



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

ITINERARY FOR TOUR EM16: **DISCOVER TUFI** - 6 DAYS 5 NIGHTS

This 5 night itinerary can commence any Wednesday or Sunday (Sunday departures allow an extra half day at Tufi). Tour cost includes all airfares, accommodation, meals, transfers, guides and activities (except where stated). BYO snorkelling gear.

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. 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 Tufi district are experienced at hosting visitors in village guest houses for hiking, fishing and skindiving experiences. Hiking of moderate difficulty can be enjoyed in the Tufi area at a leisurely pace. Typical daily activities at village guest houses in the Tufi area include swimming, snorkelling, line fishing or spearfishing, exploring the fjords and mangrove labyrinths by paddling outrigger canoes, or relaxing in the shade on the beach. A map of the Tufi area can be found on our website [Tufi page](#).

Day 1: Kofure Village Guest House

Depart Port Moresby at 0620am on flight CG378, arriving Tufi at 0720am. You will be met on arrival by your hosts from Kofure Village Guest House and paddled by outrigger canoe 15 minutes to nearby Kofure Village (pronounced Ko-foo-ray) which is located at the tip of the fjord peninsula on which Tufi airfield and station are located. On arrival at Kofure Village Guest House you will be served a village-style tropical breakfast consisting of fresh fruit, tea and hot scones and you will be able to spend some time getting to know your hosts. Then your hosts will take you on a familiarisation walk around the village area, meeting village people as you go along and absorbing some of the village atmosphere. During the morning you will be able to visit vegetable gardens to see how local foods are cultivated, see village people collecting water from a spring and climb a nearby ridge for a view of MacLaren Fjord and Tufi airfield. As lunchtime approaches you will be able to see how local foods are prepared; lunch is usually local greens and sweet potato or yam cooked in coconut milk with some fresh fish or lobster.

After lunch you may choose from a number of different village-based activities that are included in the cost of your tour:

- explore the nearby fjords by paddling an outrigger canoe
- take a stroll down to the Tufi market and "station", meet the locals, check out the local trade store
- walk along the beach near the guest house
- swim, snorkel or fish over a nearby reef

In the evening you will enjoy a local-style "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 a variety of local vegetables. Tonight some of the villagers will perform a traditional singsing for you: have your camera ready for a vibrant display of colourful feathers and tapa cloth accompanied by harmonious singing and the beating of hand drums covered with lizard skin.

Overnight Kofure Village Guest House (basic bungalow accommodation with simple furniture, clean mattress, pillow and sheets, mosquito net, outside toilet, basic shower).

Day 2: Kofure Village Guest House

Today you may wish to explore the nearby fjords. You can explore MacLaren Harbour (Fjord) to the north or Tufi Harbour (Fjord) to the south of Kofure. Explore on foot or by outrigger canoe. Walking, you can follow the edge of the fjord, sometimes along the beach and sometimes at the top of basalt cliffs, or walk inland to bush villages such as Rukapa and Kwave. Guides from Kofure will lead you on your hike.

Otherwise explore the fjords and mangrove by outrigger canoe: you can choose between paddling yourself in a solo canoe or taking it easy in a larger canoe with some of the village boys at the paddles.

Alternatively you can just stay close to the guest house enjoying the beach and short walks in the nearby coconut plantations (mind your head!) and light rainforest, taking in the flora and fauna. The world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing, can be found in most sweet potato gardens in the Tufi area. Good snorkelling is available on the reef in front of Kofure.

Overnight Kofure Village Guest House.

Day 3: Village Stay at Orotoaba or Siu

This morning your hosts at Kofure will farewell you and you will be transferred by small boat to a village south of Tufi "station". You have the choice between the seaside of Siu, or the hilltop village of Orotoaba which is an easy 30 minutes walk inland from the beach.

Orotoaba village (pronounced Orro-toe-bah) has green lawns, flowers, cool breezes and 360 degree views of the Tufi coastline. If you are interested in wildlife you can take a foray into the forest to view a variety of insects, mammals and birds. Raggiana birds of paradise nest in stands of tress not far from the village and their loud, raucous calls can be heard during the early mornings and evenings. The Queen Alexandra Birdwing butterfly is native to this area and can be found in the village gardens. Your hosts at Orotoaba will ensure you are well fed throughout the day on pineapple, pawpaw, bananas, sugar cane, mangoes, oranges, coconuts and other fruits, and the usual day's catch of fish and lobster cooked in a variety of ways.

Siu village is a small seaside village and the village guest house here is located right on the water's edge a short distance from the rest of the village (only 8 houses). There is a living reef right in front of your bungalow and you may snorkel to your heart's content all day long if you wish. Your hosts will drag you out of the water to feed you from time to time. From Siu you can paddle an outrigger canoe up the magnificent Utukwaf Fjord, taking in the breathtaking beauty of the sheer basalt cliffs of the fjord and stopping off to swim and snorkel on the numerous coral reefs that inhabit the fjord area. At one point you will be able to paddle up a freshwater stream, under the shade of the jungle canopy, to a beautifully cool waterfall where you can sit and relax under a refreshing cascade of water. Swimming, snorkelling, paddling, beachwalking and shell collecting will occupy you for the rest of the day (either that or some serious snoozing in the shade of a tree on the water's edge in front of your bungalow, coconut drink in hand...)

Overnight village stay at Orotoaba or Siu (basic bungalow accommodation with simple furniture, clean mattress, pillow and sheets, mosquito net, outside toilet, bucket shower or bathe in the stream).

Day 4: Day trip to Wanigela and Uiaku

Today a day trip by motorised dinghy is organised for you, to visit the pottery makers of Wanigela (pronounced Wunny-gella) and the tapa cloth makers of Uiaku (pronounced Wee-arkoo).

An outboard dinghy will transport you 90 minutes along the coast south from Siu, first to Wanigela where the people have a strong tradition of producing beautiful clay pots. You can see the potters at work using their traditional methods and pots are available for sale. Another 30 minutes further on by boat is Uiaku, the home of the Maisin tribe whose artisans produce top quality tapa cloth from the fibre of the mulberry tree, painted with exquisite designs using natural dyes and ochres. You will be able to observe the tapa making and painting process, and samples are available to purchase. You won't find better tapa cloth anywhere in the Pacific.

Visiting Wanigela and Uiaku is a full day trip, arriving back at Siu / Orotoaba by dusk. Your hosts will provide food and water to be carried in the dinghy for the day trip.

Alternatively you are welcome to skip the day trip and stay at Siu / Orotoaba for the day, resting on the beach at Siu or in the shade of a tree on the Orotoaba hilltop, extending yesterday's activities of paddling, walking, swimming, snorkelling, or a spot of fishing in the mangroves. Beachcombing along the white sand beach at Jebo can be arranged.

Overnight village stay at Orotoaba or Siu

Day 5: Tufi Dive Resort

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred by dinghy to the Tufi Dive Resort where you will spend the last day and night of your tour. 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. If you are a non-diver you may prefer to spend the day relaxing at the resort which has a fully stocked bar and plenty of comfortable chairs with sea views. Buffet-style meals are served. Accommodation here is in well-appointed rooms with ensuite facilities. The resort has 24 hour electricity and telephone.

Overnight Tufi Dive Resort. (Lunch, dinner and breakfast are included in the tour cost. 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 6: return to Port Moresby

If today is a Monday you will depart Tufi on flight CG381 at 0630am arriving in Port Moresby 0810am (via Popondetta and Itokama).

TOUR COST

Group of 1 USD\$ 1718 rack rate

Group of 2+ USD\$ 1335 per person rack rate

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- airfares Port Moresby - Tufi - Port Moresby
- two nights accommodation, meals and activities (hiking, canoeing etc) at Kofure Village Guest House
- two nights accommodation, meals and activities (hiking, canoeing etc) at Siu OR Orotoaba Village Guest House
- one night accommodation and meals at Tufi Dive Resort (not including activities)
- day trip to Wanigela/Uiaku
- water transfers
- guides as specified
- village access and sightseeing fees

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- international airfares (available separately)
- excess baggage charges
- bar drinks, tips, souvenirs, personal items
- bottled water and first aid requirements
- motorised activities at villages and Tufi Dive Resort
- diving, snorkelling and other activities at Tufi Dive Resort that are not included in the normal daily tariff

TOUR NOTES:

1. **Substitute villages.** Due to village cultural considerations and the limited capacity of village guest houses and village stays, it is possible that village accommodation specified above may not be available for your booking dates. If so, Ecotourism Melanesia will book you into another village guest house in the Tufi area that offers similar scenery, activities and facilities to the villages mentioned in this itinerary. We advise that occasionally it may be necessary to provide substitute village accommodation with little or no notice before your arrival. For example if there is a death in one of the villages mentioned above the village may be temporarily closed off to guests and you will be accommodated in another village.
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 specified.
3. **Suggested packing list for this tour:**
You should pack your personal gear into a medium size duffle bag or lightweight pack (preferably waterproof with an internal frame) that can be locked. You may find it helpful to pack your personal items in garbage bags or ziplock plastic bags to protect them from getting wet from the spray during boat transfers if the sea is choppy. Personal gear includes three or four changes of clothes (hot days, warm nights), light hiking boots with 4 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 liniment and the all-important insect repellent.
4. **Bedding.** The village guest houses will provide clean bedding for you, usually a foam rubber mattress with clean sheets, covered by a mosquito net. 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.
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 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. Some fresh bread, cakes, frozen meat or red apples brought with you from Port Moresby to share with your hosts will always be appreciated, as these items are never available in the sole trade store at Tufi.

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 are no medical facilities available at Tufi. If you fall ill during your stay, arrangements will be made to fly you out to Port Moresby on the next available flight. If you are critically ill, a charter flight will be arranged to evacuate you, at an approximate cost of K5,000. 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.
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.