



General Information & Travel Tips

WELCOME TO WALINDI PLANTATION RESORT & MV FEBRINA

Papua New Guinea is a beautiful and culturally rich country. To make your trip as comfortable as possible please read through the following travel pointers.

Travel Insurance

Make sure to choose comprehensive travel insurance to cover trip cancellation, accidents, medical, and loss of baggage prior to your departure. If your trip involves diving, it should be noted that the closest hyperbaric chamber is located in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea does not have an emergency rescue organisation, and in the event that evacuation is required, any evacuation must be arranged with private air transport companies. **Since emergency transportation and treatment cost is the responsibility of each guest, we require that you have evacuation insurance suitable for divers visiting remote areas.** We highly recommend DAN insurance. For more information go to: http://www.danasiapacific.org/main/membership/DAN_Coverage_Walindi.php

Diving

Please remember to pack your certification card, insurance details and log book (if you have one).

If you are diving on FeBrina, please bring originals of the signed standard release and waiver form and the guest information form with you to the boat for handing to the crew. If you do not have originals, you will be required to sign a waiver on board prior to trip departure.

If you are diving at Walindi, you will be given dive forms to fill out on arrival. The dive team will then find you in the main resort area on arrival or around dinner time to give you information on how the dive days are organized and what to expect during your stay with us.

Currency and Payments

The currency of Papua New Guinea is the Kina. This should be available for exchange at currency counters within most international airports before your trip. If there is a problem obtaining Kina before your departure there is an ATM as well as a currency exchange desk at the international airport upon arrival in Port Moresby. If you were not planning to venture outside Walindi or FeBrina you will not need to carry much Kina – we accept AUD, USD, Euro and Kina as well as all major credit cards (MasterCard/ Visa/ Amex). There is no surcharge for credit card payments made at the resort.

Visas

Passport holders of certain nationalities require approval from PNG Immigration prior to arrival in order for visas to be issued.

Latest advices we have from PNG Immigration are as follows:

“Visitor and business entry permits are not available upon arrival for citizens of these countries: Afghanistan, all African countries, all Arab & Middle Eastern countries, Bangladesh, all Caribbean Islands states, Central and Eastern European countries, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, China, former satellite states of the Soviet Union, Sri Lanka.”

Note that as of 1st March 2014, Australian Passport holders will also need to obtain a visa prior to travelling to PNG, they will no longer be able to get tourist visas on arrival.

We highly recommend that all visitors to Papua New Guinea check current visa requirements and most up to date advices with their local foreign mission in advance of arrival, as PNG Immigration rulings are subject to change without notice. We do recommend that all travellers obtain a visa in advance of arrival for this reason, and to save time when you may find yourself with a short flight connection time in Port Moresby. For a list of locations please visit: <http://www.immigration.gov.pg/all-locations.html>

Applications for a visa can be made directly with the consulate/embassy or through a travel agent. Procedures for obtaining your visa in advance are listed here:- <http://www.immigration.gov.pg/visa/34-general-information-for-intending-visitors.html>

However, if you do plan on getting your visa on arrival, please ensure you have six months validity and at least one full blank page in your passport.

GST

Note that all tourism related services prepaid from outside Papua New Guinea are currently exempt from GST, and all published rates do not include for GST. This is a PNG government incentive and subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to apply any changes to this policy as they occur.

All purchases/services paid for within Papua New Guinea are subject to an additional 10% GST charge.

Local Customs

To respect the local traditions and customs, women are asked to wear a skirt or pants that cover the upper legs while outside the resort or while on land during a MV FeBrina charter.

Luggage

If you are flying into Papua New Guinea with Air Niugini (PX flight number, not QF codeshare) and connecting same day to an Air Niugini domestic flight, then you should be allowed an additional 15kg checked luggage allowance for dive gear.

This is an arrangement between PNG Divers Association and Air Niugini. Some counter staff might not know of this, but it is always worth asking the question. Regular weight allowances for economy passengers on Air Niugini are 23kg for international and 16kg for domestic flights. For more information please see:

<http://www.airniugini.com.pg/flight-information/checked-baggage-allowance/>

Arriving at Port Moresby International Airport

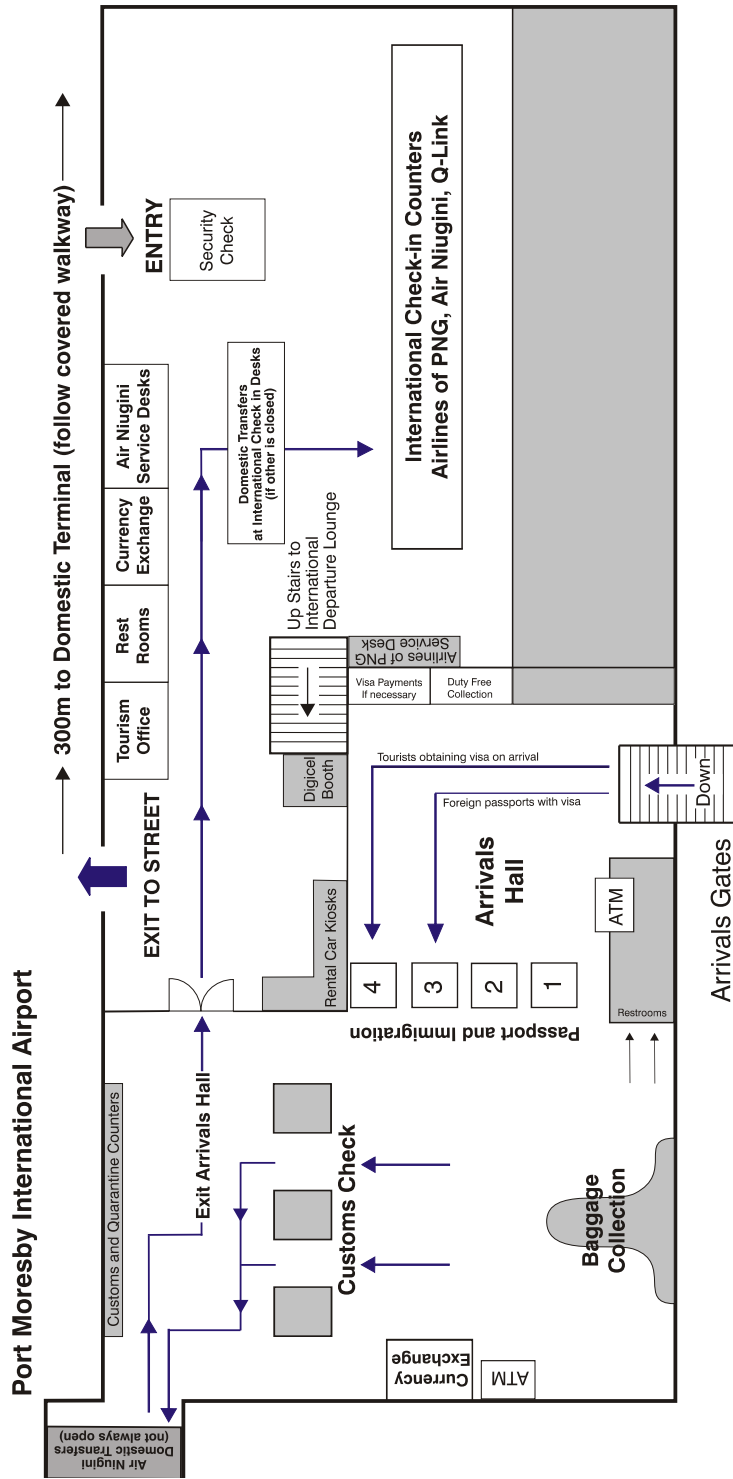
Port Moresby is the major international airport for Papua New Guinea, and most international air travellers will enter the country via this airport. If you already have your visa, proceed straight to the "Visitors with Visas" line. We recommend organising a visa before your trip as the lines can be long and slow, and the flight connections can be quite tight.

If you are getting your visa on arrival, then you will need to go to the "Visitors without Visas" line (line 4) to obtain a tourist visa in your passport.

If you are connecting through to an Air Niugini domestic flight on the same day, there is a domestic check-in transfer counter just past the customs desks (see map on following page). It is recommended you re-locate your luggage here for your onward domestic flight and collect your boarding pass. If this counter is closed for any reason, you can still check in for your domestic flight at the international check in counters (labeled on the map).

The domestic terminal is always very busy. Once you have your domestic boarding pass, you can proceed up to the domestic terminal, which is a short walk from the international terminal. Exit the international terminal onto the street and turn sharp right. Follow the covered walkway up to the domestic terminal departures door. Once you have cleared security, there is another security point through a door on the back wall (marked domestic departure lounge). Please note that the public address system is not very clear, so if you are unsure if your flight might be boarding, please ensure you check with the staff on the departure gates.

A map of the International Terminal at Jackson Airport Port Moresby follows this page.



- **IMMIGRATION** - All arriving passengers will need to be checked at immigration. If you haven't obtained your visa in advance, you will need to obtain a tourist visa on arrival (you should be given forms to complete on board your flight). Line up at the appropriate queue (line 4 to the far right). Please ensure you have one blank page and 6 months validity on your passport.
- **LUGGAGE** - Collect your luggage and pass through customs. **IF YOU ARE TRANSITING TO A DOMESTIC AIR NIUGINI FLIGHT, DO NOT EXIT THE ARRIVALS HALL.**
- **DOMESTIC TRANSFER** - If you have a connecting domestic Air Niugini flight, check in for your flight at the Domestic Transfer counter located just past and to the left of customs, lodge your luggage and collect boarding pass. If this transfer counter is not open, proceed to the International Check In counter to check in for your onward domestic flight. For all other airlines, please check with carrier for re-check procedures. It is advisable to re-check for onward domestic flights within the International Terminal in preference to doing so at the Domestic Terminal which is always very busy, especially with a tight connection.
- **DOMESTIC TERMINAL** - Exit the Arrivals hall into the International Terminal. Exit the Terminal onto the street and turn right. Follow the covered walkway to the Domestic Terminal (approx. 300m). You should have your boarding pass for your onward flight already, proceed directly to the Domestic Departure Lounge.

Flight Cancellation/ Delay

In the event your flight to Hoskins is delayed or cancelled, do not panic! If you are joining MV FeBrina and you are re-scheduled for the next day's flight, arrangements will be made for you to join MV FeBrina the day after departure. If delay is more than one day, please ensure you contact Walindi or FeBrina to discuss options.

You may not get much indication from airline staff as to what to do next in the event of cancellation of your flight. If you have already checked your bags, head to the carousel to find them. Once you have all your belongings, exit the domestic terminal and go to the international building. Locate the customer service desk for your airline and explain your flight was cancelled and request assistance to re-schedule. The airline staff member should then organise you overnight accommodation if necessary, shuttle transfers and issue you with a new departure time. Alternatively you can go to the customer service desk in the domestic terminal but to avoid excessive lines and unnecessary wait times we recommend seeing staff at the international terminal first.

We do make every attempt to track down guests who may not arrive due to cancelled or delayed flights, and wherever possible obtain revised travel plans directly from the airline. Airport transfer from Hoskins will then be re-scheduled accordingly. However, we ask that guests attempt to contact Walindi Resort or MV FeBrina if they can (see contact details below) to advise that you will not be arriving as planned. If you do not have a phone with you, most hotels in Port Moresby will contact Walindi if requested, to advise of revised plans.

Contact numbers for Walindi Plantation Resort - +675 9835 441 or +675 723 48460

Contact numbers for MV FeBrina - +675 9835 441 or +675 723 48460

Contact number in Australia for MV FeBrina - +61 438 464451

Arriving at Hoskins Airport

Hoskins is the domestic airport in West New Britain, approximately a 35 minute drive into Kimbe Town and a further 20 minute drive to Walindi Resort. A tip for flying into Hoskins...the bathroom facilities at Hoskins airport are not recommended! Please ensure you use the bathroom facilities at Port Moresby airport or on the flight to Hoskins, as it is nearly an hour's drive from Hoskins airport to Walindi Resort.

Airport Transfers

The Walindi driver will be awaiting your arrival at Hoskins and will assist you with your luggage. If you cannot find him (he will have a Walindi shirt and a sign), the security guard at the luggage collection area will be able to point him out. You will need your luggage tags to present to security prior to removing your luggage.

Your departure transfer will also be organized for you. Please check with reception the evening prior for confirmation of departure time.

Packing List

Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and bathing suits are a must. A light sweater or throw over is ideal for evening, especially during the months of June through to August. Dress aboard FeBrina and at Walindi is always casual, however it should be noted that Papua New Guineans in New Britain will be offended by ladies with uncovered upper thighs, and we ask that you respect local customs.

Laundry service is provided both on board FeBrina and at the Resort.

Additional items you may want to bring are sunscreen, shampoo, sunglasses, a hat or visor and bug spray or lotion. Hair dryers can be provided on request.

Malaria

Before your trip, make sure to consult your personal physician or a travel doctor with regards to a malaria preventative medication or any other vaccines you may need. Malaria is prevalent in New Guinea but easily prevented. Regardless of whether you are taking an anti-malarial or not, the best preventative measures are to ensure you cover up during the early morning and late afternoon/early evening hours with loose, lightweight cotton clothing, and use a personal mosquito repellent. Please note that if you are diving with us, *Larium* is not recommended as an anti-malarial for divers.

Electricity

The electrical current on FeBrina and at Walindi Resort is 240 volts. Plugs are Australian, three pin, and you may want to bring an adaptor with you (a limited amount of adaptors are available on request for guest use).

Power at Walindi Resort is supplied by generator between the hours of 6am and 11pm (the power will come on earlier if you have an early departure or early tours) and your room is also fitted with a 24 hour, 12v system which will run the ceiling fan, lighting and a charging socket overnight.

For information about your stay at Walindi or on board FeBrina please do not hesitate to contact us.

Walindi Plantation Dive Cruises Limited

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