

6 day/5 night small semi-escorted tour of Rabaul and Kokopo

The National Mask Festival was initially introduced in 1995 and is staged as an Annual National Event to promote the Mask Cultures of Papua New Guinea. It is staged in Kokopo each July and attracts displays and performers from all over the country, providing opportunities to see both common and rare masks. The three major genres of mask on display are the ancestor masks, spirit masks, and Tumbuan masks. Ancestor masks are designed to resemble or represent humans and often have holes in the eyes as a distinguishing feature. Small masks can be worn on the head during dances or ceremonies while other are mounted in homes and men’s houses to represent ancestors. Spirit masks represent non-human beings and are often designed to be mounted on walls and gables to protect the occupants of a home. Tumbuans are also a type of spirit mask but are larger in size and designed to be worn over the head and shoulders, or the whole body, during performances of dances and mime that illustrate goings-on in the spirit world. There is no other occasion on PNG’s cultural calendar where such a wide range of masks can be seen in one place, along with their accompanying dances and dramas. There will also be many stalls and displays with local artefacts, handicrafts and foods available for sale.

The Warwagira Festival has been held by the Tolai people since 1971. This annual event is a showcase of the region's stringbands (guitar and ukulele group) and harmonic choirs.

These tours can be taken as a standalone, together or as an addition to any of our other packages.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: TUE 15 JULY 2014 AUSTRALIA / PORT MORESBY / RABAU

Arrive Port Moresby and connect through to Rabaul.

On arrival in Port Moresby, you will need to clear customs and transfer to the domestic terminal. Upon arrival at Tokua airport, Rabaul, you will be met by the courtesy vehicle and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Overnight Rapopo Plantation Resort (4 star, room and breakfast)

DAY 2: WED 16 JULY 2014 KINVAI, MASK FESTIVAL & BAININGS FIRE DANCE

Early rise today, as we set off to Omorong Beach for the arrival by canoe of the Kinavai, the spirits that mark the official opening of the Mask Festival. On sunrise, the Dukduks and Tumbuans will come ashore performing their ritual. After this, we return you to your hotel for breakfast, before heading to the festival venue for the day’s events. Today you will see an array of colour, hear the sound of chanting and dancing to the beat of the kundu drums, and witness costumes that you’ll probably never see again. You have full access to the arena, including the VIP seating.

Lunch is provided at the Gazelle International Hotel. Afterwards you can return to the arena, take a tour of Kokopo, or be transferred to the resort for a well-earned rest.

Evening trip to Kainagunan Village for the Bainings Fire Dance. This dance is only performed by males, and involves chanting and dancing through hot coals without being burnt. This is definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity.

DAY 3: THU 17 JULY 2014 MASK FESTIVAL

Rise for breakfast, followed by transfer to show grounds for day 2 of the festival. Lunch again at the Gazelle International is included. Return to the arena for the afternoon's events.

DAY 4: FRI 18 JULY 2014 SCUBA DIVE, WARWAGIRA SHOW OR LAND TOUR

For divers, you will take a trip out to the reef for 2 morning dives, where you'll see the abundance of fish life in this underwater paradise, or see one of the many coral clad WWII wrecks scattered throughout the harbour. Snacks, gear hire and E&S fees are included.

For those that don't want to get wet, your tour will visit many of the local landmarks, historical sites and other points of interest, including the spectacular post card panoramic view across the harbour. Lunch is provided with this tour.

DAY 5: SAT 19 JULY 2014 WARWAGIRA SHOW OR DAY OF LEISURE

Relax by the pool and take in the views of the smouldering Tavurvur, or catch the bus into town and visit the local shops or other hotels in the region. For the divers, we can arrange more of the same or a land tour for you.

DAY 6: SUN 20 JULY 2014 RABAU / PORT MORESBY / AUSTRALIA

Today you'll skip breakfast in order to meet your aircraft to take you home or to your next destination. Transfer from domestic to international terminal in Port Moresby and clear customs.

TOUR NOTES:

Estimated temperatures in July are upwards of 28° Celcius, with high humidity. Sun protective clothing is recommended as is the intake of plenty of fluids, to avoid sun stroke. A large brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen should also be worn.

Malaria is a risk in coastal areas, so always carry a supply of tropical strength insect repellent and use liberally when walking through scrub and particularly around dawn and dusk, and see your GP for anti-malarian preventative medication.

Pick-pocket and opportunists are everywhere, so don't let yourself become a target; stay in groups, leave your 'bling' and big notes at home and carry items close to your person in a secure compartment.

There will be many local traders wanting some of your tourist dollar; items are usually pretty inexpensive and are a nice momentum of your journey. Remember that these people don't have Centrelink or the dole to fall back on, and they earn very little, so a few kina is nothing to you, but means a lot to them. Many items can be brought through customs, but refrain from buying items with nuts or seeds, or animal products such as feathers, fur or skin.

More information about travelling to PNG can be viewed on our website here:

<http://www.pngholidays.com.au/important-info.php>

TOUR PRICE:

LAND COST – PRICED IN AUD	PER PERSON TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SURCHARGE
5 NIGHT FESTIVAL AND LAND TOUR PACKAGE 2 days at the Mask Festival and Full Day Tour	\$1300	\$800
Add 2 dive day with equipment hire included	\$240	N/A
Remove land tour and add 1 day at Warwagira	\$59	Minimum of two people required
Remove land tour and add 2 days at Warwagira	\$109	
Flights from Port Moresby*	From \$440	N/A
Flights from Cairns via Port Moresby*	From \$705	N/A
Flights from Brisbane via Port Moresby*	From \$920	N/A

* Flight prices are quoted as 'best available' on day of printing, using Air Niugini

INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy airfares from Australia as stated above (or other ports as required)
- Airport transfers in Rabaul
- Ticket wallet (1 per couple) for your passport and ticket storage
- 5 nights’ twin share accommodation at Rapopo Plantation Resort (substituted by similar quality if not available)
- Breakfast daily at the resort, except on last day
- Lunch on each day of the show, or with full day land tour (3 in total)
- 2 day entry pass to all areas at the show grounds
- Transfer to see the arrival of the Kinavai canoers
- Full day land tour of Gazelle Peninsula
- All site fees on any land tour
- Guides on all tours
- Bottled water on all tours
- Snacks on board dive boat
- 1 day dive gear hire
- 1 day environment and safety fees
- Tanks, weights and air for divers
- Bainings Fire Dance performance and transfers

EXCLUSIONS:

- Entry visas or any passport related expenses
- Excess baggage charges – your allowance is 23kg per person plus 7kg of carry-on.
- Any meals not specified.
- Bar drinks or other hotel related expenses
- Tips – not essential but appreciated for exceptional service
- Souvenirs or items of a personal nature