



Central, Oro & Milne Bay Provinces

POP 550,000 / AREA 67,940 SQ KM

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Why Go?

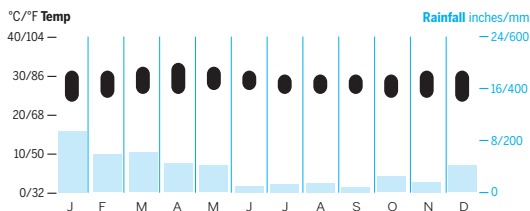
These eastern provinces have it all – dazzling reefs, an arsenal of historic WWII sites, jungle-clad mountains, and good-spirited and genuinely hospitable people. Outdoor adventure comes in many forms with superb bushwalking, birdwatching, island-hopping, diving and much more.

Papua New Guinea's foremost attraction, the legendary Kokoda Track, seesaws for 96 unrelenting kilometres between the Central and Oro Provinces. Further east, at Tufi and north of Alotau, some of the world's most biologically diverse reefs will have you gasping on your snorkel's mouthpiece.

Turning north, across the Solomon Sea, you'll find the famed Trobriand Islands, home to the exotic Milamala Festival of 'free' love, cricket and – above all – yams. Alotau, the capital of Milne Bay Province, is one of the safest and most attractive towns in the country and home to the Milne Bay Canoe & Kundu Festival, during which island warriors paddle ocean-going canoes in races guaranteed to have your heart racing.

When to Go

Kokoda



Best Places to Stay

- » Napatana Lodge (p63)
- » Ulumani Treetops Lodge (p66)
- » Nuli Sapi (p68)
- » Tufi Resort (p61)
- » Tawali Resort (p67)

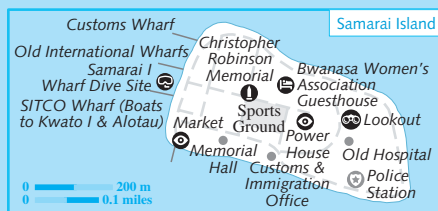
Best Village Stays

- » Sibonai Guesthouse (p69)
- » Kofure (p61)
- » Okaibama (p73)

Jan–Mar High winds in Milne Bay; cyclone season in Coral Sea area.

May–Sep Dry, cooler weather in Central Province, ideal Kokoda trekking weather. Rain in Milne Bay.

Oct–Dec Calm, dry weather in Milne Bay.



Central, Oro & Milne Bay Provinces Highlights

- 1 Retracing WWII battles over the rugged Owen Stanley Range on the infamous **Kokoda Track** (p29)
- 2 Watching spirited dance groups followed by a

magnificent race on the waterfront at the **Milne Bay Canoe & Kundu Festival** (p63) in Alotau

- 3 Staying in a seaside village among the amazing volcanic **rias** (fjords) of **Tufi** (p60)

- 4 Hiking to waterfalls, snorkelling coral reefs and spying birds of paradise outside of island communities on the **D'Entrecasteaux Islands** (p68)