



# Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

## EM203 2013 ANZAC DAY PILGRIMAGE TOUR 18-25 APRIL

7 nights Port Moresby, Bomana, Owers Corner, Popondetta, Buna/Gona, Kokoda  
Fully escorted sign-up soft adventure tour, group size minimum 6 maximum 8.

*Attending the Anzac Day dawn service at Bomana War Cemetery outside Port Moresby is one of those things to do before you die. It is one of the most emotionally moving experiences you will have in your life. There before you, as you recite the Ode and sing Abide With Me in the semi-darkness, lie the graves of 3800 men (and women) who gave their lives for Australia, Britain and Papua New Guinea in wartime. This tour provides an opportunity to learn about the Bomana War Cemetery and its role in Australia's military history, and explore some of the locations where the Pacific Campaign unfolded and those now buried at Bomana saw action.*

*The 7 nights core tour is fully escorted by one of our experienced company staff and commences with visits to WW2 points of interest around Popondetta including the battlefields of Buna, Gona, Sanananda and the northern end of the Kokoda Track at Hoi village near Kokoda, then picks up the story at the opposite end of the Track at Owers Corner, and the final resting place of the campaign heroes at Bomana. Unescorted locally-guided 2 night tour extensions are offered to Lae/Salamaua, Milne Bay, Rabaul and Wewak.*

**7 NIGHTS CORE TOUR COST: PGK 8400 = AUD 4300 per person (twin-share, includes internal air and all main meals)**

**2 night extension pricess (twin-share, includes internal air, room-only accommodation and daily excursions):**

Lae/Salamaua	PGK 3300 = AUD 1700 pp
Milne Bay	PGK 3300 = AUD 1700 pp
Rabaul	PGK 4300 = AUD 2200 pp
Wewak	PGK 4300 = AUD 2200 pp

Single supplement is +20% on core tour and extension prices.

*Quoted costs in AUD are subject to change if there are major movements in the exchange rate.*

### CORE TOUR INCLUSIONS (7 nights):

- Port Moresby - airport meet and greet and city familiarisation drive
- Port Moresby - tour information kit including souvenir polo shirt, maps, country information
- Port Moresby - 4 nights accommodation at Ponderosa Family Hotel (3 star, twin share, includes 3 course choice dinners and hot breakfasts)
- Port Moresby - historical video screening
- Port Moresby - full day sightseeing tour with lunch
- Port Moresby - scheduled flight to Popondetta
- Popondetta - full day guided tour of Buna and Sanananda battlefields with lunch
- Popondetta - overnight accommodation at Sanananda village guest house including local style dinner and breakfast
- Popondetta - full day guided tour of Basabua and Gona battlefields with lunch
- Popondetta - small boat transfers from Buna to Sanananda and Sanananda to Basabua
- Popondetta - overnight accommodation at Comfort Inn or Sue's Guest House depending on availability (includes set-menu dinner and hot breakfast)

- Popondetta - road transfer to Kokoda by passenger truck or four wheel drive vehicle (including river crossings by raft if bridges out)
- Kokoda - arrival lunch and guided walking tour of historical sites
- Kokoda - overnight accommodation at village guest house including local style dinner and breakfast
- Kokoda - short hike up the Kokoda Track
- Kokoda - charter flight to Port Moresby (or alternative travel arrangements)
- Port Moresby - full day historical tour of Bomana War Cemetery, Schwimmer Drome, Owers Corner and Varirata National Park
- Port Moresby - excursion to ANZAC Day dawn service and gunfire breakfast
- Port Moresby - airport check-in assistance and packed lunch for onward flight
- bottled or boiled water for all excursions
- all fees and gratuities for local villages, guides and helpers
- company guide to escort tour throughout (guide carries tropical first aid kit and emergency satellite phone)
- daily tour monitoring from our Port Moresby office
- 24 hour assistance from our Port Moresby office (phone 7686 8917 or 340 5066)

### TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- any meals not specified as included, or described as "pay as you go"
- bar drinks, between-meal snacks, extra main meal courses
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- visa fees

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: THU 18 APRIL 2013 ARRIVE PORT MORESBY

On your arrival from Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns you will be met by one of our staff (look for a sign with your name when you exit the Arrivals Hall) and we will transfer you to your hotel for check-in.

(ATMs are available inside the Passport Control area at the airport if you wish to take a credit card cash advance in local currency to pay for your visa on arrival (PGK100).

16:00 After settling into your room, your guide will take you on a familiarisation drive around Port Moresby.

17:00 Stop at a local supermarket for any grocery or pharmacy items you may require. Most products available in Australia are available here.

18:00 Arrive back at hotel.

19:00 Dinner at the hotel (3 course choice set-menu)

Overnight Ponderosa Family Hotel, Port Moresby (3 star)

#### DAY 2: FRI 19 APRIL 2013 PORT MORESBY (sightseeing)

08:00am Set-menu breakfast at the hotel.

09:00 Depart the hotel for a full day tour of Port Moresby beginning with the harbour defences (Burns Peak ack-ack station, Paga Hill Fort), the wreck of the *Macdhui*, the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel memorial, Modern History Museum and Jackson's Field.

The tour also includes the PNG Art artifacts warehouse (30 min), the national museum (1 hour), the parliament house (1 hour), the botanical gardens (1 hour and picnic lunch) and the rare PNG books section of the university bookshop.

17:00 Tour ends at hotel

19:00 Bus departs for buffet dinner at the Gateway Hotel  
20:00 After dinner we will adjourn to a meeting room at the Gateway Hotel to show a video of 1942 newsreels showing actual footage of the bombing of Port Moresby Harbour and fighting on the Kokoda Track.  
21:00 Bus returns to Ponderosa Family Hotel

Overnight Ponderosa Family Hotel, Port Moresby (3 star)

*TOUR NOTES:*

*The best place to buy artifacts and souvenirs is the PNG Art artifact warehouse which stocks a wide range of carvings, shell jewellery and other cultural artifacts from all over PNG. Remember Australian quarantine regulations are very strict and most wooden and feathery items will need to be fumigated before being taken in to Australia. PNG Art can arrange overnight fumigation. Best buys at PNG Art are Sepik canoe prows, (carved canoe ends cut off the canoe with a chainsaw when it develops a hole and can't float any more - these are genuine cultural artefacts, not souvenirs) and spirit masks (wall-mounted). Bilum bags and contemporary paintings by street artists are also good buys and apart from the selection at PNG Art the tour bus will take you to the entrance of the Holiday Inn where locals sell these items out in the open and are usually willing to haggle on price - your guides will assist!*

*The botanical gardens have a wide variety of tropical plants and flowers and some caged native animals and birds. It takes about an hour to walk through the gardens.*

*The University bookshop has a rare PNG books section where hard-to-find and out-of-print titles on Papua New Guinea are available. Many of these books are sourced world wide off the internet by the bookshop buying staff, for re-sale over the counter at the bookshop. Titles are mainly in English but also German, French, Spanish and other languages and covering many topics about PNG including anthropology, archaeology, primitive art, linguistics, biology, forestry and oceanography.*

**DAY 3: SAT 20 APRIL 2013**

**PORT MORESBY / BUNA**

04:30 Early morning alarm call

05:15 Bus departs hotel for the airport. Breakfast "on the run" is served by your guide in the departure lounge while you are waiting for the flight to be called.

**07:00 Air Niugini flight PX852 departs Port Moresby for Popondetta**

07:35 On arrival at Popondetta airport, board your four wheel drive vehicle or passenger truck for the drive through the old American air base at Girua to the seaside village of Buna, a major beach-head battlefield. Here we will meet up with our local guide, PNG military historian Maclaren Hiari MBE, a published academic who is the founder of the Kokoda-Buna Historical Foundation and whose research focuses on the role of the Papuan carriers ("fuzzy wuzzy angels") and Papuan Infantry during the Kokoda campaign. Maclaren will brief us on the beach-head battles and show us various battle sites, war relics and memorials around Buna. Lunch is served at the Buna Guest House

15:00 Depart Buna by small boat for the short hop along the coast to Sanananda. Check in at the Sanananda Guest House for afternoon tea then walk around the Sanananda battle sites.

18:00 Retire to Sanananda Guest House for early dinner and early to bed - no electricity here!

**DAY 4: SUN 21 APRIL 2013**

**BUNA / GONA / POPONDETTA**

07:00 Breakfast of fresh fruit and hot village style scones with sweet black billy tea.

08:00 Join the Sanananda locals for church service at the village Anglican church.

09:00 After church, depart Sanananda by boat for Basabua, the main landing place of the invading Japanese forces in July 1942. From Basabua, one hour walk through battle areas to Gona, which is a little way inland.

12:00 Lunch at Gona Guest House

13:00 Visit the site of the old Gona Anglican Mission and the cemetery where martyrs slaughtered by the Japanese are buried. At the time of writing, the old Mission cross, which copped a few burn marks and bullet scars in 1942, is still standing together with some old artillery guns.  
15:00 Depart Gona by bus or passenger truck to Popondetta. Before checking in to our accommodation we will stop at the Popondetta Memorial Park which has excellent informative displays about the Campaigns.

Overnight Comfort Inn or Sue's Guest House, Popondetta (as available), includes set menu dinner and hot breakfast.

**DAY 5: MON 22 APRIL 2013      POPONDETTA / KOKODA**

07.00 Breakfast and check out

08.00 Depart Popondetta for Kokoda. Depending on the weather and the condition of the road and bridges we will board either a mini coach or a passenger truck for the drive to Kokoda. The road is sealed about half way to Kokoda but is pretty bumpy the rest of the way. From Popondetta the road north towards Kokoda passes through oil palm plantations, rainforest and grasslands, with many river crossings. The non-stop driving time is about 3 hours but we will make a couple of stops en route at sites of historical interest including the Kumusi River where General Hori and his white horse drowned, and the memorial plaque at Awala village where the first contact between Japanese and Papuan soldiers was recorded.

13.00 Arrive at Kokoda in time for lunch at the local guest house (basic but comfy). This is peak Kokoda trekking season so there will be many trekking groups around and accommodation will be tight.

After lunch and a rest we will explore Kokoda township, tour the little museum and visit the war memorials on the plateau overlooking the valley. The Kokoda district office stills stands here, on its original spot. Our historical guide will point out the battlefield scenario and from the airstrip you will be able to see Deniki the point the Australian contingent first withdrew to before re-taking Kokoda early in the campaign.

In the late afternoon and evening we will have a traditional style meal with some of the descendents of the fuzzy wuzzy angels: the Kokoda men and boys who work for Ecotourism Melanesia as Kokoda Track porters, and their families.

Overnight village guest house (includes lunch, dinner and breakfast).

**DAY 6: TUE 23 APRIL 2013      KOKODA / PORT MORESBY**

08:00 This morning for those who are feeling up to it our guide will lead a walk up the first part of the Kokoda Track as far as Hoi village and return. This is easy walking, partly flat terrain and partly a slight incline (which is downhill coming back) and the round trip will take about 3 hours at a casual pace including a swim in the creek at Hoi. If you can walk around a shopping mall for 3 hours back home you will be able to cope with this walk. If you don't feel up to it you can stay back at the guest house or wander round the Kokoda "station".

12:00 Lunch at the guest house then walk half an hour from the Kokoda plateau down to the airstrip.

14:00 Depart Kokoda by charter flight to Port Moresby (9 seater Cessna 206 or Pilatus PAC750 aircraft). We will ask our pilot to follow the route of the Kokoda Track so that our guide can point out major landmarks such as the Isurava battlefield and Brigade Hill near Menari.

14.45 Arrive at Port Moresby airport and transfer to the hotel.

*NB In the event of unavailability of charter aircraft today, or unsuitable flying weather at*

*Kokoda, the group will drive back to Popondetta today and fly out to Port Moresby on a scheduled flight tomorrow morning.*

Overnight Port Moresby (Ponderosa Family Hotel, room only)

DAY 7: WED 24 APRIL 2013

**PORT MORESBY (Bomana and Owers Corner)**

08:00am Set-menu breakfast at the hotel.

09:00 Depart hotel for full day tour to Bomana War Cemetery, Schwimmer Drome war relics collection, Owers Corner and the Varirata National Park. On arrival at Bomana War Cemetery there will be a briefing on the history of the cemetery and recent burials, then you will have plenty of time to wander among the graves and sign the visitors book.

By 11:00 we will arrive at the Schwimmer Drome war relics collection to view wartime relics and memorabilia and have a picnic lunch featuring local foods.

13:00 Depart Schwimmer Drome for Owers Corner via Sogeri and MacDonalds Corner

14:00 Arrive Owers Corner. Here there is a memorial park with informative displays about the history of the Kokoda Track, and a Howitzer field gun on display identical to the type used there in 1942. Those members of the tour party who are feeling up to it can follow our guide down the first stretch of the Kokoda Track, a steep descent to Goldie River, perhaps take a dip in the cool water, then just as steep a climb back up. This will take about an hour altogether. At least then you can say you've tasted both ends of the Kokoda Track. The rest of us mere mortals will wait at the memorial park. Owers Corner will be like Grand Central Station today, with hundreds of trekkers ending their 7-day walk from Kokoda this afternoon, in order to arrive in time for tomorrow's dawn service at Bomana.

16:00 Arrive at the Varirata National Park and take in the panoramic views of the Papuan coastline from the scenic lookout. It may also be possible to visit a known nesting spot of the noisy Raggiana bird of paradise and see these birds flying and jumping from branch to branch. They do tend to be active in the late afternoons.

18:00 Arrive back at your hotel

19:00 Dinner at the hotel (3 course choice set-menu)

Overnight Ponderosa Family Hotel, Port Moresby (3 star)

#### **TOUR NOTES**

*Bomana War Cemetery is the final resting place of most of those 600 Australian soldiers who gave their lives along the Kokoda Track. They were originally buried in temporary graves along the Track and their remains were later re-interred at Bomana. There are about 3800 graves at Bomana. Apart from the Kokoda Track casualties many of these troops were killed in other battles including Buna, Gona and Milne Bay. There are also several hundred graves of British soldiers killed at Singapore and a few of graves of servicemen and women from other Commonwealth countries. There are no US or Japanese soldiers buried at Bomana. All US and Japanese remains that have been found have been repatriated. (At the time of the war, Papua was Australian soil and that is why it was considered appropriate to bury Australian soldiers here).*

*Near Bomana is the Schwimmer Drome war relics collection, located at Goldie River in the back yard of a private citizen who discovered his house was built on top of a wartime American bomber airstrip. While gardening he dug up all kinds of relics from cutlery to gasoline containers and machine guns and decided to collect them and display them at his home.*

*On our 2006 Anzac Day tour we hosted George Gwilliam and Ron Phillips who were among the gunners who manned the Howitzers at Owers Corner in '42. How emotional it was for them to return and see a Howitzer sitting there, just as if it had been there all along since the day they finished their tour of duty and left. "We pumped 700 rounds into the Japanese position at Ioribaiwa Ridge until they turned tail" says George. The official history says the Japs retreated because they ran low on supplies. We'll go with George's version! (George and Ron are still mates after 65 years - good on you diggers, that kind of mateship is the backbone of*

Australia.)

DAY 8: THU 25 APRIL 2013

**PORT MORESBY (ANZAC Day) / FLY OUT OR EXTEND**

03:30 Early morning wake-up call. Rise and shine.

04:00 Board your tour bus for the 20 minute drive out to Bomana War Cemetery. An orange juice and a piece of fruit is handed out during the ride, to keep you going till breakfast.

04:30 Be seated on lawns, groundsheets and/or stackable chairs for the dawn service. Printed programs and candles are supplied by the event organisers. The car park and pathways will be well lit so personal flashlights won't be needed but bring one anyway if you wish.

05:00 Dawn service commences with the arrival of dignitaries.

**TOUR NOTE:**

*If you would like to lay a fresh floral wreath at the service we can purchase one in advance for you from the local florist and you can reimburse us on arrival. Please contact us well in advance to arrange. An artificial wreath can be brought with you from Australia. Quarantine regulations prohibit the importation of fresh flowers.*

06:00 Dawn service concludes, people mingle afterwards and wander among the graves. There will be upward of 2,000 people present - most of the Australian and New Zealand community in Port Moresby attends, plus there will be literally hundreds of trekkers. Being the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, numbers may be higher.

07:00 Depart Bomana for the Australian High Commission at Waigani and the traditional "gunfire breakfast" (bangers and beer) sponsored by the Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch. (Hopefully this will be the only time in your life you will drink a cold stubbie at this time of the morning!) This is a great opportunity to mingle with Papua New Guineans from all social classes, local expats, war veterans, Defence force personnel and tourists.

09:00 Transfer back to your hotel room for a nap before checking out of the hotel and transferring to the airport for your onward flight to Australia or tour extension destination. Individualised airport transfers and check-in assistance will be provided.

A packed lunch is supplied for you to take with you to the airport because airport catering is a bit "dodgy".

END OF ESCORTED CORE TOUR EM203

TOUR EXTENSION:

LAE AND SALAMAUA 2 NIGHTS

AUD 1700 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

**INCLUSIONS (2 nights):**

- Port Moresby - airport check-in assistance
- Port Moresby - economy class flight to Lae
- Lae - airport transfers
- Lae - 2 nights accommodation at Huon Gulf Hotel (3 star) - room only
- Lae - guided excursion to Lae War Cemetery
- Lae - guided excursion by boat to Salamaua including packed lunch
- Lae - economy class flight to Port Moresby
- Port Moresby - airport assistance and packed lunch

**EXCLUSIONS**

- dinners and breakfasts
- bar drinks, between-meal snacks
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature

**DAY 8: THU 25 APRIL 2013 PORT MORESBY / LAE**

10:00 Check out of your hotel room and Ecotourism Melanesia staff will transfer to the airport with you on the hotel shuttle bus and assist you to check in at the airport.

11:30 Airlines PNG flight CG1504 departs Port Moresby for Lae (aircraft: Dash 8-200 with 36 seats)

12:30 On arrival at Lae's Nadzab airport which is located about 45 minutes drive out of the city, you will be met by our local guide and transfer by private car to your hotel.

14:30 After check in and late lunch (pay as you go) our local guide will take you to the Lae War Cemetery where the cenotaph will still be covered in fresh wreaths from this morning's Anzac Day dawn service. The Cemetery is located within the Lae botanical gardens, and your guide will be happy to either accompany you on a walk through the gardens or give you some space for quiet reflection in the serene environment of the gardens.

Overnight Huon Gulf Hotel, Lae (room only)

**DAY 9: FRI 26 APRIL 2013 LAE (day trip to Salamaua)**

07:00 Breakfast at hotel (pay as you go)

08:00 Our local guide will transfer you to the Lae wharf by private car to board a chartered open speed boat for the 2 hour trip to Salamaua. The boat follows the coastline where the water is calmer and does not cross open seas.

At Salamaua your guide will brief you on the historical importance of Salamaua in the New Guinea campaign and show you some of the many war relics still sitting where they were abandoned by both Japanese and Australian military forces. Many of the casualties buried in the Lae War Cemetery were killed at Salamaua. There are no war graves at Salamaua. Salamaua has no road access and no airstrip. The only way to get there is by boat which is why this lovely little town has remained a quiet backwater and has become a sanctuary for Lae residents, many of whom have holiday houses here or come for weekends at local guest houses to get away from the city bustle. There is a swimming beach near the famous Salamaua isthmus. If you are fit enough you can climb Coastwatchers Ridge to the observation point where Australian coast watchers reported Japanese shipping and air movements using secret radios.

A packed lunch is provided today, with an esky of drinks, and your boat will stand by to take you back to Lae mid afternoon or as soon as you are ready.

Overnight Huon Gulf Hotel, Lae (room only)

**DAY 10: SAT 27 APRIL 2013 LAE / PORT MORESBY**

07:00 Breakfast at hotel (pay as you go)

08:00 Our local guide will transfer you to Lae airport to check in for your flight.

10:45 Air Niugini flight PX105 departs Lae for Port Moresby (aircraft: Fokker F100 with 98 seats)

11:35 On arrival in Port Moresby, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you and assist you to connect with your onward flight to Australia.

A packed lunch is provided to eat at the airport.

END OF EXTENSION

**INCLUSIONS (2 nights):**

- Port Moresby - airport check-in assistance
- Port Moresby - economy class flight to Alotau
- Alotau - airport transfers
- Alotau - 2 nights tropical bungalow accommodation at Napatana Lodge (3 star) - room only
- Alotau - half day guided tour of Alotau township
- Alotau - full day guided Milne Bay battlefields tour including packed lunch
- Alotau - economy class flight to Port Moresby
- Port Moresby - airport assistance with packed lunch

**EXCLUSIONS**

- meals except where stated as included
- bar drinks, between-meal snacks
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature

**DAY 8: THU 25 APRIL 2013****PORT MORESBY / ALOTAU (town tour)**

07:00 Depart Bomana and pick up your baggage at the hotel before transferring to the airport with one of our guides who will assist you to check in for your flight to Alotau.

**09:15 Airlines PNG flight CG1642 departs Port Moresby for Alotau (aircraft: Dash 8-200 with 36 seats)**

10:15 On arrival at Alotau's Gurney Airport our local guide will meet you and transfer you 30 minutes into town to check in at your accommodation at Napatana Lodge.

12:00 Lunch at Napatana Lodge (pay as you go)

13:00 After lunch, our local guide will take you on a private half day tour of Alotau town area, including the cenotaph (which will still be covered in fresh wreaths from this morning's Anzac Day dawn service), the invasion beach at Koia Bule (KB), the main market and the scenic drive out to East Cape and return.

Overnight Napatana Lodge, Alotau (room only)

**DAY 9: FRI 26 APRIL 2013****ALOTAU (WW2 battlefields tour)**

07:00 Breakfast (pay as you go)

08:00 Our guide will pick you up at the Lodge and take you on a full day battlefields tour including the overgrown airstrips at Gurney airfield complex including the site of the original No.3 airstrip and its memorial to Squadron Leader Peter St George Turnbull, the old Gili Gili homestead used as allied headquarters, American landing barges rusting in the jungle (some walking required), the Goilanai River memorial to Corporal John French who was honoured with the Victorian Cross for his heroic actions at this site, Wahuhuba Bay where the Japanese first landed, and Waga Waga, a small town further round the bay where unidentified relics believed to American can be found rusting in the undergrowth - maybe you will be the first person to correctly identify their origin and purpose. Also at Waga Waga you can swim off the black sand beach and snorkel the wreck of the coal barge *Muscoota* which lies in shallow waters just a few metres from shore.

**TOUR NOTES:**

*The Muscoota was originally a square rigged four mast steel-hulled barque built in Liverpool in 1888 and christened SS Buckingham by Queen Victoria. You can see an oil painting of the ship in full sail at [http://www.arcadja.com/auctions/en/alcott\\_john\\_c\\_/artist/281549/](http://www.arcadja.com/auctions/en/alcott_john_c_/artist/281549/)*

*and a photograph taken in the port of Sydney in 1924 at*

*<http://home.iprimus.com.au/mflapan/Muscoota.htm>*

*In 1890 the ship's cook, an Indian, stabbed the captain several times in the head with a large kitchen knife during a scuffle after the captain slapped him for not having dinner ready in time, during a voyage from Scotland to America. The captain's body was buried at sea during the Atlantic crossing. The cook was later taken back to Liverpool for trial and was sentenced to death. However the court recommended mercy because a credible defence witness described Captain Peter Lyall as a "brute" and it is not known if the death sentence was carried out or commuted. Is the Muscoota a haunted ship? It is said that the cook stabbed him so hard in the back of the head that the point of the knife passed right through his brain and came out through his eye socket, so when snorkelling the wreck you might like to "keep an eye out" for the old captain. Read more at*

*<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~treevecwll/millettsl.htm>*

*Various subsequent owners in Germany and the USA renamed her the Bertha, the Ottawa, the Flying Cloud and finally in 1921 the Muscoota. One of these re-namings was officiated by the wife of Woodrow Wilson, the US President. Not many ships have been christened by a Queen of England and then a US President's Lady.*

*In 1924 the steel hull was converted to a coal barge in Sydney and during World War II she was towed to Milne Bay for use as a coal hulk fuelling American small ships. At the end of hostilities, having outlived her usefulness and being uneconomical to tow back to Australia, her fittings were broken up for scrap and the hull was scuttled in a shallow cove at Waga Waga across the bay from Alotau. Her hull has now spawned an artificial reef in calm waters close to the beach, perfect for snorkelling.*

Overnight Napatana Lodge, Alotau (room only)

**DAY 10: SAT 27 APRIL 2013**

**ALOTAU / PORT MORESBY**

07:00 Breakfast (pay as you go)

08:00 Check out of your room and transfer by private car with your guide to the airport.

10:55 Air Niugini flight PX955 departs for Port Moresby (aircraft: Dash 8-Q315 with 50 seats)

11:55 On arrival in Port Moresby, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you and assist you to connect with your onward flight to Australia.

A packed lunch is provided to eat at the airport.

END OF EXTENSION

**INCLUSIONS (2 nights):**

- Port Moresby - airport check-in assistance
- Port Moresby - economy class flight to Rabaul
- Rabaul - airport transfers
- Rabaul - 1 night accommodation at Rabaul Hotel (3 star) - includes memorial dinner only
- Rabaul - 1 night accommodation at Kokopo Village Resort (3 star) - room only
- Rabaul - half day excursion to Bitapaka War Cemetery and Montevideo Maru wreath laying on the harbour, including commemorative lunch and dinner
- Rabaul - full day historical tour including packed lunch
- Rabaul - economy class flight to Port Moresby
- Port Moresby - airport assistance

**EXCLUSIONS**

- meals except where stated as included
- bar drinks, between-meal snacks
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature

**DAY 8: THU 25 APRIL 2013 PORT MORESBY / RABAUL (tour of new Rabaul)**

07:00 Depart Bomana and pick up your baggage at the hotel before transferring to the airport with one of our guides who will assist you to check in for your flight to Rabaul.

09:00 Travel Air flight TA302 departs Port Moresby for Rabaul (aircraft: Fokker F50 with 50 seats)

11:40 On arrival at Rabaul's Tokua Airport our local guide will meet you and transfer you 15 minutes to Ralum Country Club where visitors and locals alike will gather for a buffet lunch hosted by the Rabaul Historical Society following the Anzac Day dawn service at Bitapaka War Cemetery near Kokopo and the Montevideo Maru memorial service at Rabaul waterfront earlier this morning.

13:30 After lunch (included in the tour package), our local guide will drive you out to the Bitapaka War Cemetery (which will still be covered in fresh wreaths from this morning's Anzac Day dawn service) and make a stop at the Kokopo war museum before transferring you direct to old Rabaul town (1 hour drive) to attend the laying of wreaths on the water at Simpson Harbour commemorating the tragic sinking of the Japanese POW ship Montevideo Maru, mistakenly torpedoed by an American submarine off Luzon in the Philippines on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942 with over 800 Australian prisoners of war from Rabaul drowned.

18:00 Join locals and visitors for a commemorative dinner in Rabaul.

**TOUR NOTE:**

*After the volcanic eruptions in 1994 Rabaul's original airport on the Matupit peninsula - right at the foot of one of the erupting cones - was covered in lava and ash. A new airport was built at Tokua plantation, about 90 minutes drive along the coast from old Rabaul town, which was considered at the time to be a safe distance from future volcanic activity - especially airborne ash which can damage jet engines if ingested. Locals say the long trip from old Rabaul town to the new airport is an inconvenience, but the distance from the ashfall keeps the airport open most of the time. Mt Tavurvur near old Rabaul town has continued grumbling and spewing smoke, ash and the occasional shower of hot rocks from 1994 till the present day, but prevailing winds tend to blow the ash clouds away from the new airport. Occasionally, abnormal wind patterns drive ash clouds to the south east towards Tokua and the airport is closed for a few days. However this only occurs a few days per year.*

*Mid-way between the new Tokua airport and old Rabaul town is Kokopo, a new township sometimes referred to as "new Rabaul" that sprang up after the 1994 volcanic eruptions. Kokopo is now the main commercial centre for the province because old Rabaul town continues to suffer from persistent light ash fall. The volcanic ash is inert and harmless but can be annoying and an impediment to business. However Kokopo lacks the history, culture*

*and soul of old Rabaul, so the old town with its magnificent harbour and smoky volcanic cones is still the main attraction.*

Overnight Rabaul Hotel, Rabaul (room only)

**DAY 9: FRI 26 APRIL 2013**

**RABAU (tour of old Rabaul)**

07:00 Breakfast (pay as you go)

08:00 Today's tour begins with a drive out the eastern side of old Rabaul town into the "moonscape" of the eruption zone around Tavurvur, the baby volcano that made a very big mess. In the middle of the eruption zone (still largely covered in grey ash) is old Rabaul airport. The end of the old runway is just a few hundred metres across a small bay from the still-active baby volcano which might impress you by blowing smoke and spitting stones (hopefully not too close in your direction). Near this location is Admiral Yamamoto's bunker. Yamamoto was commander of naval forces in the Rabaul and Solomon Islands theatres in 1942-1944 until he was killed in an air crash in south Bougainville. The bunker in Rabaul was his operations headquarters, constructed underground with protective concrete ramparts at ground level to protect from allied bombing. The bunker survived the war but was completely buried in ash in 1994. It has since been partly excavated. Looking around this part of town still covered in ash it's hard to imagine that old Rabaul town was once dubbed the prettiest town in Papua New Guinea, a title that was quickly snatched by Madang after the 1994 eruptions covered Rabaul in mud.

If open, your guide will take you to the Rabaul Historical Society museum which is housed inside the New Guinea Club (an historical institution in itself).

On a ridge above the township, the volcano observatory has commanding views of Simpson Harbour which is a volcanic caldera. Various vents around the perimeter of the harbour can all be observed from this vantage point. There is Mt Tavurvur (known as the "baby" - still active), Mt Kombiu (the dormant "mother") and Vulcan, a minor vent which blew spectacularly in 1994 but is now quiet.

On the western outskirts of old Rabaul town is Vulcan, a volcanic vent which has been inactive since the 1994 eruption of the Simpson Harbour caldera. If time allows and you are fit enough (and don't mind getting very dirty) you can climb to the top of the cone which takes about 30 minutes of huffing and puffing.

Heading towards Kokopo you will make a stop at the Japanese barge tunnels and the Chinese cemetery. The barges based at Rabaul were used for unloading supply ships and transferring troops. To protect the barges from bombing, tunnels were dug into the cliffs and the barges were winched up into the tunnels and 'garaged' there when not in use. Your tour guide will also show you gun emplacements and observation posts. Packed lunch and drinks included.

Overnight Kokopo Village Resort, Rabaul (room only)

**DAY 10: SAT 27 APRIL 2013**

**RABAU / PORT MORESBY**

04:30 Breakfast (pay as you go)

05:00 Check out of your room and transfer by hotel shuttle bus to the airport. Check in time 05:30.

07:05 Air Niugini flight PX275 departs Rabaul for Port Moresby (aircraft: Fokker F100 with 98 seats)

08:25 On arrival in Port Moresby, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you and assist you to connect with your onward flight to Australia. Breakfast is available at the airport café upstairs in the international terminal, or at the nearby Gateway Hotel (free shuttle bus is available).

A packed lunch is provided to eat at the airport while waiting for your flight.

END OF EXTENSION

**INCLUSIONS (2 nights):**

- Port Moresby - airport check-in assistance
- Port Moresby - economy class flight to Wewak
- Wewak - airport transfers
- Wewak - 2 nights accommodation at In-Wewak Boutique Hotel (3.75 star) - room only
- Wewak - short town tour on arrival
- Wewak - full day historical tour including packed lunch
- Wewak - economy class flight to Port Moresby
- Port Moresby - airport assistance

**EXCLUSIONS**

- meals except where stated as included
- bar drinks, between-meal snacks
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature

**DAY 8: THU 25 APRIL 2013 PORT MORESBY / WEWAK**

10:00 Check out of your hotel room and Ecotourism Melanesia staff will transfer with you on the hotel shuttle bus to Port Moresby airport and assist you to check in for your flight to Wewak.

12:00 Air Niugini flight PX944 departs Port Moresby for Wewak (aircraft: Dash 8-Q315 with 50 seats)

13:30 On arrival at Wewak's Boram Airport our local guide will meet you and transfer you 15 minutes to your hotel for check-in.

14:00 Commence a tour of Wewak town with a stop at the market,

Overnight In-Wewak Boutique Hotel, Wewak (room only)

**DAY 9: FRI 26 APRIL 2013 WEWAK (historical tour)**

07:00 Breakfast (pay as you go)

08:00 Your guide will pick you up at the hotel and drive you 14km west of Wewak town to Cape Wom (Wom Beach) which is the site of the Wom Memorial Park, the location of the official Japanese WW2 surrender in New Guinea. You can also see the overgrown remains of the Wom airstrip, some caved in Japanese tunnels, and some preserved field guns.

From Cape Wom drive back towards Wewak town stopping at the overgrown Japanese airstrips of But West and But East (Dagua) near the village of But. There are some aircraft wrecks in varying states of decay.

12:00 Lunch at hotel (pay as you go)

**TOUR NOTES:**

*After the Japanese surrender on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945 in Tokyo Bay, the commander of the Japanese 18th Army in New Guinea Lt. General Adachi was captured, weak from starvation, near Yangoru (half way to the Sepik River) and flown to Wewak by Australian forces to participate in an official surrender ceremony at Cape Wom airstrip on September 13, 1945. Adachi signed the surrender document on behalf of Japanese imperial forces in New Guinea and presented his sword to the Australian commander Major General Robertson in the presence of 3,000 Australian troops.*

*More information: [http://www.pacificwrecks.com/provinces/png\\_wewak.html](http://www.pacificwrecks.com/provinces/png_wewak.html)*

*See a photograph of the sword handover at*

*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Japanese\\_surrender\\_\(AWM\\_019296\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Japanese_surrender_(AWM_019296).jpg)*

*Former Australian colonial patrol officer Dave Pennefather reports about But airfield on [PacificWrecks.com](http://PacificWrecks.com) :*

*"There is an interesting story here. When the Japanese arrived at But in 1942 they were greeted by the parish Priest who was German - and presumably an ally of theirs. For reasons that have never been explained the German priest was executed and to this day his remains*

*have never been recovered. Then in 1971 a party of Japanese arrived at But and asked the incumbent parish priest if they could build their memorial on the mission's land. When they spoke to the priest they did so in broken English. The priest, who was Dutch, replied to them in fluent Japanese. Impressed, the Japanese asked him where had he learnt their language to which the priest replied 'I learnt your language during 4 years as a prisoner in one of your bloody concentration camps.' The priest then went on and told them the story of the wartime execution and concluded by telling them that he would never give them permission to build their memorial on his mission's land. That is why you will find this memorial on village land down by the road side near the beach".*

13:00 After lunch the tour continues out the opposite side of town with a rather rough road trip (about 45 minutes) inland along Wirui Road to Boystown where the Japanese memorial is located, on Mission Hill with expansive views of the Wewak coastline. The memorial commemorates a Japanese mass grave but all remains have been repatriated to Japan already for formal burial.

Overnight In-Wewak Boutique Hotel, Wewak (room only)

**DAY 10: SAT 27 APRIL 2013**

**WEWAK / PORT MORESBY**

07:00 Breakfast (pay as you go)

07:30 Check out of your room and transfer by hotel shuttle bus to the airport. Check in time 08:00.

**09:40 Air Niugini flight PX945 departs Wewak for Port Moresby (aircraft: Dash 8-Q315 with 50 seats)**

11:10 On arrival in Port Moresby, Ecotourism Melanesia staff will meet you and assist you to connect with your onward flight to Australia.

A packed lunch is provided to eat at the airport while waiting for your flight.

END OF EXTENSION