



## Saidowai Guest House

Saidowai Guest House is located in the centre of a small village along the shores of stunning Sewa Bay. You will be welcomed into a thriving community that is proud of its creative and practical skills.



### Ecotourism

Saidowai Guest House was the first village to promote community-based ecotourism in the Milne Bay Province and is home to the local visionary for Milne Bay ecotourism, Mombi Onesimo. Saidowai offers cultural ecotourism in a vibrant village setting. Pigs and chickens mill about as villagers attend to gardening, boat construction, weaving, or cooking.



### Accommodation

Saidowai offers two thatched huts with seven rooms. New accommodation is currently being built. Mattresses, pillows and some mosquito netting provided. Bucket showers and separate pit toilet. Large thatched eating area. Saidowai Guest House has longer experience with ecotourism travellers so it is ideal for larger groups. Maximum Group Size: 16. (Accommodation described from 2010.)



### Experiences

Become immersed in village life in a traditional Papuan community at Saidowai Guest House. As you swim or relax on the shores, you will hear children's voices singing in harmony. For a special treat, you can ask your Guest House manager to organise an evening of music and dance.



### Experiences include:

- ❖ Canoeing
- ❖ Hiking
- ❖ Traditional dancing
- ❖ Mat weaving
- ❖ Fire-making
- ❖ Fishing local style
- ❖ Bird watching (Goldie's Bird of Paradise)
- ❖ Cultural sites



Have a try at fishing local style with stones and plant material! Village tours include a visit to the local school and the community market place.

## How to get there

1.5 hr PMV bus ride from Alotau to East Cape; 2 hr dingy ride to Saidowai. 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 Napatana Lodge or Milne Bay Tourism Bureau 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 a bit challenging for people used to a sedentary lifestyle. Milne Bay Province is safe for tourists due to the mainly matrilineal culture. The culture is very polite to guests and you will be well cared for. However, time frames 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

Saidowai is located about 45 min dingy ride from Sibonai Guest House. The two villages are very different and hence offer a complementary experience: culture (Saidowai) and rainforest (Sibonai).



### Managers

Toginita family

### Booking details and contacts

**Napatana Lodge** (Gretta Kwasnicka, Owner)

[www.napatanalodge.com](http://www.napatanalodge.com)

**Phone:** (+675) 6410588

**Email:** [info@napatanalodge.com](mailto:info@napatanalodge.com)

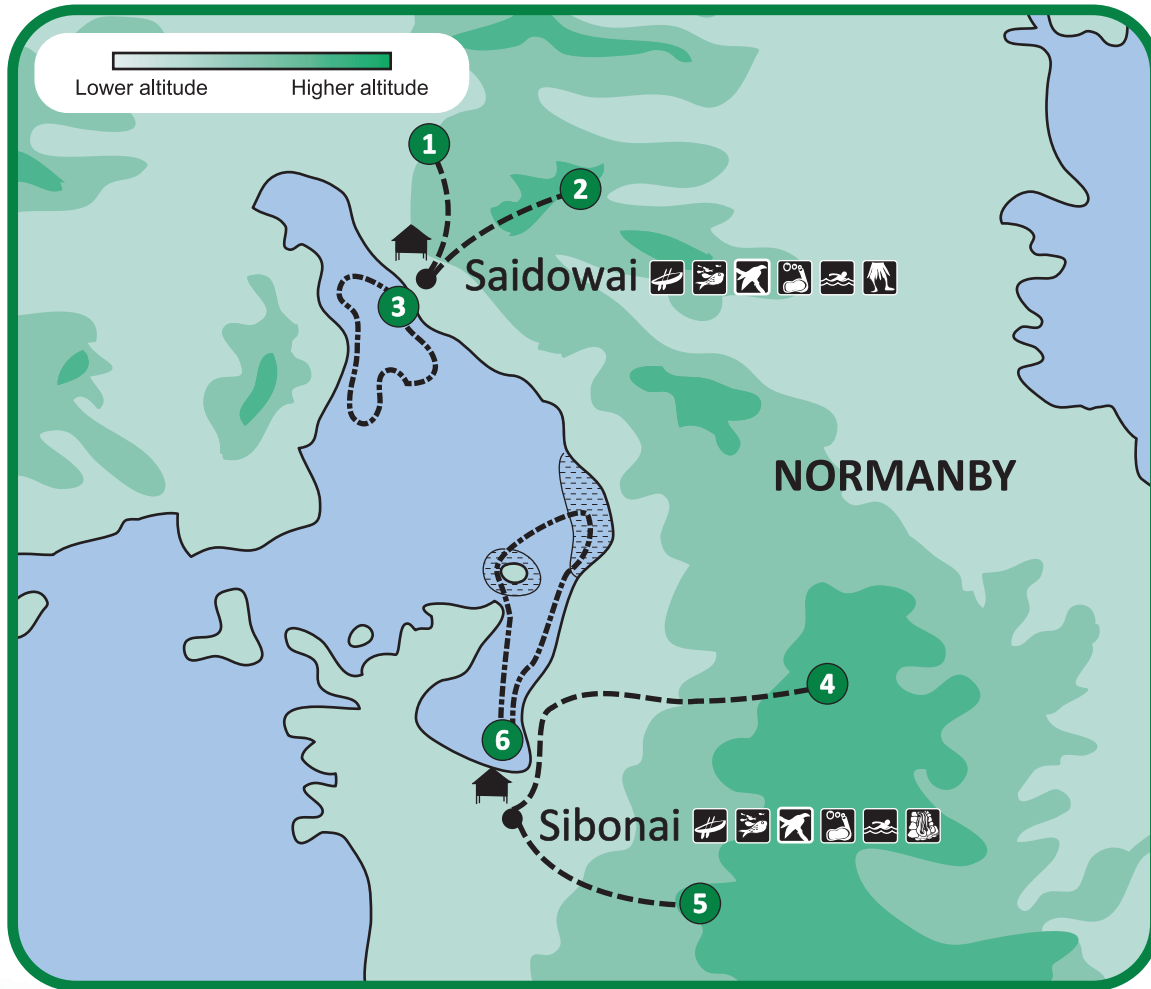
*cc: [grettak@dalttron.com](mailto:grettak@dalttron.com)*

**Milne Bay Tourism Bureau**

**Phone:** (675) 641 1503

**Fax:** (675) 641 0132

**Email:** [infotourism@milnebay.gov.pg](mailto:infotourism@milnebay.gov.pg)



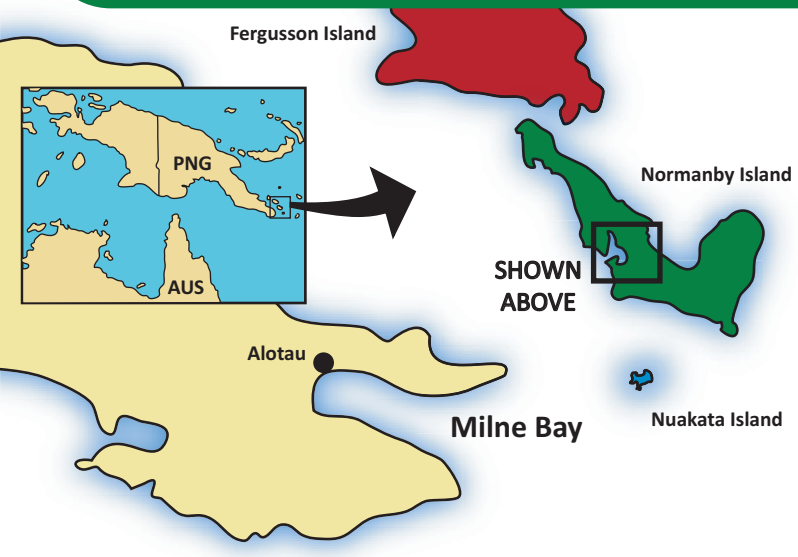
# Normanby Island

## KEY ATTRACTIONS



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

- 1 Welala:** 4hr return; easy/intermediate hike through dense jungle with some inclines from Saidowai Guest House to a rest house with scenic views. Significant opportunity for wildlife watching and possible Goldie's Bird of Paradise spotting.
- 2 Magic Stone (Oilage):** 4hr return; intermediate hike from Saidowai Guest House to the mountain of Oilage. Learn about the cultural significance of the magic stone. A scenic hike with excellent bird watching opportunities.
- 3 Traditional Canoe:** Paddle a handmade traditional canoe from Saidowai Guest House around the peaceful and calm waters of Sewa Bay. Fantastic bird and dolphin watching opportunities. Visit other villages, go fishing or snorkelling in the warm and bright azure tropical waters.
- 4 Buyeti:** 6 hr return; challenging hike from Sibonai Guest House to Buyeti. Hike through dense primary jungle to a reliable Goldie's Bird of Paradise site for bird watching. Also home to endemic and rare orchid species.
- 5 Freshwater pools:** 3hr return; easy hike. Mostly flat from Sibonai Guest House to cool fresh water streams and pools. Walk through dry creek beds and primary jungle to a chain of natural fresh water pools to swim and enjoy small waterfalls.
- 6 Snorkelling:** Paddle out to an uninhabited island in Sewa Bay in a traditional canoe from Sibonai Guest House. Snorkel around pristine and biodiverse reefs. Waters in Sewa Bay are warm, calm and clear. Opportunities for traditional fishing as well.



### LEGEND:

- Guesthouse
- Hiking trail
- Canoe trail
- Reef
- Mangrove
- Canoeing
- Waterfall
- Fishing
- Traditional entertainment

- Goldie's Bird of Paradise
- Snorkelling
- Swimming