



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## EM17 - TUFU WEEKENDER PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS

3 nights ex-Port Moresby (2 nights Tufu Dive Resort, 1 night village guest house)

Friday afternoon departures only.

The Tufu 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 world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing, can be found in most sweet potato gardens in the Tufu area.

The people of the Tufu area have a rich cultural heritage that is nurtured and treasured. One of the most memorable experiences for visitors is witnessing a sing-sing featuring bare-chested dancers with intricate facial tattoos, adorned with traditional tapa (bark) cloth and spectacular coloured feather headdresses.

Village people in the Tufu district are experienced at hosting visitors in village guest houses for hiking, fishing and skin diving experiences. Hiking of moderate difficulty can be enjoyed in the Tufu area at a leisurely pace.

Typical daily activities at village guest houses in the Tufu area include swimming, snorkelling, line fishing or spear-fishing, exploring the fjords and mangrove labyrinths by paddling outrigger canoes, or relaxing in the shade on the beach. A map of the Tufu area can be found on our website Tufu page.

Tufu Dive Resort is a small, boutique dive resort that offers a range of aquatic activities including scuba diving (if you have your scuba ticket), snorkelling, fishing and kayaking, as well as hiking, village tours and bird-watching.

This 3 night itinerary can commence any Friday afternoon subject to availability of accommodation at Tufu Dive Resort. Extension till Wednesday is occasionally possible if there is a charter flight with seats available.

Tour cost includes all airfares, accommodation, meals, transfers, guides and village-based activities (except where stated). BYO snorkelling gear. Additional activities at Tufu Dive Resort (diving, organised fishing trips, organised village trips etc) are pay-as-you-go.

### PACKAGE COST (price per person):

Group of 1	Group of 2	Group of 3	Group of 4+
PGK 3743	PGK 2807	PGK 2733	PGK 2625

Upgrade to deluxe bungalow at Tufu Dive Resort - add 5% of package price person.

Downgrade to backpacker dorm at Tufu Dive Resort - deduct 5% of package price per person.

Single supplement - applies to both resort and village guest house: add 5% of package price person (after upgrade/downgrade, if applicable).

### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS (STANDARD 3 NIGHT PACKAGE):

- Airfares Port Moresby-Tufi-Port Moresby
- Two nights standard accommodation and main meals at Tufi Dive Resort (twin share basis) (includes extra breakfast for Monday morning arrivals)
- One night village guest house accommodation including local-style food, guide, access to beaches and reefs, use of outrigger canoe, village sing-sing performance if available
- Return water transfers between Tufi and the village guest house using either paddle canoe or motor boat depending on distance, weather, time factor etc (Ecotourism Melanesia's discretion)
- Tropical first aid kit (on request - loan basis)

### EXCLUSIONS:

- Additional motorised dinghy hire for excursions
- Activities ex-Tufi Dive Resort
- Snacks and bar drinks at Tufi Dive Resort
- Excess baggage charges

Optional extension if Wednesday charter flight available: 2 extra nights Monday, Tuesday fly out Wednesday morning. Includes 1 extra night at village guest house, 1 extra night Tufi Dive Resort. Extra cost PGK715 AUD\$335 USD\$265 per person.

Extended itinerary: Friday, Saturday nights at Tufi Dive Resort. Sunday, Monday nights at village. Tuesday night back at Tufi Dive Resort.

### ITINERARY:

#### Day 1: Friday

#### PORT MORESBY / TUFI DIVE RESORT

1330 Check in at Port Moresby airport.

1500 Depart Port Moresby on Airlines PNG scheduled flight to Tufi

1600 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 / VILLAGE GUEST HOUSE

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.

*Tufi 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 Tufi 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 Tufi 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.*

*The only downside of Tufi Dive Resort is that there is NO BEACH in front of the resort - it is situated on a cliff overlooking the fjords with great views, and a nice reef down below, but no beach only mangroves and rocks. You have to travel across the fjord 10 minutes by motor boat to get to the nearest beach.*

1630 Tufi Dive Resort staff will transfer you by motor boat to your village guest house. (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 the village after breakfast instead.)

Your village guest house hosts will have a warm welcome ready for you. Orientate yourself to your surroundings before sunset because there will be no electricity at the village guest house and all lighting will be by kerosene lamps and flashlights - and of course the bonfire that you will sit by during the evening while enjoying a chat with your hosts.

Overnight Village Guest House (twin share room, includes meals).

#### Day 3: Sunday

##### VILLAGE GUEST HOUSE / TUFI DIVE RESORT

Spend the full day at the village guest house enjoying the range of activities available, which will surely include sitting and walking on the beach. Note that there is NO BEACH in front of Tufi Dive Resort (it is situated on a cliff overlooking the fjords with great views, and a nice reef down below, but no beach).

If you are a churchgoer, or even if you are not, the locals will be delighted to welcome you at their little church service this Sunday morning. Most villages have a little Anglican church and there are also a few little Catholic and United Church congregations.

Late in the afternoon, transfer back to Tufi Dive Resort. This may be by paddle canoe or motorised dinghy depending on which guest house you are staying at (ie how far), what the weather is like, and how much luggage you have.

Overnight Tufi Dive Resort (standard bungalow, twin share basis, includes main meals)

#### Day 4: Monday

##### TUFI / PORT MORESBY

After breakfast, walk to the airstrip and wait for your flight, CG377 to Port Moresby departing 07:10. Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you on arrival and assist you with your ongoing flight connections or transfer to accommodation.

#### NOTES ON VILLAGE GUEST HOUSES AROUND TUFI

There are a number of village guest houses that we book for our EM17 packages. In terms of scenery, access to good snorkelling, type of food served, and standard of accommodation they are all much the same. However there are slight variations in their setup and locations which may make one location more suitable than another for your particular group size and interests. Accordingly you are welcome to specify one of the following guest houses or otherwise we will allocate your booking in turn so as to balance the number of bookings allocated to each guest house over time.

**Kofure Village Guest House** - only 30 minutes paddling time from Tufi airfield, this is the closest guest house. Has a 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, about 45 minutes paddling from Tufi Dive Resort wharf. 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** - about 1 hour paddling time from Tufi Dive Resort, 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.

**Garewa Beach Hut** - small beach hut suitable for up to 4 people, quiet and private, no village nearby only the caretaker's house a discreet distance away. Separate dining hut where meals are served.

**Jebo Village Guest House** - located in a large village, plenty of interaction with locals (play volleyball, enjoy a sing-sing), stunning beach just 5 mins walk away, good reef, scenic hiking, bird of paradise nesting spot 1 hour walk from guest house. Butterflies galore.

**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.

(NB Garewa, Jebo and Siu are all too far to paddle (at least for these weekender packages) and require motor boat transfer each way. This is include in your package but don't book one of these guest houses if you are interested in demonstrating your new-found outrigger canoe paddling skills for the transfer back to Tufi on Sunday afternoon.)

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.

If you are staying in a guest house with a village attached, a traditional sing-sing performance will take place on the night you arrive, to welcome you. This will be a vibrant display of colourful feathers and tapa cloth accompanied by harmonious singing and the beating of hand drums covered with lizard skin. A gratuity for the village people in appreciate of the sing-sing welcome is already included in your package. Usually the gratuity we give is donated to the village church, school or women's group.

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.

### GENERAL TRIP NOTES:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **Possible upgrade or downgrade of accommodation at Tufi Dive Resort.** The resort is small and sometime the "standard" accommodation specified in the tour inclusions above may not be available

for the dates you wish to book. In this case we will discuss with you the option of upgrading to a deluxe or family bungalow, or downgrading to backpacker accommodation.