and not kept for the next day. If you feel the village diet may be too bland for you, you are welcome to bring additional favourite food items with you - village people will not be offended. Dehydrated packet pasta, tinned meats, baked beans etc that you bring with you can be prepared for you by your hosts and served with your meal.
9. **Drinking water** in the villages comes from clean fjord springs and is safe to drink. If you have any concerns you can ask your hosts to boil and cool water for you to drink, or drink only coconut juice which is abundant.
10. **Safety.** There is only a very basic government clinic at Tufi. If you fall critically ill, a charter flight must be arranged to evacuate you, at an approximate cost of PGK 7,000. If a decision is made to evacuate you, either you or your medical/travel insurer will be responsible for the cost of this exercise. Accordingly we strongly advise that you take out medivac insurance cover for the duration of your

tour. Most of the villages around Tufi now have VHF radio contact with the Tufi Dive Resort and can call for help in an emergency.

11. **Malaria.** Malaria is prevalent in all parts of Papua New Guinea including Tufi. If you have recently arrived in the country you are unlikely to fall ill with malaria during your week at Tufi because the incubation period for malaria is a minimum of seven days after you are bitten by the mosquito. We recommend taking malaria prophylaxis during your visit to PNG and we recommend that you carry a course of presumptive treatment with you to Tufi. On your return home, you should immediately suspect malaria if you feel unwell in any way, and be sure to inform your doctor that you have been in a malarial area.

NOTES ON VILLAGE GUEST HOUSES AROUND TUFU

Kofure Village Guest House - has small beach in front of guest house, nice lawns, great reefs, beautiful mangrove labyrinths, small family village behind guest house, this is Tufi's first-established guest house and has enough rooms to cater for school groups, football teams etc. Has running water and some electricity. Can be hot here if no sea breeze.

Bauwame Village Guest House - sturdy guest house on a windy hill with 270 degree panoramic views of the Tufi coastline and Amuian Fjord. No beach in front of guest house but very good snorkelling reef, big fjord to explore, tiny offshore island a short paddle away has beach and palm trees. Small village behind guest house, opportunity to enjoy a sing-sing. 24-hour wind makes it a cool spot. Be prepared to huff and puff for 10 minutes to get up the hill to the guest house.

Tainabuna Village Guest House - located right on a private shady beach with overhanging trees, quiet shallow inlet great for learning how to paddle a canoe. Guest house is quiet and private: has multiple rooms but usually no other guests staying apart from you. No nearby village - owner's house 5 mins paddle away - so not much opportunity to interact with locals except at the nearby spring where people come to collect drinking water.

Siu Village Guest House - accommodation in bungalows located on a point overlooking the sea but have to paddle or walk 10 mins to get to nearest beach and snorkelling. Scenic inland hikes. Nice village with several guest houses, friendly people.

Orotoaba Village Guest House - located on a ridge overlooking the fjords with almost 360 degree views. A large village with plenty of activity of interest each day and an eternal volleyball game the proceeda at all hours in the village field. Cultural groups here perform exhilarating sing-sing dances with exotic traditional dress. Near the village are areas of rainforest with nesting birds-of-paradise.

At each of these village guest houses, accommodation is in local-style huts or bungalows, or private rooms within a large local-style house. None of these guest houses are built with modern building materials or roofing iron - everything is local-style. Bedding is provided in the form of a mattress with clean sheets and pillow, and a mosquito net. In general, guest house rooms have either a single bed or twin beds. A few have double beds.

Toilets are located in pit latrine outhouses. Bathing takes places either in a nearby stream or in an outdoor bathroom which may have running water from a rainwater tank or may have a 44-gallon drum that is topped up manually by the guesthouse caretaker and you can use a small dish or bowl to scoop water from this drum over yourself.

Meals are local-style and feature seafood, chicken and sometimes pork with generous helpings of fresh local vegetables and fruit. In the evening they usually prepare a "mumu" dinner of freshly caught fish or lobster and other seafoods wrapped in banana leaves with ginger root and coconut milk and baked under hot stones with vegetables.

Breakfast is usually village scones or pancakes with billy tea. Lunch is usually local greens and sweet potato or yam cooked in coconut milk with some fresh fish or lobster, with fruit on the side.

As part of your package, each day the village guest house operator will provide for you:

- 3 main meals
- supplies of tea and coffee with a thermos of hot water on standby
- supplies of cool drinking water and fresh coconut juice
- supplies of bananas, pawpaw, pineapple etc for between meal snacks
- an outrigger canoe for you to paddle yourself around, with or without a guide to assist with paddling
- access to beach for walking and swimming, and reef for snorkelling
- a guide available for hiking, walking around the village etc
- opportunities to accompany village people on routine activities like fishing, gardening etc if you would like to do so.

If you request additional organised activities, such as a fishing expedition that requires a motor boat, a village culture demonstration such as sago making or facial tattooing, you may be asked to pay an extra fee for this because it may require the involvement of people outside the village guest house owner's family, who will expect a gratuity for their time.