



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VISAS

Visas are required for entry into Papua New Guinea. It is the responsibility of the client to obtain their own visas.

Currently, a 60-day tourist visa is available upon arrival for nationals of many countries including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, UK, USA and most western European countries at Port Moresby airport. This visa is non-extendable and the fee is currently K100. As only Kina cash is accepted it is suggested you purchase some Kina prior to your arrival in PNG. To acquire a visa upon arrival, you will need a valid passport, proof of sufficient funds for your stay, an onward airline ticket with confirmed bookings and Kina cash. Alternatively, you may acquire your visa prior to leaving your home country with either the nearest PNG Embassy or in some cases at the Australian Embassy in your country. Always check with these embassies for current visa requirements prior to leaving home.

Be certain your baggage claim checks are clearly marked "POM" for Port Moresby on your international flight into PNG. Allow plenty of time to arrive at the airport to conduct immigration, security, and check-in procedures. On arrival in Port Moresby, the procedure is quite orderly but can take up to one hour. If you have a tight connection, be sure you go to the head of the line in immigration and request special assistance at Jackson's

Airport in Port Moresby. The Air Niugini domestic transit counter at Jackson's airport in Port Moresby is located at the international check-in counter – in the same building as the international arrivals hall. For those with domestic connections, check in at the transit counter before leaving the Customs Hall.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is strongly advised that all clients obtain comprehensive Travel Insurance cover. Please furnish Epic with a copy of your insurance policy prior to travel, including the international dial emergency contact number.

Policies should be checked to ensure that they include ALL medical situations, including:

- Hospitalisation
- Repatriation
- Cancellation
- Loss of Baggage enroute
- Loss/breakage of valuables such as cameras (care should be taken on rough roads).

Visitors are advised to take malaria precautions, but only your doctor can recommend and prescribe the appropriate medication for you. Most travellers keep their tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis, and polio inoculations current. The only health requirement is a certificate of

vaccination against yellow fever or cholera if arriving from or travelling through infected areas prior to arrival in PNG.

AIR TRANSFERS & LUGGAGE

The majority of flying in PNG is conducted under visual flight rules. The mainland of PNG contains numerous mountain ranges rising up to 14,800 ft (4,500 metres). A large number of flights are conducted in small un-pressurised aircraft, making it difficult to fly above these mountains and the towering clouds. Therefore if you can't see where the mountains are and you can't go over them, then you can't go into cloud.

Due to the challenging topographical conditions of PNG, the navigational aids that allow aircraft to land in bad weather cannot be used at the vast majority of airports in PNG, this even applies to the larger aerodromes such as Mount Hagen. It goes without saying, that smaller aerodromes such as those that service Karawari Lodge are very basic and operations of light aircraft in and out of these aerodromes are very weather dependant.

The weather in Papua New Guinea can change very quickly. This unpredictable and changeable is caused by the interaction of the high mountains with the generally hot and humid tropical conditions. All you can do is relax, read a book and listen to your pilot. The pilots in Papua



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New Guinea are very experienced with these conditions and know best when to go and to stay.

For those travelling on only Air Niugini domestic flights, baggage allowance is restricted to 16kg or 35lbs and carry-on bag. You will be travelling on other small regional airlines to the Wilderness Lodges. Flights between these lodges operate in small 5 or 8 seat aircraft with limited weight and space for baggage. On these flights you MUST restrict your baggage to 10 kgs or 22 lbs maximum per person plus a small carry-on bag or camera bag. In addition, large hard or soft-sided suitcases are not permitted on these aircraft. The small regional airlines are strict and if you come with inappropriate or excess baggage when boarding these small aircraft for the Wilderness Lodges, your bags will be off-loaded and you will be required to re-pack. It convenient to leave excess baggage at the hotel in the country stopped at just before coming to PNG and will be returning to on the way home. Please always make sure that your baggage is properly tagged to the correct destination at time of check-in.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Based on USA Pacific standard time (Los Angeles)
Papua New Guinea + 17 hours

COMMUNICATIONS

PNG has a telephone system in all the main towns.

Karawari Lodge is in a remote area and communication is by two-way radio. If relatives or friends need to contact you while you are at the Wilderness Lodges, the quickest way is a fax sent to +675 542 2470. The fax should clearly state your name and location, eg. message for Mr Smith, guest Karawari Lodge. This message will be sent on to the lodge by aircraft or if time does not permit, will be passed on via two-way radio. It is important that you notify family prior to departure that while staying at the Wilderness Lodges, you will not be able to call them and they will not be able to call you.

SECURITY

We recommend that you utilise safety deposit boxes where available. If you are unfortunate enough to fall victim to robbery, notify the local police immediately, as well as Epic Private Journeys. On your return your insurance claim form usually needs to show to whom the theft was reported, so a record must be kept. A copy of the police is generally essential for an insurance claim.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

Like anyone, the people of Papua New Guinea resent the intrusion of privacy. So, except in the case of planned

performances, always remember to ask before taking a photograph of a particular individual. It is rare, but sometimes the individual may request payment prior to agreeing. In this case it is recommended you do not pay for, nor take the photo. Plenty of photo opportunities will come up and at no cost.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE LOCALS

Pidgin-English known locally as Tok Pisin, is the lingua franca of PNG and is almost universally spoken throughout the country. It is derived from English, German and Indigenous languages, with the occasional Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese words thrown in. Most travellers are experienced and sophisticated and find the trip a great one. Even so, there are difficulties that even the best planning cannot account for. In PNG, anger, displeasure or irritability do not increase one's chances of obtaining positive results. Such expressions of displeasure often produce the opposite effect. When you experience the unexpected, please be patient and avoid dwelling on mishaps, it only worsens the travel experience for yourself. It is natural to be agitated or frightened in such a remote, foreign country. Be assured all arrangements are being coordinated to make your trip as smooth as possible.

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