



## HARTLEY LIFECARE MARCH 2022 KOKODA ADVENTURE

Thank you for showing interest in participating in the Hartley Lifecare 2022 Kokoda Trek. For many the Kokoda Trail is a “bucket list” event that they would like to do, but they are unsure how to go, let alone when or who to go with, this is where we come into it. Our friends at 100% Kokoda are specialists in this endeavor and they differ from their competitors in that all of their guide are either currently serving or recently retired soldiers.

What this means to you is that this is not some sort of “Army boot camp” it’s just the opposite. What it means is that when they talk about the history of Kokoda and the impact that the war had on the local community, that they do so with an understanding of what it’s like to be in a war zone, having all been in one themselves. They are able to better relate the stories to you and they are able to articulate the history to you in a way that you will understand. They describe the war in the terminology that you use every day, and they get you to understand the story of Kokoda, not from a text book’s perspective, but from that of the soldiers. This is based off how they felt in the times of conflict that they endured, getting you to see Kokoda through the eyes of the people that fought there, the eyes of the soldiers, their eyes! This is why we’re so thrilled to be able to bring this adventure to you and help showcase to you the most important battle in Australian military history.

Kokoda is the only military history tour in the world that you have to do what the soldiers did, there is no bus route and there are no short cuts. The track is as raw today as it was in the war and we will walk it to pay homage to the fallen, challenge ourselves and at the same time, raise funds and awareness to Hartley Lifecare.

So, what are you waiting for? The team from 100% Kokoda are here to support us and they take care of all of the details on our behalf, we just need to be ready for the experience of a lifetime!

Below is the itinerary for this once in a lifetime adventure!

Monday 21 March 2022 – Canberra Trekkers will be on the early morning flight from Canberra to Brisbane. Together we will transfer from the domestic to the international terminal for our flight to Port Moresby. The flights are yet to be confirmed however there is normally a very short turnaround of 1.5hrs between flights, so we will move with some haste.

Once we arrive at Jackson’s International Airport in Port Moresby, we will be met by 100% Kokoda staff. The airport in Port Moresby is the best place for us to transfer our money into PNG Kina, we will get the best exchange rate at this location. 100% Kokoda will then transfer us to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby.

Tuesday 22 March 2022 – Today is a leisure day at the hotel, this is your opportunity to lay by the pool, have a drink and rest, knowing that you are in fact on a holiday. This is the day that you will complete your final packing for your adventure. At 4pm at the pool bar 100% Kokoda will hold a safety brief for all trekkers, this is a mandatory brief for all to attend.

Wednesday 23 March 2022 Day 1 – You will depart the hotel at approximately 7:30 am. By bus you will travel to the Bomana War Cemetery where you see the graves of thousands of Australian Heroes that fell in the campaigns throughout Papua New Guinea. Having paid your respects, you will travel by bus to the village of Segari. Segari is historically significant to the war, and it is here that you will be briefed as to this significance. Having completed this activity, you will travel to “McDonalds Corner” prior to your arrival at the starting point of the Kokoda Track, at Owers Corner. It is here at Owers Corner that you will complete your final track admin prior to stepping off on the infamous Kokoda Trail. Today is all about getting you onto the trail and not pushing too far, it is for this reason that you will walk for only 45 minutes before your first rest stop at the Goldie River. Goldie River is a great place for a swim, prior to making the short walk to Goodwater Camp, it is here at Goodwater where you will set up camp for your first night on Kokoda. Total distance is 4.5km. Duration is 3 hours.

Thursday 24 March 2022 Day 2- You will start the morning by climbing Imita Ridge prior to descending to the location where the Salvation Army had a resting place and offered coffee and biscuits to the soldiers. In order to pay homage to this, you will have morning tea in this location. You will then cross Ua-Ule (pronounced “Farley”) creek 22 times, prior to having lunch at the base of Iriobaiwa Ridge. Having completed lunch, you will walk up and over this feature, stopping at the top to inspect the trenches that litter this area. You will descend to your camp at Ofi Creek. It is on this historic creek that you will spend your second evening on the trail. Total distance is 16km. Duration is 10 hours.

Friday 25 March 2022 Day 3- This day never disappoints. You will start the day by climbing Maguli Range to the top at “Engineers Camp”. You will stop on the way at a Japanese Artillery position and inspect the trenches and see how they defended this tiny area. You will start the long slow descent down the infamous “nine false crests” to your lunch location in the village of Nauro. Having completed lunch, you will continue to descend down the remaining “false crests” and through the Kokoda swamp reaching and crossing the Brown River. A short walk from Brown River will see you arrive at the village of Agulogo, it is here that you will spend your third night on the trail. Total distance is 14km. Duration is 9 hours.

Saturday 26 March 2022 Day 4 – Let’s just say you start the day by climbing a hill known as “The Wall” before descending to the village of Menari for a morning tea break. You will pay homage to the 39th Battalion in this location prior to descending to the base of Brigade Hill, where you will have the option to swim in the most amazing waterfall. You will then start the long, steep ascent of Brigade Hill. Brigade Hill is a highlight of walking Kokoda, it is one hill which typifies why you come to Kokoda. It is on this feature where you discover if you have what it takes and it is on this hill that you really start to appreciate what our soldiers went through. Having reached the top, you will be regaled the story of the Battle of Brigade Hill, which at the time was coined, “Butchers Hill.” You will learn the stories of the 62 Australians that made the ultimate sacrifice on this incredible location in a memorial service to the fallen. Having completed this service and consumed lunch, you will make your way to the village of Efogi, it is here that you will visit the local museum. Don’t worry we are almost at our rest place for the evening at the village of Efogi 2, you will just have one last small climb to get there. This hill takes most people less than thirty minutes. Having made your way to Efogi 2,

not only will you be at the half way point of the Kokoda Trail, but you will be welcomed into the village by the local children with flower leis and singing. It is on this night that you will have access to a hot wash, you will participate in a cultural evening with a traditional meal, an elder will come and talk to you about their lives both in the past and present days and you will have the local children come and sing for you. Total Distance is 19km. Duration is 11 hours.

Sunday 27 March 2022 Day 5 – Whilst today is a shorter day in duration and distance, it is still a solid day of walking. Having departed Efogi 2, you make your way down and then back up the steep climb to the village of Naduri. It is here where you learn about our trek masters grandfather, Ovuru Indiki, who was the last surviving Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel. After your morning tea break you climb to an altitude of over 2000m for the first time and it is at this point that you walk into a rare “Beech Forest” which is unique in vegetation and wildlife. This forest is highlighted by thousands of Pandanus Trees that are up to 40 metres in height. You will visit the site of the crashed Bomber where you will see the wreckage that remains and you will have a short walk to where you will camp at the 1900m creek crossing campsite. Total distance is 12km. Duration is 7 hours (but you will have climbed over 1000m in elevation).

Monday 28 March 2022 Day 6 – You start the day by passing over the highest point of the trail at 2250 m, this is the same height as Mount Kosciuszko. Having ascended to the highest point of the trail, you start the descent through the Kokoda Gap and onto the village of Dump 1, it is here that you will have morning tea. Departing Dump 1, you will walk up and then around a large hill, prior to descending to the village of Templeton’s crossing for lunch. You will then make your way to the village of Eora Creek, which is where you will spend the sixth night on the track. On your way to Eora Creek however, you will be stopping at an ammunition cache that’s has Australian Mortars and Japanese artillery rounds. Total distance is 16km. Duration is 8 hours.

Tuesday 29 March 2022 Day 7 – Today you will traverse the hills more than climb them. You will start your day by crossing the thunderous Eora Creek and make your way to the village of Alola. You will spend time in Alola resting in the sun and visiting the local museum. It was in this location during the Battle of Isurava that the Australian commanders command post was situated. When we’re all ready, we will walk for an hour adjacent to the magnificent Yodda Valley that we are atop of, making our way to “Con’s Rock” for a rest stop. It is here that you will learn some remarkable stories of brotherhood and mateship. Whilst here, you have time to rest and to ponder what you have learnt as you look into the valley over lunch. At the completion of lunch, you will make the short journey to the Isurava Battlefield. Words do Isurava no justice, so you will have to wait until you get there for to understand what you have just walked into, but magnificent and fitting seem to be the best that we can do. You will camp on the battlefield. Distance is 11km. Duration is 8 hours.

Wednesday 30 March 2022 Day 8 – You will be woken pre-dawn and treated to an activity that will replicate a “gunfire breakfast” prior to walking to the monument in the pre-dawn light for a service to the 76 men that gave their lives in this very location for our country. At the completion of the service, you will be fully briefed on the battle, with time for breakfast, further exploration of the area and to visit to the local museum, this museum is one that you will remember. Time is your friend today and we make sure that you spend as much time in this location as you desire, this is why you have walked so far in the proceeding days. This is the site of the battle that is referred to as “The battle that saved Australia”. When you are ready, you make your final descent down to the Village of Hoi. When you reach Hoi you will be finally off the mountain and it is here that you are able to swim in the magnificent

waterholes and reflect on your adventure. When ready, you will walk to the village of Kovello, which is a flat 3Km walk from Hoi. It is here that you will have your final evening on the track, you are only 3Km from Kokoda! Total distance is 12km. Duration is 6 hours.

Thursday 31 March 2022 Day 9 – You’ve done it! Today you make your way to Kokoda Village. Having passed through the arches, your team of porters celebrate with you and walk you to visit the local village and the “Kienzle Museum” named after Australian Captain, Herbert Kienzle. It is here that you will await your planes arrival to fly you back to Port Moresby, you will be taking off from the original Kokoda Airfield. The wait and time for this plane will be dependent upon the weather, we want the cloud to have lifted so that you will be able to see from the skies what you have just accomplished. Upon landing back in Port Moresby 30 minutes after take-off, you will then travel back to the cemetery to see it again having walked the trail; this is always a special time as it allow you to reflect upon what you have achieved. You will then be transported to the hotel once again to celebrate your achievement!

Friday 01 April 2022 – Depart Port Moresby for Canberra flight times are yet to be confirmed.

PLEASE NOTE THE ITINERARY ON THE TRACK CAN CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE AND IS MANAGED BY THE EXPERIENCED AUSTRALIAN GUIDE. PLEASE NOTE IF ANY CHANGES ARE MADE IT WILL BE MADE IN THE BEST INTEREST AND SAFETY OF YOU, OUR TREKKERS.

#### **WHAT’S INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKAGE!**

- Return International Flights from Canberra to Port Moresby. (We utilise a licensed travel agent Flight Centre to organise on the groups behalf and is subject to their terms and conditions)
- 3 Nights twin share accommodation in Port Moresby with Breakfast
- Airport Transfers between Hotel and Airport (Collected at the Airport by 100% Kokoda Staff)
- Transfer from Hotel to Airfield for travel to or from the track (dependent upon the direction of travel)
- Charter Flight between Kokoda and Port Moresby
- Personal Porter (direct descendant of the ‘Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels’)
- All Track Licence Fees
- 20 Million in Public Liability
- All accommodation on the track at the most spectacular villages
- Use of our Tropical rated tents and ground sheets.
- All meals on the Track (Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea and Dinner. This is supplemented with fresh fruit and vegetables purchased along the track from Villages. (We can cater for vegetarians, vegans, celiac and any other allergy, intolerance or preference that you may have.)
- All historical sites are visited (most companies only take you to two, we take you to eight)
- Memorial Services at Brigade Hill and at the Isurava Battle Fields
- A Cultural Experience at Efogi 2 (literally the halfway point of the Track) we are welcomed into the village with flower Lei’s, we have a “Mumu” (think Hangi) we have the children sing to us and we are welcomed and engaged as a part of the community. There is an option to have clothes and boots washed and dried here too should they desire; this is an additional cost.
- General Porters to carry our food, safety equipment and specialist stores.
- 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. It is not a boot camp!

- A thorough medical evacuation plan with Satellite Phone Communications back to the office in Australia. This plan details three levels of priority from Priority 1: where death is imminent within 12 hours (spinal, head wound, arterial bleeding). Priority 2: where there is no fear of death within 48 Hours and a patient is able to be moved (fracture, dislocation, trauma wound etc). Priority 3: small scrapes and abrasions that are able to be dealt with using personal medical and section medical stores (which we provide to supplement personal medical supplies).
- We carry an Automated External Defibrillator.
- Visits to Bomana War Cemetery prior to and at the completion of your trek.

#### **WHATS NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKAGE**

- Food and beverages at the Hotel
- Individual snacks purchased along the track at various village markets
- Souvenirs purchased at various village markets
- International Flights from outside of Australia to Port Moresby
- Travel Insurance
- Provision of Personal Medical Stores.
- Trekking clothing and equipment

PRICE \$5,300 Per Person.