



**THE NATIONAL MASK FESTIVAL
WEDNESDAY 6 TO SATURDAY 9 JULY 2011
KOKOPO BEACH BUNGALOW RESORT PROGRAM**

The **National Mask Festival** is an annual event held in Kokopo every July. Below is our proposed **Program** for those that wish to enjoy the Festival as well as undertake other activities while in East New Britain.

Program

Please note that this program is subject to change depending on the weather conditions and availability.

Tue 05th, Jul 11

Arrive at Tokua Airport (Rabaul). Upon arrival you will be transferred to Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort approximately 15km from the airport for check in. Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort is conveniently located in the centre of Kokopo Town and is set amidst tropical gardens with rooms offering privacy, modern conveniences, a touch of tradition, and a waterfront aspect.
Overnight Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort

Wed 06th, Jul 11

Kinavai

Dawn transfer to Omorong beach for the Kinavai. The Kinavai marks the official opening of the Mask Festival. The Kinavai Ceremony signifies the landing of the Tolai people in East New Britain. Tumbuan's in traditional masks paddle in canoes from Matupit Island overnight to the landing area at Omorong Beach. You can hear their chanting from 04:00 in the morning as they paddle across the sea providing a haunting refrain. After the Kinavai you will be transferred back to the hotel for breakfast.

Enjoy the full day at the Mask Festival and learn more about traditional dances from East New Britain and other parts of Papua New Guinea. Various dance troops perform throughout the day and you will see a range of colorful costumes, listen to a variety of drum beats and feel the energy of each performance.

Bainings Fire Dance

After an early dinner, transfer to Kainagunan Village in the Baining area which is approximately an hour's drive from the hotel. The Baining Fire Dance is only performed by males and involves dancing in a huge fire without being burnt. The chanting and drumming of the band along with the spectacular costumes will captivate you. This is an exciting and unique ritual which is not performed anywhere else in the world. After the performance you transfer back to the hotel.

Thu 07th, Jul 11

After breakfast, transfer to the show grounds for more activities. We provide scheduled transfers to and from the hotel so you can decide how long you wish to stay. A range of activities occur throughout the day and you can choose which activities most suit your interests.

Overnight: Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort

Fri 08th, Jul 11

For a change of pace take a half-day Harbor Cruise tour. Our harbor cruise takes you up close to both volcanoes (Mt Vulcan – dormant and Mt Tavurvur – active). On this tour you cruise into the famous Simpsons Harbor, see the ‘Beehives’ (two remarkable rocks in the middle of the harbor), cruise around Matupit Island to the hot springs, with the highlight of the trip getting off at the base of Mt Tavurvur to see the men from Matupit Island ‘mine’ the Megapod eggs. It is an experience to see these men mine the eggs by literally digging holes of 1-2m deep in the ash in an attempt to find the eggs. Continue on to Pigeon Island to do some snorkeling. Pigeon Island is a nature reserve and hosts some spectacular marine life. If you are lucky on the way you will see pods of wild dolphins that frequent Blanche Bay. We can arrange a picnic for you on the island or you can return to the Resort for lunch.

Overnight Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort

Sat 09th, Jul 11

To round off your stay take a half day Rabaul tour. The Rabaul Tour includes a visit to the Tunnels along “Blue Lagoon”, the Japanese Barges Tunnel at Karavia Bay, Submarine Base tunnel and bunker, New Guinea Club and Admiral Yamamoto’s Bunker. Witness up close and personal the well renowned volcanoes and volcanic hot springs. Visit the Volcano Observatory lookout which provides a magnificent view back into old Rabaul town, the 6 volcanoes and the Duke of York group of Islands. Transfer back to the hotel for refreshments and then spend the afternoon back at the show ground if required.

In the evening another performance of the Bainings Fire Dance is planned for those who were not able to view the first performance.

Overnight Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort

Sunday 10th, Jul 11

Transfer to Tokua Airport for your flight out of Rabaul.

===== End of Program=====

Important Notes:

Please note that timings will be advised closer or on the arrival day at the hotel once we receive the program from the show committee.

The Resort has a Courtesy Stall at the Showground for its guests to cool off and take some refreshments. ID passes are issued to all Resort Guests for identification purposes. The shuttle bus will park next to the hotel stall at the show ground and should you need a comfort stop or anything else, please advise your tour guides and they will arrange for your transfers.

Other Tours

We have a range of other tours to offer if your time and energy permits.

Duke of York Islands Village Stay

The Duke of York Islands is an unspoiled group of islands located to the east of the Resort. By boat it is approximately 1 hour to the islands. On the Island of Miokoyou can stay in a village house, eat local foods and participate in village activities. The facilities are rustic but provide an authentic experience of village life in Papua New Guinea. Otherwise just enjoy a day trip to the Duke of York Islands to snorkel and swim in aqua waters and picnic on white sandy beaches.

Full Day Gazelle Peninsula Tour

Discover the history of East New Britain with our full day Gazelle Peninsula Tour. You will visit the Bitapaka War Memorial Cemetery which is the resting place of many allied servicemen. Then visit the Kokopo Museum which hosts an extensive range of war relics and reminders of the Japanese and German occupation of East New Britain. Continue on to visit the various Japanese Barge tunnels and arrive in Rabaul for lunch. Then go up as close as possible to the Volcanos and hot springs finishing with a visit to the Volcano Observatory.

Ramale Caving

Take a half day tour to the RamaleValley which was the hiding place for missionaries during WWII. These caves were dug by the German missionaries and used as hide-outs from the bombing raids. See the missionaries' attempts to disguise their living quarters by constructing a pipeline made from old drums which was meant to divert the smoke from their cooking and throw the enemy off their scent. The Valley is very steep so a moderate to high level of fitness is required.

Volcano Climbing

Rabaul is surrounded by 6 volcanoes. Mt Kombui or 'the mother' as she is known provides the greatest challenge to climb. Mt Kombui is about 700 meters high and is the highest mountain in East New Britain. The hike starts early through coconut plantations and is a steady slope of track with some steeper areas. From the summit the panoramic view takes in the Duke of York Islands, the ghost town of Rabaul and the mouth of the active volcano Mt Tavurvur. Climb down the mountain along the same path which can be just as challenging. We recommend a moderate to high level of fitness.

Fishing and Diving

The waters of East New Britain support a wide variety of fish. Our fishing tours cater for 3 people and you can try for species like GT, Yellow-fin Tuna, or mackerel just to name a few. Bring your own gear or we can provide ours on hire.

WWII wrecks and high level visibility are a perfect combination to make your diving experience unique and memorable. We can arrange diving trips for you with a third party operator.

All tours come with drivers and tour guides. Prices vary subject to the number of participants. If you don't mind joining other guests the price will be more economical.

Stapisi.....enjoy