

## **Port Moresby - General Information**

Papua New Guinea has more than 600 islands and is home to more than seven million people. The capital city, Port Moresby, is on the southern coast of the mainland above Cairns, Australia. Port Moresby is the South Pacific's largest city and it is currently growing with construction projects everywhere. There is an unmet demand for housing and commercial space.



### **Weather and Dress**

The weather in Port Moresby is very warm and many indoor places do not have air conditioning. Rainy season ends in March and the dry season begins in May. Dress is casual but conservative in PNG. Comfortable, breathable, business casual is recommended.

### **Airport arrival**

Adjust your clock to West Pacific Standard Time (same time as Brisbane).

The national currency is the “Kina” (kee-nah). You can exchange cash currency at the airport and it is safe to withdraw cash from the ATMs. You can also use your credit card at restaurants and hotels. Hotels often charge a 3% surcharge for paying with a credit card.

### **Security**

Please contact the U.S. Embassy for a security briefing with the Regional Security Officer.

Although Fulbright grantees are not formally attached to the U.S. Embassy (and do not fall under “Chief of Mission authority), security information from the RSO offers important guidance about safety and situational awareness. At hotels in Port Moresby (such as the Grand Papua Hotel, which is used by State Department personnel), the room safe should be used for valuables and doors should be pulled tightly shut.

### **Health**

Bottled water is recommended. Tap water is okay for brushing teeth and washing. Restaurant food is safe. Most acceptable restaurants are foreign-owned serving East Asian cuisine.

### **Electricity**

The electricity and plugs follow Australian standards (240 volts and three-pin Australian plug).

### **Availability of General Items**

There are pharmacies and grocery stores but there are limited American products and the prices are very high. The main imports are from Australia. Bring your preferred toiletries and medications with you.

### **Internet**

Internet is astronomically expensive everywhere in PNG.



## **U.S. EMBASSY Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE**

### **Security Briefing Quick Reference**

The Regional Security Office requires that all those under Chief of Mission authority read the full security briefing booklet, available via hard/soft copy from your sponsor or this office.

#### **Crime**

- General Situation – Critical Crime Threat Rating
- Situational Awareness
- If possible, consult RSO when seeking police assistance.
- Carjacking is a threat in Port Moresby.
- Do not use public transportation
- Emergency procedures and Embassy contacts card.

#### **Terrorism**

- Low threat
- Vary times and routes
- Surveillance detection team and protective intelligence presence
- Report any unusual activity

#### **Activity Security**

- Accountability – Carry cell phones at all times and check in/out with Post command center or RSO
- Venues – seek input from drivers or RSO. Escorts are available.
- Take responsibility for your security – situational awareness

- Designate a security representative for group outings
- Be aware of mob mentality
- Coordinate with Embassy for accountability

#### **Hotel Security**

- Walking outside not advised (accountability)
- Incidents of crime and vagrancy immediately outside hotels (situational awareness)
- Theft from hotels (RSO offers secure storage for valuables)

#### **Counterintelligence**

- Contact Reporting
- Elicitation
- Handling classified

#### **Chancery Security**

- Lock and leave post – LES require afterhours escort.
- Coordinate access with RSO
- Computer Security
- Role and responsibilities of Embassy Duty Officer

## **Overview**

Papua New Guinea is a dynamic country with regard to personal security. There are inherent risks to Americans traveling throughout the country; among the most serious are armed robbery, carjacking and sexual assault. However, with proper precautions, risk can be managed. The RSO requires that all TDY and newly assigned personnel receive a detailed security briefing before venturing out into the city and to inform the RSO if planning to walk around downtown.

## **Walking**

The American Embassy is located in a high-crime area of downtown Port Moresby. There have been incidents of armed robbery and assault against TDY and permanent Embassy personnel, including immediately outside of Hotels. While walking from the Crowne Plaza to the Embassy is not prohibited, personnel are encouraged to use Embassy transportation. The internal security of the hotels used by the Embassy such as the Lamana, Holiday Inn, Airways, Crowne Plaza and Grand Papua hotels, has been relatively good and there have been no recent incidents of theft or violent crime. However, it is recommended that high-value items be stored within the Embassy.

## **Travel**

When traveling outside of Port Moresby or to another region of Papua New Guinea, consult with the RSO Office for up-to-date information on the security environment in that region. Females should not travel unaccompanied to remote areas of Papua New Guinea and should consult with the RSO before undertaking such a journey.

## **Transportation**

Public transportation via taxi or Public Motor Vehicle (PMV) is prohibited. When traveling in a POV, windows should be up and doors locked. Should you become involved in a carjacking, do not stop the vehicle but rather, drive through the attack or reverse in the opposite direction.

## **Avoid Becoming a Victim of Crime**

Be aware of your surroundings! Avoid activities which distract attention from your environment such as talking on the phone or reading while walking. Do not carry valuables with you. Should you become the victim of crime, acquiesce to the assailants demands and report the incident immediately to the RSO. Western women who dress with exposed thighs and/or tight-fitting clothing are considered provocative in Papua New Guinean society.