

# New Guinea Islands and Kokoda Track Wonderland Tour



Explore Rabaul , described in its halcyon days as the “Pearl of the Pacific” and as “Fortress Rabaul” during World War 2. Ramble around it’s active volcanoes and soak up the aquatic wonder and colonial history of the Duke of York Islands. Visit the stunningly beautiful island of Bougainville and it’s proud people. Experience the iconic Kokoda Track during it’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and view enchanting birds whilst walking through big jungle.

9 Days/ 8 nights

Saturday 26th August – Sunday 3rd September 2017

Fully Escorted small group tour – a safe Adventure

This 9 day, fully escorted tour visits the cultural kaleidoscope that is **Papua New Guinea**. Experience up close the vividly spectacular and vastly varied forms of customs, cooking, costumes, language, music and dance in one of the most culturally intact places in the world, home to 800 tribes.

Perched on the Pacific’s ‘Rim of Fire’, **Papua New Guinea** presents you with a daily feast of dramatic scenery and happy Melanesians. You will travel through the photogenic landscape on rural roads and walking trails, across seas in boats and view the inaccessible from the air. Step back in time amongst iconic military sites and largely intact war relics.

## East New Britain - Rabaul and the Duke of York Islands - Days 1 - 4



Poised on the shores of the beautiful Simpson Harbour in **East New Britain**, Rabaul was described in its halcyon days as the “Pearl of the Pacific”. You can ramble around active volcanoes and the lunar-like landscape of old **Rabaul Town** with its intact historic military sites from both world wars. Rabaul’s Mt Tauruvur volcano erupted violently in 1994 destroying much of the beautiful Rabaul Town as it was covered in ash.

“Fortress Rabaul” became the South Pacific headquarters and staging post for the Japanese Imperial Forces where 100,000 Japanese soldiers were stationed during World War 2. You will visit a section

of the 500 km of underground tunnels that were dug and gaze over Simpson Harbour where 54 Japanese ships were sunk.



You may like to ‘hang-out’ with the locals on the tropically idyllic **Duke of York Islands**. Or you may go snorkeling in an underwater heaven of corals that features sunken WW2 ships, warplane wrecks and wild dolphins. Or you can fish for all manner of things satisfying even the least experienced fisher.

Jungle walks and beachcombing are interspersed with the physical remnants of a rich colonial history that is steeped in stories about fascinating colonial era characters including Errol Flynn, the Samoan Queen Emma and Mr Coconut and his community of free loving German nudists. Or simply enjoy the sumptuous local cuisine! - Fly from Rabaul to Bougainville

### **The Island of Bougainville – Days 5 - 7**

**Bougainville** is an ecological wonderland where you can immerse yourself in the splendor of its natural and scenic beauty. The civil war of the 1990s had kept loggers away and habitats relatively intact. Professor Tim Flannery, one of the world’s leading experts on mammals of Melanesia, regards this region as “the Galápagos of the Western Pacific”. The island is dotted with bat filled caves, caldera lakes and giant sinkholes including the largest cavern in the world. There are a great variety of tropical birds on Bougainville, which makes it the perfect place for birdwatching.

**Bougainville** boasted the best living conditions in PNG before a decade long civil war broke out in 1989, inflicting much destruction and the death of over 15,000 islanders. You will visit the now closed Rio Tinto majority owned, **Panguna** mine, central to the grievances that initiated the formation of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. The mine still contains about \$50bn of copper, gold and other metals. As part of the peace settlement, Bougainville’s population of 250,000 will go to a referendum on independence from PNG within the next 3 years. The prospect of Bougainville becoming the world’s newest country will unearth all the geopolitical intrigue that exists in the Asia Pacific region. Intrigue indeed!



You stay amongst the untouched pleasures of **Pokpok Island** and enjoy the hospitality of host Simon Pentanu, Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives in his laid back, perfectly positioned Urana Bay Retreat. Nearby is the location where the recently released “Mr Pip”, the film of Lloyd Jones’ award winning novel, was filmed. This beautifully told story is of the island under blockade and gripped by the brutality of the strife ridden 1990’s. Bougainville is a land of simple, untouched pleasures, from the turquoise seas to lush rain forests.

Come and meet these proud and friendly people -**the Bouganvillians!**

Fly from Bougainville to Port Moresby

## Sogeri Plateau & Kokoda Track – Days 8 - 9

Your lodge style accommodation nestled in rainforest foliage on the **Sogeri Plateau** overlooking the Laloki River in the foothills of the **Owen Stanley Ranges** about half-way between Port Moresby and the start of the **Kokoda Track** at **Owens Corner**. You will enjoy your final dinner here together and be entertained by a Koirari Warrior.

An early start will have you birdwatching and immersing yourself in the natural wonders of the **Varirata National Park**. You will visit Owens Corner and the beginning of the iconic **Kokoda Track** in it's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Fly from Port Moresby to Sydney, Australia

## New Guinea Islands & Kokoda Track Wonderland Tour

**Cost : AUD \$6,990 pp**

AUD \$750 pp Single supplement

Includes:

- Return flight ex Brisbane to Port Moresby on Air Niugini, the PNG National carrier. Return to Sydney.
- all PNG domestic flights
- all land and water based transport,
- all accommodation and most meals,,
- all entry fees,
- all taxes,
- all local guides,
- Fully escorted by the informative, English-speaking Tour Leader and Director of Flynn's Tours, John Gannan.

