

Hunter Valley Grammar School
Kokoda Track
April 2025
 Proposed Itinerary

THU 3 APR 2025 NEWCASTLE - SYDNEY - PORT MORESBY

AM: Depart Hunter Valley Grammar School by coach

FLY: Port Moresby to Sydney on Qantas / Air Nuigini. Details to be finalised with the 2025 timetable.

ARRIVE: Port Moresby. You'll be met by your Trek Guide and transferred to your pre-trek accommodation.

PM: Tour Welcome Dinner before an early night in preparation for the beginning of our adventure tomorrow.



Meals Included:	inflight & Dinner
Overnight at:	Gateway Hotel Port Moresby or similar

FRI 4 APR 2025 PORT MORESBY – KOKODA - DENIKI



Trekking time: 3 hours

Today we have an early morning charter flight to Kokoda. On arrival we will walk up to the Kokoda plateau to inspect the monuments, memorials, museum and the Australian defensive position on the Kokoda plateau.

After our battle site briefing by our trek- leader we will trek to Kovello and then onto Hoi for lunch. After lunch we will begin our climb over the awesome Owen Stanley Range to Deniki where we will camp overnight.

Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Deniki

SAT 5 APR 2025 DENIKI – ALOLA VILLAGE

Trekking time: 7 hours

Today we will continue our trek from Deniki up to the Isurava village and then onto the Isurava Memorial. Isurava was the scene of a 4 day battle that has been described as the battle that saved Australia. There is a beautiful memorial there with four granite pillars inscribed with the words Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice. We will spend time at the memorial to reflect on the sacrifice made by the soldiers. We will also conduct an in-depth battle site brief and conduct a special and moving memorial service. After lunch at Isurava, we will continue our journey to Alola where we will set up camp for the night.



Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Alola Village

SUN 6 APR 2025 ALOLA VILLAGE – TEMPLETON CROSSING



Trekking time: 8 hours

Today we have a long day as we trek down to Eora Creek and up to Templeton Crossing 2. At Eora Creek we will take time to visit the Japanese defensive positions and view the armaments that are left in the area. The Eora Creek and Templeton Crossing areas were the scene of very heavy and bloody fighting, both during our fighting withdrawal and our advance back across Kokoda.

On our journey to camp we will stop and view the battlefields and conduct briefings on the battle situations in the area. Our camp today is on the mighty Eora Creek, with our reward being a refreshing swim in the crystal -clear water.

Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Templeton Crossing Camp site

MON 7 APR 2025 TEMPLETON CROSSING - NADURI

Trekking time: 8 hours

Today we cross over the highest point of the Kokoda Track, Mt Bellamy at 2190m. We have a pretty hard start to the day with a steep climb up the Kokoda Gap.

The Kokoda Gap was the area that Generals Macarthur and Blamey wanted to blow up and make it our own Thermopylae with our troops playing the 300 Spartans part. The downside to the plan is that the Gap is 12km wide, and all the Spartans died.

After climbing the highest point of the track we will make our way through the Moss Forest and an Ancient Arctic Beech Forest. We then descend to Naduri, the home of Ovuru Ndiki, one of the last remaining Fuzzy Wuzzys.

Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Naduri

TUE 8 APR 2025 NADURI – MENARI VILLAG

Trekking time: 7 hours

After breakfast we will depart Naduri and continue our downward journey before commencing a steep, difficult climb up to Efogi 2. From this vantage point we can see Mt Victoria in the distance. We have a short break here before an easy downward trek to the main village of Efogi.

After an early breakfast we continue our trek up to Brigade Hill. Brigade Hill and Mission Ridge were the scenes of a bloody and ferocious battle during the 6-8 September, 1942. 101 Australian soldiers were killed in these battles. After our battle site brief we conduct our memorial service to commemorate and remember the sacrifices that these brave men made.

From Brigade Hill we have a long and tiring descent down to Menari where we will stop for lunch. Menari is also famous for Lt Col Ralph Honner's Ragged Bloody Hero speech and the image captured by Damien Parer. Menari is also home to one of the last remaining Fuzzy Wuzzys, in Faole.

Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Menari Village

WED 9 APR 2025 MENARI VILLAGE HANDS ON HUMANITY DAY

Trekking time: None!

Hands on Humanity Day – Focus on Literacy & Sport – however local needs may change and we'll pivot to suit.

Here's an example of what previous Hands On Humanity days looked like:

Today we will spend some time with the Menari Village children focusing on literacy and sports skills.

We'll finalise the details closer to the day (depending on weather, numbers of local children etc), but essentially the day will be split into two sections.

LITERACY – with our contribution of books and library equipment, we will select our favourite books and break off into small groups to read to/with the children.

For the smaller children, 'reading' the pictures is sometimes enough – teaching them basic words like 'cat' and 'dog' will give them a lot of joy and begin the process of understanding the English language.

SPORTS SKILLS CLINIC – we will set up some activities and teach the children some basic skills and really just have some fun.

The community will be so excited to welcome Hunter Valley Grammar School to their village. You will be making a huge difference to this community, so please enjoy the experience!



Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Menari Village

THU 10 APR 2025 MENARI - NAURO

Trekking time: 6 hours

After breakfast we depart Menari and commence our climb up to the Menari Gap and the steep descent down the other side of "the wall". At the bottom of "the wall" is a short, flat and invigorating walk to our camp site, next to the sparkling creek that will sooth our tired muscles.

From Agulogo we cross the Brown River before spending a couple of hours ploughing through the sticky mud of the Nauro swamps. After the swamps we commence our climb up the "11 false peaks" of the Maguli Range to Nauro.



Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Nauro

FRI 11 APR 2025 NAURO - IORABAIWA

Trekking time: 7 hours

We depart Nauro and continue our climb to the highest point of this section of the track. We now have a long descent down to Ofi Creek. On our way down we visit the Japanese trenches and delaying positions before we stop for lunch and a refreshing swim.

After lunch we have a hard and tiring climb up Iorabaiwa Ridge, followed by a steep descent down to camp. The Iorabaiwa Ridge was the furthest point that the Japanese travelled and was the area that they received their orders to advance to the rear.

Our camp is in a spectacular position with beautiful views down the valley and great place to view the spectacular sunsets famous in this area.



Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Overnight at:	Iorabaiwa
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SAT 12 APR 2025 IORABAIWA – GOLDIE RIVER

Trekking time: 6 hours

Today after breakfast we trek down the last bit of the Iorabaiwa Ridge and begin our 22 river crossings of the beautiful and spectacular Ua Ule Creek area. We then climb up Imita Ridge which was the Australian's last and final stand from which there was to be no further withdrawal from this area.

We then descend down the area known as the Golden Stairs before enjoying an early lunch at Dump 66. After lunch we trek through the abandoned village of Uberi before crossing the Goldie River and making camp. It is a great feeling being at the Goldie River knowing that we have almost made it to the finish line! Our afternoon is spent relaxing in the river and camp and reflecting on our fantastic journey.

Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Overnight at:	Goldie River
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SUN 13 APR 2025 GOLDIE RIVER – OWER'S CORNER – PORT MORESBY

Trekking time: 45 minutes (yay!)

Today we have a short but steep climb from Goldie River to Owers' Corner. Sometimes it almost seems anti-climatic in those first few minutes of arrival. Then slowly it sinks in... we HAVE walked the Kokoda Track! We can now fully appreciate the endeavours and sufferings of those before us.

PM: We depart Owers' Corner for Port Moresby via the Bomana War Cemetery where we pay our respects to the fallen soldiers. The return bus trip to Port Moresby takes approximately 2 hours.

PM: After the chance to have a real shower(!), we will celebrate our accomplishment with a Tour Farewell Dinner at our hotel. Then a nice comfy bed will be a welcome sight for our last night in Papua New Guinea.



Meals Included:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight at:	Gateway Hotel Port Moresby or similar

MON 14 APR 2025 PORT MORESBY – SYDNEY - NEWCASTLE

AM: After breakfast we may have some SUPERVISED free time before departing for Australia

FLY: Port Moresby to Sydney on Qantas / Air Nuigini. Details to be finalised with the 2025 timetable.

ARRIVE: Sydney. Meet your coach driver

PM: Expected arrival time at Hunter Valley Grammar School, where we will be welcomed home by family and friends. What an amazing experience!!!

Meals Included:	Breakfast & Inflight
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Please Note:

Details may vary upon the release of the 2025 schedules and timetables.

Many variables can and will influence our daily schedule: flights, weather, sightseeing opportunities etc. Please consider this as a 'suggested itinerary'