

PACKAGE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS AND SMALL GROUPS

7 nights (6 nights village guest houses, 1 night Tufi Dive Resort)

The Tufi district of Oro Province is famous for its Nordic-type fjords. The breathtaking topography is dominated by some 25 fjords which penetrate deep into the coastal landscape. Many of the fjords feature sheer basalt cliffs. There are numerous white sandy beaches perfect for swimming, and pristine fringing reefs offer excellent snorkelling. The water clarity is stunning and scuba diving is a major attraction for visitors to the area. The people of the Tufi area have a rich cultural heritage that is nurtured and treasured. Village people in the Tufi district are experienced at hosting visitors in village guest houses for hiking, fishing and skindiving experiences.

EM15 is a village to village trek in a safe rural area of PNG with spectacular scenery and fantastic snorkelling. The tour can commence any Monday, Wednesday or Friday, and the itinerary varies slightly according to the day of arrival due to variable flight times. Private groups of 6-9 people will find it economical to charter a small aircraft and fly in on any convenient day.

The package price includes accommodation, meals, canoe transfers, guides and activities (except where stated). BYO snorkelling gear. The trip features daily hikes of varying duration, some canoe paddling, and plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling, beach walking, fishing, bird watching, playing volleyball with the villagers etc. Each night you will overnight in a village guest house and next day your host will walk or paddle with you to the next village on the itinerary. All accommodation, meals, guides and village-based activities are included in the cost of the package (except additional hire of motorised dinghy for outer reef fishing, sightseeing etc – pay as you go).

The itinerary may be abbreviated to 5 nights – please enquire for prices.

PACKAGE COST:* PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

Solo traveller	Group of 2-3**	Group of 4-5**	Group of 6 or more***
\$3415	\$2850	\$2500	\$2295

*Prices subject to change, otherwise valid till end 2014.

**based on 1 x twin and 1 x single

***odd-numbered larger groups to be accommodated as twin shares plus one single

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Six nights village guest house accommodation including local-style meals (fruit, vegetables, seafood, scones)
- One night bungalow accommodation and main meals at Tufi Dive Resort (twin or triple share basis)
- Motor boat transfer from Tufi to the first village
- Guide fees
- All non-motorised activities at villages
- Sing-sing performance at one of the villages
- Outrigger canoe transfers with paddlers or hiking transfers with guides/porters
- Tropical first aid kit (on request – loan basis)

EXCLUSIONS:

- International and domestic Airfares
- visa and/or processing fees
- pre and post accommodation and meals in Port Moresby if required
- Motor boat hire for excursions
- Activities at Tufu Dive Resort
- Snacks and bar drinks at Tufu Dive Resort
- Excess baggage

MONDAY TO MONDAY ITINERARY

Wednesday to Wednesday itinerary and Friday to Friday itinerary will be the same but the first night will be at Tufu Dive Resort and the last night will be at Kofure village.

Day 1: Monday PORT MORESBY / TUFU / SIU VILLAGE

0430 Check in at Port Moresby airport.

0600 Depart Port Moresby on Airlines PNG scheduled flight to Tufu

0700 Arrive Tufu airfield, Tufu Dive Resort staff will meet you on arrival. Short walk/drive from the airfield to the resort.

0730 Have breakfast at Tufu Dive Resort.

0830 Tufu Dive Resort staff will transfer you by motor boat to Siu village, approximately 30 minutes ride south of the resort. On arrival at Siu village you will have a warm welcome ready for you. Your bungalow is perched on a small point overlooking the coastline – perfect. Spend the day at Siu village. Village tour, great canoe paddling, snorkelling and beach walking around the pretty inlet. The snorkelling here is fantastic. You can paddle yourself around in an outrigger canoe exploring the coastline of the Utukwaf fjord or your hosts can take charge of the canoe while you plunge into the crystal clear water and explore the coral and tropical fish. There are a couple of scenic waterfalls in the fjord that you can paddle right up to. Overnight Over night village guest house, Siu village (includes local style lunch, dinner and breakfast).

Day 2: Tuesday SIU VILLAGE / JEBO VILLAGE

This morning after breakfast your hosts from Siu will paddle with you a short distance across the Urumanoa Fjord to Jebo village, where your bungalow is right on the pristine white sandy beach. Enjoy the rest of the day on the beach - swimming, snorkelling, paddling – ah bliss! Overnight village guest house, Jebo village (includes local style lunch, dinner and breakfast).

Day 3: Wednesday JEBO VILLAGE / OROTOABA VILLAGE

After breakfast, enjoy a last swim and snorkel before heading inland to Orotoaba village which is 45 minutes steep uphill walk from Jebo. Orotoaba is a large hilltop village with green lawns, flowers, cool breezes and stunning fjord views. It is a short but steep climb down to a small beach in the adjacent Ibura Fjord for swimming in deep crystal clear waters. If you are interested in wildlife you can take a quiet afternoon foray into the forest to view a variety of insects, mammals and birds you may not have noticed during your hikes. The world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing, is native to this area and can be found in the village gardens if you are lucky. There is also a stand of trees hosting a small flock of Bird of Paradise, although you may have to pay an extra fee to see this as the attraction is privately-owned.

During one of the evenings of your tour, a village cultural group will perform a sing-sing in your honour featuring bare-chested dancers with intricate facial tattoos, adorned with traditional tapa (bark) cloth and spectacular coloured feather headdresses. You haven't seen anything like this before. Sometimes this will take place at Orotoaba but in the

interests of fairness we try to rotate this opportunity between the villages. Overnight village guest house, Orotoaba village (includes local style lunch, dinner and breakfast).

Day 4: Thursday OROTOABA VILLAGE / BARA BARA VILLAGE

A short downhill hike today, descending and ascending the spurs at the end of Ibura Fjord and then a steady downhill walk to the hamlet of Bara Bara. You can start walking straight after breakfast if you choose, or spend the morning at Orotoaba first before heading off. The guest house at Bara Bara overlooks the Foi Fjord with excellent views of the surrounding spurs and valleys. From the guest house it is a short walk to bird of paradise nesting spots (best viewing is early mornings and late afternoons) and picturesque waterfalls with natural plunge pools. Overnight village guest house, Bara Bara village (includes local style lunch, dinner and breakfast).

Day 5: Friday BARA BARA VILLAGE / BAGA VILLAGE

Another short hop today. Baga is only half an hour's walk and half an hour's paddling from Bara Bara. The guest house at Baga is located right on the edge of the Amuian Fjord, the largest of the Tufu fjords and while staying here you can take an outrigger excursion deep into the fjord. If you are not up for too much paddling, or you want to speed things up a bit, you can arrange with your hosts to hire a motorised dinghy to give you the grand tour, including snorkelling stops at some of the bommies (reef outcrops) in the fjord. Amuian Fjord really is majestic. From Baga guest house you will also have clear views of the volcanic mountain range to the west which was responsible for the formation of the fjords from lava flows thousands of years ago when Mt Victory exploded in what must have been one of the most spectacular volcanic eruptions in the history of the earth. Baga and all other villages in the Tufu area are littered with igneous boulders which rained down either at the time the fjords were formed, or during subsequent eruptions. Overnight village guest house, Baga village (includes local style dinner and breakfast).

Day 6: Saturday BAGA VILLAGE / KOFURE VILLAGE

After breakfast you have the choice of hiking or paddling to Tufu Dive Resort in time for lunch. It takes about 45 minutes to paddle by outrigger canoe with your luggage stacked on the platform, or 3 to 4 hours hiking. The hiking route is very scenic but there are steep climbs and descents up and down the spurs of the Amuian Fjord and the Tufu Fjord so be prepared for a tough walk if you choose this option.

On arrival at Tufu Dive Resort, stop for lunch and a dip in the pool (lunch is included in your package but pay as you go for bar drinks). Your host from Baga will leave you at Tufu Dive Resort and walk home. The host from the next village, Kofure, will meet you at the resort and walk with you across the airstrip to a little cove where an outrigger canoe is waiting to paddle you across the magnificent Kupari reef to Kofure village. If there is a decent breeze your canoe "skipper" may unfurl a patchwork sail made of rice bags and cuts of black plastic which will whisk you over the reef.

If the tide is right you can even jump out of the canoe and snorkel as you go (ask the paddlers to tow you behind the canoe with a piece of rope for the ultimate in lazy snorkelling!). At Kofure, tour the little village and relax on the little beach with a fresh coconut drink before sunset. Perfect. Overnight village guest house, Kofure village (includes dinner, breakfast and lunch)

Day 7: Sunday KOFURE VILLAGE / TUFU DIVE RESORT

This morning, snorkel and relax at Kofure, or go for a canoe expedition through the mangrove labyrinths. After lunch, take a scenic 2-hour hike along the spur of Maclaren Fjord back to Tufu Dive Resort by late afternoon. Alternatively, you can paddle and snorkel your way back the way you came. If you prefer to hike, your bags can still be transferred by canoe to Tufu while you are walking.

You will spend the last night of your trip at Tufu Dive Resort, unless you choose to extend for a few days to do some scuba diving. It won't be possible to do any diving today if you are flying out in the morning, due to the "no-diving-24-hours-before-flying" rule.

Overnight Tufu Dive Resort (standard twin-share bungalow, main meals are included but all additional snacks, drinks from the bar, scuba diving and other chargeable activities are not included and can be paid for in cash or by credit card.) The resort has 24-hour electricity, telephone and internet.

Day 8: Monday TUFU / PORT MORESBY

After an early breakfast, walk to the airstrip to wait for your flight to Port Moresby which will depart at approximately 0730.

If you wish to do one day scuba diving on the Monday to Monday itinerary, the package can be modified without extra cost such that you will spend your first day and night at the resort and last night at Kofure village. This will mean a 5:00am canoe paddle transfer from Kofure to Tufu airstrip on the morning of departure to catch the 07:30 flight out.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- Extra nights Tufu Dive Resort (flights out of Tufu are on Sunday mornings, Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Friday afternoons)

TRIP NOTES

1. Physical fitness. This tour is designed for visitors with an interest in, and whom are fit for, hiking of moderate difficulty. Visitors who do not have adequate physical fitness for the hiking described in this tour should consider another tour (eg EM16 Discover Tufu).
2. Wet weather. Tufu is subject to regular rainfall even during the dry season (April to November), though most rain falls at night. If the weather is wet during your stay you may not be able to complete all the activities described in this itinerary.
3. Suggested packing list for this tour:
You should pack your personal gear into a medium size lightweight pack (preferably waterproof with an internal frame). You may find it helpful to pack your personal items in garbage bags or ziplock plastic bags to protect them from the wet, especially your camera and papers. Personal gear includes two or three changes of clothes (warm days, warm to cool nights), light hiking boots with 2 pairs of cotton/wool blend hiking socks, a pair of light tracksuit pants or similar to sleep in, hat with wide brim to keep sun and rain off your face, waterproof torch with spare batteries, rain poncho, quick-dry towel, your favourite soap in a leak-proof container, two rolls of your favourite toilet paper, a one-litre water bottle to carry with you, and your personal first aid kit. Your personal first aid kit will contain Band-aids, blister dressings, topical cream for bites and grazes, antibiotic cream for cuts and scratches, paracetamol, Deep Heat or other muscle liniment and the all-important insect repellent.
4. Bedding. The village guesthouses will provide clean bedding for you. Alternatively you may choose to bring your own tropical sleeping bag or a bed liner of the type used at youth hostels, or an empty quilt cover that you can sleep inside. Your sleeping bag or sheet will also protect you from mosquitoes although mosquito nets are also provided at the village guesthouses.
5. First aid. On request, Ecotourism Melanesia will provide you with a tropical first aid kit to take with you to Tufu and return to us afterwards. This will include emergency treatment for malaria, anti-diarrhoea medication and oral rehydration salts, topical antibiotic, wound dressings, bandages.
6. Bathing. At the village guest houses you have the option of bathing Asian-style by scooping water over yourself from a drum of water inside a closed-off outside bathroom, or walking down to the stream and bathing with your clothes on, usually in front of other people. Males may bathe in shorts, ladies should bring a sarong or quick-dry shorts and top to wear for bathing.
7. Guides and helpers. While staying in the villages and going on hikes, you will be accompanied by a village guide or helpers arranged by the operator of the village guest house. These guides / helpers are often your host's own family members. Your guides/helpers will show you around, paddle the canoe for you, help you communicate with any

village people who don't speak English, and accompany you on hikes and walks. There is no need for you to make any direct payment to these guides and helpers as they are paid a daily fee by the operator of the village guest house. However if you wish to reward exceptional service from a particular individual you are welcome to do so (ie pay a tip) but please be discreet so as not to cause disputes. If a guide or helper asks you for a gratuity you should politely say that you will talk to the guest house operator about it first. If you would like to take any gifts to the villages, clothing is the best type of gift to take because clothing is difficult to obtain in the rural areas. Large size T-shirts are a sure bet as they can be given to both males and females of various builds. Other suitable gifts include caps, small flashlights, soap, cooking spices and pens and pencils for the children to use in school.

8. Food. Most of the food that will be offered to you at the village guest houses will be freshly harvested vegetables and seafood, possibly some chicken or pork. If you are a fresh food fan, you will be very happy. There is no electricity in the villages and leftover food is given to relatives or pets at the end of the day and not kept for the next day. If you feel the village diet may be too bland for you, you are welcome to bring additional favourite food items with you – village people will not be offended. Dehydrated packet pasta, tinned meats, baked beans etc that you bring with you can be prepared for you by your hosts and served with your meal.

9. Drinking water in the villages comes from clean fjord springs and is safe to drink. If you have any concerns you can ask your hosts to boil and cool water for you to drink, or drink only coconut juice which is abundant.

10. Safety. There is only a very basic government clinic at Tufu. If you fall critically ill, a charter flight must be arranged to evacuate you, at an approximate cost of AUD \$3600. If a decision is made to evacuate you, either you or your medical/travel insurer will be responsible for the cost of this exercise. Accordingly we strongly advise that you take out medivac insurance cover for the duration of your tour. Most of the villages around Tufu now have VHF radio contact with the Tufu Dive Resort and can call for help in an emergency.

11. Malaria. Malaria is prevalent in all parts of Papua New Guinea including Tufu. If you have recently arrived in the country you are unlikely to fall ill with malaria during your week at Tufu because the incubation period for malaria is a minimum of seven days after you are bitten by the mosquito. We recommend taking malaria prophylaxis during your visit to PNG and we recommend that you carry a course of presumptive treatment with you to Tufu. On your return home, you should immediately suspect malaria if you feel unwell in any way, and be sure to inform your doctor that you have been in a malarial area.

NOTES ON VILLAGE GUEST HOUSES AROUND TUFU

At each of these village guest houses, accommodation is in local-style huts or bungalows, or private rooms within a large local-style house. None of these guest houses are built with modern building materials or roofing iron – everything is local-style. Bedding is provided in the form of a mattress with clean sheets and pillow, and a mosquito net. In general, guest house rooms have either a single bed or twin beds. A few have double beds.

Toilets are located in pit latrine outhouses. Bathing takes place either in a nearby stream or in an outdoor bathroom which may have running water from a rainwater tank or may have a 44-gallon drum that is topped up manually by the guesthouse caretaker and you can use a small dish or bowl to scoop water from this drum over yourself.

Meals are local-style and feature seafood, chicken and sometimes pork with generous helpings of fresh local vegetables and fruit. In the evening they usually prepare a "mumu" dinner of freshly caught fish or lobster and other seafood wrapped in banana leaves with ginger root and coconut milk and baked under hot stones with vegetables.

Breakfast is usually village scones or pancakes with billy tea. Lunch is usually local greens and sweet potato or yam cooked in coconut milk with some fresh fish or lobster, with fruit on the side.

As part of your package, each day the village guest house operator will provide for you:

- 3 main meals
- supplies of tea and coffee with a thermos of hot water on standby
- supplies of cool drinking water and fresh coconut juice
- supplies of bananas, pawpaw, pineapple etc for between meal snacks
- an outrigger canoe for you to paddle yourself around, with or without a guide to assist with paddling
- access to beach for walking and swimming, and reef for snorkelling
- a guide available for hiking, walking around the village etc
- opportunities to accompany village people on routine activities like fishing, gardening etc if you would like to do so.

If you request additional organised activities, such as a fishing expedition that requires a motor boat, a village culture demonstration such as sago making or facial tattooing, you may be asked to pay an extra fee for this because it may require the involvement of people outside the village guest house owner's family, who will expect a gratuity for their time.

Comments and opinions in this itinerary are those of the tour operator and not of PNG Holidays.