



## **10 NIGHT/ 11 DAY – KOKODA TREK (OWERS CORNER TO KOKODA)**

The following is a day-by-day breakdown of your Kokoda Trail adventure. This program has been specifically designed to allow you the greatest time in the most historically and culturally rewarding locations. It is our desire that at the completion of this trek, you leave filled with pride in your achievement, and with a greater appreciation of the efforts of our Australian soldiers during World War II.

**Day 1:** The day you start your big adventure! We meet for the first time when we collect you at Jackson's International, Port Moresby. The team from World Wide Adventures transfer you to your hotel at the Holiday Inn, your room awaits. You have the afternoon free to explore the Holiday Inn facility, meet your fellow adventurers, swim in the pool or visit one of three cafés and bars. When all participants have arrived, you receive a welcome and safety brief for your trek. Your guide is there to answer all your questions, and should you require, assist you packing your equipment.

**Day 2:** Your breakfast this morning is included as a part of your package. You need to be set to depart the Holiday Inn at 7:30 am. Should you desire, you're free to leave any additional clothes or bags at the hotel which you don't require for the track. We transport you to the start point of the track at Owers Corner, two hours away. On the way, we stop for you to visit the Bomana War Cemetery, it's here we set the scene of your adventure to come as you pay respect to the graves of our fallen heroes. Within this cemetery two VC recipients lie, there is one female soldier, and soldiers from the Papuan Infantry Battalion. There is a monument to the 400 plus men who remain unknown or missing. Departing Bomana, and enroute we stop again, this time visiting the village of Segari. This was the location of General Blamey's headquarters during the war. Following this will be a short stop at McDonalds Corner, prior to continuing to at the start point of your adventure – at Owers Corner.

Upon your arrival at Owers Corner, you meet your team of porters. We have lunch whilst our team facilitate the necessary regulation checks with the governing body of the Kokoda Trail. Once all administration, briefings and your personal photos are completed, you are on your way!

Your first day on the trail will see you walk approximately five kilometres, stopping to swim after only 45 minutes in the stunning Goldie River. As you make your way to your first night location at Goodwater Camp, you will stop and pay your respects at 'Dump 66' – this was the location Sapper Bert Beres penned the famous 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel' poem.

**Day 3:** You will be up early and having consumed breakfast, you make your way up your first climb - Imita Ridge. This is as far as the Australian's withdrew to the south during the campaign. You will be briefed on the war in this location and as to why this was such a strategic position for the soldiers and to our nation as a whole. Having been briefed, you descend to the first creek crossing to the north of Imita Ridge – this is where you will have your first morning tea on the trail.

It was in this location that the Salvation Army once had a coffee stand for the men. You will pay homage to this by having your tea break here. Departing this location, you then cross Ua-Ule Creek (pronounced Farley Creek) 22 times, stopping at the halfway point for a swim. Having completed all creek crossings, you have lunch at the final crossing point, Dump 44 which rests at the base of Iriobaiwa Ridge. After lunch, you commence the ascent of Iriobaiwa Ridge,

stopping two thirds of this way up this hill at the village of Iriobaiwa which is where you will camp for the evening. It is alleged that this is the site of a significant Australian ambush. It is assessed that this is as far south as the Japanese advanced. Approximate walking distance for today is 12km.

**Day 4:** Today you will complete the remainder of Iriobawia Ridge. You will inspect the Japanese trenches and visit an ammunition cache close to the top of this ridgeline. You will then descend the northern slopes of Iriobaiwa to the village of Ofi Creek. It is here that learn about another significant Australian Ambush which took place, this one in this location. Having crossed the creek, you will make your way up the long steep climb of the Maguli Range, stopping to inspect a Japanese Artillery position. Having made your way up the steep steps known as “Jap Ladder” you reach the summit, a location known as Engineer’s Camp. You continue north, descending half of the ‘9 false crests’ to the village of Nauro. It is in this location where you will have a late lunch. In the afternoon, you will complete the remaining false crests and hit the ‘Kokoda Swamp’. You will pass through the swamp, crossing the Brown River and making the short walk to the post-war village of Agulogo. This is where you will spend the night. Approximate walking distance for today is 16km.

**Day 5:** You begin today by completing the final 30-minute stretch of the Kokoda Swamp. Crossing the ‘five ways’ creek junction, you begin climbing the infamous ‘Wall’. This short but steep feature will warm you up, but as you ascend you will be able to stop at the main rest stop and look back to the south to see what you have already achieved, with Nauro, yesterday’s lunch location way back in the distance. Having walked up and over the Wall, you will stop for your tea break at the village of Menari. Menari is one of the two largest villages on the track, and it is here that you will pay your respects to the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion (who were the first to cross the track) with a small ceremony.

Upon departing Menari you will walk to the bottom of Brigade Hill, swimming in the creek prior to making the three-hour climb up to the scene of one of Australia’s bloodiest Battles. This is where you will spend the afternoon exploring Brigade Hill. Approximate walking distance for today is 14km.

**Day 6:** You will be woken pre-dawn, where you assemble at the Brigade Hill monument for a Dawn Service, paying your respects to not only the 62 Australian’s that died in this location, but the unknown number of Papuan Carriers. Having participated in this service you have a late breakfast prior to continuing your journey north through the village of Efogi. This village is where the majority of our team of Porters come from. You will meet their families and visit the museum and markets. Departing Efogi we make our way up the short, but steep hill to the village of Efogi 2, which is also where the remainder of our team are from. You will have a break here which lets them say hello to their wives and kids, before you depart, head down a short, but steep descent prior to making your way back up another steep climb, this time to the village of Naduri, the resting place of the eldest Fuzzy Wuzzy, Ovuru Indiki. This is your campsite for the evening. Approximate walking distance for today is 10km. While not long is distance today, it is a day you’ll remember for what you did, saw, participated in and achieved.

**Day 7:** Today you will walk up and over the highest point of the track, stopping to inspect the site of a crashed B25 Bomber and see the remains of this airframe. It was here that seven US Airmen were killed. You will make your way through an ‘Ancient Beech Forest’ that is littered with enormous Pandanus Trees. Upon our arrival to the Kokoda Gap, you can sit, and cloud cover permitting look at the stunning scenery of the Yodda Valley, a valley which makes its way to Kokoda. You will depart the Kokoda Gap and make your way down to the village ‘Dump 1’ (Also known as Templeton’s Crossing 1). You will have lunch in this location prior to making your way up, around and then down to village, Templeton’s Crossing. This is where you will camp. (Templeton’s Crossing was named after the first commander to cross Kokoda, Captain Sam Templeton. It is the place that the original ‘mail route’ first crosses the Eora Creek and a scene that saw great fighting.) You will sleep with the thunderous creek adjacent to your camp. Approximate walking distance for today is 16km.

**Day 8:** Today you make your way to Eora Creek which is where you will have morning tea. This was also a scene of great fighting and where the Australian’s were delayed for 13 days as they chased the withdrawing Japanese in the third phase of the battle. You will stop to look at an ammunition cache filled with Australian grenades, mortars and some Japanese Artillery rounds. You will make your way from Eora Creek to the village of Alola. This is where the Australian Brigade Headquarters was situated during the Battle of Isurava. You will have lunch in Alola prior to making your way to ‘Con’s Rock.’ In this location you will conduct a short memorial to the Bisset brothers, prior to making your way to camp at the Isurava Battlefield. It was here that 76 men were killed in what was to become known as the ‘Battle that saved Australia.’ You will spend the evening in this location, sleeping on your second battlefield for the trek. Approximate walking distance for today is 14km.

**Day 9.** Once again you will be woken pre-dawn for a memorial service to the fallen. Upon the completion of this service there is time for photos, and you will learn about this battle and how it unfolded. Included in this brief is a detailed description of Private Bruce Kingsbury, who was awarded the first Victoria Cross in an Australian Territory (Noting that PNG was a territory of Australia until 1975). This occurred in this location and your guide will take you to the exact location.

Upon your departure of Isurava, you head to the post-war Isurava Village, this is approximately an hour walk away. You will spend some time here kicking footballs with the kids, prior to starting your descent off the escarpment to the village of Deniki. Upon reaching Deniki, you will

see Kokoda for the first time. It is here that you will learn about the Battles in Kokoda, looking at it from above. A short walk down the final descent you arrive at the post-war village of Hoi. It is here that you will have your final lunch on the trail, swimming in the amazing cascading waterholes.

Departing lunch, you will walk a flat three km to the village of Kovello. This is where you will spend your final night on the track reflecting on what you have achieved.

It's worth noting we stop three kilometres short of Kokoda for several reasons. The first is that it removes the pressure from your departure from Isurava in the morning, it allows us to enjoy this location. It also allows us to spend time at Hoi and finally, as the weather is unpredictable in the afternoons in the valley, we are unable to guarantee flight ability through the Yodda back to Port Moresby from Kokoda. For this reason, we stay just short of finishing. This removes the stress from the staff, the porters and you. It allows you to have an enjoyable day to reflect. It also affords us the best

chance to see Kokoda and fly back to Moresby with a full day of weather window to achieve this. There is nothing worse than having your final day of an adventure filled with stress, hence, we stay the night and enjoy day 8 to the fullest. Approximate walking distance for today is 14km.

**Day 10:** Today you are up for your final day and make your way on a short flat walk to the finish of your adventure in the village of Kokoda. You will be welcomed across the line by your team.

We walk you through the village where you see the Kokoda Plateau. It is here where the Australian's defended the village and the airfield. You will inspect the monuments as well as have time to visit the local war museum. From here it is a short walk to the original Kokoda airfield where you will conduct your checks, be given a drink to toast your achievement prior to making the 30 min flight back to where it all began just over a week ago.

Upon landing in Port Moresby, you will be met by our team on the ground with busses. They transport us back to the Bomana War Cemetery where you can once again reflect upon what you have achieved, this completes the circle of your adventure. You will now know the names on many of the headstones. We find re-visiting the cemetery helps many make a little more sense of the war and what they've learned and achieved. We transport you back to the Holiday Inn, stopping at a local store where you can buy any souvenirs and or other items that you would like or require.

Upon your arrival at the Holiday Inn, your team will once again organise your accommodation for you and you will have the chance to wash your clothes in the hotel laundry, celebrate with your team on having completed what less than 1% of the Australian population have, the Kokoda Trail.

**Day 11 - Departure Day:** Once again your breakfast is included in your package. Your team have organised transport to take you back to Jackson's International Airport to align with your departure time.

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 2 Nights' accommodation in Port Moresby at the Holiday Inn.
- Airport Transfers between Hotel and Airport (Collected at the Airport by World Wide Adventures Staff).
- Transfer from Hotel to Airfield for travel to or from the track.
- Charter Flight between Kokoda and Port Moresby.
- All Track Licence Fees.
- 10 million in Public Liability.
- All accommodation on the track at the most spectacular villages.
- All meals on the Track (Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch and Dinner) some afternoon teas as well. This is supplemented with fresh fruit and vegetables purchased along the track from Villages.
- All historical sites are visited (Most companies only take you to two, we take you to all eight).
- Memorial Services at Brigade Hill and Isurava Battle Fields.
- General Porters to carry our food, safety equipment and specialist stores (Machete's, axes, safety Ropes etc)
- Australian Guide with Army Experience (This means that we are better able to detail the war and the reasons why tactical, operational, and strategic level decisions were made). This guide will detail the War history to the level the group and individual desires.
- A thorough medical evacuation plan with a 24-hour Satellite Phone Communications link back to the office in Australia.
- Visits to Bomana War Cemetery, both before and after the trek.

## **WHATS NOT INCLUDED**

- Food and beverages at the Hotel.
- Personal Porter (an additional \$750. This is a contract between you and him, facilitated by us)
- Individual snacks purchased along the track at various village markets.
- Souvenirs purchased at various village markets.
- International Flights (Historically clients prefer to do this themselves, we can assist with a package if desired).
- Travel Insurance.
- Provision of Personal Medical Stores.