



EXPLORING POINTS  
UNKNOWN



**PNG SURFARIS**  
NEW IRELAND - PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**YOUR**  
*Adventure*  
**STARTS NOW!**

 [Guest Booklet](#)

# Thank you

## FOR BOOKING A CHARTER ONBOARD PNG EXPLORER

Firstly, congratulations on booking a trip onboard PNG Explorer. This short document contains information to help you prepare for your charter.

We can make your charter as actioned packed, or relaxed as you want – at any stage, if you have questions, please feel to email [admin@pngsurfaris.com](mailto:admin@pngsurfaris.com)

Before you read through this document; we recommend you first **watch this short video.**



# Travel

## YOU WILL NEED A TOURIST OR VISITOR VISA

Please note, tourist/ visitor visas are currently not available on arrival at Port Moresby International Airport.

You will need to organise your visa online through PNG's Immigration website. Most passport holders can apply for the **'Easy Visitor Permit'** for **30 or 60 days** - this is a simple application that attracts a **fee of US \$50.**

Prior to completing the application, please check you have at least **six (6) months validity on your passport**, and that you have booked your flights to and from PNG.

When you complete your online visa application for an **"Easy Visitor Permit (30 days)"**, you will be asked to provide address details for your time in PNG - see below recommended content:

### PNG: Number and Street:

### Town/Village:

### Province:

### Postal Address:

### Home Phone:

### Mobile Phone:

[Learn More](#)

# Flights

## HOW DO I BOOK THE FLIGHTS TO JOIN THE CHARTER?

Numerous carriers have regular flights into Port Moresby (POM), including QANTAS, Virgin, Singapore Airlines, Air New Zealand, Philippines Airlines and PNG's own Air Niugini.

Our local airport is Kavieng (KVG) in New Ireland Province.

PNG domestic flights from Port Moresby to Kavieng can be booked directly with Air Niugini.

# Baggage

## ALLOWANCES AIR NIUGINI INTERNATIONAL

Baggage allowances for Air Niugini international with connecting domestic flights:

- 23 kg check in
- 7 kg carry on
- 10 kg for sporting goods (surfboards/fishing equipment) or
- 15 kg for specifically diving gear

Most of the Air Niugini fleet can accommodate board lengths of up to 2.7m.



# Airport

## PORT MORESBY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JACKSON'S AIRPORT)

Jackson's Airport in Port Moresby is the main international gateway into PNG. Recently renovated, the international terminal is well laid out and easy to navigate. It operates as the main hub for PNG's own airline - Air Niugini.

When transiting through for a domestic connection with Air Niugini you have two options:

**1. Remain inside the international terminal to check in for your domestic flight.**

a. Proceed to the domestic transfer counter located next to the international check-in counters. With your bags checked in, you can then proceed with boarding passes to the departure lounge in the domestic terminal, which is just a few minutes' walk under a covered walkway from the international terminal.

**2. Leave the international terminal and walk to the domestic terminal to check in with your bags for your domestic flight.**

Important note: The domestic terminal is usually very busy, and the domestic check-in process can be slow.

# Overnight

## WILL I NEED TO OVERNIGHT IN POM ON THE WAY TO/ FROM KAVIENG?

Whilst domestic flight schedules continue to increase in frequency, legacy issues from Covid still impact some domestic travel routes and you may need to overnight in Port Moresby.

If you do need to stay overnight, there are numerous high-quality hotels to select from; these include:

<b>The Stanley Hotel and Suites</b>	<a href="#">Book Now</a>
<b>Airways Hotel</b>	<a href="#">Book Now</a>
<b>Gateway Hotel</b>	<a href="#">Book Now</a>
<b>Crown Hotel</b>	<a href="#">Book Now</a>

### EXTRA TIPS:

Prior to covid (early 2020), most travellers would get a morning flight into Port Moresby and the afternoon flight to Kavieng – this should still be achievable.

Please try and arrive in Kavieng in the afternoon and book the first flight out on your day of departure (usually 6:30am).

The listed hotels all offer an airport pick up and drop off service.



## Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Do I need to organise transport from/to Kavieng Airport to PNG Explorer?**

A. No. We will facilitate your pick and drop off at Kavieng Airport.

**Q. As an international traveller, do I need to be COVID -19 vaccinated to enter PNG?**

A. No

**Q. As an international traveller, do I need to have a PCR test prior to arrival into Port Moresby?**

A. No.

**Q. As an international traveller, what paperwork is required?**

A. All international airlines will provide you with up to date information relating to your travel into Port Moresby, once you make your travel arrangements.

At a minimum, you will require:

✔ Normal Travel Documents (**Passport** with **minimum 6 months** remaining and a valid visa);

## Embassies

### AND CONSULATES

Most countries have an embassy or consulate in PNG. A full list is available

[Here](#)

The Australian consulate in Port Moresby can assist Australian travellers with replacement passports, and provide support in a medical emergency or in the event of a natural disaster in PNG.

# Life

## ONBOARD PNG EXPLORER

### What is included in my charter cost?

- Accommodation
- All meals and snacks prepared by our professional chef using fresh local ingredients
- Airport pick up/ drop off
- Fresh water, tea, coffee and juices.

### What is not included in my charter cost?

- Flights
- Beers, soft drinks and wine (charged at local prices)
- Diving (AUD \$60 per dive)
- Professional photo package (ask on-board for rates)
- Internet access – VSAT (satellite) Wifi access for AUD \$150 for the 9-night charter or casual use at AUD \$30 per day.

### Can I dive whilst on my charter?

Diving is \$60 per dive. You must let us know prior to arrival that you wish to dive, as we need to confirm your dive certification, insurance and dive gear sizes. Due to the remote nature of our charters, plus our protection and indemnity insurance, your recreational dives must be to depths within your certification and dive table limits.

### What kind of food is served onboard?

All meals and snacks prepared by our professional chef using fresh local ingredients. Each dish is freshly made, inspired by local cuisine and palatable for Western taste buds. Any special dietary requirements or allergies can be catered for, just let us know by completing the guest profile form – this will be emailed to you prior to the charter commencing.

### What drinks are available on-board?

The water supply on-board is produced by our onboard desalination plant. This supply is also filtered and UV treated from source to tap. We provide each guest with a 1.5L insulated stainless steel water bottle to use whilst onboard. Refill this bottle daily with ice and water to ensure you keep hydrated in the tropics.

Help yourself to tea, coffee and juice. We love a good coffee and showcase the best of PNG, so maintain your habit and kick start your day with a latte.

We provide soft drinks, beer, wine and some spirits for sale. If you prefer a specific soft drink as a mixer for the strong stuff, then let us know in advance in the guest profile form.

### Will I be able to walk on the islands?

Yes, we encourage guests to go and meet the locals and see how they live, school and work. It's a fantastic insight into this amazing Melanesian lifestyle and culture. The locals are very hospitable to guests and are more than happy to share stories. Equally, they are as interested in your life, so if you're open to it, be prepared to talk about yourself!

### Should I bring anything for the locals?

It's a nice gesture to bring things for the locals on the islands that we visit. We always recommend books for the schools, guests often bring up pre-loved clothing, which is always appreciated.



# Safety

## IS PNG SAFE?

### Is PNG safe?

Undesirable incidents happen in every country and PNG is no different. In PNG, most of these incidents occur in the major populated centres of Port Moresby, Lae and the Highlands. Kavieng is situated in the Islands Region of PNG, which is regarded as a relatively safe destination.

As with travel to any foreign country, you need to apply common sense. Be mindful of your belongings and note that it's best not to walk around alone. Tourist related crime is mostly often petty theft. While it's important to be on your guard and respect the local culture, don't be afraid to have a chat, a laugh and be friendly with locals.

### Health and Safety?

Please consult your travel doctor about recommended vaccinations and first aid for traveling to PNG. Malaria and Dengue are two common mosquito-borne illnesses found in PNG. We recommend long sleeves and a good insect repellent, and your travel doctor may also prescribe you some anti-malarial medication.

A small medical kit with antibiotic cream, ear and eye drops, band aids, and an antihistamine is recommended. Please also ensure that you bring any personal medication with you that you may need. Dehydration is the most common ailment for travellers – so drink plenty of safe water whilst on your charter; it's also a good idea to bring some hydration salts to supplement this.

To keep yourself safe whilst out and about be mindful of local laws, customs and culture. Most likely you will be spending just a few hours in Port Moresby, but if over-nighting due to a missed connection, we recommend that you stick to hotels and organised tours. It's best to not travel with plenty of jewellery and a huge bulging wallet, and a good tip is to acquire a local bilum (traditional woven bag) and keep just small amounts of money in this when walking around.

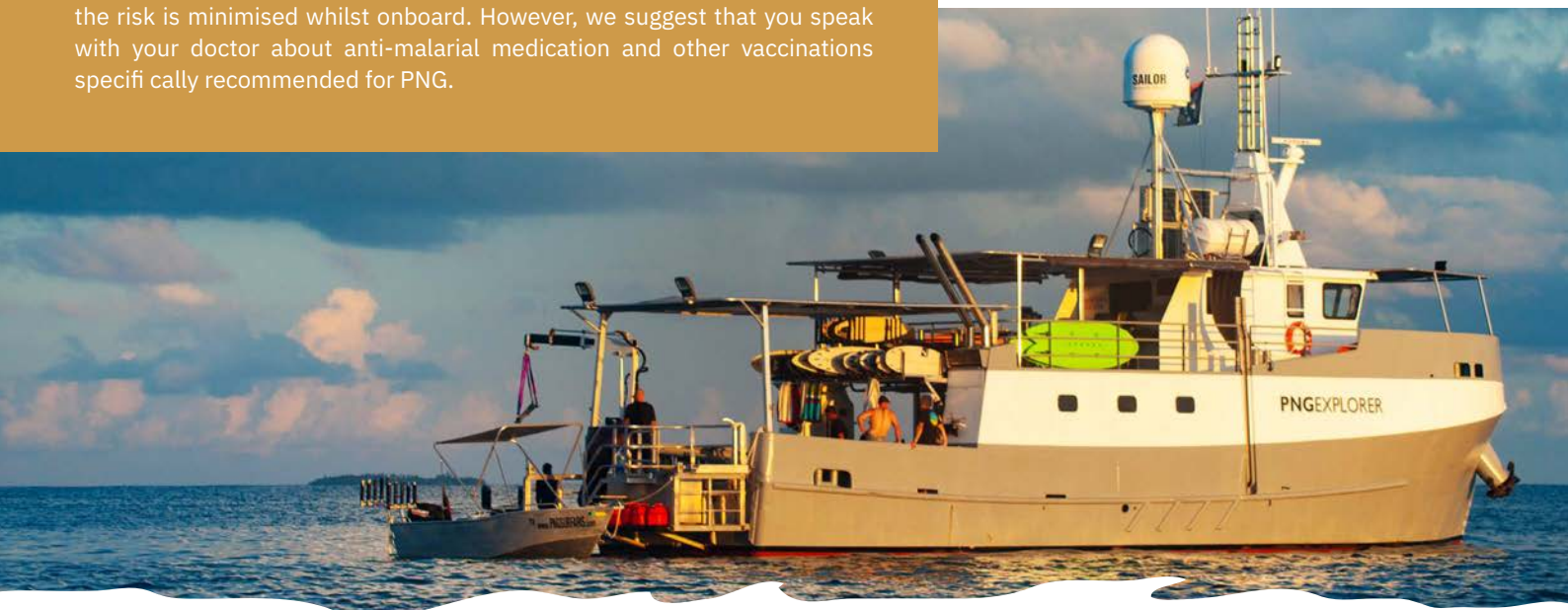
Papua New Guineans value sincerity and respect and will treat anyone who is pleasant and polite with great warmth and kindness. First-timers may experience a culture shock or feel intimidated from the locals red mouths from chewing 'buai' and fear hostility as groups of people stare at them. However, give them a smile and you will see this returned ten-fold.

For up to date advice on travelling to PNG check out the **Smart Traveller website**

[Here](#)

### Do I need to worry about Malaria?

As in many equatorial countries, Malaria is endemic in PNG. A good preventative measure is to wear insect repellent and long-sleeved shirts and trousers, particularly when walking through villages. Since the vessel is air conditioned and we anchor at a reasonable distance from land, the risk is minimised whilst onboard. However, we suggest that you speak with your doctor about anti-malarial medication and other vaccinations specifically recommended for PNG.



# General

## HOT TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

### What will the weather be like?

The tropical climate is hot and humid, with an average air and water temperature between 27-30°C. December to March is the wet season, although there is rainfall year-round. Equatorial sun can be intense, especially in the water, even if it's overcast. Prepare to cover up and wear plenty of sun protection (including your eyes). Hydration is key, so always remember to drink plenty of water.

### Essentials to pack

Clothes that are loose and light with long sleeves are great for sun protection and as mosquito barriers in the evenings. For women especially, it is respectful to dress modestly, so knee length shorts or skirts are appropriate. T-shirts or rash shirts for the water and reef booties are recommended:

- Surfboard
- Leg-ropes/fins
- Tropical surf wax
- Mask and snorkel
- Sunscreen/zinc
- Insect repellent
- Rash vest and surf hat
- Surf towel
- Long sleeved top for fishing trips/walking on islands
- Sunglasses
- Small gift for the communities, such as books, clothes, linen (especially for babies).

### How much money will I need to bring?

The currency in PNG is the Kina (PGK), which normally fluctuates around 2.4 PGK to 1 AUD. We recommend that you organize some Kina for your holiday, as you may be interested in buying locally produced handicrafts and jewellery. We recommend that you organize small denominations of your money (i.e. 2, 5, and 10 Kina notes) to make it easier to pay for items on the island. On the Explorer, we accept cash (AUD \$, USD or PGK); we are also able to take credit cards for payment of onboard purchases such as alcohol, diving and merchandise.

### Do I need to pay anything on entry and exit from PNG?

No. There is nothing to pay on entry or exit from PNG.

### What kind of insurance do I need?

Travel insurance is mandatory for all those travelling onboard PNG Explorer. We recommend purchasing this cover as soon as you have booked your flights to PNG. At a minimum, your insurance should include:

- Emergency evacuation for medical treatment
- Dive insurance (if you are keen to dive whilst on-board)
- Travel delays
- Cancellations
- Lost luggage

# Accessibility

## YOU'RE CONNECTED. IF YOU WANT IT!

### Will my family be able to contact me on-board?

Yes. PNG Explorer has VSAT (satellite) internet and phone. The boat's contact numbers are:

**PNG Explorer 1:** 07 3073 8786.

**PNG Explorer 2:** 07 3073 8787

When calling from Australia, dial as if you are calling a Queensland number. When calling from all other countries, use the country code +61.

Feel free to pass these onto your loved ones to contact you in case of emergency. International roaming on most mobile phones will get coverage in cities and towns, including Kavieng. While you are out on charter on the PNG Explorer, this mobile phone signal will be limited, if at all.



### Can I access the ship's WiFi?

Yes. We provide access to our satellite internet connection for AUD \$30 per day or \$150 access throughout the trip.

Please note, whilst the internet connection is ideal for FaceTime, social media or checking emails, it is not designed for downloading videos or streaming.

# Surfing

## WORLD CLASS WAVES

### How many boards should I bring?

We recommend you bring 2 boards, 3 at most. You could expect waves to be on average 2-4 feet, with bigger days from 4-6+ feet.

### I'm a beginner surfer, will the waves be ok for me?

There are plenty of options from a first day beginner to the seasoned, barrel chasing pro. There are some really fun, soft wave options to enjoy.

### I'm a big wave rider, will the waves in PNG satisfy me?

If you're chasing 'Mavericks' style waves; then PNG is not your recommended choice of surf destination. However, the 'slab' on bigger days can see 4-6 feet. Bare in mind that when it's REALLY BIG you are a long way from home and surfing over coral reef. Therefore, we recommend that you always surf within your limits and improve! There is nothing better than coming home surfing better than when you left.

### Can I book a space as an individual surfer?

Yes, we have certain trips in the season that are non-sole use that are perfect for the solo surfer.

### What is there to do aside from surfing?

We offer fishing, snorkelling, kayaking and use of the SUP free of charge. Diving is an extra charge at \$60 per dive. There are plenty of opportunities for island tours and excursions such as the WWII tour, drift snorkels, beach BBQ, river trips and the 'betel-nut run'. These are at no extra charge to guests.

# Diving

## WATER LAND PARADISE

### I have not dived before, can I dive whilst onboard?

No. To be able to enjoy the incredible wrecks and pristine wall dives in PNG you must have your dive certification and suitable dive insurance.

### I have not dived for a long time – will I be able to dive whilst on-board?

Yes. We can conduct a refresher and your first dive will be in calm water off the boat or beach - you must have your dive certification and suitable dive insurance.

### I'm coming on a dive trip – do I need to bring my own dive gear?

If you are keen to try a dive or two whilst on a surf or other non-dive charter we can provide dive equipment on-board for your dive.

If you are joining a dedicated dive charter, we recommend that all guests bring their own gear (mask, BCD, regulator set with gauges, dive computers and fins).

Note: With Air Niugini you will get an additional 15kg baggage allowance when travelling with dive equipment.

### How deep can I dive when on a charter?

All dives must be to depths within your certification and dive table limits.



[Learn More](#)





# Fishing

## VARIETY OF TROPICAL FISH SPECIES

### What kinds of fish do you target on your fishing charters?

In the best months of April and May, August and September we schedule our dedicated black bass fishing charters. These trips will explore the river systems of New Britain and Oro Provinces and we would expect the prized black bass and spot-tail bass, along with a variety of other species from trevally, grouper and bream.

When we venture out into the blue water and around the undersea coral mounts, dogtooth tuna, yellow-fin tuna, Spanish mackerel, wahoo and trevally are common.

### Do I need to bring my own fishing gear?

On dedicated fishing charters, it is recommended you bring your own fishing equipment.

### Will I be able to travel with my fishing gear on the aeroplane?

Yes, if flying with Air Niugini from overseas into PNG you will qualify for their additional sporting goods allowance of an additional 10kg. You will get 23kg check in + 7kg baggage carry on + 10kg for sporting goods.

### Can I go spearfishing?

Yes.

If you are keen to spear fish on a surf charter, then you should bring your own spear gun. We direct the spearing to the blue-water and offshore reef areas away from local communities. This is due to spearing being one of the most common means of fishing for locals, so aside from maintaining good community relations, this places less pressure on their house reefs.

### Do you catch and release?

On a dedicated fishing charter, we will endeavour to release most of the fish caught. Fish that are kept will be those of legal size and regarded as good eating. We often fish for dinner on non-fishing charters, but rest assured that no fish is wasted and we will share the catch with the local communities where we are anchored.

[Learn More](#)



# Diversity

## 800 DIFFERENT LOCAL LANGUAGES

### PNG language

Papua New Guinea is one of the most diverse populations in the world, with over 800 different local or 'tok ples' languages. Its official languages are Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu and English. For those of school age and beyond, communication should not be an issue, as most have a good grasp of English. Visitors earn huge respect for learning and speaking a few key words in Tok Pisin.

### Be nice, be friendly!

English	Tok Pisin
Hello	Hi or Gude
What is your name?	Wanem nem bilong yu?
My name is...	Nem bilong mi i.....
Good morning	Moning tru
Good afternoon	Apinun
Sorry	Mi Sori
Thank-you	Tenk-yu
Goodbye	Gutbai

### People and culture

PNG is a country full of breathtaking scenery and natural beauty; from the magnificent, rugged mountains ranges that pierce the skyline to the clear water and white sands of their unspoilt beaches. It is a country which has unique flora and fauna and a cultural richness like no other - it is truly is an amazing place to visit.

PNG people are friendly and generous. They appreciate openness and respect from travellers who are mindful of local conservative dress and behaviour.

If you are walking on the islands, it's always best to have a local guide, as all land is owned by a family or tribe.

All travellers should ask permission before taking pictures of people, cultural or spiritual sites.



HAVE A NICE  
*Adventure*  
— TENK-YU! —



PNG Surfaris is proudly affiliated with  
the Surfing Association of PNG

