

Port Moresby harbour



## Practical tips and advice for the business traveller.

### Climate

With the exception of the Highlands, PNG has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

### Communications

**Internet:** Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. Although it remains costly, all the Port Moresby hotels listed below now provide a fast-speed internet service. In other urban centres, you may still be relying on dial-up. For those staying longer, wireless internet, via a USB modem, is now available.

**Mobile:** Roaming is possible in PNG but it is costly. It is simple to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit. Mobile coverage has improved since the advent of competition, call rates have fallen sharply and reliability is improving.

**Landlines:** Service is inconsistent outside Port Moresby and outages do occur; rates for domestic calls are fairly modest.

### Electricity

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz using Australian-style plugs.

### Getting To PNG

National flag carrier Air Niugini has direct flights between Port Moresby and Australia (Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney), Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, the Solomon Islands and an increasing number of other destinations ([www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg)).

Airlines PNG flies from Cairns ([www.apng.com](http://www.apng.com)) and operates a codeshare with new entrant Virgin Blue on the Brisbane route ([www.virginblue.com](http://www.virginblue.com)).

au). Qantaslink commenced flights from Cairns to Port Moresby in mid-2010 ([www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au)).

### Getting around

As a general rule in PNG, you need to plan your travel carefully.

**Taxis:** Port Moresby has a new premium taxi service, Ark (323 0998/7122 5522). Other options are Red Dot (+675 311 3257) or Scarlet Taxis (+675 323 4266). At night, drivers with these two services may be accompanied by a security guard. There are no taxis in PNG's industrial hub of Lae, so make arrangements with the company you are visiting or with your hotel.

**Car hire:** Deal with one of the international names and ask them to provide a driver (around K400). With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/SUVs are recommended.

**Airport transfers:** For arrival/departure in Port Moresby, any of the hotels listed below will provide a complimentary transfer.

**Domestic Flights:** Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight (for instance, you cannot drive between Port Moresby and Lae). There are regular services from Port Moresby to Lae. While the price of domestic fares has fallen, they are still on the high side. Air Niugini now offers passengers the chance to book online but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at the check-in counter. Meanwhile, competitor Airlines PNG has been beefing up its domestic services. Aircraft and helicopter charter services are available for travel to remote locations.

### Health

Serious medical conditions typically require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover (the cost of medical evacuation alone can reach US\$30,000), while foreign companies operating in PNG should have a comprehensive health plan in place.

There is a malaria risk in Port Moresby although many expats based there do not take anti-malaria medication. If you are leaving urban areas, however, you should seek medical advice. In any case, bring strong insect repellent and use liberally if outdoors at night.

AustAsia Pacific Health Service provides services ranging from pre-employment medical checks and executive check-ups to emergency healthcare ([www.webbpacific.com.au](http://www.webbpacific.com.au)).

### Money

PNG's currency is the Kina. ANZ and Bank South Pacific have branches at Port Moresby's international airport. ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and other urban centres.

### Safety

While the situation is not as bad as portrayed by some international media, you should always take precautions, especially at night.

### Time zone

PNG has a single time zone, 10 hours ahead of UTC/GMT.

### Visas

All foreign visitors to PNG require a visa, and business travellers theoretically

require a business visa. These can be obtained on arrival (K100 for one month, K500 for one year) but you should have a letter from your local 'sponsor' to explain the purpose of your business.

### Eating, drinking, socialising in Port Moresby

**Restaurants (see also hotels below):** Asia Aromas: in the Steamships arcade, CBD. A Port Moresby institution serving excellent Thai and Chinese food. Reservations recommended at lunchtime.

Royal Papua Yacht Club: relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens. If it's too busy, try the Aviat Club in nearby Konedobu.

In Waigani, Jepello is a favourite among expats seeking Italian cuisine, while Palazzo (at the Lamana Hotel) serves excellent steaks, pizzas and Indian cuisine. Ideal for a quick business lunch (buffet option) or more formal dinner. **Cafés/snacks:** The coffee shop at the Crowne Plaza Hotel is a convenient daytime option, as are the two cafes on the ground floor of Deloitte Tower.

For more information, it is worth keeping an eye on the Post-Courier for any special events and the *Port Moresby: Gateway to Papua New Guinea* tourist magazine.

**Supermarkets/shopping:** Most expats go to the comparatively well-stocked Boroko Food World, Boroko. SVS Foodland Harbour City (formerly Andersons) is another option, located just outside the CBD. The newly opened Vision City shopping mall in Waigani is

PNG's largest retail development and contains a supermarket and specialty shops, while a multiplex cinema is also planned.

**Hotels**

**Airways Hotel**

Named World Airport Hotel of the Year in 2010, Airways is contained within a large, secure compound next to Jacksons International Airport, 15 minutes from 'Town'. Elegant rooms and a luxurious gym and racket club combine with friendly, efficient service. The complex also houses long-stay apartments popular with expats. Among an attractive selection of bars and restaurants, the European-style Deli is delightful while Bacchus offers PNG's best fine dining experience. Tel +675 324 5200, www.airways.com.pg.

**Crowne Plaza**

Upmarket rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving café and Mediterranean restaurant. Tel +675 309 3329.

**Holiday Inn**

Located in the Government district of Waigani. Large grounds with walking track, in a tropical garden setting. Outdoor restaurant dining and bar area, business centre and gym. Tel +675 303 2000.

**Lamana Hotel**

Also in Waigani, this modern hotel's facilities include the popular Palazzo restaurant (see above), business centre, conference facilities and the PNG's most trendy nightspot, the Gold Club. Tel +675 323 2333.

**Ela Beach Hotel and Whittaker Apartments**

On the fringe of the CDB, this hotel/apartment complex has been renovated by Coral Sea Hotels. Its main eatery is popular at lunchtime. Tel +675 321 2100.

**Gateway Hotel**

Another Coral Sea Hotel, this time located next to the airport. Recent renovations added a large conference centre. Tel + 675 327 8100

**Lae International Hotel, Lae**

Lae's best hotel. Although the rooms could do with renovations, the hotel has a lot going for it, with a secure, central location, pleasant grounds, cable TV and several good dining options capped off by good service. Tel +675 472 2000, www.laehotel.com.pg.

**Other urban centres**

For business-standard hotels in other urban centres, try the Coral Sea Hotels website at www.coralseahotels.com.pg. Note also the Alotau International Hotel in Milne Bay (www.alotauinternationalhotel.com.pg) and the Gazelle International Hotel in Kokopo.

**Things to do around Port Moresby**

**Botanical Gardens, Waigani**

This is worth a visit even if you have only an hour to spare. Follow the boardwalk trail through the jungle and see wild orchids and displays of wildlife, including the iconic tree kangaroo and cassowary.

**Loloata Island Resort**

A small resort in Bootless Bay, 20 km from Port Moresby. Offers diving, snorkelling, fishing. Transfers provided. Tel +675 325 8590, www.loloata.com.

**Port Moresby Golf Club, Waigani**

A round of this well-maintained course, next to Parliament Haus, costs about K100 and clubs can be hired.

**Port Moresby Road Runners**

A friendly group of expats and locals set off from a different location each Saturday afternoon (4.45pm). Check the Friday press for details.

**Port Moresby WAGS (Wednesday Afternoon Gentleman's/person's Sailing)**

Anyone interested in a leisurely late afternoon /sunset sail as a guest on a yacht should assemble at the wet bar of the Royal Papua Yacht Club by 5.30pm on a Wednesday afternoon (snacks and beverages not supplied). Sailing experience not required, but numbers are limited to participating boats.

- ALOTAU**
- PH 641 0100 FAX 641 0102
- BUKA**
- PH 973 9915 FAX 973 9916
- GOROKA**
- PH 532 1844 FAX 532 2426
- KAVIENG**
- PH 984 2788 FAX 984 2251
- KIMBE**
- PH 983 5155 FAX 983 5119
- KOKOPO**
- PH 982 9100 FAX 982 9101
- LAE**
- PH 478 1800 FAX 472 2463
- LIHIR**
- PH 986 4099 FAX 986 4097
- MADANG**
- PH 422 2188 FAX 422 3010
- MT. HAGEN**
- PH 542 1888 FAX 542 1937
- PORT MORESBY**
- BADILI  
PH 321 7036 FAX 321 3703
- WAIGANI  
PH 325 7388 FAX 325 1252
- PORGERA**
- PH 547 9367 FAX 547 9348
- TABUBIL**
- PH 649 9060 FAX 649 9294
- VAMINO**
- PH 457 1254 FAX 457 1226
- WEWAK**
- PH 456 2255 FAX 456 2252

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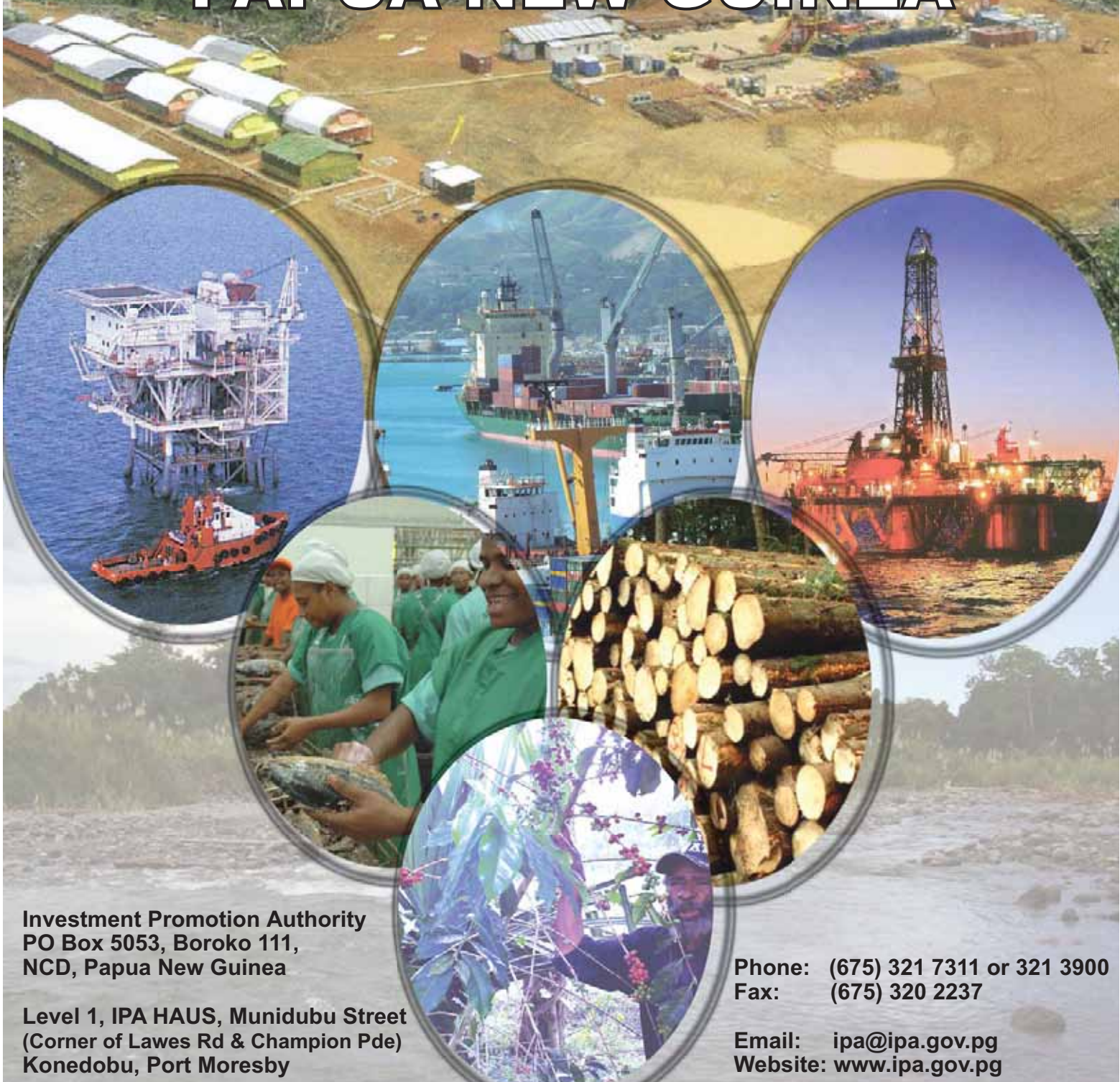
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