



SAMPLE ITINERARY

OWERS' CORNER- KOKODA-NORTHERN BEACHHEADS

Day 1: It is day one - and welcome to the start of the adventure of your life! As a sign of things to come, it is an early start. We will fly this morning from Australia to Port Moresby. Please check your eticket for flight times. We will then travel from the airport to our hotel. After we settle in your trek leader we will conduct an "in country" familiarisation, a safety brief and an interactive presentation on the Kokoda Campaign. Your evening meal will be provided at the hotel.

(No trekking -sleep tonight in Port Moresby).

Day 2: The next morning we stow our non-trekking gear into the hotel secure storage before enjoying a buffet breakfast (provided). We will then travel along the Sogari Highway to Owers' Corner via Bomana War Cemetery. At Bomana we will visit the final resting place of many of the heroes that will feature in stories that we will be told along the way on our pilgrimage. Passing through Owers' Corner Archway we will make our way down to and cross the Goldie River. After the first of many creek/river crossings, we will set up camp at Goodwater (Original Dump 66). Today will not involve large amounts of trekking rather we will use the time to ease into our trek and acclimatise to the PNG environment.

(Approx 1.5 hours drive and 4 hours trekking-camp Goodwater)

Day 3: Up early this morning as we start to make our way up to Imita Ridge looking out into 'No Man's Land' before climbing down the other side. This is a taste of what is ahead for the next several days. We will then snake our way many times across Ua-Ule creek before again making a climb, this time to Ioribaiwa Village (The furthest most point of the Japanese advance) where we will make camp.

(Approx 6.5 hours, camp loribaiwa).

Day 4:

Leaving loribaiwa Village we will make our way to the top of the Ridge where we will inspect the remnants of the Japanese weapon pits. We will the drop down to Ofi Creek (Australian ambush site) for morning tea before taking on the Maguli Range. After many false peaks we will make our way to the top of the ridge and to Nauro Village where we will have lunch. Then it is down the other side and into the swamp where we will camp in the area of Old Nauro Village.

(Approx 6.5 hours, camp Old Nauro).

Day 5:

Up early to pack our gear. We continue down off of the Maguli Range and into the swap area where the old Nauro village was located. We have another major water crossing-the Brown River. Along the way we will learn the story of the lost battalion-the 2/27th and how their Adjutant, Major Harry Katarak found vital food stores to help keep his men alive.

We will then continue on through the swap and climb our way up and over 'The Wall' before descending down to Menari for lunch. After a rest and some refreshment we will start our climb to the top of Brigade Hill via Mission Ridge. Brigade Hill is the site of the famous stand made by the Australian 21st Brigade against the Japanese.

(Approx 7.5 hours, camp Brigade Hill).

Day 6:

Waking up on Brigade Hill we will take a moment of silence and say a few words in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, made by many including Brenton Langridge, Stan Oppy, Claude Nye and Charlie McCullum . Leaving Brigade Hill we will make our way down to the first of the two Efogi villages, Efogi South to view relics in the small museum, then a climb up to Efogi North and meet local man Stanley.

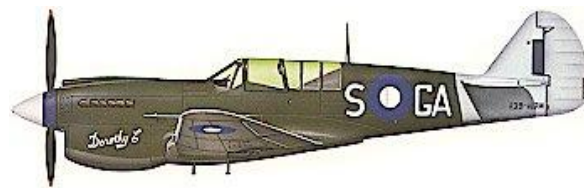
As we enjoy our morning tea, Stanley will retell stories of his Grandfather and his time with Nishmura (Bone man of Kokoda) and the building of the only Japanese memorial on the Track outside Kokoda. Leaving Stanley, we will drop down to the creek and cut up through Naduri. Then it is on to the Moss Forest, stopping for lunch along the way before heading to Lake Myola.

(Approx 7.5 hours, camp Lake Myola).

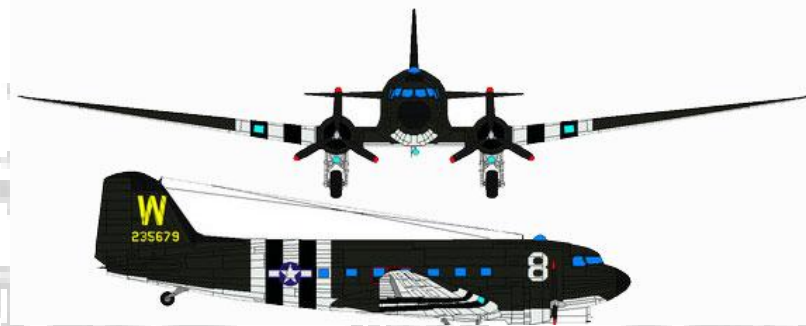
Day 7:

This morning we walk back across Lake Myola and on to Propeller junction. Should time allow we shall also visit the crash site of a Curtiss P-40 Kityhawk. After some small interesting side trips we will walk up to Mt Bellamy the highest point on the Kokoda Track. Then we drop down to Dump 1 for lunch before we make our way on to Templeton's Crossing for tonight's camp.

(Approx 6.5 hours, camp tonight at Templeton's Crossing).



Curtis P-40 Kityhawk



The DC-3 known in Military Service as the Douglas Dakota – for the troops, it was colloquially known as the “Biscuit Bomber” It is this type of aircraft which dropped valuable supplies at Lake Myola.

Day 8:

Leaving Templeton's Crossing we will head to Eora Creek for lunch. Here we will have a chance to look at the infamous Japanese Mountain Gun position and hear the tragic story of the Manusu brothers.

Not long now and the big hills have almost been concurred as we march in to Alola before heading to the Isurava Battlefield via Con's Rock and the Butch Bisset plaque. The history will well and truly be brought to life as enter the Isurava Memorial Park & Battlefield.

(Approx 6.5 hours, camp at Isurava Battlefield).

Day 9:

Up very early as we take our position around the Isurava Memorial for our very own special dawn service. With the sun lighting up the Yodda Valley below we will pay respect to the many soldiers and Papuans that made the ultimate sacrifice.

At Isurava Battlefield we will explore the events of August 1942 and the courageous efforts made by the Silent Men, like Bruce Kingsbury who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

After the service and some time spent looking around the battlefield we will make our way down through Isurava Village and onto Deniki for lunch. Passing through the clear waters of Hoi, the tractor track will take us in and through the Archway of Kokoda. Today we complete the Kokoda Track. Tonight we will have a small presentation and thank our local guides who helped on our pilgrimage.

(Approx 6.5 hours, camp at Kokoda).

Day 10:

This morning we will travel by PMV to Popondetta and on to Gona. Along the way we will see important areas pertaining to the Kokoda Campaign, such as Awala, Wairopi, Gorari and Oivi. After a short stop to take on supplies in Popondetta and to see the Popondetta War Memorial we will head to Gona, we will tour there area of Gona before boarding a boat to Haddy's Village. Then straight on to our warm welcome at the Sanananda Guest House.

(Approx 3.5 hours drive, 30 mins boat ride, stay Sanananda).

Day 11:

Waking up with the sound of waves from the Solomon Sea, breakfast will be served as we take a leisurely morning of swimming and relaxing by the beach. Today we will head by boat up to Buna for our battlefield tour. Returning for lunch back at Sanananda, we will then tour the Sanananda battlefield and walk to Huggin's Road Block. In the evening we will have dinner and treated to a local Sing Sing.

(Approx 1 hour return boat ride, 2 hours flat walking, stay Sanananda).

Day 12: Saying goodbye to Sanananda we will take the boat back to Gona then drive to Popondetta. From here will take our flight back to Port Moresby. On arrival we our Port Moresby based Operations Manager and return to the hotel.

(Approx 30 min boat ride, 1.5 hour driving, stay Sanananda).

Day 13: Check out time and return to Australia. We will be taken back down to the airport by bus and fly home to Australia. Please check your flight details for further details.

The "Friend"



The S.M.L.E (Short Magazine Lee-Enfield) No. 1 Mk 111*

This rifle was the workhorse of the Australian Infantryman throughout both the First and Second World Wars. The .303 Calibre rifle, was both hardy and simple to use. We will keep an eye on the Track and possibly catch site of spent cartridges or charger clips or maybe even the barrel and breech of this type of rifle.

The "Foe"



The Type 38 – Arisaka

This was the standard Infantry rifle of the Imperial Japanese Army, 6.5 calibre. The pre-war propaganda suggested that this small calibre round was inferior and would cause only a very minor injury. Whilst this weapon was more than capable of killing a man, it is evident that a “wounded” man would cause great logistical hardship for both the troops and the Papuan Carriers.

We will discuss this situation at many points along the track and when you witness our team of “Legends” (Papuan carriers) at work; you will witness first hand - the men with the “care of a nurse and the love of a mother”. In 1942 – the troops affectionately called them “The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels” as your Australian historian brings to life the individual stories and the events that unfolded over seventy years ago.

If you have any inquiries regarding this itinerary, please do not hesitate to contact Kokoda Historical on 1800 DO KOKODA, mobile 0405 007 700, email info@kokodahistorical.com.au

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