Introduction to Papua New Guinea
Peopleconnexion PNG has been operating in Papua New Guinea for 3 years, with a dedicated office in Port Moresby. Our PNG consultants have created this guide to help you prepare for the move, or settle into life in your new home. If you have any questions, get in touch with your consultant or drop by our Port Moresby office and say hello.

Overview
Papua New Guinea is Australia’s nearest northern neighbour, located in the South-West Pacific. The country’s capital Port Moresby, is located in the South-East, and acts as our official home in PNG.

Getting across PNG can be a challenge as the terrain is mostly mountainous, but with coastal lowlands and rolling foothills, it’s hard not to fall in love with the landscape. We’re no strangers to the heat but for those who aren’t, keep in mind that PNG has a tropical climate, experiencing monsoons in December to March (northwest) and May to October (southeast). In Port Moresby, the average temperature ranges from 24°C to about 29°C most of the year.

The mainland of PNG, together with its 600 offshore islands has a diverse population. Most of the local people are part of the Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian population. The country is also one of the world’s least explored, culturally and geographically, and many undiscovered species of plants and animals are thought to exist in the interior of PNG.

It is also one of the most rural locations in the world, with only 18% of its people living in urban centres.

PNG Fast Facts

- **Population:** Approx. 7 million
- **Average temperature:** 24°C overnight to 32°C during the day year round
- **Currency:** PNG Kina 1 Kina = 100 Toea
- **Land size:** 462,840km² (about the size of Victoria)
- **Languages:** English, Tok Pisin, Motu (Over 800 languages nationwide)

www.peopleconnexion.com/png
Getting to know PNG

If there is one thing you need to know about life in PNG, it is that people are friendly, relaxed and have a strong sense of community. To live and work in PNG means building genuine relationships, connections and being willing to bring positive energy into your workplace and network. Papua New Guinea is a predominantly Christian nation with more conservative values and a focus on family and community.

Life & culture

Life in Papua New Guinean society varies depending on geographical location - from modern urban life in the main cities of Port Moresby (capital), Lae, Madang, Wewak, Goroka, Mt Hagen, and Rabaul to traditional village based life, largely dependent on subsistence and small cash-crop agriculture in rural areas.

The culture of PNG is multi-faceted and complicated. It is estimated that more than a thousand different cultural groups exist in PNG. Most of these different cultural groups have their own language, traditions and customs. Because of this diversity, many different styles of cultural expression have emerged; each group has created its own expressive forms in art dance, weaponry, costumes, singing, music, architecture and much more.

Port Moresby

Our office is based in Port Moresby, a 10-minute drive from the airport (traffic permitting) and within the main business district. Since a surge in large-scale resources projects, followed by the announcement of the 2018 APEC Summit, new office, hotel and residential developments have been built throughout Port Moresby.

Lae & Madang

PNG’s next largest city is Lae, the capital of the Morobe province. Lae is PNG’s industrial hub and is the main transport corridor between the Highlands region and coastal regions. Madang is located on the north coast and is a main tourist destination, as well as being home to a large expatriate community, and many NGOs.

Weekend activities

- Port Moresby Yacht Club, Aviat Club, Sunset Lodge, March Girls, Red Rock
- Nature Park (14 mile)
- National Museum & Art Gallery
- Bowling alley and Snooker at Lamana Hotel
- Birdwatching in Western Province

- Kokoda Motel, Sogeri Lodge
- World class sports venues in stadiums and Aquatic Centre
- Galley Reach - fishing
- Local Fresh produce markets at Sogeri, Pacific Adventist University, Magi Highway

For more information visit www.peopleconnexion.com/png
Economy
Roughly 85% of the population relies on agriculture as a way of life, providing about 30% of GDP.

Papua New Guinea is richly endowed with natural resources; however exploitation has been hampered by rugged terrain, the high cost of developing infrastructure, serious law and order problems and the system of land title, which makes identifying the owners of land for the purpose of negotiating appropriate agreements problematic.

Mineral and petroleum deposits, including oil, copper, and gold, account for the vast majority of export earnings.

Government, Companies & Tax
PNG is a member of the Commonwealth and continues to function under a constitutional monarchy. The country has adopted its common laws from Australia, New Zealand and the UK, with the PNG Companies Act (1997) and the PNG Securities Act (1997) also drawn heavily from legislation in Australia and New Zealand.

The Port Moresby Stock Exchange has adopted listing and business rules similar to the ASX, facilitating easy dual listing compliance for Australian and PNG corporations.

At the time of writing, there are no expatriate concessions made in Papua New Ginea. The rates for non-residents are the same as the tax rates for PNG residents, however no tax-free threshold applies.

Safety
As is the case in many developing countries, there can be a degree of difficulty surrounding law and order. In the experiences of our PNG team and placed candidates, simply respecting cultural practices and norms and taking common-sense precautions as in any other country is sufficient.

Due to cultural sensitivity, you may take care to dress conservatively and practice care around what you say. Avoid taking ill-advice from sham tour operators, taxi drivers and strangers.

In case you were wondering..
Time zone: AEST (UTC +10)
Calling code: +675
Drives on the: left
Power supply: 3 pin, 240 volts (power plugs use the same pin configuration as Australia)
Our consultants are no stranger to the process of moving overseas, having worked all over the world. Here’s our top tips on preparing you and your family for a new life in Papua New Guinea.

**Airlines**
Air Niugini  
PNG Air

**Telecommunications**
The main providers of phone and internet plans in PNG are Digicel, Telikom, bmobile and Vodafone. There are a wide range of phone and internet plans available, however Internet speeds and the strength of phone lines vary across the country.

**Banking and foreign exchange**
The main four banks within PNG are: BSP (Bank South Pacific), Kina Bank, Westpac Bank and ANZ.

Though many daily transactions still require cash, ATM and EFTPOS facilities are widely available in Port Moresby and in city centres. Hotels, restaurants, shops, rental car companies, cruise operators and travel agents accept most major credit cards including American Express, Diners, Master cards and Visa Cards.

International currencies are able to be exchanged at Jackson’s Airport upon arrival to PNG.

**Health**
The water in Port Moresby is rated portable according to WHO standards, however it is advisable to boil all water before drinking or purchase bottled water.

Before travelling to rural Papua New Guinea, consult your doctor and consider checking you are vaccinated against:

- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis A/Hepatitis B
- Polio
- Pertussis
- Typhoid Encephalitis B
- Chickenpox
- Tetanus
- Influenza
- Pneumococcus
- Diphtheria

In the Highlands province and in other rural areas, cases of Malaria are present. Preventative measures including insect repellant, use of mosquito nets and coils or preventative medication. Consult your medical practitioner to discuss your options.

**Hospitals & clinics**

**Port Moresby:**
- Pacific International Hospital
- Aspen Medical
- International SOS
- Paradise Hospital
- Ma Clinic
- City Health Care
- WR Dental
- 2K Medical

**Lae:**
- Lae International Hospital
- G&M Flores Clinic

**Popular spots**

**Shopping & dining**
- Waterfront
- Stop & Shop Harbour City
- Vision City Mall
- Harbourside
- Gateway Sizzlers & Jackson’s Bar
- Duffy’s
- Lamana Hotel
- Aviat Club
- Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Holiday Inn
- Vision City Mall (Hog's Breath, variety Asian, Tasty Bites, Mojo’s, Edge Cafe, Grand Cafe)

**Weekend getaways**
- Alotau - Tawali (diving)
- Popondetta - Tufi Dive Resort (diving, fishing)
- Kavieng - Various (diving, fishing, surfing)
- Madang - Madang Resort, Madang Motel, Jais Aben (diving, fishing)
- Wewak / Vanimo - various (surfing)
- Central & Oro province - Kokoda Trek
For more information about Papua New Guinea, our current positions or for help with immigration, work permits and visas, contact your Peopleconnexion consultant.

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