

# Papua New Guinea



Papua New Guinea, in the south-western Pacific north of Australia, encompasses the eastern part of the world's second largest island of New Guinea and its offshore islands.

The western half of New Guinea forms the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua.

A country of immense cultural and biological diversity Papua New Guinea is known for its beaches and coral reefs, active volcanoes, dense rainforest and hiking routes like the Kokoda Trail. Port Moresby, PNG's capital, is located along its south-eastern coast.

Linguistically, it is the world's most diverse country, with more than 800 native languages, although English is widely spoken in the towns.



The PNG Squash Rackets Federation is a founding member of the Oceania Squash Federation and a member of the World Squash Federation.

The first courts in Papua New Guinea were built by the New Britain Palm Oil Company at the Moss Palm Oil Plantation near Kimbe, in the West New Britain province in 1978.

PNG has a long association with squash in the Oceania Region, competing in the first ever squash tournament in the Oceania islands at the 6<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Games hosted by Suva in 1979. PNG was the leading squash nation in the islands right up until 2007 when New Caledonia started to dominate the squash scene.

There are nine squash facilities throughout PNG including courts in Port Moresby (Aviat Club, Holiday Inn and POM Racquets Club), Lae, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Rabaul and Madang. Lae, Mt Hagen and POM Racquets Clubs conduct regular fixtures and tournaments.

In 2015 the 15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games were hosted by PNG in Port Moresby and new courts were built at the POM Racquets Club. The facility has 3 single courts with moveable walls to make 2 doubles courts. Regular competitions and junior programs are held at the Centre.

For information relating to squash in Papua New Guinea please use the following contacts:

POM Racquets Club	Club Captain	Merlyn Arlacos	+675 7546 8962
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Mt Hagen Squash Club	Club Captain	Andrew Rucklinger	+675 7108 0920

Or contact the PNG Squash Rackets Federation email : [pngsquash@gmail.com](mailto:pngsquash@gmail.com)

