



**AIRWAYS HOTEL**  
PORT MORESBY

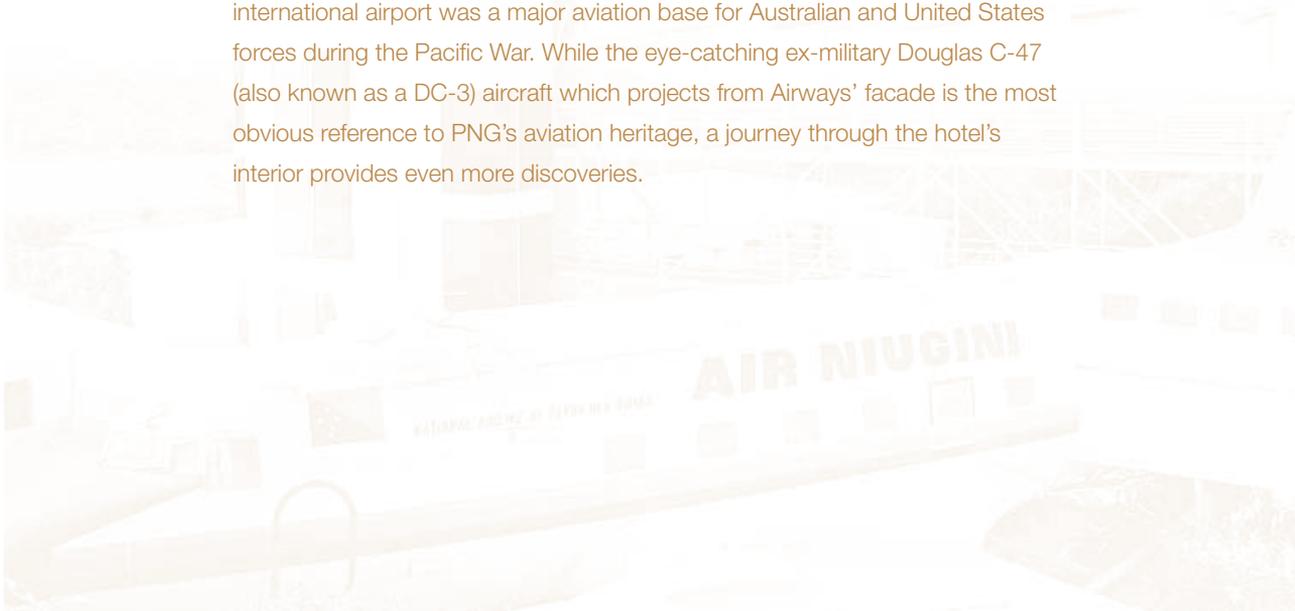
Papua New Guinea is frequently dubbed ‘the Land of the Unexpected’.

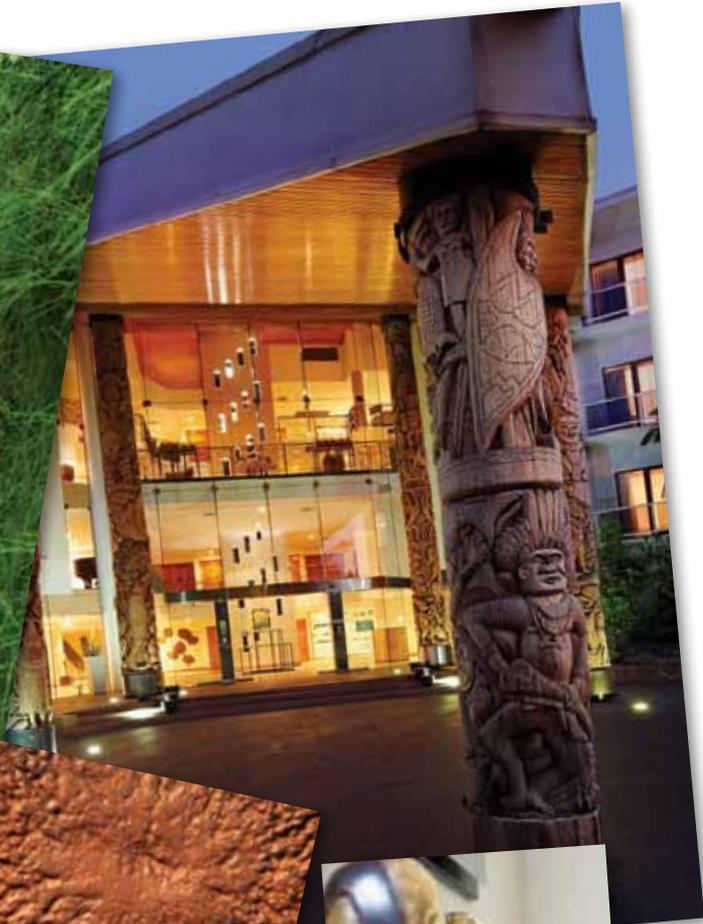
Given the Pacific country’s natural splendour, perhaps the feature you would least expect to find there is one of the world’s great airport hotels.

Yes, there it is: Airways. An oasis of understated luxury in one of the Pacific’s most striking and inspiring settings.

From the hotel’s upper levels, one can survey the entire length of Port Moresby’s historic Jacksons International Airport at the foot of the picturesque Owen Stanley Ranges, and trace the eucalypt-dotted landscape down to Bootless Bay, and a glimpse of the Coral Sea.

Named after Australian fighter ace John Jackson, Papua New Guinea’s principal international airport was a major aviation base for Australian and United States forces during the Pacific War. While the eye-catching ex-military Douglas C-47 (also known as a DC-3) aircraft which projects from Airways’ facade is the most obvious reference to PNG’s aviation heritage, a journey through the hotel’s interior provides even more discoveries.





Enter the gates of Airways and you are immediately enveloped in the green tranquillity of tropical fruit trees and lush gardens.

On your right, you pass the celebrated Bacchus, Papua New Guinea's premier fine dining restaurant. The site of the original 33-room Airways (which opened in 1987), the building is not only home to Port Moresby's best-stocked wine cellar, but also the nostalgic Havanaba cigar lounge with its 100-year-old Indian liqueur lockers. A painting commissioned from Papua New Guinea's most famous living artist, Daniel Waswas, hangs in the restaurant's private dining room.

Pulling up before the hotel entrance, its signature hard-carved wooden pillars immediately announce you are in the Pacific.

A faint scent of lemongrass greets you as you enter. Awaiting is the hotel's striking check-in desk: fabricated from the riveted aluminium wing from the same C-47 that sits atop the hotel.

The polished aluminium theme is continued across the lobby, notably in the flock of aluminium slivers that catch the light on the ceiling, and by the chaise longue inspired by American designer Marc Newson's celebrated 'Lockheed Lounge'.

Meanwhile, the presence of imposing whale vertebrae captured in bronze suggests the hotel's proximity to the sea.



In many hotels, the journey from check-in to room is brief and without distraction. A guest at Airways, however, has many spaces to explore and enjoy; spaces thoughtfully designed to stimulate and delight the senses.

Behind the check-in desk is an atrium water garden and lounge. Fine jets emit a cool, refreshing mist, which transforms into a mist of fire each evening. Tracing the row of exclusive Dunhill, Crabtree & Evelyn and Artisan boutiques, as well as PNG's only bespoke tailor, you arrive at Seven Cs with its distinctive punkah fans. Coffee. Chocolate. Cocktails. Canapes. Cakes. Champagne. Cookies.

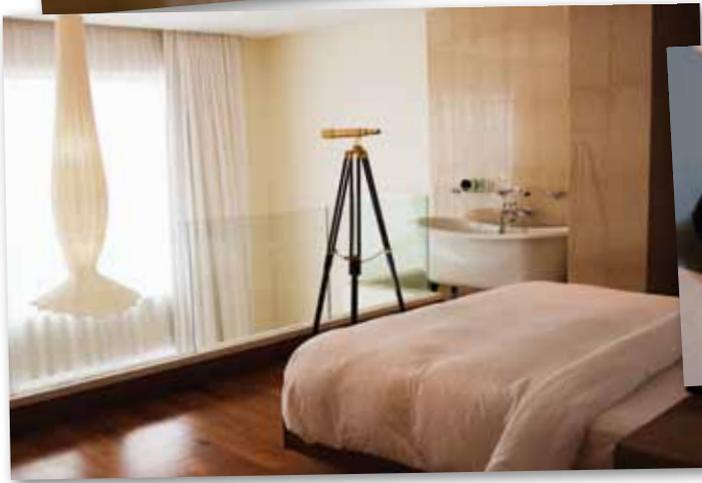
The bronze lamps outside the café emit a warm golden light, thanks indeed to the gold leaf with which they are lined. Attention to detail is everywhere: in the bronze Thai gongs and the custom tables, made from petrified wood imported from neighbouring Indonesia.

Rising by elevator through the hotel's recently-completed Dakota Wing, note the guest lounges on each floor which have been carefully themed around the senses: a games room (touch), a television and conversation lounge (sound) and, finally, a library brimful of classic books (sight). Calm and spacious lounges are spread across both the Dakota and Fountain Wings.

Airways' Bacchus and Fountain Wings have long offered Papua New Guinea's best-appointed rooms and suites but its recently completed Dakota Wing takes hotel accommodation in the country to an entirely new level.

Its generously spacious rooms, with their clean lines and timber floors and fittings offer a peaceful, uncluttered refuge at the end of the day. All have balconies with uninterrupted views of Jacksons International Airport, while flat-screen televisions, a choice of pillows, propeller ceiling fans, cowhide chairs, individual espresso machines and expansive free-standing bathtubs are just some of the details to enjoy.

Passing shoals of bronze carp 'swimming' over the walls, guests walking to their rooms on the first floor of the Dakota wing will note the black and white photographs of hands and faces. These are the faces and hands of the very Papua New Guineans who constructed the new wing, photographed to commemorate their contribution to the Pacific's finest hotel.



Attention to detail is the hallmark of Airways' functional spaces: its two business centres, spa, and Health and Fitness Club.

Built around an ancient locally-quarried monolith, which sits both within and without it, the twin-level spa, Bliss, is the hotel's stillpoint. Adorned with selected artefacts from Thailand, including brass bowls and tribal skirts, its candlelit spaces exude calm and comfort, while individually airconditioned rooms deliver a precise, controlled environment in which to receive a level of care unparalleled in the Pacific.

Opposite the spa, the fully-equipped Dakota Boardrooms and Business Centre return to the aviation theme. The entrance desk is embellished with shards of polished aluminium salvaged from the C-47, as are the tables in the four boardrooms. Each boardroom is named for a DC-series aircraft, and you'll see in each a historic photograph of one of the four models.

On the top level, adjacent to the Vue restaurant with its spectacular views of Jacksons airport, is one of Airways' special secrets: a second and more intimate business centre set inside the gleaming, wood-panelled interior of the C-47 itself.

Finally, to the Health and Fitness Club, PNG's most modern and exclusive. Minimalist features, from its Japanese-style raked pebble surrounds to its unique horizon swimming pool, will take your breath away.

