

Adventure

2015/16 Alotau, Milne Bay
Papua New Guinea

Culture & History
Trekking & Kayaking
Stand Up Paddle Boarding



Trekking Adventures Papua New Guinea



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. The North Coast March to September is the wet season, although it is often commented that it is either wet or wetter, occasionally rain falls year-round. While Port Moresby, the capital, and other towns on the coast are quite hot in the summer months, October through to February is the best months for trekking vacations in Milne Bay.

"discover now, remember forever"



Milne Bay Expedition

Tour prices (ex Alotau):

6 pax, AUD\$2595 person

8 pax, AUD\$2250 person

10 pax, AUD\$1995 person

Conditions apply. See inclusions & exclusions.

\$60 per client is being donated back to the communities along this trekking/kayaking corridor

2015/16 Tour Dates

Saturday 17 to Thursday 22 October 2015

Sunday 1 to Friday 6 November 2015

(Attend the famous Canoe and Kudu Festival in Alotau)

Saturday 19 to Thursday 24 December 2015

(Christmas at Tree Tops Lodge)

Saturday 26 to Thursday 31 December 2015

(New Year at Tree Tops Lodge)

Saturday 16 to Thursday 21 January 2016

Saturday 20 to Thursday 25 February 2016

Saturday 12 to Thursday 17 March 2016



Six Day Trekking, Kayaking & Paddle Board Adventure

We invite you to come and visit and share with us this most beautiful area of Papua New Guinea. This expedition is raw and out there. There has been very few tourists walk or paddle here. Our exploratory of this area was only carried out in October 2014.

Samarai Island

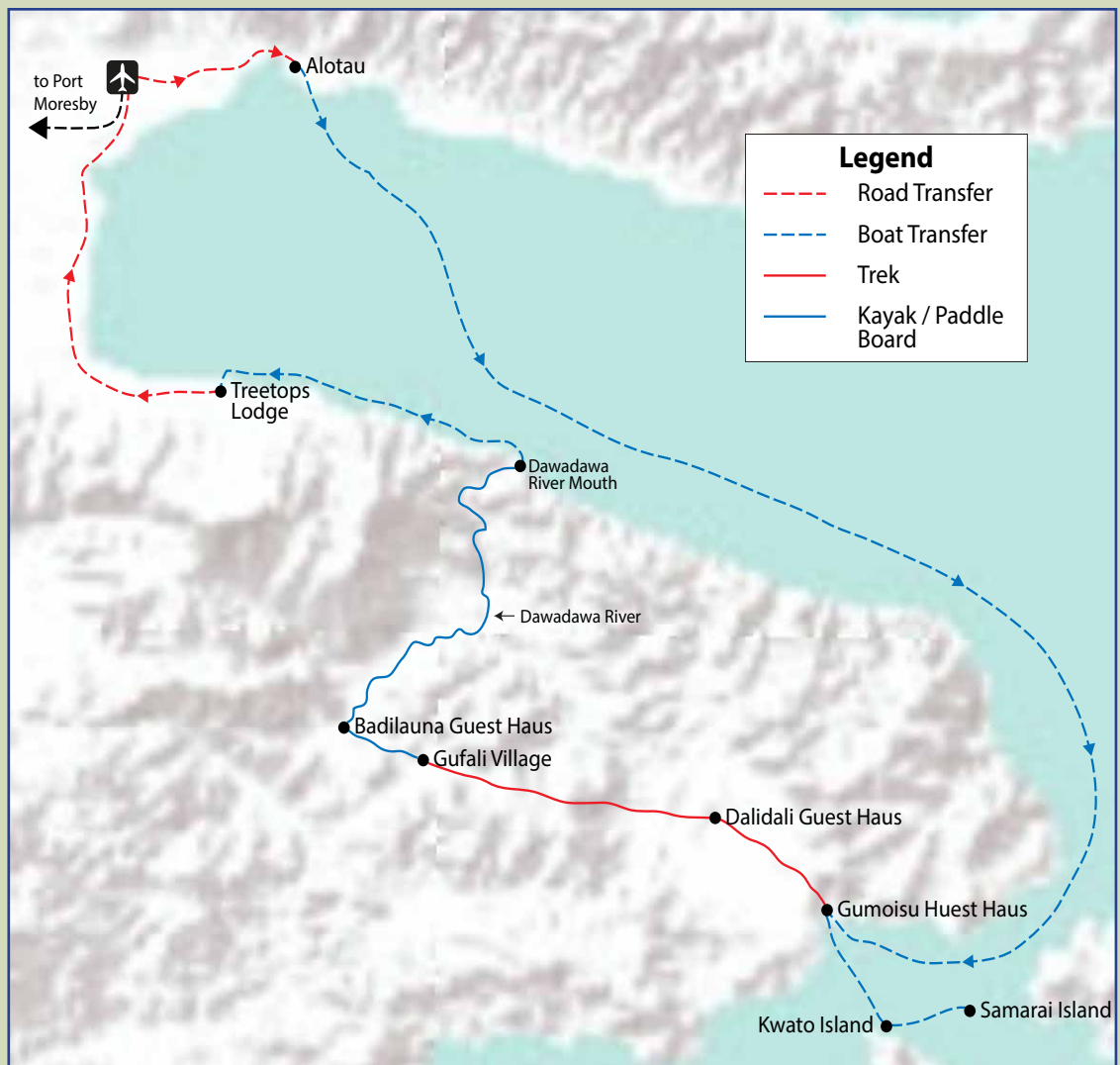
We visit Samarai Island, the former administrative capital in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. The island is historically significant as the site of a trading port and stop-over between Australia and East Asia. Samarai town was established on the island and at its height was the second largest after Port Moresby in the Territory of Papua. At present little is left of the town which covered Samarai as it was destroyed during World War II. The island was declared a National Historical Heritage Island by the government of Papua New Guinea in 2006.

Kwato Island

Kwato Island is 2-3 kilometers west of Samarai Island. The Reverend Charles Abel and his wife, Beatrice, founded a non hierarchical church in 1891 on Kwato. The Mission Kwato functioned as a successful education and boat building centre. The mission's boats were used to supply the Australian Coast watchers during WWII.

Trek & Paddle

Our young men are enthusiastic and willing to learn and help our guests. They are out the front slashing a path through the bush track, holding our hands over the multiple log and river crossings. Kayak and Stand Up paddle down the Dawadawa River, it's a surreal experience.



Itinerary

Day 1, Port Moresby to Alotau to Gumoisu

Flight

Port Moresby - Alotau, PX954, 09:30-10:20

The flight time is 1 hour from Port Moresby to Alotau; Groups will be greeted by Hiwe Hiwe Lodge staff and transferred to Alotau Wharf. Approximately 25 minutes drive from airport into town. From here we will board a banana boat for the 2 hour ride to Gumoisu Guest Haus. This afternoon is spent site seeing on Samarai and Kwato Islands. Rudy and Koi are our hosts for the evening. Dinner is traditional kai served on the balcony of their guest haus situated on the point overlooking the China Straits.

Samarai Island was discovered by Captain John Moresby whilst commanding HMS Basilisk in 1873. Moresby originally called the Dinner Island, after having a meal on it. Five years later in 1878 the Rev. S. MacFarlane of the London Missionary Society established a mission station on the island. In 1884 a trader and sixty Papuans established a beach front store for passing ships. In the early years a large malarial swamp caused health problems for Samarai, but this was improved after 1898 when it was filled in. In 1902 the value of goods exported from Samarai was three times the value of those exported from Port Moresby. By 1907 there were three pubs, the seat of a bishop, a rectory, church, three stores, government buildings, hospitals and private residences. Electric power was provided by 1927 and street lighting was installed.

By the 1920s the town had declined in importance



and by the 1940s 70 percent of goods were now exported from Port Moresby. After the outbreak of World War II and with the Japanese advance into the Pacific the Australian Government ordered the evacuation of Samarai in January 1942 and later in the year it was destroyed to stop the wharves and buildings falling under Japanese control. Although Samarai was reestablished after the war, it never returned to its former size or influence and in 1968 the provincial capital for Milne Bay was moved to Alotau. Today the island is mostly isolated and little belies its former past.

Reverend Abel was not the first white man to step foot on Kwato but he was the first to see the unique possibilities of the small island set in the China Straits of Milne Bay. Due to its location its one of the oldest trading routes in the South Pacific. Many foreigners had visited Kwato before Reverend Abel looking for gold, trading sea cucumbers, mother of pearl and sandalwood.

Rev Abel resolved to create at Kwato an institution where Papuans would not only receive a Christian education but also the necessary training to put them on an equal footing with foreigners. To help finance the work he established coconut plantations which became management training centres, who in turn taught village people how to mark out and plant coconuts. Not only did the people of Kwato learn life skills but they also experienced music and singing and sport, especially cricket.

Accommodation: Gumoisu Guest Haus.

Meals: LD

Day 2, Trek to Dalidali

This morning wake up is 5am and trekking by 6:30am. We walk at a leisurely pace learning from our young men escorting us through what they refer to as the "Jungle Grocery Store" teaching us and pointing out the different edible fruits and berries and the plants which are used for Medicinal purposes. Trekking in Milne Bay is always hot and humid, very wet and muddy under foot. It is reasonably flat but multiple little streams and log crossings to negotiate. Dalidali is a family hamlet; our hosts are Harry, his wife and 6 pikininis. There is a very small stream to wash in. Our afternoon is spent with the family and playing with the children. Approximately 5 hours walking.

Accommodation: Traditional Guesthouse.

Meals: BLD

Day 3, Trek to Gufali to Badilau-na Guest Haus

We must be trekking by 6:30am. Although the terrain is flat it is a long and challenging day. The first half of the day is very muddy, with many high log crossings. We should arrive at the main river crossing in time for lunch. If the weather has been unkind and there has been lots of rain this river could be flooded. There is a remote possibility that we may take an alternate route which will add on another 2-3 hours walking.

After lunch the terrain is easier, not so wet and a passable track to follow. The last 2 hours of the trek



is walking down a tributary of the Dawadawa River. This is an extremely beautiful and interesting sector of the trek, arriving at the river mouth around 4pm. We meet our boat transfer here and motor down to Badilauna Guest Haus, taking around 20 minutes. Our accommodation is on the banks of the Dawadawa River, our hosts are the Andrew family. They are very proud of their guest haus warmly welcoming guests into their family. Children taking the day off school to meet guests and help Mum and Dad and extended family prepare for our arrival. Today is approximately 10 hours walking. Very scenic, with lots of bird life and the odd snake

Accommodation: Badilauna Guest Haus

Meals: BLD

Day 4, Badilauna to Tree Tops

This morning we will transfer by boat as far up the Dawadawa River as we can go. We will inflate our kayaks and stand ups and start paddling back down stream. Dawadawa is a wide soft flowing river; it is a smorgasbord of bird life, with the odd challenging little rapid to negotiate. One should not laugh when the not so experienced paddle boarders hit these. Dawadawa is also a working river providing sustainable life for the people that live along its shores. We stop off at Badilauna Guest Haus for lunch and have a play with the kids on the paddle boards. After lunch we continue paddling down the river to the river mouth. From here there are 3 options. Paddle the rest of the way to Tree Tops (a long way to paddle)/Walk to Tree Tops (approx 3-4 hours)/Take boat to Tree Tops. Tree Tops is a traditional Lodge located high up on the hill overlooking the ocean and Alotau Town on the other side of the bay. Cold drinks, hot shower and a balcony with a view to die for awaits you.

Accommodation: Tree Tops Lodge

Meals: BLD

Day 5, Sight Seeing

Explore Alotau and surrounds.

Accommodation: Tree Tops Lodge **Meals:** BLD

OR

you may wish to fly back home today. Please contact us if this is the case.

Day 6, Alotau to Port Moresby

Flight

Alotau - Port Moresby, PX955, 11:20 - 12:10

Following breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Port Moresby.

Meals: B

Port Moresby Accommodation

International travelers may require accommodation in Port Moresby either side of the expedition. PNG Trekking Adventures can book this for you.

Crowne Plaza Hotel:

- AUD\$395/room/night based on twin share, inclusive of Breakfast and Airport Transfers.
- Single Supplement AUD\$197.00



Flights

You must book your own PNG domestic flights using the following flight numbers;

Port Moresby - Alotau, PX954, 09:30-10:20, and

Alotau - Port Moresby, PX955, 11:20 - 12:10

Booking Information

- Minimum booking 6 pax
- Maximum booking 10 pax
- Departure dates are not set in stone.
- Please contact us with preferred dates.

Tour Inclusions

- PNG Guide & Trek Leader
- 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
- 5 nights' accommodation and all meals where specified on itinerary
- Tents if required. (each trekker gets a two person tent)
- IMPP Permit to operate within this trekking/kayaking corridor
- Public Liability Insurance
- Licensed PNG Tour Operator
- Satellite Phone
- Medivac Procedures
- Life jackets
- Kayaks
- Stand ups
- Support/Safety boat
- Air port Transfers
- Boat transfers:
 - Alotau to Gumoiso
 - Site seeing transfers to Samarai and Kwato Islands
 - Pick up at Gufali to Badilauna Guest Haus
 - Dawadawa River Mouth to Tree Tops Lodge

Tour Exclusions

- Personal Porter (available at a cost AUD\$150)
- K30 per person boat transfers to Alotau Town.
- K10 per person Tree Tops Lodge transfer down at beach for snorkeling etc.
- The cost of a personal porter is A\$300.00 which covers their wages, food, and repatriation home.
- POM - Alotau - POM domestic airfares
- International Airfares
- Passport & Visa Costs
- Travel Insurance
- Vaccinations and anti-malaria medicines
- Beverages & anything of a personal nature at Tree Tops Lodge. Accommodation based on twin share.

WHY TREK WITH US?

- Pam & Mark the owners of PNG Trekking Adventures have lived in PNG, based in Port Moresby since 1990.
- Please take into consideration when booking your expeditions that PNG based companies benefit the local communities and people of Papua New Guinea.
- As we live here we are passionate about the country and its people. All overseas guides have PNG Work Permits and are legally permitted to work in Papua New Guinea. Taxes are paid in PNG and PNGTA is a PNG IPA approved company. This is very important for insurance purposes.
- Our team is with you from the time you step off the plane until the time you depart for your return journey home.
- PNGTA takes small manageable groups. You are not just a number; we want our clients to experience the true PNG and to share our passion. Larger groups considered when corporate/family groups/school groups are booking, please enquire with us regards this.
- Our guides are leading WWII Historians where appropriate and are experienced in all provinces throughout Papua New Guinea.
- Safety is our number one priority. We carry satellite phones on all expeditions.
- As we are on the ground in PNG we have contacts throughout the country to help us facilitate procedures in the case of emergencies.
- Integration with the local people in the villages and our expedition families is very important to us; we want our clients to have the full PNG experience.
- Fully Insured \$10,000,000 with Public Liability Cover.
- Expedition updates posted on our Facebook page every day so friends and family can follow.

PNG Trekking Adventures are members of:

- Licensed Kokoda Track Authority (KTA)
- Member of Tourism Industry Association PNG (TIAPNG)
- Member South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)
- Member of Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea. (SAPNG)
- Member of Tourism Operators Association PNG (TOAPNG)

PNG Trekking Adventures Sustainable Projects

- "Crumbs along Kokoda" sponsored by PNG Trekking Adventures and BNG Trading Co Ltd (Supplying baking ovens and training on Kokoda so villagers can sell bread and biscuits to trekkers and promoting micro business).
- The Dave Cavell School Port Moresby sponsored by PNG Trekking Adventures, Victorian Police Force
- Partner in www.villagehuts.com website, enabling all the grass roots village guesthouses to market their tours and guesthouses to the world online.

At the end of the day travellers to PNG have a multitude of companies to choose from. Be aware of who you are booking with and choose wisely.



Discover now... Remember Forever

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

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