Kokoda Track

Depart Cairns 31 August at 9.55AM arrive Port Moresby 11.45AM - Qantas link

Day 1: Port Moresby

Your adventure begins in the capital of Port Moresby. An airport arrival transfer is included. Attend a pre-trip briefing this evening at 6 pm to meet your fellow travellers and trek leader and local trekking crew.

Accommodation

Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

• Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

AMENITIES: Our hotel in Port Moresby has internet access (not included in the room rate). There are only very limited places along the Kokoda Track where there will be mobile phone reception so we advise you not to bring a phone on the trek.

COSTS: Please note that costs in PNG are surprisingly high. You should budget AUD 60-100 per day per person for meals and expenses while in Port Moresby.

RUCKSACKS:

Rucksack and day pack hire is included in trip costs. We use 55 litre, relatively waterproof rucksacks. Just bring your regular luggage and repack your belongings into the rucksack provided tonight.

Day 2: Kokoda

This morning take a short, spectacularly scenic flight over the jungle canopies and craggy peaks of the Owen Stanley Range to the landing strip of Kokoda on a chartered flight operated by Tropic Air. The flight takes approximately 35 minutes, and depending on availability of aircraft and the size of the group the plane may have to make 2 journeys.

On arrival in Kokoda, be welcomed by our local trekking team and introduced to your personal and food porters. Kokoda, situated at 340 metres above sea level, is a hot and humid place, but there's a nearby river to cool off in. You will have time to explore and visit the Kokoda Memorial and War Museum today.

After lunch set off for the village of Deniki (4-5 hours). Begin with a flat walk through rows of palm oil and rubber tree plantations, passing through Kovelo and Hoi villages before the first steep ascent up the Owen Stanley Range. Deniki village is 900 metres above sea level, and on arrival you're greeted with spectacular views across the Kokoda Valley.

Accommodation

Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Included Activities

- Kokoda Kokoda Memorial
- Kokoda Kokoda War Museum

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 14kms which will take roughly 4-5 hours. Please note that due to weather conditions the flight this morning may be diverted to the airport at Popondetta. In this case we take a private van from Popondetta to Kokoda, the starting point of our trek (approx. 5-6 hours). The distance is less than 100km, but due to the road conditions and terrain mean it is quite the journey. The ride starts with bitumen roads, but then encounters a number of creek crossings and corrugated dirt roads for the remainder of the trip. In case the group will land in Popondetta our arrival into Kokoda will be later than scheduled, which means that we will stay here for the night and start trekking tomorrow.

Day 3: Isurava

Commence the first full day of trekking with an early start by heading to Isurava village. Pass through choko gardens planted by local villagers and by water holes where you can fill up your bottle. Your trek leader or porters will let you know the best fill-up points.

Arrive at Isurava village, which is 1,350 metres above sea level. The village has been relocated several times since World War II, but now sits in a tranquil location with good access to water and sunshine. Continue to the famous Isurava battlefield, where you'll stop for a break during which your leader will explain the significance of the site. A powerful memorial built by the Australian Government commemorates the qualities of 'Courage, Sacrifice, Mateship and Endurance'.

Spend the night at the village of Alola which sits at 1,400 metres on the mountainside overlooking Iora Valley and Auberi village.

Accommodation

Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Included Activities

Kokoda - Kokoda Track trek with personal porter

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 18kms which will take roughly 8-10 hours. Please note that all trekking times listed in this itinerary are based on ideal, dry weather conditions. Rainy weather and muddy conditions can add several hours to these times.

<u>Day 4: Iora Creek / Templeton's Crossing / Lokobo</u>

The trek to Templeton's Crossing begins with a walk through lush rainforest and past creeks and rivers that feed directly out of mountain springs. Follow the hilly trail to Iora Creek, where you'll enjoy a short break and can freshen up in the river. It takes a further three hours to reach Templeton's Crossing. Iron rods symbolise the sites where fallen soldiers once lay. Our overnight will be at Lokobo, high up in the mountains at approximately 1,900 metres above sea level. It can get cold at night so be sure to bring base layers.

Accommodation

• Village Hut (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 22kms which will take roughly 9-11 hours.

Day 5: Kokoda Gap / Lake Myola / Efogi

A tough and long day of trekking is ahead of you today, as you climb to the highest point of the trek at Mount Bellamy's ridge, also referred to as the Kokoda Gap. The gap was used for planes travelling between the north coast and Port Moresby. The ridge is 2,190-metres above sea level and provides some spectacular views across the Owen Stanley Ranges.

The track towards Myola can be challenging, especially in wet conditions. It's not too steep, but can be muddy and slippery. Be sure to stay close to your personal porter and follow his every step. Continue to Lake Myola where Australian troops once dropped in supplies during the war. This is an expanse of grassland scored with winding creeks. The trek to Naduri, at 1,550 metres, is a long and steady descent through a lot of open Kunai grassland. After a short break at Naduri, walk the steep and slippery trail towards Efogi II. Enjoy a well-deserved break on arrival. The villagers sell a range of local fruits and foods, so be sure to carry small change with you to purchase organically grown produce.

Continue on the one-hour descent to Efogi I (1,200 metres above sea level), which is short but exhausting. Upon arrival into Efogi I, be greeted by local villagers and welcomed by the Siosi family, the owners of the cooperative guesthouse you'll stay in. Efogi I is the largest of the Koiari villages along the trail with an estimated population of 400-500 people.

Accommodation

Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 29kms which will take roughly 10-12 hours.

Day 6: Brigade Hill / Menari

Start early this morning to make the climb up to Mission Ridge and Brigade Hill (approximately at 1,450 metres above sea level). The walk to Brigade Hill from Efogi I takes 1-2 hours. Glorious views can be enjoyed from the top. On a clear day, you can see right across to Mount Victoria, the highest mountain in the region, and over Mt Bellamy, Efogi I and II and the Kagi villages.

After a long break head down the back of Mission Ridge, which is a steep and sometimes slippery path. From there it's a 40-minute climb to Menari village, situated at 850 metres above sea level. In Menari, be welcomed by the local villagers, including descendants of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels - local villagers who assisted the allied soldiers as they defended the territory against the Japanese.

Accommodation

• Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 19kms which will take roughly 7 hours.

Day 7: Nauro

Kick start the day with a one-and-a-half-hour climb to the top of Menari Ridge (1,130 metres above sea level) to enjoy panoramic views back towards Nauro and Brigade Hill. After a short break, tackle the steep and sometimes slippery trail down the back of the ridge for about an hour. From here enter Nauro Valley and cross the Brown River. Today is a relatively short walk, but the trail can be swampy and unpleasant during the rains. For most trekkers it should be a comfortable walk. In the evening, stay at a guesthouse in New Nauro village, situated at 990 metres, and bathe in a stream.

Accommodation

• Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 19kms which will take roughly 7 hours.

<u>Day 8: Maguli Range / Ofi Creek / Ioribaiwa</u>

Tackle the Nine False Peaks to the top of Maguli Range (1,350 metres) this morning. This involves roughly three hours of serious uphill trekking. From the top of the ridge, make the first of many descents today, with a rest stop at Jap's Ladder.

At Ofi Creek take another break and continue on to historic Ioribaiwa, situated at approximately 650 metres. It was here that the Japanese troops fought their final victorious battle against the Australians before withdrawing. This is where the group will set up camp for the night.

Accommodation

• Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 24kms which will take roughly 9 to 10 hours.

Day 9: Ua-Ule Creek / Goldie River

Your journey continues down the steep loribaiwa Ridge before picking your way across multiple river and creek crossings to Uaule Creek. Expect wet boots, or come prepared with sandals. Continue with a trek up the back of Imita Ridge for about one-and-a-half hours. From here, trek down what was once known as the Golden Staircase. This was built by Australian troops during the war to transport artillery and supplies from Port

Moresby. Today is a long day of trekking and a good example of why trekkers must be mentally and physically prepared for this arduous walk. From Goodwater, push on for close to three hours towards Goldie River where the group will set up camp.

Accommodation

• Village Hut or Camping (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 15kms which will take roughly 6 hours.

Day 10: Owers' Corner / Port Moresby

This morning climb the final hill of the trek to Owers' Corner. You have walked the Kokoda Track! Board your private transfer at Owers' Corner and be transferred back to Port Moresby. Along the way visit Bomana War Cemetery, where 3,600 Australian soldiers were laid to rest at the end of World War II. In the evening, meet the trekking team for a drink at the hotel. This is a great way to wind down and reflect on your trekking adventure.

Accommodation

Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

Port Moresby - Bomana War Cemetary

Meals Included

Breakfast

Special Information

The total distance trekked today is 5kms which will take roughly 2 hours.

Day 11: Port Moresby

The trip ends in Port Moresby this morning after breakfast. There are no activities included on this day and you're free to depart at any time. A departure transfer is included in the cost of your trip – please reconfirm your flight details and departure time with your leader.

Included Activities

• Complimentary Airport Departure Transfer

Depart Port Moresby 10 September at 12.30PM arrive Cairns 2.20PM – Qantas link

Cost per person \$5,590*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- 10 day trek including breakfast, 8 lunches and 8 dinners
- Kokoda Track trek with personal porter