Gadoa Guesthouse

Gadoa Guesthouse is a great place to enjoy the local island lifestyle. It is located at the north east of Nuakata Island on a coral and sand beach with direct access to coral reef snorkelling. Sit underneath the mango tree and enjoy the cool breeze off the water. The reef surrounding Gadoa was recently declared a marine protected area because of its high biodiversity. Dugong spotting is possible on calm mornings.

Nuakata Island has world heritage coral reefs as identified by Conservation International. These reefs offer excellent snorkelling in recovering and protected areas. The community initiated ecotourism to provide alternative income to villagers to dissuade them from buying into promises from over-fishing and lucrative but short-sighted offers from the aquarium industry.

Accommodation

There is currently a small guesthouse with room for five people. A new guesthouse is under construction with room for 12 people (to be completed December 2010). Mosquito netting, pillows and mattresses are provided. There is a thatched eating area. Separate bush toilet and separate shower hut with water from a bucket. Over night maximum Group Size: 5.

(Accommodation described from 2010.)

Experiences

The day trip to uninhabited Bwelama Island is a highlight, with access to primary rainforest and protected reefs. You can stay overnight if you bring a tent and spot flying foxes in the canopy. Back at Gadoa you may visit the skull cave, which takes you past local gardens and scenic views. The impressive sailing canoe is used for travel between islands. Fishing is excellent using local methods with stones and vegetation.

Experiences include:
- Snorkelling
- Day trip to Bwelama Island (uninhabited)
- Fishing
- Mat weaving
- Cooking lessons
- Market visit
- Snake legend story
- Mountain ridge-top hike
- Traditional dance performance
How to get there

1.5 hr PMV bus ride from Alotau to East Cape; 1 hr dingy ride to Gadoa Guesthouse. You should book your dingy travel two days in advance. It is also advisable to bring 60 litres of petrol for your return trip.

Refer to the ‘Visitor Information Guide’ for more information about travel in remote areas, what to bring, and how to organise your trip.

It is best to have a booking through Levi Sakuisa (Gadoa guesthouse manager) or Napatana Lodge or at least 2 days in advance.

What to bring

In addition to insect repellent, first aid and medical kit, don’t forget toilet paper, tea bags, spices (salt, pepper), and waterproof bags for all of your gear! Epoxy resin and a small tool kit are also very useful.

Health, safety & cultural tips

These village experiences are authentic and therefore can be challenging for people used to a sedentary lifestyle. Unlike the mainland, Milne Bay Province is safe for tourists. The culture is very polite to guests and you will be well cared for. However, timeframes will be different to what you are used to and the general amenities more sparse. Sundays are a day of rest so travel and activities are restricted.

Remember that your financial contribution will protect biodiversity and support local conservation and local values, but not western style accommodation.

Make sure to ask how much your stay will cost you so that there are no surprises (each activity has a cost). Although prices are standardised, managers feel it is rude to mention money upon your arrival.

Travel combinations with other villages

Bomatu Guesthouse is another locally owned and run guesthouse on Nuakata Island which offers additional activities and experiences. It is a 45 minute walk or 15 minute canoe paddle from Gadoa Guesthouse.

Managers
Levi Sakuisa and his family

Booking details and contacts

Gadoa guesthouse (Levi Sakuisa, manager)
Phone: (+675) 71818605

Napatana Lodge (Gretta Kwasnicka, Owner)
www.napatanalodge.com
Phone: (+675) 6410588
Email: info@napatanalodge.com
cc:grettak@daltron.com
Nuakata Island

Key Attractions

All attractions and activities must be carried out with local guides. This can be arranged through your Guest House.

1. **Skull Cave**: 2 hrs return; intermediate hike from Gadoa Guest House to ancestral skull caves. Steep inclines pass through local gardens and by bush fowl nests. Bush tracks traverse dense jungle and cross some rocky terrain. Learn about the ancient burial traditions. Beautiful views to neighbouring islands.

2. **Mountain Ridge Top**: 4hrs return; intermediate/challenging hike from Gadoa Guest House to the mountain top. You will hike through local gardens, dense jungle, and grassland. Peaceful journey and stunning views to surrounding islands and reefs along the way. Endemic orchid species at the top.

3. **Bwelama Island**: 30 minute return; dinghy ride from Gadoa to uninhabited Bwelama Island. Snorkel just off the beach on an extensive and biodiverse reef. Snorkel around a WWII wreck. Weak current and calm clear waters. Day trip with lunch or bring a tent for an overnight stay to view the nocturnal wildlife. Bushwalks and hikes around the island.

4. **Gadoa to Bomatu Guest House**: An easy and flat 45 minute walk (one way) from Gadoa Guest House to Bomatu Guest House along the coast. Beautiful views out to sea, past local villages and though some swampy mangrove forest.

5. **Skull and Bat Cave**: 2hrs return; easy hike from Bomatu Guest House to caves. Mostly flat with some incline and some rocky terrain through jungle and past local villages. You will arrive at the ancestral skull cave and bat caves covered in massive vines and tumbled rock piles.

6. **Giant stone and Oya Taumana**: 5hrs return; intermediate hike continuing on from the skull and bat cave for the more adventurous. Steep inclines through pristine jungle along a stream to the giant stone cultural site and Oya Taumana (mountain top). Beautiful views to neighbouring islands.

7. **Daiwali Island**: A 20 minute traditional canoe ride from Bomatu Guest House to Daiwali Island. Arrive on a soft white sand beach, snorkel along the western side of the island, past mangrove habitat; opportunity to see over 700 marine species. Lunch on the island. Take a 2 and half hour return intermediate hike, with steep ascents to historic WWII bunkers.

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**Legend:**
- Guest House
- Hiking trail
- Dinghy trail
- Reef
- Mangrove
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Market
- Skull cave
- Snorkelling
- War relic
- Swimming
- Traditional entertainment

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**Map:**
- Lower altitude
- Higher altitude
- Fergusson Island
- Normanby Island
- Milne Bay
- Alotau
- Nuaqata Island
- Bomatu
- DAIWALI
- GWADA
- BWELAMA