

HOW TO GET TO 2017 LSPNG CONFERENCE IN GOROKA

We are looking forward to talking story with our overseas *wantoks* at LSPNG 2017 in Goroka this September. Here is some information that may help the uninitiated make travel plans. Please contact the conference organisers or craig.volker@jcu.edu.au if you have any questions.

DATES

Monday 11 - Thursday 14 Sept. LSPNG 2017
Friday 15 & Saturday 16 Sept. Goroka Show 2017
Saturday 16 Sept. PNG Independence Day 2017

We strongly encourage you to stay after LSPNG for the Goroka Show. This Show brings singsing and dance groups from many Highlands and Coastal tribes and is one of the most well-known cultural festivals in the country.

ACCOMMODATION

Please make accommodation arrangements early from the preferred accommodation list provided by the conference organisers posted online. The Goroka Show attracts a large number of visitors, and hotels get booked out early.

VISAS

All non-citizens require visas. Tourist visas, which are valid for participating in academic conferences, are free. Many nationalities, including Australians, can get free visas on arrival at Port Moresby airport, but for other points of entry (i.e. Mt Hagen, Jayapura-Vanimu). All visitors must get a visa in advance at a PNG consulate, embassy, or high commission. Please note that the consulate in Jayapura is somewhat slower than other consulates, taking up to one week to process visitor visas. PNG issues only single-entry visitor visas, no multiple entry tourist visas.

DOMESTIC RESERVATIONS

Independence week is a heavy travel period in PNG, with many families and students travelling by air. Make domestic bookings early. Goroka is served by both Air Niugini (PX) and PNG Air (CG). If you need to make separate domestic bookings, you can do this online: www.airniugini.com.pg or www.pngair.com.pg

It is important to note that in case of a cancelled flight, Air Niugini provides hotel accommodation. PNG Air does not. If you fly with Air Niugini, it is useful to join their Destinations frequent flier programme online, as this will give you a bigger luggage allowance on domestic flights.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS: PORT MORESBY (POM)

Most of you will arrive in Port Moresby, which is served by Air Niugini (from Bali, Singapore, Cairns, Sydney, Honiara, Nadi, Pohnpei, Chuuk (Truk), Manila, Cebu, Hong Kong, Tokyo), Qantas (Brisbane), Virgin (Brisbane), and Philippine Airlines (Manila).

You will need to collect your luggage at international arrivals so it can be checked by customs. After arriving and passing through immigration and customs, if you are not overnighing in Port Moresby, stay in the international building and continue into the main lobby. Domestic re-booking desks for both airlines are on the right side.

We suggest you change money, use an ATM, and get a local SIM card while you're still in the international terminal. This will be infinitely easier than in Goroka. If you have a long wait, the coffee shop in the international terminal is cooler and more comfortable than in the domestic terminal. To make your domestic connection, leave the international terminal and turn right. The domestic terminal is past the fast food stalls and corporate charter lounge. Security staff at the domestic terminal have been known to steal loose items going through the domestic security X-ray machine, so while you're in the international terminal, put any metal valuables (mobile phones, wallets, coin purses, iPods, etc) into your closed carry on.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS: MT HAGEN

PNG Air has announced it will be starting a service between Jayapura and Mt Hagen in February. As we write this, there are no details, but this can presumably be checked on the PNG Air website.

To get from Mt Hagen to Goroka, the University of Goroka bus will be there to pick-up. Please inform the organisers in advance. The beautiful scenic trip should take a maximum of four hours.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS BY LAND: JAYAPURA/VANIMO

You can travel by taxi from Jayapura to the international border at Skouw, Indonesia / Wutung, PNG, walk a hundred metres or so across the border and pick up a minibus ("PMV") from the border to Vanimo, PNG. From Vanimo you can take Air Niugini or PNG Air to Goroka via Lae or Port Moresby. The University of Goroka bus will be in Lae to pick-up. Please inform the organisers in advance.

Remember that there is no visa on arrival facility for land crossings and that a tourist visa can take up to a week to process at the PNG consulate in Jayapura.

If you have any queries regarding your travel, please contact the following LSPNG Conference Organisers:

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