

# KOKODA

## Battlefield Trek 2019



**PNG Trekking Adventures**  
[www.pngtrekkingadventures.com](http://www.pngtrekkingadventures.com)



# Trekking Adventures Papua New Guinea

Madang  
Mt Wilhelm  
Mt Hagen  
Goroka  
Lae  
Salamaua

Kokoda  
Port Moresby  
Owers' Crn  
Tufi  
Alotau

Rabaul

Kavieng



## ABOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the rugged tropical island of New Guinea (which it shares with the Indonesian territory of Irian Jaya) as well as numerous smaller islands and atolls in the Pacific. The central part of the island rises into a wide ridge of mountains known as the Highlands, a territory that is so densely forested and topographically forbidding that the island's local people remained isolated from each other for millennia. The coastline is liberally endowed with spectacular coral reefs, giving the country an international reputation for scuba diving. The smaller island groups of Papua New Guinea include the Bismarck Archipelago, New Britain, New Ireland and the North Solomon's. Some of these islands are volcanic, with dramatic mountain ranges, and all are relatively undeveloped.

Nearly 85 percent of the main island is carpeted with tropical rain forest, containing vegetation that has its origins from Asia and Australia. The country is also home to an impressive variety of exotic birds, including virtually all of the known species of Bird's of Paradise, and it is blessed with more kinds of orchids than any other country.

For centuries, the South Pacific has been luring the traveller who searched for excitement, beauty and tranquillity. The exploits of sailors to the South Pacific have been told and re-told, but in telling, there is one large country which is not mentioned, Papua New Guinea.

This huge equatorial island provides a smorgasbord of wonderful things to see and do. The rich wealth of flora and fauna will thrill the nature lover, the strong and vibrant culture which dominates everyday life in Papua New Guinea will fascinate the most seasoned traveller, while the natural warmth and friendliness of the people will capture your heart.

Papua New Guinea's climate is tropical, as one would expect in a country located just south of the Equator. December to March is the wet season, although occasional rain falls year-round. While Port Moresby, the capital, and other towns on the coast are quite hot in the summer months, temperatures are considerably cooler in the Highlands. July, August, and September are the best months for trekking vacations.

*"discover now, remember forever"*

## KOKODA TRACK

We invite you to walk with us along this most beautiful track. Let us share with you the emotional stories of our brave young diggers. Get to meet all our kind, generous Papua New Guinean friends who live along the track and have an adventure of a life time.

More than 600 Australians were killed and some 1680 wounded during perhaps the most significant battle fought by Australians in World War II. Forced to repel a Japanese invasion force, which landed at Gona on the north coast of Papua on 21 July 1942, the Australians fought in appalling conditions over the next four months. The Japanese objective was to capture Port Moresby, the main Australian base in New Guinea, by an overland strike across the Owen Stanley Range. The most direct way across these rugged mountains was by a jungle pathway known as the Kokoda Track. During the next four months, until 16 November 1942, Australian soldiers fought the Japanese, first to keep them from reaching Port Moresby and then to push them back over the Owen Stanley's to their north coast strongholds at Buna, Gona and Sanananda.

The Kokoda Track is by far the most popular trek in Papua New Guinea and takes between 6-9 days to complete. It is a physical and mental challenge, the difficulty of the track should not be underestimated. The long days include river crossings, steep and gradual ascents and descents. Most of the 96 kilometre trek is through rain forest. Usually conditions are wet and slippery as rain can be expected on most days. Temperatures range from 24-30 degrees Celsius during the day and 16-24 degrees Celsius at night.



The Kokoda Track Foundation  
GOLD TREK OPERATOR PARTNER





Photo: Dave Buller

# Kokoda Track

## Ten Day Battlefield Tour

The Kokoda Trail is by far the most popular trek in Papua New Guinea and takes between 6-9 days to complete. It is a physical and mental challenge and the difficulty of the track should not be underestimated.

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This track was made famous during WWII and still bears the scars of a fierce campaign. For those of you who had loved ones fighting in PNG during WWII, this walk can be a very spiritual and emotional experience. Trekking in mud up to your knees and tricky river crossings indicates exactly the conditions under which our diggers fought.

Our guides are extremely knowledgeable about the WWII history across the track. They have all spent time exploring battlefields and found interesting side trips for our trekkers to see ammunition pit, war artefacts and areas where the Japanese and Australians dug in to fight.

Trekkers need not have an Australian connection with the track. It is the most beautiful walk, the scenery is stunning, we get to camp out and integrate with our PNG boys working for us. There is a lot of singing and telling of stories around camp fires in the evenings.

When we stay in villages your guide will take you for a walk around the village so you get to meet all our friends. They will talk to you about the PNG culture and maybe organize a village sing a long that evening. The local people who live along the track are Koiaris. They are warm, friendly and generous people who welcome trekkers onto their land. This is the complete learning experience.

You learn about the WWII History, the culture, the people, the flora and fauna and will walk away from our country a better person for having this experience. Although ideally suited to walkers who are of reasonable fitness, training for this trek is necessary. Please try and be as fit as you possibly can. Remember the fitter you are the more enjoyable the trek will be. The best time to do the track is between the end of April and the beginning of November.

*Treks starting from (ex-Port Moresby):*

# A\$3995

*See page 5 for inclusions & exclusions.*





# Itinerary

## Day 1 - Port Moresby

On arrival at Port Moresby International Airport the group will be met by PNG Trekking Adventures representatives and transferred to their hotel. After checking in there will be a gear check followed by a briefing of what is going to happen over the next 8 days.

**Accommodation:** Hotel

## Day 2 – Kokoda to Isurava Village

We fly from Port Moresby on a Private Charter. It is a 35 minute flight to Kokoda and upon arrival we walk from the airstrip to Kokoda Station to see the War Museum and other memorials. We start our trek here, walking approximately 2 hours arriving at Hoi Village. It is here that the reality hits you that the Kokoda Track will not be easy. It is a very steep ascent out of Hoi; however, do not throw in the towel yet. Take it easy, we are walking in the heat of the day today. It will take around 1 hour to walk up to the Deniki Camp Site where we will have lunch. Our boys will have gone ahead to boil the billy. Deniki was an Australian Camp Head Quarters during the battle of Kokoda. It takes another 3 – 3.5 hours walking up hill before we arrive at Isurava Village. Depending on what time we are able to fly into Kokoda we may not get here until late afternoon, anywhere between 4 & 6pm, following approximately 6-7 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Kokoda Museum, Rubber Plantations, Hoi & Deniki.

**Accommodation:** Traditional Village.

**Meals:** BLD



## Day 3 – Isurava Village to Eora Creek

As to get into a pattern, we set off early this morning. Normally waking at 5 and walking by 6:30. We head for the next village of Alola, and then on to Eora Creek. On the way we will stop and visit the Isurava Memorial, which Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited in August 2002 to open the magnificent war memorial. This was the site of the most significant World War II battle on Kokoda and now one of the most sacred sites along the trail. Enjoy panoramic views of the Kokoda and Yodda valleys. On the way to Alola Village we will also pass Surgeons (Cons) Rock. This is a very emotional spot. We will also climb up onto Eora ridge to look at Japanese ammunition pits just prior to arriving at Eora Creek. This was where the Japanese dug in for their last battle along the track before retreating to Buna and Gona. We continue along the ridges into Eora Creek which is our camp for the night. Today is approximately 5-6 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Isurava Memorial & Battlefield, Alola and Eora Creek.

**Accommodation:** Bush Camp.

**Meals:** BLD

## Day 4 – Eora Creek to Digger Camp

We have one of the more difficult ascents out of Eora Creek today before descending down to Templeton's 2. From here it's another up and down again into Templeton's 1. Finally it's another big climb up onto Mount Bellamy, the highest point of the Kokoda Trail. Diverting off the ridge and walk into Myola look out. This is where the biscuit bombers dropped supplies to the Australians. A most beautiful walk and well worth the effort. From here it's another 45 minutes to our overnight camp site along the way visiting where the American plane (B13) crashed. There are only spare parts scattered around and a couple of large bombs to be seen now, however it still well worth a visit. Today is approximately 9.5 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Templeton's 2, Moss Forrest, Mt Bellamy, Myola Lookout & Crashed Bomber.

**Accommodation:** Traditional Village.

**Meals:** BLD

## Day 5 – Digger Camp to Efogi Village

It is a most beautiful walk this morning through the moss and pandanas forest. We normally arrive at Naduri Village around 10 am. We do not go through Kagi. From Naduri Village it is a very steep descent and ascent into Launumu Village. Stopping here only

for a break before descending on down a gentle hill to Efogi, where we are booked into what is one the nicest guest house along the track. This is owned by our very good friend Lendy. We pick up our food for the second half of our trek here. Later this afternoon trekkers can take a leisurely walk around the village, maybe play games with some of the village children and chat to the Mums and Dads about their lives. Today is approximately 6 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Pandanas Forrest, Naduri & Efogi Village.

**Accommodation:** Traditional Village.

**Meals:** BLD

## Day 6 – Efogi Village to Agulogo Camp Site

It's another climb this morning onto Mission Ridge before Brigade Hill, which together with Isurava is one of the most sacred sites of the Kokoda Trail. We stop here to pay homage to the diggers that lost their lives. We then have long descent down into Menari Village. We should be at Menari River just before lunch. After lunch it's again straight up "the wall", we are rewarded from the summit with fine views of Menari. We then descend down to 720 meters to our camp site tonight. This is another lovely spot with a river running through it for trekkers to swim in. Approximately 7 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Mission Ridge, Brigade Hill, Menari Village & The Wall.

**Accommodation:** Bush Camp. **Meals:** BLD

## Day 7 – Agulogo Camp Site to Ioribaiwa Village

With an early start again we arrive at the Brown River, cross and then walk for another hour un-





til we start climbing the 9 false peaks. At the 7th false peak we arrive at Naoro Village. It's another 2 false peaks to go before we start walking across the Maguli Range. This is a long hard walk with muddy false peaks all the way. We then descend to Ofi Creek for a well deserved break, this descent is long and hard, most of us suffer from laughing legs at the end. We have lunch beside this delightful river. It's then a cracker of a climb out up onto Ioribaiwa Ridge, where the Japanese were turned back. From here it's a gentle 45 minute trek down to tonight's camp site after approximately 8 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Brown River and Swamp, Naoro Village.

**Accommodation:** Traditional Village.

**Meals:** BLD

### Day 8 – Ioribaiwa Village to Goldie River

This morning we descend down to Ua-Ule Creek which we will cross approximately 15 times. After all these river crossings there is the last hard grind of the day up onto Imita Ridge, we then descend what was during the war the 'Golden Stairs' to Goldie River which is our camp site tonight. This is a lovely wide soft flowing river to swim in. Today is approximately 7 hours walking time.

**Highlights:** Japanese Ladder, Ofi Creek, Ioribaiwa Ridge & Imita Ridge Golden Staircase.

**Accommodations:** Bush Camp. **Meals:** BLD

### Day 9 – Goldie River to Port Moresby, (via Owers Corner & Bomona War Cemetery)

We all walk the last 45 minutes up to Owers Corner as a group. Before crossing under the arches at the end



hold hands and walk under them together. This is a very emotional moment. We are met by our transport with a much appreciated hamper of cold drinks and salad rolls. On our way back to Port Moresby we will visit Bomona War Cemetery.

**Highlights:** Owers' Corner & Bomona War Cemetery

**Accommodation:** Hotel. **Meals:** BL

Congratulation, you have just completed one of the world's toughest treks and have climbed nearly 5,500 metres (18,000 ft) and descended almost the same figure. An amazing experience that you will never forget.

### Day 10 – Depart Port Moresby

Today the group will be transferred to the International Airport to commence their journey home.

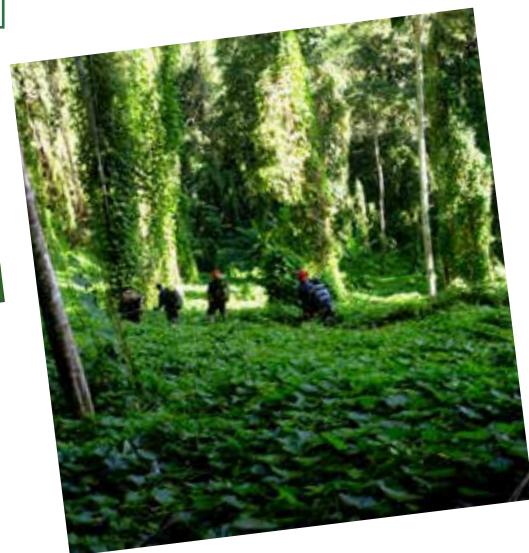
## Tour Inclusions

- 2 nights' Crowne Plaza accommodation Port Moresby either side of the trek (twin share bases)
- Port Moresby airport transfers
- Private Charter Flight to Kokoda
- Services of a WWII Historian Australian Tour Leader
- Visit WWII sites along the track
- PNG Guide & Trek Leader
- Visit to Bomona War Cemetery
- Cultural and environmental aspects of the Track
- PNG Carriers food and equipment
- PNG Carriers accommodation, food and repatriation home
- Risk Management and responsible ecological practices on the track
- 7 nights' accommodation and all meals on the Track
- Road transfers from Owers Corner to Port Moresby
- Detailed training notes and program
- Tents (each trekker gets a two person tent)
- Kokoda Track Authority Trek Permit
- Polo Shirt and Kokoda Certificate
- Public Liability Insurance
- Licensed PNG Tour Operator
- Satellite Phones & Radios
- Medivac Procedures

## Tour Exclusions

- The cost of a personal porter is A\$790.00 which covers the porter's wages, food, airfare and road transport.
- International Airfares
- Passport & Visa Costs
- Travel Insurance
- Vaccinations and anti-malaria medicines
- Beverages & anything of a personal nature at hotel in Port Moresby
- Kokoda Track Site Fees, including;
  - Isurava Memorial K50
  - Japanese Weapons Pit K10
  - Brigade Hill K10

*\*Accommodation Single Supplement A\$195.00*



# KOKODA





# WHY TREK WITH US?

We live in Papua New Guinea, based in Port Moresby for over 25 years.

PNG Trekking Adventures is renowned as Papua New Guinea's leading guiding company with a legacy of expeditions. We offer expeditions, treks, cultural shows and wilderness journeys throughout Papua New Guinea, Patagonia, Zimbabwe, Borneo, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda. In addition to world class guiding services with highly qualified guides. Whether you are taking your first steps into the realm of the outdoors, or are a seasoned adventurer, we believe you will find the quality of the experience offered on a PNG Trekking Adventures expedition second to none, and we invite you to contact us to discuss your next adventure.

## PNG Trekking Adventures are members of:

- Kokoda Track Authority
- Surfing PNG Association
- South Pacific Tourism Organisation
- Tourism Industry Association PNG

## PNG Trekking Adventures Sustainable Projects

- Baking Ovens along Kokoda Trail. Promoting micro business development
- Joint Ventures Victorian Police Force:
  - Isurava Community School
  - Dave Cavell School
  - Kokoda College/Aid Station
- Village Huts
  - Partner in [www.villagehuts.com](http://www.villagehuts.com) website, enabling grass roots guesthouses and tours to market their products to the world.

## About our Guides:

**Pam Christie** is the owner PNG Trekking Adventures and lives and resides in Papua New Guinea since 1990. She has pioneered treks throughout PNG. She is an advocate for PNG Resource Owners rights and facilitating sustainable village community projects throughout PNG. Pam has extensive guiding/trekking experience worldwide.

**Chris Stevens** is an Australian Military Historian with special interest in the South West Pacific area of World War II. He has been guiding in all parts of PNG since 2005. Chris is an expert consultant in radio communication, mapping and emergency management. He mapped the Kokoda trail for the Kokoda Track Authority and also upgraded the Kokoda Track radio network. Chris also was a highly sort after outdoor education teacher before moving to a consulting career.

**Wayne Gardam** is a Kokoda Wartime history enthusiast and has been trekking Kokoda since 2010. He has a passion for sharing the PNG culture and Kokoda Villages/History with trekkers. Wayne is also an Intensive Care Flight Paramedic (Helicopter and Aeromedical experience) over 15 years' experience.

**Michael Wells** is an Australian Military Historian with special interest in the South West Pacific area of World War II. His interest in leadership especially in times of crisis, civil and military and has presented on this topic on multiple occasions. Michael is an Ambulance Paramedic with 15 years as Intensive Care, 10 years working in aeromedical retrieval, helicopter and fixed wing. He has a passion for the people of PNG and their country, whilst helping those achieve their goal of trekking the Kokoda track and learning its intriguing history.



Discover now... Remember Forever

Photo: James McCormack, <http://www.actiongoat.com>



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