

**KOKODA
HISTORICAL**



BLACK CAT TREK

INFORMATION BOOKLET

*Historical guided tours to First and Second
World War battlefields and places of cultural
significance in Papua New Guinea.*

PHONE 1800 DO KOKODA
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SHAGGY RIDGE TREK



BLACK CAT TRACK TREK



LARK FORCE TREK



AN&MEF & RABAU TOUR

RABAU

TOL

**PAPUA
NEW GUINEA**

WEWAK

MADANG

BOGADJIM

DUMPU

LAE

SALAMAUA

WAU

DARU

SANANANDA

POPONDETTA
KOKODA

PORT MORESBY



**MILNE BAY, KOKODA
& NORTHERN
BEACHHEADS TOUR**

ALOTAU



KOKODA TRACK TREK



**KOKODA TRACK &
NORTHERN
BEACHHEADS TREK**



INCLUSIONS

- Experienced Australian Guide
- Return airfare Port Moresby to Nadzab (Lae)
- Transfer from Nadzab to Wau
- Overnight accommodation and meals at Wau Guesthouse
- Black Cat Track trekking permit (issued by the Black Cat Track Association)
- Vehicle transfer from Wau to Kaisenik (the starting point of the track)
- Food while trekking
- Group porters for 6 day trek from Wau to Salamaua
- Personal porter
- Trekking accommodation costs
- 2 nights accommodation at Salamaua Guesthouse
- 2 nights hotel accommodation at Lae
- Bamboo rafting down the Francisco River
- Boat transfer from Salamaua to Lae
- Vehicle for day trip to 7 Mile
- Tour of Lae War Cemetery and Imperial Japanese Army caves
- Communications and safety equipment including Satellite phone
- Public liability insurance

BLACK CAT MAP



ITINERARY

DAY 1:

Fly to Port Moresby, PNG and then to Nadzab, Morobe Province. Vehicle transfer from Nadzab to Wau. Wau was a major gold town during the late 1920's and 1930's and Wau's airstrip was the busiest airport in the world in the early 1930's. Trucks and even the gold dredges were cut up with oxy' torches in Lae, loaded onto aircraft and then welded back together on arrival in Wau. Nowadays "Hidden Valley" goldmine operates at Edie Creek, on Mt Kaindi, above Wau. We stay at Wau Guesthouse for the night and are briefed on the trek to Salamaua.

DAY 2:

Early breakfast and transfer by vehicle to the start point of the Wau-Salamaua Track near Kaisenik, indicating the location of the "True" Black Cat mine and also where Capt Sherlock's Rifle Company fought at Wandumi to delay the Imperial Japanese Army's surprise appearance from the secret "Jap Track". We walk through rising kunai, gullies and scrub to the B-17 bomber, then continue climbing to the rainforest canopy and Donki Banis, (Donkey Fence; i.e. corral for mules or ponies) where we stop for lunch. We are now on the WWII Buisaval or Ballam's Track, now referred to as the "Black Cat". After lunch we continue walking to Charlie's Camp where we set up camp for the night.

DAY 3:

The Buisaval track, or Ballam's track was originally bench-cut for ponies carrying "cargo" from Salamaua to the gold fields; expect it to be rough and partly overgrown! We reach Skin Dewai (Bark of Tree; i.e. bark-roof huts) where we stop for lunch. Skin Dewai was a village, with cattle; it is now a tiny hamlet. We will visit (with care) an old ammunition dump nearby, plus a plane wreck. After lunch we continue along the track which rises and falls with gullies to the probable WWII location of Haus Banana or Haus Copper and set up camp for the night.

DAY 4:

Today we will negotiate five large creek beds and one older landslip. We will reach Guadagasal where we stop for lunch. After lunch we leave Guadagasal and walk down to a narrow saddle with the Bitoi River to our west and the Buisaval River to our east. We continue past Saddle to Makoop hamlet for our night stop.

DAY 5:

Checking for flood waters, we wade across the Bitoi River, crossing it several times and follow it to Mubo. WWII places will be pointed out, including Observation Hill, Mat Mat Hill, Vickers Ridge (not to be confused with Old Vickers battlefield by the Francisco River), the long-gone Mubo airstrip and the Glassim Place (i.e. Spyglass position or OP) on Lababia Ridge. We leave Mubo and follow the Bitoi River to its junction with WWII Kitchen Creek and Buigap Creek, where we continue climbing north following the Buigap creek line to

WWII Goodview Junction and Tambu Saddle. We then climb northeast and walk over Mt Tambu, “The Forbidden Mountain”, scene of heavy fighting in 1943. We will look for Japanese bunkers (but not enter them). Mt Tambu is the battle in which Australian stretcher-bearer Les “Bull” Allen was awarded a Silver Star for carrying out 12 wounded Americans while under fire. We will make camp at New Camp (formerly "Old" komiatum).

DAY 6:

We walk up onto Mt Tambu and then walk down to post-war Kamiatum. Here we have lunch. After lunch we walk around to the prominent bend in Francisco River and walk over The Coconuts and then onto Old Vickers (both WWII positions which the 58/59th Battalion and 2/7th Battalion fought hard to capture in 1943.) We return to Kamiatum Guesthouse for dinner and to sleep.

DAY 7:

We walk south along Buirali Creek, then climb Sugarcane spur to an old garden house. We view Ambush Knoll and take a shortcut northwest down into creekline and along pre-war bench-cut track, then up onto Timbered Knoll. Classic battles were fought in both places by 2/3rd Independent Company, commanded by George Warfe; the Timbered Knoll battle was filmed by Damien Parer. We will see the post war plaque there. We will return via Orodubi to Kamiatum Guesthouse for lunch.

DAY 8:

This morning we walk to Francisco River and travel down Francisco River on bamboo rafts. This is approximately a 2 hour rafting trip. We arrive to the mouth of the Francisco River at Salamaua. We walk up Salamaua beach to our guesthouse where we will stay for the night.

DAY 9:

We explore Japanese positions on the Salamaua Isthmus; go swimming, fishing or snorkelling in a group; chat to the locals; enjoy a drink; stay at guesthouse at Salamaua for another night.

DAY 10:

Travel by boat to Lae and check in to our hotel. Tour of Lae War Cemetery and visit the Rainforest Habitat.

DAY 11:

Tour of the Imperial Japanese Army caves under Mt Lunamen. We drive to “7 Mile” to see the ridgeline above Heath’s Plantation, where Private Kelliher of 2/25th Battalion won his Victoria Cross. Evening meal and stay overnight at hotel in Lae.

DAY 12:

Transfer to Nadzab Airport, fly to Port Moresby and back to Australia.

HOTEL

The hotel at Port Moresby has a safe for valuables e.g. passports, wallets, etc. We recommend that you take a small day pack for your travelling clothes and shoes which will be placed in storage until your return to the hotel. Please clearly label your pack with your name. Your room will have Australian-type power sockets and these can be used to charge your personal electrical items if necessary.

FITNESS

Your personal training programme starts as soon as you book your trip. A simple to follow, detailed training schedule is provided upon booking that will illustrate how to start your own individual fitness programme wherever you live.

The fitter you are the more you will enjoy the Black Cat Trek.

We run regular training sessions which will help you to achieve your goals. We are also on hand for any advice you need.

GIFTS AND TRIPS

Giving gifts and tips to porters is not expected but we are often asked what an appropriate tip would be. At the end of the trek you are welcome to give the porters anything you don't want to take home with you (e.g. your torch or even used items of clothing, towels, shoes, First Aid kits etc The porters will gratefully accept gifts of any kind).

We pay our porters above-average local wages but if you would like to give a tip then we suggest PGK100 (approx. \$50AU).

Sometimes trekkers pool their tips and give them to the guide who then distributes the money evenly to all porters. We would ask you please not to give gifts of alcohol or cigarettes to our porters - as this is company policy.

HYGIENE

Most guest houses have a toilet (i.e. a hole in the ground) so it is recommended that you take wet-wipes in a flat pack which can double as toilet paper. In addition, we would advise you to bring a small sports hand towel (quick-dry is preferable as this will help lighten the weight of your pack). We also recommend that you take a small bottle of hand sanitiser.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

We will be trekking through dense jungle in a tropical environment. Remember you are at risk of dehydration and tropical disease. It is imperative that you see a doctor at least 4 weeks prior to departure. They will prescribe anti-malarial medication and you may be obliged to take tablets prior to your trek. Your doctor will also advise of any inoculations required.

We recommend you bring the following in your personal first-aid kit:

- Anti malarial tablets (as prescribed by your doctor)
- Tropical Strength Aeroguard or Rid Mosquito repellent (no aerosol cans please)
- Panadol or Aspirin
- One roll of elastoplast
- Band-Aids
- Sun block/lip balm
- Rehydration salts such as Gastrolyte
- Paw Paw Ointment

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Your most important asset is your feet! So it is imperative you look after them. The number one requirement is a good set of boots. Make sure they are well and truly broken in before trekking.

You may be required to walk up to 8 hours per day, so bring plenty of dry socks including thin sports socks that can be worn under your normal boot socks to help prevent blisters and hot spots.

You need to bring just 2 sets of clothing for the Track, a T-shirt and shorts for trekking during the day and some dry clothes to wear at night. Also take a pair of sandals or thongs to wear after trekking to give your feet a rest. A light rain coat or poncho is recommended as it rains frequently. You may also wish to take a hat.

Remember you do not need to bring any tents or cooking equipment! We will provide these!

INSURANCE

All our trekkers are covered by our public liability insurance to view our certificate kokodahistorical.com.au/about/our-insurance It is a requirement that you also are in possession of personal travel insurance prior to departure.

MONEY

The currency of Papua New Guinea is the Kina. We would suggest you take around 300 Kina in small denominations to allow for the purchase of drinks, fresh fruit and vegetables and any souvenirs you may wish to purchase. Kina can be purchased at the currency exchange desk at Brisbane International airport or by pre-arrangement with your local currency exchange office.

VISA

You must apply for your Tourist Visa to PNG prior to travel (the Visa is free of charge). Please refer to the information provided on our website and the PNG High Commission website: <http://www.pngcanberra.org/visas/>

IDENTIFICATION

You will require some form of photographic identification to board domestic flights within PNG. We recommend that you take a driver's license with you rather than your passport. It is safer to leave your passport locked in the hotel safe and bring along your water proof driver's license.

CULTURE

The culture of Papua New Guinea is diverse and complex. Typically people live in small villages and survive on subsistence farming. This trip offers you a unique opportunity to discover a lifestyle that is far removed from the developed world.

Most of our guides speak English as their third language and are quite shy when you meet them initially. It doesn't take long for them to overcome their timidity and you will find that most of them have a very good level of English and they have fascinating stories to tell.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Fresh fruit and vegetables can be purchased in most large villages. Depending on the season the range on offer may include sweet corn, sweet potatoes, papayas, pineapples, bananas, mandarins and watermelons. While this produce is a welcome supplement to your diet, it cannot be relied upon and is subject to seasonal availability.

WATER

Please do not drink the water at the hotel or anywhere in Port Moresby. We would strongly advise you to always consume bottled water at the hotel. Fresh water is readily available on the Track; we suggest that you carry a minimum two litre capacity camel back or bottle with you while trekking. The guides will advise you of the best places to get fresh water and there is no need for purification tablets provided you only consume water from these sources.

GIFTS

If you wish to take something for the children of the villages, we recommend you take gifts of educational value such as pencils, pencil cases, notebooks, books, tennis balls, footballs etc.

RUBBISH

Anything that cannot be burned we will take with us. Please be mindful not to drop rubbish as you are walking along, our staff carry rubbish bags which are placed out at breakfast lunch and dinner.

FOOD

We use a combination of freshly cooked meals and snack packs. There is no need to worry about any food whilst on your trek. You will never go hungry and all of our staff are trained in safe food handling. We offer a delicious range of meals that cater to most fussiest of eaters.

Your snack packs will be sent to you at least 2 weeks prior to departure. You will receive 8 packs which you need to bring with you to PNG. Please check the contents and if there is anything you do not like, exchange it for something of similar nutritional value. All meals have been prepared according to the dietary requirements indicated on your registration form.

EATING UTENSILS

You will require a non-breakable plate, knife, fork and spoon set, and a drinking cup. These can be either plastic or metal but remember that plastic is lighter.



EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- A long sleeved shirt or T-shirt (for evening wear at campsite and to sleep in)
- A pair of light trousers or shorts (for evening wear at campsite and to sleep in)
- A pair of good-quality trekking boots (broken in)
- A pair of trekking shorts or pants
- A trekking shirt (provided)
- A pair of sandals or thongs (for the evening)
- A towel (quick-dry sports towels are ideal as they are light and dry quickly)
- A 60-70 litre back pack
- A light sleeping bag
- Camel pack or water bottles (2 litre capacity required)
- Four pairs of thick socks
- Two pairs of thin socks
- Underwear (at least 2 pairs of underpants / knickers)
- A poncho style rain jacket.
- A day pack (to be left at the hotel)
- A sleeping mat/thermarest
- A inflatable, light easy pack pillow
- Small torch or head torch & spare batteries
- Plate/cup/utensils
- Tooth brush and tooth paste
- Toilet paper and/or wet wipes
- A small bottle of biodegradable soap
- Pocket money; approx 300 Kina in small denominations for sundry expenses
- Hand sanitiser
- Medical Kit;
 - Anti malarial tablets (as prescribed by your doctor)
 - Tropical Strength Aeroguard or Rid Mosquito repellent Panadol or Aspirin
 - One roll of elastoplast
 - Band-Aids
 - Sun block/lip balm
 - Oral electrolyte/rehydration tablets

NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- A brimmed hat or peaked cap (for protection against rain and/or sun, essential if going to the beaches)
- A thermal top (optional)
- A 15-25 litre daypack (if you are hiring a personal porter)
- A pair of lycra gym shorts (optional to prevent chaffing)
- A mosquito net (optional but highly recommended if going to beaches)
- Camera with ziplock bag for protection from water (optional)
- A pair of gaiters (optional)
- Sunglasses (optional but highly recommended if going to beaches)

While we stay in guesthouses when available we also carry tents so we can be fully self contained if required. If it is your preference a tent can be used at any of the camping sites.



BLACK CAT TREK GEAR DISCOUNTS

We have special discounts and offers in our online store;

www.kokodahistorical.com.au

Please contact us for further information about these discounts.

ABOUT KOKODA HISTORICAL

Kokoda Historical has been conducting historical guided tours across the Kokoda Track since 2005. We have completed many successful crossings and our client testimonials highlight some of our many satisfied customers.

Kokoda Historical provides the trekker with a complete living history experience; we focus not only on the adventure of the trek itself, but also on experiencing history first hand. Our prices are very competitive and safety is our number one priority.

We combine the knowledge of local Papua New Guineans with that of Australian historians. Our emphasis is on small groups, the historical significance of the Kokoda Track and the Kokoda Campaign itself.

In 2007, we had the honour of being the first company to take a group of young Aboriginal students across the Kokoda Track in recognition of the important and much-overlooked role that Aboriginal people played during the Second World War. This was part of the Kokoda Dreaming project and this trek featured on the ABC show, Message Stick. A thirty minute episode entitled "Going the Distance" followed our group of Aboriginal students as they participated in our trek.

More recently, we were selected as operators of the Harry Bould Memorial tour hosted by the 39th Battalion Association. The 39th Battalion Association runs an annual competition inviting students from across the Cardinia Shire in Victoria, to submit an essay outlining what Kokoda means to Australians. Thanks to sponsorship from the Cardinia Shire Council, Pakenham and Parklea Racing Club and Kokoda Historical over the last seven years, we have successfully managed to bring seven young students on the adventure of a lifetime. The winners experience the adventure and history of the Kokoda Track in June of each year to commemorate the anniversary of Private Harry Bould (V37378).

We have also taken many school groups to various places in Papua New Guinea.

In April 2015 we gave our support to Solider On and facilitated taking a group of wounded returned servicemen and women over the Kokoda Track for the centenary of Anzac and to help draw attention to those suffering from PTSD.

Our outstanding record of safety and customer satisfaction is testament to our hard work and we thank you for choosing us for your Kokoda Track adventure. We look forward to working with you closely to ensure that yours is a successful and unforgettable trip.

MEET THE TEAM



MR DAVID HOWELL

Mr David Howell, the co-founder of Kokoda Historical, is a keen historian and spends most of his spare time researching Australian Military History. In particular David specialises in the South West Pacific Area of Operations during the Second World War.

David spent 5 years as a volunteer guide with the Friends of Kokoda at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord, including two years as Vice-President of the Friends, David has taken thousands of people around the memorial educating visitors on the significance of the Kokoda Campaign and Australian history during the Second World War.

David continued his volunteer work as a guide at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. before taking up a full time appointment at the Shrine. He is now the editor of the Shrine's new history magazine Remembrance and runs the Friends of the Shrine program.

David is well spoken in Tok Pisin the Pidjin language of PNG and is also a current serving member of the Army Reserve. In 2008 David served with the Australian Army peacekeeping in the Solomon Islands.



DR CLODAGH MULCAHY

Dr Clodagh Mulcahy is a director of Kokoda Historical and is head of operations in Australia. Originally from Ireland, Clodagh moved to Australia in 2006 to pursue post-doctoral research in chemistry at Sydney University.

Clodagh currently works in IT and has administered all Kokoda Historical treks since 2008.

Clodagh has lived and worked in many countries around the world and has a strong ethical approach to the development of sustainable employment in developing nations.

After walking the Kokoda Track in 2007 as part of the first indigenous youth group to walk Kokoda, she fell in love with the people of PNG. Clodagh has since returned to walk the Track on several occasions and also to visit other destinations such as the Northern Beachheads, Rabaul and Milne bay.

Clodagh is married to David Howell and lives in Melbourne.



MR FREDDY WARREN

Freddy Warren was born and raised in Gippsland, Victoria in the south of Australia, one of 7 children, he grew up on a dairy farm. After completing high school at 18 he joined the Australian Regular Army where he was then posted as a parachute volunteer to the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR).

Currently Freddy continues to serve in The Army Reserve with 5/6 Bn Royal Victorian Regiment as a Company Sargent Major and maintains a keen interest in Australian military history and culture.

MEET THE TEAM



MR KILA JONS

Mr Kila Amuli lives in the village of Kokoda. Kila has made numerous successful crossings of the Kokoda Track and has worked as a guide for most of the major tour companies that operate in PNG.

In 2005 he co-founded Kokoda Historical with David Howell. The two of them had met a year prior and it was at the Kokoda Plateau, when David had returned in 2005 with a group of veterans from the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. Kila & David came up with the idea to form Kokoda Historical.

Kila is both a partner and the head Papuan guide on our Kokoda tours. Kila's grandfather was a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel who passed on many personal stories to Kila.

Kila has a fantastic understanding of the campaigns history, from the Australian and Papuan perspective. Kila was recently married and has two sons, Anthony and David.



CAPTAIN REG YATES

Captain Reg Yates RFD (Rtd) is one of the most experienced trek leaders operating in PNG, having completed countless treks since 1984, including Adventure Training with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and many with Sydney-based High Schools.

He served for 36 years as a paramedic with Melbourne Ambulance Service and has 30 years Army Reserve service, mostly as an Infantry Captain in training. In recent years Reg has worked as a paramedic on mining sites in PNG.

Reg has walked just about all Second World War routes in PNG including the Bulldog-Wau Army Road, the Wau-Salamaua Tracks, the Saruwaged Crossing from Peter Ryan's, "Fear Drive My Feet", Shaggy Ridge, Rabaul-Tol Plantation plus the Hindenburg Wall section of Karius & Champion's 1928 Fly River to Sepik River Crossing.

He has rubber-rafted the Watut River with soldiers, paddled a dugout canoe 360 km down the Sepik River, walked up Mt Wilhelm and written a demi-official ADF handout on Adventurous Training in PNG. Reg brings a wealth of knowledge to Kokoda Historical and will continue to deliver a high level of service to all our future trekkers!



MR BRUCE MCCLEAN

Mr Bruce McClean first walked the Kokoda Track in 1998. He developed a passion for all things Kokoda when he picked up his first book on the subject which was Peter Brune's newly released book "Those Ragged Bloody Heroes" and read about his uncle, Lt. Douglas McClean MC of the 39th Battalion.

Since then he has walked the track many times and in recent years started leading treks for Kokoda Historical.

He has a great sense of wanting to get the correct history as much as possible and hopes to pass on to his fellow travellers some knowledge of the fighting and of the personalities along the track as well as enjoy the company and companionship of a shared adventure.

Bruce also has a passion for all things relating to Australian military history and is an active member of a ceremonial Light Horse troop. Bruce has been a member of the Army reserve in Armoured Corps and is a current serving member of the Victoria Police Protective Services Unit.

MEET THE TEAM



CORPORAL DEAN ANDERSON

Mr Dean Anderson has served in the Australian Army Reserve for over 20 years. During his military service he was deployed on peacekeeping operations to the Solomon Islands on Operation Anode as a section commander. He continues to serve in 5/6 Royal Victoria Regiment in Melbourne and is responsible for the training of reserve infantry soldiers.

In addition to serving in the military, Dean also has over 12 years service with the Victoria Police. During this time he has been recognised for bravery. He retired from the police force in 2015 to follow a career in teaching in secondary schooling. He is currently undertaking further study in this field.

Dean has a degree in modern history and a keen interest in all things military. His wife's great-uncle is buried in Bomana War Cemetery, having being killed in action whilst serving with the 2/31st Battalion on the Kokoda Track.

With his family connection, understanding of Australian military history and a working knowledge of what it is to be an Australian infantryman, Dean makes a great addition to the Kokoda Historical team.



THE KOKODA GUIDES, THE GREEN MASIN (MACHINE)

All of the guides that walk with our groups come from areas in which we trek/ tour in. For example when we trek Kokoda, all of our boys are from the villages of Kokoda, Hoi, Isurava, Kagi and Efogi & Sanananda just to name a few. The majority of our team have walked the areas pertaining to their locality many times over the years. Their experience and dedication to the safety of our trekkers are second to none.

Kokoda Historical and our partners help to provide our guides and their families with education, health care and employment. Our guides interact as much as they can with our clients and are only too happy to share their knowledge.

MEMBERSHIPS



KOKODA TRACK AUTHORITY

The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) is a Papua New Guinea Special Purpose Authority, commissioned to promote and manage the Kokoda Track for tourists, while improving the way of life for communities living along the track, through funding and development programmes.



39TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

The 39th Australian Infantry Battalion 1941-1943 existed as a unit for only twenty months of World War II, but its story is one of the most unusual and proudest in the annals of Australian military history.



DO KOKODA

Thousands of people each year trek through the jungles of the Owen Stanley Ranges in the footsteps of heroes. What inspired you to Do Kokoda? Research trusted Kokoda tour operators and read the stories of past trekkers.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOURISM

Lying just south of the equator, 160km north of Australia, Papua New Guinea is part of a great arc of mountains stretching from Asia, through Indonesia & into the South Pacific. With a vibrant & colourful Papua New Guinea culture, more than 600 islands and 800 indigenous languages, PNG is an unrivalled paradise.



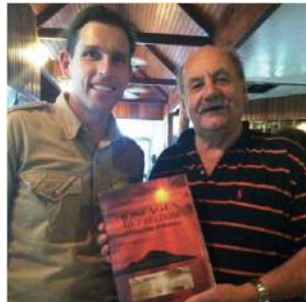
TESTIMONIALS



CAT MCRAE

"A huge thank you to David, Clodagh, Reg, our porters & fellow trekkers for making our Black Cat Trek pilgrimage become a reality. To walk in some of the places where my grandfather walked & be within 2kms of where he was wounded was a dream fulfilled. Visiting the grave of my great uncle in the Lae war memorial cemetery was a humbling & deeply moving experience. Could not have achieved this without you all!!!"

Lex and Cat just completed our Black Cat Track tour where they walked in honour of their Father/Grandfather, Corporal Keith 'Blue' McRae. Blue served in the 2/3 Independent Company (Commandos). Keith's brother Tom, was killed while serving in the 2/7 AIF Infantry Battalion. Here Lex and Cat pay tribute to their Uncle."



PETER STONE

"Thank you for what was a wonderfully memorable trip. To Jimmy it was so important because of his connection to WW1 through his father. To me it was an appreciation of the WW1 events in New Guinea, and an opportunity to see Rabaul after the volcano eruptions. The sight of Mango Avenue and the old town centre was heart-breaking but I can again appreciate the strength and resilience of the local people.

The ceremonies were exceptional and both Jimmy and I are proud to have been chosen to be a special part of the dusk and dawn ceremonies. The tripping around the countryside was enjoyable especially to revisit some of the old sites from decades ago - and I have had my last swim at sub-base! The minor hiccups with the buses were no problem and everyone appreciated the efficiency of resolving any problems."



SHANE AUBREY

"I want to thank you (David) for a fantastic trip, your entertainment and knowledge of the battle sites was of the highest professional standard I have encountered for many a year. The trek was without question the hardest and most exciting, thrilling trip I have ever been on and I have been on many deployment etc.

Without a doubt we all have a much higher respect for the diggers who served on the track. What those guys endured we will never fully comprehend. To have a taste of what life must have been like, puts our normal dull life back into perspective and something that will always remain with us.

I am so charged after the trip, I feel that I need to go on another adventure ASAP. David, thank you and your troops, they are all excellent ambassadors for your company and it shows that you have a well trained crew of professionals."

TESTIMONIALS



JOHN REDMOND

"A big thank you for a safe and well organised trip from Owers' Corner to Kokoda arch, and a special Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel day at Kokoda - something I will never forget!"

To have a leader like Reg Yates with his expert info of all the battle sights and his tactics employed by our Aussie boys and the fanatical fighting Japanese.

To actually stand on the battle sites and think what they went through to save Australia. Long live the history of the gallant 39 Battalion and all who followed.

The service provided by Reg at Brigade Hill was special to me and moving beyond all expectations because it was my 3rd time on the track - my 60th birthday at Brigade Hill in 2008 and doing it again in 2009 and now in 2011.

If I completed my first trek with Kokoda Historical I wouldn't have had to do the track in 2 consecutive years. The knowledge I saw on the track matched what I had read in all my books - this completed my journey and dream!

Kokoda Historical is highly recommended!"



SUMMER LYNCH

"For me, it was a no-brainer - when I decided to trek the Kokoda Trail in the footsteps of my Great Grandfather Jim Cowey MC, I would be mad to trek with anyone BUT Soc Kienzle! Soc is the son of Captain Bert Kienzle, a man so pivotal to the Australian success in the Owen Stanley campaign due to his intimate knowledge of the Trail (and it's many off-shoots) yet more importantly his affinity with the local people, who he would organise to carry essential supplies, the sick and wounded, and the hopes of Australia on their caring shoulders.

In spite of my screaming lungs and aching feet, I thoroughly enjoyed my trek with Soc and Komplete Kokoda/Kokoda Historical. I learned so much about the history, and also myself from the experience. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from a Kokoda Trail legend, and I will never, ever forget it."



NAT TEMPLAR

"Trekking the Kokoda Track was an amazing journey for me and one I will do again. I came back with enhanced knowledge on the battles and events on the Kokoda campaign and at the Milne Bay campaign. Wayne was an amazing leader who was there for me as a teacher and as a friend and for me this trip has opened up my eyes to another world, another life.

For me embracing the local culture, teaching and playing with the children were added bonuses that will be memories that I wish to relive again in the near future, but will be memories that I'll never forget. Coming home and facing reality, having witnessed what I had seen, I found the most challenging of the experience, because the essence of smiling village children, local welcoming villagers and local life captured me.

The porters was an amazing group of guys who were always there for you and one another, and without them our trek would not have been possible, I sure hope to return to see both the porters and locals whom I got to know once again."

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All participants are required to visit their GP prior to departure to ensure they are fit to undertake the challenges of the Kokoda Track and to be provided with anti-malarial medication.

All participants must hold a current passport with at least six (6) months validity at the time of travel for entry into Papua New Guinea.

Due to possible currency fluctuations, increases in KTA trek fees and other cost components, we reserve the right to increase our fee without notice. These variations will not be charged if full payment has been received prior to any such increase.

The tour fees as agreed shall include the trekking tour, during the trek: accommodation, meals, airport transfers, trek permits, guides and porters. The fee does not include expenses of a personal nature including drinks, fruits or vegetables sold by the locals, telephone, fax and email bills and gift items. All outstanding bills must be settled before the trekker's departure from PNG.

Full payment must be made at least sixty (60) days prior to departure.

Kokoda Historical reserves the right to change the trek itinerary. Trekking tours and itineraries including departure times and arrival times maybe altered at the discretion of the trek leader due to unforeseen circumstances.

Standard terms and conditions apply for any airline cancellation. These conditions will be explained by the travel agent in charge of booking your flights.

In the unfortunate event of a trekker's early departure from the trek they will incur the cost of extra staff, transportation, administration costs and all other expenses incurred in returning them back to Port Moresby. If a helicopter lift out is required the trekker will be liable for these costs. Personal travel insurance to cover these potential costs is mandatory.

The trekker must report any pre-existing illness or any other conditions for which the trekker may require medical attention during the course of the trek to the tour operator or its agents before the trek commences. If any such condition arises before the commencement of the trek, it must be reported to Kokoda Historical before commencement of the trek or as soon as such illness or disability is known.

PAYMENT TERMS

Once you have paid your deposit, the balance of your tour cost must be paid in full at least 60 days prior to departure.

THANK YOU!