



Morobe & Madang Provinces

POP 905,000 / AREA 62,470 SQ KM

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Best Places to Stay

- » Madang Lodge (p89)
- » Summer Institute of Linguistics Guesthouse (p78)
- » Tupira Surf Club (p93)

Best of Culture

- » Morobe Show (p78)
- » Smoked Bodies of Menyamy & Aseki (p84)
- » Kalam Culture Festival (p95)

Why Go?

If you have just rolled down from the Highlands on an arse-spanking PMV (public motor vehicle), Morobe and Madang, with their beaches and bays, will be a welcome change. Both offer plenty of scope to grab a snorkel, slap on some sunscreen and banana boat-hop your way between bays.

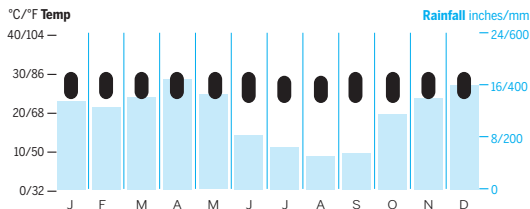
Geographically speaking, Morobe and Madang are quite similar – both rise from pristine beaches off Papua New Guinea's northern coast into a series of thickly forested hills, imposing mountain ranges and, ultimately, the Highlands.

But that is where their similarities end. Lae, the abandoned child of the gold-rush era, grew up hard. In the 1940s she was invaded by the Japanese and bombed by the Allies and is only now finding her feet as an economic and industrial hub.

Madang, situated on a small peninsula jutting into a tranquil harbour, is Lae's younger, prettier sister and despite being heavily bombed in WWII, has retained much of her sunny, carefree ways.

When to Go

Madang



Jun–Sep The dry season offers the best visibility for divers in Madang.

May–Oct During the Lae–Finschhafen area's wet season there is lots of rain.

Late Oct The Morobe show draws *singsing* groups from around the country.



Morobe & Madang Provinces Highlights

- 1 Suiting up to dive the wrecks and carnage of WWII or snorkelling over the psychedelic reefs around **Madang** (p88)
- 2 Watching leatherback turtles scramble ashore at **Kamiali Wildlife Management Area** (p84) under a full moon
- 3 Being one of the first to witness the beetle-bejewelled *singsings* of the isolated **Simbai** (p94) villages high in Bismarck Range
- 4 Calling into Lae to pay your respects at the **War Cemetery** (p76) and checking out the critters at the **Rainforest Habitat** (p76)
- 5 Falling into the ocean, exhausted and euphoric after conquering the infamous **Black Cat Trail** (p85)
- 6 Swaying to the rhythm of the drums as you watch Anga warriors dance during the **Morobe Show** (p78)