

## Anzac Day Kokoda History Tour Non-Trekking Itinerary 18<sup>th</sup> April to the 26<sup>th</sup> April

### *Sample Itinerary*

The following itinerary is recommended as a guide for planning purposes only. Track and weather conditions will inevitably determine the final journey of each individual challenge. To maintain our unblemished safety record, all trekking with Our Spirit is done during daylight hours only. Trekking at night increases the risk of injury and should only be attempted by experienced trekkers when necessary.

#### **Day 1**

Activity: Depart Australia for Port Moresby. Upon arrival you will be met by an Our Spirit Representative at the airport and transported to the Gateway Hotel. Here you will check in and be ready for our 6pm briefing, giving up to date information re the journey and to introduce the historical campaign.

Accommodation: Hotel

#### **Day 2**

Activity: After breakfast, we will begin our tour starting with a trip to Jacksons airport and its surrounds and focus on crash sites, then out to the coastal areas to explore battle emplacements. We visit closely to the site of the wreck of the famous MV MacDhui. Following this we stop for lunch and afterwards we head to the city of Port Moresby to explore the PNG National Museum and PNG Parliament. We may also visit the AFP headquarters to appreciate the work these Australians are doing in PNG. We eventually make our way back to our hotel and get ready for dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel

#### **Day 3**

Activity: After breakfast we once again get aboard the Our Spirit tour bus and head towards Sogeri. We stop off along the way to visit Koitaki (scene General Blamey's famous speech of 'the rabbit that runs is the rabbit that gets shot') we also visit Blamey's gardens before eventually making our way to MacDonalDs corner (the scene of the famous photo by Bob MacDonald of B company, 39<sup>th</sup> Batt making their way to the start of the Kokoda Track) we get back on board the bus and head to the village of Vesulogo for lunch, where we will be greeted by a traditional Kioari welcome. Following lunch we drive to Owers Corner, and experience the vastness of the "Owen Stanley Mtns" be in awe as our military historian brings the story alive and outlines the full Kokoda campaign,,,, we then head to the village of Vesulogo where we once again experience the PNG culture as we overnight in tents.

Accommodation: Village Camp (tents)

**Day 4**

Activity: Following an early wake up and breakfast we make our way to the airport for our charter flight to Kokoda. As we fly over the Owen Stanley Ranges you will look down and see the Kokoda Track and its many hidden villages and sites. On a clear day, the sites of Myola, Brigade Hill, Eora Creek and Isurava can be seen before we eventually land on the wartime Kokoda airfield. We are met here by our vehicle and make our way to the Kokoda Plateau and a comprehensive history briefing. Here we will also visit the Museum and explore widely. Following lunch, we have the opportunity of walking some of the Kokoda track before our vehicle transfers us north to a local village. Here we will be met by a traditional Biagi welcome as we stay here overnight.

Accommodation: Village Camp (tents)

**Day 5**

Activity: After an early breakfast we head north towards Popenetta, along the way we stop to explore the key battlesite and often forgotten parts of the Kokoda Campaign. Some of these include Oivi and Gorari, Awala, where the first contact happened. We cross the Kumusi river (where General Horii is rumoured to have lost his life) and the famous Wairope Bridge. Eventually we reach Popenetta and explore the memorial sites as we outline the history of the Beachheads. After lunch we head to Gona Beach, where we outline the bloody campaign and the battles that took place as the second part of the campaign began.

Our waiting boat will then take us along the coast stopping off at the many relevant sites to explore, before arriving at the secluded area of Sanananda.

Accommodation: Village Camp (tents)

**Day 6**

Activity: After a peaceful sleep and following breakfast we make our way to the village of Buna and explore all the relevant war sites and memorials, both Australian and US. There are many relics to be seen here including Japanese bunkers, as well as the newly established museum.

After a thorough briefing, we head back to Sanananda for lunch. After lunch we explore all the surrounds and pay particular attention to the memorials, plane wrecks, hospitals and in particular the Huggins roadblock. We overnight here.

Accommodation: Village Camp (tents)

**Day 7**

Activity: After an early breakfast we make our way back towards Girua airport stopping off at the relevant military sites along the way including plane wrecks vehicles left over from the war. At the entrance to the airport you will also see the wreck of a B-25. We board our flight to Port Moresby and arrive and transfer to the Gateway Hotel. Here following lunch, you can avail of the pool and relax before dinner. After dinner, following an in depth presentation of the history it's time for an early night in readiness for an early start tomorrow.

Accommodation: Hotel

### **Day 8**

Activity: On this day you will need to be ready early to board the bus and make our way to the Anzac Day Dawn service at Bomana Cemetery. It is a very moving service as the dawn breaks to the sound of bagpipes and bugler as they resonate over the cemetery. Following the service, we make our way back to the hotel for some free time and sleep. At 1230 the bus will pick you up for a trip to the Royal Port Moresby yacht Club and the opportunity to play some two up! Following lunch many introductions are made as more patrons arrive and the games begin to get into full swing.

Approx 6pm the Bus will transfer you back to the Hotel, where dinner is available.

Accommodation: Hotel

### **Day 9**

Activity: After an early morning wake-up call and breakfast we transfer to the international airport to return to Australia.