

KAVIENG CAPERS WITH SCUBA VENTURES

By KIM and KAREN WOODCOCK

Kavieng, New Ireland Province, just 2 degrees south of the Equator. Warm tropical waters, abundance of marine life, colourful pristine reefs, majestic wrecks, and that is just under the water. Above the waterline is just as fantastic. Easy going, happy friendly locals, relaxed tropical island accommodation, and the Food Fantastic.

Kavieng is relatively easy to get to (in the scheme of "remote" locations) with direct flights to Port Moresby and then it's just a short hop on the domestic leg to Kavieng.

Once in Kavieng, you immediately fall into the stress-less, Island time phenomena.

Divers always feel very safe and welcome in Kavieng with the warmth and friendliness shown to them by the New Irelanders. There is always a smile followed by "mornin" or "apinun".

The diving in Kavieng is rated as some of the best worldwide. It is one of the few places in the world that is able to offer divers of all experience levels something they will talk about long after they have returned home.

It doesn't matter what your preferred diving interests are, Kavieng has the lot.

Big to Small, Wrecks, Caves and Walls, Scuba Ventures dives them all.

You can experience the thrill of close encounters with big pelagics in the current swept passages as well as enjoy the relaxing feeling of drifting along plunging walls decorated with colourful corals and fans.

There are also pinnacles to explore, one with a wreck, the Der Yang, to add interest. Deep and Shallow plane and ship wrecks can be dived only minutes from your bungalow accommodation.

Not to mention the abundance and diversity of marine life for avid photographers. Especially macro life if you enjoy muck dives and searching for little critters.

Don't forget the night dives again only minutes from your accommodation. For those suitably experienced, arrangements can also be made with Scuba Ventures to explore one of the fresh water caves on the mainland of New Ireland.

Dorian and Cara of Scuba Ventures, the only dedicated dive service provider in Kavieng town area, run a very professional and safe, but fun and friendly dive operation.

With the assistance of their local staff, the boats are always on time and ready to go, your gear is kitted up and waiting for you to slide into as soon as you reach the first dive destination.

At the end of each dive as you surface alongside the boat you will see one of the friendly smiling faces of the dive crew ready to take your gear and help you back on board.

A relaxing surface interval is spent enjoying fresh tropical fruit and snacks before the next exciting dive.

Scuba Ventures also offer Nitrox, which gives you the extra safety margin as well as enabling you to lengthen and really enjoy all the dives on offer. With visibility anywhere up to 30-



40m. you don't want to cut your dive short because you have run out of bottom time.

To ensure your experience is not just locked into your own memory, Cara and Dorian can provide you with a memento DVD of your trip. With a combination of video and still photo's, taken by Dorian, it is a great way to show your friends and family where you have been.

Dorian is a keen underwater photographer and recently won first and second prize in the wreck category of the Underwater Festival.

To have a fantastic diving holiday, you also need to have a great place to come back to and relax after a day on the ocean.

Accommodation at Nusa Island Retreat is idealic with "picture postcard" views from waterfront and over water Bungalows.

In the evenings you can watch the sun set from your balcony or watch the fish action underneath, as they come in to feast on the many small critters attracted to the lights gently illuminating the waters beneath you.

In the morning as you wake up to the many different birds announcing the new day you can watch the sun rise again through the shutter windows you never seem to close.

Nusa Island Retreat also ensures that non diver's are not left waiting on the shoreline whilst the divers are away.

They offer a number of activities including, Kayaking, Snorkelling, Sailing, Coastal trips on the mainland, Fishing or guided walking trip, exploring both Nusa Lik and Nusa Lavu and seeing some of the WWII relics.

You can also visit the villages and communities on Nusa Lik and spend time with the locals whilst they make jewellery or carving.

Nusa Island Retreat has a friendly relaxed ambience to it and you are made very welcome and part of an extended family.

Once you have had a taste of what Scuba Ventures and Nusa Island Retreat has to offer you will want to come back again and again... We did having now visited Kavieng 8 times.

SCUBA VENTURES - KAVIENG

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TOP: NEW IRELAND boasts pristine and virtually untouched world-class beaches and dive spots — earning it the coveted name of *Bilas Peles* ('Beautiful Place') in Papua New Guinea.

LEFT: A BROWN BOOBY sea bird settles down on visiting diver Luke Emery's aqualung tank as he is about to come out of the water at Nusa Island retreat in Kavieng.

Pictures by Dorian Borchers of Scuba Ventures Kavieng

