

Papua New Guinea's KOKODA Track is part of Australia's war history.

The best time to go is during the normal trekking season from April until November, being the dry season. The monsoonal wet is normally November to March. There is normally a daily shower of rain most days of the year - with the wet season being heavier and resulting in flooded streams and river crossings and wetter track conditions. By mid-trek, walkers look back at the mountains and are struck with disbelief at their accomplishment.

TREK

Kokoda Track guides and porters will offer every assistance, but it should be remembered that the Kokoda Track is an individual experience even if you are travelling with a group. You must be both physically and mentally fit to walk the entire Track. Your guide and porters are more than familiar with the Track due to their numerous journeys and caring experiences with trekkers of all nationalities. The porters are restricted to a maximum backpack weight of 15 – 20 Kg for trekking. Daily walks vary from 4 to 8 hours between villages and / or campsites. You have the same guide and normally the same porters for the duration of the trek and have the opportunity to experience the friendliness of village life along the Track.

HISTORY

The 96 km Kokoda Track allows you to walk in the footsteps of WW2 soldiers (sometimes lost family members), experience history, adventure, endurance, the beauty of the area and the friendliness of the people. Sogeri is a 36km drive from Port Moresby by conventional car. The walking path of the Kokoda Track starts at Owers' Corner, which is 17km from the Depo War Monument at Sogeri. A 4WD vehicle is normally required for this unsealed road.

The Kokoda Track (also known as the Kokoda Trail) is a native footpath and one of the World's great treks. Linking the Southern and Northern coast of Papua New Guinea, it is a challenge to be enjoyed by the fit bushwalker. The Kokoda Track and Sogeri areas have a World War II history of bitter fighting between Australian and Japanese Armies during the latter half of 1942. The Australians, together with their Papuan "fuzzy wuzzy angels" allies, after **four** months of bitter fighting, overcame these obstacles and inflicted on the Japanese army its first land defeat of the Second World War. In the process, they became immortalized and a source of inspiration for future generations of Australians.

The "Diggers of Kokoda" were in-experienced, ill-equipped and outnumbered 6 to 1 as well as having to face the hardships of pain tearing apart the body and soul month after month, dysentery and malaria. Gallant soldiers displayed courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice while dodging bullets and disease. **THEY WON!**

Commemorating the battle site of Isurava where Australian troops storm Japanese position, a memorial to these diggers stands on 4 granite pillars engraved with the words – Courage, Mateship, Endurance and Sacrifice.

The Kokoda Track is a native footpath that traverses the rugged peaks of the Owen Stanley Ranges, and it was here that an in-experienced, ill-equipped, outnumbered Australian force faced the might of the Japanese army. As well as their opposition, both nations faced the problems of conducting a war in the extremely inhospitable Papua New Guinea jungle, an environment that inflicted casualties without favour.

TODAY

There are still original Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels living in villages along the track. They exist as their people have for generations, tending their gardens, looking after their extended families and protecting their villages. The modern "angels", employed as guides and porters, exhibit all the characteristics of their forebears. Masters of their environment, they are a shy, polite people who cannot resist breaking into peals of laughter when watching a group of trekkers attempt to negotiate a particularly difficult track section. For them it is a matter of personal pride that all trekkers in their care

complete the Kokoda Track safely, and lasting friendships are often forged between trekkers and porters.

ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE

The Sogeri Plateau is an ancient volcanic crater situated at 500 metres above sea level. It enjoys a highlands type climate, compared with the heat of Port Moresby. Beautiful water rapids, rolling green hills and rugged mountains, together with Vararata National Park, reveal the unspoilt nature and the beauty of the environment.