

# Trek the Kokoda Track

COURAGE • ENDURANCE • MATESHIP • SACRIFICE

2019





# 2019 TRACK UPDATES

News Updates from Back Track along the Kokoda Track

**BackTrack**  
Adventures 

## Respecting Local Culture

Without doubt, one of the most enduring memories our trekkers have is their wonderful experience of interaction with the village people in Naduri on their Sabbath rest day. This has proven to be a highlight on our treks last season. Where possible, the majority of all our treks in 2019 are designed to abide by cultural guidelines recently established by the Kokoda Track Landowners and Village and Clan chiefs. There are a number of treks, due to operational logistics, where we cannot observe the Sabbath. These are on all treks travelling South to North (Owers' Corner to Kokoda) and on some ANZAC Day treks.

*"All trekkers are requested to pause trekking wherever they are located from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday in respect of the Seventh Day Adventist Sabbath"*

Back Track acknowledges these guidelines; we have always shown respect for the local values. Back Track also adheres to a sensible itinerary allowing our trekkers time to rest and recuperate. Most importantly, our crew can spend time with their families which is an important part of the Sabbath and allows them to attend church. Since making this change to our itineraries, we have noted that all our trek crew attend church on the Sabbath. For any trekker who wishes, on the Sabbath the Naduri Village community have arranged a cultural programme and insight to village life for any of our trekkers who wish to join in. It has proven to be a memorable highlight. Details of these guidelines are on our website.

## Our Kokoda Trekking Direction – North to South & South to North

Back Track trekkers generally trek the Kokoda Track in a North to South direction, commencing at Kokoda and finishing at Owers' Corner. In 2019, we will be taking some groups in a South to North direction, ending their trek in Kokoda village.

Historically, the Kokoda campaign started on the Northern beaches and moved in a North to South direction from Kokoda to Imita Ridge. The courageous delaying tactics of the 39th Militia Battalion followed by the brilliantly devised fighting withdrawal of the AIF's 2/21st Infantry Brigade, comprised the first phase of the campaign. Later, when the Japanese were ordered to withdraw from Ioribaiwa, the AIF's 16th and 25th Brigades fought the second phase. The second phase of the campaign moved in a South to North direction.

**2019 Trek Dates** on page 9 details of the trekking direction each team will follow in 2019.

## Charity Treks

Sydney based **Inspired Adventures** manage and lead charity challenges for people of all ages and fitness levels across the globe. Their adventure treks raise on average between \$50,000 and \$150,000 for charities around the world. Back Track is proud to facilitate all professional trekking arrangements in Papua New Guinea for Inspired's Kokoda treks. For more information about Inspired Adventures and how you can add some adventure to your next fundraising campaign please contact us or visit [inspiredadventures.com.au](http://inspiredadventures.com.au)

**INSPIRED**  
ADVENTURES



Back Track Adventures has operated guided, small group trekking and adventure holidays worldwide since 1983.

Our experience in Adventure Travel would be hard to surpass. For the past 17 seasons we've had great fun and exciting adventures trekking the Kokoda Track. We have trekked with wonderful people, shared very special experiences and started friendships that will last a lifetime.

Back Track trekkers are everyday Australians, just like you, just like us.

Trekkers join us for a variety of reasons; some seeking an understanding of the Kokoda campaign; others honouring family who fought in wartime PNG; some are seeking an exhilarating physical and mental challenge; while others are striving to achieve a personal goal.

Whatever your reason, trekking Kokoda is a powerful experience awaiting you.

Back Track's nine day sensible walking itinerary is the best itinerary to fully appreciate the Kokoda Experience.

Please, join us for your Kokoda adventure today!

**Trekking the Kokoda Track - a powerful experience!**

**1300 669 780**



## Back Track's Kokoda trekking style

In Port Moresby we stay in very comfortable, well appointed accommodation at the Holiday Inn before and after the trek and we use only private transport for all our needs.

On the Track you have the daily choice of either sleeping in a mossie proof tent, or a rest house. The trek crew erect, take down and carry the tents and attend to all camp duties. All meals are provided with the main meal each day being prepared hygienically with fresh healthy ingredients.

Our Track itinerary is arranged so we can meet each days objective in a leisurely fashion. Your Australian Trek Leader and Trek Management Team will ensure the smooth operation of the trek.

[www.trekkokoda.com.au](http://www.trekkokoda.com.au)

# If walking the Track is your goal, the Back Track program could be the difference between success and failure.



BackTrack is fully insured to protect our trekkers. Our leaders and crew are trained in first aid and emergency evacuation procedures. All necessary safety equipment is carried including a satellite phone. Your safety, security and enjoyment while on your holiday are our primary concerns.

Understanding the war history of Kokoda is also an important part of your trekking experience. All Back Track trekkers receive a comprehensive history briefing at all the battle sites. There is always plenty of time to stop and take photographs, rest, or chat with the locals you meet along the Track and in the villages we pass through. We plan to reach our daily camps in a relaxed fashion with enough time to wash and explore the area. You can then sit and chat with your fellow trekkers about the days experiences before dinner. Most nights we camp in or near villages with the occasional bush camp where necessary. Usually we are in camp early ensuring a long rest. At night we may have a sing-a-long with our trek crew, or, we can organise a concert with the local villages with a small donation towards one of their village improvement projects.

Our Team size is limited to 18 trekkers including our Back Track Australian leader, plus, our PNG Trek Management Team and our trek support crew. Our trek crew live mainly in Naduri village, but some come from other villages along the Track, ensuring a rousing welcome on arrival in the villages and that a good income goes directly to benefit the Kokoda communities. Having only small Teams ensures all trekkers are given maximum attention and assistance when required and in addition, small teams do not place a burden on camp site and village facilities.



## Trekking the Kokoda Track with Care and Respect



Back Track Adventures has been guiding trekkers worldwide since 1983. We do this with an underpinning ethos of Care and Respect for every destination we visit and every culture we are privileged to experience. We demonstrate this on the Kokoda Track with:

**CARE** for the safety and wellbeing of all trekkers and trek crew; CARE to protect and preserve the natural environment and eco systems of the Kokoda Track and the Owen Stanley Ranges for the people of Papua New Guinea and future generations of Australians.

**RESPECT** for the authority, traditions, beliefs and values of the landowners, clan chiefs and Kokoda Track village communities; RESPECT for all Australian soldiers and Papuan Infantry Battalion members, the war time carriers known as Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and all local people who fought and died during the Kokoda Campaign; RESPECT for the duty, entrusted to and accepted by us, as Kokoda Track Guides to ensure that generations of Australians yet to walk the Track will hear authoritatively the Kokoda story of Courage, Sacrifice, Endurance and Mateship that is the foundation of the Australian Spirit which is the Kokoda Legacy.





## THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN

From July 1942 to January 1943, in their heroic defense of their homeland, our soldiers fought a number of brutal battles along the Kokoda Track.

Our soldiers believed that if they did not stop the invaders on the Track, they would eventually be fighting them on the Australian mainland. Today we walk the exact war time Track in the footsteps of heroes. You will gain a meaningful understanding of just what our soldiers endured. The qualities these brave young men exhibited of courage, mateship, endurance and sacrifice are qualities that all Australians should aspire to today as being fundamental qualities defining a true Aussie.

The Kokoda Track Campaign is a monumental story relived in detail by your Australian Guides as you traverse one of the most spectacular jungle trails in the world.

# The Heroes of the Kokoda

When Japan entered the war after the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, John Curtin, the Australian Prime Minister, urgently recalled the 6th and 7th Divisions of the AIF from the Middle East. The 2/16th battalion arrived in Brisbane in March 1942 and were stationed on the defensive "Brisbane Line" in case the Japanese invaded.

The Japanese landed on the northern coast of PNG on July 21/22 and immediately set about crossing the Owen Stanley Ranges intent on capturing Port Moresby with its strategic airbases and harbour. The 21st Brigade under the command of Brigadier Potts DSO MC was dispatched with haste to PNG and within days over 1500 men were navigating the Track through the Owen Stanley Ranges in an effort to position themselves so they could repel the Japanese advance.

The Japanese forces facing them now were building to over 10,000 men and were already engaging the ill trained, poorly equipped, but heroic militia of the 39th Battalion at Kokoda on the far side of the range.

The military actions that followed will forever go down as some of the most heroic

defensive actions in the annals of military history. Between August 26 and September 16 1942, Brigadier Pott's Maroubra Force, consisting of the 2/16, 2/14 and 2/27 Battalions, together with the 39th Militia and some scattered elements of the ill-trained 53rd Battalion, fought the Japanese to a standstill on the ridges before Port Moresby. The enemy outnumbered the Australians by more than 5-to-1. These "Ragged Bloody Heroes" managed a masterly display of strategic defense, by defending, retreating and counter attacking, thwarting the efforts of Major General Hori's South Seas Force to brush them aside and push on to Port Moresby.

They made the enemy pay dearly on every yard of the Track. Conditions were almost indescribable. Unseasonable heavy rain turned The Track into a wet, cold, miserable bog. Racked by malaria and dysentery and having to live, fight and survive in some of the most difficult terrain in the world, these heroes kept fighting.

Lt Col Honner DSO MC, who commanded the gallant 39th on the Track later wrote in the forward to Peter Brune's book, *Those*

Bottom left: Members of the 39th Battalion on the Kokoda Track, 1942; Centre: Officers of the 2/14th Battalion; Right: The exhausted survivors of the 39th Battalion (those "Ragged Bloody Heroes") on parade at Menari. Images: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)



# Track



*Ragged Bloody Heroes:* "They have joined the immortals" and of those that did not survive he wrote "Wherever their bones may lie, the courage of heroes is consecrated in the history of the free."

The 143 remaining men of the original 1500 or so who went up The Track were finally withdrawn after the Japanese were turned back at Ioribaiwa, only a breath away from Port Moresby. The Japanese withdrawal from Ioribaiwa marked the start of the 2nd phase of the Kokoda campaign.

Over the next five months the Australian forces pushed the retreating Japanese army back to the Buna, Gona beachhead where they were ultimately defeated.

This second phase of the Kokoda campaign is detailed in our pre-departure information and explained by your trek leader while you're on the Track.

The 2/16th Battalion left the Gona battlefield with less than 50 "fit" men.

When walking The Track today, we do so in awe and humility. The sheer ruggedness of the terrain, the savage uphill and brutal downhill sections, the heat, humidity, the treacherous and ever changing river and creek crossings are only appreciated when experienced.

Our soldiers sacrifice throughout the New Guinea campaign is inspiring.



Images: Australian War Memorial Image Collection

Above top: Fuzzy-wuzzy angels evacuating Australian wounded soldiers; Above: Soldiers of the Papuan Infantry Battalion being drilled in Port Moresby soon after the Battalion was raised in January 1941.



Bottom left: Private B.S. Kingsbury VC displayed great initiative and courage; Centre: A trekker visits a relative's gravesite at Bomana Cemetery; Right: Trekkers visit the site of a crashed aircraft near Isurava Memorial. Images: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) and past trekkers.

## Supporting villages along the Kokoda Track

Back Track, with The Kokoda Track Foundation, are working to raise funds to help and support the communities along the Kokoda Track.

In consultation with the clan leaders of Naduri village we undertake projects that work to improve the lifestyles of the communities with full cultural respect.

For more information, visit [trekkokoda.com.au/giving-back](http://trekkokoda.com.au/giving-back)







# The Campaign Itinerary



## ITINERARY OVERVIEW NORTH-TO-SOUTH

ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Day 1	Fly to <b>Port Moresby</b> . Transfer to the Holiday Inn Express. Team briefing.
Day 2	<b>Hoi</b> . Flight to Popondetta and road to Kokoda. Commence trek to Hoi Village. (short acclimatising walk) (BLD)
Day 3	<b>Alolo</b> . Explore the Isurava battle site. (BLD)
Day 4	<b>Templeton's Crossing 2</b> . Visit the Lost Battlefield at Eora Creek battle site, also known as the Japanese Forest Fort. (BLD)
Day 5	<b>Naduri</b> . Trek over the Kokoda Gap, our highest point on Mt Bellamy. Explore Myola Lakes. (BLD)
Day 6	<b>Naduri</b> . COMPULSORY SABBATH REST DAY. Spend the day in Naduri Village, gain cultural insight and rest. (BLD)
Day 7	<b>Menari</b> . A ceremony at Brigade Hill to honour the soldiers and in remembrance of their bravery. (BLD)
Day 8	<b>Nauro</b> . A interesting day crossing swampy flatlands and the Brown River. (BLD)
Day 9	<b>Ua-Ule Creek</b> . Trek via Ioribaiwa battle site. (BLD)
Day 10	<b>Port Moresby</b> . Trek via Imita Ridge and arrive at <b>Owers' Corner</b> - we've done it! Visit the Bomana War Cemetery then enjoy a celebratory dinner and award ceremony at our hotel. (BL)
Day 11	Early morning transfer to the airport and head home. (B)

Meals included as indicated:

B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner

You will be thoroughly briefed about the history at the battle sites and shall gain an insight into the culture of the villages you visit. You will be kept involved and informed about each days objectives as you trek the Track, and, most importantly, we strive to ensure that you all complete the trek safely and have a wonderful holiday experience.

### DAY 1: FLY TO PORT MORESBY

Met on arrival and transferred to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn Express. A team briefing is held this afternoon to discuss final preparations for our trek. Early evening Team dinner, and to bed for a good nights sleep to be prepared for an early morning departure on Day 2.

### DAY 2: HOI VILLAGE

Spectacular flight over the Owen Stanley Ranges into Popondetta and road to Kokoda. Your leader will explain the battle history as you explore the Kokoda battle site and museum. Just a very short acclimatising walk today to our first nights beautiful campsite at the small village of Hoi.

### DAY 3: ALOLO VILLAGE

We start early so we can walk at a slow and relaxed pace. The morning walk is very steep. You'll be glad you trained hard. The scenery is spectacular with sweeping views as we trek via the original war time village of Deniki, the site of the 39th Militia Battalion's first defensive position after withdrawing from Kokoda. We push on for a late lunch at the war memorial at the Isurava battle site. We will have enough time to explore the area thoroughly. A full briefing is given on the now legendary 4 day battle of Isurava. It was here that the 2/14th Infantry Battalion arrived to support the 39th Militia Battalion and the legend of 'The Ragged Bloody Heroes' was born. From Isurava it's a short walk to our camp site in Alolo Village. Alolo was the major logistics support base and first aid post during the Isurava battle. On the walk to Alolo you will visit some very special campaign sites.

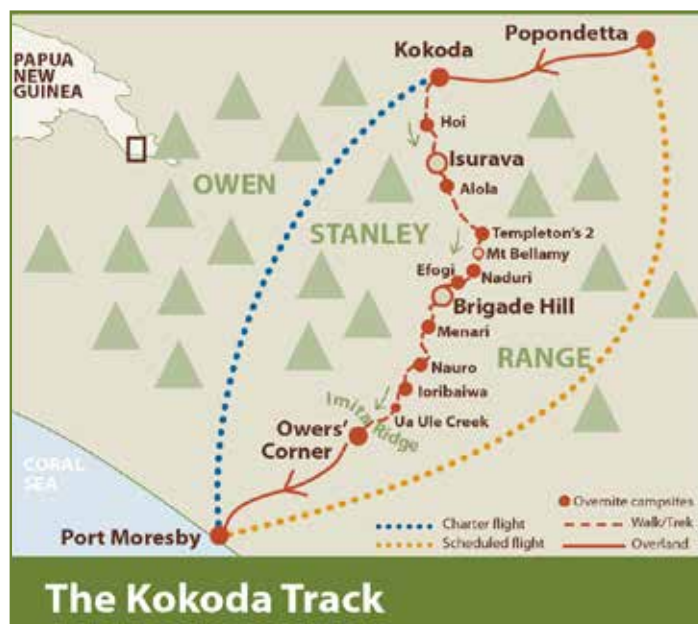
### DAY 4: TEMPLETON'S CROSSING AND THE LOST BATTLEFIELD

Our walk today begins with a short, taxing descent followed by a long gradual ascent to Eora Creek battle site. We leave our packs on the main trail and ascend a short side trail to the Japanese forest fort often referred to as "The Lost Battlefield". This fortified area is extensive with much of it cleared by the local villagers for trekkers access and exploration. The fort covers part of a high ridge with a commanding position overlooking Eora Creek. For many years now all our trekking teams have been visiting this important site. Your trek leader will explain the forts defensive significance and how the battle to capture this fort unfurled. You will explore the Japanese mountain gun and heavy machine gun positions. Still clearly visible are large quantities of munitions and artefacts. Many Australian soldiers lost their lives here, before the Japanese fled. There have been several discoveries of human remains of Japanese soldiers and possibly even Australian. Entrance to this sacred site is by donation to the landowners from Alolo Village. The money collected is intended to assist the people of the village and also to help preserve this site so all trekkers can continue to visit while crossing the Track. After exploring the site we move on. The trail is always challenging today and the beauty of the jungle provides a wonderful distraction. We camp beside the creek at the battle site at Templeton's Crossing.

### DAY 5: NADURI VILLAGE

The day commences with a steep climb and descent to Templeton's Crossing 1, followed by a long climb on slippery trails to our highest point on Mt Bellamy (2190 metres). From the Kokoda Saddle, the beautiful forest Track is festooned with moss and once again the occasional sweeping panorama adds to the beauty of our surrounds. We will undertake a short excursion to see the Myola lakes. The dry lake beds were, at various times during both phases of the Kokoda campaign, the

Back Track's standard itinerary is our **Campaign Itinerary**, which treks for 9 days/8 nights starting in Kokoda Village on the north side of the Owen Stanley Ranges and finishing at Owers' Corner on the south side of the ranges. During the trekking season we operate a small number of treks in the opposite direction, starting at Owers' Corner and finishing in Kokoda Village. Visit our website for full itinerary variation details: [www.trekkokoda.com.au](http://www.trekkokoda.com.au)



site of a major Australian Army supply depot. They were also a point for evacuation of the wounded. Myola is most remembered as the site for low level dropping of provisions by the Australian Air Force.

We arrive late afternoon at Naduri Village and our friends welcome us as guests of honour in their village. At 6pm, the local people commence their religious ceremonies acknowledging the start of their Sabbath.

#### DAY 6: NADURI VILLAGE SABBATH REST DAY

Today is a compulsory rest day for all trekkers, acknowledging the village leaders wishes for all trekkers to respect their values and the 7th Day Adventist Faith of the local people on the Kokoda Track. After breakfast, we will be guided around Naduri Village to inspect some of BackTrack's current Trekker Assistance Programmes. We will provide our trekkers with an insight to village life during our stay. As well this is a great time to catch up on washing clothes and resting and preparing to commence the 2nd half of our trek. After sunset tonight, which marks the end of the Sabbath, we will have a "Sing Sing" before we bunk down for a good nights rest.

#### DAY 7: MENARI VILLAGE

Beautiful views again await us today as we begin the slogging ascent of Brigade Hill via Mission Ridge. A small ceremony is conducted on the summit in honour of the soldiers and in remembrance of their bravery. As always, we follow the steep ascent of Brigade Hill with a long descent. We camp tonight at Menari Village. This is the site where the brave 39th Battalion were withdrawn from the campaign on the eve of the battle at Brigade Hill. Exhausted and on the brink of total collapse the remaining 'Ragged Bloody Heroes' struggled back to Port Moresby. They would return to fight at Buna and Gona.

#### DAY 8: NAURO VILLAGE

A challenging day in differing terrain. We cross swampy flatlands, ford the Brown River and push on in the increasing heat up the seemingly never ending slopes of the Maguli Range to camp at new Nauro Village. Sunrise and sunset are beautiful.

#### DAY 9: UA-ULE CREEK

Today begins with an ascent to the top of the Maguli Range followed by a steep descent via a major Japanese camp site, then down to Ofi Creek and a rewarding swim. Then it's up and over Ioribaiwa Ridge. We examine the Japanese offensive positions that would soon become their defensive positions as they were pounded by the Australian artillery which had been hauled up on to Imita Ridge. This Japanese position so easily explored today, marks the furthestmost point of the Japanese advance over the Track. It was here, with Port Moresby nearly in sight, that the order was received to withdraw. Half starved and facing major shortages of munitions and reinforcements, the Japanese army retreated with the Australians in hot pursuit. Though the Kokoda Campaign was far from over, it was the beginning of the end for the Japanese forces. This afternoon the Track criss crosses Ua-Ule Creek leading to our camp beside a welcoming swimming hole. Our campsite is completely surrounded by high rainforest trees which form a perfect frame for the star filled night sky.

#### DAY 10: PORT MORESBY

The final day starts with the steep ascent and then descent of Imita Ridge via what was once known as the 'Golden Staircase'. All our soldiers who fought along the Track had to face this first, back breaking ascent of Imita Ridge. After we cross the Goldie River, it's a steep 40 minute hike until we triumphantly arrive at Owers' Corner and our awaiting transport, a cold drink and lunch. We've

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW SOUTH-TO-NORTH

ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Day 1  | Fly to <b>Port Moresby</b> . Met on arrival. Overnight at the Holiday Inn Express. Group briefing this afternoon.                                  |
| Day 2  | Depart by road for <b>Owers Corner</b> and commence trek to first camp at <b>Ua-Ule Creek</b> . (BLD)  |
| Day 3  | Trek to <b>Nauro Village</b> via Ofi Creek and Maguli Range. (BLD)   |
| Day 4  | Trek to <b>Menari Village</b> via Brown River. (BLD)   |
| Day 5  | Trek to <b>Efogi Village</b> via Brigade Hill/ Commemorative Ceremony held on Brigade Hill. (BLD)  |
| Day 6  | Trek to our home village of <b>Naduri</b> . Half-day trek (BLD)  |
| Day 7  | Trek over the Kokoda Gap, the highest point of our trek and camp at <b>Templeton's Crossing</b> . (BLD)  |
| Day 8  | Trek to <b>Isurava battlefield</b> via the Japanese Forest Fort at Eora Creek. (BLD)   |
| Day 9  | Trek to <b>Kokoda Station</b> . (BLD)  |
| Day 10 | Drive to <b>Popondetta</b> . Fly to <b>Port Moresby</b> . Visit <b>Bomana war cemetery</b> . Celebration and certificate presentation tonight. (B) |
| Day 11 | Morning transfer to the airport for your flight home to <b>Australia</b> . (B)   |

Meals included as indicated:

B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner

done it! Back to Port Moresby to clean up and prepare for a final nights celebration and awards presentation at the hotel.

On the way to Port Moresby, we stop at Bomana War Cemetery, where Australian soldiers who died in the Kokoda campaign and in other campaigns in the Pacific have been laid to their final rest. This visit is the final tribute we pay to these brave soldiers before our return home tomorrow.

Tonight we will get together to celebrate our achievement. A personalised Certificate of Achievement, suitable for framing will be presented to all Team members tonight.

#### DAY 11: HOME

Very early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Brisbane and connecting flights to Sydney, Melbourne and other Australian ports.

WELCOME HOME.



## Your Trekking Crew

Your Australian Trek leaders are looking forward to trekking the Kokoda Track with you. They will explain the history at all the battle sites, give you an insight to the culture of the people living in the villages and keep you informed about each days objectives. Most importantly they ensure that you all complete the trek safely. They attend to the smooth day to day operation of the trek so you can relax and enjoy the holiday. All our

trek leaders remember their first time over the Track and they know the challenges you will face. It is your holiday and our crew are dedicated to ensuring that you complete the challenge and enjoy the experience.

In addition to your Trek Leader, our Head Guide and Trekking Crew are an essential part of every Team trekking the Kokoda Track.

All your Trek Crew come from the villages along the Kokoda Track with the majority from Naduri Village.

You will on occasions meet their families as you pass through villages during the trek or during your stay in Naduri Village on the Sabbath. They are the direct family of the original Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

**SEE YOU ON THE TRACK!**



## Creating small achievable assistance programmes

Back Track is connected with, and committed to, working with the Naduri Village Community. All our trekking teams visit Naduri Village, and for many years we did this to meet the 'old man' as he was affectionately known – Ovoru Ndiki. One of the few remaining Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, Ovoru passed away in November 2013. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Back Track is involved in several small programmes to assist Naduri Village and the community. These projects enhance the lifestyle of our trek crew and their families.

During the trekking season Back Track employs up to 200 young men, mainly from Naduri, but also from Kagi and Egofi villages. Occasionally we employ from other villages as well to ensure ongoing good relations with all the Track communities.

By hiring a personal porter to carry your pack throughout your Kokoda trek, you not only increase your own enjoyment of the trek by eliminating the effort required to carry a heavy pack over very challenging terrain, but you are supplying additional work for a very thankful village member. The wages

of our carriers have contributed so much to the prosperity and general enhancement to village life.

*Pictured right:  
Jim donating  
lighting to Joel,  
Naduri  
Community  
Leader on  
behalf of  
Back Track  
trekkers.*



**THE BACK TRACK OFFER:** Back Track Adventures offer an experienced Australian Team leader and a Kokoda Trek Management Team who understand the challenge you are about to face. Their company along the Track, especially if the going gets tough, will make your holiday more enjoyable. Our 9 days and 8 nights on the Track allows you to meet each days objective in a sensible fashion. We allow time to adapt to the trekking lifestyle, enjoy the villages, absorb the history and culture and we have the flexibility to allow for itinerary changes due to adverse weather and Track conditions. Proper preparation for your holiday is essential. Armed with your comprehensive Confirmation Pack, our '1300' Kokoda Assist line and newsletters, will ensure that you are professionally prepared for your holiday.



# 2019 Trek Dates

Team	Trek Direction	Days x-Aus	Trek Days	Depart Australia	Return Australia
1 Anzac Day Trek Anzac Service at Brigade Hill	N-S	11	9	Fri 19 April	Mon 29 April
2 Anzac Day Trek Anzac Service at Brigade Hill	N-S	11	9	Fri 19 April	Mon 29 April
3 Anzac Day Trek Anzac Service at Brigade Hill	S-N	11	9	Sat 20 April	Tue 30 April
4 Anzac Day Trek Anzac Service at Brigade Hill	S-N	11	9	Sat 20 April	Tue 30 April
5 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 6 May	Thur 16 May
6 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 20 May	Thur 30 May
7 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 3 June	Thur 13 June
8 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 17 June	Thur 27 June
9 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 1 July	Thur 11 July
10 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 8 July	Thur 18 July
11 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 22 July	Thur 1 Aug
12 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 5 Aug	Thur 15 Aug
13 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 19 Aug	Thur 29 Aug
14 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 2 Sept	Thur 12 Sept
15 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 23 Sept	Thur 3 Oct
16 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 30 Sept	Thur 10 Oct
17 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 7 Oct	Thur 17 Oct
18 Campaign Trek	S-N	11	9	Sun 20 Oct	Wed 30 Oct
19 Campaign Trek	N-S	11	9	Mon 4 Nov	Thur 14 Nov



Trek the Kokoda Track with Back Track in 2019

## Shared Memories From Trekkers

We are proud to share over 460 very personal reasons why you should not just trek the Kokoda Track, but trek Kokoda with Back Track Adventures. Below are just some of those 460 reasons.

Read more at:

[www.trekkokoda.com.au/testimonials](http://www.trekkokoda.com.au/testimonials)

*Once in a lifetime opportunity. Amazing Trek! Christopher, Qinetiq team 2017*

*I felt really safe and well looked after. Lots of laughs and positivity. Loved it, can't believe I got there! Best experience of my life! Thank you all so much. Alexis, Team 16, 2017*

*Excellent Trek information guide. I would not have thought of all things that were covered in the guide. I had the best holiday ever on this trip. Loved IT! Edward, Team 16, 2017*

*Thanks for a great experience. It was awesome to do it with others who were just as enthusiastic made for great company and support. Ellen, Team 12, 2017*

*Thank you for helping me achieve my goals and realise my potential. Kirsty, Team 12, 2017*

*Thank you for giving me a far better understanding of the events and hardships experienced by our diggers during this bloody conflict. I learned so much and will encourage others to experience it. Allan, Team 13*

*What an experience! Spending time in Naduri was a wonderful experience... sharing in the church service and food was priceless. Kelly Team 14, 2017*

*Really enjoyed the experience, the physical challenge, the new culture and the adventure. Jessica, Team Mission Aviation Fellowship, 2017*

*A wonderful company providing once in a lifetime experiences! Mark, Team 5, 2017*

*Had an incredible time and really enjoyed the experience. Staying in the villages was a highlight! Andrea, Team 5, 2017*

*Amazing, Awesome and something I will remember always. Bronwyn, Cancer Council, 2017*

*Experience of a Lifetime! Gaye*

*Life changing. Thank you – I will be back. Adam, Qinetiq team, 2017*

# Trek Pricing

**TREK PACKAGE ONLY \$3945\***  
From Port Moresby

## ALL INCLUSIVE FLIGHT & TREK PACKAGE

*Includes the best international air fare package available from Australia*

from **Cairns**

**\$4645\***

from **Brisbane**

**\$4745\***

from **Sydney**

**\$4995\***

Single Supplement **\$300\*** for 2 nights Port Moresby only.  
On the Track every trekker has their own tent.

*\*All prices are subject to change based on KINA exchange rate fluctuations.  
Please refer to Booking Terms and Conditions regarding pricing.*

### FLIGHT & TREK PACKAGE includes:

- Return economy international flights
- Plus all the inclusions of our ex Port Moresby Trek Package.

### FROM PORT MORESBY TREK PACKAGE includes:

- 2 nights 5-star Holiday Inn Express, twin share with breakfast
- Return airport transfers
- Internal domestic PNG flight
- 9 day/8 night sensible trekking itinerary
- Professional Australian Trek Leader
- Local Head Guide and Trek Crew from the Kokoda Track
- Backpack supplied on loan if hiring a personal porter
- Comprehensive history briefings at all war sites
- Entrance fees to historic sites
- All land transport in PNG
- All meals whilst on trek, fresh and hygienically prepared by our crew
- All personal eating utensils
- 9 days/8 nights accommodation along the Track
- 2 person tent for each trekker carried by our crew
- All camp fees
- Kokoda Track Authority trekking permit
- Visit to Bomana War Cemetery at conclusion of trek
- Men's or women's commemorative trekking shirt
- All meals and camp fees for trek crew
- Crew travel allowance
- A crew porter to carry our group rubbish from the Track
- All camp equipment plus satellite phone for emergency use only
- Certificate of Achievement suitable for framing
- Comprehensive Confirmation Pack issued on booking which includes a detailed Information Guide to ensure you're prepared
- \$10,000,000 Tour Operator's Public liability insurance with Lloyds of London
- Professional travel support via our Travel Agency division

In addition you have access to a Kokoda Travel Consultant at any time via our '1300' Kokoda Assist line. Trek Leaders and head guide have Level 1 first aid certificates and a group trauma kit is carried. All trekkers are expected to provide their own small personal first aid kit with suggested contents detailed in your Confirmation Pack.

## Money Matters

To assist your holiday budgeting, following is a list of necessary and possible expenses not included in our Flight and Trek packages.

### VISA

A PNG Tourist Visa can be obtained on arrival at Port Moresby Airport. (Visa issue details can change). Alternatively, you are able to apply online via the new ICA website [www.ica.gov.pg](http://www.ica.gov.pg) for a cost of USD\$50.

### PERSONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

Adequate personal travel insurance is compulsory. It must cover Emergency Evacuation Costs. You can arrange adequate insurance, direct via the link on our website. If you prefer, Insurance Policies for your consideration are included in your Confirmation Pack and can be completed and returned for us to issue your insurance policy manually. Important - if you issue your own policy via our web link, please advise us of the policy number for our emergency records.

### SPENDING MONEY IN PORT MORESBY

Allow AUD\$150, for any personal expenses including hotel meals, drinks, laundry, international phone calls etc. All Hotel expenses can be paid on credit card.

### ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ON THE TRACK

As an overall guide, past trekkers have managed comfortably on AUD\$50, converted to PNG Kina, for purchase of drinks and some small food items while trekking.

In addition, for tipping, budget K80 (approx AUD\$40) for a trekking crew tip and K100 (approx AUD\$50) for an additional tip if you hire a personal porter.

### SOUVENIRS

There is very little to buy in the way of souvenirs while on the Track. Bilums (local carry bags) range in price up to K120.

### PERSONAL CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

What you will require is thoroughly detailed in the Confirmation Pack sent to you on booking. Many items you may already have. Do not purchase clothing or equipment until you receive your Confirmation Pack. Back track has arranged discounts from professional Outdoor shops in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and Launceston for any of your necessary purchases.

### PERSONAL PORTER COST & BACKPACK

For an additional fee (\$640), you can obtain the services of a Personal Porter who will carry all your gear on the Track in a backpack provided by us. We strongly recommend this service if you are unsure of your ability to carry a heavy 15kg backpack over steep and treacherous terrain in uncertain weather conditions.

By hiring a personal porter you are providing good paying work to a grateful villager and you will only have to carry a small day pack with your water and daily needs. Your day pack will only weigh 3-5kgs max. Remember, this is a holiday as well as a physical and mental challenge. Putting too much pressure on yourself by attempting to carry a heavy pack without pack carrying fitness or experience may seriously detract from your enjoyment.



## Planning Information

### Book as early as possible. Treks fill very quickly.

Once booked you will receive a complete Confirmation Pack which includes visa forms, insurance policy and a Kokoda Information Guide to help you prepare for your holiday. Listed below are some of the topics which are covered in more detail in the Confirmation Pack and are briefly detailed here to assist your understanding of how your Kokoda trek will operate. Back Track strives to ensure that our clients are as best prepared as possible for their adventure no matter how remote or exotic the location anywhere in the world.

### TREKKING SEASON

It is possible to trek the Kokoda Track all year round. However, the best period to trek is during the cooler, dryer, mid year months from April to November. The trekking season commences on Anzac Day (25 April) and continues through to early November. Outside this period the chance of rain increases dramatically, temperatures and humidity are high and trail conditions can be rough and very muddy. As well, creeks and river crossings can become increasingly challenging. Anzac Day treks usually encounter significant rain falls with subsequent muddy trails. However, because of the significance of Anzac Day to all Australians, many trekkers are prepared to accept these conditions as an added challenge. We do not recommend that you trek outside the trekking season.

### '1300' KOKODA ASSIST LINE

Use our '1300' Kokoda Assist Line to speak directly with a Kokoda trekking expert who can advise on any matter regarding your Kokoda Trek booking. Armed with our comprehensive Confirmation Pack and access to our Kokoda Assist Line you will be well prepared for your trek.

### FITNESS TRAINING

The Kokoda Track is a serious physical and mental challenge. Once booked it is expected that you will commit to obtaining the necessary fitness required in order to enjoy and safely complete your trek. Your personal training program starts as soon as you book. A simple to follow Training Schedule is provided on booking that will illustrate how to start your own personal walking training program wherever you live.

### FRESH FOOD ON THE TRACK

We provide good quality nourishing meals each day on the Track. We also supply the cutlery, plates and cups etc.. Breakfast is tea/coffee/milo, damper, porridge, Weetbix or Cornflakes with powdered milk. Lunch is noodles, cuppa soups, biscuits, cheese, tuna with tea/coffee and Dinner is freshly prepared by our trek crew and includes tasty curries, pasta and rice dishes. Local food items such as potatoes and yams are also purchased when available as meal additions. Fresh fruit can be purchased on most days.

### ITINERARY CHANGE

Itineraries are set up to 15 months in advance. Accordingly, itinerary changes may be necessary at any time, on any departure during the season due to:- weather, safety issues, transport changes within PNG, such as airline schedule time changes and flight cancellations.

### CONFIRMATION PACK

Once we have received your deposit and completed booking form a Confirmation Pack will be emailed to you. This pack contains detailed information on everything you need to know to prepare for your trek. Subjects covered include: visa, insurance, a detailed chronological outline of the Kokoda campaign, climate, a day on the Track, conservation, washing and toilet facilities, clothing and equipment checklist, photography, health, fitness, money matters and documentation, contact details in PNG, and a suggested reading list.

### PEACE OF MIND: YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Port Moresby does occasionally receive bad press on safety issues. Our Port Moresby accommodation is safe and secure as is our private Port Moresby transport. On the Track, in case of any emergency, a radio and a satellite phone keep us in contact with our support in Port Moresby and Australia. Our Back Track leaders are trained in emergency evacuation procedures. If a trekker has to be evacuated due to a medical emergency a helicopter or fixed winged aircraft is dispatched from Port Moresby to effect the evacuation. Our trek leaders and Head Guides are trained in First aid and can assist in any emergency at that medical level. It is compulsory to obtain your own personal travel insurance which covers emergency evacuation costs. Back Track Adventures carries a \$10,000,000 Public liability policy as added protection for you.

## In Summary

When you go on a holiday with Back Track Adventures, you're in the hands of experienced professionals whose job it is to make sure that your safety and protection is a number one priority. Knowing that you are dealing with a Professional Travel Organisation, you can relax and enjoy your holiday.

For more information about this holiday visit our dedicated Kokoda Track website:  
[www.TrekKokoda.com.au](http://www.TrekKokoda.com.au)



Follow and share training tips and Kokoda Track trek experiences on our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/TrekKokoda](http://www.facebook.com/TrekKokoda)



And don't forget to visit our YouTube channel to view short videos with gear, fitness and training tips and footage from recent treks across the Track:  
[www.youtube.com/trekkokoda](http://www.youtube.com/trekkokoda)



## VALUE FOR MONEY

*With Back Track you don't need to pay a fortune to have a safe, inspiring and memorable holiday with a professional and dedicated trekking company.*



# History comes alive

We are delighted to present two tour options for non-trekkers and history lovers who wish to experience our Kokoda history. These tours have been designed specifically for non-trekkers, or history buffs, who wish to visit the legendary battlefields of the Kokoda and Milne Bay campaigns.

## MEET FRANK TAYLOR:

Expert commentary and leadership is provided on this tour by Frank Taylor. Frank has a 30 plus-year relationship with the people and landscape of the Kokoda Trail, Milne Bay, and the beach heads at Buna and Gona.

Frank is recognised within the Kokoda trekking industry as an expert in the wartime history of the Kokoda Campaign.

Frank himself has travelled over the Kokoda Trail more than 140 times making him the most experienced and well known Guide trekking Kokoda, coupled with numerous shorter explorations in localities of historical importance.





# Tour 1: Kokoda Campaign & Beach Head Battles



**7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS:** A non-trekking tour and guided study of the Kokoda Campaign and the final battles on the northern Papua shore (Buna, Gona, Sanananda).

This 7-day tour is carefully designed to fully address both the historical information in commentary and explanation, along with visits to places of significance to the units involved, without the need for back pack trekking. We visit both ends of the Kokoda Trail (Owers' Corner and Kokoda Village) plus principal places and areas of historical significance including Gona, Buna and Sanananda on the Northern Province beaches, to pay our respects.

The commentary and organisation is expert, with 35 years of experience in tour operations for the Kokoda Trail and the beach battles in PNG. This opportunity offers a unique tour to commemorate the 75 years since the Kokoda Campaign.

It also offers the extension opportunity to visit Milne Bay, where the Australians inflicted the first land defeat to the Japanese forces in the Second World War. Guided and organised by experienced staff with expert commentary.

## TRIP OVERVIEW

Day 1	Arrive Port Moresby. Met on arrival. Transfer to comfortable accommodation. Group meeting this evening at hotel	
Day 2	Transfer to airport and fly to Popondetta. Check in basic hotel accommodation. 4WD tour to Gona.	B
Day 3	4WD tour to Sanananda area, Huggins road block and Buna. Overnight Buna Village lodge.	BLD
Day 4	Continue tour of Buna area. Return Popondetta. Service at Popondetta War memorial. Overnight basic hotel.	B
Day 5	Road tour to Kokoda station. Wreath laying at memorial. Return to Popondetta.	BL
Day 6	Fly to Port Moresby. Road tour to Owers' corner, visiting war sites enroute. Wreath laying at Owers' Corner. Wreath laying at Bomana War cemetery.	B
Day 7	Option 1: Kokoda Campaign and Beach Heads tour finishes after breakfast. Transfer provided to International terminal OR continue on with TOUR 2 (see over).	

### EXTEND YOUR TOUR ... SEE TOUR 2 (OVER)

*Meals included as indicated: B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner*





# Tour 2 (optional): Milne Bay Battle

**3 DAYS, 2 NIGHTS:** take advantage of this optional tour and continue your history lesson. Tour 2 offers the opportunity to visit Milne Bay, where the Australians inflicted the first land defeat on the Japanese forces in the Second World War. Guided and organised by experienced staff with expert commentary by Frank Taylor.

Continue on your discovery of PNG and the important role it has played in Australia's World War II history. The Battle of Milne Bay (25 August – 7 September 1942) was a significant battle in the Pacific Campaign with the Australian forces decisively defeating Japanese Land forces.

Come and visit this beautiful bay whilst discovering the history behind this important battle in Australia's World War II history.

Milne Bay is also home to almost 500 islands ranging from your typical tropical island and tiny atoll through to massive volcanic and continental islands. Located on the corner of the Coral Triangle, Milne Bay has some of the richest marine biodiversity in the world.



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Day 1	Transfer to Airport and fly to Gurney (Milne Bay). Met on arrival. Transfer to comfortable accommodation. Tour to wartime sites of significance.	B
Day 2	Tour to major battle localities. Fly to Port Moresby and transfer to accommodation.	B
Day 3	Transfer provided to International Airport	B
<i>Meals included as indicated: B - Breakfast</i>		





# Non-Trekking Tour Pricing

## KOKODA CAMPAIGN & BEACH HEAD BATTLES

Trip Duration: 7 days from Port Moresby

<b>DATES</b>	30 July - 5 August 2019
<b>COSTS*</b> From Port Moresby	<b>\$2580*</b>
Single Supplement*	\$438
Flights from Australia	Please contact us for best available fares.

Minimum numbers required to operate. Private Group tours can be arranged.

Cost includes: Twin-share accommodation, meals as indicated (BLD), expert commentary, all ground transport.

*\*All prices are subject to change based on KINA exchange rate fluctuations. Please refer to Booking Terms and Conditions regarding pricing.*

## MILNE BAY BATTLE

Trip Duration: 3 days from Port Moresby

<b>DATES</b>	5 - 7 August 2019
<b>COSTS*</b> From Port Moresby	<b>\$985*</b>
Single Supplement*	\$345
Flights from Australia	Please contact us for best available fares.

Minimum numbers required to operate. Private Group tours can be arranged.

Cost includes: twin-share accommodation, breakfast daily, expert commentary, all ground transport. This tour follows directly on from Tour 1.

*\*All prices are subject to change based on KINA exchange rate fluctuations. Please refer to Booking Terms and Conditions regarding pricing.*

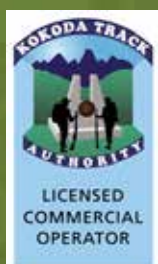




# BackTrack Adventures



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## Back Track Adventures

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Website: [www.makeamemorykokoda.com.au](http://www.makeamemorykokoda.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trekkokoda](http://www.facebook.com/trekkokoda)

You Tube channel: [www.youtube.com/trekkokoda](http://www.youtube.com/trekkokoda)



Back Track Adventures fly Air Niugini to Papua New Guinea

Supporting the **Kokoda Track Foundation**: [www.kokodatrackfoundation.org](http://www.kokodatrackfoundation.org)

[www.trekkokoda.com.au](http://www.trekkokoda.com.au)

Kokoda Assist Line: 1300 669 780