

# BUSINESS TRAVEL GUIDE TO PORT MORESBY

Some practical tips and advice for the business traveller.

## CLIMATE

With the exception of the Highlands, PNG has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Internet: Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. All the Port Moresby hotels listed below now provide a fast-speed internet service. In other urban centres you may still be relying on dial-up. Wireless internet, via a USB modem, has become available in PNG during the past year.

Mobile: Roaming is possible in PNG but it is costly. It is also possible to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit. Mobile coverage has been improved since the advent of competition, and call rates have fallen sharply, though there is still plenty of room to improve reliability.

Landlines: Service is inconsistent outside Port Moresby; rates for domestic calls are fairly modest.

## ELECTRICITY

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz using Australian-style plugs.

## GETTING TO PNG

National flag carrier Air Niugini has direct flights between Port Moresby and Australia (Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney), Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, the Solomon Islands and an increasing number of other destinations ([www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg)).

Airlines PNG flies from Cairns ([www.apng.com](http://www.apng.com)) and operates a codeshare with new entrant Virgin Blue on the Brisbane route ([www.virginblue.com.au](http://www.virginblue.com.au)).

## GETTING AROUND

As a general rule in PNG, you need to plan your travel carefully.

Taxis: Port Moresby has a new premium taxi service, Ark (323 0998/ 7122 5522).

Other options are Red Dot (tel +675 311 3257) or Scarlet Taxis (tel +675 323 4266). At night, drivers with these two services may be accompanied by a security guard. There are no taxis in Lae.

Car hire: Deal with one of the international names and ask them to provide a driver (around K400). With the poor state of roads, 4WDs/SUVs are commonplace.

Airport transfers: Upon arrival/departure in Port Moresby, any of the hotels listed below will provide a complimentary transfer.

Domestic Flights: Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight. There are regular services from Port Moresby to Lae, the other major business centre. While the price of domestic fares has fallen, they are still on the high side. Air Niugini (see

above) now offers passengers the chance to book online but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at the check-in counter. Meanwhile, competitor Airlines PNG has been beefing up its domestic services. Beware that the domestic terminal at Port Moresby's Jacksons International Airport can be chaotic.

## HEALTH

Serious medical conditions typically require treatment outside of the country. Individuals travelling to PNG should ensure they have adequate health cover (the cost of medical evacuation alone can reach US\$30,000), while foreign companies operating in PNG should have a comprehensive health plan in place.

There is a malaria risk in Port Moresby although many expats based there do not take anti-malaria medication. If you are leaving urban areas, however, you should seek medical advice. In any case, bring strong insect repellent and use liberally if outdoors at night.

AustAsia Pacific Health Service provides a range of services, ranging from pre-employment medical checks, executive check-ups and emergency healthcare ([www.webbpacific.com.au](http://www.webbpacific.com.au)).

## MONEY

PNG's currency is the Kina. Both ANZ and Bank South Pacific have branches at Port Moresby's international airport. ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and other urban centres.

## SAFETY

While the situation is not as bad as portrayed by some international media, you should always take sensible precautions, especially at night.

## TIME ZONE

PNG has a single time zone, 10 hours ahead of UTC/GMT.

## VISAS

All foreign visitors to PNG require a visa and business travellers theoretically require a business visa. These can be obtained on arrival (K100 for one month, K500 for one year) but you should have a letter from your local 'sponsor' to explain the purpose of your business.

## EATING, DRINKING, SOCIALISING IN PORT MORESBY

**Restaurants** (see also hotels below):

Asia Aromas: in the Steamships arcade, CBD. A Port Moresby institution serving excellent Thai and Chinese food. Reservations recommended at lunchtime.

Daikoku or Ichizen: Japanese food at the SVS Foodland Harbour City complex (see below) and the Steamships Arcade (CBD) respectively.

Royal Papua Yacht Club: relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens.

In Waigani, Jepello is a favourite among expats, specialising in Italian cuisine, while Palazzo (at the Lamana Hotel) serves excellent steaks, pizzas and Indian cuisine. Ideal for a quick business lunch (buffet option) or more formal dinner.

**Cafés/snacks:** The coffee shop at the Crowne Plaza Hotel is a convenient daytime option, as is the cafe hidden away on the ground floor of Deloitte Tower.

For more information, it is worth keeping an eye on the *Post Courier* for any special events and the *Port Moresby: Gateway to Papua New Guinea* tourist magazine.

**Supermarkets:** Most expats go to the comparatively well-stocked Boroko Food World, Boroko. SVS Foodland Harbour City (formerly Andersons) is another option, located just outside the CBD. You can also get a local SIM card for your phone here, use an ATM and eat Japanese food.

## HOTELS

### Airways Hotel

PNG's leading hotel, the recently-extended Airways is contained within a large, secure compound next to Jacksons International Airport, 15 minutes from 'Town'. Elegant rooms and a luxurious gym and racquet club combine with friendly, efficient service. The complex also houses long-stay apartments popular with expats. Among an attractive selection of bars and restaurants, the European-style Deli is delightful while Bacchus offers PNG's best fine dining experience. Tel +675 324 5200, [www.airways.com.pg](http://www.airways.com.pg).

### Crowne Plaza

Upmarket rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving café and Mediterranean restaurant. Tel +675 309 3329.

### Holiday Inn

Located in the Government district of Waigani. Tel +675 303 2000.

### Lamana Hotel

Also in Waigani, this modern hotel's facilities include the popular Palazzo restaurant (see above), business centre, conference facilities

and the PNG's most trendy nightspot, the Gold Club. Tel +675 323 2333.

### Ela Beach Hotel and Whittaker Apartments

On the fringe of the CDB area, this hotel/apartment complex has been renovated by Coral Sea Hotels. Its main eatery is popular at lunchtime. +675 321 2100

### Lae International Hotel, Lae

Lae's best hotel. Although the rooms could do with renovating, the hotel has a lot going for it, with a secure, central location, pleasant grounds, cable TV and several good dining options capped off with good service. Tel +675 472 2000, [www.laehotel.com.pg](http://www.laehotel.com.pg).

### Other urban centres

For business-standard hotels in other urban centres, try the Coral Sea Hotels website at [www.coralseahotels.com.pg](http://www.coralseahotels.com.pg). Note also the Alotau International Hotel in Milne Bay ([www.alotauinternationalhotel.com.pg](http://www.alotauinternationalhotel.com.pg)) and the Gazelle International Hotel in Kokopo (due to open in April 2010).

## THINGS TO DO AROUND PORT MORESBY

### Botanical Gardens, Waigani

This is worth a visit even if you only have an hour to spare. Follow the boardwalk trail through the jungle and see wild orchids and displays of wildlife, including the iconic tree kangaroo and cassowary.

### Loloata Island Resort

A small resort in Bootless Bay, 20km from Port Moresby. Offers diving, snorkelling, fishing. Transfers provided. Tel +675 325 8590, [www.loloata.com](http://www.loloata.com).

### Port Moresby Golf Club, Waigani

A round of this well-maintained course, next to Parliament Haus, costs about K100 and clubs can be hired.

### Port Moresby Road Runners

A friendly group of expats and locals set off from a different destination each Saturday afternoon (4.45pm). Check the Friday press for details.



## The Inaugural Pacific Islands Investment Summit

12 - 13 August 2010

Dockside Conference Centre Darling Harbour, Sydney

This two-day event is designed to bring potential investors from across the Asia-Pacific region to Sydney, to meet with potential business partners from the Pacific. It will be the key meeting place between the investment community, senior government representatives from the Pacific island states, Australian government officials and the wider business sector from the Pacific, as well as the associated infrastructure, communication and transport industries.

Hosted by:



Pacific Islands Trade & Investment Commission, Sydney  
Increasing trade and investment in the Pacific Islands



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Visit the website [www.informa.com.au/pacific-investment](http://www.informa.com.au/pacific-investment) for regular updates

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**The Investment Promotion Authority:**  
**Your one-stop business information centre**

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